

# Harbury & Ladbroke News

Reflects all aspects of local life, is published monthly and produced with the assistance of  
All Saints' Parochial Church Council.

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## IN THIS ISSUE

## Page

EDITORIAL .....	2
HARBURY DIARY & REFUSE ROTA.....	2
FROM THE RECTOR & CHURCH NEWS .....	5
LADBROKE NEWS .....	8
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL .....	12
CLUBS & SOCIETIES .....	15
EARLY YEARS & SCHOOL .....	18
VILLAGE HALL UPDATE .....	23
GARDENING & NATURE .....	25
GENERAL SECTION .....	30
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS .....	45

## Editorial Team

John Holden - Chris Finch - Marian Millington  
Ralph Swadling - Janice Montague

*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



**Mill Street in the Snow**

The season of charitable giving has been admirably demonstrated by local fund raising – the John Ridgley Tree of Light has raised more than £600 for Harbury Charities and Ladbroke Christmas Fayre raised £450 for Church funds. The British Legion Poppy Appeal collection in Harbury, Ufton and Chesterton raised £2619.

The application process to rent properties on the Bush Heath Lane development opens on January 17<sup>th</sup> – apply to Home Choice Plus; see page 42 of December's Harbury & Ladbroke News.

Looking forward to summertime, Olympic events are being organised. Initial information appears on page 31 and there will be further details in future editions of this magazine.

Finally, we extend our sympathy to the families of Mike Bloxham and Pam Cleaver.

## Harbury Diary

### JANUARY 2011

- Sat 8 Coffee Morning 10.00am in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union
- Sun 9 **BAPTISM OF CHRIST**  
 Holy Communion 8.00am  
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am  
 Pilates 9.00-10.00am and Zumba Fitness 10.00-11.00am in Village Hall
- Tues 11 New parents/mums to be: chat over a cup of tea/coffee 10.30am–11.30am in Tom Hauley Room contact Helen Iles (614150) or Gill Guilford (614206).  
 Harbury Art Class begins in the Scout Hut. Call Jan Freeman on 01926 614251 for further information.  
 Toddlers Service 2.00pm Tom Hauley Room  
 Holy Communion 7.30pm

- Thurs 13 Table Tennis 9.30am-10.30am in Village Hall  
 Holy Communion 9.45am  
 Southam Children's Centre 1.45-2.45pm in Village Hall  
 Harbury Choir School 6.30-8.00pm in Village Hall  
 Harbury Friends 7.45-10.15pm in Farley Room, Village Hall  
 WI 7.45pm in Tom Hauley Room – Dean Walton from  
 Mask-arade
- Sat 15 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am Tom Hauley Room  
 Coffee Morning 10.00am in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury  
 Pre-School  
 ADVERTS FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: 31 BINSWOOD END,  
 HARBURY BY 5.30PM
- Sun 16 **EPIPHANY II**  
 Holy Communion 8.00am  
 Family Communion Service 10.30am  
 Pilates 9.00-10.00am and Zumba Fitness 10.00-11.00am in  
 Village Hall  
 Evensong 6.00pm
- Tues 18 Southam Children's Centre 1.45-2.45pm in Village Hall  
 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
 Mothers' Union Faith Supper 8.00pm Tom Hauley Room,  
 Guest Speaker Innes Brett
- Weds 19 Tea 3.00pm Tom Hauley Room
- Thurs 20 Table Tennis 9.30-10.30am in Village Hall  
 Holy Communion 9.45am  
 Harbury Choir School 6.30-8.00pm in Village Hall
- Sat 22 Coffee Morning 10.00am in Tom Hauley Room in aid of P.C.C.
- Sun 23 **EPIPHANY III**  
 Holy Communion 8.00am  
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am  
 Pilates 9.00-10.00am and Zumba Fitness 10.00-11.00am in  
 Village Hall
- Tues 25 Southam Children's Centre 1.45-2.45pm in Village Hall  
 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
 Harbury Society talk on Chedham's Yard 7.30pm in Tom Hauley  
 Room  
 Julian Meeting 8.00pm in Church
- Weds 26 Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30-4.30pm, 19 Farm Street
- Thurs 27 Table Tennis 9.30-10.30am in Village Hall  
 Thursday Club 2.30pm in Village Hall  
 ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH STREET AND  
 EMAIL ARTICLES DEADLINE BY 5.30PM  
 Harbury Choir School 6.30pm-8.00pm in Village Hall  
 Holy Communion 9.45am  
 Parish Council 7.30pm in Village Hall

4

Sat 29 Coffee Morning 10.00am in Tom Hauley Room in aid of the Horticultural Society

**Sun 30 EPIPHANY IV**

Holy Communion 8.00am

Sung Eucharist 10.30am

Pilates 9.00-10.00am and Zumba Fitness 10.00-11.00am in Village Hall

**FEBRUARY**

Tues 1 Holy Communion 7.30pm

Horticultural Society 8.00pm in Tom Hauley Room

Weds 2 Holy Communion 2.00pm Tom Hauley Room

Mothers' Union Meeting 2.30pm Tom Hauley Room

"Harold be thy name" - Members discuss a child's view of prayer.

Ballroom Dancing in Village Hall 8.30pm-10.00pm

Thurs 3 Harbury Art Group day school: "Pen & Ink Workshop" using black pen on buff or grey tinted paper. 10.00am to 3.30pm in the Tom Hauley Room. Contact Nick on 07870 352786 to book a place.

Men's Group Meeting 7.45pm Tom Hauley Room

Folk Club 8.00pm in Dog Inn

Sat 5 Coffee Morning 10.00am in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Junior Football

**Sun 6 5<sup>TH</sup> BEFORE LENT**

Sung Eucharist 9.00am

First Light Service 10.30am Tom Hauley Room

Pilates 9.00-10.00am and Zumba Fitness 10.00-11.00am in Village Hall

Evening Taizé-style Service 6.00pm

Mon 7 Marriage Week (7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>)

Refuse Collection Rota				
	Deppers Bridge	Harbury	Ladbroke	Refuse Collection Week
January	Wed	Thurs	Fri	
	12	13	14	Grey Bin
	19	20	21	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	26	27	28	Grey Bin
Feb	2	3	4	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	9	10	11	Grey Bin
	16	17	18	Green & Blue Lid Bins



## From the Rector

**Father Craig Grocock**

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury Tel.: 612377

### A Happy New Year!

We say those words so often without thinking don't we? But what do we mean when we wish people a happy New Year? And what is true happiness anyway?

Well, there are many people who think they should be happy but are not and there are many people who think they should be miserable but are happy. Happiness therefore seems very unpredictable, inconsistent, irrational. What do psychologists say? According to Clinical Psychologist Dr. Hellen Kenner, 'happiness is not caused simply by entertaining your whims. Happiness is not merely a life lived by accumulating moments of pleasure. On the contrary, happiness is a long lasting enduring enjoyment of life, it is being in love with living. Happiness is not the satisfaction of whatever irrational wishes you might blindly attempt to enjoy, happiness is a state of non-contradictory joy'.

I remember about a year ago, going on a retreat for a few days to a monastery near Worcester. The monks who lived there had nothing; they were poor. Their only possessions were the habits they wore, their food was simple and they had the company of each other. But they were happy, deeply happy and that much was obvious. Why? Because the focus of their lives was centred on much deeper spiritual things, the things of God.

As we enter yet another year I wish you all real lasting happiness in 2011. I believe that real, lasting happiness, like the monks I visited, is found through faith in God who we know best as Jesus Christ. St. Augustine, writing in the fourth century, said this; "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee". Sure, we can look for that deep peace and happiness elsewhere, and many do, but this year will surely be a happy one when we discover where true happiness lies.

I look forward to seeing you out and about over the coming weeks.

A happy New Year to all of you.

## From the Registers

### *Funerals at All Saints' Harbury*

1 December Pam Cleaver

14 December Mike Bloxham

## *Holy Baptism, All Saints' Harbury*

12 December

Rosanna Hunt

Wilbur Hunt

## *Holy Matrimony, All Saints' Harbury*

28 December

Duncan Brown to Helen Swindale



### **From the Churchwardens**

**Will & Fliss**

When you read this, the main Christmas services will be over and we shall be looking ahead to Epiphany. We hope that you will have been able to brave the weather and to take part safely in all the celebrations, sacred and secular, of Christ's birth.

The Christmas Fayre was, as usual, very successful and very well attended. It seems a long time ago now, but we do want to thank Sue and Jon, the organisers, and all who worked hard to make it so enjoyable. We'd like to record that the raffle raised £1181.00 for Myton Hospice which left £1309.38 for our Church funds. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

We began, really, to celebrate Christmas with Beer and Carols at the Crown Inn on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you to Cinda and Giuseppe who hosted it for us, to Mike for his music and to the recently formed Ukulele Band who added to the liveliness of the proceedings! The evening was well attended, much enjoyed and a collection was taken for Biblelands.

There followed the Christingle. Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare for this service and to those who took part. Thank you especially to Sue for her talk and to Sophie who bravely volunteered to help her deliver the message that Jesus came into the world to bring light into our darkness. It was a lovely service and there was an audible gasp when the artificial lights were extinguished and the candlelight came into its own.

At the end of 2010, we thank you all for the help you give to All Saints', and we wish everyone a blessed, peaceful and happy New Year.

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



## Mothers' Union

**Gillian Hare**

Thank you to everyone who supported the toiletries' stall at the Christmas Fayre. Our Aladdin's Cave, with its beautifully costumed characters, looked so good that it won second prize.

This month Marion is ready to receive our subscription of £15.75; it helps her if you put it in an envelope with your name on.

January, as always, extends the festive season. The afternoon tea party will be on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm (no service first). Come along for fun, games and tea, and also do bring friends and a bran tub gift.

Our Faith Supper will be on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm. Bring food to share and wine if wanted. The highlight will be the return of Mrs Innes Brett, our guest speaker who caused much merriment last year. Her talk this time will be "An Apple for the Teacher".

Before that, please support our coffee morning on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Cakes, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes will be needed as well as help. This is our main fundraiser and enables us to support one of the projects of the M.U. both nationally, such as the holiday schemes, and abroad, reaching the poorest with help with literacy, health and development.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February: 2.00pm Communion in the Tom Hauley Room, and, at 2.30pm, a members' afternoon, sharing thoughts and memories of religious teaching in schools and some of the misconceptions and misunderstandings. Hence the heading "Harold be thy name"!



## Toddlers' Service

**Lorna Bedford**

Mrs Marion Dickerson told us the Christmas story at our service in December.

The story focused on a very bad tempered inn keeper in Bethlehem. All he wanted to do was go upstairs, go to bed and fall asleep. But all night long people kept coming to his door wanting a room. All the inns in the town were full and when Mary and Joseph came he sent them round the back of the inn to the stable where the animals were kept – that was the only room he could offer them. During the night Mary had a baby son and angels were heard singing and a very large star shone in the sky. All very disruptive for the innkeeper who was trying to get some sleep. Then later,

some shepherds came, followed by three kings; he sent everyone round to the stable, but all the time this was occurring he only wanted to go back upstairs to his bed! The children had great fun acting out this lovely story.

We sang "Rat a Tat no Room at the Inn", and afterwards we made some very glittery paper stars and marched around the Church waving our stars and singing "Off we go to Bethlehem", accompanied by Mr Michael Hare on the accordion. Then we played and had refreshments until it was time to go home.

Our next Toddler Service is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 2.00pm in the Tom Hauley Rom, entrance via the Church. Babies and toddlers accompanied by an adult are very welcome to join us.

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">First Light</h2>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b>Alison Abbott</b></p>
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If you read this in time, please come to First Light on 2<sup>nd</sup> January to hear the story of the fourth Wise Man. Didn't you know about him?

Through last year, First Light has happened on the first Sunday of each month at 10.30am in the Tom Hauley Room. It takes a contemporary look at all sorts of topics, Bible based but interpreted in music, drama, sometimes craft and prayer; it is never quite the same twice. In December, Sarah and John Bennett were frantically preparing for a party – but would Jesus have a place in the celebration of His birth? In October we had a Jubilee as we marked our 50<sup>th</sup> service. And we thought about fire, wind and water, why we come to Church and why we need love.

It only lasts about 40 minutes. The next one will be on 6<sup>th</sup> February, when the theme is "There's a place for us". That includes you and your children. Do give it a try.

## Ladbroke News & Diary

### **JANUARY 2011**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Baptism of Christ</b> Holy Communion, 9.00am
Tues	11	Photography Club 7.30pm at Hallsfield, School Lane
Sat	15	ADVERTS FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: 31 BINSWOOD END, HARBURY BY 5.30PM Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall



- Sun 16 Epiphany II**  
Holy Communion, BCP, 9.00am in Church
- Sun 23 Epiphany III**  
Holy Communion, 9.00am
- Thurs 27 ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH STREET  
AND EMAIL ARTICLES DEADLINE BY 5.30PM
- Sat 29 Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall
- Sun 30 Epiphany IV**  
Holy Communion – spoken service, 9.00am
- FEBRUARY**
- Sun 6 Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments



## Ladbrooke Church News

Sue Lord

The Christmas Fayre was well attended and proved to be quite a social event enjoyed by young and old. It was again a great effort by a dedicated band of helpers and raised £450 for Church funds.



Carols and Beer at the Bell Inn filled the restaurant with singers who thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Kate whose keyboard skills kept us in tune and also the staff of the Bell who made us so very welcome. Looks like another date for the diary next year. A collection was taken during the evening for Biblelands.

## Ladbrooke Flower Rota

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 2nd January  | Jean Clews   |
| 9th January  | Val Copley   |
| 16th January | Val Copley   |
| 23rd January | Carol Loftus |
| 30th January | Carol Loftus |



Sue Lord



## Ladbroke Photography Club

Jackie West

December brought very icy weather so we decided to desert our usual base, Ladbroke Village Hall, and meet in a home where it would be warm, if a little crowded. The evening started with an introduction to those parts of the camera that are used to get the right amount of light onto the film or digital sensor and also how to increase the illumination of a subject by lights, reflectors or flash. Then we took pictures of a bowl of fruit, a person reading a book and a group shot using a variety of various camera and flash settings. There was a real buzz around the room as we got to grips with settings on the camera that many of us had never used before and, even though there were 15 people, 6 tripods and an extremely bright tungsten light being manoeuvred around, it wasn't really too crowded. Our "Autumn" competition had obviously inspired everyone to get out with their cameras and there were some great pictures to choose from in both the small and large print categories. The winners were photos by Kip Warr and Mike Todd and these and some of the others can be seen at [www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk/index.php/photogallery/autumn-2010](http://www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk/index.php/photogallery/autumn-2010) which is within the picture gallery section of the Ladbroke Village website.

Anticipating more cold weather, our next meeting on Tuesday 11th January, starting at 7.30pm will be at home again. It will be a talk and demonstration called "The camera never lies.....but computers can quite easily" showing how photos can be manipulated to enhance an image and even to create the impossible. For more information about this meeting or the club generally please email [jackieszone-photogclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackieszone-photogclub@yahoo.co.uk).



## Ladbroke General Section

### A Tribute to Francis Badman 1918 – 2010

It is strange to think that, having known Francis for 40 years, I haven't really known him at all.

He has led a full and busy life which, like a lot of other people's lives, you only learn about at their funeral.

Francis joined the Civil Service following a grammar school education. Also, at that time in his life, he joined the Territorial Army. He laughingly remembered going to an army summer school camp in July 1939 and not going home again until April 1946. Whilst in the army he was very much involved with the development and use of radar.

He married Gwynne in 1947. They have two sons, David born in 1948 and Jonathan in 1954. Their married life, until they came to Ladbroke, was very “peripatetic” – Francis in 1958 transferred to the Diplomatic Service and spent time in Karachi and Kuala Lumpur before spending nearly four years as Consul in Cyprus. He remembered with great pleasure a State Visit of the Queen and Prince Philip. He had helped arrange the visit and had a private audience with the Queen and was presented with personal gifts.

After retiring to Ladbroke in 1970, Francis was soon involved with the Church and the Parish Council, becoming a councillor in 1972 and Chairman of the Parish Council in 1976, a position he held for ten years.

Francis was a quiet, gentle man with a strong will. He had a good sense of humour, with a lovely chuckle when he thought something was funny.

The Church was full for his funeral which represented the depth of respect in which he was held.

**Betty Winkfield**

## **The Party Goes On**

The publicity had said “Come and join the new landlords, Chris and Viv, at the Bell for a pukka party night” i.e a three course festive meal followed by dancing to a live band, with no restriction on numbers for the latter. The residents of Ladbroke and their friends are not easily thwarted from enjoying a good evening out. Certainly three inches of snow and temperatures of -13°C on the Saturday before Christmas did not stop the diners or dancers from attending this event. The well prepared walked there in wellies and then changed into footwear more appropriate for the evening while others like us hoped no-one would notice we were dancing in walking boots! As for a venue with no electricity, this was solved by relocating the event to the Village Hall, changing the main course to a casserole and some very game waiters carrying food and emptied plates to and fro across the road.

After two courses, the Ladbroke Rockers warmed up for their first set by getting us to sing the carol “While Shepherds watched” to the tune of “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”, which is possible - is you sing it not too quickly! Then lead guitarist Kevin McKeown showed off his talent with a great rendition of “Hey Joe”.



The band got everyone's toes tapping with "Green Onions", featuring guest harmonica player, Andy Pittaway and we all wished there was space to dance. After dessert some of the tables were pushed aside to create a dance floor for the Ladbroke Rockers' second set; which had more than one "Pretty Woman" and "Brown Eyed Girl" showing they were "Walking on Sunshine", though few people were in "Blue Suede Shoes".



So, despite the weather and the lack of electricity in the pub, the party went on and Chris, Viv, the band and all those who helped are to be congratulated on giving us the promised pukka party despite the circumstances. And if, like us, you only went to the second part of the evening and missed the well hidden bucket for donations to the village charities, the money can still be given via any member of the band. Details of the band members can be seen on their website [www.ladbrokerockers.com](http://www.ladbrokerockers.com).

**Jackie West**

## **Ladbroke Safari Supper, Saturday 29th January**

Time for one of Ladbroke's great events - a Safari Supper. A chance to meet up with friends and make new ones around the village. If you haven't experienced this before, we visit each others' homes for different courses of a meal, then finish up all together for a grand finale. Since it is almost entirely done on foot around the village, we can all be very, um, relaxed.

**Contact Helen Morten (814516) or Kip Warr (815004)**



**Harbury Parish Council**

**Linda Ridgley**

*Official minutes can be viewed in the Library on the Parish Council website [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk) or obtained from the Parish Clerk Tel: 01926 614646*

**Public Participation:** A large deputation from Frances Road was present to ask for Parish Council support. Residents reported problems caused by friends and family of two women who had been placed by Orbit Heart

of England Housing Association in a two bed-roomed bungalow on their estate.

They catalogued complaints of anti-social behaviour, brawls, begging and intimidation. They claimed that over a dozen people were in or around the property and that no action had been taken by the authorities to mitigate the nuisance. Residents were frightened and had not reported their problems for fear of reprisals.

PC Joy insisted that they must report the incidents and that so far there had only been four complaints logged. As a result of those an unlicensed van had been taken away for crushing. They also needed to report the anti-social behaviour to the Housing Association.

The Parish Council would arrange a meeting with the Police and Housing Association and agreed to publish the relevant telephone numbers to help residents make formal complaints. They would enquire whether new tenants would in time be eligible for the affordable homes built in Bush Heath Lane.

PC Joy said the Community Forum had decided to concentrate on problems in the village and as a result eleven youths who broke into the Village Hall were identified and two had admitted causing damage. The Village Hall Chairman said seven of the teenagers were from Harbury, two from Southam and one each from Ufton and Bishops Itchington. He praised the scene of crimes' officers who helped to identify the culprits. The Clerk reported that vandals had been running over cars parked in village streets and damaging wing mirrors.

A second group of residents sought support for their opposition to the School Swimming Pool upgrade plans, but the Council had not yet seen the appeal document.

Cllr Thompson explained that the Council had already asked for access to be via Park Lane, with additional comments on parking problems and hours of use to be restricted by condition and the Chairman explained the Parish Council was not the Planning authority and could only make comments on plans not decisions.

County Councillor Bob Stevens explained the appeal would be an informal one with written representations only. People could update their comments which had to be lodged by 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr Stevens reminded the meeting that the consultation on High Speed 2 Rail would be available in February. The WCC Budget settlement was due on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and as yet the County did not know how it would be affected but, he said, there were bound to be cuts.

District Councillor Beverley Mann explained the results of Stratford's Survey on where the cuts should bite. Broadview's application for a mast at Starbold Farm had been turned down by Stratford but they could appeal.

**Planning:** Stratford granted the retrospective application for a pond at 10 Greenhill; and also approved a single storey rear extension at Fairview, Dovehouse Lane; the re-roofing of The Cottage, High Street and reshaping of the Walnut at Walnut Cottage, Manor Court.

The Parish Council had no representations to make on the dormer windows at 40 Farley Avenue or treeworks at Lullington Lodge and Harbury House, Butt Lane. They did comment on the two storey extension to the side of 7 Farm Street saying that it would be quite overbearing for the neighbouring property and the window in the upper storey should be of obscure glass. Also that the retrospective application for commercial vehicle storage at Ufton Hill Farm should be limited to cover the number of vehicles stored there at present.

**Lighting:** LED lights and standards for the Bush Heath Lane development were decided. A timer is to be installed to switch off the Playing Fields car park lights at 10pm on weekdays and Sunday and 12.30am on Friday and Saturday.

**Properties:** New bollards for the car park were ordered that are supposedly vandal-proof.

The Chairman claimed that one traffic calming bollard was wrongly placed.

The Clerk was to arrange for new keys to the Cemetery Chapel as one of the string of Christmas lights had gone missing. A jumbo recycling bin will be placed near the Children's Play Area. The BMX Track is still to be drained.

**Parish Plan:** The Council was minded to take up Stratford's offer of an internet based survey for their updated Parish Plan. Cllrs Lewis and Patrick were to work with the school children on a separate survey on energy saving projects.

**Any Other Business:** Cllr Hancock told her colleagues of the recent death of Valentine DuBuisson who had an amazing ability to persuade people to do things for the village. One of his achievements had been the provision of the Tennis Courts.

It will be possible to apply for the rented homes on Bush Heath Lane on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Next Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



## Harbury Society

**Linda Ridgley**



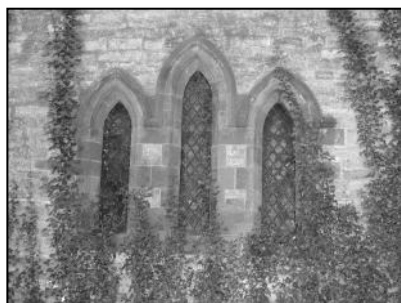
The winner of our Christmas Quiz with 71 points out of a possible 88 was Gill Holden. Next came Julie Clarke with 67 and the Jacksons with 58. The Jacksons were the only entrants to identify correctly the stained glass window at Wissett Lodge (No 8).

Other photos that caught people out were the Mortuary Chapel, the Church, Bicknell House at Three Ways and my best picture – Pan's

Garden Farm Street.

Thanks to the sale this year of colour photos of the quiz we managed to make our highest ever total for the Church Christmas Fayre of £50. Our thanks to all who took part.

The next Harbury Society event is on 25<sup>th</sup> January at the Tom Hauley Room (7.30pm for 8pm) when Cllr Close will give an update on the progress of the Chedham's Yard project.



## Harbury Bridge Women's Institute

**Jeanne Beaumont**

Here we are in the thick of snow and frost – I feel it will be here for some time. It has disrupted visitors but rather "safe than sorry". I must mention the efficiency of the posties and provision deliveries. The kindness of people is so noticeable in these times.

We do hope that we will be going to the panto on Thursday 6th January,

leaving the Village Hall at 6.30pm. Last year was bad but we got there.

Unfortunately, Gillian Hawtin was ill and couldn't speak this month on Christmas Flowers. However the meeting was colourful with the committee looking "ga ga". The Group Carol Service at Ladbroke Church was most enjoyable with Father Craig doing his stuff. Needless to say, the walks are on hold. Nora read the newsy letter from Guernsey who we have corresponded with for years.

Mary Thompson told us of her Curry Night course at Denman College, it sounded good. Janice read some Christmas traditions which were interesting. Lin Hayes asked if some members would be prepared to tell us about their interesting trip on Members' Night in February. Another reminder that January's meeting is the final time for putting names on the list for the New Year's Party on Friday 4th February. So with wine, mince pies and pressies it turned out to be a pleasant evening after all.

January meeting: 13th January, Tom Hauley Room, 7.45pm. Speaker: Dean Walton – "Mask-arade"



## **Harbury Theatre Group**

**Jo Banbury**

With the dawning of the New Year, it is full steam ahead for the group to start putting together the next production, scheduled slightly earlier this year for the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April. We would like to stage two one Act plays, and all suggestions for material, as well as volunteers for directors, actors and technical staff, as usual are more than welcome.

It was fabulous to see so many new faces in our pantomime, and just shows what a talented bunch reside in this fair village. (We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed putting it on).

We will be holding a play reading on 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm so, if you are interested in taking a part, or have a play you think would be good for the group to produce, then do call 613120 for details of the venue. If you don't get to see this invitation in time, but would still like to get involved, then please, again call 613120 and let me know.



## **Folk Club**

**Peter MacDonald**

The theme for the 313th session on December 2nd was 'Peace' and, although many performers had selected songs with suitable lyrics, it wasn't an especially peaceful evening because of the usual good sprinkling of lively performances. To increase the stress levels of the



performers, Keith Wedgebury, from BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Radio, was on hand to record the evening.

I started the evening with 'Peace must come', a favourite Paul Metser's song, and I was followed by Rik who included the song 'Sudden Waves' with serious lyrics written by comedy wizard Les Barker. Janny and Maureen were next up with 'Avila', a lovely song peppered liberally with the words 'Sweet peace' and they were followed by Ron who introduced us to 'A peaceful man'. So far, so good. Then we had the spectacle of Pete and Liz with their lyric sheet nearly as wide as the room so that we could join in singing the bizarre song of Kris Kringle and 'The Christmas Tree' – great fun! Tony Baylis finished the first half with 'Rough Justice', a song poking fun at people who are soft on criminals. I didn't get the 'peace' connection but it was a great song.

The Folk Club Choir started the second half by singing three tracks from our new Christmas CD, 'Shades of White', including the original 'Hereburgh Carol'. You can find out more about the Choir and their CDs, as well as listening to sample tracks, by following the 'Folk Club Choir' link on the Folk Club website (see below).

In his spot, Des included the traditional 'Cherry Tree Carol' then Ted and Sue stretched the theme by playing the tune 'Buttered Peas' (on melodeon and ukulele), followed by 'While Shepherds Watched' to the tune of 'Ilkley Moor'. It works well! The Harvesters' contribution to peace was 'Leaning on the everlasting arms' where that word can be found conveniently lurking.

Keith Donnelly started the third half with three songs, including the moving 'The Hillside (This is not a song of war)', a song he recently finished but which he started while entertaining troops in the Falklands in 1982. There followed another song each from Ron (about wallabies in Staffordshire!), Ted and Sue ('Holly and the Ivy'), Des ('Time to remember the poor'), The Harvesters ('Keep on the sunny side') and, finally, Tony with the excellent 'Where Ravens Feed'.

The raffle raised nearly £46 for Cancer Research UK but I've been able to make a £68 donation because the 'Harbury AllStars' (17 singers and musicians from the Club) earned a modest fee from a recent appearance at Rowington Folk Club which was added to the total.

The BBC's recording of this Folk Club session was broadcast on "Wedge's Warwickshire" on CWR on December 15<sup>th</sup> – an excellent piece of publicity for the Club and its performers.

The next meeting of the Folk Club will be on January 6th, starting at 8pm in the Dog Inn, hosted by Steve and Maureen Darby. The theme for the evening will be 'Songs for Friends'. For more information about Harbury Folk Club, please visit: [www.welcome.to/HarburyFolkClub](http://www.welcome.to/HarburyFolkClub).

## **Carol Singing by Harbury Folk Club and Hereburgh Morris**

On Tuesday, December 21st, on a bleak midwinter's evening, 19 singers and musicians from Harbury Folk Club and Hereburgh Morris went carol singing around the pubs of Harbury, visiting the Old New Inn, Crown, Dog, Gamecock and Shakespeare. We accompanied ourselves on accordions, melodeon and ukulele and sang several carols in each pub.

Even though some of the pubs weren't very busy, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and managed to collect £70 for Myton Hospice. We would like to thank the pub staff and their customers for their generosity and good humour.

**Peter McDonald**

	<h3><b>Harbury Toddler Group</b></h3>	<p><b>Jemima Balcam</b></p>
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It has been a very busy couple of months at the Harbury Toddler Group. Our Christmas party took place at the Village Hall, and it was a huge success. Thanks to Tracy Pettipher we had a brilliant bouncy castle and trampolines courtesy of both Lesley and the Thursday Toddler Group at the Graham Adams Centre. Santa Sid did another fantastic job in his grotto, ably built by Helen, Carolyn and Emily, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful setting, some of them so pleased with their presents that they visited Santa again in the kitchen to say 'thank you'. The hall and food areas, laid out by Hannah and Jenny, included 3 craft activities this year, which at the very least some grandparents, Joe and Sheila enjoyed (and they did a very good job making pomanders in the absence of any scissors to cut the ribbon). We were also able to debut some new toys, a marvellous new dolls' house complete with furniture which was paid for by the donation from the Harbury Carnival Committee, and some new Happyland (some kindly donated by Stacey), and the children are all looking forward to playing with these again at the regular Toddlers sessions. We had a fantastic raffle this year with lots of prizes donated by local businesses and the winners were:

Hamper with contents donated by the mums – won by Sian

2 free family swims at the local leisure centres – Claire

Twycross Zoo ticket – Corinna

Stratford Butterfly Farm – Jemima

Hatton Country World – Emily and Helen

Cana Imports £10 voucher – Sheila

Local honey from Joe van Hoorebeek – Richard & Julia Fowler

Bridge Café free meal – Becky

X-Box F1 game donated by Codemasters – Wendy

Assorted Chocolates donated by Tesco – Sian

After Eights donated by Tesco – Liz Bones

Chocolate biscuit assortment - Carolyn

We were also able to run a guess the weight of the Christmas cake competition, with a wonderful home-made cake courtesy of Sharon Hunt, which was won by Stacey.

Everyone had a fantastic time and there are so many people to thank – Santa Sid, all the people who donated prizes for the raffle, Sharon for the cake, the mums for setting up, packing away, running it and bringing food, Tracy for the bouncy castle, the Southam toddler group and Lesley for the trampolines. Thank you all, and to anyone I've missed. The greatest thanks comes from the kids; we had a fantastic turnout and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Aside from this we have also been running our regular sessions, and we were really pleased to have a visit from one of the Southam Children's Centre staff who ran a craft activity for us. The children all had a great, messy time making hand print antlers on reindeer, and hand print Christmas tree pictures – a really great idea and very effective! The plan is for more of these craft sessions to be run by Southam Children's Centre in the New Year, so look out for those.

Finally, we took a trip to Clowning Around recently in lieu of our usual session as there had been plans to improve the floor in the Wight School. We had a good number turn up and it was fun to see all the parents and grandparents squeezing through rope netting and sliding down slides – we've all seen another side to each other!

If you would like to come along to the Toddler Group we run every Monday from 9.30am until 11.15am at the Wight School (behind the Library), and cater for children from birth to school age. Everybody is welcome!



**Harbury Pre-School**

**Staff & Committee**

Well, what a busy time we've had at Pre-School in the three weeks building up to Christmas! The children's observational drawings of our Christmas tree were made into lovely Christmas cards for their families.

Once decorated, they wrote their own messages inside. Some beautiful decorations were made at the creative table, using redundant CDs, brightly coloured collage materials and lots of glue. Cutting, joining and estimating skills were put to the test as the children wrapped assorted cartons and wrote tags for them to go as “presents” under the Christmas tree. The builders’ tray had a layer of sand and glitter for mark making using fingers and brushes, and measuring using a variety of pots and spoons.



**Role Play** – The role play area first became a



nativity scene, with a crib for the baby Jesus, and the dressing up rail full of outfits for angels, shepherds, sheep, donkeys, Mary and Joseph and the three kings. The children all chose their roles for the Nativity Songtime and enjoyed trying on the various costumes. Later on, the role play area became a delightful “Christmas House”, with the

walls covered in wrapping paper and decorations.

**Nativity Songtime** – The children braved the cold and went to the Jackson’s stable yard for the Nativity Songtime, where the children performed beautifully in front of their parents and other relatives and friends. They finished with “Silent Night”, using Makaton signing, before challenging the audience to take part in the encore which, it has to be said, they did with much success. A much deserved rousing round of applause for the children marked the end of the performance. We would like to thank the Jacksons for providing a beautiful and very meaningful setting for our nativity.



**Small World** – We are very grateful to Claire’s mum, who hand knitted a delightful set of nativity figures, with all the main characters in traditional dress. The children loved to re-enact the nativity using the figures, sometimes changing the story a little with their own ideas!

**Father Christmas** – A rumour went round that Father Christmas might be taking time out of his busy schedule to pay a visit to Pre-School, so the children learned some special songs to sing to him. Sure enough, he arrived, and was most impressed with the singing and the lovely party hats that the children had made. Each child was thrilled to be presented with a gift by Father Christmas and to chat to him about what they hoped to get in their stockings.



**And Finally ....** Gael, Lisa, Bud, Claire, Angie, Anne and Lesley would like to thank the parents and the children for all the lovely gifts and cards that we were given. We now look forward to a great year in 2011 and return to Pre-School for the Spring Term on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

*For further information about Harbury Pre-School, please e-mail [bud.jackson@btinternet.com](mailto:bud.jackson@btinternet.com) or phone 07939 122087. The web site can be found at [www.harburypre-school.org.uk](http://www.harburypre-school.org.uk).*



**Windmills**  
Nursery School

**Nursery School Staff & Committee**

Windmills Nursery is situated in the grounds of Harbury Primary School and has the benefit of its own Forest School and qualified Forest School Leader. We are open all day and take children from the age of 2 years. If you would like to register a place for your child you can email us at [info@windmills-nursery.co.uk](mailto:info@windmills-nursery.co.uk), visit our web site at [windmillsnursery.co.uk](http://windmillsnursery.co.uk) or call Katharine on 613084 or Tina and Marie on 07906 519148.

The children have been continuing our theme this term of Colours and Patterns, and they have also been busy preparing for Christmas. Our activities have included:

- Going on a walk around the frosty school grounds looking at patterns in nature.
- Collaging strips of different coloured and textured materials to create a stunning calendar.
- Designing a pattern on a star for a Christmas card to give to their mummies and daddies.
- Going into School to watch the dress rehearsal of the infant Christmas Concert, held in the School hall.

- Cooking a festive tray bake from a variety of cereal, fruit and chocolate.
- Taking turns to open our huge advent calendar, developing their use of numbers for labels and counting.
- Visiting the Toddler Service when we listened to the nativity story and then decorated a star.



## Forest School



We held two forest school sessions this month. The first session began with a woodland work out in the school grounds. Once we were all warmed up we returned to base camp and Amanda talked to the children about how hard it was for the birds to find food as the ground was frozen because of the cold weather. The children then made bird-cake feeders and then tied them in the trees. During the second session the children made a Rudolf the red nosed reindeer from logs and branches and also planted daffodil bulbs.

One of the highlights this month was Windmills' annual Christmas Concert which was held in the Tom Hauley Room on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December. It was wonderful to see so many parents/carers, and other family members and friends in the audience to support the children. They looked fabulous in their costumes and all enthusiastically joined in with the singing, despite most of them suffering with flu symptoms. A special well done must go to Sophie Bennett and Freya Johnson who both sang solos. Thank you to Mr Michael Hare for providing a musical accompaniment for us on his accordion, and also to Mr. Chris Rigby for videoing the performance for us. Thanks also to the fundraising committee for



providing the delicious festive refreshments afterwards.

Another highlight this month was the Windmills' Christmas Party; all the children decorated party hats, played lots of festive party games and enjoyed a party lunch including crackers. Also during the morning the children

were very excited to see Father Christmas who had found time to call in at Windmills during his busy schedule!

### **Dates for your diaries**

Windmills Nursery will close for Christmas at 12.05pm on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December and re-open at 9.05am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.



## **Village Hall Update**

**Chris Finch**



The photos accompanying this article show some of the damage caused by the vandals who broke into the Hall premises last month, and it is a tribute to the constant work of the Chairman and his helpers that most people in the village would not have realised the extent of the damage. Apart from the contents of the fire extinguishers, which were sprayed throughout several rooms, two doors were completely ripped off their hinges and the front of the new temporary bar fitting, donated by CAMRA,

was prised apart from its housing. All the damage was repaired in time for the busy Christmas season, so that no-one visiting the premises for a party, one of the fairs or the Pantomime would have been any the wiser. All the vandals identified by P.C. Rod Joy were sent a letter on behalf of the Management Committee and asked if they could make a



contribution to the repairs, but to date only one of the eleven youngsters has made an 'anonymous' donation. Since it cost £1,300 to replace the doors, fire extinguishers and bar damage, there has been only a minor contribution from those who caused the problem to the building which is maintained for the benefit of everyone. Wanton damage defies belief at the best (or worst?) of times, but in a village which has such a reputation for community responsibility, it seems even more unbelievable.

However, to look on the bright side of things, two further small grants have been received from the May 31<sup>st</sup> Charity and the Ford Foundation, which will be put into the funds for the proposed extension. Many thanks also to Jan Freeman and her Art Group who raised £120 by doing a walk followed by hot soup in convivial company. In the meantime, the main committee has agreed that it will find the funds for the essential roof repairs to the existing extension, which will start in February. It was necessary to take advice from a structural engineer about the weaknesses in some of the roof supports, which have cracked leaving the roof surface very uneven and water pouring through under the damaged tiles.

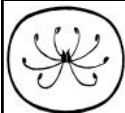
The recent showing of "A Christmas Carol" used the electrically operated screen (purchased with financial support from the Parish Council) for the first time and the evening was judged a great success. The Dog Inn provided curry and rice in the interval and Wayne made a substantial donation to the Village Hall funds, as well as providing two of his staff to act as helpers to serve those who had requested 'hot food for a cold night'. Lana's parents, Tom and Flo did a great job, as always, looking after the hot drinks, whilst Cana Import were on hand to keep the thirsty customers well supplied. Tom, Flo and Mark Long also did all the washing up and cleared a path through the snow to the front door and Mark drove round the village in his 4x4, so that no-one who had booked to see the film, but might have been put off by the conditions underfoot, was overlooked. Many thanks to them; they are wonderful and again, this



demonstrated the best of community support – or the “Big Society”, as the Coalition would call it—and it revives the spirits of all who work towards the ‘common good’.

By the time this magazine is received, the latest New Year’s Dance will have been enjoyed by the many regulars who book in to dance the night away to the Likely Lads. There’s never a shortage of customers for the event, which will hopefully have taken place even if the ‘white stuff’ was still with us. It was a black and white theme this year, so maybe the organisers must have known what the weather had in store in the days leading up to the New Year?

Found – a necklace - dropped after one of the Panto performances. If anyone has realised they lost an item after visiting the Village Hall, please call 613801 for details on how to collect it.



## Horticultural Society

**Judy Morral**

I didn’t expect that so many members would attend for our December meeting. Thank you to everyone who braved the very icy and cold conditions to make the evening such a success. Almost 50 of us enjoyed the Flowerpot game and all you could hear was the frantic shaking of dice for the elusive six to start us on our way. We played six games and the winner was Barbara Andrews, with Pat Metrick coming second and Janice Siddle third. All received a prize for their efforts. Jean had prepared an excellent quiz which was played in teams just for fun; it certainly tested our “little grey cells”. Thank you Jean it added to the fun evening. The annual Bursary was won by Janice. After all that we enjoyed a wonderful buffet; thank you to everyone who contributed, the food was delicious. Also thanks to all of you who helped to tidy up and wash up; it certainly makes a difference.

A reminder that the January meeting is on the second Tuesday, so it will be on the 11th. Our speaker will be known to most of you: Bob Sherman, who will be talking about The Work of Garden Organic. Don’t forget that I have two tickets to Ryton - just contact me if you want to visit. The annual Potato Day at Ryton will take place on 29th January for members and 30th January for non members. My potatoes didn’t do very well this year in common with my fellow allotmenters, so I will be especially keen to rectify that in 2011. It will be good to go along and see all the varieties that are available and get some advice too. Always an enjoyable experience, so why not do something different and go and see for yourselves.

The February meeting will be on 1st and the speaker is an old friend from Pershore College, Duncan Coombs, and the topic is Gardens of China/ Ancient and Modern. Hopefully the weather will have improved by then! Hasn't the frost on the trees looked stunning? If you have taken photos of this, plus the snow etc why not bring them along to the meetings and share? My garden looks amazing and hopefully the snow will act as insulation and protect my borderline plants. Some of them look very ghostly being covered in green fleece bags etc. The honey spurge looks dead after the frost as do other plants, but when it warms up a bit and the sun comes out they all perk up: isn't nature a wonderful thing?

Daphne passed on to me some old records from when our Society was formed and I would like to take this opportunity to pass this on to you. A meeting which was attended by 23 people was held on Tuesday 7th March 1978 to discuss forming a Horticultural Society; this was duly formed and the Chairman was Mr W.F. Lines, Secretary, the Treasurer was a certain A.L. Brunton (who is our current Treasurer, what goes round does come around!) and the rest of the committee were: J.A. Whittles, S. Finch, K. Nicholls, Mrs Lines and H.R. Wilkins. Shirley Brunton was co-opted onto the committee a few months later. The meetings were arranged as now for the first Tuesday in the month; the first meeting was held on 4th April attended by 46 people and the venue was the Village Club which was very suitable and successful. The cost was 50p per meeting with guests paying 15p.

Reading through the minutes it is interesting to see that raffle tickets were 5p each (it was 32 years ago) and one of the trips planned to Clack's Farm was going to cost £1 per head. There is a reference to Mr Lindop who used to have the shop next to The Gamecock, and he was willing to bulk supply certain items such as peat, seeds and pots. The Show was also formed this same year and lots of activity took place with schedules, providing cups etc and the prize cards were obtained from Amateur Gardening. Raffle prizes were donated by Mr Lindop and other local shops.

There were some fascinating talks, among them were Wine Making from Garden Produce, a talk by the local Chrysanthemum Society, Warwickshire Bee Keepers and many more. Discounts were also arranged with seed companies. Interesting to note too was that there was a Walkabout at this time but it was not organised by the Horticultural Society - Joyce Windsor seems to have been the instigator. It was then taken on by the Society from 1979 onwards. I have spent ages looking through these old minutes and what fascinating reading it has made too. We are all so grateful to the founding members of our Society which has enabled us to go from strength to strength.

As mentioned in my last article I duly went along to the school and gave a cheque for £100 to class 6 to help towards their new raised vegetable beds etc. It was such a pleasure to meet the children and how polite they were too. I look forward to welcoming them to our allotments in the Spring or Summer when they will hopefully gain more insight into other fruit and vegetables that we grow. How nice to see youngsters take such an interest in gardening; thank you to the Headmaster and staff for making me so welcome.

Don't forget our coffee morning on 29th January, raffle prizes and help would be much appreciated. It has been suggested that any proceeds will be given to the Village Hall Fund so please all come along and enjoy an hour or two in pleasant company. Thank you in advance.

Enjoy these dark evenings by planning your vegetable patch and perhaps redesigning your gardens. I hope next month to crack on with plans for the two day trips so we can look forward to those. Whatever you do, keep warm and I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in January.



## **Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery**

**Christine Dakin**

*Your local Hardy Plant Specialists*

*Also: Fresh cut flowers and bedding plants in season.*

Well let's see now. You can improve your soil, you can deal with pests and diseases; you can choose what plants to have in your garden but you can't do anything about the weather!

The effects of December's prolonged spell of freezing temperatures will probably have killed off some of your treasured plants. Time will tell. It will, however, also have killed off a lot of pests, so maybe this year will be less 'buggy'. Try to think of it as an opportunity to grow something new or different this year.

At Bridge Nursery we have now had three full weeks of not being able to do any work, which has never happened since we started in 1998. The lowest temperature so far recorded (20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010) is -14 deg C.

The good news is that I have discovered a hibernating hedgehog beneath a large mound of grass and leaves.

Usually at Christmas, I try to go round the garden and count how many plants are flowering – some years there are easily a dozen or so different things. Sadly this year there won't be any.

Unless the weather is dramatically different in January, I would suggest that you confine your gardening activities to making plans and enjoying the seed catalogues.

As an aside, we have found that the five day forecast from 'Weather Underground' seems pretty accurate. Here's a link for our area: <http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/03541.html>

**Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton Tel: 01926 812737**  
**[www.bridge-nursery.co.uk](http://www.bridge-nursery.co.uk)**



## Nature Notes

**John Hancock**

The month of December has proved to be the coldest for 100 years. On Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, after another freezing night, we had a considerable snowfall during daylight hours. Accumulations measured approximately 10cms (4") in depth. After another night of extremely low temperatures, road conditions were treacherous and progress on foot, preferably with boots and walking poles, has been a better option. I had visited Harbury Quarry (Bishops Bowl) late on the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> December approaching down the footpath signposted to Bishops Itchington off Bush Heath Road. From the wide flat lip at the northern end, where bee orchids push through the limestone pavement in summer, I had a good view over the water. Jutting out from a bushy island was an expanse of ice. At the point where the ice met the water was a melee of birds, chiefly large gulls. It was sunset and would be dark in half an hour. The birds kept up a constant chatter and were moving quite purposefully. A predator such as a fox could creep quite close on the island but then would have to make a dash along several metres of thin ice to get at the birds; time enough for the flock to take off. Maybe food was available at, what was in effect, a new shoreline. Closer to the cliff, a single mute swan upended itself in search of a meal in the sediments below. A raft of coots numbering twenty or more kept to deeper water.

Today (Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>), the afternoon being fine and the snow powdery, Sharon and I took out our cross-country skis and enjoyed a couple of hours exercise. We looked across to Chesterton Windmill from the bridle way south of Harbury Heath House and caught a glimpse of St Giles Church behind its thin screen of trees. I tasted a sloe and it was quite palatable, even sweet, softened by prolonged frost. I declined to pick more thinking that birds must be starving and would feed on sloes at some stage of the winter. They are the fruit of the blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), a member, like all the plums, of the rose family. Its thorns are ferocious and it is therefore good for hedging.

Back in Harbury one evening, I watched a great flock of starlings coming across the High Street from Chapel Street, probably heading down to the railway cutting to roost. They also seem to like the dense foliage of the Cypress trees in the cemetery and at the top of Dark Lane.

Sharon called me to the kitchen door on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. An adult fox was boldly walking across the patio. It stared at us from no more than a metre away before turning and trotting up the garden, giving us one more hard stare before disappearing.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Coventry and Warwickshire Orienteering Club, known as Octavian Droobers, held their Club Championships at Oakley Wood and Ashorne Hill. It was a frosty bright morning but by noon the top few centimetres of ground had thawed out except in shady spots. I walked round a short course 'shadowing' my 6 year old granddaughter Edith. Afterwards we examined some of the trees in the park surrounding Ashorne Hill College. One ash tree in particular was a fascinating sight. At some stage it had been ruined, whether by a gale or by lightning I could not tell. The trunk had broken about 10 metres up and the forces of nature had done the rest. The exposed wood had been largely eaten away. What was left was honeycombed by a boring insect, perhaps the larva of the death watch beetle [*Xestobium rufovillosum*]. This grub uses enzymes to digest the wood which has first to be subject to some fungal decay. Its tunnels were a good centimetre across. What looked like a heap of sand was in fact sawdust from the excavations.

I was pleased to see Harbury's 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' Group was taking part in the event. It's a sport which improves fitness and map reading skills at the same time. If you would like to find out more e-mail [kwright660@btinternet.com](mailto:kwright660@btinternet.com), tel.01926.624088.

John Stringer mentioned that I would enjoy watching the edition of Natural World shown on BBC2 on the 17<sup>th</sup> December. I had missed it but thanks to modern technology I had the pleasure of seeing it on "i-Player". I hope some readers saw it. It was entitled 'Butterflies - A Very British Obsession'. The steep decline in the population of these insects can be traced to loss of habitat. Link up suitable habitat, be it flower rich meadows or managed woodland, and hey presto, the butterflies will bounce back. Picking just one clip from the excellent film to relate here, is an invidious task, but here goes. A mouse searches for food in a hollow tree. A hissing warning sound comes from what might be a dead leaf. The mouse is not deterred and comes closer. Suddenly the peacock butterfly opens its wings to reveal two owl like eyes and the mouse turns tail.

Jeanette Wyburn told me today that a whimbrel [*Numenius phaeopus*]

had been seen at Long Itchington. In appearance this bird is like a curlew, a wader with a long down curved bill. The severe weather in eastern coastal areas is thought to have driven it westward. Twitchers were out in force. Angela Huth recommends reading "The Running Sky – A Bird-Watching Life" by Tim Dee published by Jonathan Cape. Keep feeding the birds, it will make a difference. Finally I wish you well with many interesting wildlife sightings in 2011.



## General Section

### John Ridgley Tree of Light



We hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you well for 2011.

First we must apologise that the tree has not been lit as often as we would have liked. This is due to technical hitches and as the Library has not been open, as a result of adverse weather conditions, we have not been able to resolve the problem as speedily as we would have liked.

Your generous donations to the Tree of Light at the time of writing exceed £600 and we would like to thank all those who have adopted a light so far. It is not too late to make a donation so if you meant to but had forgotten, these will be accepted up until the end of January; further forms can be obtained from Mugleston's and the Library where the Book of Remembrance can be viewed. The Parish Council Report in December appears to suggest that deductions would be made from donations however we can assure you that this is not the case and all monies received will be paid to the charity without deduction.

The trustees will be meeting in mid-February to agree the distribution of funds, and we would like to invite organizations and individuals supporting children and young people in Harbury to apply for a grant, if possible by the end of January. Please could you send a letter to:- Harbury Charities, c/o 11 Vicarage Lane, Harbury, Leamington Spa, CV33 9HA outlining the amount and purpose of your request.

**Gordon Bennett**  
On Behalf of Harbury Charities

## Harbury chosen as trial site for London Olympics!

We are proud to announce that Harbury has been chosen as the venue for a trial run for the 2012 London Olympics! The “Heart of Harbury Games” will be held on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011** at the Harbury Recreation Ground when mixed teams of men, women and children from Harbury will compete for gold, silver and bronze medals. Events will include well-known Olympic events like 100 metres and 400 metres but we’ll also be trialling some new events like “Throwing a tantrum” and “Keepy Uppy”.

The Village Hall Committee who are organising the games will be inviting team entries from village organisations, businesses or groups of friends. Entries will open on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and close on 1<sup>st</sup> May. There will be lots of ways to be involved whether you are in a team, helping as a judge or marshal or just coming along as a spectator. Watch this space for further information over the next two or three months and please contact me if you want to help with the design and planning of the Heart of Harbury Games.

Please put the date in your 2011 diaries – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

**Andrew Lawrence, 8, South Parade, (Tel: 614937)**  
**On behalf of the Village Hall Committee**

## A Journey to the ‘Holy Land’

A story from Bethlehem.

We drove to Bethlehem down the settler road having been turned back at one checkpoint. We parked and walked a short distance and then it took me several moments to register what I was looking at; a huge, lowering, dark grey concrete wall, some 9 metres in height, with a watchtower on



the corner and barbed wire and surveillance cameras on top. I can honestly say that it was one of the most gut-wrenching experiences I have ever had. The bottom third of the wall was covered in graffiti.....

**I want my ball back, please?**

What do you feel when you see it written on this forbidding barrier? What do you feel when you stand in front of the home of nine children that has this monster built around three sides? What would you

feel if your children were taken away in an army vehicle just for playing in the small area left to them in front of their house and you didn't know where they had gone? What would you feel if one morning you awoke to find the open view from all your windows blocked by grey concrete? What would you feel if your friends were reluctant to visit you anymore because of your situation?

This is the story of Clare Anastas....

Do not look at your Christmas cards with their sentimental scenes of Bethlehem and feel a warm glow of comfort. It isn't like that – it's a human cage of suffering; the suffering of Clare and her family multiplied hundreds of times. You can be told facts and figures about the declining percentage of Christians in this place; you can file all sorts of information tidily in your mind but you cannot, cannot run away from the story of Clare; you cannot, cannot hide from the message of pain in her eyes.

Clare and her family are Palestinian Christians, families that have been in that place since the time of Christ. They must have invested all their assets into building their home and businesses. It's a substantial place built on what used to be a main road through Bethlehem; close to Rachel's Tomb – a popular place for tourists and pilgrims, common to Jew, Christian and Muslim. So popular that it was perceived as a threat by the Israelis. They built a military base behind Clare's house, effectively using it as a barrier between them and the flashpoint of danger. Because her bedrooms overlooked the area, they would use them as vantage points for shooting at insurgents .... imagine ..... How would you feel if your children were cleared out of their rooms by soldiers with guns?

Then came the wall; effectively this has destroyed your life; you are isolated, the road for passersby is blocked. What would you do? Think about it. You have no compensation, no one will really listen to you, they write you off as a hopeless situation, you can't get out of the open prison that is Bethlehem without a permit, you are humiliated at every turn.

Clare and her husband are fighting back for the sake of their children. They have promised them they will change the situation and help them to have a good life. Brave, courageous, determined, terrified, she pleads for our help and support.

They still run their souvenir business. She is trying so hard to tell her story to the world. Her website is <http://www.anastas-bethlehem.com> and another website <http://www.openbethlehem.org> will give you more information and pictures about her and other people. She could feel helpless and hopeless but her faith shines through. I hugged her before we left and we clung to each other for quite a while, I felt her warmth as a human being, her desperate sadness.

I acknowledged her as a woman, a mother. I looked at her, both of us



with tears in our eyes and just said 'You have shown me the human face of suffering.' I shall never forget her, and hers is only one of many stories.

### **I want my *life* back please?**

I pay tribute to **Biblelands** (represented in our area by Su McClellan) for their work in this precious place and I am so thankful that Tom and I took this opportunity to go with them on this incredible study tour. They support amazing projects amongst the most needy and vulnerable people and I have nothing but admiration for them. What can we do? We can pray, we can talk, we can lobby, we can challenge all the propaganda we are fed through the media, we can try to buy Palestinian goods, but most of all, if you can, go and see for yourself.

I have come back to Harbury, this safe and beautiful place, more knowledgeable but bewildered, saddened, frustrated, vehement and angry. I know there are many facets to the truth and the Israelis indeed have their points of view. They seemed to me to be a terrified people. Do not demonise them: I know that amongst them there are many good people who oppose what is happening and we should have compassion towards them too.

**Joan Smith**

## **The Gamecock Inn**



Joe and Corinne, along with their two dogs Cane and Roly, moved from Bedworth to become the new licensees at the Gamecock Inn last August. Although Corinne had had some experience working in pubs both behind the bar and progressing orders, the Gamecock is the first business that they have run together. Previously, Corrine worked as an Operating Theatre Assistant at the Walsgrave Hospital and Joe was in the Construction Industry in Kenilworth. It was following a visit last summer to Bull Ring Farm's 4 x 4 track and having a drink in the Gamecock afterwards, that they noticed a sign asking for new tenants. They decided there and then that this could be the change

of lifestyle they were looking for, something which enabled them to see more of each other and work together. They applied straightaway and within one month moved into the pub to take over the lease.

Joe and Corinne's first impressions of Harbury have lived up to expectations; they love the village, and think it is nice and quiet; they have made friends and are pleased that villagers have welcomed them. They were also quick to remark that Admiral Taverns who own the pub have been very helpful in getting them established. The pub continues to be managed as it always has been. They have a good trade with their regular customers, some of whom have been using the pub for 30 years! Lunchtimes can be their busiest time when many meals and snacks are served and of course drinks sold.

The Gamecock has three hand pull beers, with Banks and Hooky being their regular bitters and there is always a guest beer. Although Joe can choose from a large selection of guest beers, he does like to ask their regular drinkers which they prefer and try to accommodate them when deciding which guest beer to have in. Joe and Corinne like to support other local businesses and source their wines from CANA Import and their vegetables from Mugleston's Country Fayre. However, their meat is purchased from a traditional butcher back in Bedworth.

Corinne does most of the cooking herself, helped part-time by Joe's Mum, who is also a convert to the village lifestyle and who is moving to Harbury. Traditional English Pub Fayre is how Corinne likes to describe their menu at the Gamecock. The restaurant can offer 22 covers and the choice of food is varied. This includes gammon, steaks, homemade lasagne, lamb shanks and beer battered fish and chips all for a very reasonable price of between £5.95 and £6.95; specials are also available. Or if you just require a snack there is a choice of baguettes, sandwiches, jacket potatoes or toasties which are very popular. A range of homemade puddings are also available, with choices such as Jam Roly Poly, Sticky Toffee Pudding or Fruit Crumbles, all priced at £2.95 each. Joe pointed out that anything on the menu is also available to takeaway. Food is served Monday – Saturday from 12.00 noon to 3.00pm and 6.00 to 9.00pm. Sunday lunchtime between 12 noon and 3.00pm sees the usual traditional lunch served with a choice of four different meats - beef, chicken, lamb or pork.

There are no meals served Sunday evening, instead it is 'Quiz Night'; entry is free and there is no limit to the number of members in a team. Joe researches and sets his own 60 questions with teams swapping papers to mark the answers. A free round of drinks is usually the prize for the winning team. The quiz starts at 9.30pm and all are welcome to come and join in.

Joining in with village life is important to Corinne and Joe who enjoyed being involved with their first Victorian Street Fayre in October, when their garden was used to sell hot food and the pub was heaving with customers.

They also made sure that they had a popular 'guest beer' 'Atom Splitter' brewed in Cambridge when the Beer Festival was taking place.

The couple are keen to build extra trade, and are in the process of decorating the pub. A New Year Disco was held and it is also hoped that one off original musical acts will be booked to entertain their customers; who have already been serenaded by an impromptu piano player who got everyone involved with a jolly sing-a-long which was enjoyed by all.



So why not pop in and enjoy a drink or a meal at the Gamecock, opening hours are

Monday – Saturday 12 noon to 12 midnight and Sunday 12.00 noon to 4.00pm and 8.00 to 12 midnight. Tables can be booked on Tel: 612306. Corinne and Joe look forward to welcoming old and new customers.

**John Holden**



## **Southam & District Lions Club**

Are pleased to announce their **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Poetry Competition 2010/11.**

*With funding from Southam Town Council and Southam Lions*

Open to all residents (any age) of Southam and surrounding district. **Cash prizes** for the best poems. **Entry is free.** Entry forms are available from Southam Library or online at [http://southamlions.org.uk/?page\\_id=589](http://southamlions.org.uk/?page_id=589) or phone: 810513. The Closing Date is January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. Winners will be announced on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Peter Guy**

## **Arthur Rank Training**

Arthur Rank Training is an independent, charitable organisation providing educational and training opportunities for 14 to 19 year olds. We are looking to become more involved in Community Projects, providing some free labour in exchange for some time spent being part of a meaningful project, preferably in an outdoor setting, working alongside a variety of people from different walks of life.

Initially, we are able to offer some basic labouring, possibly site clearance or digging for example, with a small group of 16 to 19 year olds, supervised by a competent and experienced member of staff. We have our own transport and a reasonable selection of hand tools too. We will bring our own food and drink, but a cup of tea would be nice.

If you feel you may have a use for an extra “few pairs of hands”, even for just a few hours and would be happy to work alongside a young person please feel free to contact us.

**Martin Ellis**  
**Special Projects Manager**  
**[martin@arthurranktraining.org.uk](mailto:martin@arthurranktraining.org.uk), Tel: 01926 852111**

## **Harbury Art Classes**

I can't believe it's Christmas already and that by the time you get to read this you will have made your New Year's resolutions. I have been very busy and have forgotten to update the news about our thriving art classes for a while. So here goes.

There is a wonderful group of painters who gather every Tuesday morning for a good workout with the paintbrush. They are making tremendous progress.

We have just completed a term of learning watercolour techniques. Watercolour is, in my mind, the most difficult of all the mediums and by trying out the various techniques we have been exploring the limits of the medium and the limits of our patience!

We have learnt how to do hard and soft edges; how to incorporate a background into the painting; how to mix colours on the paper instead of in our palettes; how to paint with fresh, clean colours; how to paint loosely, making the most of cauliflowers and bleeds; how to transfer tone to colour; how to do a wash; how to tackle a leafless tree and finally how to paint in pen and wash.

The class is productive and supportive of one another and the progress made by every member has been very tangible. By making time each week to come together and paint, all the techniques learnt are revised and practiced and will by the end of next term hopefully become second nature.

So, next term we will be effortlessly painting beautiful watercolours to impress all our family and friends! Well, that is the plan!

I have also concurrently run a series of one day workshops in my recently built art studio. These give people the opportunity to finish a complete

work whilst being supported and guided. A home cooked meal is also provided and includes wine to help with creativity!

In November we had drama student Charlotte to model for us in her ballet tutu and a 60's dress in the afternoon. Some truly beautiful pastel paintings were produced by teatime.

For the still life workshop I gave the artists a choice of 5 still life arrangements to paint from. This provided the inspiration for some beautiful work.

The last workshop was a pen and wash Xmas card session. We brainstormed ideas and approaches to style and then fired off some completely original designs, some of which I hope will have been displayed on mantelpieces over Xmas.

The lessons and the workshops are open to anyone who would like to hone their artistic skills. A list of next term's workshops will be posted shortly.

Classes begin on January 11th in the Scout Hut. Please phone Jan Freeman on 01926 614251 for further information.

If you prefer to paint in pastels, a complete beginner pastel class is starting on 10th January at my other teaching venue in Norton Lindsey.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of my art classes for coming together so generously and raising £120 for the Harbury Village Hall. We enjoyed a long walk over the Thwaites estate on the morning when the hoar frost had coated the landscape in a magical blanket of white crystals. It felt like a gift from Mother Nature to the art class and many photos were taken for future paintings. We warmed up afterwards with some delicious homemade soups and festive mince pies.

**Jan Freeman**



## **A Horror Story**

*This story was passed on to me by Hannah King the class teacher for Year Six at Harbury School. It was written by Brandon Peisley with some collusion, apparently, from Michael Moss. We both thought it worthy of a greater audience. We hope you enjoy it! - Nigel Chapman.*

It was a dark, stormy, gloomy night in the countryside just outside of Pennsylvania, where four detectives, Brandon Peisley, Michael Moss, David Halstead and Nigel Chapman VI, were investigating an abandoned house, hoping to find an old, kind missing house maid that was once the maid of this abandoned house. This old, abandoned house was dilapidated and worn down.

There have been many stories passed around about this house, saying how all but the first owner of the house were murdered, but most people don't believe them.

As the four detectives began to enter the house through the big gates, which bizarrely opened up for them, they were freaked out but still willing to go in (apart from one of them who backed off - Nigel). After that the three detectives went in and eventually the other one followed and caught up with them.

As they walked through the doorway, to the left of them was a picture of the first murdered owner of this old grand mansion. After that they walked through to a great big staircase which split left and right as they looked at it. As they began to look around the hallway more, they noticed other great big pictures of all the other murdered owners of the mansion, all with arrows written in blood pointing to the place of their murder in the house. All of the pictures had the name 'Chapman' written on them in blood which scared the detectives so much they convinced themselves it was a coincidence. But as they looked straight ahead at the top of the staircase, there was the picture of the first owner and, underneath it, was written Nigel Chapman I. Ignoring this, the detectives decided to split up and look for clues.

The first detective, Nigel, walked up the stairs and stared at the picture with sweat dripping down his face. Then he looked to the right of him and, in so much shock he couldn't even scream, he saw the house maid standing there holding a lamp and staring straight at him. 'Hello Chapman,' the maid said in a soft voice. 'Over two hundred years old and you're still here, a different person but still you.'

'Who are you?' the detective asked.

'You know fine well who I am, Chapman,' the maid said.

'Leave me alone. How do you know my name?' he said in a quiet voice under his breath.

'Don't give me that Chapman,' said the maid.

'Ok then, Hannah,' Nigel said under his breath with a sigh.

'See that wasn't so hard now was it. I always liked it when you called me Hannah as opposed to Miss King, sir. We could have been best friends Chapman. Why did you end it?'

'It wasn't my fault I swear,' Nigel replied in a high voice feeling faint.

'Don't lie to me Chapman. You always loved this place. When you couldn't have it you always killed. You swore you would never kill me though, didn't you Chapman?! You may think I'm dead, but believe me,

I will haunt you and remain to live in this house for the rest of eternity,' the maid said as she fainted away like she'd never been there.

By now the other three were calling for Nigel. Nigel answered and slowly began to walk down the stairs after feeling sad, scared and horribly worried, so worried he chucked up, right there on the spot. He slowly edged downstairs only to find the other three holding a torch in a cupboard, shining it at the body of the house maid.

### **The End**

**By Brandon Peisley**

## **Tai Chi is Moving**

For two years now I have run a Chinese health and energy exercise (Tai Chi etc) class at the Village Hall on a Friday. It has become clear that Friday nights are not ideal for many. For some reason people prefer to go to the pub or have a night out instead.

We will, therefore, be moving to Mondays at Ufton Village Hall as from 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011, starting at 7pm. This ancient exercise system is equally suitable for men and women and anyone is welcome to come and check out what it feels like to have more strength, vitality and energy and yet be relaxed on Mondays from 7pm to 8.30pm in Ufton Village Hall.

Come and explore the mysteries of the Orient.

**Bob Sherman**

**Tel: 612277**

**bob@churchterrace8.freemove.co.uk**

## **Parish Plan Update – Spring 2011**

The update of the Parish Plan will be taking place during Spring 2011. Running at a similar time to the national Census, this will provide an interesting snapshot of Harbury and Deppers Bridge in 2011 but more than that, the Plan can help the community shape the future of the village during the coming years. This is the community's chance to have its say on new recreation facilities, law and order, street cleaning and much more. This time, the survey form will be **ONLINE** but, if you do prefer to fill in a hard copy, these will be available from shops and the library in the village and also from the Parish Office, Unit 2, Bull Ring Business Centre, Church Terrace. Watch out for more details in February 2011. In the meantime, if you have any particular issues or concerns that you would like the Plan to address, contact the Parish Clerk on 01926 614646, or e-mail [harburypc@btinternet.com](mailto:harburypc@btinternet.com).

**Harbury Parish Council**

## Ballroom Dancing

The next session of the Ballroom Dancing starts on Wednesday, 2nd February, for six weeks. The venue is the Village Hall and the time from 8.30pm to 10.00pm.

For this session we are going to introduce a 'new recruits' slot lasting for 15 minutes, so that anyone who would like to join will have Anni's undivided attention for this time just to get you going. So for the first session old hands should turn up for 8.45 prompt please and we'll see how it goes from there. Looking forward to seeing everyone there with their toes twitching in readiness for some amazing dancing!

**Joan Smith (613680)**

## Harbury Senior Citizens' Committee Update



Not quite as many people made it to the Christmas Party this year but from the feedback we have had, everyone seemed to enjoy it. Through a quirk of fate, we had more entertainment than was planned, and it couldn't have been more different. First off were the Windmill Singers who treated us to some very

professional unaccompanied singing of a few well known and some not so well known Christmas songs from far and wide. Next up we had Phil King and Crockett who gave us some good ol' rock and roll which got some of the more energetic amongst us up jiving the night away. We would like to express our thanks to both the Windmill Singers and to Phil and Crockett for giving us their time and effort. It is really appreciated.

The party lasted a little longer than usual and we ran out of time so that we missed out on our "sing along with Mavis" slot. We would like to thank Mavis for her preparation which I am sure will be put to good use next year.

We would like to thank the following for giving us raffle prizes; The Dog Inn, Old New Inn, Muglestones', Londis, Co-op (Heart of England),



Absolute Beauty, Tesco in Southam, Sainsbury Shire Retail Park, Bobby Jones and of course all of the other individuals who donated prizes.

It would be difficult to put on the party without a lot of extra volunteers who support the committee by helping to set up, dish up, serve up, wash up and clear up. Thank you for your hard work and support – it really is appreciated by everyone. In particular, this year, we had some help from the Harbury Scouts and Guides who helped put up the tree and the



decorations as part of their community involvement. We hope you enjoyed the experience and we may see you again next year?

Although we had a very successful evening, we would like to bring the following to your attention. On Monday 6th December we had 119 names on our list. We do expect some people to drop out for a variety of reasons and we had eleven people contact us before the event saying they could not make it. So, we catered for and set up the tables for 108 people. Those who came along noticed that there were a number of gaps at the tables - seventeen in all. If we had known they were not coming we could have set up fewer tables and not prepared as many meals. We do expect some no-shows on the day but it would really help us if you could tell someone on the committee in person or via one of the phone numbers that are regularly published if you are unable to make it. Thank you.

As we roll into 2011 the committee would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and we look forward to arranging some more events for you during the year.

**Mike McBride,**  
**On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens' Benefit Association**

## **Harbury Duke of Edinburgh Group**

The photo overleaf shows 10 out of the 14 young people from Harbury, Deppers Bridge and Ladbroke who successfully completed their Bronze Awards this last year. The group's leaders were as proud of their achievements as their parents. Thanks were offered to assessors who watch over the participants as they do the various sections of their award



and to grant providers (the Parish Council and Carnival Committee within the village).

15 young people are now doing their Silver awards and we have a new batch of 13 starting out on their Bronze. Word has spread and we now have participants from Southam and several nearby villages. If you have a child who will be in Year 10 in September 2011 and is interested in starting the award scheme contact us via our website [[www.harburydofe.co.uk](http://www.harburydofe.co.uk)] or the phone number below.

**Alan and Kathy Sampson, Sam Butler, Caroline Hill, Mark Casement  
and Nick Tawney (614062)**

## **Fuel Community Update**

All the members of the fuel community were contacted in December to see if they needed a 'top up' of kerosene in time for the Christmas period. Several members felt that they had enough to last through until well into the new year, but four members, including a new recruit decided to take advantage of the good terms on offer for the time of year. As might be expected, the price of fuel rocketed as the bad weather set in, as the terminals were experiencing difficulty in supplying the local depots and they, in turn, were finding some of the local roads difficult to negotiate. Out of all the suppliers contacted, RIX (our previous supplier) quoted the best price and would also guarantee delivery by a certain date, whereas others could not commit to a definite time. The price difference between the companies contacted varied by over 10p, which makes quite a

difference if the amount of fuel delivered is around 1000 litres. After the order had gone in from existing members of the fuel community, other villagers rang to see if they could add their request on to RIX, but the price and delivery time agreed with the local agents is fixed on the day they receive the order. The next order is likely to be at the end of January/ beginning of February and as usual, I will ring all those who have previously placed an order for fuel through our very local FUEL COMMUNITY. If you live in Harbury, Deppers Bridge or Ladbroke, please get in touch if you want to join in with the combined order next time. I always ring all the local suppliers on the same day and ask for the best price, which is confirmed on the day the order is placed. Ring 612305 for information.

**Chris Finch**

## **Harbury Rugby Club**

Harbury RFC would like to acknowledge and thank Harbury Parish Council, Warwickshire County Council and Linfoot Country Homes for their financial support to enable us to widen the entrance to the Club and construct a new car parking area, thereby doubling the number of cars that can be parked in the Club grounds.

Apart from the benefits derived on our match days (see the board by the Club gates for each week's games and opponents), we are now better able to provide for larger events and accommodate more functions at the Club, which is available to hire to the local community and village organisations.

**Dave Andrews**



## **Wednesday Walkers**

Have the festivities left you feeling stuffy and flabby? Would you like to explore our local countryside? Do you enjoy walking but are more comfortable with company? We are launching, just for you, a walking group. We plan to meet each Wednesday morning, starting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Our first walk – weather permitting – will stay local; we will meet on the Village Hall car park at 9.45am and go to Ufton – approximately 3 miles. There are a few stiles and almost certainly some mud!

To get some idea of the support, everyone interested is invited to coffee at 4 The Beeches on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am. We can then pool ideas and see what people would like to do.

**Pam Parton, 614188**  
**Gillian Hare, 614809**

## **New Parents / Mums to be**

Come and have a chat over a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit on Tuesday mornings in the Tom Hauley room, starting on 11th January from 10.30am to 11.30am during term time. Mums, dads and babies welcome!

If you require any further information, please contact Helen Iles (614150) or Gill Guilford (614206).

**Gill Guilford**

## **Going Green**

“Use less energy” ‘they’ urge constantly; a noble aspiration to be sure and a sensible one. To that end, many of those of us ‘on the gas’ have installed a high efficiency condensing boiler. Like so many advances, these come with a potential hiccup which only shows up in a spell of cold weather.

Older non-condensing boilers passed all the products of combustion – mainly water and carbon dioxide – out of the house via the boiler flue.

The more efficient condensing ones reduce the flue gas temperatures to a point where a proportion of the water vapour condenses back into water – thereby extracting more heat from the flames.

This condensed water is none too pleasant being pretty acidic and to deal with this, such boilers require a small drain pipe to get rid of the condensate to an outside drain.

So far, so good, but in prolonged sub-zero temperatures, the pipe leading outside to the drain will freeze up and the boiler can no longer get rid of its condensate.

The clever electronic brain inside the boiler then says “Ah ha! My condensate tank is full, therefore I must not light up!” This leads to a cycle like this: “Water has cooled – must light up – check condensate tank – condensate tank full – must not light up – water has cooled – must light up – etc etc”

At this point you ring the gas engineer who charges you a not inconsiderable sum to unfreeze the condensate drain pipe. Generally there is nothing wrong with the boiler itself, poor thing it is just confused!

So, if your nice new high efficiency condensing boiler packs up in cold weather **CHECK THE CONDENSATE PIPE BEFORE** you ring the gas man.

There is also a non-approved solution to this problem. Cut a “T” piece into the condensate pipe inside the house and lead a second drain pipe into the kitchen sink or a bucket! If you are a semi-competent DIY-er this will cost you less than a gas call out.

As soon as the weather warms up again, remove the internal drain pipe, put it away for next winter and blank off the “T” so that the originally installed drain pipe is used to drain the condensate to outside in the proper manner.

**“Bodge-Plumber”**

## Fire Safety in your home



Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is offering all Warwickshire residents a **free** Home Fire Safety Check.

A **Home Fire Safety Check** offers fire safety advice on all areas of high risk that are in your home, like kitchens, open fires, candles, electric blankets, and smoking materials.

An Escape Plan is also a vital area which should be part of your Fire Safety Plan, and can also be discussed during the visit, along with the fitting of free

smoke detectors where necessary, and remember, this service is completely free.

If you would like to take advantage of this **FREE** offer call us on 01926 466282 (please quote ref: 35 CVS).

**Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### **Dear Editors**

*We have truly been overwhelmed by all the flowers, cards and messages sent since Mike died. The tributes to him have been a great comfort to us. As they say, his photographs, over so many years, are his memorial. We thank everyone who attended the service at Church and **especially** all our friends who helped us that day. Thank you to Father Craig for his sensitivity, help and guidance. Where else but here in Harbury is there such a supportive and caring village.*

**Doreen Bloxham, Mark, Wendy, Adrian and Rowan**

**Dear Editors**

Yet again, a record. £2619 was the grand total for the British Legion Poppy Appeal 2010.

Sincerest thanks to all our loyal house to house collectors, static collectors, donations, and of course to you – the generous people of Harbury, Ufton and Chesterton. The annual coffee morning was also most successful with a total of over £200.

Thank you to Celia, to those who gave raffle prizes and of course also to those dedicated cooks, giving us a wonderful display of “goodies” for sale.

The conclusion of the Appeal was a full morning congregation in Church followed by a service around the Cenotaph joined by yet more people.

Many thanks to Father Craig and to trumpeter Tony.

**The Committee****Dear Editors**

We thank the Harbury Church Choir for the lovely carol singing around the village on a very cold night, and the children who wished us a happy Christmas with mince pies.

Also thank you Brian for the use of your 4 X 4 to get us three ladies to see Scrooge at the Village Hall.

Thank you again; you were all great. A happy New Year, best wishes from

**Eve, Mary and Silvia**

**Dear Editors**

Katy and Magnus are pleased to announce the arrival of Angus Benedict Lewis-Smith on 26 November 2010, a little brother for Hamish. Thanks to all for your support and interest during the pregnancy and the generosity of cards, presents and yummy homemade brownies when Angus was born. Hopefully by the time this is printed the weather will have warmed up and we will have been out and about introducing Angus to Harbury!

**Katy, Magnus and Hamish**

**High Street**

**Harbury**

**Dear Editors**

We would like to thank all our friends for the wonderful support and many cards and gifts we have received since our baby boy Henry Rupert Oscar was born. The generosity and kindness shown by people has been overwhelming. You have made him feel very welcome in Harbury.

Love and best wishes,

**William, Kelly and Henry Jones**

**Dear Editors**

We would like to say many thanks to everyone for their wonderful support at our coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on Saturday 30th November.

You all made this event such a success that we have been able to send a cheque for £379.50 from the proceeds, to the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. Well done Harbury.

In addition, we have just been informed that they will be opening their first shop in Rugby - opposite Marks & Spencer - at the end of November.

**Harbury Air Ambulance Support Group**

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**Dear Editors**

The Inner Wheel Club of Southam would like to thank all the kind persons who attended the coffee morning on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at which the sum of £141.61 was raised to support our Charities. Happy New Year to all your readers.

**Gwenda Gaffney**

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**Dear Editors**

Through your columns may we please send our New Year greetings to all our friends and acquaintances in the Harbury area thanking them for all their good wishes, especially for the lovely flowers from folks at Deppers and the many cards which we have received.

We are begining to settle in down here in Gloucestershire but feel a bit hard done by in catching such a winter so soon after moving in to a mid-thirties heat colander, before we have had a chance to organize our defences!

Thinking of you all, our best wishes from

**Ron & Muriel Grey, 36 The Quarry, CAM, Gloucs. GL11 6HZ**  
**01453 542983.**

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**Dear Editors**

Last weekend, just as Ladbroke was getting itself ready for Christmas and the Bell Inn was once more open, through no fault of their own, the electricity was cut off just 24 hours before our very own Ladbroke Rockers were going to play us into Saturday night at the Bell! Snow, ice and below zero temperatures hadn't succeeded in stopping us, but no electricity certainly did! When it was apparent that the electricity was not going to be switched back on until into the next week, the fighting spirit of the village came to the fore and from breakfast time onwards on Saturday, the dinner and dance was overhauled from top to toe and moved across the road to the Village Hall.

Thanks to everyone pulling together, what started out as an impossibility turned into a rocking and rolling night of fun and frolics. Snow stopped no one and out came the wellington boots for walking to the dance; The Bell managed to pull together a superb beef stew followed by a selection of

desserts; the Ladbroke Rockers provided the music and the village hall rocked till midnight with the dancing. An event originally organised by the Bell Inn to help raise funds for the village charities may have had to be tweaked, but fortunately the resulting evening turned out to be one to be well remembered by all!

Well, the Bell Inn now has its electricity back just in time for Christmas, and hopefully normality will resume for the start of the New Year; so roll on 2011.

**James and Jennie Daniels**

**FOUND** - pair of Ladies PRADA gold rimmed spectacles at The Crown Inn, Crown Street. If you think they could be yours, call 614995 or pop in.

## Regular Diary Dates

**ART CLASSES:** The Scout Hut, Tuesday 10am -12 noon (614251)

**ART TUTORIALS:** Tom Hauley Room 1st Thursday of the month (614104)

**BABY CLINIC:** Surgery, 2nd & 4th Wednesday 1.00 – 3.00pm

**BADMINTON:** Village Hall, Monday mornings 10:00am -12:00 noon (612877)

Mondays 7:00 - 9:00pm; (612627)

**BEAVERS:** Scout Hut, Thursdays 5.30 - 6.40pm (612822)

**BELL RINGING PRACTICE:** Church, Fridays 7:30pm (612939)

**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)

**BRIDGE CLUB:** Thursday in Village Club at 7.00pm (612714)

**BROWNIES:** Scout Hut, Mondays 5.45pm - 7:00pm (612538)

Brownies & Rainbows Waiting List - Bobbie Sharpe (614040)

**CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES** Farley Room Wednesday 4.00 - 8.00pm (01789 290733)

**CHURCH MEN'S GROUP:** Tom Hauley Room 1st Thursday in the month 7.45pm (612753)

**COFFEE MORNING:** Tom Hauley Room Saturdays 10:00am - 12:00noon (613214)

**CUBS:** Scout Hut, Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00pm (614730)

**DROP-IN TEA FOR THE BEREAVED:** 19, Farm Street, last Wednesday in the month (except in December) 2.30 to 4.30pm (612585)

**GUIDES:** Scout Hut, Mondays 7.15pm – 8.45pm

**GYMNASTICS:** Harbury School, Mondays 6:00 - 7:00pm (07939 679533)

**HARBURY FOLK CLUB:** Dog Inn 1st Thursday in the month 8:00pm (613730)

**HARBURY FRIENDS:** Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Tuesday in the month 8:00pm (612534)

**HARBURY JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB:**

**Under 6's – Year 1 (Mixed)**

Coach: Steve Darby Tel: 01926 613330

Training: Saturday 9.00am Harbury School

**Under 7's – Year 2**

Coach: Steve Burnell Tel: 07912 578605 or Ian Jones 01926 612201



Training: Saturday 9.00am, Harbury School

**Under 9's - Year 4 (Mixed)**

Coach: Richard Woodhead Tel: 07786 802803

Training: Saturday 9.00am, Harbury Playing Fields

**Under 11's - Year 6 (Boys)**

Coach: Carolyn Dorning Tel: 01926 612037

Training: Saturday 9.00am, Harbury Playing Fields

**Under 11's - Years 5,6,7 Girls**

Coach: Judith Woodfield Tel: 01926 312021

Training: Saturday 9.00am, Harbury Playing Fields

**Under 12/13's – Year 8 Boys**

Coach: Malcom Tanner Tel: 07950 312541

Training: Saturday 9.00am, Harbury Playing Fields

**HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL:** Wight School (behind Library), High St. Monday 12:30pm – 3:00pm, Tuesday to Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm (613386)

**HARBURY THEATRE GROUP** Last Monday of the month Shakespeare Inn (612150)

**HARBURY TODDLER GROUP:** Wight School, Monday 10:00 - 11:30am

**HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB:** Contact 612498

**HEREBURGH MORRIS DANCERS:** School Hall, Wednesdays 8:00 - 10:00pm (612819)

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

**KEEP FIT FOR LADIES:** Harbury Primary School, Thursdays (term time) 7.00-8.00pm, contact Sue Hawthorn (810942)

**KICK START APPALACHIAN STEP DANCERS:** Scout Hut, Saturdays, 10:00am - 12:00noon (612734)

**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:** Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursdays 6:30pm; (613163)

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 8.00pm (613831)

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

**RAINBOWS :** Scout Hut Tuesdays 5.30 - 6.30pm, Unit Leader Bobbi Sharpe 614040

**SCOUTS:** Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00pm (614062)

**SLIMMING WORLD:** Village Club, Wednesdays 6.30pm Sarah Edwards Tel: 07964 513 154

**TAI CHI:** Ufton Village Hall, Monday, 7.00pm – 8.30pm (612277)

**TAP & DANCE FOR ADULTS:** Wednesday, 8.30-9.30pm (Jane - 07989 834416)

**TENNIS CLUB: MEMBERS PLAYING TIMES:**

**Adults and Students:**

Tuesdays: 6.30pm– 10.00pm, Thursdays: 6.30pm – 10.00pm

Saturdays: (Winter only) 10.00am – 12 noon,

Sundays: (Summer only) 10.00am – 12 noon

**Members** may play at other times free of charge, provided the courts are not already booked. **Guests** playing with members should pay £1 an hour.

If you would like to become a member or find out more about Harbury Tennis Club, please contact Colin Mercer (613284 or email [sucol-mercer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sucol-mercer@tiscali.co.uk))

**Juniors and Minis** (Reception to Year 11)

Group coaching takes place throughout the year. For up to date information contact Sue Mercer (613284 or email [sucol-mercer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sucol-mercer@tiscali.co.uk))

**NON MEMBERS** - Courts should be booked at Country Fayre, Chapel Street (£4 per court per hour) **Floodlit bookings** £7 per court per hour. Ring 613284 to book.

**COACHING** – for individuals or small groups please contact Head Coach, Linda Casement (614734)

**THURSDAY CLUB:** Farley Room of Village Hall 4th Thursday in the month 2:30pm (612877)

**W.I.:** Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday in the month 7:45pm (614188)

**WINDMILLS NURSERY SCHOOL:** In the grounds of Harbury Primary School, Monday-Thursday; 9:05am - 3.05pm; Friday 9.05am -12.30pm (07906 519148)

**YOGA:** Tom Hauley Room, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm Dianne Surgey (817904)

**YOUTH GROUP-ICON @ All Saints':** Tom Hauley Room, Sundays 7.00 – 8.30pm (612377)

BOOKINGS FOR		
SCOUT HUT	TOM HAULEY ROOM	THR COFFEE MORN-INGS
Caroline Hill Tel: 613780 -	Sally Stringer Tel: 613214 <a href="mailto:sal.47@hotmail.co.uk">sal.47@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Sally Stringer Tel: 613214 <a href="mailto:sal.47@hotmail.co.uk">sal.47@hotmail.co.uk</a>
VILLAGE HALL	VILLAGE CLUB - CONCERT ROOM	WIGHT SCHOOL
Celia Neill Tel: 612819 <a href="mailto:harburyvillagehall@googlemail.com">harburyvillagehall@googlemail.com</a>	- Tel: 612498 (evenings) <a href="mailto:harburyvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk">harburyvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Lin Hayes Tel: 613488 <a href="mailto:keith.hayes@which.net">keith.hayes@which.net</a>

## FEBRUARY EDITION – HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS

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

**Articles to** Harbury Pharmacy by 27<sup>th</sup> January

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Thursday evenings, The Grange, Southam

4.30pm - Funky Dance 1 (4-6yrs) 5.30pm - Funky Dance (7yrs +)  
5.00pm - Gymnastics (all ages) 6.00pm - Grade 1 Ballet (9yrs +)



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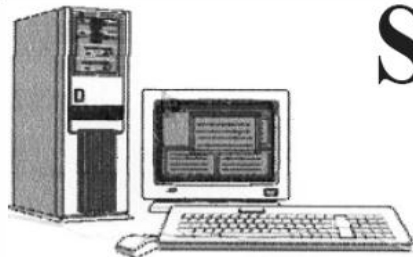
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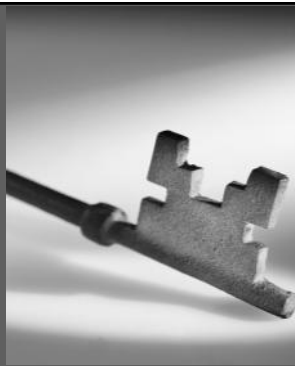
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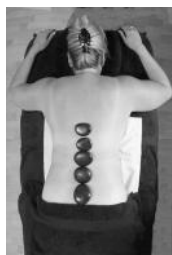
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 Reiki - 1 week taster 17<sup>th</sup> January  
 Palmistry - 1 week taster 24<sup>th</sup> January  
 Salsa - 8.00 - 9.00pm  
 Spanish for beginners - families welcome  
 Wood turning for beginners 6.30 - 8.00pm  
 Wood turning for experienced 8.00 - 9.30pm


**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 7.30 - 9.30PM**

Beading - 7.00 - 9.30pm (1 week) pre-booking essential  
 Computing and the internet  
 French for holidays - families welcome  
 Photoshop for photographers - 6 weeks  
 Yoga - 7.30 - 9.00pm

**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 7.30 - 9.30PM**

Beading - 7.00 - 9.30pm (1 week) pre-booking essential  
 Cake icing and sugar paste flowers  
 Come and play badminton 7.30 - 8.30pm families welcome  
 Fun with Fabric - 5 weeks

Most classes commence week beginning Monday 10th January. Evening Courses run from 7.30 - 9.30 for a maximum of 11 weeks (excluding half term break beginning 21<sup>st</sup> February) unless shown otherwise. Please arrive 15 minutes early to the first session to allow time for enrolment. For further information and to register to guarantee your place, please contact Sue Hawthorn or Chris Dudley on 01926 810942 or at [commed.s@we-learn.com](mailto:commed.s@we-learn.com)

Course fees start from £3.50 per hour with some reductions available - please ask for further details.

**PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO AMENDEMENT. FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION AND A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF MOST OF THESE COURSES PLEASE CONTACT US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.southamcollege.com](http://www.southamcollege.com) AND FOLLOW THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION LINK.**

**DAYTIME COURSES IN SOUTHAM**
**SOUTHAM COLLEGE**

Calligraphy day workshops Mondays 10.00am - 3.00pm

- Creating embossed letters - 7/2/2011
- Quirky versals - 7/3/2011
- The beauty of half uncial - 28/3/2011

Palmistry - 1 week taster - 17<sup>th</sup> January 1.00 - 3.00pm

Reiki - 1 week taster - 24<sup>th</sup> January 1.00 - 3.00pm

Cake Icing and sugar paste flowers - Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Movement to music - Wednesday 9.30 - 10.30am

Water Colour Painting - Wednesday 1.00 - 3.00pm

Cake Icing and sugar paste flowers - Thursday 10.00am - 12 noon

Water Colour Painting - Thursday 1.00 - 3.00pm

Water Colour Painting - Friday 1.00 - 3.00pm

Indian Cookery one week Saturday workshop March (date tbc) 1.00 - 4.00pm

**SOUTHAM LIBRARY**

Basic Computing and the internet course - Tuesday 1.00 - 3.00pm

Family History - So who do you think you are? (6 weeks) - Monday 1.00 - 3.00pm

**COURSES IN THE VILLAGES**
**TOM HAULEY ROOM, HARBURY**

Yoga - Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm

**OFFCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

Upholstery & soft furnishing - Tuesday 9.30 - 11.30am

**STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL**

Upholstery & soft furnishing - Tuesday 1.00 - 3.00pm

**UFTON VILLAGE HALL**

Pilates - Monday 9.30 - 10.30am and Wednesday 2.00 - 3.00pm

**COMING SOON - NEW DAY AND EVENING WORKSHOPS**
**Short day or evening workshops are planned in:**

- I.T. Related topics (touch typing, Publisher, Excel, etc) - Let us know if you have any suggestions. We will see how we can help.
- Local History and
- Help to get that job - advice and confidence building workshop. Please contact us to register your interest and availability.

# ***“Diamonds & Pearls Charity Ball”***

***IN AID OF BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH CAMPAIGN***

***To be held at  
Stratford Manor  
Warwick Road, Stratford upon Avon  
CV37 0PY  
on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2011***

***3 COURSE DINNER, COFFEE AND CHOCOLATES***

***LIVE MUSIC WITH THE BEST 11 PIECE BAND EVER  
“MIKE JAMES SOUND”***

***THE COMEDY TALENTS OF LIVERPOOL BORN  
“JAMIE SUTHERLAND”***

***PLUS DISCO, RAFFLE AND AUCTION  
(ANY ONE KIND ENOUGH TO DONATE PRIZES ALL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED)***

***£50 A TICKET***

***BRAIN TUMOURS ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF CANCER DEATH IN  
CHILDREN, MORE WOMEN UNDER 35 AND MEN UNDER 45 DIE FROM A  
BRAIN TUMOUR THAN ANY OTHER CANCER. PLEASE SUPPORT US.***

***FOR TICKETS OR ANY OTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:***

***HAYLEY GREEN on  
07702 683 788 or hayley@green761.freemove.co.uk***

***“WORTHLEY” HALL LANE, HARBURY CV33 9HG***

***6.30PM DRINKS RECEPTION. CARRIAGES 1.00AM.***

***DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE and FAKE OR REAL DIAMONDS and PEARLS!!***

***WILL BE A FANTASTIC NIGHT FOR A FANTASTIC CAUSE.***

***(OVER 18s)***