

# 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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## Editorial Team

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

*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

As reported by many of our regular contributors, a lot of hard work has gone into festive fundraising and, due to the support and generosity of our residents, large sums have been raised for village and local charities. Well done to all those involved.

2012 will see important decisions made on High Speed Rail and the wind turbines proposed for Knightcote Bottoms. They will both have a major impact on our local environment if they go ahead.

We are looking forward to events in the coming year, including the Ladbroke pantomime, Aladdin, which promises to be a spectacular show.

We have been advised by the County Council that there will be road works on the B4451 at Deppers Bridge commencing on 16<sup>th</sup> January for three weeks.

Lastly, we wish all our readers a very happy and healthy New Year.

## Harbury Diary

### JANUARY 2012

- |       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| Sat   | 7  | Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union<br>'Steam Chicken' Jazz Evening in Village Hall – contact: Sue Crum Tel: 07989 825554 |
| Sun   | 8  | <b>BAPTISM OF CHRIST</b><br>Holy Communion 8.00am<br>Sung Eucharist 10.30am<br>Zumba 9.00am in Village Hall  |
| Tues  | 10 | Toddlers Service 2.00pm in Tom Hauley Room<br>Youth Club 6.45pm in Village Hall<br>Holy Communion 7.30pm   |
| Wed   | 11 | Hereburgh Morris Practice 8.00-10.00pm Harbury School  |
| Thurs | 12 | Holy Communion 9.45am, followed by coffee<br>Warwickshire Young Voices 6.30pm in Village Hall  |
| Sat   | 14 | Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Pre-School<br>Bumps & Bundles Birthday Party   |
| Sun   | 15 | <b>EPIPHANY II</b><br>Holy Communion 8.00am  |

Family Communion Service 10.30am  
 Evensong 6.00pm  
 Zumba 9.00am in Village Hall  
 ADVERTS FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: 31 BINSWOOD END,  
 HARBURY BY 5.30PM

- Tues 17 Youth Club 6.45pm in Village Hall  
 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
 Mothers' Union Faith Supper 8.00pm Tom Hauley Room
- Weds 18 Tea 3.00pm Tom Hauley Room  
 Hereburgh Morris Practice 8.00-10.00pm Harbury School
- Thurs 19 Holy Communion 9.45am, followed by coffee  
 Warwickshire Young Voices 6.30pm in Village Hall
- Sat 21 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7.30am Tom Hauley Room  
 Harbury School Cross Country 9.00am  
 Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid  
 of NSPCC

Moving Pictures presents 'Rise of the Planet of the Apes', Doors  
 open 5.00pm, film starts 5.30pm in Village Hall. *(Please note that  
 at the time of printing, the film license for January's film was  
 unconfirmed, please check posters on village notice boards for  
 final booking details – thank you.)*

### **Sun 22 EPIPHANY III**

- Holy Communion 8.00am  
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am  
 Zumba 9.00am in Village Hall
- Mon 23 Wildlife Photography presented by Kay Reeve, 10.00am,  
 Tom Hauley Room, admission £2
- Tues 24 Youth Club 6.45pm in Village Hall  
 Holy Communion 7.30pm  
 Julian Meeting 8.00pm
- Wed 25 Hereburgh Morris Practice 8.00-10.00pm Harbury School
- Thurs 26 Holy Communion 9.45am, followed by coffee  
 DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY,  
 HIGH STREET OR BY EMAIL BY 5.30PM  
 Warwickshire Young Voices 6.30pm in Village Hall  
 Parish Council 7.30pm in Village Hall  
 Rotary Club of Southam 'Burns Night' 7.30–8.00pm at  
 Draycote Water Sailing Club, tickets £30 contact Dave Roberts  
 on 01926 815831

Fri 27 WI New Year Party in Village Hall.

Sat 28 Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid  
 of Horticultural Society

### **Sun 29 EPIPHANY IV**

Holy Communion 8.00am  
 Sung Eucharist 10.30am  
 Zumba 9.00am in Village Hall

Tues 31 Drop in Tea for the Bereaved 2.30 to 4.30pm, 19 Farm Street  
Youth Club 6.45pm in Village Hall  
Holy Communion 7.30pm

## **FEBRUARY**

Weds 1 Holy Communion 2.00pm Tom Hauley Room  
Mothers' Union Meeting 2.30pm Tom Hauley Room  
Hereburgh Morris Practice 8.00-10.00pm Harbury School

Thurs 2 Holy Communion 9.45am, followed by coffee  
Harbury Art Group, "Landscape" Pastel & Watercolour 10.00am - 3.30pm in Tom Hauley Room. To book a place or find out more tel: Pam McConnell 01926 814923 or Nick Baldwin 01295 276465  
Men's Group Meeting 7.45pm Tom Hauley Room

Sat 4 Coffee Morning 10.00am – 12 noon in Tom Hauley Room in aid of Ladbroke Church

Sun 5 **3<sup>RD</sup> BEFORE LENT**  
Sung Eucharist 9.00am  
Zumba 9.00am in Village Hall  
First Light Service 10.30am  
"Worship & Word" (informal worship with teaching) 6.00pm

Mon 6 "Drop-in" Event for Village with a Vision Extra Care Facility, 1.00pm – 7.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room.

<b>Refuse Collection Rota</b>				
	<b>Deppers Bridge</b>	<b>Harbury</b>	<b>Ladbroke</b>	<b>Collection Week</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>	
	7	8	9	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	14	15	16	<b>Grey Bin</b>
	21	22	23	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	Thur 29	Fri 30	Sat 31	<b>Grey Bin</b>
<b>Jan</b>	4	5	6	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>
	11	12	13	<b>Grey Bin</b>
	18	19	20	<b>Green &amp; Blue Lid Bins</b>

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

### **FEBRUARY EDITION—HARBURY & LADBROKE NEWS**

**Adverts** to 31 Binswood End by 15th January

**Articles** to Harbury Pharmacy or e-mail to [articles@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:articles@hlnews.co.uk) by 26th January



## From the Rector

**Reverend Craig Grocock**

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎612377 ✉kankudai43@aol.co.uk

### A peaceful New Year

Welcome once again to another year!

I am quite sure you've been wished a 'Happy New Year' by many people over this last couple of weeks. We all wonder at this time of year what the next twelve months will bring. We know this coming twelve months will bring amongst other things the celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and of course, the London Olympic Games and we wish Team GB every success!

At the beginning of a year we naturally look ahead and that helps us as we battle through the doldrums of January; it's not surprising is it that most summer holidays are booked during this month?

Whilst there are many things to look forward to during 2012, we enter it knowing that for many individuals and households, uncertainty remains. Unemployment is still rising, Britain's position in Europe is debatable and the global financial situation continues to worry economists and politicians.

And so we begin the New Year with mixed feelings. I believe most of us, at the end of the day, want to feel and have peace – a lasting peace deep down within ourselves. This is different from happiness. You can be unhappy or go through periods of unhappiness in your life but still be at peace.

I would love to see more people in our villages finding a place with us at Church this coming year. Our church is here for everyone and that includes you. We are not a private club with a private, exclusive membership. We are ordinary people who have found a security and a lasting peace in God and who are simply trying to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. We don't always get things right and we're certainly not perfect but we want to be a place where all of you are made welcome.

Are you looking for something more this coming year? Are you searching for a lasting peace? Well, why not come along and join us this year and discover with us just how amazing and relevant the message of Jesus is for you.

A peaceful New Year to all of you.

God bless.

## From the Registers

### *Holy Baptism, All Saints' Harbury*

27th November Emilia Rose Farrell

11th December Finley Williams



## From the Churchwardens

**Liz & Will**

As we all wind down after the Christmas rush we need to thank all those people who put in such a lot of effort to help the festival go smoothly, particularly the visiting ministers who covered for Craig during his holiday. Our thanks also to Brian Merriman for donating the splendid fir tree.

The Christmas Fayre and raffle raised a total of £2,318. The raffle alone raised £1,279 and a cheque has been sent to Warwickshire & Northants Air Ambulance. Thank you to all who supported us and to all who worked hard to make this annual event such a success.

Look out in the New Year for things going on within our Church on the website [www.allsaintsharbury.org](http://www.allsaintsharbury.org).



## Mothers' Union

**Sue Boniface**

Our December afternoon meeting was 'Craft for Christmas', led by Gillian Hare and Marian Dickerson. Members turned oranges into beautiful table decorations topped with a nightlight.

As usual members collected toiletries to sell at the Christmas Fayre and this year, under the expert guidance of Gill Hare, some members produced table decorations to add to the toiletries. We were delighted to see the table decorations selling like the proverbial 'hot cakes' and the stall made an overall profit of £117.20. Our theme for the stall was 'From Russia with Love' and focused on the story of Babushka.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our party on 4<sup>th</sup> January, the coffee morning on 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday and our Faith Supper on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> January.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February Rev. Annie Goldethorp will speak to us about our 2012 theme 'Your gifts, discover and celebrate'. As always, guests are welcome to join us in the Tom Hauley Room at 2.00pm when there will be a communion service prior to the business and talk.



## Toddlers' Service

Lorna Bedford

At our service a couple of weeks before Christmas, Mrs Dorothy Travis talked to the children about Advent. She asked who had an advent calendar and she brought along items such as a pudding basin with wooden spoon, tinsel, cards and envelopes to show what likely preparations were happening in our homes in readiness for Christmas.

We then heard about how Mary would have been preparing for the birth of her first baby by getting ready the bedding and clothes; however, just before her baby was born, she and Joseph had to make a journey to Bethlehem. So we all took a journey around the Tom Hauley Room stopping off on the way for a pretend picnic. When they reached Bethlehem all of the inns were full, so they were offered a stable to stay in overnight. And this is where Jesus was born. So Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birthday of Jesus.

We sang Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and Away in a Manger accompanied by Mr Michael Hare on the accordion before we said a thank you prayer.

The children then made Christmas cards to take home. We had refreshments and played until it was time to go home.

Our next service will be on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in the Tom Hauley Room at 2pm. All babies and toddlers, accompanied by an adult, are welcome to join us.

## Ladbroke News & Diary

### JANUARY 2012

#### EPIPHANY

Fri 6 Evening Song, 7.30pm  
Sat 7 Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall

#### Sun 8 BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Holy Communion, 9.00am

Sat 14 Whist Drive, 7.45pm in Village Hall

#### Sun 15 EPIPHANY II

Holy Communion, 9.00am B.C.P

ADVERTS FOR NEXT ISSUE TO 31 BINSWOOD END,  
HARBURY, BY 5.30PM

Wed 18 Parish Council Meeting, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Thurs 19 Pantomime – "Aladdin", 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 20 Pantomime, 7.30pm, Village Hall  
 Sat 21 Pantomime, matinee, 2.30pm and evening performance at 7.30pm

**Sun 22 EPIPHANY III**

Holy Communion, 9.00am (spoken)

Tues 24 Photography Club dinner at The Bell

Thurs 26 ARTICLES TO HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH STREET  
 AND EMAIL ARTICLES DEADLINE BY 5.30PM

Women's Institute, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 28 Whist Drive, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Sun 29 Holy Communion, 9.00am

**FEBRUARY**

Sat 4 Whist Drive, 7.45pm, Village Hall

**Sun 5 CANDLEMAS**

Family Communion and Christingle Service, 10.30am  
 followed by refreshments.

Tues 7 Photography Club 7.30 pm at Village Hall



## Ladbroke Church News

**Sue Lord**



The Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning proved a great success raising over £400 for Church Funds. Mince pies sold fast; as did tickets for the tombola and raffle. Some folks did extremely well on the tombola - no names but look at the photograph. Father Craig did not do so well, winning only a Snickers bar. A big thank you to everyone who

gave their time to help out and to those who attended to make this a lovely social occasion.







Beer and Carols at the Bell was well attended again this year — a lovely start to the festivities with an opportunity to sit, sing and sip a drink in good company.

The renovation work continues with progress on plan thanks to the fairly dry and sunny conditions.

Repairs are also underway to the windows following our summer break in. Recently we have noticed further attempts to gain access with additional damage to windows and guards. We are currently evaluating security systems and are awaiting quotations. Sadly this is an ongoing problem for all churches.

By the time this issue is circulated we will have enjoyed our various special services to celebrate this wonderful time of year. One reminder is for the Epiphany Service at Ladbroke on Friday 6th January at 7.30pm.

A very happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

## From the Registers

### *Holy Matrimony, All Saints' Ladbroke*

9th July 2011	Alexandra Barrett and Simon Montgomery
27th August 2011	Emma Allcott and Lance Whitehouse
17th September 2011	Hayley Halls and Robert Cooknell

## Ladbroke Flower Rota

1st January	- Jean Clews
8th January	- Jean Clews
15th January	- Val Copley
22nd January	- Val Copley
29th January	- Carole Loftus
5th February	- Carole Loftus





## Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge Women's Institute

Carol Lane

On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Village Hall was set out with table lights on each of the small covered tables and we were served with hot mulled wine as we shared seasonal cheer prior to the evening's entertainment. This was provided by the trio, Triple By-pass who began their selection of Capella music with the exciting Gaudete Christus est natus and continued through a selection of serious works and light-hearted ones like 'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat.....'. Between these items we were told by Helen, in verse, of Christmas preparations and Sue demonstrated the making of their family cake recipe with the addition of rather too much whisky!



Simon brought out the pathos of the child unwanted in all the starring parts of the Nativity - as well as providing the appropriate notes for each offering with some mechanical hand held gismo. Gone are the days of the recorder!

Anyone wishing to hear more of Triple By-pass or purchase their CD (all proceeds to charity) may ring Sue Dolman on 813284.

The evening was rounded off with warm mince pies and more mulled wine. Many thanks are due to the hard working committee who organised this on our behalf.

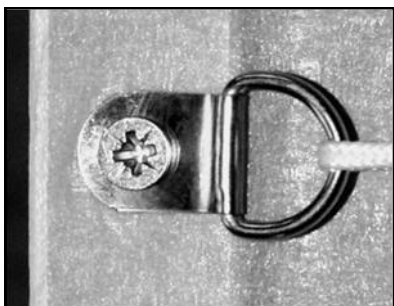
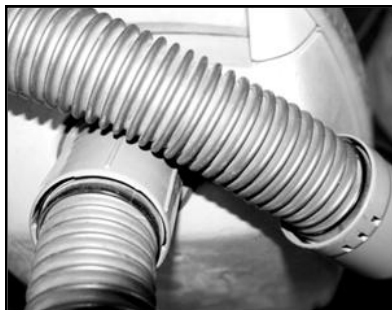


## Ladbroke Photography Club

Jackie West

The January meeting will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30pm where our own Jackie West will give an illustrated talk (and we all know how good the illustrations are going to be) on her travels in Australia.

We rounded off the year by sharing a delicious buffet and a photographic quiz. Everyone had taken up the challenge to take pictures of household objects close up or from unusual angles. As a result there were over fifty photos, a few relatively easy to identify (thank goodness) but some very difficult and puzzling these out revealed a strong competitive spirit in a few members. Here are four of the pictures for you to try - *the answers are on page 12.*



During January we will be taking photos during the Ladbroke Players dress rehearsal of Aladdin (date to be confirmed) and having a meal at The Bell on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. We will resume our normal meeting pattern with our AGM on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. For more information about our monthly meetings or the Photography Club in general please email: [jackieszone-photogclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackieszone-photogclub@yahoo.co.uk).



## Ladbroke General Section

### Pantomime

The Ladbroke Players are now putting the final touches to their pantomime, Aladdin, to ensure that on the opening night all will be in order; to quote the Emperor's right-hand man: "The courtiers are in the



courtyard, the knights are in the dark, the banquet's gone to the bank, the pages are booked and the ladies-in-waiting are waiting in the Ladies!"

Come along to one of the performances on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm** or the **Saturday matinee at 2.30pm** to find out what happened to Widow Twankey's

husbands, whether the policemen catch their criminal, if Wishee Washee manages to kiss a girl and just how Aladdin rescues the princess from his evil uncle.

For tickets phone Jackie (810331), Margaret (817312) or Alan (810886).

**Jackie West**

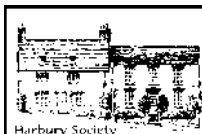
## **Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Club**

### **November 2011:**

£80	Pam Collins	£10	Mary Coley
£50	Kim Bendzak	£10	Avril Court
£25	Gwyn Badman	£10	Simon and Jackie West
£10	Trish Teverson	£10	Peter Baker

**Margaret Bosworth**

**Answers to photo quiz:** heated towel rail, vacuum cleaner, back of picture frame, sink plug from underneath



**Harbury Society**

**Linda Ridgley**

As promised I list below the answers to our Christmas Fayre Backward Glance Quiz; won by Patrick Clarke, with Lesley Jones second and Tim Lockley third. There is no prize – just the recognition that these people know their village inside out, or rather back to front!

Almost everyone must walk past this little building every day – it's the old outside loo at Kingston House. The other is Fairview House from the footpath to Percival Drive, but even the owners did not recognise it.



Unfortunately our Social had to be abandoned due to uncertainty about whether the Gamecock would be open or not! However our fund raising coffee morning did go ahead with great success. So many people were there that we ran out of coffee and eventually raffle tickets. We still raised £130 and will donate the profits to the Village Hall Improvements Fund.

Our next event is on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm for 8pm in the Tom Hauley Room when Roger Cragg will give a talk on Local Engineering Heritage. All are welcome.

### **Answers to Christmas Quiz:**

1) 32 Ivy Lane from side, 2) Manor Stables, Park Lane, 3) Stone House, Mill Street, 4) Temple House, Temple End, 5) Fairview House, Vicarage Lane, 6) Rear of 16 & 18 Pineham Avenue, 7) Hall Bungalow, Hall Lane, 8) I Park Lane from Cemetery, 9) 1 Neales Close, 10) Club Cottage, Crown St, 11) Merevale Cottage, Ivy Lane, 12) Old Forge, Chapel St/ Park Lane, 13) Garages, Francis Rd, 14) Sheen Farm Yard, Temple End, 15) Field House, The Pound, 16) Millennium Oak, Temple End, 17) Hillcrest House detached garden, 18) Spinney Mound, Hall Lane, 19) Temple House Yard, Temple End, 20) Old Loo - Kingston House, Mill Street, 21) Flecknoe House from Shakespeare, 22) Manor Rd from Herebury Way, 23) Hazebrook, from Dovehouse Lane, 24) New Loos at Wight School, 25) Rear Comptons, High St from Wight School Playground, 26) Bullring Farm Barn, 27) Pineham Farm, 28) Hillcrest House, Binswood End, 29) Denys Close, Temple End, 30) Vicarage Lane to Percival Drive, 31) Lovers Lane gate to Harbury House, 32) Side of Fox Cottage Chapel Street, 33) Hens on the Allotments, 34) Cranford, Temple End, 35) Dovehouse Autos, Francis Road, 36) 8 Farley Avenue from footpath



## Harbury Women's Institute

Jeanne Beaumont

We enjoyed the Group Carol Service at Priors Marston. It was cold but we were warmed by the mulled wine and mince pies which got us in the mood for Christmas.

We had a very enjoyable December meeting as it was Pudding Evening, and boy what lovely puddings were made by members and wine to go with them.

Nora Ellis read the letter which came in the card from Pearl Prevel from St. Andrews W.I. in Guernsey who we have been corresponding with for many years. Pearl has been a member for 55 years and wrote a super letter of the programmes and activities of 2011.

Those going to the Panto on 4<sup>th</sup> January are to pick up the coach at the Village Hall at 6.30pm.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the New Year's party at the Village Hall starts at 7-7.30pm.

Members please note that those interested in table tennis (Federation Olympics) meet on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am in the Village Hall.

Happy New Year!

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 7.45pm in the Tom Hauley Room.  
Speaker: Andrew Patrick – "Bike Ride across the Roof of France"



## Folk Club

Des Patalong

Bereft of Debbie for the evening, it also falls to me to report on proceedings (unlikely to be as entertaining though the evening was very entertaining). To begin with, I changed my hat for a fetching seasonal variety and later offered my kangaroo hat to Peter while he was singing his Australian Christmas song, but he declined.

We started the evening with an offering from Thrup'nnny Bits; a small group of singers unhindered by instrumentation other than an anglo-concertina used as pitch pipes which I may now have time to learn to play. They also ended the first of the three sessions as well as finishing the evening. I'll list contributions at the end of this report, but mention

that Pete Mason offered “Streets of London” towards the end of the first session and Thrup’nny Bits “Time to Remember the Poor”, both of which echoed the theme of the charity. Others contributors for this part were Rik, John, Richard, Peter and Margaret, and Pete Mason.

I never quite know which configuration of Harbury groups may turn up on any particular night, but the second half kicked off with the Harbury Folk Club Choir. Ted and Sue continued to claim the stage following this and then Gareth offered a monologue. This was followed by The Harvesters and Keith Donnelly and the second session was completed by an invasion of Grasshoppers (a motley crew headed up by Pete Grassby).

Debbie had arrived in the intervening period so I asked her to pull the tickets for the raffle which was all very satisfactory. She was dressed, as was I, in fetching seasonal red. We then had Terry to open this final third and he was followed by Karen and Ewan on flute and whistle respectively. Harriet, Tina and David then offered a couple, followed by Pete Bones who only wished to offer one but the juxtaposition of “The Ivy and the Holly”, closely followed by Thrup’nny Bits closing the evening with “The Holly and the Ivy”, was very droll.

It was a busy evening with the usually high standard of entertainment. The full list of who sang what can be viewed in the report on the Folk Club website at: [www.welcome.to/HarburyFolkClub](http://www.welcome.to/HarburyFolkClub).

I must report on the raffle. The evening’s theme was “Seasonal Offerings” so I chose the Salvation Army as our charity. Steve Darby agreed to be Debbie’s stand in for the evening and sold the tickets for me. The raffle raised £100. This was a tremendously generous response for which I thank all of those who attended. I had said that if the raffle topped £90 I would make this up to £100 and in that spirit have made the amount up to £110. Here is a link to the website: <http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk>.

## **Harbury Folk Club Evening of Seasonal Entertainment**

The Village Hall was packed for Harbury Folk Club’s “evening of seasonal entertainment” held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. All the tickets had been snapped up a week before the event, and the decorated Hall was laid out in café style.

The MC for the evening was Debbie Ellis, and she expertly introduced the eight acts which showcased 23 talented local performers. It was a wonderful and varied evening of musical entertainment, and culminated in communal carol singing led by the Harbury Folk Club Choir.

I would like to thank the many people who so freely gave their time to make the evening such a success; all the performers, our sound



engineer, the makers of the minced pies/ mulled/non alcoholic wine, the many people who helped with the setting up, serving and clearing up.

Finally, a big thank you to the very appreciative audience. We made a profit of £714.30

which has been donated to the Harbury Village Hall.

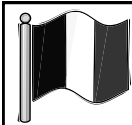
**Doug Freeman**

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

On Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, on a surprisingly mild evening, twenty singers and musicians from Harbury Folk Club and Hereburgh Morris went carol singing around the pubs of Harbury, visiting the Old New Inn, Gamecock, Dog, Shakespeare and Crown, after which we retired to a comfortable soup kitchen in Queen's Close. We accompanied ourselves on accordions 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 the Leamington Christian Mission. We would like to thank the pub staff and their customers for their generosity and good humour.

**Peter McDonald**



**Harbury Twinning Association**

**Tony Thomas**

Forty Members attended our annual Christmas party in the Tom Hauley Rooms on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> December. A delicious supper was provided by the Members who brought savoury or sweet dishes to share, this was followed by seasonal entertainment. We are now looking forward to the Twelfth Night, "Fete des Rois" celebration on 6<sup>th</sup> January.



We will be holding our annual Quiz Night in the Village Club on 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday February. This is open to all, members and non-members and we invite you to come along in teams of four and join in and test your knowledge. Further details will be published in next month's edition.

We take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Harbury a happy and prosperous new year.



## **Harbury Junior's Football**

**Steve Darby**

### **Chairman's Report: Ian Jones**

We are well into probably the hardest part of the season now, the festive season has been and gone. The dark, cold and wet winter mornings/evenings are challenging even the keenest of coaches, players and parents alike to get to training and get to the game. All for the fun that is football and lots of fun is had by all. There's one problem, however, that irks us all: DOG POO on the pitches - it shouldn't be a problem but it gets worse this time of year. On each pitch, at every training session and every game, the poo patrol takes place, the coaches and the kids giving up playing football to find and remove dog foul from the pitch. Why does it have to be this way? I don't know and don't understand how dog owners can't take responsibility for their pets. For the sake of the children, please support our campaign... 'NO MORE FOUL PLAY'. We plan to raise awareness, we may even 'name and shame' persistent offenders and plan to work with the Council to enforce the legislation in this area. I am sure we can count on your support.

### **U6s (Reception and Year 1) - Steve Darby**

We now have eight regular attendees in the group who collectively have made steady progress over the last two months. As the children practise repeat routines we have seen their confidence grow as well as their ability and, as they have now been handed their club colours, they now have an identity of belonging to Harbury Juniors' Football Club - as a group, we welcome them as fully fledged members! Congratulations go to Matthew, Daniel, Benjamin and William for winning the trophy during December - we were particularly impressed with William's goal scoring feat of four goals in one match.

If your child (boy or girl) is interested in joining this group, just turn up at 10.30am at the school field (ensure they have shin pads on) and give it a try for a few weeks.

## **U7s (Year 2) - Steve Darby**

During December, we have increased the level of technical training by placing a lot of emphasis on using different parts of the players' feet to feel, control and move the ball - this requires a lot of concentration and balance. In addition we have practised different ways of turning with the ball and we have asked the boys to work harder at attempting to do the skills during practice matches. After the Christmas break we will start to focus the group on team play and positioning ready for the friendly matches we hope to play from March onwards. Congratulations to Max, Finn, Thomas and Ben G for winning the trophy during December - we were impressed with Ben G's efforts to attempt as many "tricks" as he could in the practice matches.

## **Under 9s Match Reports: Ian Jones and Steve Burnell**

26/11/11: Harbury Juniors 3 v Norton Lindsey 5

A strong competitive performance against a well organised team with several very good players. Norton Lindsey took an early lead but Harbury kept on battling to get the game back to 2-2. At that point the game was pulsating and could have gone either way. There were some excellent skills from Norton Lindsey and they were able to pull away into a 2-4 lead. Again Harbury battled back to 3-4. As Harbury pushed on in the dying minutes and having really worked hard, Norton Lindsey broke away to get the decisive 5th goal. Harbury continued to compete and deserved something from the game, alas it wasn't to be. The game provided strong evidence that the U9s can compete with the stronger teams in the league, so well done. A special mention to Cameron who did a great job in goal stepping in to 'take one for the team' playing out of position and doing a great job to keep Harbury in the game. Morgan J scored 2 goals and Emmanuel V scored 1.

03/12/11: Leamington Juniors 2 v Harbury Juniors 4 - Supplementary Cup  
Back to winning ways in this cup game. An exciting encounter in which Harbury really got going from the start (a new trend we hope) to take the lead. Leamington battled back to make it 2-2. A superb half-time team talk leading to renewed determination in the second half to pull away and win the game. Excellent performances all over the park, with Cameron once again in goal and a man of the match performance from Morgan F. Millie was, once again a rock in defence. However, a special mention for Morgan J weighing in with four goals (OK, so one did go in off a defender from a corner, but no one was taking it away from him). A great team performance and a well deserved victory.

10/12/11: Kenilworth Wardens Falcons 3 v Harbury Juniors 3

This was always going to be a tough fixture against one of the league's top teams. It was an icy, bitter morning but the pitch was given the green

light by the ref and the coaches. Harbury started well and most of the play was in their opponents half. A break away and Kenilworth are first on the score sheet. From then on and for the rest of the first half it was all Harbury pressure. The team played so well with excellent passing, carrying of the ball and defensive work from all players. During the second half it was more of the same with the Harbury defence snuffing out any Kenilworth attacks. Inevitably, the home team had their purple patch putting Harbury under pressure for a while. At 2-2 Harbury were on top with several chances just not quite getting over the line. The link up play between Beau and Morgan J was decisive as was the work rate of both. Harbury took a deserved lead with a few minutes to go to make it 2-3. Some great skill from Kenilworth and they sneaked the equaliser with about a minute to go. Harbury again went close but couldn't get the winner before the whistle went. A superb team performance with excellent work across the team with another great performance in defence from Millie and Ryan doing well too. Beau gets the man of the match award for his performance and his goal, Morgan J getting the other two goals. Well done team, a performance in the top two for the season so far – let's have more of the same!



## Harbury Toddler Group

**Sarah Hanson**

The lead-up to Christmas was very busy for the toddlers who were beavering away like Santa's little helpers. We had so much fun making gifts for our families and sparkly Christmas decorations – we made lovely paper Christmas trees to hang up, some fabulous pottery works including baubles and plates with little coloured handprints on them and finished the year with gorgeous 2012 calendars. We also included some Christmas songs in our weekly sing-along at the end of the session with anthems such as “Jingle Bells” and “Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer” to really get the toddlers and their parents and grandparents in the festive spirit!!



**Getting sticky whilst making lovely Christmas crowns**

The highlight of December was the Toddler Group Christmas party which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Village Hall and was a great way to



**Fun and games in the ball pit**

finish a good year for the group. We had some fantastic activities at the party including a soft play area, bouncy castle and a Christmas arts and crafts table where the little ones could make their own Christmas crowns. The toddlers sat down to a Christmas lunch to fill their hungry tummies after all that activity! After lunch, Santa flew in especially to see our Harbury toddlers and gave out lovely presents in his Santa's grotto and

helped us with our raffle at the end of the party – we had some fabulous prizes which we hope those who won will enjoy! The star prize of a Christmas hamper filled with Christmas treats went to Helen Brown.

We had some great help in organising a really wonderful Christmas party and special thanks go out to all the parents and grandparents who provided food and to those who helped set up and break down.



**A little Santa (Thomas) and friend**



**A Christmas Feast**

Many thanks also to all the companies who donated prizes for the raffle: Co-op Lateshop, Cana Import, The Shakespeare Inn, Harbury Supermarket, The Salon, Absolute Beauty, Tesco Southam, Clowning Around, Junior Junction in Leamington Spa, Hatton Country World, Royal Spa Centre, Harbury Pharmacy, Warwick Racecourse, Mr Karting, Stratford Butterfly Farm, Caffé Nero, Albelli, Warner Bros.

Entertainment Inc and not forgetting Joe for his lovely Harbury honey!



### **Santa Claus is coming to town!**

(and the rest of Harbury) has enjoyed the festive break!

If you are interested in joining us at Toddler Group we are always pleased to see newcomers. We run every Monday from 9.30am to 11.15am at the Wight School (behind the library), and cater for children from birth to school age. We are open throughout the school holidays, except Bank Holidays, and older siblings are welcome to come along too!!



## **Harbury Pre-School**

**Staff & Committee**

The Christmas festivities are now behind us, but the build up to them at Pre-School was enjoyed by one and all.

**Christmas Preparations:** At the creative table, the children made wonderful decorations using card shapes and CDs as the basis for small scale collages, and green and red pasta tubes threaded onto red ribbon as hanging decorations. Magnificent fir cones provided by Lola's mum from her grandma's tree were decorated with green and other brightly coloured materials and taken home at the end of term. Cutting, joining and estimating skills were put to the test as the children wrapped boxes as "presents" to go under the Christmas tree, and the builders' tray had a layer of glitter for mark-making using fingers and brushes, and measuring using a variety of pots and spoons. Then the children made lovely observational drawings of the Christmas tree to be made into cards in which they did their own "writing".





**The Nativity Story:** At the beginning of the month, we were delighted to welcome Revd. Annie Goldthorp and Gill Guilford who came to tell us a story about Joseph. This visit was followed up when we introduced the small world nativity characters, beautifully knitted for us by Claire's mum. These, together with the miniature Nativity set and several

books, enabled the children to act out the story in their own words.

**Role Play** – The role play area 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.

**Nativity Songtime:** This was held at the Jackson's stable yard in front of the children's parents and other relatives. The day was bright, with the sun shining directly onto the star over the stable door and the children sang brilliantly. They finished with "Silent Night" using Makaton signing, challenging the capacity



audience to take part in the encore, which they did with much enthusiasm, and a great deal of thoroughly deserved applause for the children at the end. We would like to thank the Jacksons for providing a beautiful and very meaningful setting for our nativity.

**Reindeer Food:** In the last week of the term, the children made and took home bags of reindeer food to sprinkle on the grass outside, as encouragement to them to bring Father Christmas to their homes. Let's hope it worked!

**Father Christmas:** A visit from Father Christmas on the very last day of term was heralded by some welcoming songs from the children. They were thrilled to receive gifts from him when he arrived with his sack of goodies



and most were happy to chat to him about what they hoped to get in their stockings.

**A few “thank you’s”:** On 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December, a small but very willing working party, ably led by Chris Beaton of Fix It 4 U, spent the weekend cleaning and re-decorating the Pre-School room. After all their hard work, we now have a room to be proud of



and as some parents have remarked, “It looks amazing – it looks twice as big” and “It highlights all the children’s work – a beautiful clean canvas.” Many thanks must go to Emily and Andre Wigley for their very generous donation of all the paint, to Chris for his skill and expertise and to the parents, ex-parents and staff who gave up their time to clean, decorate and make the room ready for Pre-School on the Monday – Emily Jackson, Tim and Alice Lockley, Steve and Gael Conway, David Thompson, Simon Nash, Eugene Murphy, Mike Banbury, Robin Kerslake, Zoe Mehra, Jez Gulliver, Angie and Mark Clifton, Bud and Adam Jackson and Carolyn and Neil Murray. The new flooring laid during the holidays by Southam Carpets has completed the look!

Finally, Gael, Lisa, Bud, Claire, Angie, Anne and Julie would like to thank the parents and the children for all the lovely gifts and cards that we were given. We are now looking forward to a great year in 2012 and return to Pre-School for the spring term on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

*If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please contact Rosemary Jackson, Pre-School administrator: e-mail [enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk) phone 07939 122087 or look at the website [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 between school hours and take children from the age of two years. If you would like to register a place for your child you can email us at [info@windmillsnursery.co.uk](mailto:info@windmillsnursery.co.uk), visit our web site at [www.windmillsnursery.co.uk](http://www.windmillsnursery.co.uk), call Tina/Sally on 07906 519148 or Katharine on 01926 613084. We offer places with NEF funding and accept childcare vouchers.



## In Nursery

December has been a busy month with preparations for the Christmas concert and the end of term party. The children have enjoyed the special Christmas role play area where they could try on different nativity costumes. We were treated to a special visit on 5<sup>th</sup> December from Deacon Annie and Gill Guilford who talked to the children about the

nativity story with Gill dressed up as Joseph; the children had a lot of fun playing with the instruments.

There has been lots of creative learning with the children all involved in painting the nativity backdrop for the Christmas concert and producing cards, calendars, stars and paper chains to take home to their families.

A special booklet was produced by all the children on their thoughts on the nativity story and what Christmas means to them. This booklet also contained a beautiful array of drawings done by the children and will be a special keepsake for them.



“Baby Jesus lies in the hay and his daddy is called Joseph and his mummy is called Mary. They go to Bethlehem on a donkey. The kings follow a bright star. There are no beds at Bethlehem. They sleep in a stable. Baby Jesus is born” – Freddie.

“Mary rocks the baby Jesus. She is in the stable. The kings want to see Mary, Joseph and the baby. They bring presents. The shepherds come. There are cows and donkeys and sheep in the stable. The angels come to have a look at the baby as well” – Evelyn.

“They walk to Bethlehem. Angels come to see Jesus. Kings come to see the baby. The bright star shows them the way. There is a stable with no beds. Jesus was good. He was good because he did good things” – Audrey.

The children enjoyed their monthly trip to the Toddlers’ Service at Church where they helped act out the nativity story and produced a Christmas card to take home.





In Forest School, the festive theme continued and the children built two reindeers out of wood complete with antlers and red noses. Other outside activities have also included an obstacle course on the infant playground. The children then followed this by designing and constructing their own.

### **Windmills Nursery Christmas Concert - 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Parents and the public were treated to a lovely concert performed by the children of Windmills Nursery who told the story of the nativity through the eyes of the donkey. The children did very well



**Mary and Joseph**



**The Angels**



**The Shepherds**

with their singing and actions and there were good duets from Emily and Freddie as the stars and Audrey and Evelyn as the angels. Lily and Max took the lead roles of Mary and Joseph ably supported by the shepherds (Daniel, Finlay and Kyle) and the three kings (Bayley, Charlie and William) as well as Madison, Chloe and Eilidh.

Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard

with the arrangements, to the parents for producing the lovely costumes, to Michael Hare for playing on his accordion, to Caroline at Munchkin Melodies for the concert idea and providing the music, to the school for lending their stage blocks, to Father Craig for his prayer and finally to the children who were the stars of the show and did all the beautiful decorations.



**The Kings & Stars**

As well as the concert, there were refreshments and cakes available to buy and also a raffle with other stalls. Thank you to all the fundraising group and parents who provided the prizes and helped bake cakes and run the stalls on the day. We raised a brilliant £280 including sales of the DVD which will all go to Windmills Nursery.



### **Windmills Christmas Party – 15<sup>th</sup> December**

The children at nursery were treated to a morning of games and a special visit from Father Christmas who gave each of the children a present. They finished the morning with a party spread and wore their special Christmas crowns. Thank you to all the parents for donating the party food and for Father Christmas for taking the time to visit us.

### **Other News**

The new Early Years Advisory teacher Sharon Kindred visited the nursery to meet with the managers.

Other fundraising by the nursery has included a stall at the Christmas Fayre organised by Harbury Pre-school and also one at the Christmas Market in The Dog car park. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events and helped us raise funds for the nursery. A special thanks to Rob at Cana who with good humour joined us at The Dog as the only stall holders!

### **Dates for the Diary**

Wed 4th Jan – Windmills reopens at 9.05am

Mon 9th Jan – Fundraising Meeting 8pm in The Dog

Tue 10th Jan – Toddlers' Service 2pm in Church



**Harbury Primary School P.T.A.**

**PTA Committee**

### **Zumba for Charity!**

Ever fancied having a go at Zumba? Would you like to find out what Zumba actually is? Are you already a convert? Are you up for an hour of fitness and fun? If you've answered "YES" to any of these questions then this class is for you!! Sam Russell, who runs the Sunday morning Zumba classes at the Village Hall, is holding an extra charity class to raise money

for Harbury School PTA on **Saturday 28th January, 2.45 – 4pm in the School Hall, £5.**

This is a “one off” session and all proceeds will go towards the new computers the PTA is hoping to buy for school.

You don't need to bring anything with you other than a bottle of water – no yoga mats, pilates balls or other special equipment, and all you need to wear is something loose and comfortable with soft soled shoes such as trainers. Leotards are definitely not required!

Everyone welcome! To book your place please contact Katy – [katywork@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katywork@yahoo.co.uk), 07779 167089 or 614685.



## Village Hall Update

**Chris Finch**

UP, UP and AWAY??

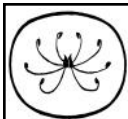
Yes, at long last the P.V's are UP and safely installed on the Village Hall roof, so we should start to accrue some FIT money to help out with our electricity usage from now on. The committee has also been UP to its eyes in making decisions about the next phase of our improvements; thanks to the exceptionally impressive research carried out by the sub-committee – Celia, Jenny and John C. The new shutters will be fitted in the New Year in time to collect a support grant from Southam Vision and shortly afterwards some building work will be started, so that a completely new, fully fitted 'commercial' kitchen, which complies with all the latest Health and Safety regulations can be installed.

The fund-raising committee has been beavering AWAY collecting money from various sources, including a grant from Awards for All, which will support development work on the kitchen and £120 raised from the raffle held at the recent 'Boys Lunch' in the Dog Inn. The cascading lunches, started by Jan Freeman, still continue to be a money-spinner and have brought in £120 in the past month. The Treasurer also reported that the Bridge Club had contributed £200, so it has been a good month for deposits into the 'Development Fund'. At the December committee meeting, Chairman, Geoff Thorpe thanked everyone for their continued efforts, which are maintaining the momentum to keep all our aspirations for the Hall 'on track'.

In addition to the afore-mentioned donations, the regular Moving Pictures afternoon brought in an impressive contribution thanks to the efforts of Lana and her 'team' – Mum, Dad, her children and Tim. The organisation of the Rural Cinema runs like clockwork with everyone doing 'their bit',

including Geoff who regularly drives out to far-flung reaches of SRDC area to pick up the projector and the films. Last week he motored to Ratley, which might have caused a problem if the promised snow and ice had appeared, as the hill out of the low lying village might have proved a challenge to the most competent driver. In the end the snow didn't materialise, but Geoff would have proved equal to the task anyway??

As a final flourish to the end of 2011, the New Year's Dance sold out all its tickets for the 'black tie' dance with the Likely Lads, so another contribution will be made to our Village Hall funds. Watch this space for the Village Hall 'happenings' in 2012, as even the most unobservant might notice the changes linked to Phase 3a of our proposals.



## Horticultural Society

**Judy Morrall**

There was no speaker at the December meeting; instead we all enjoyed a fun evening followed by some lovely festive food. Jean Clews who is on the committee organised a really good game; there were 25 small cloth bags with all sorts of items in them, we just had to guess what they all contained. Easy you would have thought - but not really. Who would have thought such tantalising items as a BT pager, small shot and an attachment for your glasses would have caused such mayhem! After that we all took part in a quiz, again provided by Jean. My thanks to you Jean for such a fun evening. The winners received chocolate pens and the losers lemons; all in all a very sociable and enjoyable first part to the evening. We then all tucked in to a superb buffet; we really do have some talented cooks in our midst, the savouries were great as were the puddings. Thank you to all those who brought along food. The bursary was won by Jane Giddings. Everyone who came expressed their thanks for another brilliant December meeting.

Don't forget that the next meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The speaker is another first for us. Linda Smith will be talking about Pond Plants and Wildlife through the year, another excellent topic. Then on 7<sup>th</sup> February Roger Umpelby will be making a return visit and will be talking about a Plant Lover's View of Fiji and Samoa - I really am spoiling you all this season.

A plea for help please at our coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on 28<sup>th</sup> January. Can you help with refreshments and perhaps provide a raffle prize; we would be very grateful. We have discussed the Open Gardens for 2012 and it is still in the melting pot. As discussed at the AGM we would like to form a sub-committee and need at least 4/5 members to take part in this. I asked at the December meeting and three

members volunteered to do so. If we don't get another one or two at the January meeting we may not have the event this year. Some ideas have already been put forward, just to have the gardens open for a long day on the Saturday, change of venue for programme selling, change of date to July and much more, so you see we really do need your input. This is your Society and we value your opinions.

I have already decided on one location for one of the day trips next year, a whole day at Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire. We did go there many years ago and many of you have asked to go again so I am happy to oblige. The second trip I will sort out in February so watch this space.

I have given out the discount cards for Farnborough Nurseries to those of you who were at the December meeting and we will bring the rest of them to the January meeting. Don't forget to use your discount at the nurseries included on your membership cards, it is a saving. Also don't forget that I have the tickets for Organic Gardens at Ryton. Soon we will be able to visit some lovely gardens for the snowdrops - it will only be a few more weeks. There are some Hollyhocks, Lavatera and Fuschias all flowering away and I have seen Roses out too. What odd weather we are having; at least the frost was good for the sprouts and greens on the allotment. Whatever you are hoping to achieve in your gardens or allotments next year, just enjoy one of the best hobbies there is.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings, and a very happy and healthy New Year to everyone.



## **Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery**

**Christine Dakin**

*Your local Hardy Plant Specialists*

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

Back in 1986 I bought a diary to keep a record of the work I was doing as a jobbing gardener. Sometimes it is a chore to do the entries (it tends to happen every two or three days) but over the years I have gathered quite a lot of information which can be quite useful. This month can have quite decent weather (although not the last two years) and there are notes of planting, pruning, digging, potting, barrowing compost, sowing seeds etc. etc. There is obviously a different emphasis when working as a professional gardener but much of the work still needs to be done by amateurs too.

It can be very interesting to compare the flowering times of plants from year to year. Also to make notes of what plants are planted. Successes

and failures are also noted and this can help make better decisions in the future.

Reading back over some of the entries during the last 25 years I have to admit that quite a lot of it is rather mundane but it is interesting to see just how often some of the work is repeated seasonally so it can be a good reminder of what needs doing and when to do it.

So, my suggestion to all you gardeners out there is to rush out and buy yourself a diary in the sales and start to keep a record of the joys and disasters that happen throughout the year. Maybe add a few photos and press some flowers between the pages. It could be fascinating to look at in 25 years time!

**Happy New Year!**

*Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton Tel: 01926 81273,*

*[www.bridge-nursery.co.uk](http://www.bridge-nursery.co.uk)*



## **Nature Notes**

**John Hancock**

Usually seen in the headlights, the aptly named Winter Moth (*Operophtera brumata*) is, as its name suggests, about at the moment. Its flight period is from late October to mid January. Sharon and I saw some when we were coming home in early December, the temperature perhaps 4C. Some anti-freeze like substance must be present in this creature's circulation to keep it going through the long winter nights. It's got quite a good line in coats as well having a lot of protective hairs. These are actually modified scales, which, on a moth's wing produce those intriguing colours. Blood, in Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), is not involved in respiration (gas transfer) as in, so called, higher animals such as mammals. Gas exchange occurs via tiny pores on the side of the insect. These are known as spiracles. The blood system of an insect has a pumping heart of sorts but no blood vessels; these being replaced by a pool of blood which transports the products of digestion and eliminates waste.

Chatting to Debbie Ellis on a walk recently we got talking about the origin of Whitby Jet. I agreed it was a form of fossilised wood. Debbie said it was actually fossilised Monkey Puzzle tree and she's right. We get our term 'jet-black' from this semi-precious stone. It's only found round and about Whitby in the North York Moors National Park. So how did a tree found today in South America, notably in Chile, come to be found in fossil form in Yorkshire? Go back to the early Jurassic era about 180 million years ago and the Chile Pine (*Araucaria araucana*) was common in the northern hemisphere as well. The fauna was very different. It was the age

of the dinosaur. When trees fell, they were sometimes swept, by swollen rivers, into the sea and buried in mud. Overlain by more sediments, pressure, together with chemically complex conditions, converted the wood over millennia into the hard rock now used to make jewellery. A good stand of the tree can be seen beside the Centenary Way as it approaches Avon Dassett from the west.

In last month's article I appealed for residents of Harbury and Ladbroke to let me know if they knew of Mistletoe growing locally. Two readers replied and I've since visited both their gardens. The semi-parasitic plant was growing in each place on apple trees. One bunch had plenty of berries, the other has never produced a berry. Presumably this is because, as with holly, only female flowers produce berries. It will be interesting to look again in springtime to see if the fruitless plant has any flowers. These are rather insignificant and yellow in colour. Coming out of Southam on the Daventry Road just by St Mary's Primary School, there is a fine Lime tree. I noticed a ball like cluster of vegetation on an upper branch and sure enough it was mistletoe, so don't journey to Coventry to see it there.

Rex Humphreys reports seeing a yellow-legged Gull. An occasional visitor to this country, it is a resident of the Mediterranean and Atlantic coast of N. Africa. Alan and Betty Barr have seen it frequently in the Canaries. To the untrained eye it is easily mistaken for a Herring Gull. Speaking of gulls, Elaine Nomura saw a vast flock flying over the fields to the right of Station Road earlier in December. They were probably feeding on invertebrates present in manure. The tip at Ufton Hill Farm is another draw as gulls are great scavengers.

Now (20<sup>th</sup> December) the frosts have gone. Today temperatures rose to 9C (48F). If you would like to see some superb wildlife photographs come to the Tom Hauley Room on Monday 23rd January. Between 10.00am and noon when Kay Reeve will be taking us on a tour of Britain's coastline. There will be a charge of £2 to attend. Finally I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.



## General Section

### Harbury NSPCC Christmas Quiz

Many thanks to all those who attended our Christmas Quiz in the Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> December. We made a magnificent profit of £401.00

Since the beginning of the year we have raised over £2600 for this very worthwhile charity. Many thanks to all our regular and very generous supporters in the village.

**Harbury NSPCC Committee**

## Harbury Christmas Fayre 2011

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came to this year's Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall on 3rd December. We succeeded in raising a best ever £1,419 for the Air Ambulance, from the Raffle. The stalls, cafe and Father Christmas raised a further £1217 for Church Funds. Many people worked hard behind the scenes to make this a success, for example organising the stalls, gathering the many and varied generous contributions to the stalls and raffle, and selling raffle tickets. Thank you to you all.

**Peter Ball**  
On Behalf of the Organising Committee



### John Ridgley Tree of Light

Thank you to all those who have adopted a light on the John Ridgley Tree of Light. If you had meant to, but didn't find the time, it is not too late as we are accepting donations up until the end of January.

The trustees will be meeting in early February, to agree the distribution of monies raised, and would welcome applications from those seeking to benefit children and young people in the village.

Please could you submit your request by the end of January to 'Harbury Charities, c/o 11 Vicarage Lane, Harbury'. We wish you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

**Gordon Bennett**

## Boys' Christmas Lunch

Twenty Harbury "boys" attended this annual event which was held this year at The Dog Inn, where our host Wayne and his team looked after us very well indeed!!

Wayne donated three bottles of wine as raffle prizes and £120 was raised for the Village Hall.

Many thanks to all involved for their support.

**David Thistlethwaite**

## Harbury Energy Initiative

For a group of people dedicated to conserving energy we certainly expended a lot of it (energy pun for the month) in the run up to the Energysare final.



We didn't win but it was worth it not only for seeing just how nutty and inventive our supporters could get but also for raising the profile of our activity and getting people talking about carbon reduction, energy saving and cutting the costs of running our homes and community buildings. Richard Hamburger did a great (and energetic) job as town crier, bursting into assemblies of villagers and cornering them on the street for votes. Cana Wines became a kind of information HQ and drove the Harbury bid truck up the social media highway, tweeting and hooting Facebook exhortations for votes almost faster than anyone could read them. But it would be wrong to single out just a few for mention, as so many people, and especially the HEI steering group, put in a massive effort on the village's behalf. I felt truly energised by the support. (More exciting puns next month.)

The work was not in vain, as we have been able to use much of the original proposal to pitch a bid to the Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF), launched by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). DECC aims through this money to make some preparations in advance of the government Green Deal coming into action this summer, so that there are some good examples of energy saving to see. It is hard to imagine that many groups will have time to capitalise on this opportunity, as we had less than a fortnight to prepare a bid complete with quotes for work and monitoring measures. If successful we will have until the end of March to spend the money. Any work not completed and invoiced by then will lose its funding. Without Energyshare we might never have been able to bid for this. We are not allowed to bid for anything in LEAF that attracts Feed in Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive payments. This has to be about using less energy through efficient insulation and heat and lighting that demands less fuel. We hope to benefit the Wight School, the Rugby Club and the Church but details are still in planning as I write.

The Green Deal will allow householders to have carbon reduction (and cost saving) improvements to their houses without any initial investment. The installation costs will be repaid in instalments as part of the monthly energy bill but the energy company cannot charge more than the savings made in fuel use. This means that these improvements can be made without increasing household bills. The debt remains with the house not with the original owner who ordered the installations. A large percentage of the energy we use is for heating rooms and water. Efficient insulation can drastically reduce your bills and this is what the Green Deal is aiming to do.

HEI may also make use of another useful fund raising tool that other groups might like to look at. It's another of the Landshare initiatives.

PeopleFundIt provides an on-line place for those with projects to meet those willing to offer funds.

Happy New Year from the Harbury Energy Initiative (no votes required).

**Bob Sherman - 612277**

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

## Green Memories - Green Future



As part of the Green Memories – Green Future event held in October at the school., the children were invited to enter a drawing competition, supported by Linfoot Homes, depicting their sustainable house of the future. The picture left shows the winner Dominic with runner-up Millie. Congratulations to both.

**Chris Finch**

## Harbury Senior Citizens Committee Update



We had 104 people attend the Christmas Party this year and from the informal feedback we have had, you all seem to have enjoyed yourselves. Thank you all for coming along.

The entertainment this year was provided by Nigel Chapman, alias Elias Gruntfuttock,

who told some tall tales and kept us all amused. There was a surprise at

the end when Nigel discovered that he had taught our current chairperson. I am making no comment about either's age. Thank you very much Nigel – we hope you enjoyed doing the turn as much as we enjoyed listening to you.

Thank you to everyone who donated some interesting and sought after prizes for our raffle. They were much appreciated.



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. Again this year, we had some help from the Harbury Scouts who helped put up the tree and the decorations as part of their

community involvement. The extra hands came in very useful and made the setting up a lot easier.

You may remember that we asked you to complete a survey about where to go on the next year's summer outing. We will be discussing the results of the survey at our committee meetings and will let you know what is going on. Thank you for some very interesting ideas!!

As we roll into 2012 the committee would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our events during the year.

**Mike McBride,**

**On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association**



## **Bumps and Bundles**

We have been having a great time at Bumps; we made Christmas cards using hand and footprints. And the Christmas party was great fun - we had lots of food, chat, decorations and we even had a visit from Father Christmas!





Next event for Bumps and Bundles is a Bumps Birthday party on **Saturday 14th January** where we invite Mummies and Daddies to come and celebrate a year of Bumps and Bundles group.

**Kelly and Henry**

## Warwickshire Young Voices

Happy New Year from Warwickshire Young Voices.



2011 finished with a bang for us, with two sell-out performances of Babushka. The cast of 35 children worked incredibly hard to produce a beautiful and fitting story-telling of Babushka, including the traditional Nativity. We have had so many amazing comments and feedback, especially about the very moving song depicting Mary's journey to motherhood, sung beautifully by Annabel



Easton. DVDs of the whole performance are available to buy on our website at [www.warwickshireyoungvoices.org](http://www.warwickshireyoungvoices.org), where you can also view a short trailer.

Next year brings new opportunities and we are already looking forward to our 'Make a Noise' workshop day on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February during half term. It promises to be our biggest workshop day yet with singing, dancing, acting, craft, face-painting and a live band helping us to put on a show in a day! Please put the date in your diary now as places are taken very quickly.

As at the start of every new term, we are offering TWO FREE trial sessions for new members if you want to join us. We accept everyone aged 7-16 with no auditions - just come along and join in. Our first rehearsal of term will be THURSDAY 12th January 6.30pm -7.30pm at Harbury Village Hall. Please visit our website for more information about the choir, or to fill in the 'membership form' to secure your free trial place.

**Helen Iles**

**Warwickshire Young Voices**

**[www.warwickshireyoungvoices.org](http://www.warwickshireyoungvoices.org)**

**01926 614150**



## **Harbury Ukulele Group**

Happy New Year from Harbury Ukulele Group!

We are famous! On 21<sup>st</sup> December we were invited to play on the Vic Minett radio show on BBC Radio Coventry and Warwickshire, ending the programme with a couple of Christmas tunes (Rudolf The Red Nosed Reindeer and We Wish You A Merry Christmas). Vic apparently plays the uke. I wonder if she'll come to one of our meetings?

If you missed the programme, our bit can be heard on our website.



We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Shakespeare Inn, 8pm. Due to popular demand we now also meet "unofficially" on the third Monday as well.

For further information email [contact@harburyukulele.me.uk](mailto:contact@harburyukulele.me.uk), see our website at [www.harburyukulele.me.uk](http://www.harburyukulele.me.uk) or call Craig on 612377. Next meetings: 2nd January, 16th January, 6th February.

**Magnus Lewis-Smith**

## Ballroom Dancing

.....and your New Year's Resolution is ..... so why not join us!! The next session is from and including Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March. Beginners again will start at 7.30pm and are welcome to stay on for as long as they like into the main group which is from 8.00pm to 9.30pm. We've lots of variety on the agenda from the cha cha to the Mayfair quickstep(!). Please give Mike and Ann Vincent a ring if you are interested in the beginners' session (614806) or myself if you would like any more information.

**Joan Smith (613680)**



## Harbury Art Group

For our final workshop of 2011 we had a watercolour session, with a choice of seasonal subjects – either a robin sitting on a post, or a wintery North of England landscape at dusk. Fading light over snowy mountains and the golden glow of lights from farm buildings in the foreground made for a lovely composition. Most of us chose the landscape, and produced some very nice paintings, adding snowmen and a Santa here and there for a festive touch. Long-standing member Ian impressed us with his individual style, and his landscape painting was thought to be the best of the day. Of course, with our Christmas buffet to enjoy, this was a social occasion as well, with lots of chat, eating and drinking.

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January we will be tackling another winter scene – and Nick has promised us a castle! This time we will use our own choice of medium: Watercolours, Acrylics or Gouache. The full 2012 programme is now available, and can be sent to you by email if you would like to find out more about our sessions (email enquiries to: [harburyart@hotmail.com](mailto:harburyart@hotmail.com)).

If you are interested in painting and drawing, and would like to try a day painting in good company with a small friendly group, please get in touch – we welcome new members. The workshops run on the first Thursday of every month in the Tom Hauley Room behind Harbury Church, from 10am to about 3pm, and cost just £15 per person. All levels of ability attend, from beginner to the more experienced. Please telephone Pam on 01926 814923, or the tutor Nick on 01295 276465 or email [harburyart@hotmail.com](mailto:harburyart@hotmail.com) for more information. Happy Painting and happy New Year!

**Pam McConnell**

HARBURY ART GROUP 2012	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>"WINTER SCENE"</b> Watercolours, Acrylics or Gouache
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>"LANDSCAPE"</b> Pastel and Watercolour
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>"PEACE"</b> Watercolour session
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>"STILL LIFE"</b> Watercolour and Colour Pencil
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>"PEN AND WASH"</b> Black or sepia pen on white cartridge paper & a single colour wash
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>"EARLY SUMMER"</b> Watercolour session
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>"BEACH SCENE"</b> Watercolours, Acrylic or Gouache
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	<b>"PENCIL DRAWING"</b> Using 2H, HB, 2B pencils on cartridge paper
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>"MOVEMENT"</b> Acrylic, Gouache or Pastel
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>"AUTUMN"</b> Watercolour session
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	<b>"CHRISTMAS"</b> Watercolour and Gouache
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>"A WINTERY WORKSHOP"</b> Watercolour & Colour Pencil plus 'Bring & Share' Christmas buffet

## Harbury Pre-School Fundraising Group

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January we will be hosting the coffee morning in the Tom Hauley room from 10am-12 noon. There we will be holding a raffle, bric-a-brac stall, book stall, balloon stall & face paints for all to enjoy.

This will be closely followed by a BARN DANCE on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at the Village Hall from 7.30pm till midnight. It's been a while since the last Barn Dance in the village, so we hope you will gather a group of friends together for a bit of a "Dosey doe" and a "Roll in the Hay" (well, it is Valentines weekend, after all!). Purchase tickets from Mugleston's Country Fayre from 18<sup>th</sup> January or by arrangement from Sarah on 0779 180 7970. A tasty fish and chip supper followed by a scrumptious choice of puddings is included in the ticket price of £20, as well as a COMPLIMENTARY punch on arrival. "Four in a Bar" will be providing the entertainment, and describe themselves as a "rocky type of folk band". They will be accompanied by Tom Tilley as caller. A bar will

be provided by CANA Wines. Do come and enjoy some wonderful music and fun with your friends!!

Fantastic news (by the way) from our first event (as a new group of parents on the Pre-School fundraising group) - the Christmas Market held at the Village Club on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November was a huge fundraising success. Thanks, in part, to our lovely predecessors, Julie and Helen, who handed over valuable hints and tips (not to mention a carload of decorations and creative materials) to a group of complete novices!! Our raffle prizes went down a treat – and included family days out, beauty treatments and the usual quota of wine and other goodies. Santa's Grotto, the Lucky Dip, the "Spring in a Pot" and balloon stalls all provided magic and fun for the children. A relaxed, intimate atmosphere was created by the beautifully decorated venue and this was enhanced by live music from three acts: The Harbury Ukelele Group, the Folk Group "Guy, Morris and Thompson", and soloist singer, Natalie. Thank you so much for your wonderful performances throughout the day. Thank you also to all the stall holders selling such a fantastic array of products. We raised close to £1000 for the Pre-School so thank you to all those that supported us.

Happy New Year everyone!

**Roasanna Hunt**  
**Harbury Pre-School**



## **Morris, A New Year's Resolution? Pfah!**

New year's resolutions are innately self defeating. So why make one? By the third week in January the novelty's worn off, the New Year spirit has gone and something else has come along already to tempt your resolve. This is why I *don't* want you to make a Morris Dancing New Year's Resolution.

Over the Christmas festivities and probably stretching well into January hoovering up all the leftovers, we're all guilty of eating a bit too much and not really doing enough activities to work it off. Moreover, we continue to eat throughout the year making regular exercise essential all the time and not just at new year.

What I say to you is: Morris Dancing is the perfect antidote! A tremendously inclusive social atmosphere, dancing to live music and having a laugh for two hours a week just doesn't seem like a chore. You will be keen to go back. It gets under your skin. Added to which, when the season really gets going, you get the opportunity to dance out at some fantastic places and meet a whole variety of people.



Starting in January Hereburgh Morris are hosting a series of dancing classes on Saturday afternoons at a venue in Leamington Spa, with the aim of teaching this fascinating art form. Look out for our posters or see our website for details. You will also be warmly welcomed at any of our Wednesday evening practices in Harbury School hall from 8pm.



**Hereburgh Morris dancing at the Christmas Market in Southam**

<http://www.come.to/hereburgh>

**William Jones, Keeper of the Sticks**



## **Harbury Heritage Group**

### **The Adventures of Oliver Twist**

Since the early 1980s the school has filmed concerts and educational visits, initially using a huge camcorder. These were on video-tapes of course. We have recently started to transfer some of these to DVD, and intend to show a series of them over the next few months in the School Hall. During this process we came across "The Adventures of Oliver Twist" produced by Mark Thorburn in 1987. This epic production will be shown on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012 from 7.30pm. We would welcome any of the cast and their parents for this evening of nostalgia! Tickets are free, on a first come first served basis, and can be picked up from Mugleston's Country Fayre. During the evening a collection will be made for charities.

Email: [nigel.chapman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nigel.chapman@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 813765 for further details.

**Nigel Chapman**

## **Harbury Station Bridge – Deppers Bridge**

Work to install Highway safety barriers on the approaches to Harbury Station railway bridge in Deppers Bridge (B4451) is due to commence on site on 16th January 2012. It is expected to take in the order of three weeks to complete during which time temporary traffic signals will be in

operation on the B4451. The work is necessary to improve road over rail safety at this location. Warwickshire County Council apologises for any inconvenience this work may cause. Please contact me if you require further information.

**Les Williamson**  
**Engineer (Bridge Maintenance)**  
**Warwickshire County Council**

## **Village with a Vision**

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 we met with Bromford Support, our Partners, when we began to discuss the needs of prospective residents of our Extra Care Housing Facility. The results of the questionnaire you completed in 2010 gave us much general information, but we need to be more specific in the questions.

Therefore we will be delivering a new survey document in mid-January 2012, which will ask for more detailed information. This will be followed by a Drop-In Session on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, in the Tom Hauley Room, to which you are invited to come and meet with representatives of Bromford Support, to discuss any individual requirements.

The information gathered on that afternoon, together with that drawn from the new survey, will provide the basis for Bromford to begin planning the scheme; so please do complete the questionnaire. Then come along to the Drop-In, so that we can hear and exchange thoughts and ideas at first hand.

In the meantime, may we wish you a very Happy New Year; and once again thank you all for your continuing help and support.

**Tony Stubbs**

## **Walk the Coventry Way**

Are you a walker? Do you belong to a local walking group? A Coventry Pilgrimage is to be held in the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and culminating in a pilgrim service in Coventry Cathedral on the evening of Palm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012. You could join them, walking one or more stages from any convenient starting point.

The proposal for 2012, the Jubilee year of Coventry Cathedral, is to follow the route of the 40-mile way-marked circular footpath, The Coventry Way, by walking from Meriden to Berkswell, Burton Green, Kenilworth, Stoneleigh, Bubbenhall, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Wolston, Brinklow, Ansty,

Bedworth and Fillongley, then to walk down the route of the River Sherbourne via Allesley to the Cathedral. There will also be a route from the south of the county.

The idea is that local groups will join the main pilgrimage for part of the way, joining and leaving as it suits them.

The cathedral hopes that Christians from many different churches and denominations will join together to walk and pray for the city and the surrounding towns and villages. But I have no doubt they will welcome people of other faiths and of none. Read more, and register your interest, at: <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/downloads/publications/492.pdf>.

**John Stringer**  
**Cathedral Liaison Officer**

## **Harbury Church History**

I'm putting together a history of All Saints, Harbury, and would welcome the loan of any historic pictures or documents you may hold. In particular, I'm interested in pictures of the changing building and of past church events, and in the stories of people who have contributed to the life of the church in the village, including the chapels.

It's easy for me to photograph or scan documents, and then return them to you quickly and safely. Call me to discuss what you have, or you can send me files at [johnNstringer@btinternet.com](mailto:johnNstringer@btinternet.com) (notice the second 'N!'). This project won't be quick or easy, but it should keep me busy through 2012.

**John Stringer, 613214**

## **High Speed Rail - Latest**

The latest news from the Secretary of State for Transport on the much anticipated announcement about HS2 is that this will not now be made until January 2012. In a Ministerial Statement by the Secretary of State to the House of Commons on 6th December, Justine Greening said:

*"The Department for Transport's business plan says that, following the consultation on high speed rail which was held earlier this year, we would complete the analysis of consultation responses and announce our subsequent decisions to Parliament in December.*

*Since taking up office in October, I have been considering the issues raised as part of the consultation and additionally have listened to the views of honourable Members. In order to ensure that my decision is*

*based on a careful consideration of all relevant factors, I have concluded that I should allow myself until early in 2012 to announce my decisions.*

*I am therefore notifying the House that I will not be making a further statement on the subject of high speed rail this year, but I expect to announce my decisions in January”.*

The press have since reported that alternative tunnelling options may now be considered. The Leader of Warks County Council, Alan Farnell has written to Justine Greening raising concerns at this, given that the public consultation has now ended and querying the impact of such changes on the original scheme. Whilst Warwickshire County Council is encouraged that the Secretary of State has taken account of the concerns of MPs and the findings of the Transport Select Committee, it stands by its formal resolution to oppose HS2. The County Council will consider its response to the Ministerial announcement on HS2 following a members meeting in January.

Although formal consultation is closed, it is never too late for any member of the public to make personal representations either to their MP and/or Justine Greening and one easy way of doing so is via the website at [www.betterthanhs2.org](http://www.betterthanhs2.org) which will identify your MP and their email address for you and even provide a draft letter.

**Graham Long  
Ladbroke  
01926 811376**

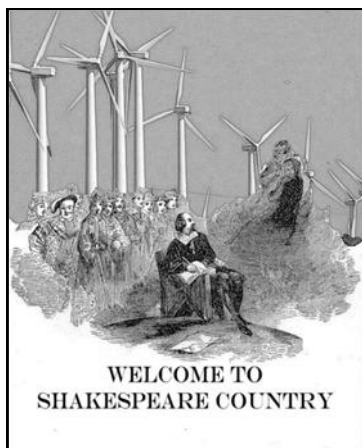
## **Windfarms on the Horizon**

For those who are not aware, the advent of Windfarms in the vicinity appears to about to become reality. There are currently proposals for 42 wind turbines within 10 miles of us. It is a commonly held belief that onshore wind energy is free and of great benefit, to the electricity generating capacity of the country. These turbines at the height of Salisbury Cathedral will have a considerable visual effect on all of us for generations to come.

The five wind turbines proposed for Knightcote Bottoms is the closest by far to all of us. The five turbines and a new weather mast will tower above the Burton Dassett hills in order to catch the best of the wind. Their generating capacity is deemed to be sufficient to serve 4,500 houses were the wind to blow all the time. The current metmast results seem to indicate that the energy produced will just be sufficient to cover Bishops Itchington only, approximately 1000 homes.

Each turbine will cost about £500,000 to erect and the developer receives approximately. £1m in subsidies out of your pocket to build it. Yes, the cost of building is in the future tariff we all must pay. The Gaydon Road will, for the build period, have a further 10,000 extra lorry movements or approximately 2,000 lorries per turbine. There will be a new haul road to build between the Gaydon Road and Knightcote Bottoms, to enable construction. This is to carry the 300 tons of concrete required for each turbine. This new road will then be used for maintenance. The new cabling required to carry the energy created will then either go under the Motorway to Gaydon or to the hub in Bishops Itchington, more construction, new Pylons etc. The Carbon footprint of this construction is vast and wholly undesirable, far outweighing any benefit gained over 25 years.

So now we have free energy!!!. Wind is variable and for your cooker to cook the Christmas dinner, variable energy is most undesirable. So to balance each period of non production a conventional power station is required. So the real gain to the consumer of free wind energy is considerably diminished, furthermore the owner of the turbines receives more in subsidy than we consumers pay per unit of electricity now. So the free energy created by the turbine is more expensive than that produced by a conventional power station.



I am all in favour of renewable energy, even wind turbines in areas where there is good reliable wind. That cannot be true of valleys in Warwickshire. The Government is very

keen to see renewables everywhere, but they were never designed for valleys in Shakespeare Country, with very little wind.

**Richard Hamburger**  
**Ward Member for Stratford District Council**

## A Journey to Iran

Iran - Is it safe? What do you want to go there for?

Two of the questions Tom and I were frequently asked before we went on our trip to Iran in November 2011.

We have returned safely, full of the warmth, welcome and hospitality of the ordinary Iranian people. Two weeks is too little to form an in-depth opinion of a place but it is sufficient to get impressions; especially when it

has been spent in the company of an Iranian woman who I am honoured to now call a friend.

We roamed from the snow covered heights of the Zagros Mountains to the north and west of Tehran, to the balmy climate of Shiraz (sadly no longer evidence of the vineyards that passed their name on). We were awestruck by the magnificence of Persepolis and the simplicity of Pasagade, the site of the city of the benevolent Cyrus. We journeyed across endless flat deserts, punctuated with crumbling caravanserais to old mud brick cities such as Yazd (with its Zoroastrian towers of silence and fire temple), Meybod, Natanz and Kashan (from where, reputedly, the three wise men came!). We marvelled at the ancient technologies of badgirs (wind towers), ice houses and qanats (underground water channels from distant mountains). We enjoyed the sublime art and architecture of the mosques and palaces, especially in Isfahan, and the throbbing technicolour life of the bazaars. We survived the suicidal traffic of the cities and our heads ached with trying to absorb the intricacies of ancient Persian dynasties .... and please don't anyone give us any more kebab! We loved the ancient tea houses frequented by shisha smoking young men and women and the magical ancient Islamic gardens with their cypress trees, fountains, flowers and pools.

What impression did we get of Iranian society? Walking round Tehran on the first day we were there, I had the feeling of being in a film set where nothing was quite real, the people's faces contained and passive. I noticed a complete absence of police, apart from traffic police (but they are there all right, in plain clothes and much feared). As we travelled and became more relaxed we were the recipients of many a friendly smile and enquiry of what we thought of Iran. In fact, a typical sight was Tom in the midst of a giggling group of young women who seemed to be quite fascinated by him - much to his delight of course! They are a warm, intelligent people who want what we all want; a peaceful life, a home, job, family and friends. They seem to be pushing the limits wherever they can. The women have not been forced to wear the black chador for about four years now and the code of dress is a manteau (a coat) and headscarf. There are many women who still wear the chador, but the majority of the young girls opt for the manteau which is becoming more and more shapely, with their scarves perched daringly on the back of their heads. One thing which bemused us was the number of girls with plasters on their noses - apparently they are all having 'nose jobs' done to improve their beauty - it's a place where the little things take on an excessive importance, just because you can express yourself in that way.

What of their attitude to their society? Many of them speak good English and we had interesting conversations with ordinary folk. They despise Ahmadinejad and refer to him as 'the puppet'. They dislike their

government and fear the regime with its vicious secret police, and do everything they can to protect their daily lives; our guide told us that she felt she was living in a cage. They seem to be becoming alienated from their religion and very few of them attend the mosque. Iran has the biggest brain drain in the world and the airport was an emotional place with people arriving for a visit or leaving again. They desperately want to be part of world society and not be regarded as pariahs.

What will happen in the future with all the sabre rattling that is going on, who knows? I truly believe that ordinary people the world over want the same things, whatever their race, colour or creed and we all need to learn to respect the dignity of difference and not to fear it. And that is the reason we went to Iran - to see something quite different to our own lives and to push ourselves outside our comfort zone.

**Joan Smith**

## **London to Brighton Veteran Car Run – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

Once again, a small party of intrepid adventurers set off from Harbury at 3.30am on a dark, cold, but dry November morning. This year there were five of us – myself, Anthony and Graham Allcock, Richard Woodcock and his partner Rosie Lee. We had loaded the trailer the day before with my 1903 Humberette and Graham's 'Ordinary Cycle' (penny-farthing) and set off for Hyde Park. There were over 500 entries again this year with quite a number of entries from abroad. All the vehicles have to be pre-1905 and



**Start Line London—Richard and Rosie Woodcock**

it is amazing to see so many in such fine condition. They vary from a huge steam car to tiny motorised cycles with a basket chair on the front for the passenger with some of the larger veterans resembling stage coaches. We saw lots of familiar faces and cars, including Genevieve from the film of that name. Many of the drivers and passengers really enter into the spirit of the occasion and dress accordingly but, no doubt, have their thermals on underneath. Before the start there was time to inspect a lot of the other entries and renew old acquaintances and it was very gratifying to see many of the cars being either driven or having passengers of the younger generation.



**Graham Allcock and his Penny Farthing at the start line**

When the time arrives for the 'off' the cars are marshalled into groups towards the start with the oldest setting off first. Graham rode his Ordinary through the start and although the cycles are not official entries, there are several and always get a cheer and he managed to cycle 22 miles before I picked him up and loaded the Ordinary on to the trailer. As I am no longer as nimble as I used to be, I now sub-contract the driving of the Humberette and Richard, with Rosie as his passenger, drove the first half of the route to Crawley where there is an organised coffee stop for all the entries. This gives the drivers and passengers an opportunity to walk around and have a hot drink to get their circulation going again. I now drive the support vehicle, which is my 'modern' and trailer, with a very efficient heating system but everyone has to make sacrifices!

Anthony then took up the driver's position with Richard as his passenger. This was the first time Anthony had driven the car (he had a short practice the week before) but said he thoroughly enjoyed it. The only problem with these veterans is trying to get your eyeballs to stop going up and down once you stop. There were no major problems en-route to Brighton and they arrived safely all in one piece.



Two miles out of Brighton we unloaded the Ordinary off the trailer and Graham rode it across the finish line, again to lots of cheering. We all met up at the hospitality tent on Madeira Drive where there is a hot buffet and drinks laid on for all the entries. Once we were fortified, we loaded up the car and cycle and set off home having had yet another long, tiring, but fantastic day.

**Dan Killian**

**Crossing the finishing line at Brighton**





## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### **Dear Editors**

*To all my Harbury friends, I would like to say "thank you" and wish everyone a happy New Year.*

**Lisa (Liesel Wicker)**

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### **Dear Editors**

*After writing to you last month concerning our move to Harbury and the difficulties we had encountered, we would like to thank all the kind people of Harbury including the Vicars and Parish Councillors who have contacted us with their warm wishes and their positive comments on the improvements we have made to Rose Cottage. You have all certainly made us feel most welcome in this lovely village which is greatly appreciated by all my family. We would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year.*

**Paul, Sarah, Sienna, Mimi and Otis Cockell**

**Rose Cottage**

**South Parade**

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### **Dear Editors**

*I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards, flowers, gifts and well wishes during my recent "blip" of ill health. I am now feeling so much better and I'm looking forward to eating and drinking properly, being able to lie down to sleep and going outside! All your kindness has helped me on the way.*

**Jo House**

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### **Dear Editors**

*We thank everyone who supported the coffee morning for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. We were able to send a cheque for £407.16. Thank you so much for the cakes, raffle prizes and donations which raised that wonderful total.*

*Happy New Year!*

**Doreen B & Shirley C**

## Regular Diary Dates

**ART CLASSES:** The Studio, Church House, Crown St, Tuesday 10am -12 noon (614251)

**ART TUTORIALS:** Tom Hauley Room 1st Thursday of the month (814923 or 01295 276465)

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

Mondays evenings 7:30 - 9:00pm; (612627)

**BEAVERS:** Scout Hut, Thursdays 5.30 - 6.40pm (01788 816214 )

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

**BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:** various homes 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month 2.00-3.00pm (614809); 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 10.30 - 12.00 Noon (612864)

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

Brownies & Rainbows Waiting List - Bobbie Sharpe (614040)

**BUMPS & BUNDLES:** Tom Hauley Room, Tuesdays, 10.30am – 12 noon (614150 or 611914)

**CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES:** Farley Room Wednesday 4.00 - 8.00pm (07837 152839)

**CHURCH MEN'S GROUP:** Tom Hauley Room 1st Thursday in the month 7.45pm (612765)

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

**CUBS:** Scout Hut, Wednesdays 6:45 - 8:15pm (614730)

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

**GUIDES:** Scout Hut, Mondays 7.15pm – 9.00pm (614375)

**GYMNASTICS:** Harbury School, Mondays 6:00 - 8:00pm (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/7's - Year 1 & Year 2 (Mixed)**

Coach: Steve Darby Tel: 01926 613330

Training: Saturday 9.00 am Harbury School

**Under 8's - Year 3 (Mixed)**

Coach: Bob Church Tel: 01926 614366

Training: Saturday 9.30 am Harbury School

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

Coach: Steve Burnell Tel: 07795 428087

Training: Tuesday 6.00pm Harbury Rugby Club

**Under 11's/12's - Year 6 (Mixed)**

Coach: Richard Woodhead Tel: 07786 802803

Training: Saturday 9.00 am Harbury Playing Fields

**Under 15's - Year 10**

Coach: Malcolm Tanner Tel: 01926 612617

Training: Saturday 9.00 am Harbury Playing Fields

**HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL:** Wight School (behind Library), High St. Monday 12 noon – 3.30pm, Tues & Thurs – 9.00am, - 3.30pm, Wed & Fri – 9.00am – 1.30pm (07939 122087) [enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk)

**HARBURY THEATRE GROUP:** Last Tuesday of the month Shakespeare Inn (611930)

**HARBURY TODDLER GROUP:** Wight School, Monday 9.30 - 11:15am

**HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB:** Contact 612498 (evenings).

Open Mic 8.00pm, last Saturday in the month. For more information 07799 896891.

Bingo every Friday 8.30pm - non members welcome.

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

**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:** Tom Hauley Room, 1st Tuesday in the month (Oct. to May)

8:00pm Contact David Powell-Tuck (614492)

**KICK START APPALACHIAN STEP DANCERS:** Scout Hut, Saturdays,

10:00am - 12:00noon (612734)

**NETBALL CLUB:** Village Hall Car Park, Training Thursday evenings, Juniors 6.00 till 7.30pm

& Seniors 7.30 till 8.30pm, Matches on Saturday Afternoon (613163)

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Tom Hauley Room, 3rd Saturday in the month 7.30am (612782)

**MOTHER'S UNION:** Tom Hauley Room, 1st Wednesday in the month 2.30pm; 3rd Tuesday in the month 8.00pm (613831)

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

**SCOUTS:** Scout Hut, Thursdays 7:00 - 8.30pm (614177)

**TABLE TENNIS:** Village Hall, Thursdays, 9.30 - 10.30am (614809)

**TAI CHI:** Ufton Village Hall, Monday, 7.15pm – 8.45pm (612277)

**TENNIS CLUB:**

**Adult / Student Members Playing Times:**

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

Saturdays: (from Sept to March) 10.00am – 12 noon

Sundays: (from April to August) 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-merc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sucol-merc@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.

**Minis and Juniors** (age 3 - 17) For details of Junior membership, contact Sue Mercer: [sucol-merc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sucol-merc@tiscali.co.uk)

**Coaching:** Adult and Junior coaching takes place throughout the year.

For up to date information contact [admin@tennisolutions.co.uk](mailto:admin@tennisolutions.co.uk)

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

**WARWICKSHIRE YOUNG VOICES:** Village Hall, Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00pm (614150)

**W.I.:** Tom Hauley Room, 2nd Thursday in the month 7:45pm (614459)

**WEDNESDAY WALKERS:** Village Hall, Wednesday 9.45am (614188)

**WINDMILLS NURSERY SCHOOL:** In the grounds of Harbury Primary School,

Monday-Thursday; 9:05am - 3.05pm; Friday 9.05am -12.35pm (07906 519148)

[info@windmillsnursery.co.uk](mailto:info@windmillsnursery.co.uk)

**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		
<b>SCOUT HUT</b>	<b>TOM HAULEY ROOM</b>	<b>THR COFFEE MORNINGS</b>
Caroline Hill Tel: 613780 -	Sally Stringer Tel: 613214 sal.47@hotmail.co.uk	Sally Stringer Tel: 613214 sal.47@hotmail.co.uk
<b>VILLAGE HALL</b>	<b>VILLAGE CLUB - CONCERT ROOM</b>	<b>WIGHT SCHOOL</b>
Celia Neill Tel: 612819 harburyvillagehall@googlemail.com	- Tel: 612498 (evenings) harburyvillageclub@hotmail.co.uk	Anna Wilson Tel: 614217 anna9650@btinternet.com

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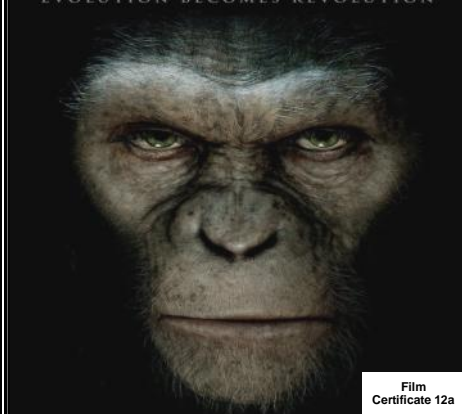
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### Tap Lessons



*Fridays, The Grange, Southam*

- 4.00pm - Little Tappers (3-5yrs)
- 4.30pm - Pre-Primary Tap (6-8yrs)
- 5.00pm - Grade 1 Tap (8yrs+)

### Dance Classes



*Thursdays, The Grange, Southam*

- 4.00pm - Funky Dance 1 (3-6yrs)
- 4.30pm - Gymnastics (all ages)
- 5.00pm - Funky Dance (7yrs +)
- 5.30pm - Grade 1 Ballet (9yrs +)
- 6.15pm - Grade 2 Ballet (11yrs+)
- 6.45pm - Grade 3 Ballet (12yrs+)

### Ballet Lessons



*Tuesdays, The Grange, Southam*

- 4.00pm - Prima Ballerinas (3-4yrs)
- 4.30pm - Pre-Syllabus (5-6yrs)
- 5.00pm - Pre-Primary (7-8yrs)
- 5.45pm - Primary (8yrs+)

### Acting, Performance & Singing



*Mondays, The Grange, Southam*

- 4.00pm - Juice (3-5yrs)
- 4.45pm - Rocket (6-8yrs)
- 5.45pm - Upload (9-12yrs)

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**EVENING COURSES BEGINNING**
**MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012 AT 7.30 - 9.30PM**

Cake Icing and sugar paste flowers  
 Mandarin for beginners - 7.00 - 9.00pm  
 Salsa - 8.00 - 9.00pm  
 Spanish for beginners - (term 2)  
 Wood turning for beginners 6.30 - 8.00pm  
 Wood turning for improvers 8.00 - 9.30pm


**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 7.30 - 9.30PM**

Basic sign language and deaf awareness - 5 weeks  
 BHS Horse Owners Certificate Level 1 - 7.00 - 9.00pm  
 French for holidays  
 Introduction to Photoshop 7.00 - 9.00pm - 6 weeks  
 Next steps - Family History research - 5 weeks  
 Water colour painting for beginners - 7 weeks (starts 1<sup>st</sup> February)  
 Yoga - 7.30 - 9.00pm

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

BHS Horse Owners Certificate Level 2 - 7.00 - 9.00pm  
 Cake icing and sugar paste flowers  
 Dress making for Spring - Beginners - 7.00 - 9.00pm (5 week taster)  
 Mediation, Relaxation and You - 7.00 - 9.00pm - 6 weeks (starts 2<sup>nd</sup> February)  
 Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) -  
 initial teacher training (10 weeks) 6.30 - 9.30pm  
 Textile Art - 5 weeks

Most classes commence week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Evening Courses run from 7.30 - 9.30 for a maximum of 10 weeks (excluding half term break beginning 13<sup>th</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 £3.80 per hour with some reductions available - please ask for further details.

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 Water Colour Painting - Thursday 1.00 - 3.00pm  
 Water Colour Painting - Friday 1.00 - 3.00pm

**SOUTHAM LIBRARY**

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**COURSES IN THE VILLAGES**
**BISHOPS ITCHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cake decorating for beginners - Monday 7.30 - 9.30pm

**TOM HAULEY ROOM, HARBURY**

Yoga - Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm

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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

Cake Icing and Sugar craft - Tuesday 10.00am - 12 noon

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- Enigma Variations - Leonardo Da Vinci (1 session only)
- Vincent and Theo Van Gogh (1 session only)

Programme subject to amendment.

For the most up to date information and a short description of most of these courses please contact us or visit our website:

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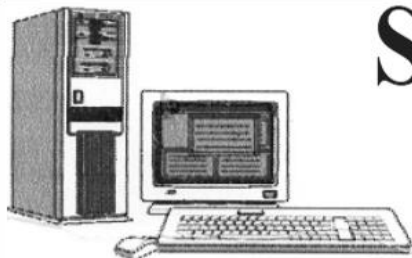
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