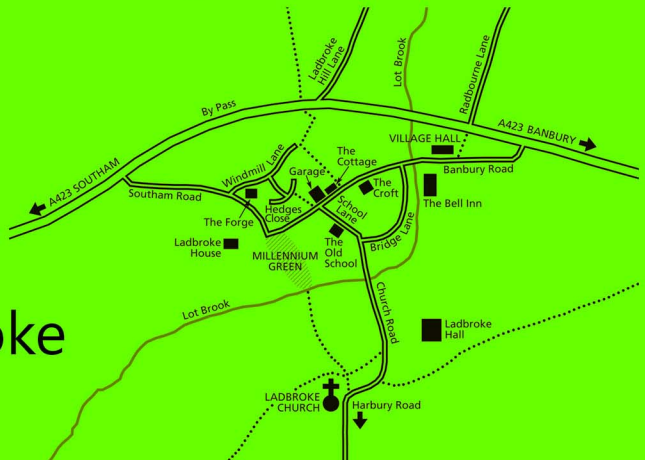


Harbury



Ladbroke

April 2020
Online Edition

Harbury & Ladbroke News

Is published monthly and reflects all aspects of local life.

April 2020

No.553

Editorial Office

31 Binswood End

☎ 612155

✉ articles@hlnews.co.uk

Article drop off point:
Harbury Pharmacy,
High Street

Advertising Office

36 Manor Orchard

☎ 612687

✉ advertising@hlnews.co.uk

Distribution Manager

49 Mill Street

☎ 612009

✉ distribution@hlnews.co.uk

Inserts by prior arrangement
with the Distribution Manager

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

EDITORIAL	2
HARBURY DIARY & REFUSE ROTA	3
FROM THE RECTOR & CHURCH NEWS	4
LADBROKE NEWS	8
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL	17
CLUBS & SOCIETIES	19
EARLY YEARS & SCHOOL	30
VILLAGE HALL, LIBRARY & CLUB	35
GARDENING & NATURE	37
GENERAL SECTION	40
LETTERS TO THE EDITORS	48

Editorial Team

Chris Barber - Chris Finch - Paulette Kavanagh - Peter McDonald - Daralyn Warren -
Jackie West - Katy Wiltshire

*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

Well, what a difference a month can make... little did we realise whilst getting last month's magazine ready for publication, that this month would take on a different kind of organisation. With COVID-19 holding its grip, not just in Harbury but around the world, we are now leading very different lives due to the country being in lockdown. With social distancing and self-isolating taking place, this month the editors have edited electronically rather than meeting together and unfortunately no printing of the magazine is possible due to the printers being closed. We are hoping that this electronic version of the magazine will be circulated as widely as possible. However, we do realise that this may not reach all of our subscribers such as some of our elderly residents and those that do not use the internet. Do please check on neighbours/friends in the village and, if necessary, forward them a copy of this PDF file.

With the church, village hall, pubs, club and library closed as well as the Tom Hauley Room coffee morning cancelled this means many of our usual social get-togethers have finished for now. All groups, societies and sporting clubs have stopped too which will be hitting our community minded spirits hard. Unfortunately, decisions have also been made to cancel or postpone summer events as well meaning that vital fundraising will have to be put on hold.

Self-isolating can be lonely and challenging. A volunteer network has already been set up for Harbury and Deppers Bridge to help villagers through this difficult time. If you are able to help or indeed need help yourself please return the form which was recently posted through your letterbox to Harbury Post Office or contact - chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk A community support group has been organised in Ladbroke too and the contact there is Steve Moreton, tel: 07508 422625 / steven.morten@gmail.com

As many businesses are being hit extremely hard during this time, two Harbury pubs, The Crown and The Shakespeare, are working together offering food and drink delivery in the village. It would be great if we could all support them with these alternative measures they are taking to keep busy. More details are on page 43 of the magazine. As panic buying and some food shortages hits major supermarkets, Harbury Supermarket and Co-op have been doing their best to keep stocked up with essentials, so please do consider shopping locally.

This month is subscription time for the Harbury & Ladbroke News, however due to the current difficulties we are postponing the collection of payments until later in the year.

Although we still hope to publish the magazine electronically until we can return to having it printed, we appreciate that some of our usual contributors may not have much to report. We do welcome other types of contributions, so if you fancy writing about your hobby, memories of..., witty observations from

self-imposed house arrest, a feature/profile on local villagers (by telephone interview). You could send in a puzzle, a photograph or just something to entertain our readers. All gratefully received.

We send everyone in Harbury, Deppers Bridge and Ladbroke our good wishes and hope that you all stay safe and well. If everyone staying at home means we can suppress this terrible virus, then it is a small price to pay.

Finally, we extend our condolences to the Ladbroke families of Lorna Carleton, Roy Thackery and Mif Warr.

Harbury Diary


All events normally listed are suspended at present.

We welcome items for inclusion in the May edition of the Harbury News eg articles on hobbies, memories of living in the village, items on self-isolation, photos and quizzes.

May Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

Adverts to: 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to advertising@hlnews.co.uk by 20th April

Articles to: Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Thursday 23rd April

Refuse Collection Rota			
	Deppers Bridge	Harbury, Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge outlying properties	Collection Week
April	Wed	Fri	
	8	10	Grey Bin
	15	17	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	24	24	Grey Bin
	29		Green & Blue Lid Bins
May		1	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	6	8	Grey Bin
	13	15	Green & Blue Lid Bins



From the Rector

Gemma Took (Reader)

As I started to write this month's "vicar's slot" it was Mothering Sunday. Usually this is a happy day when we get together with our families to celebrate mothering love. But today has been different. There are no church services, the shops, pubs and restaurants are closed and we cannot get together as families.

This is probably the greatest challenge most of us ever have had to face in our lifetimes. So, what can we, the Church, do? Our bishops said in a letter this week, "being a member of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day."

As of last night (Monday 23rd March), we have had to close the church. This will be a great sadness for so many of us. Villagers have worshipped in our church for over 800 years. But as Craig mentioned in his Mothering Sunday message to his current parish, Shotton, "Church is not something you go to, but a family you belong to." So, let us celebrate this family as we stand together - virtually - at this time.

There are a few people who gathered, for many years, in the church at 8.30am, Monday to Friday, to pray for our village. We will continue to do that from our homes.

The only way I can deal with this unprecedented time, is to fix my eyes firmly on Jesus, the Jesus who calmed the storm whilst his friends were being tossed about in a boat. So, in this storm, let us **stay prayerful**. Let's pray for each other, our NHS, our Government, the Emergency Services and all who are in the care services. We must remember that this is something they have not been able to plan for in any way at all. Let us support them as best we can.

Let us **stay wise** and put our trust in prayer and soap!

Let us **stay kind** and not stockpile foodstuffs, remembering others who are unable to get out to shops and who are not mobile. Let us do what we can for them.

Let us **stay united** - we have a common enemy - let us draw together, pool our resources and support each other.

Let us **stay connected** - we are so lucky with all the technical advances of the last few years. We can telephone each other, have video calls, email, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, mobile phones and so on. But more importantly, stay connected with God and do not isolate our souls.

But most of all let us **stay confident**. As the human race, perhaps for the first time ever, we are not in control. Actually, we have never been in control,

although we think we are. But this storm will pass and we will, with the help of God, get through this.

Many of us lit a candle on Mothering Sunday, at 7pm and put it in our windows. We did it to pray for the world and to show there is light in this pandemic. Can I suggest we do this every Sunday at 7pm, to show that we are a family, we are together, and together we will come through this unsettling time.



From the Churchwardens

Liz & Michael

When Bob Dylan wrote his hit song “The times they are a changing” back in 1964, perhaps he had 2020 foresight! We are writing this article in a week of unprecedented change - all schools are closing, gatherings of two or more people are banned, church doors are being locked, pubs are shut, daily life as we know it is rapidly changing.

Church life is changing, church doors are bolted but we are not closed. We are all learning how to adapt and do things differently. This year whilst there will not be any Easter services in Harbury Church, we are hoping there will be an Easter Card posted through all the doors in Harbury. This card, instead of listing the usual service timings, will contain a special Easter message from Rev Ann Mulley and a special Prayer for a pandemic. The first two lines of the prayer are “May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake - May we who have no risk factors remember those more vulnerable”.

Quite separately to the pandemic, we have been working for a while to modernise, update and improve the church website, and this should be ready to launch in about another month. This will enable much improved communication about what the Church has to offer and what it is up to in Harbury.

Finally, please look out for a separate article on the next page titled “Testing Times”, and written by the Harbury Ministers and the Harbury All Saints Parochial Church Council.

Please do contact either of us should you have any queries relating to church life.

Liz McBride (tel: 612421) and Michael Vincent (tel: 614806)





Mothers' Union

Gillian Hare

Our March meeting was led by our Reader, Peter Took. After the act of worship, he talked to us about his experiences of public speaking, both in the business world and in his 25 years as a licensed reader.

He told us some of his “tricks of the trade” – we shall watch for them when he is back in the pulpit – but the main impression we were left with was his sincerity and good humour. Thank you, Peter.

Last month's coffee morning raised an impressive £200 for MU projects; thanks to all for their support.

Six members went to Southam to share in the celebration of the Women's World Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

And now it is all change, with no meetings or services. But we are blessed to be able to keep in touch by telephone and many of us by e-mail. Please contact one of the committee if you want a chat or support while isolated, and we will continue to pray for each other until we are able to meet again.



Message from the Reverend Ann Mulley

Gemma Took is doing the Rector's Slot this month but I just wanted to let you know that, although at 81 I am in isolation and can't offer any practical help, I am there for you all at the end of a phone 613696 or e-mail: edannmulley62@gmail.com so do please contact me if you would like to unload on someone, or share or would just like to chat or to have prayers said for you or

someone you know, all in strictest confidence. You may not know that at Morning Prayer in Harbury each weekday we pray for the village through a month - two or three streets a day and all the schools, organizations and businesses as well as for Deppers Bridge, Ladbroke and Ufton. We can't meet anymore but you all are still being prayed for not just once a month but every day. I pray for all three villages street by street every morning and for anyone who has asked for prayer. May God bless you all and hold you close in his love and may you know his strength and support, his help and his hope, his comfort and his love. You are not alone.

Ann Mulley

Testing Times

As if there were not enough to worry about, Harbury's Parish Church of All Saints, and its attached Tom Hauley Room, are in serious trouble.

The church heating - its forty-year-old boiler and Victorian pipes - failed altogether shortly after Christmas. The original gas heaters in the much-used

Tom Hauley Room (THR) are on their last legs. It's been impossible to hold services in the freezing church, and worship was continuing until recently in the THR, against the hammering noise of the heaters.

The church lighting is completely outdated, and the whole church needs rewiring to modern standards. We are no longer able to meet the audiovisual needs of users of both buildings.

A drone flown round the church tower and roof provided a view of broken and eroded stonework, desperately in need of expert repair and renewal.

Quotes to complete all this work total around £200,000.

It's not surprising that a church and village-wide appeal has been prepared. This appeal aims to meet half this amount - £100,000 - when we can ask church and community charities for matched funding to meet our total. We were ready to launch - and then the coronavirus changed everything.

This is not the moment to ask people for money. We know there are many who would willingly contribute to rescue our much-loved 800-year-old village church. But there will be households facing reduced income and even redundancy. So the appeal has been postponed. It is important that we care for ourselves and each other.

This has been a difficult decision. The church and THR will continue to deteriorate. Currently, church services are suspended, as they are across the country, and THR social activities have been cancelled. Traders, who in these tough times would have welcomed work on our church building, will not be contracted.



So we hope that we can launch the appeal when things return to something like normal. 'Heat, Light, Stone' is the appeal's name; and our icon, beautifully and simply designed by Richard Marshall Hardy, is shown here. Please look out for them.

The church community continues to pray for our community, our country and the world - and to offer practical help where possible. When the opportunity arises again, do enter the church at any time, taking sensible precautions, to pray, or just to experience this timeless building.

But when you do, wrap up warm.

From the Ministers and Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Harbury

Ladbroke News & Diary

<http://www.ladbroke-pc.org.uk>

All events normally listed are suspended at present.

When church, meetings and events are allowed again this will be communicated by enews and on websites, see Coronavirus article on page 13.



Ladbroke Church News

Peter Rigby

The message from our Archbishops, less than two weeks ago as I write, was "Church is changing, but Church is not closed." That message might appear to be out of date already since we have now had to close our church building completely, but we use the word Church to refer not only to the building but also to the Church family.

As a Church family we continue to support each other and our whole community and anyone is welcome to make contact to request prayer or for any other reason by emailing ladbrokechurch@gmail.com. We are also supporting the village help initiative set up by the Parish Council.

Church services are currently suspended until further notice; our Easter Sunday Family Service is scheduled for 10.30am on 12th April but this will only take place if the current restrictions are lifted.

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light. Amen.





Ladbroke Parish Council

Jackie West

Official minutes can be viewed on the noticeboard by The Bell Inn or on the parish council page of the website. <https://sites.google.com/site/ladbrokevillage/parish-council/pc-meetings>

Note this meeting was on 11th March, before coronavirus seriously hit the UK, so future dates/commitments may have changed.

SDC: The district council part of council tax will rise by 3.59%. An attempt to defer introducing a charge for green waste bins was lost, so expect it to cost £40 per year per green bin from May.

WCC: There is more re-organisation, now at the lower management levels, which makes it hard to contact the right person on any issues. The county council element of council tax will rise by 1.99% plus 2% for Adult Social Services. There have been seven cases of coronavirus and one death in Coventry and Warwickshire so far (11th March). The annual community fund for the Feldon area is open, applications must be in by August.

Planning: No new applications, various treeworks were approved and listed building consent for interior changes at Langford Cottage.

Highways & Footpaths: Some road closures are planned for telecoms work.

Flooding & Drainage: Village homes had their flood barriers out but, to the council's knowledge, none actually flooded.

Residents from Ladbroke Hall spoke at the meeting of the flooding in the grounds there, again no homes were flooded. The drive between Woodcutters Cottage and the apartments used to flood only every year or two but is now underwater every time there is heavy rain, almost a weekly occurrence! The issue appears to be the size of the drain under the drive (before it reaches the open channel which then empties into the brook). Since it is on private ground this drain would be the responsibility of Ladbroke Hall, not WCC.

The storms brought down several old trees, one fell across the brook. It has been removed but there are now many branches needing clearing and a working party is scheduled for 14th March.

The gully sucker cleared the two worst blocked gullies in Church Road but there is still an issue, so Highways will be contacted again.

Village Hall and Millennium Green: The entrance to the hall is a vast improvement, thanks to the HS2 community grant; work on the kitchen and toilet roof is planned. The Green is applying for a grant from Severn Trent.

Mobile Phone Coverage: Ladbroke is not alone in having poor mobile coverage, it is the same for most villages in the area. Perhaps it will improve if

the government make the suppliers work together to increase the number of masts and therefore coverage.

HS2: The official letter from Parliament giving HS2 the go ahead is expected by the end of March. Villagers have been notified of archaeological trenching works and of further road closures to lay the electrical cable for the tunnel boring machine (TBM); this cable is coming from Italy. The TBM machine is on order from Germany and should arrive in August. It is so large that the Ufton road island will have to be removed to bring it in! Greenleaf Nursery and Harp Farm will be vacated at end March, the work compound there will be for approximately 250 people, non-residential.

Speed monitoring: Following a surge of interest in helping monitor speed **within** the village, the council will ask the Warwickshire Safer Roads team if it will support this and also raise it at the Community Forum and local police surgeries.

Other: Although invited to comment as we are a neighbouring parish, councillors would not be sending in a response to the Napton Neighbourhood Plan. They also discussed a request for another dog waste bin but decided not to progress this.

Next meetings: Annual Village Meeting 8th April - **NOW CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS**

Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 6th May, 7.45pm

	Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge Women's Institute	Carol Lane
---	--	-------------------

It was a pity that many people were unable to be present at the meeting on Thursday 5th March. Ian Jackson, an estate planning practitioner, dealt with many of the issues involved with later life planning in an interesting and informative talk entitled Tax, Care and Toy Boys.

As far as the tax is concerned his advice was to make a will bearing in mind that Inheritance Tax might need to be paid but that it was really estates with the value of over £1 million that might be affected.

A frightening statistic regarding care of the elderly was that six out of ten ladies over the age of 80 will finish up in care. The percentage is lower for men – four out of ten and that on average people are in care from between three and five years. At £1,000 to £1,500 per week more than £50,000 is needed per annum. If you have assets above £14,250 you will have to pay something towards these costs. If you own above £23,250 you will have to pay the full costs.

The Toy Boy in the title was a light-hearted way of bringing up the situation of remarriage after the death of a spouse.

Ian used himself as an example in the situation that if he was killed on the way home and his wife remarried, then his will would be void and, on her

death, the new husband would be entitled to £250,000 plus half of the remaining balance.

Obviously, a new will can be made. Ian talked about Trust Wills where the dead person's assets go into a Trust. A Trust Will will only protect 50% of the value.

Finally, Ian recommended the making and paying for a funeral now as costs are continually rising. Average costs at the moment are between £3,000 - £4,000 but set to rise to £7,500 by 2025. Obviously as well as cost savings the person is able to make their wishes clear allowing those left to know that they are carrying out the deceased wishes.

Many of the ladies present took up the opportunity he offered to make an appointment for a free consultation.

Ian can be contacted on ian.jackson@coop.co.uk or on 07738 135 163.

We were all really pleased that Hazel was back with us and able to take the business meeting.

However, since the meeting all activities and meetings have been postponed until further notice.

In February's edition I gave the telephone number for Felicity Howatson, the ecclesiastical embroiderer, but I mistyped one digit. The number should be 01926 612773.



Ladbroke Matters

David Wright

The Ladbroke Matters team looks after the Village Hall and the Millennium Green. To help with this we organise regular fundraising events so that we can continue to offer both facilities for the benefit of our community.



In line with current government advice all our fundraising events have sadly been put on hold for the time being. However, they will re-commence as soon as the crisis is over and we hope to be able to welcome you back then.

We did manage to tidy up the Millennium Green last month before the more stringent measures came into force. We hope those who take a walk through on their 'daily exercise' will appreciate our handiwork.

Let's all remember it's important that we follow current government advice. We hope and pray that this pandemic will soon be at an end.



If you would like to join the Ladbroke Matters team, have any suggestions for future events, or any other comments please contact the Trustees (details on the Ladbroke website).

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for February 2020

£50	Pat Kennedy	£50	G and T Varriale
£25	Roger Plaskett	£25	Avril Court
£25	Barbara Bicknell	£10	Chris Ennew
£10	Mary Coley	£10	Carol Locker
£10	Debs and Seth Brown	£10	Jo Rose

Margaret Bosworth



Ladbroke General Section



Mif Warr

It is with great sadness that we learned of Mif's death on Tuesday, 17th March.

Mif was born in Hull on the 7th August in 1943.

After nursing for some time in Edinburgh and learning secretarial skills, Mif took the post of administrator to the GB rallying team which, with her love of motor racing, was the perfect job for her. She was able to travel with the team in her customised Mini, including a visit to Monte Carlo.

She then worked for Oxfam in Oxford which was where she met Kip and they married in 1971 and immediately moved to Calcutta where Kip was working with refugees from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

There followed time spent in Delhi and Islamabad.

Nico was born in 1974 and Kate in 1978. Sadly, Kate died of meningitis at the age of two by which time Kip and Mif were living in Ladbroke, although Kip's work took him to different parts of the world and they set up home at various times in six other countries.

Mif has always been an integral part of village life, serving as parish clerk and on the village hall committee.

As a committee member of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) Mif organised trips and was membership secretary for some years.

She will always be remembered for her culinary expertise and I will never hear the word 'scrumptious' without hearing it in Mif's voice describing her latest recipe.

The rest of us had to acknowledge that Mif's Raspberry Bakewell was the most popular of the minipuds at the Film Nights. Who could also forget the Prune and Armagnac ice cream she served at an ice cream party in their garden on a beautiful sunny day?

Mif and Kip were the most generous hosts - always ready to welcome new people to the village with a meal and an introduction to others.

Sadly, over the last few years Mif's health has not allowed her to take as much part as she would have liked in village functions but she remained interested and helped when she could.

Our thoughts go out to Kip who has looked after her tirelessly for many years despite his own health scare last year.

Carol Lane

CoronaVirus

What a difference a few days makes! At the time of writing (26th March) most of us are under house arrest, escaping only to do the weekly shop or to exercise. At least the sunny weather at the start of the national lockdown has been encouraging Ladbroke's gardeners to get outside - not just to get things tidied or planted but to have a chat with those walking past ... ensuring they stand at least 2m apart in compliance with regulations.

It's hard to believe it was just 10 days ago when an email from Ladbroke Parish Council came into our in-boxes saying:

*"We believe there is a need for a **community support group** to help those who may be confined to their homes (or decide they need to self-isolate) during the current Coronavirus outbreak. We also believe there would be villagers who would be more than happy to help vulnerable members of the community with things like shopping, picking up prescriptions, etc; or simply providing a regular contact to reduce the feeling of isolation.*

Of course, there will already be arrangements set up between neighbours and we in no way want to inhibit these plans.

If, however, you have some extra need for help please contact Steve Morten, who is coordinating the Parish Council's efforts, using the email or phone number below. Similarly, if you able to provide help, even a small amount please again contact Steve".

Contact Details:

steven.morten@gmail.com

Tel: 07508 422625

A number of us did and there are now more than 20 volunteers in Ladbroke; it's not too late to offer your services and **please do not hesitate to ask if you need any help.**

It's times like these when sharing local information is important and there are various channels of communication for this:

1. **ENews**

Parish councillor, Martin Neal sends out an email when there is something to share. To sign up, or to ask for something to go out to the enews distribution list, contact **ladbrokeenews@outlook.com**

If you think you are on the list but did not receive coronavirus updates on 17th, 18th and 23rd March via enews, then make sure Martin has your current email address and/or check your spam folder.

2. **Village Website - ladbroke-pc.org.uk** (takes you to <https://sites.google.com/site/ladbrokevillage/>)
3. **Church Website - ladbrokechurch.org.uk** (takes you to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13118/>)
4. **Covid Cheer**, a page to lift your spirits and entertain you through photos, puzzles, links etc. Click the link on **tinyurl.com/ladbrokephoto** which takes you to <https://sites.google.com/site/ladbrokephotographyclub/covid-cheer?pli=1>

plus noticeboards by the pub and the Millennium Green and this monthly magazine.



Goodbye to a veteran in the grounds of Ladbroke Hall



Hello to Ladbroke Newcomers - just one of the photos on the COVID CHEER webpage

Jackie West



From Your District Councillor for Ladbroke

There will always be a time delay between me writing these notes and residents reading them, which in normal times would not be too significant. These are not normal times. I have written two reports to be read together - one describing council affairs over the preceding few weeks and the other an update on Covid-19 Coronavirus. They might both be out of date by the time you read them!

Council Budget

The District Council determined its budget on 24th February resulting in an increase in Council Tax of 3.59%. For a band D property this means that the District Council element rises from £139.12 to £144.12.

Stratford also collects the council tax for Warwickshire Council (3.99% increase), the Police Commissioner (4.38% increase) and Parish Councils. By the time these are added up the band D tax comes to £1870.99 to be paid annually. Bigger or smaller houses pay more or less according to the A-H band rating.

Individual Parishes set their own tax levels, which are called 'precepts'. So, depending where you live there might be another amount to add to the

£1870.99 figure which varies from zero (outside villages or for small villages like Shuckburgh and Wormleighton) to just over £80 for a larger village.

At the debate I spoke in support of three particular elements, one of which was passed and two were not. I supported the 'ring fencing' of income from business rates from green energy schemes for expenditure on climate change related expenditure. I also wished to see a one-off grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Although this grant would nominally add 0.3% to this year's budget, evidence shows that CAB activities are often self-funding by helping vulnerable persons becoming less dependent on benefits. Both items were voted down. I also supported the inclusion of continued improvement in rural transport for those areas not well served by public transport, but requested the existing arrangements be reviewed to get better service for this area. This was agreed.

Introduction of Charges for Collecting Green Waste

At the Council meeting, I seconded a motion to defer the introduction of these charges because I felt neither the financial nor environmental case had been made. Since the previous council meeting, two windfalls have been received that exceeded expected income for the council and the full (three year) 'settlement' from central government is not due until July. To me, it seemed sensible to delay until the full financial picture is clear as the extra money that has come in is already much more than the projected savings for next year. It would also give time to look at more environmentally friendly alternatives. For a resident who has one bin, a £40 charge is equivalent to making the Stratford Council tax rise more than 30%. At this meeting the proposal to defer and review the introduction of charges was voted down. **(but see Coronavirus update below)**

HS2

After receiving a complaint and concerns about the future potential for traffic through villages I have approached HS2 contractor Eiffage Kier. I had spoken to them a few months ago about this and I am pleased to say they are presently trialling a system to track vehicles. Please note down any registration numbers of problem vehicles and report them to the HS2 help line 08081 434 434.

Coronavirus Update

This is a rapidly changing situation at the time of writing. Things have been really busy for council staff. The District Council has attempted to continue its normal services and is maximising staff working from home, but closed the Stratford office for public visits on 24th March, in accordance with the Government lockdown. Phones are being manned and the web site is functioning. 01789 267575 www.stratford.gov Presently, formal meetings are suspended and some temporary alternative governance arrangements are being worked out by video conferences every day with all councillors.

Council Tax bills have been sent out this week, as required by law. The introduction of charges for green waste will be deferred, despite what it says in your council tax bill. I think this a sensible move in all circumstances.

The Council is very aware that some residents may become in need of financial support in areas such as Council Tax payments and there have been a high number of calls to the Council's contact centre from individuals who have already lost their jobs. The Chief Executive makes it clear that the Council will support such hardship cases as much as possible and urges anybody who is in need to make an application under Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The Council is also very aware of the extremely challenging environment for businesses at present. The Council is ready to start processing business grants, reliefs and hardship reliefs as soon as government provides the necessary guidance. This is a key priority for the Council and we will not hold up payments to such businesses.

Within Warwickshire there will be a number of Local Resilience Forum 'Hubs' for the purposes of coordinating distribution of emergency supplies to the 1.5 million most vulnerable people who are now being asked to isolate for 12 weeks. This is about 10,000 people across the County. Warwickshire County Council is coordinating the setting up of the hubs by working with District Councils, the Voluntary & Community Sector along with all the local action groups. Letters from the NHS to potentially vulnerable persons will be sent out for the purpose of distribution of medicine and food supplies as needed. Warwickshire is being assigned a military planner who will work with us on the logistics. Currently, I have no knowledge of the detail of this apart from the intent to do this locally, probably based in a centre such as Southam. I am coordinating with County Council Cllr Bob Stevens bobstevens@warwickshire.gov.uk Personal information protection rules under GDPR will have to be relaxed a little so that the vulnerable can be identified.

I wish good health to everyone. Please care for yourselves and others.

Nigel Rock
Councillor for Napton and Fenny Compton Ward
nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk
07971 343065

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Harbury Parish Council</h2>	<p>Linda Ridgley Harbury News Correspondent</p>
--	--	--

Official minutes can be viewed in the Library, on the Parish Council website www.harbury-pc.gov.uk or obtained from the Parish Clerk, Tel: 01926 614646

February 2020 Meeting

Grants

Bill Timson for the Heritage Room asked the Council for a grant towards the fitting out of their new premises at the School. Villagers had already donated £1,000. A coffee morning netted £180, the WI provided £580 for blinds and funding bids had been submitted to Severn Trent and HS2. The Council readily agreed to provide £990 for carpeting.

Similarly, the PC agreed a grant of £1464 for new kitchen equipment for the Pre-School.

Public Participation

This included complaints about speeding in the village; a request for the Parish Council to object to an application to fell two *Macrocarpa* trees in the centre of the village and approval for a resident to trim the playing field hedge which overshadows her garden provided this is done outside the bird nesting season.

News from Village Organisations

Cllr Gibb reported on building works for the School and the potential effect on our School of Southam College being over-subscribed. Cllr Rutherford was pleased to announce that the Village Hall had a 12 months extension on a grant from HS2. The rear doors of the Hall had been replaced and were now "Wheelchair Friendly", but more money needed to be raised for further improvements.

District and County

SDC Councillor Jacqui Harris mentioned the "Green Waste" proposed charges protests and had worked with Bob Sherman of Harbury Energy Initiative on a scheme to compost village waste at the allotments. She was concerned at the non-determination of the latest "Gladmans" application to develop houses off Bush Heath Lane and similarly the delay on any news on plans for the Old New Inn.

WCC Councillor Bob Stevens was quizzed by Cllr Gibb on the promised traffic lights for the Fosse crossroads (no news yet), and why the County has not taken action on HGVs still ignoring the weight limit on the Deppers Railway Bridge. The Chairman wanted action on potholes and flooding and Bob said they now had £1m more for highway clearance. He said the government wanted HS2 work speeded up.

Environment

Residents asked the PC to help reduce the 60mph speed limit on Chesterton Road, in line with that on the rest of Harbury Lane. The Chairman agreed 50mph was sensible and Cllr Gibb wanted a minimum of four movement activated speed signs, but given the PC hasn't managed to get the Police to monitor speeds at Deppers Bridge, the Chairman thought this unlikely.

No-one has owned up to the damage of the street light opposite the Binswood End junction with Farm Street which was said to be caused by an unknown motorist. Replacement will now cost the Parish (us) £3200.

A bus shelter in Binswood End would need planning permission and the cost had not been determined.

Properties

The Youth Shelter Consultation found little approval for the project with few children making comments. It became apparent that SDC has ruled that the

funding could not be used for this purpose. It might be reconsidered on a future occasion. In the meantime, Councillors agreed to resurface under the zipwire and the table tennis table.

Cllr Thompson reported that residents had supported the idea of providing CCTV at the playing fields car park and around the Village Hall. Cllr Rutherford said the CCTV scheme would need grant aid possibly from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

There was long discussion about repairing the damage done to the playing fields by the Bonfire, although the Councillors accepted the weather was largely to blame. As the bonfire was an important village event, particularly for GASS, the Chairman recommended the Council put up with this rather than ban the Bonfire as it was the first time in four years the site had been damaged. He had met Murphy's Engineers about the persistent flooding at the top of the park. Possible solutions are French drains or a huge soakaway.

A solution to the problem with emptying the dog waste bin has been resolved. At present it is too far from Ridgley Way to be carried when full, so it is to be re-located on the other side of the bonfire site. The fallen road sign for Penelope Close is to be replaced. There has been no response from the contractor responsible for repairs to the Chapel.

Other Matters

Various Budget, Internal Audit Reports, grounds maintenance and website upgrades were considered and approved.

Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:

Tim Lockley (Chairman), Keith Thompson (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Julie Balch, Steve Ekins, Chris Gibb, Alan Knowles, Tony Mancell, Andrew Rutherford, Janet Thornley



Harbury Society

Sue Turner

Our March meeting, which would have been the Society AGM followed by Gordon Robbins speaking on The Honey Bee and Beekeeping, was cancelled following Government advice. We will look to re-schedule this meeting later in the year. However we thought you might be interested to read the annual report our Chairman, John Hancock, would have given which illustrates how active the Harbury Society is.

"My first task is to say thank you, on your behalf, to the committee for their work both on examining and commenting upon planning matters and organising meetings such as the one we will be having this evening. Committee meetings have been good humoured and without rancour even when there have been disagreements.

Many of you will be aware that the Society's first Chairman, David Winter died earlier this year. David, together with Linda and other like-minded villagers formed Harbury Society when the possibility that the Manor House might be

demolished to build more houses, was mooted. David was pleased to see the Society still thriving and as relevant to the life of the village as it was all those years ago.

Our meetings, I hope you will agree, have been varied. We had the light hearted when our old friend Mr Howe came to last year's AGM and talked in his inimitable style about old age, memory loss and instability. This was followed by an educational talk by Roger Cragg on Marc Brunel, the son of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. He was knighted and received the Telford medal for his success as an engineer.

In May a group of members went for a walk through Knowle organised by Linda and conducted by the Knowle Society. It was followed by a sumptuous tea. Our plan to have 'Roll a Penny' at the Carnival was cancelled due to the weather.

Thanks to Sue for organising a tour of the Guild Chapel, Stratford in September.

In October Linda Doyle told us a lot about The Civil War in Warwickshire. Our party at the turn of the year was on 18th January at the Tom Hauley Room.

Sean Neil gave us a most interesting illustrated talk about Canal Architecture and the Horse on 18th February.

Thanks to David and Sue Turner for advertising our meetings so successfully; witness the audience numbers we have been getting. Also thank you Margaret and other helpers who have served refreshments before our meetings - much appreciated.

This will be my last meeting as Chairman so thank you to all members of the Society for your support.

Please continue supporting the new Chairman and Committee in the years ahead.

Now, with Coronavirus spreading throughout the country we will be heeding government advice if they ask us to discontinue meetings".

As with other clubs and societies in Harbury, our programme of talks and outings have been postponed for the foreseeable future. The committee would like to take this opportunity to send their very best wishes to members in the hope everyone gets through this crisis safely.



Harbury Women's Institute

Mary Thompson

At our meeting in March, we welcomed Bill Timson, chair of the Heritage Group, and presented him with a cheque for £580 to purchase blinds for the new Heritage room. This money was funded from our community fund which uses profit from the rural cinema.



Our speaker was Sally Daniels from Henley Chocolates. She outlined the history of chocolate over the years. Cadburys started as grocers and then went into the chocolate business - they were the first to add milk to chocolate.

Sally started her working life as a solicitor and then went into garden design. She has always had an interest in food and started working with chocolate at home. She makes chocolate using random vegetables and other flavours purchased from local suppliers. Sally now employs 16 staff and has a shop at the Yew Tree Farm Craft Centre at Wootton Wawen. We were given the opportunity to taste and purchase some of her chocolates.

Problems created by Coronavirus also came up at the meeting. The Warwickshire Federation AGM at the Dallas Burston Polo ground has been postponed and we now know that all events arranged by the federation have been cancelled at least until the end of May. The National Federation AGM due to be held at the Albert Hall in June has also been cancelled.

We have made the decision to cancel the rural cinema on 28th March. Our treasurer, Gill Thorpe has been working hard to refund money for tickets purchased. She still has some to refund - if you haven't received yours please contact her on 613801. Thank you for your support for the cinema over the winter and we are very grateful to staff at the chemist for selling tickets. Hopefully we will be able to run the next cinema on 19th September.

Our meeting on 9th April has also been cancelled - we shall rebook Penny Vigers to talk about Willow Weaving for our 2021 programme.

A difficult time for everyone - I'm sure our members will be keeping in touch by telephone, e-mail and social media.



Folk Club

Janny Freeman

When I arrived at the Folk Club on Thursday 6th March, Pete and Liz were already busy as they expected many visitors. They reduced the 'stage' by 50% so that more chairs could be added - good job they did. Doug should have been the MC but wasn't feeling well. Fortunately, Steve and Maureen kindly came to my rescue.

Foremost, I'd like to give many thanks to: Pete and Liz for sorting out the stage and chairs ready to receive the audience; Steve and Maureen for doing a great job taking over as MCs; the performers (16 acts, from soloists to a group of Pete's with guitars, piano and a beautiful flute) and a wonderfully enthusiastic audience.

The highlight of the evening I think, must be Phil and Jem who performed two Cosmotheke songs. We were glued to our seats, concentrating on keeping up with so many words to listen to and the speed at which they were delivered. I would also like to mention the wonderful couple Steve and Julie, who came all the way from Derby to entertain us with self-penned songs. They promised to come back.

The best surprise of the evening? Sue picking the winning raffle ticket for Ian's birthday. Thank you everyone for a brilliant evening. The raffle in aid of Harbury Church heating repairs raised £120.

Unfortunately, Harbury Folk Club has closed until further notice, but it will rise again on the first Thursday of the first available month.



Harbury Twinning Association

Tony Thomas

Like every other social activity in the village the Twinning Association has shut down until after we come out of this horrible virus. The Supper and Skittle Evening at the Navigation Inn at Wootton Wawen on the 13th March was the first to be postponed then the French Film Evening on 3rd April, but the biggest postponement was the bi-annual visit to Samois-sur-Seine on the week-end commencing 21st May.

By keeping isolated let us hope that we, and all the villagers of Harbury and Samois-sur-Seine come out of the pandemic unscathed.

Good health and best wishes to all.





Memories of Growing Up and Living in Harbury

In last month's article about Tony Ceney I omitted to check the text with Tony and as a result there were some factual errors, my apologies to Tony and his family for these.

This month's article is about Beryl Sheasby. Beryl was born in Sutton Coldfield in the 1920's the youngest of four children. Her first link to Harbury was through her uncle and auntie. Harry Sheasby, her father's brother, worked on one of the local farms in Harbury.

Beryl was educated in Birmingham and although she qualified to go onto Grammar School the family could not afford all of the costs. Despite this Beryl was successful at school academically but her love of singing, acting and dancing was her real passion; she started at an early age and has appeared in some big productions and with some notable entertainers such as George Formby and Dick Emery. Her stage name was 'Beryl Davies' chosen after the famous Betty Davies.



During the War years Beryl was evacuated to Derbyshire and lived with a family who had two daughters of their own in the village of Marlpool. The evacuees went to

school in the village hall with the local children. Walking there she remembers the smell of fresh bread coming from the local bakery; a mouth-watering temptation during the years of food rationing! Despite transport restrictions her mother would try to visit her every weekend.

Beryl and Maurice married in Birmingham and then moved to Harbury in 1949. They moved a few times within the village and eventually in 1970 they bought a brand new house in Temple End costing £6000. They then moved to Harbury Field's Cottage in Middle Road near the Rugby club, which Maurice enjoyed renovating. They both loved living in this house with its beautiful garden and views across the countryside.

Beryl still lives in Harbury and although, at first, she found it difficult to settle into village life she now loves it and has lived in the village for over 70 years.

Missing the luxuries of city life, one of Beryl's earliest recollections of Harbury was the weekly visit by a lorry calling to empty the container from the outside brick toilet!

Maurice had been a mechanic in the navy and he put his talent to good use running the car repair service of the Fosse Garage. Many might remember him as an insurance agent, making calls around Harbury and the surrounding villages.

Beryl told me that they were proud owners of a 1928 Ford 8, one of the first families to own a car in Harbury. After their wedding in 1949 Maurice used up his stock of petrol coupons to take Beryl on honeymoon to the Lake District. The happy couple went on to have two daughters Lyn and Tina.

As a young women Beryl worked at the post office in Leamington, at one time this was situated near to the Loft Theatre before it relocated to the corner of the Parade and Priory Terrace. During her time at the post office Beryl sat an exam and as a result was promoted and this was a helping factor in initiating equal pay.

In later times Beryl worked for Dave Dick's taxi service, picking up children from outlying areas and driving them to school in Harbury or dropping them off so that they could catch the bus to Southam School. Presumably she did the return journeys too! One of her runs was to Chesterton Church where she would wait for a boy brought from the Thwaites Estate by his mother, was this you?

Beryl's career in song and dance, ballet and musical comedy to be precise, led her to be one of the founder members of the drama group in Harbury which regularly performed plays including *Blithe Spirit*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Fanny by Gaslight*, in the Village Hall, Church and Wight School. The Reverend Mackley, vicar of All Saints and known as Fred to Beryl, was a keen supporter and enjoyed appearing in productions alongside her. She also ran the youth club giving freely of her time and talent.

Despite her failing eyesight Beryl is still very active. She is very grateful to have many lovely friends in the village who help her to get out and about and she has a close family including her two daughters, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Progress of the New Heritage Centre

During the past month further progress has been made in getting the new Harbury Heritage Centre ready for opening, at which point the school will take back the classroom in the main school.

The internal painting has now been completed and we have new carpet tiles, kindly paid for by Harbury Parish Council and supplied and fitted by Derek Wilson. At the time of writing new roller blinds generously paid for by Harbury Women's Institute are due to be installed by Leamington Blinds. In addition, Harbury Society have also been most kind in donating £500 which we will use to buy a projector and screen to aid talks. The money donated by you, the Harbury public now exceeds £1300; this will be used to provide other essentials needed to make the Centre a comfortable and welcoming place to visit. This is an amazing community effort and we can't thank you enough.

The focus in March has been to start on the exterior of the building, carrying out repairs and decorating it. The old shed was sold and the picket fencing taken down as the posts were rotten. We await 'Murphy's' who are going to carry out some landscaping for us at the Park Lane side of the building, when the ground dries out.

On Saturday 21st March a group of willing volunteers spent the morning moving the Heritage Collection from the main school building to its new home.



Our photos show: Left: Keith and Mary Thompson. Far right: Alan Barr, Cos Christou and Bill Timson.

Photo right: Everything is in, it just needs sorting!! Thanks everyone a good morning's work!



We await news of when we can re-open to the public; in the meantime we can quietly get on with organising the room.

Please note that the Quiz organised for Saturday 18th April at the Village Club has had to be postponed.



Virtual Harbury - A competition for the kids!

If you are taking your daily exercise around the village during 'lock-down', try following these directions and tell me where you end up.

Turn right out of the Co-op.

Walk west and go past a public house and down a hill.

Go past a health centre on your right: walk on a little further and then cross over and turn left.

Continue along this street (South), to the road junction at the end.

Turn left, walk along past a big house set behind gates and on the same side of the road past a grass field behind a wire fence.

Walk on a little further and you come to a bend in the road with a turning to the left.

What is the name of the narrow road in front of you at this point?

(You could also use the cover of the Harbury and Ladbroke News to help you).

There will be a prize for the first correct answer drawn out of the hat and is open to anyone 11 and under. Make sure you include your name, age and a contact email / number. An adult must verify your entry.

Entries to harburyheritage@gmail.com no later than 30th April.



Harbury Energy Initiative

Bob Sherman

☎612277 ✉info@harburyenergy.co.uk

I imagine that you could do with some good news.

Last month I ended by saying that I hoped to have more exciting news next time. How exciting do you need it? A pandemic, panic induced grocery shortages, lock down, the end of normal working for everyone. It isn't my news but it's certainly dramatic. The relevance of that to HEI is that almost everything we were working on has ground to a temporary halt.

But not without trying. Just as a good idea comes along, however, the government guidance changes and closes off more options. This absolutely has to happen and I make no complaint. I have time now to plan and dream with no chance of immediate success but equally no possibility of failure.

Meanwhile my garden is getting a great deal of attention. I am waiting with hoe poised for the first weed to dare show itself.

Alison Hodge is working out how much carbon (roughly) HEI has saved from its projects in the village since 2010. Good luck with that, Alison. I don't do numbers myself. They go hazy in front of my eyes.

We are progressing with the electric car charging from renewables project, which we call Harbury Future Energy. This is actually a Harbury e-Wheels project, as the charity is intended to be a beneficiary of any income and it was Harbury e-Wheels, as a registered charity, that applied successfully for the grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF). As of last week we finally got started. The feasibility study by Greenwatt Technology consultants has begun and will be delivered in the height of summer. If the results look good we have the opportunity for a second grant from RCEF to develop a sound business plan. Our MP and our local Councils including the Parish Council are all supportive.

We will need your views on our plans. The ideas that we had been considering to help us garner your opinions have all rather evaporated, as Covid-19 has tucked us all firmly into our homes with no fraternising. We will therefore have to draw out the discussion online and through surveys. Please look out for our communications on this and join in with responses. I am not going to say too much about it now, except that the project is intended to belong to the village and serve the village and make us readier for the rest of the 21st Century than most other villages. That's quite good news, isn't it?

The other good news is that the carbon emissions globally should have dropped significantly. How can we capitalise on this in the long term? Will everything just revert to the old destructive way? Something to think about while we have time.



Harbury e-Wheels

Bob Sherman

✉ harburyewheels@gmail.com  www.harburyenergy.co.uk

You may already have guessed that all Harbury e-Wheels fund raising ideas are on hold. There will be no Open Garden Weekend in July. The later planned events may yet happen. The Open Garden idea is such a good one that it will happen sometime but it may have to be next year. All this means that keeping e-Wheels in funds has become a lot harder. We will use less electricity but our main costs barely change whether we use the cars or not.

We hope to continue to support the Food Banks by collecting your donations and delivering them to St Peter's Church, Kineton. We have a few drivers not locked down and locked out by age. I hope that you will still be able to drop off desperately needed food donations during this time. We have a new regime for this:

Please bring any donations to the Wight School (library) car park on Mondays between 11.30am and 12.30pm, not before and not after. One of the e-Wheels drivers will be there to receive. Please observe all the usual safety advice and distancing.

All other services we provided are now suspended. But the you knew that. We'll be back so do keep supporting us.



Guides and Scouts Support

Laura Harris
G.A.S.S. Committee

It seems like almost a lifetime ago that we ran our coffee morning at the Tom Hauley rooms but we are very pleased that we were able to host one of the last ones of the month, raising a valuable £200 towards our funds. Many thanks to all the cake bakers and stall holders as well as everyone who attended and supported us.



We now find ourselves in very different times and putting our energy in to a much wider national effort. As a team of experienced volunteers, we have lots of valuable skills and systems in place which we intend to use to offer help to the community and do as much as we can to support everyone who has so kindly supported us over the years.

We have already delivered over 1000 leaflets for the Parish Council in the local area using our Christmas post network and would like to thank all the scouts and adult volunteers who got this job done so

quickly. The response for volunteer help has been brilliant and we are confident that the vulnerable people in Harbury will be well looked after.

All our group activities have paused for the time being but the Scouting association are providing advice and ideas for how our young people can continue to learn and grow their skills. Make sure to follow their page on Facebook and we shall forward any interesting ideas via our page too @GASSharbury.

Fundraising for now, is also on hold but we look forward to brighter and happier days planning a fantastic Beer Festival and bonfire party in the autumn.





Paul Quinney

I hope you are all safe and coping with what has become quite a surreal experience, which will bring many challenges, with, no doubt, some hardship and lows along the way. However what this cannot do is take away people's spirit and determination to get through this which will be much easier together.

As you can appreciate, Scouting and Guiding activities in Harbury are suspended until further notice. For our young people in a key stage of their overall personal development, they have been dealt a heavy blow but they are also the ones with incredible energy and potential that will be key in shaping the new world we will find ourselves in as we come through this.

May I thank all leaders and helpers for the valuable volunteering commitment they have given to Scouting and Guiding in Harbury and wish them well whilst we take a pause to support our family and wider commitments at this difficult time.

For those young people who want to channel their energy and potential into a scout based activity through this period, The Scout Association have published a guide called '**The Great Indoors**' <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/> an online collection of more than a hundred activities aimed at helping children to develop new life skills while in self-isolation at home. Suggested activities include:

- learning how to use a digital camera
- creating a storm in a teacup
- making a raft out of twigs...

Celebrity Scout ambassadors will demonstrate all the activities in Facebook Live 'how to' sessions over the coming weeks.

Young people may want to look at their Personal Challenge badges and hobbies and, as we work through this, they may find they are learning a new skill e.g. cooking.

I look forward to welcoming people back to continue the adventure in the future. In the meantime ...

Be prepared, be safe, be strong, be creative, be supportive, believe we can realise positive outcomes from this.

Paul Quinney
Group Scout Leader (GSL)
1st Harbury
E: HarburyGSL@hotmail.co.uk
M: 07970 058272



Harbury Toddler Group

Lynne Barton

In line with the closure of schools the Toddler Group's last session was held on 16th March 2020.

It was a sad situation but we kept going as long as we could within the Government advice which we all are aware, understandably, changes very frequently.

I take the opportunity to also share with you that Entrust Care Partnership, the not for profit organisation based in the village working with disabled children, young people and families, has paused all of its service provision except for some support to a few young people whose needs are most critical. Entrust provides volunteers to run the Toddler Group and also contributes towards the funding of guests, activities and running costs.

We have let all planned future visitors to the Group know they have to stand down on a temporary basis.

We are all very committed to the Toddler Group and will be back as soon as we are able to.

Harbury Local Market



We were delighted to be at our first ever Harbury Market on **Saturday 29th February**. A small team of us served coffee, tea and biscuits and sold lots of raffle tickets. Thank you so much to all the parents who contributed and nominated us in the first instance.

It was a very well organised affair and everyone was very friendly.

We were presented with a cheque for £294.12 which was a staggering and unexpected amount particularly as we all enjoyed the experience. Thank you, Harbury Local Market.

AGM

Following our successful AGM, all the volunteers will remain in post and retain the same responsibilities. We were humbled by the kind comments made on our feedback sheet - thank you and here is a selection:

"Fantastic Group - so pleased to have found it. Staff brilliant and all the Mums so welcoming and friendly. No changes I can think of."



"Wonderful and welcoming group. Great way for my daughter to play and make friends with other children in her year group. Fab way to connect with other Mums in the village".

"Always such a friendly group, 'staff' more family than friends and such effort always put in for the children's enjoyment. You are a credit to yourselves. Thank you!"

"Group is a life saver some weeks! Can get out of the house to a safe environment for children. Love activities, so well planned. Thank you!"

"A fantastic group. Well planned and organised. We love that there is something different on every week, it really keeps the children well engaged. Everyone is so welcoming and friendly and so important for the parents to chat and support each other as well. Thank you for all your hard work."

Keep safe, missing you all very much, best wishes from Lynne, Selina, Reg, Judi and Suzi...we will be back



Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee

Pre-School closure: In response to Government guidance, Pre-School closed its doors on 20th March. As a staff team, we are missing our lovely children and parents/carers terribly. Please know that we are still working behind the scenes and are available for any questions or queries from current or prospective parents, although we may take a little longer to reply than usual.

If you have Pre-School age children or are a current parent, pop along to Harbury Pre-School's public Facebook page where we have posted some suggestions and ideas for home learning and fun activities for any Pre-School age children to do.

Current parents and carers, do keep in touch. We would love to hear what our children have been up to during this period so keep sending us your photos and notes about what the children are doing at home. We will hopefully include a selection of them in the April edition of Harbury News, so watch this space!

A huge thank you! A huge thank you to Julian Collis in the village who, after repairing our guttering and treating the outside woodwork to protect it from the elements, has been busy transforming our Pre-School garden.



He has replaced the rotting roof on the play house, built new planters, cleared out the borders, repaired the bottom of our shed and sorted out our back gate. He has also given everything a very thorough clean. It looks amazing and ready for planting new bulbs and flowers as soon as the children return.

We have been blown away by the transformation and couldn't be more grateful to Julian. A massive thank you from the Committee, staff team, children and the parents of Harbury Pre-School.

Another huge thank you must also go to the Parish Council for their generous donation which has enabled us to replace our role play furniture, which we think must have been from the 1980s if not earlier. The new furniture arrived



literally the week Pre-School closed but we were still eager to open it and set it up. I hope you agree, it looks fantastic and will be well loved by the children.



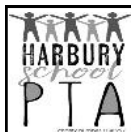
World Book Day: Although a shorter month, the children have had an extremely busy March. We celebrated World Book Day over the whole week. The children dressed up as characters from their favourite books and brought in books to share which we read during circle time or small group. They also had a lot of fun with the puppet theatre and used the stage area to make up their own stories or songs.

Meet Otto the Hedgehog!

Thank you very much to Martha Stanton for bringing in Otto from Harbury Hedgehogs who she is looking after as part of her DoFE. We learned what hedgehogs eat, how to take care of them and what the words, 'nocturnal' and 'hibernation' mean. We stayed very quiet and still and Otto felt suitably safe with us to uncurl from his ball!



If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please e-mail enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk text 07907 598461 or look at the web site www.harburypre-school.org You can also find us on Facebook.



This is a very different newsletter to the one that I drafted and had ready to go.

Firstly, a huge thank you for all of your support for the PTA up until now. A big thank you also needs to be extended to local businesses that have supported us, Nikki at the Salon, The Crown, The Shakespeare, Regent Studios, Iceland Leamington Spa and Cana Wines. Thanks again to everyone who attended our first Rock 'n' Roll Bingo night at the end of February as well - we hope you all enjoyed it.



Fundraising in 2020

Our aim this year was to raise money to create a library area at school, as well as continuing to help fund resources such as iPads to help enrich the children's learning. However, with the current situation with Covid-19, fundraising will mostly have

to stop for now. We were planning several events in the next few months such as an Easter egg hunt and cake sale and a pamper and wellbeing evening, which we have, of course, had to cancel or postpone. We were also just about to start advertising, at popular request, the Community Fun Run for 4th July - but again, it is quite unlikely that this will be able to go ahead. However, the Fun Run will definitely happen again in the future, so please look out for a survey on Facebook and the Harbury School PTA page about how we can improve the design and delivery of the next Fun Run, whenever that may be.



How can you help the PTA going forwards?

There are lots of other ways you can help support our village school, especially at the moment when we are unable to fundraise. Using **Amazon Smile** and nominating Harbury School PTA as your chosen charity, or using **Easy Fundraising** to purchase things and again, nominating Harbury School for donations is a really simple way of helping out, and doesn't cost you anything extra! If you are trying to do this and having any trouble, please email us on harburypta@gmail.com. Join our **School Lottery** if you can - this is drawn monthly and is £2 per month to enter, again, email us and we can arrange this for you.

We are also on the look-out for someone who would be keen to write grant applications for us (this wouldn't need you to attend PTA meetings), so if you have any experience of this then please give us a shout on the email above. Equally, if any school parents would like to get involved (there is always alcohol and cake at meetings, when we are able to have them) or would like to be included on our helpers list, then just let us know. Or, if you just have a

great idea for an event or a contact in a local business that might be interested in donating to a local charity then please get in touch!

However, the most important thing at the moment is to be looking after your families, protecting those in the community who are vulnerable by adhering to social distancing measures and staying safe. If you can, support our local businesses too. We wish you all the very best during this uncertain time, and hope to be able to boost the community when things are safe again by planning lots of things for us all to look forward to.



Village Hall Update

Andy Rutherford

It has to be a really short update this month, with nothing going on in the Hall. Following Government recommendations, the Hall was closed to all groups earlier this week. We are planning to take advantage of the quiet time with a programme of deep cleaning, and generally getting ready for the eventual re-opening.

We have cancelled the Annual General Meeting due in April, and expect to hold this in the Autumn.



Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

Janice Montague

It has been an extraordinary couple of weeks for everyone. At the Library and Biblio's, we followed the initial Government advice and closed down with effect from Wednesday 18th March. We hoped to provide a limited lending service, but disappointingly that has proved impossible under the present restrictions.

Under these difficult conditions, we have of course postponed all our upcoming events and our ongoing language classes. However, two positive things to report: before the lockdown, we were able to enjoy a very interesting and convivial **Evening with Mary Rhodes** when the audience was regaled with stories from Mary's career under gentle interrogation from Peter Walshe. We raised £390 for Mary's chosen charity, Breast Cancer Haven in Solihull, a respite charity that has written to thank us for the donation. The second is that the **Classic Book Club** were able to meet this month in the ether via digital technology, and even managed to enjoy a glass of wine together during their discussion.

We are obviously hoping to be able to re-open again as soon as possible and to welcome back all our regular borrowers and loyal café customers. In the meantime, we send you all our very best wishes and hope that you keep well and safe. In the event that your library books become overdue, do not worry, as all fines are waived for the duration, although if you wish you can renew

them through our website. If you are missing a regular supply of different books, why not visit our website at **harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk**, where, if you go to the **Online Library** page, you can find links to all of Warwickshire's collection of e-books, magazines, audio books and music, and also links to other sources of material. You can also access the catalogue by following this link:

<https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/iguana/www.main.cls?url=eBooks>



Harbury Village Club & Institute

Judy Morraill

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all our members and visitors for all your support during these unprecedented times. We look forward to welcoming you all back when it is safe to do so. Thank you too for answering my plea to come and collect your membership cards from behind the bar.

The number of members who did not renew their subscriptions was 32. We fully understand that personal circumstances change and thank them for their support over the years. At the end of 2019 we had 302 members, taking off the 32 a revised total of 270 but due to new memberships we now have 298 which is brilliant.

After advertising for extra bar help we were contacted by two people who are still wanting to come and work for us when we do reopen and we look forward to welcoming them to our team. Thank you to Lisa for posting it on our Facebook page. We have contacted all who have made bookings for the hire of our concert room and they too will rebook in due course. We are so lucky to have such understanding members. The Easter family bingo will be

rescheduled too but we will just rename it. Any suggestions gratefully received.

John and I will ensure that the pots along the wall will be kept deadheaded and would you believe after all the rain they are now dry and will need watering. Ditto the plants along the entrance to the drive. Steve has finished trimming the hedge just in time for the birds to build their nests. It looks very smart too. We are having the conifers along Crown Street cut back to ground level, after taking advice from a local tree surgeon, once we have planning permission to do so. He will also tidy up the bank, so that too will make a huge difference.

Seems ages ago since our last committee meeting but it was only on 9th March. Before proceedings started the officers and the committee members were re-elected as all were proposed and seconded. We approved nine - yes nine - new members. Since the acceptance letters were delivered four have paid - thank you. One of the nine is Judith the wife of our previous treasurer Andy. They are both still in New Zealand and do not know when they will be able to come home. We are wishing you a safe return. I have submitted an application for funding from Calor Gas who will again be funding sponsorship in the village. If successful we can proceed with redecoration of the premises. We cannot wait for more exciting times and in common with the rest of the village facilities we can come back with a vengeance.

The weather is truly amazing at present and I have picked loads of rhubarb from my allotments, don't panic no more recipes! Nature is wonderful, my magnolia and clematis, Warwickshire lass, have been flowering for over three weeks. The three horse chestnut trees opposite our house are bursting open their buds. Blackbirds are nest building in our garden and so many blue tits, coal tits, robins, wrens and goldfinches putting on a display. At least we can all enjoy the Spring spectacle and it does cheer you up.

Thank you for reading my articles and look forward to meeting you all very soon. There are some fantastic people out there working so hard to keep us all safe. So I will end by unashamedly name dropping (it is allowed!). My good friend Eric Idle wrote a song which is very appropriate... "always look on the bright side of life". Please do and keep safe.



Nature Notes

John Hancock

Although everyone's mind and daily actions are directed at one topic - suppression of the Coronavirus - it's essential, for our mental and physical health, to have other outlets to ponder. The natural world can fill that role. On Monday 16th March we had our last U3A Natural History Group meeting for the foreseeable future. David Brown from Charlecote came to talk about migration in Lepidoptera. David is the County Recorder for moths and his

book 'The Larger Moths of Warwickshire' is a mine of information (published by Atropos in 2006).

We learnt of the lengthy journeys made by certain species. In the case of the Monarch butterfly these can be thousands of miles mainly in North America. Just occasionally, when weather patterns are disrupted, they have arrived in Britain. Many of you will have seen the recent programme about the Painted Lady butterfly which comes here from North Africa, sometimes in large numbers. Camberwell Beauty butterflies arrive here from Scandinavia though numbers are now few. Once, as the name suggests, it was much commoner.

David stressed the need to encourage Lepidoptera by having gardens which are welcoming. Valerian, Buddleia and Honeysuckle provide nectar sources for the impressive Humming Bird Hawk moth which arrives here from Southern Europe and North Africa from mid-June until November. Its larval food plant is Lady's Bedstraw. In autumn it's a good plan not to sweep away fallen apples but leave them to ferment as they attract butterflies such as Red Admiral and Speckled Wood.



Sharon and I saw our first butterfly of the year on Tuesday 17th March as we cycled up into the Thwaites Estate from Gaydon with Itchington Holt to our right. It was flying too quickly for certain identification but was probably a Peacock. A little further on I noticed what I thought at first was a piece of rope on the farm road. On closer inspection it

turned out to be a dead Adder. It was 72.5cms (29") in length and by its coloration, a male. Females have brown rather than black stripes. We surmised it had come out of hibernation and was warming up on the road when it was hit by a vehicle. It was a beautiful creature which is becoming quite rare especially in these parts.

In these difficult times we are lucky to have a garden and it was there we saw our second butterfly, a male Brimstone patrolling a sunny flower bed. That was on Sunday 22nd March. Females are more secretive and are white rather than butter yellow. In flight they can be mistaken for a Large White.



Whilst we are in 'lockdown', email and telephone contact is a lifeline. The U3A Natural History Group are sending each other interesting wildlife sightings they have made. John and Pat Smith told us of the time in Scotland when they saw an osprey carrying a fish in its talons. It was attacked by two Golden Eagles and was forced to drop the fish. However the eagles then flew off and allowed the osprey to descend and feed on its catch.

Some time ago a lady observed an eagle in Warwick. When she got back to her office and told her colleagues they laughed and accused her of having



'one too many'. Next day the newspaper revealed the escape of an eagle from Warwick Castle so it was not such a tall story.

Bumble bees have been very active lately. They have the advantage over other pollinators by possessing a 'fur' coat so they can get to work when the air temperature is low. Sitting outside yesterday afternoon I

was mesmerised by the dancing movements of gnats flickering in the sunlight. The males swarm towards evening. In Scotland the notorious midge renders certain areas of countryside virtually uninhabitable. Here, luckily, we have the non-biting form.

Many churchyards are nature reserves in their own right. It's not just the wild flowers. Sit a while and watch the insects. We need to say a big thank you to those past and present parishioners who have laboured to look after the ecology and appearance of both Harbury and Ladbroke churchyards. I have a copy of Charles Catt's list of plant species to be found in Harbury churchyard. It's a fitting tribute to a dedicated observer.

Now roadside wild flower displays are getting into full throttle. Primrose, Cowslip, Coltsfoot and Violet were a joy to behold as I cycled homeward the other day over Bromson Hill. The south side, sheltered from the cold, nagging, northerly breeze is particularly favoured and there I saw patches of White Violets to lift the spirits. A message, perhaps, telling us to keep cheerful and look after one another.



Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery

Christine Dakin

When HS2 was announced some years ago it was clear that the route would be going right through Greenleaf Nursery. How they were able to maintain their spirits and strong work ethic during that time is beyond me. The devastating news that it is going ahead means that Pete Healey and family have to be out at the end of March without knowing what compensation they will get and are moving away. This is very unfortunate for gardeners in this area. And for me too because I used to send many people his way, those who wanted vegetable plants or summer/winter bedding plants. I'm really not sure where you will be able to get those



things which he was so good at growing. I wish them all the best for the future.

Jobs.....Trim back lavender.....sow hardy annuals in trays or straight into the ground.....plant lily bulbs.....cut back winter flowering shrubby honeysuckle.....keep an eye out for bramble seedlings which often 'hide' in the middle of established shrubs and remove.....plant potatoes in the ground or in large pots.....sow cabbages, cauliflower, broccoli also radish and peas, carrots and spinach.....take cuttings of over-wintered pelargoniums and dahlias. And don't forget to do the weeding.

Update on tunnels...all undamaged by the gale force winds, weren't we lucky?

Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton
www.bridge-nursery.co.uk



General Section

Volunteer Network - COVID-19

Harbury Parish Council has set up a volunteer network to help those who might need assistance during the epidemic of COVID-19. This is obviously a very worrying time for many, but we have a large group of volunteers (over 150) who will be looking out for our most vulnerable residents. A form should have been delivered to all households and can be returned either to the Post Office or via email to chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk. Those who have already said they might need help should have been contacted by a volunteer by now. Volunteers can help with shopping and prescriptions etc and should be the first point of contact. The volunteers have been split into zones for different parts of the village and are being led by dedicated zone co-ordinators. The parish council is extremely grateful for everyone's support, especially the co-ordinators.

Let's hope that the epidemic will be over soon and that the village can gradually get back to normal.

Tim Lockley
Chairman, Harbury Parish Council

Carnival Postponed



It is with some regret that we announce the Harbury Carnival scheduled for 13th June is postponed.

It may be that we can rearrange for later in the year or we have to move to 2021. The current and potential coronavirus restrictions are still evolving and it is not certain when it might be appropriate to run the Carnival. So it seems sensible to put plans on hold for now.

The Carnival is an important fundraiser for local organisations and charities so this decision is not taken lightly. Please see Facebook and future editions of the Harbury & Ladbroke News for any update.

In the meantime, stay safe.

The Carnival Committee



Open Gardens Postponed until 2021

It will probably be no surprise that we have decided to postpone the Open Gardens event in support of e-Wheels until next year.

It would probably not be very popular or responsible to invite the world to traipse around Harbury's gardens this July.

Although this affects fund raising for e-Wheels (and we still continue to make non-people deliveries, medicines, shopping and the food bank etc) we would rather support efforts not to overwhelm the NHS and spread the virus.

With luck next year will be a blooming marvel!

Peter Walshe, e-Wheels Trustee

Harbury Senior Citizens Committee Update

It seems like a long time ago now, but we would like to thank you for your support at a very successful Tom Hauley Room coffee morning on 8th February. In the last Harbury & Ladbroke News update, we mentioned that we had not decided where we were going for our summer outing. However, COVID-19 and the Government have made the decision for us and it is very unlikely that we will be going anywhere this summer. Therefore, we are postponing the summer outing indefinitely.

We are of course looking forward to the Christmas Party.

Meanwhile, the committee wish you all the best during this very uncertain time.

Mike McBride

On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association

Harbury Seed Share



Harbury Seed Share is a project which has been set up to help our community "Grow your own!" The Group will coordinate: seed donations; seed requests and seedling swaps.

The project is a collaboration between Earthworms, the Harbury School Gardening Club, and Harbury Village Library.

We are supported by Harbury Parish Council and form part of their efforts to help our community during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Although we're starting with seed and seedling swaps, eventually we hope to co-ordinate selling plants and produce via local markets.

The initiative is open to everyone in Harbury Parish whether they're 1 or 100.

PLEASE NOTE: At this time of uncertainty it isn't possible to predict when the different parts of the project will be rolled out. The best way to keep informed is by following our Facebook page www.fb.me/harburyseedshare

How does the scheme work?

We are setting up a store of seeds which will be documented in an online register. We already have seeds available, and are welcoming additional donations.



You can browse the online seed register on our webpage and then fill in the online request form to let us know which types of seeds you'd like. Fill in your name, address and phone number and we will arrange for the seeds to be delivered to you. People without internet access can arrange to have a request posted through the library letter box.

The Benefits of Gardening

We know that being outside and growing things benefits both physical and mental health and wellbeing. The process of growing something from seed, be it flower or food, is relaxing and rewarding. It's a good way of giving us something nice to do in these anxious times. The benefits of growing our own include:



- Home grown food is bursting with freshness, flavour and nutrients.
- We are all a bit more mindful at the moment of where our food comes from. When we grow our own food, herbs and flowers we turn food miles into food metres.
- Sowing and growing is a great activity for anyone. It's a fun activity to do with children, and a great way to get them to try new foods.

- Bees and other pollinators play a vital role in the food we eat. Growing flowers with the nectar and pollen they need is something we can all do to support wildlife.

If you are growing with your children it will:

- Encourage your family to eat more of the “Good Stuff”.
- Provide a great family activity and a nice way to spend time together.
- Increase your child’s awareness of where food comes from.

We can be contacted by e-mail at SeedShare@HarburyVillageLibrary.org.uk

Please help us to increase awareness of the Group by sharing this information.

Cllr Julie Balch, Wendy Crowder, Richard Fowler

The Crown and Shakespeare Inns - Working Together for the Village



The Crown Inn and the Shakespeare Inn are offering a food and drink delivery service in the village during these difficult times.

The Crown Inn - delivery times and contact details

Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday - 1pm until 7pm

Sunday - 2.30pm until 7pm

Tel: 01926 614995

Menus can be seen on facebook.com/CrownHarbury/

The Shakespeare Inn - delivery times and contact details

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 5pm until 8pm

Saturday 4pm until 9pm

Sunday 12 until 3pm

Tel: 01926 614123

Menus can be seen on facebook.com/TheShakespeareInnHarbury/

Card payments by telephone only.

**John Mortimer
The Crown Inn**



Wednesday Walks

The group has enjoyed a good start to the year, watching the season unfold with snowdrops, then daffodils and now trees bursting with new growth. It is encouraging to see how the natural world is carrying on as normal!

We have avoided much of the mud by a few changes in our publicised programme, and, surprisingly for such a wet year, have had consistently good Wednesday weather.

Now, of course, things have changed. Walks have been suspended until the current situation returns to normal. We look forward to getting back to our Wednesday walks later in the year.

Gillian Hare

Scammers take advantage of COVID-19

Warwickshire County Council is warning residents that fraudsters are taking advantage of the coronavirus (covid-19) pandemic to scam vulnerable people.

Since February 2020, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified 21 reports of fraud where the virus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800K. Ten of these reports were made by victims that attempted to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers.

Some of the scam tactics have included:

Sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails in an attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial details.



Impersonating the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Fraudsters claim to be able to provide the recipient with a list of coronavirus infected people in their area. In order to access this information, the victim needs to click on a link, which leads to a malicious website, or is asked to make a payment in Bitcoin.

Selling unapproved and falsely branded products, (for example teas and essential oils), claiming they can treat or prevent the Coronavirus. There are currently no approved vaccines or drugs available to prevent or treat the disease.

Creating malicious web pages with coronavirus based domain names. These encourage Internet users to visit them, putting their computers at risk of viruses. Some are attempting to mimic genuine sources of information.

Cold calling residents offering 'safe' investments following falling share prices.

Taking advantage of vulnerable older people who are attempting to self-isolate. This may include offering to fetch shopping or carry out all household chores in return for cash or for divulging bank details.

Warwickshire County Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety reports: *"At this difficult time, look out for your vulnerable friends and family members. Keep in contact with them and abreast of all the latest information and advice about scams and health issues generally and most importantly help ensure they are safe and comfortable."*

Advice to residents:

Watch out for scam messages: Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and phone calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

Shopping online: If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases. For more information on how to shop online safely, please visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely>

Protect your devices from the latest threats: Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats. For information on how to update your devices, please visit: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/securing-your-devices>

Keep up with all the latest help, advice and information at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Simon Cripwell
Trading Standards Officer



Southam's French Street Market

Needless to say, that the Street Market due to be held on 5th April has had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 travel restrictions in France and our own guidelines. We have pencilled in a new date of Sunday 1st November so please make a note in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you then.

Pam McConnell
Southam First



LOCAL FOODBANK - there is a facility in the village to donate any non perishable food to your local Foodbank, which supplies the area around when need arises, including Harbury. For the time being please bring any donations to the Wight School (library) car park on Mondays between 11.30am and 12.30pm, during these times only. One of the e-Wheels drivers will be there to receive. Please observe all the usual safety advice and distancing. Thank you.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

On behalf of the Heritage Group, I am writing again to thank the community for their generous response to our appeal. The Parish Council gave us a grant of £990 which paid for us to have carpet tiles fitted on 17th March. The WI used their Community Fund to give us a grant of £580 to pay for blinds which should be fitted at the end of March. Harbury Society have given us £500 to pay for a new projector and screen. Harbury Friends have donated £25 and we have had individual donations of £1,310. Thank you so much - we shall look forward to welcoming you into our new room in the future.

Mary Thompson
(Treasurer, Harbury Heritage Group)

CONGRATULATIONS, THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you would like to include:



- A Birthday message
- Congratulations to anyone for their achievement
- Wedding or special occasion wishes
- Thanks to someone



We will be more than happy to include it in the magazine.

There is no charge for this service, just email your message to articles@hlnews.co.uk or drop it into Harbury Pharmacy by the advertised deadline date.

May Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

Adverts to: 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to advertising@hlnews.co.uk by 20th April

Articles to: Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Thursday 23rd April