

Harbury & Ladbroke News

Is published monthly and reflects all aspects of local life.

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



Editorial



Following a period of very cold temperatures with biting winds, the weather seems to be starting to settle down. It was lovely today to see the sunshine and spring flowers which have come through in Vicarage Lane. If the fine weather is making you think about getting out in the garden, do remember that Stratford District Council will be introducing a £40 charge per bin for collecting your garden waste from 1st April, more details are on page 38.

We were very sorry to learn the sad news that Pearl Trice of Chesterton House Farm, Mill Street, has passed away. Although she had not been out for some time, she had for many years been spotted travelling round the village in the Land Rover, often with daughter Louise. Usually she had a farm dog sat next to her, and would be keeping a watchful eye on the farm land and cattle.

If you missed out on joining the live presentation on Zoom about the Ladbroke Church repairs. You can still watch the recording on YouTube for the next month. The link is in the Ladbroke Heritage article, or you can borrow a DVD.

Our Treasurer recently pointed out that in the October 1992 Harbury & Ladbroke News the magazine's annual subscription was to be increased to £3.60. Nearly thirty years later the subscription due next month for the forthcoming year will still only be £6 which it has been for the last eight years. We hope that you would agree that the magazine is good value for money. Over the years the articles and advertising pages have steadily increased. All of this of course has been made easier with the introduction of the internet for sending in contributions.

With this edition you should find an insert detailing three ways of how you can make your payment. We do hope that you feel that the Harbury & Ladbroke News is a valuable contribution to village life and we look forward to your continued support.

This month according to the Governments roadmap out of lockdown, we should see schools return on 8th March ending the stressful and challenging routine of home schooling for parents. At the end of the month a little more outdoor social contact will be allowed too. However, closed businesses will not be able to open until April and further lifting of restrictions will not happen

until May and June. No doubt everyone will be looking forward to the relaxing of the Covid restrictions, they will be very welcome indeed.

Finally, we extend our condolences to the families of Audrey Atkins, Julie Ellis, Ann Gillam and Pearl Trice.


Harbury Diary



**Most activities normally shown are suspended at present.
Please check village websites and noticeboards for updates.**



Refuse Collection Rota

	Deppers Bridge	Harbury, Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge outlying properties	Collection Week
March	Wed	Fri	
	10	12	Grey Bin
	17	19	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	24	26	Grey Bin
	31		Green & Blue Lid Bins
April		2	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	7	9	Grey Bin
	14	16	Green & Blue Lid Bins

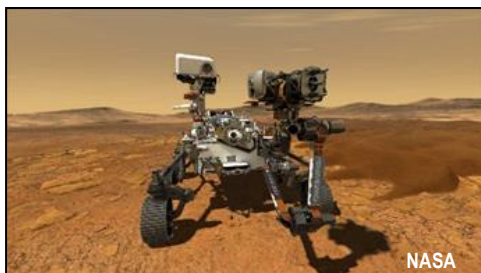


**ALL SAINTS
HARBURY**

From the Rector

Rev Andy Batchelor

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎ 01926 714295 ✉ rev.andyb@gmail.com



One of my interests in life, along with motorcycles and science fiction, is astronomy and space exploration, so I was glued to the TV during the recent live broadcast of the perseverance rover landing on the surface of Mars. It's amazing how much we are discovering about the Universe around us, even if, as yet,

we don't have the technology to actually go very far in person! Another recent discovery was a system of eight planets circling the star Tau Ceti, one of our closest galactic neighbours.

In these days of worry and uncertainty, perhaps sometimes we need to look beyond our often narrow perspective to recognise that we live in a Universe filled with majesty and wonder. The Bible speaks of how this intricate beauty points to the creativity and power of a creator God who scattered the stars across the night sky.

So why does that matter to we tiny beings on an insignificant planet circling an unremarkable star? God could have planted humanity on the Earth, a planet exquisitely designed for life, and left us to it - moving on to design another dimension. But he didn't, because amazingly, every human being has a special place in his heart. Each of us matters more to God than a whole galaxy of stars.

If we needed proof of God's love for us then Easter provides it. At Easter we remember how the God whose word set the Universe in motion, walked with men and women as one of us, shared the joys and sorrows of our human experience. A man who was betrayed, set up, and finally executed by those who rejected his message of God's love for all and his vision of a different way of life, where everyone is valued.

What sets Jesus apart though is what happened next - his resurrection demonstrates he is who he claimed to be, the Son of God. We know that everything comes to an end, even stars and galaxies will one day die. But the resurrection demonstrates that God has more in store for his children, the good news of eternal life that is just as wonderful as any celestial marvel.



From the Churchwardens

Liz & Michael

We have met together via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube throughout February for our Sunday services, morning weekday prayers and Ash Wednesday reflection. We will continue with online services but we will be considering having services in person as soon as possible. For Harbury this is likely to be in the Village Hall but transferring to church when it warms up a little. Please look out for information in the pewsheets and on the village noticeboards.

The churchyard is springing into action with primroses and daffodils providing much needed colour. Thank you to those who continue to maintain and tidy the churchyard. And thank you to Heather for her display of hearts in the lychgate for Valentine's Day.

The church building remains open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11am to 4pm - this may change as restrictions are lifted and we can open more often. Again, any changes will be announced in the pewsheets and on the village notice boards.

There will be an Easter trail from Palm Sunday so look out for this - further information, and how to join in, is given by Ann Clucas elsewhere in this magazine.

Following the Zoom and Facebook live presentation on 23rd February updating progress on the Church Heat Light and Stone project, we have the circa 30 powerpoint presentation slides available that provide a comprehensive update. If you would like to see them, or if you have any related questions or suggestions, please e-mail us - warden@allsaintsharbury.org - and we would be pleased to send the slides to you and to answer any questions you may have. There is also a short summary update on the project later in this magazine.

Finally, as always, if you have any questions or queries relating to church life, please do get in touch with either of us.

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

From the Registers

Funeral:

29th January

Ann Gillam (74 years)



Slow progress with Heat, Light and Stone

Those of us who contributed to the hugely successful Heat Light and Stone appeal are wondering when the work will start. It will not surprise anyone to find that Covid-19 has not helped the situation; but there have been other delays. Harbury church's own governing body - the Parochial Church Council - passed the project with enthusiasm. Now (February) we are waiting on Stratford District Council and the Diocese of Coventry. No work can take place at the church without their permission.

Only then can we approach the funding bodies that could match our contributions with a grant. Frustratingly, they have to see the money in the bank. This means that we cannot go ahead using our cash until we have a grant, or grants. Fortunately, we have experienced people - Philip Mayer and Bob Sherman among them - who have achieved significant grant aid for other projects, including the present work at the village hall. It took twelve months to secure the funding for the village hall project. This means that we are unlikely to see the church works started until this time next year, with a completion date of Summer, 2022. Vital repairs to the stone window frames - some of them only held together by the glass - and repointing of the church tower brickwork will be a priority.

When the work is over, however, we shall have installed the very latest in heating and lighting systems, with one or two hydrogen-ready boilers in the church, and possibly another in the Tom Hauley Room. Removing the radiator in the THR lobby will make it possible to fit doors opening on to the Memorial Garden, with wheelchair access. We shall keep you in the picture!

Meantime, I've an unusual contribution to our series from village people on 'What Harbury Church Means to Me'. This fine and moving poem is a touching response to our cold and empty church. May it soon be filled with warmth and love again. The poet has asked to remain anonymous.

I welcome further contributions from anyone. They act as a reminder of the importance of our church to our community. I may have to edit longer pieces. Send your thoughts for publication to john23stringer@gmail.com. Thank you.

John Stringer
All Saints Harbury Parochial Church Council

Just brick and stone and tile?

*I sit in the sad silence.
In the chill of emptiness
Of cold brick, stone and tile.
The hard wood of pew
Seeping the chill,
resisting human warmth.*

*Walls, no longer echoing
voices of praise,
of joy,
of ancient song and
new inspired harmony;
of words of prayer
and prophesy and promise;
of history and enduring hope.*

*I sit, recalling love....
Taught within these walls
Learnt within these walls
Practised within these walls,
Shared within these walls
Begun here, but not ended here.*

*I sit, recalling love....
Of genuine welcome
To a new villager.*

*I sit, recalling love....
Of a new little one
handed to God for blessing,
and now part of the wider family.*

*I sit, recalling love....
Of life-long promises made
Before God, with looks of
Adoration and happiness.*

*I sit, recalling love....
In grief of loss of one
who loved
and was loved;
Handed back to God
For eternal safe keeping.*

*I sit, recalling joy....
of Candlelight Christmas Carolling,
of sublime playing on organ,
of voices raised in the sheer joy
of making music together,*

*of sharing belief.
of shared laughter at pulpit jokes!;
of Easter bonnets after the
grey of winter fades away to
sunlight, piercing through windows;
of children's voices
and freedom-running
round aisle and pew!*

*I sit, recalling artistry
of flowers arranged;
of craft and skill
in glass, paint and thread -
hands turned to honour
The Creator and Redeemer
of this precious home we
have been given.*

*I sit, the silence
saddening my heart,
As flowers and fabrics fade
As stone and brick decay for
Lack of care,
As lighting and heating no longer
Give comfort.*

*But.....
I also sit, recalling peace
of assurance;
of knowing I am known and loved.
With time apart from life's constant
hum and buzz,
to talk to the One who always
Listens.*

No – not just stone and brick and tile.

January 2021



Mothers' Union

Gillian Hare

The committee have had a “virtual” meeting; not much to discuss really. But our treasurer Jo pointed out that we still have the proceeds from our coffee morning, a year ago. So, we agreed to send £200 to the M U mothering Sunday appeal, for them to allocate where it is most needed.

There will be a diocesan service on Zoom for Lady Day; 25th March at 11am. Chris will send out the link for all of you who can access it.

We shall miss giving out the daffodils on Mothering Sunday, but hope you will all be able to follow a service in some format, as we give thanks not only for mothering in our own lives, but for the part that “Mother Church” has played in our faith walk through the years.



Easter Trail

Have a walk round a village Easter Trail in either Ladbroke or Harbury. There will be displays round the both villages showing the story of Easter from Palm Sunday (28th March) through to Easter Day (4th April). Children can collect a jigsaw piece from each of the displays and bring the completed jigsaw to Church in Ladbroke or Harbury on Easter Sunday and during the week after to collect an Easter egg. You could visit a display each day and discover more about the story, or if you prefer you could do the whole thing in one day.

Maps showing where the displays are situated and more information will be available from the church porches in both villages from Sunday 21st March.

You are very welcome to join in the fun by creating your own window art or Easter garden.

Ann Clucas



Ladbroke News & Diary

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

Due to lockdown there are no live events in the village. For up to date details of on-line church services and when the church building is open for private prayer, please refer to ladbrokechurch.org.uk



Ladbroke Church News

Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

During the past month, Church has continued to be virtual, with joint Zoom services with Harbury and Ufton each Sunday, followed by our own Ladbroke chat.

We hope to be back to meeting in person in Church soon, and the hope is that this will be in time for Easter. We shall be reviewing the situation in the next week or so; if you are on the church e-mail list we will be sending you news as soon as possible and we shall also use Ladbroke e-news to let you know when services restart in church.

A reminder that the Church is open for private prayer on Sundays 2.00pm - 4.00pm, and if you would like to be added to our email list please contact ladbrokechurch@gmail.com.



Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge Women's Institute

Dianne Surgey

The Warwickshire Federation of WIs has been organising Zoom presentations for members and I was lucky enough to follow one recently. The topic was the **Do's and Don'ts of Afternoon Tea with "Anna, Baroness of Bedford"**.



For those of you who partake of afternoon tea, you might be interested to know a little of the etiquette involved from the lady who invented it herself, Anna, Baroness of Bedford! I always thought it was Queen Victoria who began this practice but apparently she copied the Baroness. The "Baroness", dressed in her Victorian finery took us through the finer points of exactly how to eat and drink in polite society. Her splendid hat was firmly fixed in place as it was never removed, although coats and gloves might be set aside.

Firstly posture was important, not least because the tight corsets left little choice but to sit very upright.

Apparently this also indicated that we were interested in the conversation, which we are led to believe might include a little gossip from time to time. Next we were instructed in how to use the napkin, folded in two and placed lightly on the lap, fold side in. This was so that when we lifted it the crumbs would fall delicately forwards onto the floor and not onto our afternoon tea gowns. One never wiped one's face but delicately dabbed, always using the same spot if lipstick was transferred.

The cup was always fine bone china (of course!) as it kept the tea hot and always tasted best. The china also withstood the heat of the tea which was poured first before the milk was added to taste. Later pottery cups wouldn't always survive the hot tea so it became usual to pour the milk first. If tea was served at a high table it was acceptable to lift just the cup, but if from a low table, the saucer was lifted with the cup. The first finger and thumb held the handle, the third finger supporting the weight and the little finger...was kept tucked in!

The tea was, of course, loose and the lady of the house would visit the tea merchant to select her favourite blend of afternoon tea. The best silverware was on show to serve with the tea strainer in use. Residue was deposited in the slop bowl but the teapot could be topped up with hot water a few times as loose tea is strong. Tea cosies were not in use as one wanted to show off the silverware. Sugar was never stirred in (much too common!) but delicately 'folded' backwards and forwards, the spoon then placed on the saucer, on the inside edge of the cup.

What little food that the tight corset would allow was served in delicate little morsels. 'Finger' sandwiches were literally the length of the finger so that they could be held between finger and thumb and eaten in 2 or 3 bites. The little sponge cakes filled with jam were named after the Queen and, unlike today's generous slices, were tiny. Scones had a natural crack around the 'waist' so that they could be gently teased apart and one could tear off little morsels to nibble (knives were not used). If used, the cream went on first, topped with the jam. A finger bowl was available to clean the fingers.

Although 4.00pm was the ideal time to serve tea, it could be taken any time between 3.00pm and 7.00pm when one had to return home to dress for dinner at 8.00pm. It was quite normal to move from hostess to hostess so that you visited several ladies in one afternoon but one would never stay for less than half an hour if one wished to be invited again in the future. Up to 30 guests might be invited and on occasion gentlemen might be included, especially if they were young and artistic.

I am off to put my mug (it is actually china as I, too think it tastes better) safely back in the cupboard and hide the teabags as I reach for the bone china teacup and loose tea! Napkin neatly folded I must remember to tear morsels from my tiny scone and always to nibble, nibble, nibble little bites!!





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. If the government's 'road map' from lockdown sticks to schedule we hope to be able to commence village events again by the Summer.

We held the Annual General Meetings for the Ladbroke Village Hall and Millennium Green via Zoom on 1st February, which were well-attended. It was encouraging to hear about the improvements which have been made to the inside and outside of the village hall. These being made possible due a recent grant of £65,000 from the HS2 Community Fund, as I reported last month. Further enhancements to the stage area and internal lighting of the hall are being planned using Village Hall funds.

Concern was expressed at the AGM regarding the increased use of the Millennium Green by non-residents of Ladbroke during the pandemic and of dog fouling. As the green is a public right of way there are no plans to restrict access but the signage at the entrances to the Millennium Green has been reviewed.

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 January 2021

£50	Trevor and Dianne Surgey	£50	Kate Liverton
£25	Miranda Lowman	£25	Tony Watts
£25	Alan Lord	£10	Sheena Healey
£10	Kip Warr	£10	Simon and Jackie West

Margaret Bosworth



Ladbroke General Section



Ladbroke Heritage

Not a lot to report on the church repairs front due to bad weather in early February and then our usual stonemasons working elsewhere. The main change to the building in February was the temporary loss of the decorative arch over the porch door. It has been cut back flush with the wall to get

accurate templates of the back of these stones and as I write they are cutting and carving the replacements at the masons' yard.

We have been amazed at the level of interest in the on-line talk about the repairs which was a 20 minute presentation followed by 10 minutes of Q&A. Around 30 people came to it live on Zoom and a further 110 "unique viewers" have watched the recording. If you are not one of them but want to be the link is <https://youtu.be/duglYpwr1B0> and we'll keep it live for another month; there is even a DVD of it doing the rounds for those without computer access. Let me know on 810331 if you would like to borrow the DVD.

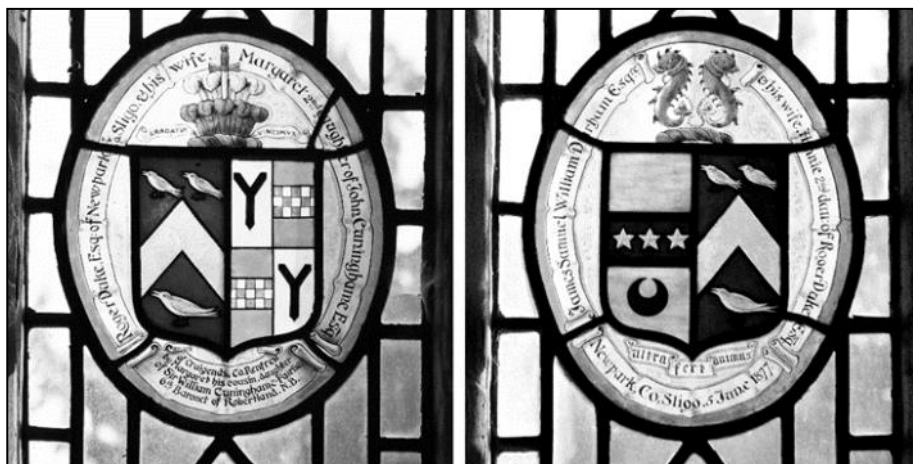
Now there is a Government timetable of how and when (fingers crossed) lockdown will end. This means we can start to resurrect our plans for events and workshops linked with Ladbroke's Heritage as the activities and benefits they will bring to people and communities are just as important as the repairs in the eyes of our major funder, the National Lottery Heritage Fund. So watch this space!

Jackie West

Stained Glass Windows at Ladbroke Church - The Heraldic Window

This is the 9th in our occasional series about the stained glass at Ladbroke Church, yes we do have a lot and hopefully it won't be too many more months before you'll be able to come and see the windows in person.

Unlike the others this window does not have any saints as the subjects nor do we know who made the window but we do know who it commemorates - the family of Rev Durham (he was the father of James Durham whose marriage is celebrated by another window at Ladbroke). The majority of the glass has a Georgian appearance but the window was probably assembled in the early 20th century as Rev Durham was rector of Ladbroke 1900-1915.



The central panel has a bright border around opaque white glass, reflecting the lower sections of the window above. The two outer panels are mainly plain glass with a detailed central oval containing a heraldic shield and family details. The left hand one refers to Roger and Margaret Duke, the parents of the Rector's wife and that on the right to Rev Durham himself and his wife Annie. There is a strong visual link between this window and parts of the one above containing medieval glass. I wonder if Rev Durham and his family paid for the relocation and restoration of the upper window?

Jackie West



Report from the District Councillor for Ladbroke

Covid

Infection rates here (mid February), and more widely in Stratford district, have fallen to levels last seen before Christmas. Stratford District is slightly below average at under 100 per 100,000 population. Although falling, the rates in some surrounding areas are slightly above the average for the country.

As at 12th February 183,328 doses of vaccine have been administered in Coventry and Warwickshire, with:

- 92.6% of over 80s vaccinated
- 98.6% of 75-79 vaccinated
- 81.6% of 70-74 vaccinated

As well as the Southam clinic, a mass vaccination centre is operating at the NAC at Stoneleigh.

HS2

In response to my representations, I have received a number of apologies from HS2 senior management about the road works around Harbury, Deppers and Bascote. Road closure dates have been overrun and the continuing theme is one of putting right defects from previous works. I, and others, have expressed our unhappiness about this disruption for local people and businesses. Unfortunately this has coincided with repetitive flooding problems on the A425 at Shuckburgh. Although many of us are not travelling during lockdown, for those that have been making essential journeys through and around Southam, it may have felt impossible to get anywhere. I am pressing for a long term solution to the Shuckburgh flooding problem.

Elections

The Government has said that County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections will go ahead on 6th May. There is considerable concern about the ability to hold the poll in a safe way while covid infections are at significant level. Some of us thought that a short delay until the summer would allow the virus levels to fall, and July has been spoken of. Stratford Council has found that 15 polling stations are unsafe in terms of social distancing so some electors will have to vote elsewhere. Locally,

Wormleighton residents are to be asked to travel to Fenny Compton or to vote by post. There are other effects too - a ministerial ruling says leaflets can now only be delivered by 'paid for' delivery (which favours candidates with strong financial backing). Many temporary polling staff have said they are unhappy with the risk and will not make themselves available. The government response is to provide an extra £31m across all councils to compensate for difficulties in running the elections during the pandemic, and although they recognise polling staff vulnerability is a key issue they will not prioritise them for vaccination.

District Council Merger

Stratford and Warwick Districts are investigating the prospect of a merger. This is forecast to save £4.5m a year across both councils and the government has signalled a desire for bigger councils. There is already some joint working going on, particularly in planning policy, but a merger is a big step and we need to make sure that local government does not 'move further away' from the residents they serve. The ambition is that that the merger is achieved by 2024. Between then and now there is much exploration of detail to be done, and after all that the government could refuse the merger as proposed by the councils. At the debate at the Council my colleagues were keen to ensure that full public consultation is carried out when more information is available.

Budget

The District Council debated its budget on 22nd February. Local government is expected to face considerable challenges in the next few years although central government has yet to announce how much they will be providing, so financial planning is difficult. The Liberal Democrat opposition proposed an economic development officer to generate funding and also that money should be set aside for local community groups involved with climate change projects. These proposals which would not have increased the level of council tax, were defeated. The level of council tax for all authorities is now known and is as follows:

	Property Band D equivalent	Increase for 2021/22
Stratford District Council	£149.12	3.47%
Warwickshire County Council	£1533.51	3.00%
Police and Crime Commissioner	£252.96	6.30%
Ladbroke Parish Council	£39.50	-0.3%

This means the total council tax for a band D property in Ladbroke is £1975.09 (and £2034.75 in Harbury)

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

February Snow in Ladbroke



Photos by David Wright



Harbury Parish Council

Linda Ridgley
Harbury News Correspondent

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 2021 Meeting Report

By far the most interesting part of this meeting was about the damage at the top of Bush Heath Lane and the other routes that come together at the Five Ways Mound. Your Councillors have tried to find solutions to the erosion of the verges and the Police have “spoken” to some of the visitors who park on the grass, but the situation seems to get worse by the week. It appears it is not illegal to park on the verges.

Cars are now being parked in Bush Heath Road, as well as Bush Heath Lane, and at one stage were parked on both verges, making it difficult for two vehicles to pass each other. Cllr Gibb reported that more than forty cars park in this area and local people have been abused by the motorists. Councillors understand that people are looking for somewhere to walk in the countryside but unlike the locals who get there on foot, these are from further afield and their vehicles are doing serious damage to the verges. It seems as if the

Thwaites Estate has achieved International Status as the go-to place for a country walk.

It also seems off-roaders see the Mound, in particular, as a challenge for their vehicles. So your Councillors are thinking of planting many more trees, both along the verges and on the Mound. Older residents will remember when these lanes were graced by ancient Elms. The Council will seek the help of their Arborist to recommend suitable trees and where they should be planted. They are also looking to plant more trees on the Playing Fields, partly to create shade and to reduce the amount of standing water.

Other Organisations

Cllr Lockley announced that the Library would be open again from 12th April and was pleased that it had been able to provide some service during the lockdown. The Pre-School funding bid for £1,550 for extra cleaning and a new iPad would be available from 1st April from the new budget.

Planning

The Council has revised its views on the Co-op's plans and has made objections to the project on the basis that the noise from the new air-con units might reduce "Neighbourhood Amenity". A neighbour had complained of Car parking, the Co-ops trolleys, and the noise of the air-conditioning unit. She was advised to post her concerns about the application on Stratford's Planning site. The Council had already raised with the District Council, the issue of the new siting of the ATM.

Cllrs had no objections to Plans for sympathetic renovations to the Homestead in Crown Street or to the removal of a Conifer Hedge at 7 Binswood End. They had no concerns about the proposal to fell "fairly small trees" at 4 Vicarage Lane as they assured themselves that the Veteran Ash Tree was not at risk.

There was long discussion about the plans for the Old New Inn site, where the recent extension to the west of the pub is to be removed and the stone used to clad a further dwelling alongside the boundary wall to the west. In general, the Cllrs were happy with the proposals but the chairman expressed concern about the height of the proposed two garages. They were pleased that most of the stone walling was to be retained, and that the dwellings were to be the homes of the previous Landlord's family. They decided to support the plans.

Cllrs were scathing about the 500 page Transport Plan, which was largely out of date and "not inspiring!" They wondered if Linfoot Homes, who built the Hereburgh Way development, might be interested in a site in Hall Lane that had been offered for housing for the over 60's.

County and District Councillors

Andy Crump, who has been our stand in County Councillor, would be replaced in the next few months. In the meanwhile he is still looking after our interests and will meet Senior WCC Officers about the Harbury Lane/Fosse

Way junction, now recognised as the most dangerous crossroads in the County. He said “Twits” drive along the Fosse at 80mph. The footpath from Harbury to Deppers needs attention but will not be resurfaced only cleaned up. Deppers is to get a Traffic Survey.

The development at Henry’s which has still not been properly finished has been raised with “a senior legal person” as the Developer has yet to respond.

Jacqui Harris our District Councillor was pleased that the “Hospitals were Green” meaning they had few Covid Patients. She said it was too early to see how a proposed merger of our District with Warwick District Council would work. She had been keen on keeping the Status Quo for she could not see that the plans would lead to any savings and believes that service from the District would be better than if there were just one authority. She asked for the PC’s view and Harbury will have this as an agenda item for next time.

Cllr Gibb warned that our entire bus service is currently subsidised by Section 106 money from developments. When that stopped there was no long-term funding available.

Playing Fields

It seems some Cllrs are getting cold feet about the Energy Project’s plans for a Wind Turbine on the Fields which would power the Electric Car plug-in points. Cllr Knowles claimed that the Turbine would have to be buried 8ft deep to be safe. It would be huge, in the wrong place, and overshadow the Netball Court. Cllr Rutherford agreed with him and Cllr Mancell said the size and siting were the problem and queried why the project could not use the nearby substation. More information would be made available in time for the March meeting.

Cllrs were in favour of more trees being planted as WCC has a Climate Change Fund to support this. Cllr Ekins thought it an excellent idea, especially in the boggy areas, but the Chairman cautioned that it could make mowing difficult. The Clerk would get professional advice from the Parish’s Arborist on planting and drainage.

Cemetery

At last repairs to the Chapel have been agreed and both the Stonemason and the Roofer will liaise on when the work takes place. But in the meanwhile Cllrs have the headache of trying to clear the inside which has property stored there by many village organisations; from the Beer Festival, to the Carnival, Footpaths Group, the Christmas lights and more they have not yet identified! They had to find somewhere for their own Christmas lights and have come to an arrangement to store them in the Tom Hauley Room and will make a donation for the use.

Finally...

Cllr Thornley complained that she and her neighbours had known nothing about SDC’s offer of early reduced payment for a Green Bin “Permit” and was advised to contact the District for advice.

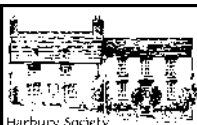
The Clerk announced that the Sewer Trench for the new houses to the north at the Pound in Hall Lane needed repair and the road would be closed in March.

Cllrs were concerned about what would happen after 6th May when the Council's ability to use Zoom for their "virtual" meetings would cease.

The next Meeting is on **Thursday 25th March**, 7.30pm on Zoom.

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

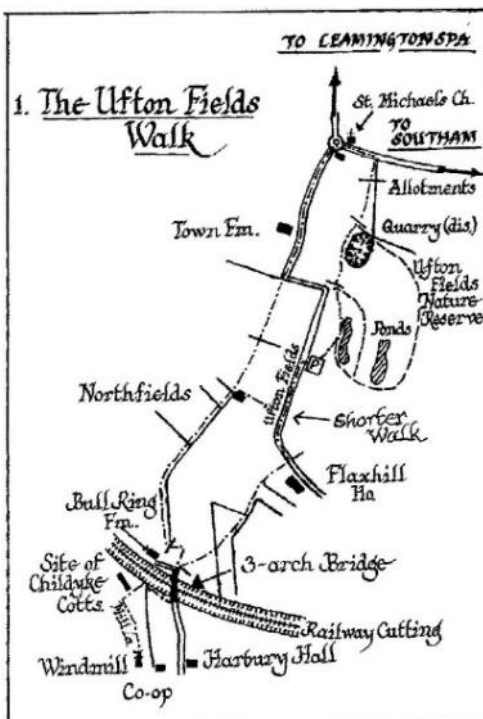
John Holden

Cross the Stile Walks go Digital

Now that Spring is almost upon us, it could be the time to venture further afield on walks from the Village albeit the paths are still pretty muddy. The 11 local walks which feature in the Society's book 'Cross the Stile' have now been published on line. They are available to download through the Harbury & Ladbroke News website at hlnews.co.uk/walks-around-harbury.html

Each walk also has a gpx file of the route, which can be downloaded onto a mobile device that has a mapping App. For those who prefer, the book is still available to purchase though the library. Our other publication Hungry Harbury, a guide and history of the Village, is also available at the Library.

With an end in sight to the Covid restrictions by the summer, the Committee will in the next few months begin to think how the Society activities can hopefully resume later on in the year. Any suggestions will, as ever, be well received.



An example of one of the walking routes to Ufton

The meeting on 11th February was our annual Members Night. Conscious that some members wouldn't be able to join the Zoom event, committee members delivered chocolate hearts and daffodils so that all members would know they haven't been forgotten.

The evening was attended by 22 members who took part in a quiz which had a variety of questions set by committee members. The eventual winners were Terry Wade with Rosemary Harley coming a close second.

Ann mentioned a number of Zoom talks which she and Philip have enjoyed, provided by the Warwickshire Federation and "Denman at Home"; they have just heard a very interesting presentation on Oman. She urged members to look at those on offer for February and March - some are free and some cost £5.

Lin Hayes asked members to contribute green hearts to the tree by the library - they can be knitted, crocheted, or sewn. Every year hundreds of WI members take part in the Climate Coalition's "Show the Love" green heart campaign which aims to start conversations about climate change. Thanks to Chris Rutherford for the interesting poster which she created to go by the tree.



Sadly we have learnt of the death of two former committee members. Julie Ellis who was in her eighties and living in Stow on the Wold died in January. Audrey Atkins who was 101 and still living in Harbury died on 12th February. Our thoughts are with their families.

At our meeting on 11th March Warwick Historian Trevor Langley will be giving an illustrated talk on the history of the Earls of Warwick from the time of William the Conqueror until today. Current restrictions mean that this talk will have to be on Zoom. Our members are becoming more proficient on using Zoom and we always allow time for everyone to get sorted - we are always happy to see husbands/partners etc helping out and listening in! If you haven't joined on Zoom yet why not give it a go in March!



Harbury Heritage Centre

Bill Timson

This month I thought it would be topical to write a bit of history about the Village Hall. If you have been past it recently you will have seen the improvement work taking place at the front of the building in South Parade. During its life the present village hall has been extended and improved to provide an excellent community facility. The village hall building as we know it today was planned in 1959 and built at the start of the 1960s. It was a big venture for the village at the time and funds had to be raised to pay for it and once built, debts paid off. Janet Thornley moved into the village in 1966 and she collected weekly 'tote' money from the residents in Temple End, part of the fund raising effort to pay off the mortgage.

Prior to having the brick and stone building we see today, Harbury did not have a 'community centre' for large gatherings. I am told by Gill Gurden, long standing Harbury resident, that there was a 'hall type building' in Vicarage Lane and also a similar wooden structure in Ivy Lane opposite the row of terraced houses. Another possibility for a 'large scale' event would have been the WI Hut in the grounds of the Village Club or the village club itself. None of these would have compared to the new village hall, completed and opened in 1962 by the then Secretary of State for War and Stratford MP John Profumo and his actress wife, Valerie Hobson. (Right).



The increase in the village population during the 1960s and 1970s had certainly identified the need for a bigger and better facility to accommodate both public and private functions.

On 3rd November 1962 the first wedding reception to be held in the new village hall took place. Barbara Ceney and Roy Clement had been married at All Saint's Church earlier in the day. Village legend Tony Ceney was the best man. He had to step in at the last minute as tragically Roy's chosen best man was killed thumbing a lift home from his station in the RAF. Tony describes the reception as 'a great night', there was a live band with an electronic organ

and they played, amongst other songs, 'Telstar' by the Tornados. After the wedding, Tony, Roy and Barbara's dad Maurice continued to organise fund raising dances; people used to queue to buy a ticket such was the popularity of these events. Groups were booked through an agency in Coventry. 'We had some wonderful times' he added. This went on for two or three years.

One of the bands had a brilliant drummer so they painted a pair of drum sticks with luminous paint and used an ultraviolet light to create the effect of the sticks 'dancing' on their own when the lights were off. A similar trick was used at a Halloween dance when some large puppet ghosts were hung from the village hall ceiling painted ultraviolet and worked by strings, very effective!

The initial building has been steadily improved. In the late 1970s the kitchen and the Farley Room was added. In the late 1980s the car park was built. In 2009 the toilets received a makeover and a disabled toilet was added.

More recently in 2015 the elevated stage and the changing rooms increased the size of the building considerably as well as enhancing the facilities. There is an active village hall committee who strive to ensure that the building remains in good order and is 'up with the times' for would-be hirers. A new PA system, heating system and lighting have all been recently added.



The village hall in 2002

The current improvements include a reconfiguring of the entrance area with an access ramp. Externally the set down area is being enlarged so that dropping off and unloading will be easier.



These photos show the start of the improvements in late January.

In the 21st century the village hall remains the centre of village life. I'm sure we have all had a memorable evening or two in the village hall in the past; from the Beer Festival to theatre productions, harvest suppers, quizzes, Christmas Fairs, rural cinema etc. It continues to be a popular venue. More details of how to book etc. can be found on the web site at: 'www.harburyvillagehall.org.uk'.

Unfortunately, like the Heritage Centre it has not been able to function as we would wish over the past year. The only advantage currently is that the building work can be completed without any real disruption to bookings. Hopefully it will be up and running again in the near future so that we can all, once again enjoy some more memorable times.



Harbury Energy Initiative

Bob Sherman

☎612277 ✉info@harburyenergy.co.uk



Solar Together

The opportunity to register for Solar Together Warwickshire ends this month.

The auction will be on 23rd March, so you need to register before then to take part. If you use electricity (anyone still using candles?), you should consider installing solar panels. And if you are thinking of installing solar panels, a battery energy store or both, this could be your best chance to get a competitive price from a thoroughly vetted installer.

The Council will select only those companies that meet strict criteria and these compete in a 'reverse auction' to bid for the business. The best value for money bid wins all the business. Registering commits you to nothing, nor does getting a proposal and quote. As far as I can tell this offer only applies to domestic properties.

In theory once you have accepted a quote you should be able to apply for a government Green Homes Grant voucher to cover up to two thirds of the cost. The Green homes Grant scheme has not been a wild success so far but it is a very generous scheme. I attended a webinar about it run by Kenilworth Town Council recently and have a better understanding of how it is intended to work. I am not going to try to explain it here because we would both become bored very quickly. If, however, the idea tickles your interest and you need some help understanding it, I might be able to help. Retrofitting older houses is a key need to meet our national carbon reduction targets.

Joined up Thinking

Those of you who wait impatiently every month for my next column in Harbury and Ladbroke News (you don't have to own up to that) will have noticed that I have mentioned something called the Low Carbon Warwickshire Network. This is another fine Harbury initiated scheme aiming to bring together community groups similar to HEI to share ideas and inspire and support each

other. Recently I was asked to write a guest blog for the charity Possible about our network, now that it is really happening. If you would like to read it (and be proud of living in Harbury all over again) you can find it in the Latest News section of the Possible website, accessed here: **www.wearepossible.org**. No need to form an orderly queue; you can all crowd in (assuming there is more than one) to view it together.



School Streets

While I was looking at the Possible blogs I noticed one called 'School Streets: Reducing Children's Exposure to Toxic Air and Road Danger'. This interested me because some years ago HEI, through an air quality monitoring scheme, tried to alert parents to the danger of the crowded school drop off with multiple engines running, quite a few of them SUVs, which have a very high carbon footprint and are amongst the most polluting vehicles on the road. With Mill Street on one side and Park lane on the other this scheme might not work so well for Harbury Primary. This is how Possible describes the concept:

"Many children in the UK are exposed to levels of air pollution that have life-long impacts on their health and development, and this can be deadly. The UK government has a legal duty to meet air quality limits as soon as possible.

In this context, Schools Streets are a no brainer - they help improve air quality and make it safer and easier for children to walk, scoot, and cycle to school.

School Streets restrict traffic on roads outside of school at pick-up and drop-off times during term time. They encourage walking and cycling, which brings lots of benefits including reducing traffic, air pollution, and road dangers, whilst increasing physical activity - all of which provide significant health benefits for children!

School Streets are a small but achievable measure that parents can lobby for, and can be rolled out quickly; there are very few barriers for implementation."

Anyone feel like looking into a small but achievable measure?

The Climate on others' agenda

Waste reduction is an important means of reducing carbon. It is always good to see action on climate change and waste happening outside HEI. Harbury Village Library, for example, is slowly progressing plans for a Repair Cafe, starting with bike repairs, and eventually a Library of Things, a store of items for loaning that is a natural extension of book loans. Why pay to own a drill that you may use for just 15 minutes a year when at very little cost you could borrow one from the Library of Things? This project is a little way off realisation. More immediate is a library project supported by HEI to put solar panels on the far end of the library roof. The plan is to apply to the County Green Shoots Community Fund once they have checked viability and established the cost. HEI is supporting with contacts for possible installers and with the eventual bid submission.

HEI is also working with the church on low carbon solutions to the new plans for heating and lighting. You will already have read detail of this earlier in the magazine. I hope that many of you will have joined the Zoom session to hear the update on progress. It is frustratingly slow but we are determined to find the lowest carbon emission solutions that will provide effective heat and light for users of the church and Tom Hauley Room well into the 21st Century.



Harbury e-Wheels

Bob Sherman

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



We are going back on the road!

From 8th March Harbury e-Wheels will be offering transport again following Covid safety guidelines. We will only be able to take one passenger at a time travelling in the back seat. Our volunteer driver will be

wearing a mask and we will ask the passenger to do so too.

If you need to attend hospital, the surgery or go for your vaccination and have no way of getting there, get in touch via harburyewheels@gmail.com or ring Janny on 612002.



Harbury Rugby Football Club

Steve Kittendorf

With the nation's third lockdown ruling out any sporting activity throughout February, significant maintenance of the Clubhouse was carried out during the last week of the month. The three gable ends of the building were cloaked to secure the tiled verges. The chimney, in need of structural repair was reduced in height and capped off. The external "Cooke" clock was serviced and an auto timer fitted. Finally, the nylon sockets securing the letters to the wall were replaced.

All of the above could not have been achieved without the use of a scissor lift and we would like to say a very big THANK YOU to local company "**HireSafe SOLUTIONS**" based at Churchlands Business Park who made a scissor lift available to us for the week.



Club History

The Club was formed in 1962 as Whitnash Rugby Football Club by Glen Hales and Mike Jacobs.

The Club played on Sundays against clubs including Lockheed and Flavels based at the Whitnash Sports and Social Centre before obtaining official status. In 1964 there was a difference of opinion with the Main Committee and in 1968, the Club moved to the playing fields and changing rooms at South Parade, Harbury. Initially using the dual names of Whitnash and Harbury, the first season saw 27 wins from 37 matches played under the captaincy of Fred Ogilvie. Thereafter, the Club adopted its present name.

After short stays at two local pubs, the Club found a home at the Crown Inn and were well looked after by Roy and Mary Fennell. The playing strength increased from one team in 1969 to four teams and a youth team in 1979. During these years, players such as Chris Miller (ex Broughton Park) and John Shurvinton (Northampton, Coventry and Warwickshire) joined the Club making it a force to be reckoned with in Warwickshire.

By 1976, thanks to the foresight of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, the Club obtained a licence to have a bar and clubrooms which proved a milestone in the Club's history. It was always the Club's ambition to have their own ground and they were very fortunate when Vice President, Ralph Gurden, offered to lease six acres to the Club in 1978.

Plans were drawn up for a new Clubhouse. Grants and loans were organised by David Thompson before work started in early 1979. The Club also organised several fund raising schemes and £2,000 was raised from these individual sources.

The current Clubhouse was opened by Ivor Preece (England, Coventry and Warwickshire) on Sunday 2nd September 1979; starting in the morning with a "Harbury XV" playing against a "Warwickshire Clubs Invitation XV". Throughout the day various displays by the Army, Harbury Gymnastic Team, Model Aircraft, Harbury Motor Cycle Club, a Punch and Judy show together with sideshows, skittles, tombola etc. provided the afternoon entertainment. An exhibition mini rugby match was played early in the afternoon followed by a "Warwickshire Select XV" game against "New Brighton".

Keep Safe.



LOCAL FOODBANK - there is a facility in the village to donate any non-perishable food to your local Foodbank, which supplies the local area including Harbury. Donations can be brought to the Wight School (library) car park on Mondays between 11.30am and 12.30pm, or dropped off at Harbury Village Library on Mondays, 10.00am to 12 noon or Thursdays 2.00 to 4.00pm. Thank you.



Harbury Toddler Group

Lynne Barton

Hello from everyone at Toddlers

We love seeing children and parents at our online sessions running each Monday @ 10am, admittedly it isn't the same but it's a connection nonetheless. It really highlights just how much we have missed the children's early development. It has been particularly lovely to say hi to those siblings who have moved on to school and nursery education.

Thank you for keeping in touch with us and if you know of anyone with an under five do please mention us to them. They can email me @ lynnebartonentrustcarepartnership.org.uk to find out about our weekly catch ups.

With the new Government Road Map and advice from the Early Years Learning Alliance it is looking promising for a re-opening in April 2021. We will keep you posted on further developments.

Princess Belle



Such was the success of our last princesses' visit, word has spread, our popularity is high and another special visitor is coming to Harbury Toddler Group straight from the Castle. Not to be missed!

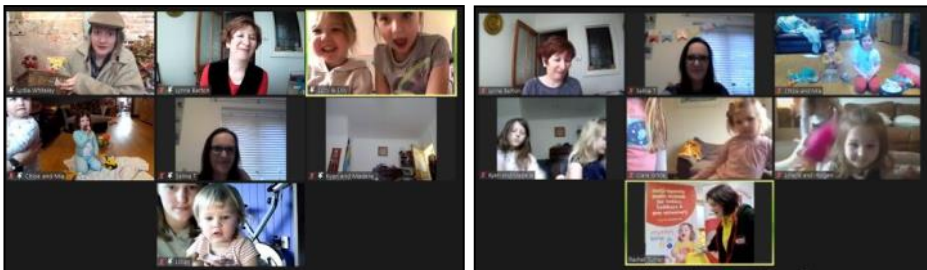


What the Ladybird Heard

We were pleased to welcome Lydia from SpOt Drama who took us on a Farm adventure with a Ladybird who saved the Farmer's prize cow LOL how clever was that for one little ladybird! We beat those pesky Robbers, sang about our favourite animals and shared tales of how Julia Donaldson autographed one of her books and helped decide on a name for a new born baby sister what a cool story.



Rachel from Rhythm Time is a firm favourite and kept us all entertained with an Animal Theme for her session. We hope that she will be able to visit us in person very soon.



With much affection, stay safe and we look forward to opening up our Toddler Group as soon as we can. Love from Lynne, Selina, Reg, Suzi and Judy x x



Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee



The Three Little Pigs: At Harbury Pre-School, we all love our traditional tales. During the first half term, we have been reading and re-enacting the story of The Three Little Pigs. The children have been busy creating some wonderful houses out of straw, sticks and bricks. The brick house even had its very own chimney for the wolf to fall down! The children were really captivated by the story and by

the end of the fortnight, were recounting the story back to the staff during circle time, rather than the other way around!



Chinese New Year: This month, people in China have been celebrating the year of the Ox. We have been using books and the iPad to learn all about China and how people celebrate Chinese New Year.

We have been looking at some Chinese artefacts and thinking about how they differ from ours in Britain. The children have been fascinated looking at some real-life Chinese clothes, Chinese print, chopsticks and Chinese decorations.

We have been using props to recreate the river, Jade Emperor and thirteen animals to re-enact 'The Great Race' to find out how the different years came to represent different animals. We have also discovered why there is no year of the cat!



The children especially enjoyed eating their Chinese Stir Fry. They chopped their vegetables carefully and enjoyed them with noodles and Poppadoms on the side. All the children opted to try chopsticks before using a fork and we were really impressed with the children's efforts and persistence!

Chinese New Year would not be complete without a dragon and our homemade dragon made his annual appearance this week. The children have been producing some fantastic representations of our dragon using paint; carefully looking at his many features. The staff team love to listen to them describe their finished results, for example, 'She's called Buggy. She's a kind dragon'.



Snow and ice: We were most excited to have snow at Harbury Pre-School for two weeks in a row! The children loved mark-making with paint brushes, using buckets and spades to make snow castles and generally enjoying playing in the snow; with the odd snowball or two thrown in.



We took advantage of the sub-zero temperatures to fill the tuff tray with water, shells and sea creatures overnight. By the morning, we had a solid block of ice filled with animals for the children to excavate. We then watched as it melted during the day.



Looking forward: Pancake Day fell over half term this year, but as I type I have been listening to the children make a pancake batter before tucking into their pancake snack! We are also looking forward to World Book Day when the children dress up in their favourite book character and bring in their favourite stories to share with their friends.

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.



We are so pleased to have had the news that the children will be returning to school on 8th March. All the school staff have worked tirelessly to deliver superb teaching despite the challenges of lockdown, and they constantly amaze us with their continued enthusiasm and dedication.



JOIN OUR LOTTERY CLUB!!

How Does It Work?

It's simple - pay £2/month to be allocated a number and entered into a monthly draw at the school. 50% of the takings each month go directly to the school and the remaining 50% goes out as winnings - that's it!

Anyone, anywhere over the age of 16 can join in - **up to 2 numbers per household**

Numbers get drawn by the school on the last Friday of every month.

Winners will be announced in the Harbury News, by email and on Facebook, but you can remain anonymous. Winnings get transferred directly into your bank account and you will be notified by email or phone.

If 250 take part, £250 will be won **EVERY MONTH!!**

137 numbers already!

Double your chances of winning with 2 numbers



Please e-mail harburypta@gmail.com to sign up

Thank you!

Our re-launched school lottery continues to grow - we had a fabulous response from the village community last month and have jumped to 137 numbers! There are three prizes every month, and we're just six numbers away from an exciting £100 monthly first prize. Anyone is welcome and we'd love your support - it's £2/month and half the proceeds go to the school. Just send us an e-mail to harburypta@gmail.com for a quick five minute form to join in.

Congratulations to our January lottery winners:

1st 55 - Jo Banbury

2nd 25 - Angus Terry

3rd 11 - Louise Wilkinson - a lucky streak 2 months running!

We're now fundraising for a new school library system to allow children to practice doing the 'real thing' - requesting books and checking them in and out. We will be running an Easter egg hunt alongside the Easter trail organised by the church, and watch this space for our next fundraising events once we are all allowed out!



Village Hall Update

Andy Rutherford

With an end to "Lockdown" in sight, we are pleased to say that the work on the Village Hall is progressing according to plan. We should have everything completed by mid-April, and can start to make plans for a re-opening - Covid permitting!

This work has been funded by two Grants. The first from HS2 for £75,000, and the second from Biffa Award for £66,250. You might remember that Biffa Award helped fund the Hall extension a few years ago.



The walls of the Foyer were completed yesterday and we are expecting the roof to go on today, a flat roof with a "Lantern" style skylight. The space created will provide shelter from bad weather and make the management of larger events at the Hall easier. The new steps and disabled access will be coming shortly.

The Farley room has now been refitted and decorated, and as soon as the Foyer is completed we will be re-flooring the backstage area - everything is coming together so that the Hall will be ready for the return of hirers.



Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

Rich Fowler

Roadmap out of Lockdown

The Prime Minister's announcement on 22nd February means that, if circumstances don't change, from 12th April libraries will be able to open to the public for browsing and borrowing, and outdoor hospitality may resume. Given this, both the Library and Biblio's will start to make preparations. These will include making sure that all Covid safety measures are in place and that existing risk assessments are reviewed and, if necessary, amended.

In the meantime the Library will continue to offer Click and Collect and Home Delivery services for Audiobooks, Board Games, and Jigsaws. Books can be collected and returned on Mondays from 10am to 12 noon, and on Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm. Food bank donations can also be made at these times.



Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place online at 7.30pm on Monday 8th March. Anyone interested in the work of the Library or Biblio's Cafe is welcome to attend. If you would like to take part please send an email to Library@HarburyVillageLibrary.org.uk, and we will send you a Zoom invitation, a copy of the agenda, and a link to the annual reports from The Chair, The Treasurer, The Library, and Biblio's Cafe.

Not Just Thrillers and Historical Fiction

During lockdown the most popular types of book being borrowed have been Thrillers, Historical Fiction, and Romances. However, we have so much more available. Gardening books to tell you what to do with the seeds in the Harbury Seed Share collection, Ordnance Survey Maps to help you plan your first trips out, a growing collection about Cycling, Cyclists, and Bicycles including how to repair and maintain them, and not forgetting our collection of Jigsaws which now numbers over sixty puzzles.



A Summary of the Last 12 Months

By the time that you receive your copy of the March edition of the Harbury & Ladbrooke News we will have been operating under lockdown conditions for nearly 12 months. Without the

enthusiasm and commitment of our volunteers we may have ended up like many other Community Managed Libraries throughout the country who closed their doors in March 2020, and have yet to reopen. As of today, Harbury is one of only five Community Managed Libraries in Warwickshire to be operating.



Harbury Village Club & Institute

Judy Morrall



The last month seems to have flown by. I have been very busy processing members' subscriptions. It has helped this year that we now accept payment via BACS. Thank you seems inadequate for the amazing response since our Facebook post and my last article. I love to hear the plop of our letterbox as I know it will be more payments. It is good too when I make my way around our village to return membership cards and I am able to express our thanks to everyone. Where I don't have up to date email addresses or phone numbers I have either posted letters or delivered them locally as a reminder and again a terrific response. Your contributions mean that even though we are still unable to open we have funds in the bank to sustain us through this period. As at today (23rd February) I have processed 264 payments which now includes 12 new members and I know that when Sarah sends me another bank statement on Friday there will be more payments by BACS. We will not be enforcing our rules that memberships to be paid by 28th February this year due to the pandemic.

Just a quick recap - you can put your card and payment by cash or cheque for £12.50 or £5 for over 60's through my letterbox at 55 Mill Street or through the letterbox at the Club.

BACS payments should be made as follows:

Harbury Village Club & Institute Ltd

Sort code: 40-42-15 Account number: 21135228

The curry van has been very well received this year so far and the proprietor loves visiting our Club. He parks on the Club car park and you pre-order, so not long to wait. The dates for March are Friday 5th and 19th from 5.30 to 7.30pm. He will continue to come every two weeks on a Friday and has extended his menu choices. Please continue to support him, thank you. All details on our Facebook page.

After the announcement yesterday about the next steps for coming out of lockdown, which I think are absolutely spot on, we will not be reopening the Club until May when we can allow members and visitors inside. It is just not financially viable to open in April for outdoors only and limited numbers. As I said before, when we do reopen we are going to organise some sort of buffet food and musical entertainment as our thank you for your continued support and loyalty.



Some of us on the committee and other helpers plan to do some decorating over the next two months. We are going to spruce up the lounge, gents toilets and entrance lobby. We will be able to do so safely and keep our distances. We had a very kind donation of furniture from a gentleman called Hal in the village recently. It is a black squashy leather seat and we can't wait to put it in place once we have finished our decorating. Our grateful thanks to him for such a kind gesture.

We will be ready to go as the tables are fitted with buttons for table service for drinks and these will be spaced the required distances apart. Plus we will have Tom and Joshua on hand on busy nights to help take orders and serve drinks. Our concert room is ideal for functions and is entirely free of charge plus we have Spotify and of course the splendid large screen TV with Sky sports. It will be so good to welcome back the team players of pool, snooker, darts, cards and dominoes. Plus of course the Folk Club, Orchestra and Ukulele group. We have missed you all. There will be family bingos as I said before and we already know what film matinees we plan to put on for the younger children.

I was unable to progress any further with my planting along the bank in Crown Street due to the very cold snap and inclement weather recently. It looks as though the weather is now improving and much warmer so I am hoping to do more planting this weekend. I have again received some lovely compliments on my efforts so far; I just love gardening. My beloved late brother and I were encouraged by our father to grow vegetables from a very early age. We each had a small plot and there was a lot of sibling rivalry. I regularly dead-head the plants in the pots along the wall and the plants at either side of the drive. I was very disappointed recently though to find that a few of the plants along the drive had been pulled out and thrown on the drive. This is the very first time anything like this has happened so I hope it is a one-off.

We are still continuing to receive weekly updates from Upton House which we all look forward to. Plus many of us keep in touch via WhatsApp and conventional phone lines. I doubt we will be back volunteering there until late May or June. This will be my 23rd year and I have made some wonderful friends and of course met some really delightful visitors. I was watching Fake or Fortune recently, the episode about a potential Constable landscape painting. Well it turned out to be genuine and probably worth over two million pounds. We have a lovely very small Constable at Upton called Harnam Ridge and we all love it. Philip Mould who is on Fake or Fortune visited Upton in 2019 and I showed him the painting as it is tucked away in the porcelain lobby and he was thrilled to see it. When I stood next to him he was only up to my shoulders, he looks taller on the TV! He was an absolute gentleman though and charming.

My huge seed order is on its way and I can't wait to get started at the allotments. I will be filling my seed trays and putting them in my mini greenhouse. The planning is really exciting too. I have some saved runner and French bean seeds and these will also be planted. Still getting sprouts

and herbs and even beetroot from my allotments. The rhubarb is not far off either, the shoots are about eight inches high. Yummy rhubarb crumbles to enjoy! My tame robin still waits for me and the blackbird. I can also start the pruning of my box hedging in the garden and some tidying up and splitting of grasses etc. I have a clematis almost in flower, Warwickshire Lass, hellebores in flower and honeysuckles in bud. Lovely to see the crocuses out now in Southam by the church, around our village and both yellow and purple ones outside the dentists in Euston Place in Leamington. Spring is practically here and the birds are starting to build their nests. Plus we have the extra bonus of lighter nights.



So everything is looking much more optimistic and hopefully like us a lot of you will have had your first vaccination. We went to Southam clinic and it was so well organised from arrival to departure. Some of my Upton friends who live in the Banbury area went to Stoneleigh for their jabs and said the same about the organisation there plus it seemed like a day out for them! We have such wonderful NHS workers and volunteers they deserve all of the praise heaped on them. I have my second jab on 7th April then on 14th April I have a hair appointment for a trim, colour and blow dry. Wow such excitement! I trimmed my fringe but not very successfully. At least I haven't been spending money on clothes as nowhere to go, so it gives me scope for seeds and plants instead.

I hope that you will all stay safe and really can't wait to see you all again at our Club. Take care and all my very best wishes to you.



Garden Jottings from Bridge Nursery

Christine Dakin

Although the days are beginning to lengthen we are a long way from being able to get much done in the garden due to the weather. Mid February sees us deep in frosty, snowy weather, not to mention the saturated ground after so much rain this winter.

Jobs are piling up. As soon as the soil starts to dry out and warm up there will be a frenzy of activity. Actually, I simply can't do energetic gardening any more; I have to pace myself as I get older and I rely so much on my part time helper, Sarah.

There will be much clearing away of last year's perennials and grasses. New plants need to go into the spaces which were made back in Oct/Nov.

Undoubtedly there will be some plants to remove after they have succumbed to sitting in waterlogged soil for weeks. Various shrubs will need pruning including any winter flowering ones. Late flowered clematis should be cut back.



Chit potatoes, sow broad beans, plant onion sets, prune roses, sow hardy annuals (later in the month), also sow cabbage, peas, parsnips and lettuce seeds.

Check with us about opening times. If restrictions carry on we will offer a 'click and collect' service and offer appointments.

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



Nature Notes

John Hancock



Sharon knows how much I like stewed rhubarb so she bought a large bundle at the weekly greengrocery stall in the car park at the Shakespeare. Our garden plant is a long way from breaking through the ground so the fruit we enjoyed had been forced and probably came from the so-called 'rhubarb triangle' near Wakefield. I can remember seeing that area

with its forcing sheds when, as a student, I took the train from London to Leeds. Originally the sheds were heated by coal but latterly by diesel oil. The fields were well manured and together with the warmth this gave rise to rapid growth of succulent fruit. It is said that the ground groans as the forcing sheds themselves are pushed skywards.

Rhubarb is in the botanical family Polygonaceae which includes such plants as Japanese Knotweed and Russian Vine. In this country, the former is viewed as an invasive species and considerable steps taken to eradicate a 'noxious weed'. On home territory in Japan, the young stems are harvested as a vegetable and now the same is happening in parts of the UK as eradication is proving difficult. Knotweed easily regenerates from a small piece of root left in the ground.

Rhubarb's area of origin is Siberia and the large rim of upland country to the south including the Karakorum and Pamirs. As a teenager I avidly consumed books on mountain climbing both at home and abroad. After a British expedition finally climbed Mount Everest in 1953, I was given Sir John Hunt's book 'The Ascent of Everest' in a version adapted for schoolchildren. No doubt many older Harbury and Ladbroke News readers read it too. It whet my appetite for adventure though at that time I had to be satisfied with the Lake District and Snowdonia. Later I did progress to the Alps and finally in 1987 got the chance to go further afield on an expedition to climb Latok II in that part of Kashmir controlled by Pakistan and known as Baltistan. Having read about the area, I knew rhubarb was to be found at around 12,000 feet. Scanning the

appropriate terrain with field glasses, I saw clumps of dry stems and walked up to have a closer look. At the base of the old stems typical leaves were unfurling and young rhubarb waiting to be harvested. My fellow climbers were really pleased to get rhubarb and custard served up that evening.

Gillian Hare reports seeing a Little Egret at the pool below Kingston Manor. She identified it as it flew away. These attractive all white herons are now a relatively common sight. A good place to see them is on Boddington Reservoir. In the mid-20th century they were a rarity around here. Perhaps they have benefitted from global warming. The feathers were once much prized for decorating women's hats and therefore imported from countries such as India. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds sprang from the suppression of this trade when a shift in the public perception of the cruelty involved won the day.



It is rather sad to see that the thatched church in Bascote Heath has finally collapsed. For some years now it has been surrounded by a safety fence and its end was only a matter of time. I can remember when it was well cared for and in occasional use. Look in at the nearby cemetery opposite the entrance to Ufton Wood to see a display of Snowdrops and a succession of spring flowers. It will lift the spirits which certainly need a collective boost.

Recently I corresponded with David Brown, Warwickshire's Recorder for moths and the author of 'The Larger Moths of Warwickshire' published by Atropos. There are, impressively, nearly 600 species reported from the county as opposed to perhaps 33 species of butterfly. We discussed the overwintering tactics of butterflies such as the Peacock. They sequester themselves away as a group, often in a hollow tree. If disturbed they can open their wings and frighten off a potential predator using their large false eye spots which mimic the eyes of an owl. David told me of an unusual sighting under a bridge near Myton Crofts. There were an estimated 70 Old Lady moths (*Moro maura*) huddled together – safety in numbers. This was in summer and therefore an example of aestivation as opposed to winter hibernation. Prolonged hot, dry, weather causes inactivity and a lowered metabolic rate, aiding survival.

Today, 25th February, Sharon and I had a bike ride. It was breezy but there was a spring-like temperature of 17C. On Chesterton Road we spotted some yellow Compositae gleaming in the verge. They were the first Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) we had seen this year, a precursor of so many other species set to welcome us in the months to come.

April Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

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

Articles to: Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Thursday 25th March





General Section

Pearl Trice



Just to let you know that our lovely mum, Pearl Trice of Chesterton House Farm, Harbury, passed away on 15th February 2021. She was 86.

Derek (deceased) and Pearl moved to the farm in 1955 after their marriage, and started the dairy farm with just a few British Friesian cows. Dad then used to deliver milk around the village often accompanied by the young twins (Sue and Jen). Pearl was actively involved in milking the cows, calf rearing and all aspects of farm work and administration.



She was delighted when Louise, with George and Heather, were recently able to set up the Harbury Milk Shed vending business. The milkman 2021 style! RIP Mum.

Sue, Jen and Louise with Pearl in the front

sent on behalf of Louise, Sue and Jen

Seasonal Lights



I hope everyone has enjoyed the seasonal lights that have been lighting up our evenings in December, January and February. If nothing else, I hope that they might have made the daily lockdown walks a little bit more fun. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who donated their time, expertise and also equipment to erect the lights back in December, and take them down again in late February. Thanks particularly to the small committee (Brian and Julie Young, Julie Balch and Sam Allan) for all the logistical planning, and to those householders who have provided power for the last three months. We will be back later this year with even more lights!

Tim Lockley



Senior Golfers support for Dementia

Leamington and County Golf Club Seniors, The Grey Nags, chose Dementia as their charity to support last year.

£1,200 was split equally between **Alzheimer's Research UK** and **The Pam Britton Trust for Dementia**.



The Grey Nags' Captain Geoff Thorpe is pictured presenting the cheque for £600 outside Biblio's Café in Harbury to Tony Britton, founder of the Pam Britton Trust named after his late wife. The Trust provides support for people living with dementia and their families and carers in South Warwickshire.

The choice of "Biblios" for the presentation is special as Jill Baker, also pictured, was a lifelong friend of Pam and, along with Janice Montague, were the first to volunteer for the charity. Community support groups are a major part of the charity's work and Biblio's was the original site for the "dementia" cafe in Harbury.

Geoff Thorpe



Harbury Seed Share 2021 is Ready

Our new Seed Share Register, with information about 98 different varieties of seeds, is now online. Browse the register, choose some seeds, complete a Seed Request, then collect from Harbury Village Library or ask us deliver to you. Seeds can be collected from the library on Mondays from 10am to 12 noon, and on Thursdays from 2pm to 4pm.

You can send us a request:

- From our website <https://sites.google.com/harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk>
- By emailing us at SeedShare@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk
- Phone and leave a message at 01926 258 776
- Put a note through the library letterbox

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.

Rich Fowler

Have you bought your Green Bin Permit yet?

Clip & Collect Garden Waste Service

How do I opt-in to have my green bin emptied?

- 1 Sign-up at www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste or telephone 01789 260628.
- 2 Pay £40 per green bin for a 12 month subscription from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- 3 You will receive a permit to put on your green bin prior to 1 April 2021.
- 4 The service will start on 1 April 2021, for those who have subscribed. Your green bin will not be emptied if you have not signed up.

Food waste can still be collected on your recycling week even if you don't subscribe to the garden waste service. FREE food waste caddies are available on request.



 For more information please telephone 01789 260628
email streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk
or visit www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste



Harbury Village Show

Unfortunately, we still don't have any more information to report on this year's village show which is planned for Saturday, 11th September 2021 although recent announcements are promising.

As you know, Harbury Horticultural show has been around for many years so here are a few of the old sayings that might inform your planting this spring.

1. The weather of course is all important so -
 Is't on St. Joseph's day (19th March) clear,
 So follows a fertile year;
 Is't on St. Mary's (25th March) bright and clear,
 Fertile is said to be the year.
2. And when planting seeds remember -
 Plant seeds in a row,
 One for the rook, one for the crow
 One to rot and one to grow
3. The rule in gardening, never forget, is to sow dry and set wet
4. When you hear the cuckoo shout, it's time to plant your tatties out

Happy growing!

Village Show Committee



Wednesday Walks

With the presentation of the Roadmap for the gradual lifting of restrictions, can we allow ourselves a mood of cautious optimism? As I understand it, and only if everything goes according to plan, we should be able to walk again in groups of six after Easter. By then too, many of us will be on track for the second vaccine, and what a triumph that is being!

Meanwhile, we can enjoy our walks alone or with one friend, welcoming the longer warmer days, the activity of the birds, the glad abandon of the lambs and the *oh so slow* drying of the mud.

Gillian Hare



Carbon Monoxide Alarm

On 10th February 2021, I woke at 7am and my Carbon Monoxide alarm was bleeping, it was dark, what do I do? I took the alarm down and changed the batteries again it bleeped. Who could I phone at this time of the morning.

The advice I found was to open doors and windows and go outside. There was a frost and snow on the ground, I sat outside my back door for a while freezing in my jamas.

I decided to call 999, after the telephone operator finished asking which emergency I required, I said my alarm was beeping and the call then went through to the police. I was told someone would ring me back with a number to ring. Sure enough I was given a phone number to ring, but advised to go outside or to a neighbour.

A man arrived (I had now managed to get dressed), he said my alarm was too old and gave me a new one. There was no problem with the gas boiler which was good.

I would suggest that everyone should have this number to hand. It would make life much easier. The number for Cadent is **0800 111 999**.

Carbon monoxide hasn't a smell, that's why it is a silent killer.

Eileen Dronfield



Entrust Care Partnership

We have something super exciting to share with you!

As part of our Pathway to Employment Initiative, supporting young people with Learning Disabilities to secure paid employment, we are offering a **FREE** Online Learning course, **How To Get A Job**, to help get you 'employment ready'.

We are, of course, still working under many government restrictions so, in order to continue our support of young people on their mission to gain paid employment, we are offering a four-week Online Learning Course. The sessions will be presented by external guest presenters.

During the individual workshops, attendees will learn skills including understanding what it means to be employed, teamwork, money management, where to find jobs and how to apply for them. Each person will also receive a certificate to add to their portfolio of experience.

The workshop sessions are:

Workshop 1: What does it mean to be employed?

Workshop 2: Teamwork and Leadership

Workshop 3: Finance/Money management

Workshop 4: Customer Service

Workshop 5: Where to find job adverts and writing a cover letter

Workshop 6: Creating a Personal Profile and CV

Workshop 7: How to prepare for an interview

Workshop 8: Making friends and building relationships

Homework topics: Baking/cooking and washing up, Food Hygiene and Marketing

Additional: What do you want to do? 1:1 or small group virtual conversation about your aspirations, what you enjoy and taking the next step to employment.

We follow robust safeguarding procedures along with enhanced DBS checks.

We aim to start our first session on Tuesday 9th March. They will run twice weekly for four weeks and last approximately 40-60 minutes per session.

If you, or anyone you know, is Autistic, has a Learning Disability or Additional Needs and is aged 16 and above and keen to get a job, these **FREE** Online Learning Workshops are the perfect course of action.

To request an application form and to book your place on the '**How To Get A Job**' Online Learning Programme, please call me on 07967 680085 or email to aimeemann@entrustcarepartnership.org.uk

Lynne Barton
Director



Warwickshire Trading Standards

Copycat Driving Licence Renewal Website Charged Consumer Nearly £100

Warwickshire residents wishing to renew their driving licences are warned to beware of 'copycat' websites that are charging consumers nearly £100 for a process that should cost £14.



Copycat scams often involve unscrupulous people setting up websites which closely mimic Government or other official sites and charge people a fee to use them that is much higher than the fee charged by the official website. In some cases residents have been charged to renew documents that should be free of charge. These 'copycat' websites may appear above genuine websites in a web search.

Official UK renew your driving licence website: <https://www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence>

The <https://www.gov.uk/> website is the best place to begin your search for any Government document renewal service.

More advice on copycat websites from Get Safe Online: <https://tinyurl.com/4gwdta8l>



Bogus Banking Texts

More Warwickshire residents have reported receiving scam bank text messages. The messages include:

- 'an unusual payment has been made from this device'
- 'a new payee has been authorised on 03/02/2021 at 13:03. If you do not recognise this, please visit...'
- 'unverified access reported. You must confirm your client details at... to prevent card limitations'

The recipients are directed to a bogus bank website via a link. Some text messages may also carry a fake bank helpline telephone number. These text messages may sometimes appear amongst genuine text messages you have received from your bank.

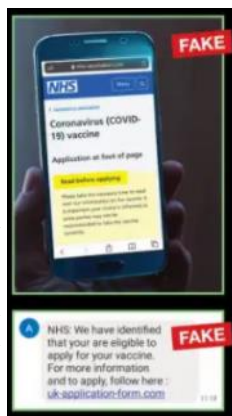
Never click on a link in a text message from your bank. Always log into your account via your bank's official app or via the web browser. If you wish to phone your bank, use the telephone number publicised on the bank's website or that printed on the back of your bank card.

More advice on blocking nuisance calls and texts from the CAB: <https://tinyurl.com/pgldo3zu>

Scam NHS COVID Vaccination Emails

Warwickshire residents have reported receiving very genuine looking NHS COVID19 vaccination booking emails. The emails direct recipients to a 'booking website' at which time they are asked for a £5 fee!

- **The vaccine will always be free on the NHS**
- NHS staff will never ask for, or accept, cash or other payment methods for vaccines
- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details, your PIN or bank password
- NHS staff will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips



More advice from NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/01/docs-and-cops-warn-on-covid-19-cons/>

Arrest Warrant!



More Warwickshire residents have reported receiving scam automated telephone calls stating that a warrant has been issued for their arrest and they must press 1 to deal with the matter.

Never respond to scam telephone messages. Always try and block the telephone number.

More advice on blocking nuisance calls and texts from the CAB: <https://tinyurl.com/pgldo3zu>

Simon Cripwell
Senior Trading Standards Officer



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors

Neonicotinoids

The comment in 'Garden Jottings' from the Bridge Nursery last month about the insecticides grouped as neonicotinoids is misleading. This is understandable given the controversy around this issue. The pesticide is not banned in the EU and the UK was always entitled to use it pre-Brexit - with 10 EU countries also having issued emergency authorisations for the pesticide since 2018 including Belgium, Denmark and Spain. In December 2020, France approved its use for a further three years. DEFRA makes it very clear: "The UK's approach to the use of emergency authorisations has not changed as a result of the UK's exit from the EU."

There is no question that neonicotinoids harm bees. The Wildlife Trusts' concern (mentioned by John Hancock in his Nature Notes) is justified. I'm a beekeeper, and I share the Trusts' concern.

John Stringer



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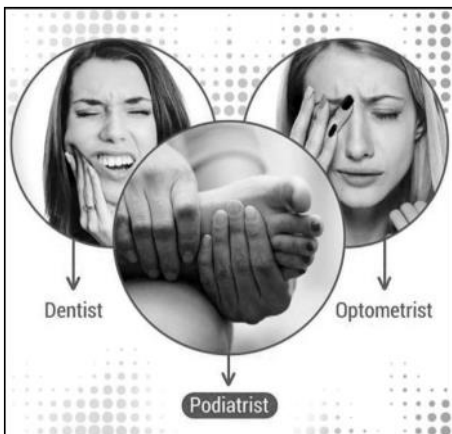
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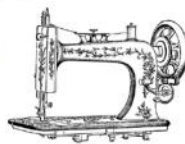
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