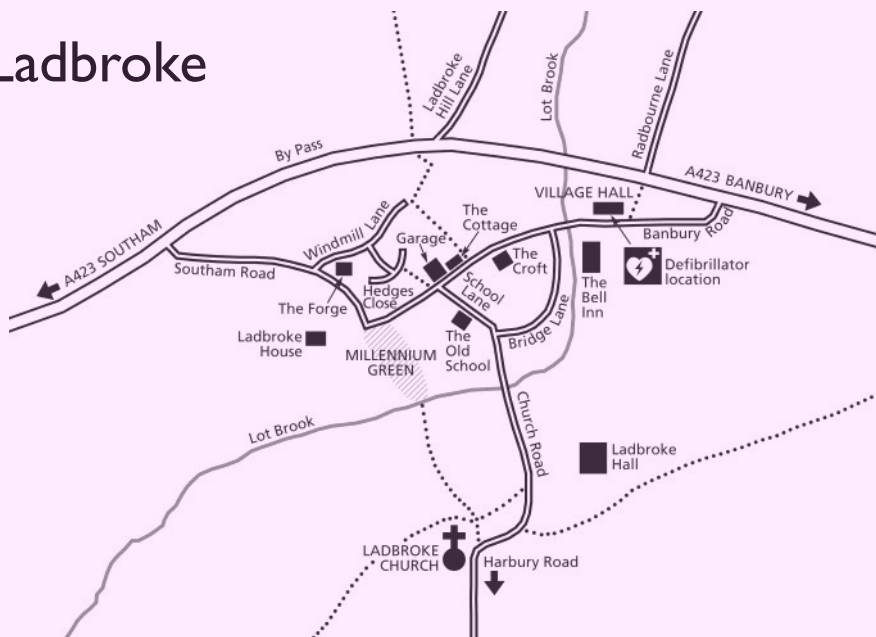


**FEBRUARY 2022**

# Ladbroke



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# Harbury & Ladbroke News

Is published monthly and reflects all aspects of local life.

**February 2022**

**No.575**

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## Editorial Team

Chris Barber - 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



We have been lucky with the winter weather so far, with only a sprinkling of snow back in November and more recently a few early morning frosts to contend with. Overall, January has been a dry month, and especially if you have been taking part in the alcohol-free challenge!! Low rainfall hasn't, of course, stopped the footpaths surrounding the villages becoming muddy but luckily they do seem slightly more manageable to walk on.

Good news from Harbury's District Councillor Jacqui Harris, who has reported on the village Facebook group that work on the traffic lights planned for the Harbury Lane/Fosse Way junction will start this year. Tenders for the scheme are due back mid-March with

construction taking place thereafter. We keep our fingers crossed that no more problems will delay this and look forward to this accident blackspot becoming a much safer place.

Harbury Theatre Group has recently seen some changes, with a brand new committee being elected. There is promise of a new burst of energy with plans to take the Group forward. They are shouting out to anyone who wishes to join the Theatre Group, acting, helping backstage or front of house. If you are interested, do go along to their open evening on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February in the Tom Hauley Room - see their article on page 23.

Well done to the Harbury Heritage Centre committee for presenting Myton Hospice with a £750 donation from the proceeds of their 2022 calendars.

Harbury Village Library and the Village Hall Committee are both looking for new treasurers; if you feel that either of these volunteering roles might suit you, do get in touch with them.

The Ladbroke Matters team is hoping to replace worn play equipment on the Millennium Green and will be holding events to raise funds. In June they are also planning a village lunchtime get-together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Finally, we extend our condolences to the family of Sid Field.

# Harbury Diary

## FEBRUARY

- Sat 5 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution)
- Sun 6 CANDLEMAS**  
Holy Communion, 9.00am  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall  
Cotswold Fine Rugs Sale, 11.00 - 3.00pm, Village Hall
- Mon 7 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 8 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury Theatre Group Open Evening, 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 9 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Stoneleigh (3 miles flat, no stiles)  
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.30pm, experienced 8.30pm, Village Hall
- Thurs 10 Harbury WI, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room - Members' Night
- Fri 11 Ben and Soph's Jazz, tickets - 07515 275655, 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sat 12 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Society  
Harbury Village Cinema presents, "Dream Horse", doors open 6.15pm, film starts 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sun 13 EPIPHANY 6**  
Holy Communion, 10.30am  
Messy Church, 3.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall  
Icon Youth Club, 7.00 - 8.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Mon 14 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 15 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury Society talk, doors open 7.30pm, talk 8.00pm, Jackie West - 'Alice and The Adventurer'
- Wed 16 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Coombe Abbey (4 miles)  
Connections (Dementia) Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.30pm, experienced 8.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 19 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Senior Citizens
- Sun 20 EPIPHANY 7**  
Holy Communion, 8.00am  
All Age Service, 10.30am  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall  
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School - (Park Lane entrance)  
ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK
- Mon 21 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 22 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room

- Wed 23 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park -  
Priors Marston (3 miles)  
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.30pm, experienced 8.30pm, Village Hall
- Thurs 24 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,  
HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM  
Harbury Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 26 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid  
of Harbury Mothers' Union  
Harbury Local Market: 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall  
Harbury Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury Village Library  
'Tears of Laughter' stage show, doors open 7.00, starts 7.30pm,  
Village Hall
- Sun 27 **EPIPHANY 8**  
Holy Communion, 10.30am  
Icon Youth Club, 7.00 - 8.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 28 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall


### MARCH

- Tue 1 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30am - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room  
Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn (bookings by 25<sup>th</sup> February)  
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School -  
(Park Lane entrance)
- Wed 2 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park -  
Combrook - Compton Verney (4 miles)  
Mothers Union Communion Service and Tea, 2.00pm, Church/Tom  
Hauley Room
- Sat 5 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid  
of All Saints Ladbroke
- Sun 6 **LENT 1**  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall



### Dates for inclusion in the Harbury Diary please to:

The Editorial Office, 31 Binswood End, Tel: 612155 or email [articles@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:articles@hlnews.co.uk)

Refuse Collection Rota			
	Deppers Bridge	Harbury, Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge outlying properties	Collection Week
Feb	Wednesday	Friday	
	9	11	Grey Bin
	16	18	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	23	25	Grey Bin
Mar	2	4	Green & Blue Lid Bins
	9	11	Grey Bin
	16	18	Green & Blue Lid Bins



## From the Rector

**Rev Andy Batchelor**

The Rectory, Vicarage Lane, Harbury ☎ 01926 714295 ✉ [rev.andyb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andyb@gmail.com)

You might have heard of that phrase which is claimed to be a translation of an ancient Chinese curse, 'may you live in interesting times'. Well, I don't know if you would call current events 'interesting', but they are certainly likely to affect all of us in one way or another. As I write this, we await the conclusion of the investigation into 'partygate', something that has generated huge anger across the country about the behaviour and ethics of those who set the rules for the nation, but who in private seem to disregard them. We are facing huge increases in the cost of living this year, particularly in energy bills, which will affect us all, particularly those least able to afford it, and, of course, we wait to see if Russia will decide to start a new war in Ukraine. These things remind us that our world is not what it was when God created it, and as the book of Genesis tells us, 'saw that it was very good'. Things went downhill quickly when evil and sin entered the world as human beings decided they knew best, and went their own way, rather than live in the harmony that God had intended. We see the ongoing results of that in the chaos and injustice that surrounds us. Of course, that isn't the end of the story as Jesus' life, death, and resurrection set the world on a new course towards restoration and reconciliation. That process will only be complete when Jesus returns, but in the meantime anyone who responds to his call can experience a personal transformation and a new perspective on life, with the assurance that all that is wrong in our world will one day be put right.



## From the Churchwardens

**Liz & Michael**

We now plan to continue to hold all our Sunday morning services in the church for the rest of the winter, rather than meet elsewhere, after considering the various available options and given the ongoing warmer than usual weather. Whilst the church is pretty cool, it is airy and spacious for Covid considerations and is just warm enough for most people if they wrap up well. And, encouragingly, we are now more than half way through winter!

Given the recent Government announcement to return to "Covid Plan A", we have reverted to our earlier practice of providing separated space for those who wish to continue wearing a mask inside (right side of church) and those who wish to remove their mask after sitting down (left side of church).

What do we offer now for children and young people at Harbury Church? We hold Messy Church once a month for all ages, Children's and Youth Church takes place the same time as the 10.30am communion service (they get the warm hall), Icon Youth Group meets once a month and young people are always welcome to join the bellringing team and literally learn the ropes.

The next Messy Church will be on 13<sup>th</sup> February, in the afternoon, when we ask the question "What is Love?" In January we followed the wise men as they saw the star. What would you give Jesus as a gift - children made their ideas out of playdough. Constellations were made from spaghetti and marshmallows, a collage of the three kings was created and is now hanging in church. Crowns were made and worn and a treasure hunt was done in church along with action songs and a talk. Action songs are encouraged in church to keep warm. We finish with grace and a small meal - sausage and beans that month - and everyone helps to clear up. All are welcome but children must come with a parent or carer.

Children's and Youth Church is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month - 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February. We begin at 10.30am in the THR with two groups following a theme, doing activities and having discussions and stories and then join the rest of the congregation in church for communion. The children are then asked to show what they have been doing - with greater or lesser enthusiasm!

Finally, the more informal All Age service, which is held at 10.30am on the third Sunday each month, is evolving in style to provide a more different form of worship service, and will be without communion for the next few months, as an experiment. Please do come along and see what's new happening.

Refreshments are served after all Sunday services where we can warm up as well as talk together.

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

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



## **Heat, Light and Stone - Progress!**

One function of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) for the Diocese of Coventry is to ensure that precious buildings like Harbury's Parish Church - All Saints - are treated with respect. The DAC audits every proposal for repair and improvement, to check that the appropriate materials and techniques are used for churches that - like Harbury's - may be seven or eight hundred years old.

They issue their decisions at one of three levels - which are advice to the Chancellor, who has the power to approve or not - recommendation, no objection, and no recommendation. The news that the DAC has 'no objection' to the new heating system we propose is a real step forward. It has taken a lot of work, modifying and rewriting our proposal documents to meet the DAC Criteria; and this success is largely down to the patient work of Philip Mayer and John Guilford.

Most recently, the DAC requested a photograph of every stone that will need work from our masons; and these have been provided. Now they are looking for simulations of the planned sound system in place; and these will be



created by Mike Abbot to satisfy the DAC that the speakers and cabling will not be obtrusive or inappropriate.

Soon, with our gifted funds in hand and more to come, we can begin to look for sponsorship from organisations and individuals. Progress at last. It would be good to see the work completed in 2022. This is not the beginning of the end, but rather 'the end of the beginning'.



## Mothers' Union

Gillian Hare

I'm sure we were all sad that the January party was cancelled, but at least I don't think any of us has succumbed to Omicron since. Now we can be more optimistic with our plans for our branch, and as you read this you should all have received the year's programme which Chris has designed as beautifully as ever. Those of you who heard Reni Clare describe her life as an Asian Christian will be pleased to know that her husband will be our speaker on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. As ever, visitors are most welcome; we meet in the Tom Hauley room at 2pm, starting with a short communion service before the talk.

Before then, on 26<sup>th</sup> February, we shall be running the coffee morning in the Tom Hauley room. This is our main opportunity to raise funds for our own branch as well as the wider work of the MU and your support in any way will be much appreciated.

## Ladbroke News & Diary

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

### FEBRUARY

- |              |           |   |
|--------------|-----------|---|
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>6</b>  | <b>CANDLEMAS</b><br>Family Communion, 10.30am, followed by refreshments   |
| <b>Tues</b>  | <b>8</b>  | WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall  |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>13</b> | <b>EPIPHANY 6</b><br>Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am  |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>20</b> | <b>EPIPHANY 7</b><br>Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am<br>ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD,<br>HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>24</b> | ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,<br>HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM  |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>27</b> | <b>EPIPHANY 8</b><br>Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am  |

### MARCH

- |             |          |  |
|-------------|----------|--|
| <b>Tues</b> | <b>1</b> | Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall                               |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>2</b> | Ash Wednesday Service, 7.30pm  |
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>6</b> | <b>LENT 1</b><br>Family Communion, 10.30am, followed by refreshments |
| <b>Tues</b> | <b>8</b> | WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall   |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>9</b> | Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall                                 |



## Ladbroke Church News

**Peter Rigby**

[www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk](http://www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk)

January has proved to be a quiet month in the life of the church, with both the winter weather and Plan B restrictions combining to limit our activities. As both recede, we look forward to spring and the opportunities that it will bring. From the beginning of February our Covid restrictions will be relaxed, although we would encourage those who still wish to take precautions to feel free to do so and all to be respectful of each other's preferences.

Our services in February are as below. Ash Wednesday, that marks the beginning of Lent is on 2<sup>nd</sup> March this year and we shall be holding a special service that evening.

### Future Services:

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service

[www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk](http://www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk) [ladbrokechurch@gmail.com](mailto:ladbrokechurch@gmail.com)



## 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>**

I was unable to attend the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January as I was giving a lecture that evening. If there is anyone who would like to go along on an occasional basis wearing a Harbury and Ladbroke News hat please let me know as it's always good to have a member of the public there who can give a flavour of what happened for the magazine.

From the agenda and talking to a councillor, I gather they covered the following. Some of these points have been notified alerted to villagers via Enews. If you did not get this on 13<sup>th</sup> January, I suspect your email address is not on the distribution list. Contact Martin Neal at [mneal2@zohomail.eu](mailto:mneal2@zohomail.eu) if you wish it to be added.

**Precept:** This will remain unchanged from last year.

**Planning:** The replacement garage at Woodcutters Cottage had been approved and applications received for tree works in land off Bridge Lane,

renovations to Deppers Bridge Farm and erection of an agricultural building off the B4451 close to Deppers Bridge. Both of the latter are just inside the parish boundary. *(It was not mentioned in the agenda but I see the Schedule 17 application from HS2 (HS2OCW/00030/21) which includes more details about overbridges, planting and an updated noise report etc, is available on the SDC planning website).*

**Drainage:** There have been some incidents with the drains in Bridge Lane, School Lane and Church Road and possible sewerage leaks into the stream. If you spot any problems in the future please advise Severn Trent, referencing our pumping station 6803 and the location of the problem. If the problem is not on your land make it abundantly clear the problem does not relate to your property. "What3words" is a good phone app for pinpointing a location.

**Highways and Paths:** The Parish Council thanked the person who cleared leaves from the Church Road pavement. As well as making the footpath easier to use it should reduce gulley problems. WCC Highways Dept are working to clear the road drains along Church Road. Road closures later in January were noted.

**HS2:** Traffic concerns - several weight limit signs had been sprayed over, eg the one approaching Ladbroke on the A423 from the south, both HS2 and the police have been notified.

**Speeding:** This was on the agenda but doesn't appear to have moved forward, as waiting for support from WCC.

**Village Booklet as given to new residents:** it was agreed that this should be reprinted. *(Since the meeting Kip Warr has agreed to update it).*

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.



## Ladbroke & Deppers Bridge Women's Institute

Dianne Surgey



Steve Attridge was very pleased to be invited to talk at the WI meeting in The Village Hall on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January. He has had over 100 TV programmes broadcast, six feature films, eight stage plays and 24 books published in a variety of genres. He began his writing career as a performance poet and has also performed several one man shows at the Edinburgh Fringe.

He talked of writing being a form of survival. Going to a rough school in North London he learned at a tender age that if you could tell someone a story or make them laugh they were less likely to bully you - there was something magic in words. And if life gets tough then you can always re-tell it more favourably, or at least differently.

Curiosity is the prime mover in most of his work, in particular asking 'What if' questions and he described how a BBC Children's Drama called The Boot Street Band began with a few questions, such as 'What if kids ran a school?' and 'What if the kids behave like adults and the adults like kids?' The series won a Writers' Guild Award and a BAFTA nomination. He said that curiosity was something he gained from reading Leonardo's notebooks, where he is constantly questioning the world, himself and the cosmos.

Borrowing from the bard is important to his work, using Shakespearean themes and ideas and motifs to give his work depth and another level of interest. For example, in another BBC series called The Queen's Nose, he used a plot line from A Midsummer Night's Dream where Bottom is transformed into an ass. In a film he wrote called Hawkins he used a variation on the love story from Romeo and Juliet as part of the spine of the story.

Steve talked of using guiding metaphors for his main characters. In one BBC film starring Robert Lindsay as a philosopher detective he built the character around the idea of him being like a hawk: watchful, predatory, shrewd, a hunter. He also uses an idea he gleaned from the work of Virginia Woolf in an essay entitled 'A Room of One's Own' - that of digging caves beneath characters. Every now and then pausing the plot to go deeper into a character's background or inner world. He read an example from his novel, The Natural Law, which was a number one bestseller on Amazon.

He believes in having a strong opening to both screenplays and novels. In particular a beginning which poses a big question. He read from his novel Behind Closed Doors which poses a big question - if there was a God, what would he be like as a character? Steve said he first got this idea of the big question from actor Rutger Hauer, who said the big question informing the Bladerunner film was - what does it mean to be human?

Discussion after the talk was lively and engaging. In discussing the relationship between the real and the imaginary Steve suggested that what doesn't happen to you is as important as what does, and is just as important in creating your character. For example, the people you would have liked to kiss are as important as the ones you have, or the places you wish you'd visited are as significant as the ones you have been to. Choice creates different ley lines through life. The ones that get away help shape and define the ones that didn't.

He is currently writing a historical novel and a children's book.

Most of Steve's books are available at:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Steve-Attridge/e/B001KDF3OO%3Fref=dbs\\_a\\_mng\\_rwt\\_scns\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Steve-Attridge/e/B001KDF3OO%3Fref=dbs_a_mng_rwt_scns_share)

Dianne had to manage the business meeting which followed in the absence of our secretary, Joan. She was suffering with Covid and we sent our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The main part of our meeting focused on the Resolutions which we discussed before voting. Those receiving the most votes will be sent to the Federation from which a short list will be drawn up.

In February we have a demonstration of painting on glass. In March we hope to have an outing to the newly refurbished Warwick Arts Centre. Details to follow. In April we will have a pudding party! It has been suggested that we might come up with a recipe for a new pudding for the Queen's jubilee so do have a go and bring your pudding along. There will be no shortage of volunteers to taste your new creation and we might just have a glass of something suitable to accompany a delicious pudding! May will be our Annual Meeting. We may visit either the National Memorial Arboretum or the Batsford Arboretum in the summer months. It is difficult to plan too far ahead under the current circumstances but we will keep you posted.

It was also suggested that we might "plant a tree for the Jubilee".

Dianne agreed to circulate the hostess list so if you haven't received this, do check when you are 'on duty' in the kitchen!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February in Ladbroke Village Hall starting at 7.30pm and all are welcome.



## 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.

### Save the Date - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022



To celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee we are planning a lunchtime event for the village on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June on the Millennium Green. This is likely to be a barbecue with some fun activities. More details will be available, but if you have any ideas please let us know.



The play area in the Millennium Green is becoming a little worn and tired so we would like to give it a makeover by buying new equipment and replacing the old. This will cost a sizeable sum but we feel it will be worth it. Therefore, we will be planning events to raise funds for this project. More details soon.



After its refurbishment our village hall is looking welcoming and fresh. If you would like to book your special celebration in our hall contact Debs (tel 07779 225105 or email [debs.dptv@gmail.com](mailto:debs.dptv@gmail.com)). The rates are still £15 per hour with a generous 20% discount for Ladbroke residents.

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).

**David Wright**

## Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for December 2021

£50	Donna Griffith	£50	Sophie Kendall
£25	Carol Locker	£25	Tim Malby
£50	Elaine Taylor	£10	Joan Perry
£10	Derek and Collette Batty	£10	Colin and Kay Constable

**Margaret Bosworth**



### Ladbroke Photography Club

**Kip Warr**

We did not have a meeting in January or February in view of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of Covid. In March we shall hold our AGM; always brief, but on this occasion particularly important as we seek a new Secretary to replace the incomparable Jackie. It will be followed by a competition and phototopic on the theme "Colourful" to brighten our days. Visitors are always welcome. Then in April we shall have our annual pub meal.

If you would like more information about this very friendly club, please contact Jackie West: [ladbrokephotoclub@btinternet.com](mailto:ladbrokephotoclub@btinternet.com) Photos we took during lockdown are still on display at [kwarr.co.uk/photography](http://kwarr.co.uk/photography).



### Ladbroke General Section



### Ladbroke Heritage

Despite not much happening "on the ground" in Ladbroke in January, we have not been resting on our laurels and things have been busy behind the scenes and beyond the village.

#### Repairs

We met the contractors who will be repairing the lychgate. This work will start around 25<sup>th</sup> April and should be finished by the beginning of June. There will be some other minor repairs to church before then, including work on part of the floor. We have to remove redundant pipework which is rusting and causing the floor to lift and tiles to break. To ensure the new base can harden without anyone walking on it, the church will be locked for a few days, sorry for any inconvenience.

#### Activities

Jackie has given a number of **talks** recently and has more booked. The first one this year was to Long Itchington History Group about the repairs. They were very interested not just in the work of the stonemasons and stained glass experts but the fund raising aspects too, so she was able to explain the National Lottery Heritage Fund's 67% grant and thank all the other generous



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people who helped fund the project too. Informal feedback from this event rated Jackie's talk as excellent, her knowledge 'really detailed' - this from a lady who came to the evening especially to hear the talk. As a result she will visit Ladbroke and the church and is interested in a guided tour....just the outcomes we like!

Jackie also gave a talk to the Bidford and District History Society about "Alice and the Adventurer", including extra research about Alice's connection with their village. A member of the audience emailed afterwards to say *"I was interested because many Bidford teenagers benefit from yearly grants to assist with the costs of higher education, including both my sons. Any financial grants are really helpful and it is so interesting to know the history of where a sizeable proportion of the money comes from. It's amazing to think Alice's charitable legacy continues to this day."* Although Alice did not leave a legacy to Ladbroke we do benefit in a much smaller way from a charity set up by another widow in the 17th century. Widow Alibone also put some of her land in trust and the income it generates over 300 years later, continues to be given half to the church and half for non-ecclesiastical use in Ladbroke.

The **photo exhibition** which was displayed in church in November has been on tour to Galanos House and where it was enjoyed by residents and carers alike. If you know another care home or venue that would like to borrow it free of charge for a few days please contact Jackie (details below). The photos are ready mounted onto two folding display boards, so all that is needed are a couple of long tables to put these on.

**Information** on the website [www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk](http://www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk) continues to grow with many downloadable documents including all our leaflets and the story of Alice and the Adventurer as first published in this magazine last autumn.

Our **school resources** have been expanding and in January we launched our invitation to primary schools to "Bring Learning to Life" with a visit here. As well as sessions at Ladbroke Church linked to the RE curriculum, we have a great package for Key Stage 2 (i.e. early juniors) on Rocks. What's more, we can provide free transport, thanks to the Lottery, and if coming to Ladbroke does not appeal for other reasons we



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 visit <http://www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk>



can work with a school's local church or bring modified "visit" activities into the classroom.

We will have more news on for events for people of all ages next month. In the meantime don't forget: to book a **guided tour** contact Nicky on nicolalewis1958@gmail.com or 815196; for **talks and other aspects** contact Jackie on ladbrokechurch89@btinternet.com or phone 810331.

**Jackie West & Nicky Lewis**



## **Report from your District Councillor for Ladbroke**

### **Road Closures**

HS2 contractors have closed the Kineton Road just south of Southam towards Deppers Bridge for a scheduled period 19<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> January. This is to build a reinforced crossing for construction vehicles. Despite a number of meetings where I and other councillors sought alternatives, they could not be persuaded that there were viable alternatives to a full road closure. We can only hope that the closure period will actually be less than stated and not overrun as there are a number of traffic light restrictions on other roads around Southam. These include the Banbury Road south of Southam, the A425 by the Polo Ground, Welsh Road at Bascote and around the Welsh Road - Fosseyway Junction.

Road works can be tracked at <https://one.network/uk>

### **HS2**

One of the most significant elements of the local civil engineering is the tunnel under Long Itchington wood. The tunnel boring machine has started work and is presently 26m into the hill for the first of the two tunnels.

I have now had a formal answer to my enquiries about excess lighting, in that HS2 do have formal policies which should protect against this. However, as with other matters, control seems to rely rather on local residents reporting problems to the HS2 help line.

### **Covid - Has it Peaked Locally?**

We still face high levels of infections locally with Covid, but there are signs of levelling off. At the time of writing, the 7 day rate per 100,000 for the district is 1037 having come down from a peak of 1530, but about a month ago the figure was 545. There has also been a similar peak in the rates for the over 60s in the district at 880 per 100,000, but these are now getting almost back to the levels of around three weeks earlier at 343 per 100,000. I hear reports that younger school children are now being affected in larger numbers but I do not have recorded figures for this.

The effect on the health service has been showing in ambulance and A&E wait times at hospitals. At Warwick Hospital 22% Patients waited more than 30 minutes to be handed over from ambulances to A&E staff, (10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> January). The equivalent figure is 28% at Walsgrave University Hospital. Waiting times at A&E for more than 4 hours were 28% at both hospitals.

In relation to the boosters/third vaccinations for adults within the District, the vaccination rate in this age group is above 80%, one of the highest rates in the country. Even better still, the rate in and around Southam is 90%, which is perhaps as well given the high infection rates. We can only hope, with this protection and great caution, communities will be impacted to the minimum possible.

### **Covid Grants**

Just before Christmas the Government announced some new grants for businesses affected by the Omicron variant of Coronavirus. However, as has been the case several times before, the government has made the announcement without the detail of implementation through local councils being sorted out. The District Council still does not have the final version of the guidance from Government on who is to be included in this scheme, nor has the funding and software system been released. The District Council will process these grants as soon as possible. When available, information will be on: [www.stratford.gov.uk/coronavirus/additional-business-support-grants.cfm](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/coronavirus/additional-business-support-grants.cfm)

The scheme will be expected to be open to applications until the end of February 2022 and the final payments will need to be made by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Merger of Stratford and Warwick District Councils**

As I have previously reported, the Councils have asked the Government for a merger. The consideration was quite complex with various pros and cons. Among these, the potential loss of community connection with the District and through the councillors is a concern, so I have been investigating that key issue should the new large council come into being. This can be measured by the number of residents a councillor represents. At the moment this is around 2700 electors per councillor, but a paper by consultants suggested this could rise to 3600 after the merger. Would this make it more difficult for residents to get help from a councillor? I have been working, cross party, on a research study which shows that such a dilution is unreasonable and well out of step with all other district councils. (Of 181 District Councils in England only 11 have more than 2800 and two councils above 3000 electors per councillor.) Like the merger itself, it is central Government that will finally decide these things but we can only make a case for common sense to prevail.

**Cllr Nigel Rock**  
[nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



### **Under New Management**

I've heard that when The Bell Inn re-opens after its January holiday it will be as part of the Free Spirit Pub Company, which includes The Castle at Edgehill, The Sun at Hook Norton and The Red Lion at Hellidon. Places which don't just serve good food and drink, but are part of their local community too. Sounds good to me.

**Jackie West**



## 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](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk) or obtained from the Parish Clerk, Tel: 01926 614646**

Our Parish Council has now reached the maximum size allowed, with the co-option of a new member, Alex Potter, to fill the “casual vacancy” caused by Chris Gibb’s retirement. After that the Councillors’ responsibilities were re-organised, with the promise of training courses for the new members.

**Harbury Library** circulated their report to the Council which included information about mask-wearing and social distancing in the Library. Chairman Tim Lockley was hopeful that the heating there could soon be upgraded. Library representative Rich Fowler said they hoped to install a new heating system similar to the one in the Village Hall, which would allow them to get rid of “the old boiler”. That, in the long term, would make extra space available in the Library.

**Harbury Energy Group** - Julie Balch said the group was working with the School to install a meter to monitor the power it used. The Scout Hut needed improvement. The Group was promoting cycling and tree planting was in progress.

**School Governors** - Councillor Keith Thompson reported that Sue Johnson was the new Chairman. Parents had no objection to the Governors working on the prospect of joining the “Arden Forest MAT” as they were sure Governors would have the Children’s “best interests” at heart.

**Southam School** - Chairman Tim Lockley reported that some classrooms were to be demolished and a two-storey temporary classroom would be erected as part of a much larger re-build.

**Twinning** - Ron Temple was the new Chairman of the organisation.

**Village Hall** - Andy Rutherford said that booking had improved and they might now remove the signs on wearing masks. They would have to find a new treasurer as the present one would be retiring in a year’s time. Tim Lockley said the Library was also looking to find a replacement treasurer.

**County Councillor** - Reported on our school, Omicron and the police budget “row” where the Police and Crime Commissioner was surprised that the proposed 4% increase on what home owners had to pay was **REJECTED!** Our police must switch from using the “West Mercia Server” to a local one.

**Planning** - Councillor Sam Allen advised Councillors to approve tree-works on a silver birch and a sycamore at Fox Cottage. The Parish Council objected to the plans at Heron’s Cabin but would not be able to stop trees there being removed.

There was considerable discussion on the plan for another solar farm off

Middle Road. This is much larger than the one near the Fosse. Councillors wanted a robust traffic management plan and were concerned that work could be ongoing whilst HS2 was still causing disruption.

Chairman Tim Lockley said this huge project would have a “significant impact on Harbury” and provided little “community benefit for us”. He wanted significant dialogue on “Community Gain” and enhanced biodiversity. (The applicant’s bird survey showed a very wide range of birds at the site.)

In contrast to this latest application, the Councillors would have news at their next meeting of a proposed Deed of Gift to the Parish Council from the earlier Solar Farm application (at Eastfields) and appeared pleased with most of its potential impact on the environment.

**Properties** - At last the Tennis Club had “dealt” with its lease problem.

There was considerable discussion on whether the new parish lights could be loaned out. Tim Lockley said they belonged to the Parish Council and were not overly robust. A competent electrician was needed for installation. He was concerned about them being damaged - so no!

**Environment** – Traffic calming on Bush Heath Road and Butt Lane: Cllrs intend to have a feasibility study in April/May but emphasised that residents needed to understand that there was no possibility of WCC funding for reducing traffic speeds on these roads.

**Tree Planting:** Paul Quinney had asked for one or more Parish Councillors to lead on what was a very ambitious tree planting project. The Chairman asked the Parish Environment Group to look at what was feasible. Cllr Rutherford would discuss this with Mr Quinney.

**Deppers Bridge:** they are still campaigning for a 20mph speed limit through their village and our Chairman and his Committee would like a similar speed cut for Harbury. Indeed, they want our residents’ views on and this would like such limits for all Warwickshire villages. It would improve our environment and save lives.

**WCC Bus Vision Consultation:** The Chairman feared that there did not appear to be any funding for this! The Vision said there would be more regular buses but Tim was not sure there would in fact be any great changes.

**Climate Working Party:** Hoped to be an umbrella for a number of organisations. They would provide information on the costs of an Eco Fare at the Carnival. There were nascent plans for a Jubilee Weekend before the Carnival but Tim Lockley did not want the Parish Council to be the main organiser of these events. The Library seemed the appropriate contact point for collecting information on any Jubilee projects.

## **Finance and General Purposes**

The cost to the Parish of membership of the Fields in Trust was £65 a year but the Cllrs decided this was not value for money and did not contribute.

There is a bizarre demand from NPower and E-on over street lighting costs

(they are trying to charge the Parish £140 a month for lights the Parish does not own).

Ongoing payment for Hall fees for the “Local Market” were agreed. Unions still can’t agree on the staff salary for clerks. Councillors’ Allowances are only given to elected members, but not to those co-opted.

The Allotments “Wellbeing Project”, which is disability-friendly, for people who would benefit from working outside with others, was given £3K and the Parish has applied for 1K from WCC, the Co-op, Awards for All and the National Lottery.

## Reports and Questions

Julie Balch praised the efforts of the community in lighting up the village and gave special praise to Frances Road and the Shakespeare, to Colin Sheasby for the use of his cherry-picker, the twelve volunteers and five Parish Councillors, all of whom helped to make our Christmas bright and thanked the Shake for the bacon butties!

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

## Harbury Parish Council News

### Winter 2022

Welcome to our latest round-up of parish council news.

### Planning & Development

The planning application for a solar farm on land at **Eastfields Farm in Deppers Bridge** was granted planning permission on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The parish council supported this application as did a number of local residents. As well as providing renewable energy, the development will include a new wildflower meadow with public access and will complement the adjacent WWT nature reserve. The parish council is now beginning a discussion with the developers about providing community benefit and any local projects they can help fund or support.

At the time of writing, an application for another solar farm on **land off Middle Road** has just been received and will be considered by the parish council at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The public consultation period for this application ends on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022, so if you have any comments to make, please ensure you submit them to SDC before this date.

The district councils of Stratford and Warwick have decided to work together to produce a new **South Warwickshire Local Plan**. This will take several years to prepare but when completed, will provide the planning policy for all future building and development in this area for the next 30 years. Work began last year with a ‘call for sites’ consultation during May and June 2021. This is when developers and landowners have the opportunity to put forward areas of land which they think would be suitable for development. The councils have now collated all the proposals and have published a map

showing their location. The map is available to view on SDC's website and shows several sites which have been proposed in and around Harbury. Please note that publication of the map is in no way an endorsement by either district council that the site is either suitable for development or will be included within the Local Plan itself. These sites have not yet been analysed and as such it is unlikely that all sites will be taken forward as the plan progresses. In due course, there will be a public consultation on the suitability of sites and at that point, local residents, along with the parish council, will have an opportunity to make their views known.



### **Budget 2022/23**

The council begins drafting its budget for the new financial year during December and January. The final draft is approved at the January council meeting. At the time of writing, this meeting has not yet taken place but we anticipate that the precept, which is the amount raised from your council tax, will be a total of £119,677 which equates to £99.58 per annum per household for a Band D rate. This represents an increase of just 0.42% on the current year. A more detailed summary of the budget will be published following the formal approval by the council.

### **Playing Field Drainage**

The drainage works were carried out before Christmas. Although the far end of the field still floods, we hope that water is draining away much more quickly but we are continuing to monitor the situation.

### **Village Tree Planting**

Local resident, Paul Quinney, has volunteered to take the lead on this project. Please look out for more information over the next few weeks.

### **Bush Heath Road/Butt Lane Traffic**

We recently met with WCC Highways and members of the residents' action group to discuss the forthcoming feasibility study which the parish council has commissioned. The study will consider suitable traffic calming measures for this stretch of road and give an indication of likely costs. WCC stressed that they are unable to fund any traffic calming themselves so if we decided that we wanted to take it forward, we would have to raise the money ourselves. WCC agreed to look at amendments to the speed limits, better signage and also physical installations.

### **Considerate Parking**

Please always consider other people when you are parking. Never park across a drive or entrance, and look out for dropped kerbs, some of which have been installed to make access easier for people with mobility problems. Some village roads are very narrow so please ensure that there is still enough space for traffic to pass by while your vehicle is parked. Please

remember that your “just five minutes” can cause someone else to miss an important appointment or be late for picking up a child or elderly relative.

### **Allotments - Well-being Project**

Last summer, one of our keen allotment holders came up with the idea of making a plot available for anyone who would like to try growing their own fruit and veg and, at the same time, would benefit from being outdoors and meeting other people. The council agreed to set aside a plot for this project, and we have recently applied for some grant funding so we can build raised beds, put in some paths, and build a shelter where people can sit down and enjoy a chat with others. This project is still in its early stages, but we think it will be very beneficial for people who can't manage a garden or allotment of their own or would just enjoy spending some time outdoors and the chance to mix with other people. If you would be interested in helping with this, please get in touch.

### **New AED for Deppers Bridge**

The council has recently bought an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) to be installed at the old phone box in Deppers Bridge. It is currently on order and when it arrives we will arrange for it to be fitted as soon as possible.

### **Christmas & Winter Lights**

We are very grateful to everyone who helped put up the lights and to those who have provided a power supply. We've received lots of compliments from complete strangers who just happened to be driving through Harbury and they took the time to contact the parish council and say how much they enjoyed the display. Well done everybody!

### **Councillor Changes**

In October we said goodbye to Stacey Boyd. Stacey had only joined us in May last year but she quickly got involved so we were sad to lose her so soon, but she has moved away from the village. Fortunately, we were able to welcome Jess Dominick who was co-opted to the council at the November meeting. Jess is a lifelong Harbury resident and leads the Harbury Environmental Group which she set up last year via Facebook. Jess has joined the council's properties group (you might see her out and about inspecting the play equipment!) and the new climate working party.

Just when we thought we had a full house again, Chris Gibb resigned just before Christmas having been offered a new job in Scotland. Chris had been with us for 7 years and during that time he very successfully led the project team for the WW1 Centenary Trail and chaired the council's environment group. We are very sorry indeed to see him go but wish him all the very best in his new role and hope to occasionally see him in Harbury. We will be co-opting someone to fill this vacancy at our January meeting.




## Contacting the Parish Council

The office is usually open between 10.00am and 12 noon Monday to Thursday. Tel 01926 614646 or [clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk) Casual callers are welcome, but if you are making a special trip, please phone first to make sure the parish clerk is available to see you, just in case she has another appointment or has had to go out somewhere.

### Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:

Tim Lockley (Chairman), Keith Thompson (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Julie Balch, Jess Dominick, Steve Ekins, Alan Knowles, Andrew Rutherford, Janet Thornley

	<h2>Harbury Society</h2>	<p><b>Sue Turner</b></p>
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A very enjoyable evening was shared by 25 Harbury Society members at The Crown on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. It was such a treat to be dining together in what felt like normal circumstances and everyone seemed to enjoy the quizzes which were part of the entertainment. This was the first event of 2022 and will, hopefully, be followed by other equally well-attended occasions.

Please find details of a few below:

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February** - Coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room - 10am-12pm. There will be cakes for sale and raffle tickets to buy.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February** - The Tom Hauley Room. Jackie West will give a presentation entitled 'Alice and The Adventurer' which is the forgotten story of Alice Leigh and Robert Dudley. Doors open at 7.30pm with the talk starting at 8pm. Refreshments will be available. Harbury Society members FOC, guests £1.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March** - The Tom Hauley Room. A presentation by Harbury Society member, John Smith, entitled 'A Jungle Adventure' which will give an interesting insight into his life and time spent in Borneo. Doors open at 7.30pm with the talk starting at 8pm. Refreshments will be available. Harbury Society members FOC, guests £1.

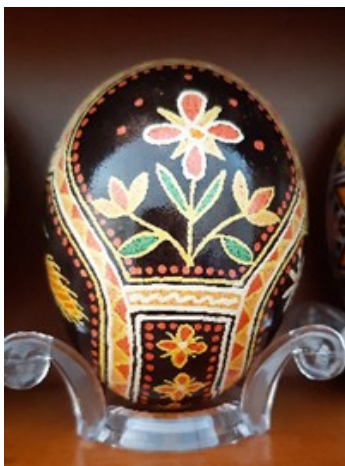
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May** - A guided tour of Ladbroke by Nicky Lewis starting at 2pm. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

If you would like further details of any of the above, or to become a member of the Harbury Society, please contact Sue Turner, Secretary, on 07917 055920 or email [sue@turners.co.uk](mailto:sue@turners.co.uk)

Of course, all of the above will be subject to whatever Covid guidelines are in place at the time. Looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible during the year but, in the meantime, please stay safe.

The numbers at our January meeting were somewhat depleted largely because members either had Covid or were shielding. Nevertheless, those that did attend had a very enjoyable evening; Kath Ching, one of our own members, told us about her hobby of decorating eggs Ukrainian style.

The art of Ukrainian Pysanky is an important aspect of Ukrainian cultural tradition. The egg has always been a symbol of Birth, Spring and Fertility and, as Christianity spread to these areas around the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Pysanky became a symbol associated with the rebirth of the world.



In the 1970s, Kath and family went on a year's exchange to Michigan University College. Kath saw an advertisement for decorating eggs and thought it could be a useful activity for her two little girls. She started decorating eggs using the white eggs that are usually available in the USA. She was told that it wasn't necessary to blow the eggs but changed her mind when one exploded and others started to smell!

Kath decorates her eggs during the 40 days of Lent. At the end of the 70s white eggs became hard to get and she gave up decorating eggs for a while. In 1992 she read an article about a Ukrainian Catholic Church in Manchester and eventually she met up with Father Paul who was an expert on decorating eggs; he was also able to find a source of white eggs. She still keeps in touch with Father Paul.

The process of decorating the eggs is quite a lengthy process using a Batik method and a variety of dyes; it involves candles and a lot of matchsticks. At the end of the process she wipes off wax with white spirit and varnishes the eggs.

Kath bought a variety of samples of the process and her beautiful finished eggs including a very impressive ostrich egg. Chris Rutherford had worked with Kath to produce close up photographs of some eggs and some video clips of Kath working on her eggs.

Sadly, we made the decision to cancel the Rural Cinema on 15<sup>th</sup> January and postpone the New Year party on 28<sup>th</sup> January. We plan to hold the cinema on 12<sup>th</sup> February when the film will be "Dream Horse." The film tells the story of a Welsh bartender who decides to breed a racehorse though she lacks money and the necessary experience; the film stars Toni Collette, Owen Teck, Alan David and Lynda Baron. Please watch the village notice boards for more information. Tickets will be £11 with fish and chips and £6 without food. It would be really helpful to the staff in the chemist if you can have the correct money when you purchase tickets.

Our meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February is the annual "Members Night". Julia Fowler will be organising a quiz and Lin Hayes has asked members to come with a brief account (maximum three minutes) of something they did in lockdown that they wouldn't have normally found time to do.



## Harbury Theatre Group

**Natalie Tayler**

A new year has brought with it some changes to the Harbury Theatre Group. Our chairman and vice-chair, Geoff and Keith, both retired from their roles during our January meeting and a new team was elected. Becci is now chair, Natalie vice-chair, Caroline secretary and Lin is continuing as treasurer. We are grateful for all the knowledge that the team have shared with us and their ongoing support as we move forward with some exciting plans for 2022.

The first thing we have to share is our new website: [www.harburytheatregroup.com](http://www.harburytheatregroup.com) We will be using it to share pictures/clips from previous shows and information about upcoming events. We've also now got an Instagram account and Facebook page you can follow for updates on our plans and performances. Please do have a look.

Preparations are well under way for our next event - the HTG Open Evening on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February (Tom Hauley room 7.30pm). We would love to see new people who have an interest in any aspect of amateur dramatics. If you have a hidden talent or a passion for acting, singing, painting, lighting, sound, props, costumes, production management, marketing, music, script writing, youth group, directing, dancing or anything else I may have missed off (!) then please do come along and meet our lovely group. There will be drinks and nibbles so how could you say no to that?!

We will then be starting work on our next performances planned for May which we are hoping to take to the Amateur Community Theatre festival later in the year.

2022 should be a fun year for Harbury Theatre Group so do come along and join us.

Please get in touch via our email address [harburytheatregroup@gmail.com](mailto:harburytheatregroup@gmail.com) or have a browse on our social media if you'd like any further information.



## Harbury Twinning Association

**Ron Temple**

We had our Fête des Rois (Festival of the Three Kings) on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. Many thanks to Andrew and Jenny Patrick who hosted the event at their home in Mill Street. Many of the members of our association made the traditional Galettes des Rois and there were some quizzes as well as a convivial glass of wine. A good time was had by all.



### Fête des Rois

We have a number of other events planned for the coming year as Tony described last month. Hopefully, we will be able to visit our friends in Samois-sur-Seine later in the year. Samois is a commune south of Paris, very near to Fontainebleau, and a lovely place to visit.

If anyone would like to join our association and take part in what we do each year, please contact me at [drtemple@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:drtemple@hotmail.co.uk). We have a BBQ planned for the summer and it would be nice to welcome new members to it.



**Samois-sur Seine**

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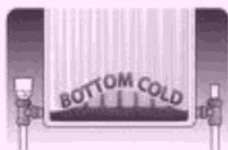
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## Harbury Heritage Centre

Bill Timson

Last month we delved into the Harbury and Ladbroke News from January 1982. Moving on ten years to February 1992, a few 'highlights' of the many articles of interest published in the 40 page magazine are shown below:

The church lych gate was taken away for refurbishment.

The Folk Club held an 'old time music hall evening'.

Harbury Society produced a calendar! Does anyone still have one we could put into our archives?

The IPA beer at the Crown was £1.10 a pint.

The Parish Council agreed to provide a dog litter bin for the playing field.

There are many more articles in this edition and if you belong to a village club or society the back editions of the magazine give you a really informative history over the past 50 years. All of these are available to view in the Heritage Centre.

We had a good response to our first 'Who Knows?' request regarding Harbury Hall. I have put together the information received as well as finding out what we have on record in our own archives.

The building is thought to be early to mid-Victorian; our records show that in the 1891 census **'The Hall'** was occupied by John Clifford, then aged 66 and his wife Sarah. John was a 'retired clerk in holy orders' living 'by his own means'. He was originally from Frampton on Severn, Gloucestershire. They had three servants who also lived at the Hall. Thirty years earlier in 1861



Thomas Oldham (71) and his wife Elizabeth lived there as did their son-in-law, together with two servants, Harriett Sheasby and Elizabeth Gaskin, both of whom were local Harbury girls.

The photograph above shows The Hall and foregarden in the 1920's

At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Harbury Hall was occupied by Captain Frank Osborne and his wife, Helen. We have the deeds that show Captain Osborne bought the Hall in 1905 which included the land surrounding it and dwellings occupied by tenants. The death of the previous owner, Henrietta

Hill, in 1892 left the Estate in the hands of her nephew, Edwin Hill, from London. The deeds are dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 1905 and it was at this time that that Captain Osborne and his wife, Helen, became the new owners. It was Helen Osborne who donated the Village Club to a group of trustees for the people of Harbury in December 1919. The land survey of 1913 shows the purchase price for the Hall was £3500. It was described as a 'nicely situated gentleman's resident with lawns, gardens, orchards, stabling, paddocks and house'. It had five bedrooms 'well decorated and fitted up'. Two cottages in Hall Lane were occupied by the groom and gardener both of who lived there rent free. A memorandum dated 29<sup>th</sup> December 1919 shows not only the plot given by the Osborne family for the Club but other land owned by the Osbornes. This included several fields both sides of Bull Ring Farm Road running right down to the railway cutting as well as the paddock and allotments by the Church. Later in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century between, 1946 and 1948, Stanley Robinson, the then owner, had plans approved by Warwickshire County Council for the building of a cow house and calf shed.

In the 1960's Tony Robinson (we could assume he was Stanley's son) and his sister, Diana Price, owned the Hall. Tony resided at the Hall until his death in the 1970's and Diana Price, although she had moved away, still owned the paddock and allotments until a few years' ago. (The paddock was sold recently by the executors of Diana's will shortly after she died.)

Village artist Moira Lamont saw the request for information about Harbury Hall in January's Harbury and Ladbrooke News and kindly provided the contact details of Mary Child, the mother of her son-in-law, Rob. I phoned Mary (née Green), the lady in question. Mary, who now lives in Worcestershire, provided the following information:

Mary is the eldest of Basil Green's three daughters and in 1981 Basil bought the Hall in partnership with Graham Pearson, a solicitor at Rotherham & Co in the Quadrant, Coventry. At that time Basil ran the family business started by his father, Greens Chemist.

Mary explained that Graham and his wife took the ground floor and the stable block as Fay Pearson wanted to run a stud and Basil and his second wife, Philippa, had the upstairs and the substantial garden facing towards the Church and the walled vegetable garden. The Pearsons sold to Mike Carter in the late 1980's and Basil continued to live there until his death in 1992.

The Hall and its surrounding out buildings have now been subdivided into a number of separate dwellings that provide individual homes within the walled grounds. Thanks to all who helped provide the information.

This month's '**Who Knows?**' asks what it was like to attend **The Wagstaffe School?**

Finally, but by no means least, a **MASSIVE** thank you to all the people who bought a 2022 Heritage calendar. The Heritage Committee agreed to make a donation of **£750** from the proceeds to Myton Hospice. The photograph opposite shows members of the Heritage group together with some of the



artists who painted the pictures for the calendar, presenting the cheque to Myton Hospice community fundraising officer, Louise Careless.



Open days in February and March are Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2-4pm, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 7-9pm and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2-4pm.

Pay us a visit and find out what we have available in the archives.



## Harbury Energy Initiative

**Bob Sherman**

☎612277 ✉[info@harburyenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@harburyenergy.co.uk)

### Will a heat pump work in my house?



You might be wondering how you are going to heat your house in the coming era of high gas prices and gradual reduction in gas boilers. The government has been telling us that we should all have air- or ground-source heat pumps (ASHP or GSHP). I am certainly not sure. Are you?

HEI would like to collate all the questions that people in the village have about it and get some expert advice. For example, I want to know how good they are for retrofitting, whether we have space enough to install one and what other changes we would need to plan for, such as larger radiators. If you have questions or would like to be included in any information we gather, drop me a line via [info@harburyenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@harburyenergy.co.uk) or post a message on HEI's Facebook page.

This will eventually contribute to the work that the Parish Council's newly formed Climate Working Group is planning. This official Parish Council

working group has invited HEI, Harbury Environmental Group and the Repair Cafe to contribute to the planning and delivery.

### **Ted's Tech and other stories**

As regular readers of this column (there are one or two of you, aren't there?) will have noticed, periodically HEI member Ted Dowdeswell turns up a fascinating tech story. **Here's one for February:**

No one will be surprised that the Australian Northern Territory desert heartland is a great place to harvest solar rays and make electricity. Slightly more surprising is the idea that you can extract water from the air in that harsh arid climate. Put the two together and you have the ingredients for electrolysing water to make green hydrogen. This is exactly what the Australian Desert Bloom project run by the developer Aqua Aerem aims to do. It will start with a small 8MW test project with the intention of sizing up dramatically to 10GW. Production of hydrogen from free electricity is seen as one of the crucial developments to help us avoid the worst effects of climate change. There are many deserts in the world and a technology such as this could be a major contributor to cutting global carbon emissions.

### **And here's another bit of news:**

A company called British Lithium has a new pilot scheme in Cornwall to produce lithium from the mica in granite. Lithium is one of the materials used in modern batteries for electric cars and energy storage. Production at the moment is controversial as current mining operations in other countries have been destructive of local landscape and can involve exploitation of labour. The British Lithium project, funded by Innovate UK, has started with a modest production of 5kg of lithium carbonate per day, not exactly enough to solve our imports of foreign lithium, but they expect to be producing 21,000 tonnes a year within the next five years. It's a new process so they need to prove it works first.



### **Going electric?**

If you are thinking of buying an EV (electric vehicle) but haven't yet made up your mind, you might like to look in on the Harbury EVs Facebook page. You can seek out opinions and advice from existing owners to help you to decide. To ease the issue of charging cars when you can't have a domestic charge point we have been working for two years now on a plan to put in an EV charging station here in Harbury, called Harbury Future Energy. The plans have now gone for planning consent. You can find more info about this project at <https://www.harburyenergy.co.uk/powering-electric-cars-in-harbury/>

### **Climate change, the movie**

You may feel that you have had enough information on the climate emergency - but you may not. If you want a good, clear understanding of the situation **and how we can fix it**, there is an excellent film on YouTube called 'The Race is On' - <https://climateracefilm.org>



## Harbury Rugby Football Club

Steve Kittendorf

### Harbury 17 Old Wheatleyans 19

On a dry and mild Saturday afternoon at Waterloo Fields, Harbury hosted second-in-the-table Old Wheats. Harbury started the match on top whilst Wheats looked to be outgunned as they were pinned back in their 22. Despite the sustained period of pressure, the hosts did not reap their deserved rewards as the visitors' defence held out and continued to clear their lines.

After twenty minutes though, winger Toby Whelan linked well with full back Joe Hunt to leave himself 1 on 1 with his opposite man. A deft touch saw him grubber the ball in behind the defence, which he reclaimed to touch down in the corner.

Wheats returned fire with a try.

Harbury continued to press, with reward coming as Wing (and fixture secretary!) George Bostock scored a brilliant solo try. Bostock took a flat ball, rounded his man, kicked ahead and regathered to dive over in the corner to lead 10-5 at the break.

Wheats then shifted into gear. Harbury's Scrum began to falter, and Wheats took advantage of turnovers to score two converted tries. Harbury continued on though and were rewarded when centre Steve Alford cut through the defence 60 yards out and rounded the full back to score under the posts.

### Old Yardleians 20 Harbury 18

An injury-struck team travelled up the M40 to face fourth place Old Yards with several players answering the call, including notable appearances from forward James Daniels and Hooker Adrian Exton.

Unforced errors, knock-ons and penalties coughed up by the visitors gave the opposition valuable possession that they converted into points. However, when Harbury did string together some flowing passes along the backs together they scored with ease.

Joe Hunt was brought in at stand-off increasing Harbury's tempo and thereby allowing centres Chris Woodham and Steve Alford to open up holes in OldYard's backline. Extra space created out wide allowed Ricky Alford to score a try in the corner. Momentum swung Harbury's way in the final quarter; a try was ruled out for a forward pass and then another opportunity went begging as the ball was dropped just short of the line. A low cross-field kick was picked up by the winger to score in the corner on the cusp of full-time. The conversion was missed, leaving the visitors with a losing bonus point as a reward for their unquestionable effort.

### Trinity Guild 17 Harbury 33

Harbury's planned league fixture at Chaddesley Corbett was cancelled due to the home side not being able to field a front row, giving Harbury five valuable league points.

Harbury took up Trinity Guild's offer to host a friendly game. Harbury travelled over with 18 players only to find that the Guild only had eight players. The teams were mixed to create a match with 13 a-side. Whilst Harbury ended up winning the match, they lost two players with a clash of heads, one player requiring seven stitches above his eye.



## Harbury Tennis Club

**Colin Mercer**

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HarburyTC>

January has been a busy month for the club starting with our traditional "New Year's Muffler Tournament". It was the first time we'd been able to hold the tournament for three years due to either bad weather and Covid in 2020. Peter Walshe wasn't able to play but did his usual excellent pre-event planning that resulted in some really close and long round robin matches. Mulled wine was on offer to keep the cold at bay while players were waiting for their next match. 20 members enjoyed the event and Ben Fish with James Edge, and Clare Callaghan and Ian Reynolds were Group winners contesting the final. Ben and James came out worthy winners to take the Dave Brown Trophy.



Despite it being such a difficult two years, the Club has managed to be very active whenever the rules allowed, and has seen playing numbers increase, not only in terms of members but also members of the public who are able to book courts. There were several other successes and the Committee felt it should submit a nomination for one of Warwickshire LTA's annual awards, Club of the Year 2021. The criteria for the award includes community involvement and financial sustainability. We're always keen to be involved with the community and we waived our booking fees during the worst activity restrictions of the pandemic, and we have a great relationship with Harbury school and have delivered several curricular courses supported by some club subsidies. We are financially stable and, with the Netball Club, have a unique arrangement with the Parish Council to ensure funds are available to keep the courts well maintained. Delighted to say that we have been shortlisted for the award and will find out whether we've done enough at the awards evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, fingers crossed.

Lots of league activity for our four teams playing in the Banbury league with eight matches scheduled for January. So far, five have been played but only one win to report! That was Floodlit "B" with a 6-2 win against Hook Norton

“C” for Sue Panton, Emma Brangwin, Nigel Eaton and Neil Browne. The team now occupies a comfortable mid-table position in Division 3. In Floodlit “A”, Eira Owen, Helen Cooper, Ben Fish and Josh Marshall suffered a 1-7 home defeat in Division 2 against leaders Brackley “A”, but the team is still in 4<sup>th</sup> place, comfortably above the relegation zone. The Floodlit “C” team of Katharine Giblin, Sue Johnson, Dan Chand and Craig Lenton travelled to Brackley and narrowly lost 3-5 in Division 4 and are in 5<sup>th</sup> place. This is the bottom Division so no relegation concerns!

Finally, the weekend team suffered two defeats, the first being at Kings Sutton “B” by 2-6. Nigel Eaton and Ash Chand were in a marathon two-hour men’s doubles which meant Katharine Giblin and Clare Callaghan had a very long wait! In the next match Jane Minchin, Sue Panton, Ash Chand and Colin Mercer took on league leaders Deddington. There were some long and competitive games but, to borrow a cricketing term, we failed to disturb the scorers and slipped towards the relegation zone!

The Winter/Spring coaching programme for children delivered by Coolsportz coaches Lianne, Steve, and Scott on Mondays and Fridays is going well. It caters for all ages - Mini Reds (8 yrs. and under), Orange/Green (9-12 yrs) and teenagers. There are also sessions for adults with Steve running the Rusty/Beginners on Monday evenings, Scott’s Improvers/Advanced and Cardio on Friday evenings and Lianne’s Ladies’ group on Friday mornings. If you’re interested, please contact Lianne on 07919 104093 or [lianne@coolsportz.co.uk](mailto:lianne@coolsportz.co.uk)



## Harbury Toddler Group

**Lynne Barton**

### **Hello from everyone at Toddlers**

We are having a fabulous start to the new term and meeting lots of new children and their parents, thank you all for your support, in these still uncertain times.

We remain Covid cautious and despite the cold weather always have good ventilation and other measures in place to minimise risk.

Our Toddler Calendar for the year 2022 which sets out those ‘extra special’ visitors and activities we will be hosting each month has been well received.

There is no longer any need to prebook so please pop along and see us at The Scout Hut, behind the Library, every Monday during term time from 9.30am with a goodbye song at 11.15am. You will be certain to receive a warm welcome.

### **Welcome Back**

We are delighted that, following a short illness, Reg has come back to look after us making teas and coffees and chatting with the children, he will be 90





years young this year so we need to start planning a birthday celebration. Here he is in action, we all love Reg.

### Cooking

Anne Marie from **Get Cooking** came recently and the children and their parents thoroughly enjoyed making super tasty currant and cinnamon bread. They took them home to bake we would have loved to have had just a little of the aroma at Toddlers but, as we all know, its all in the 'proving.'

A very happy Monday for everyone. It is always a great start to anyone's week.



### Large Easel Art

We have little room to store large easels so we are always pleased when Deb Dutton comes along and brings hers. It is such a treat to use a Toddler sized brush and water based paints to begin your artistic journey and Deb is always so encouraging, commenting on their use of texture, choice of colour and the way they cover the paper. We always have a wall of glorious art at least until home time.



## Summary

Please do tell your friends and any parents in the village or local environs that you think may welcome the opportunity to have a nice cuppa or fresh coffee and to make new friends, all this for just £1.50 per session.

With much affection, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all very soon. Love from your volunteers, Lynne, Selina, Reg, Debbie, Suzi and Judi x



## Harbury Pre-School

Staff & Committee



**A New Term:** It was lovely to welcome all the children back fresh from their Christmas break. We have enjoyed hearing about the adventures they had experienced over the holidays as they shared their stories during circle time.

We are especially delighted to welcome some new faces to our Pre-School family. The new children have made themselves at home and it we hope that they enjoy their Pre-School journeys.

We would also like to welcome Beth, who has joined us for a few sessions per week to gain experience in early years as she studies for a qualification at Warwickshire College.



**Superworm!:** You can't beat a good Julia Donaldson book and since the BBC were showing Superworm this Christmas, our first topic of 2022 was all things bugs (and worms).

We read Superworm and watched some factual short videos on the iPad about worms. We were amazed at what we learnt – grown-ups included! They are fascinating creatures. We had some worm-coloured playdough and made our own bugs and worms and also put together lots of insect puzzles. We plan to repeat this topic in the summer as it is a popular one, maybe investigate getting a wormery so we can have some real first-hand worm experience!

**Ice:** The children have been fascinated by the ice in our exploratory area. We have been exploring its texture and temperature and looking at how and why ice melts and turns into water. We have been investigating how we can speed the process along by rubbing it in our hands or using brushes.



Yesterday we buried some dinosaurs inside the ice for the children to 'excavate'. Today, we have added some paint for the children to paint the ice different colours. It has been a lot of fun!

**Physical skills:** Fine motor skills are as important as gross motor movements, so the children have access to a wide range of resources to develop their fine motor skills to prepare them for writing when they get to school.

Tip Tap Art was a very popular activity with the children. They enjoyed using hammers to tap wooden shapes into their cork board to make different patterns.

They have also enjoyed threading different shaped beads onto their strings to make a long tower or a necklace. Some managed to make a string of beads that was nearly as tall as they were!



**Looking forward:** Our new topic this week is Goldilocks and the Three Bears and we are looking forward to eating yummy porridge for snack next week if the bears haven't eaten it all!

*Our numbers for September are increasing fast. If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please contact us for a chat or to arrange a visit via e-mail [enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk) text 07907 598461 or look at the web site [www.harburypre-school.org](http://www.harburypre-school.org) You can also find us on Facebook.*





## Harbury Village Hall

Andy Rutherford

### Back to "Plan A"

Christmas and January have been very quiet at the Hall, with hirings for sports and physical activities holding out quite well. Social events have mostly been cancelled. Now that we are returning to "Plan A" it is no longer compulsory to wear masks in the Hall, and we are again seeing a surge in bookings for February.

Mask wearing may not be compulsory but we recommend that people remain cautious, maintain increased ventilation, and use the hand sanitisers provided. We have been offered some Hepa Air Filters by Warwick Council, and expect delivery within the next fortnight or so. The Hall will need four units to filter some particles from the air and destroy harmful particles with UVC.



The Village Hall Committee is looking for a new Treasurer. Our current Treasurer is planning to leave in one year's time, after a long and really appreciated stint on the Committee. We would love to hear from people with some understanding of accounting principles.



## Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

Rich Fowler



**Covid** Although most restrictions have now been lifted we will, like Sainsbury's, be keeping some of our protocols in place, including encouraging visitors and volunteers to wear a face covering unless seated in Biblio's.

**Tunes & Tales** is now running every Thursday morning 9.15 to 9.45am. Coffee and cake is available in Biblio's afterwards if you need to recover.

**Did you know** that you can hire the library for an event? Rates are £5 an hour for community or social events, £10 an hour for commercial or profit-making events. For more information email us at [events@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:events@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk)

**Live at the Village Hall** Dates of the events we're presenting "Live at the Village Hall":

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 - Tears of Laughter** - Simon Mayor's mandolin, guitar and fiddling wizardry (and inimitable brand of humour) meets Hilary James' honey-dripping vocals.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 - A Ghost of a Smile** - Two ghost stories from Charles Dickens (spooky but with a comic twist).

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 - Ma Bessie's Prohibition Party** - The very best of 20s/30s blues and jazz.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 - Same Same ... but Different** - A family show, mixing Kathak and contemporary dance, live music and physical storytelling, to create a playful and colourful world where we celebrate our individuality, diversity and the bonds which connect us all.

More information, and tickets, available at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hvlbc>



**Biblio's:** Please remember that customers are able to book tables in advance for Biblio's Cafe. To make a booking email [bookingsbiblioscafe@outlook.com](mailto:bookingsbiblioscafe@outlook.com). Tables are restricted to a maximum of 6 people.

On arrival customers are asked to wait to be allocated a table, where their order will be taken.



### **Harbury Library and Biblio's Café Needs a New Treasurer/ Bookkeeper**

Harbury Library and Biblio's Café is looking for a new Treasurer to look after day-to-day bookkeeping and report to the Steering Committee on our finances. This is a voluntary role for approximately 2-3 hours per week and would suit someone recently retired from a similar position or who perhaps wishes to gain experience in this field. A basic knowledge of Excel would be a definite advantage but full support will be available from our outgoing treasurer and you will be joining a friendly, proactive team.

The Library and Café are run wholly by volunteers, all contributing to create a vibrant and welcoming village hub. If you would be interested in joining us, please e-mail [treasurer@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk) or call Nicola Thompson on 614452 for an informal chat.

### **Opening Times**

**Library** - Monday and Tuesday - 10am to 4pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 9.15am to 4pm; Saturday - 10am to 12 noon

**Biblio's Café** - Wednesday to Saturday - 9.15am to 12 noon, Saturday - 10am to 12 noon

Please note that it will be table service only in the café, apart from takeaway items.





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Tel: 614646

Website: [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk)

Open: Monday - Thursday  
10.00am - 12.00pm

### CHAIRMAN:

**Tim Lockley**

Email: [chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk)

### CLERK:

**Alison Biddle**

Email: [clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk)

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## Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

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Computers, WiFi access and Printing Facilities

### Biblio's Café

A selection of hot and cold drinks, cakes and baked  
goods either as takeaway items, which can be  
consumed in an area of the car park, or served at your  
table inside the cafe, depending on current  
Government regulations.

Please check in the Harbury Ladbroke News, on Social  
Media, [www.HarburyVillageLibrary.org.uk](http://www.HarburyVillageLibrary.org.uk) and village  
notice boards for information about current opening times



Harbury Village Library, The Wight School, High Street,  
Harbury CV33 9HW 01926 258776  
01926 258776 - [library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk)



## Harbury Village Club & Institute

Judy Morral

Can you believe that February is almost here? It used to be "February Fill Dyke" due to rainfall. Candlemas Day this year is 2<sup>nd</sup> February and the old saying is "If this day is fair and bright, Winter will have lost its bite". We will wait and see.



January has been quite busy at the club, the usual darts, pool and snooker games are very well supported. Then there is choir and orchestra practice. On Thursday evenings a great group called Eazy Street use the concert room to rehearse. Come and have a listen; you will be familiar with the tunes they play. Where would Sundays be without our loyal snooker players who enjoy the afternoon and early evenings along with a tiple or several?

We hope that you have met our newest staff member, Hannah, who has settled in extremely well with the other members of staff. As I said last month the quality of the beers and lagers is superb. Don't take my word for it, come along and sample a drink in friendly surroundings and see what else we have to offer.

We will miss Sid Field, a very long standing and loyal member of the club, who sadly passed away recently. We hosted the wake after his funeral which was very well attended and we pass on our condolences to his family. He was a lovely man and will be greatly missed.

We have had a party and there is another birthday party planned for 5<sup>th</sup> February. As mentioned, we are restarting our bingo sessions and I will report back in my next article on how it all went as we are holding it on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January. We are also having a buffet in the interval plus a great raffle. When we held the weekly sessions pre-Covid we used to have a jackpot played for which stood at £100. If the first session is a success we will have them regularly and have an extra game at the end of one of these sessions for the £100; the fairest way to ensure that players have an equal chance of winning.

I will also be hosting another general knowledge quiz but do not want to clash with the one at the Crown and the W I cinema so this is likely to be towards the end of February or the beginning of March. It will be on our Facebook page and posters will be displayed around the village. See if you can spot the deliberate mistake in the one for the bingo - I obviously cannot spell welcome, say no more!!!

I have been asked about another table top sale but as not very many people came along to the one we had recently we have decided to wait a few more weeks and have a massive car boot sale in the car park. The first one we held was a big success. We are hoping to put on music evenings on a



Saturday too in response to requests from our members. Thank you to everyone for all these positive suggestions.



I have been going to the club on Sunday afternoons to process membership renewals. So nice to see members that we have missed over last 12 months or so. To date 220 members have paid and a huge thank you for your continued support. Can you believe we had over 60 new members last year and our total is 371, a record, thank you.

I will be at the club on Sundays in February to collect cash or cheque or card payment as the 28<sup>th</sup> February is the last date to renew membership. As before you can pay via bacs: HSBC, sort code 40-42-15, account number 21135228. Thank you again.

**JustGiving** Many members have given a contribution too, so generous and I have now banked an extra £395. Which added to the amount from family bingo and raffles which was £500, makes a new total of £895 which will go a long way towards our roof fund plus the £725 from JustGiving. Thank you does not seem adequate; we are lucky to have such loyal and generous members.

I was at the club this afternoon (25<sup>th</sup> January) tidying up the pots and sweeping up the moss from the path which the birds remove from the roof. If we get rain it could be slippery. I seem to be doing this on a regular basis now. I tidied up the odd leaves and weeds from the rockery. I am so pleased with the planting and now bulbs are peeping through crocuses and early daffodils so in a few weeks it will be even more colourful.

Not a lot happening at my allotments - finally took the runner and climbing French beans down and removed the bean sticks and tidied. Lots of lovely free seeds for this year! Herbs are still doing well as is the kale and the parsnips.



It has been very cold in January volunteering at Upton House. We have been very busy at weekends as Charlecote is closed and visitors are being directed to Upton. It is such a joy to share the stories of the paintings, porcelain and furniture and of course the history of the House. There has been a house there since 1068 and when I was telling a lovely young couple this their eight year old son said that was two years after the battle of Hastings. I could have hugged him and he was so interested in all of the history. Some of the wonderful paintings in the picture gallery have been undergoing conservation work and thankfully no problems found so far. We have 10 of the 100 best paintings throughout the Trust so please wrap up warm and come and see us to learn more.

We were lucky enough to see Sam Waley Cohen recently with two members of his family. He had come to visit his parents who live very close at Upton Viva. His mother, Felicity, is the daughter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount Bearsted and Robert, his father, was until recently very involved with Cheltenham race course. Robert's knowledge of the paintings in the house is incredible and

when he brings friends round we all learn a great deal. I will get a couple of guide books for Upton and put them on the bar in the lounge near to the latest edition of the Harbury and Ladbroke News.

Thank you for reading my articles and for your feedback. As restrictions are lifted I hope to see many more of you at the club. In the meanwhile, keep safe and enjoy the rest of Winter, not long until Spring.

My very best wishes.



I like making a list, doesn't everyone? It helps me remember what needs doing and there is some pleasure in getting the things done and then crossing them off. This month might not be the best time to be out in the garden but if the weather is fine for a day or two then you might want to spend some time outside for a while. My current list is growing daily and, luckily, I am about to share it with you.

- Cut back dogwoods.
- Cut back the leaves of epimediums and hellebores.
- Reduce clumps of spreading perennials such as *Lysimachia* 'Firecracker' and some of the asters.
- Remove more of the self-seeded *Sisyrinchium striatum*, such a scruffy plant.
- Sow sweet peas because I forgot to do it last year.
- Plant new plants where old tatty ones have been removed.
- Cut back most grasses towards the end of the month.
- Prune apple trees.
- Buy seed potatoes and chit them in a light frost free place.
- Late flowering clematis need cutting back to 2ft above the ground.
- Take another look at seed catalogues and order seeds for plants which will attract more wildlife.
- Prune elder bushes (*Sambucus*)



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## Nature Notes

John Hancock



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January was cool and cloudy and for the first time for a few days there was no frost. By noon the temperature had reached 6C. I walked down Bull Ring Farm Lane and across the Three-Arched Bridge. I searched the twigs of a Hazel in a sheltered spot and found catkins and the tiny red female flowers which after pollination will develop into hazelnuts.

I took the path across a small paddock adjacent to Bridge End Farm. Many shallow pits had been dug by animals searching for food, presumably rabbits. With the path hemmed in by fences, it was inevitably getting muddy so my walking poles came in handy. After negotiating a couple of tricky stiles, I was soon on top of that tract of land which leads to Flax Hill. Three small ponies swathed in rugs had their heads down concentrating on grazing.

I walked on to Ufton Fields Nature Reserve. There was a lot of mud especially at gates and my walking shoes were heavily loaded and getting heavy by the time I arrived at Ufton village.

I'm enjoying Patrick Barkham's selection of the best British and Irish nature writing entitled 'The Wild Isles' which I was given at Christmas. Encompassing the bleak heights of the Cairngorms, the ancient woodlands of Essex, the storm-lashed islands off Ireland's west coast and the lush fields of Devon it is a wide-ranging picture of the natural history of these islands. As it says on the cover, the extracts highlight nature's capacity to terrify and to delight, to soothe, to heal, to surprise, to inspire and to wonder.

I was intrigued to read one essay entitled 'The Tree' by John Fowles, better known for his international bestseller 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' published in 1969. This lies next to an extract from Kenneth Graham's 'Wind in the Willows' which gives you an idea of the anthology's range. It's a book to dip into and enjoy while we await the arrival of spring.

Like many of you no doubt, we are watching, and thoroughly enjoying, David Attenborough's 'Green Planet' on Sunday evenings. The last episode was devoted to seasonal changes mediated by lengthening daylight hours and increasing warmth. With thermal imaging we were shown that a flower's temperature could be 21C at its centre whereas the surrounding meadow was at 12C. The Hammer orchid of South Africa mimics a flightless female wasp. In attempting to





mate, the male of the species collects pollen and therefore spreads the genetic material of this rare plant.

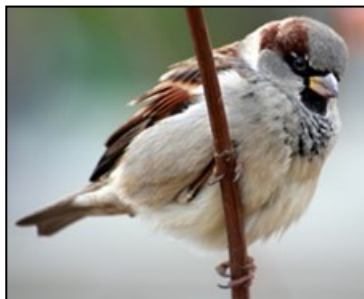
I am seeing more snowdrops and hellebores in flower as I walk round the villages. Daisies and dandelions seem to bloom throughout the year. A decent fall of snow would give vegetation a chance of some dormancy as well as enhancing the water table for the months ahead. February full dyke is what we need to signal a successful year in terms of productive crops.

A lady in Sharon's U3A Poetry Group is well read in English Literature going back to Anglo-Saxon times. They loved to use metaphor in their verse and were fond of writing riddles. The Exeter Riddle Book (an 11<sup>th</sup> century volume found in the library of Exeter Cathedral) contains many challenging verses. This is Riddle Number 9 translated by Kevin Crossley-Holland:

*In former days my mother and father  
Forsook me for dead, for the fullness of life  
Was not yet with me. But another woman  
Graciously fitted me out in soft garments,  
As kind to me as her own children,  
Tended and took me under her wing;  
Until, under shelter, unlike her kin,  
I matured as a mighty bird (as was my fate)  
My guardian then fed me until I could fly,  
And could wander more widely on my  
Excursions; she had the less of her own  
Sons and daughters by what she did thus.*

The answer is as many of you will have guessed, a Cuckoo. We always used to hear the Cuckoo's call when out in the garden in May but have not done so for many years, going elsewhere for our 'fix'. There is probably not a single reason for the Cuckoo's decline but it has been suggested that the paucity of host birds such as Meadow Pipit, Dunnock and Reed Warbler could be responsible.

The House Sparrow too has been in steep decline. It is a seed eater and doesn't spread out into woodland as Robins may do. To fully develop fledglings need to be fed on insects such as Aphids for a short time. So, overuse of insecticides has a dramatic effect on Hedge Sparrow numbers. Lots to think about.





## General Section



### Harbury District Councillor Update

Hello!

I hope this finds you well. This is a snap shot of work in January.

I have been busy with meetings such as the Gaydon Community Forum, Parish Council Meetings - Upper Lighthorne Parish Council and Harbury Parish Council, Stratford Council meetings and training.

**Health** - It is good to see a pathway back to some sort of normality as we are now moving to the Endemic stage, out of the Pandemic stage of Covid.

Hospitals are coping and just about managing the winter pressures. I am working as a nurse in the area, please say hello!

I popped into Elizabeth House (Stratford District Council Offices) recently. All appeared quiet, but a hive of activity was going on I can assure you.

**Roads** - I can report roads across the ward have been poor to say the least; this is for various reasons, including mud and salt. Where possible I have liaised with authorities, developers or builders to address poor road conditions, improving safety and conditions. Thank you to the vigilant members of our communities for keeping me posted and keeping us safe.

**Planning** - Things are still moving around planning, there is nothing contentious at this time.

**Housing** - There are still a few concerns with Orbit properties across the Ward. I am liaising with Orbit to get these resolved, thankfully by working together with the resident and Orbit things are usually brought to a good conclusion.

**Stratford District Council** - The momentum and work for the amalgamation of Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council continues, no specific update at this time.

**Harbury** - Things have settled around crime and nuisance. It has been frustrating in dealing with a specific individual, but conditions are in place to manage certain behaviours and I am working closely with the police and housing. I hope the current status quo remains. Settled, peaceful and safe.

It would be good to see more folk at the next Parish Council. See you there!

**Deppers Bridge** - Good to see the Police out in the area carrying out speed enforcement, I hope it changes drivers' attitudes, especially when using the road through Deppers.

**Traffic lights at Harbury - Fosse junction** - a campaign promise of mine since 2015. I secured the money for this to happen. It is just a question of time now folks. It will be delivered!

**Thoughts** - I would like to send my condolences to Councillor Andy Crump and his family who have lost their lovely son. Andy supported this Ward as County Councillor when we lost Councillor Bob Stevens.

Sending my thoughts, love and best wishes to Andy and his family.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy year.

**Jacqui Harris - Ward Member Harbury**  
[jacqui.harris@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.harris@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



## Tom Hauley Room Coffee Mornings

There has been a great response to the re-starting of the Saturday coffee mornings and the time has come to look for hosts for the next six months or so. If your community group would like to raise funds by hosting one of our Saturday coffee mornings please get in touch with Sarah - 07889 108947, [sjbtaylor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sjbtaylor@yahoo.co.uk)

**Sarah Brooke-Taylor**



## Repair Cafe

Our first Repair Cafe of 2022 was our busiest yet, with over 20 items being brought in to be fixed. Sadly, we didn't manage to repair everything, but among our successes was an HMV gramophone.

Our first time in the library enabled us to offer tea, coffee and biscuits, and some folks even took the opportunity to borrow a few books while they waited!

We'll be back in the library on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 2pm to 4pm, and on the fourth Saturday of the month from then on.

We have a monthly email newsletter which we send out in the week before each Repair Cafe as a reminder, and with extra information about any special repair skills we'll be offering that month. If you'd like to receive a copy, email us at [repaircafeharbury@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafeharbury@gmail.com)



**Rich Fowler**



## Want to find out what local Lib Dems are doing?

Harbury Liberal Democrats are having a coffee-morning get-together in the Shakespeare between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

If you feel like joining us, you'll be very welcome.

**Andrew Patrick**



## Southam Indoor Market - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March

This popular 'shop local' market takes place on the third Saturday of the month at The Grange Hall, Coventry Road, Southam, from 10am to 12.30pm. A wide variety of local produce including food, cakes, sweets, meat, chocolate, honey, homewares, pet products, gifts, accessories and crafts. No admission fee and refreshments are available. All enquiries by email please to [southamfirst@outlook.com](mailto:southamfirst@outlook.com)

**Pam McConnell**



## Southam & District Lions

At our recent meeting President Robert Hamlett presented cheques to the club's two Christmas children's charities, Zoe's Place Baby Hospice, and Guys Gift Children's Bereavement.

Thanks to the wonderful support given to Father Christmas (and his elves) when visiting the district, each charity received £3,250!

Thank you everyone. Have a happy New Year.

**Tony Lorimer**



## Southam Heritage Collection

When I came to Southam in 1975 I was most surprised to see nuns walking around the town, but soon discovered they taught at St Mary's Primary School in Daventry Road, which was attached to the Catholic Convent.

Southam Heritage Collection has reprinted Mary Rock's book "Looking back at the Sisters' School". Alongside the book is an exhibition remaining open until May, about the Sisters' school and how they first came to Southam from Germany in 1876 and developed an orphanage and school.

Using maps, childhood memories, photographs and stories to tell the history of the enormous house the nuns built and a quiz to encourage the children to

look closer, visit them on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings 10am - 12 noon, in Tithe Place. Arrangements can be made for groups outside those times by ringing Linda on 01926 814214.

**Linda Doyle**



## **Warwickshire Trading Standards**

### **Beware Bogus Bank Phishing Emails**

Warwickshire residents have reported receiving scam emails that falsely claim to have been sent by high street banks.

These phishing emails contain bank logos and contact information to make them appear genuine. The emails typically state that the bank is 'implementing new authentication procedures' and request that the recipient complete an 'account verification process'.

To do this the recipient is usually asked to click on a link in the email. The link will then direct them to a copy of the bank's website. Any personal or financial information that is then divulged is stolen and could be used to access bank accounts or for identity theft. Clicking on an unusual link or downloading a suspicious email attachment may also leave a computer vulnerable to viruses/malware.

### **Features to look out for that could indicate the email is a scam**

- If it's unusual or unexpected, (e.g. if it is a bank you have not got an account with)
- If it's addressed to 'Dear Customer', not to you directly
- If it has been sent from a public email domain, for example @hotmail.co.uk
- If it's poorly written or there are misspelt words
- If hovering your mouse over the link in the email reveals a suspicious web address
- If the email creates a sense of urgency, for example suggesting that if you don't act immediately, you will be locked out of your account
- If it contains any suspicious attachments
- If your email provider has already placed it in your junk folder

Remember, criminals don't only send bogus bank emails. You may also receive scam emails that falsely purport to come from a company you have purchased goods or services from or a Government or council department.

### **What you can do**

- Never download an attachment or click on a link in a suspicious email. Even if you believe the email to be genuine, it's always safer to

log into a bank, company, or Government account by typing the correct web address into your browser or by using the official app

- Never respond to a suspicious email, doing so may encourage scammers to send you more phishing emails
- Mark the email as junk, so that it goes directly into your junk folder if it is sent again
- Forward the email to the National Cyber Security Centre: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) The NCSC has the power to investigate and take down scam email addresses and websites
- If you think you have accidentally compromised your passwords or usernames, change these as soon as possible and alert the bank/company/organisation
- For more advice on cyber security, visit: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/cybercrime/>

Also be wary of any unusual bank text messages. Scammers use 'number spoofing' to make their bogus texts appear genuine. These texts may even appear within the feed on your phone amongst genuine messages. They may suggest there has been an unauthorised transaction on your account and request you click on a link in the text to resolve the issue. This link may be masked as a 'yes' or 'no' response. Again, follow the advice above.

**Simon Cripwell**  
**Senior Trading Standards Officer**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### **Dear Editors**

*I wanted to thank everyone for their very kind sympathy cards, that I received after my husband Keith's death. It was obvious how much he was thought of and loved and it has really brought me so much comfort! And thankyou to the people who were able to come to the celebration service we held for him in the afternoon. We had some very uplifting hymns and I think that everyone left with a smile on their faces, which is exactly what Keith would have wanted! God bless you all!*

**Sue Dormer**

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### **March Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News**

**Adverts to:** 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to [advertising@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@hlnews.co.uk) by 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Articles to:** Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to [articles@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:articles@hlnews.co.uk) by 5.30pm, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February





**LOCAL FOODBANK** - there is a facility in the village to donate non-perishable food to your local Foodbank, which supplies the surrounding area, including Harbury. Please bring donations to the Wight School (library) car park on Mondays between 11.30am and 12.30pm, one of the e-Wheels drivers will be there to receive your items. Alternatively, donations may be dropped off at the library foyer during its normal opening hours.

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## CONGRATULATIONS, THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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



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### ***Dates for this year***

*1<sup>st</sup> Mar - bookings please by 25<sup>th</sup> Feb*

*5<sup>th</sup> Apr - bookings please by 1<sup>st</sup> Apr*

*3<sup>rd</sup> May - bookings please by 29<sup>th</sup> Apr*

*7<sup>th</sup> June - bookings please by 3<sup>rd</sup> June*

*More details from Fliss Harris 612395*

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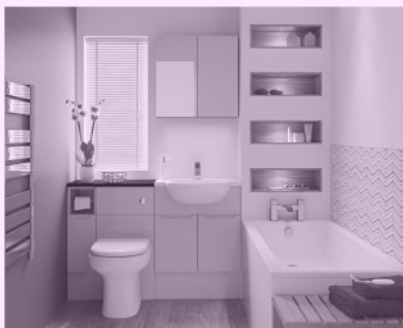
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- Sally

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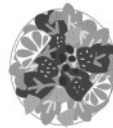


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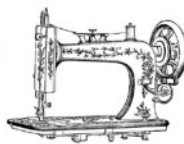
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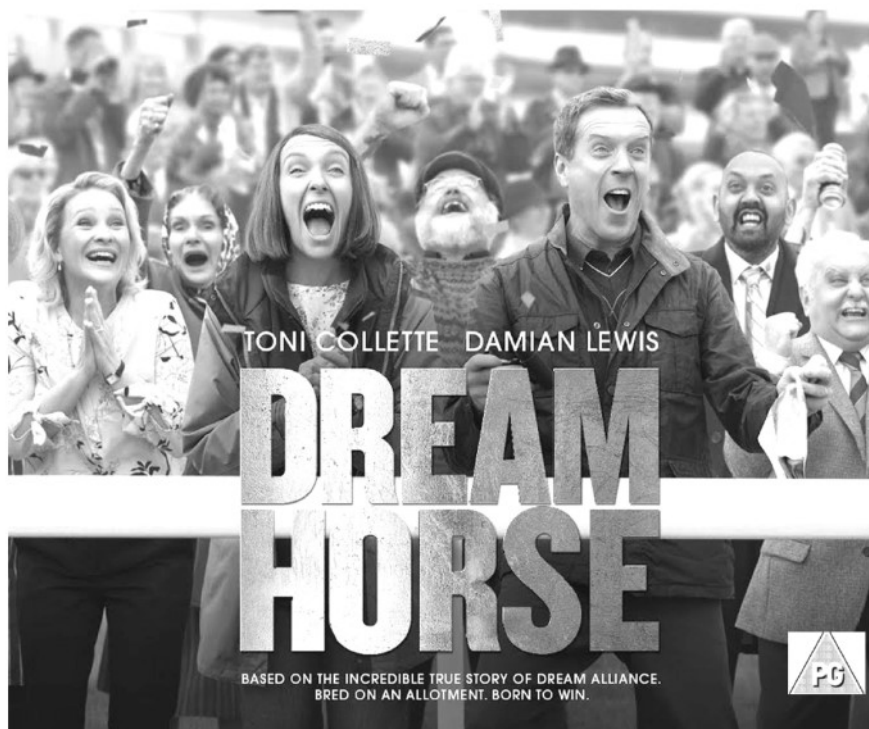
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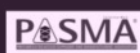
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