

# Harbury & Ladbroke News



MARCH 2023

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# HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

March 2023

No. 588

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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.*

**Cover photo: Farming in Ladbroke by Jackie West**



## EDITORIAL

*A round up of local news*

The magazine's annual subscription is due next month. Unfortunately, due to rises in paper, ink and printing charges we will need to raise the annual subscription and advertising rates for 2023/24. The subscription charge which has remained at £6 for the last eleven years will now increase to **£8** to cover our ever increasing costs. We hope that you will understand that this is necessary to be able to keep our lovely magazine in print.

With this edition you should find an insert detailing the three ways of how you can make your payment. To pay by electronic transfer please visit our website [hlnews.co.uk](http://hlnews.co.uk) and click on the 'Subscriptions and BACS Payments' tab. Alternatively, you can deliver the money yourself to your distributor or wait for your distributor to call.

Harbury Windmill is having some renovation work done. You may have seen the scaffolding around it when in the middle of the village. Jeremy who lives at the windmill has kindly let us know what is going on.

March will see the last Village Cinema run by the WI until the autumn; the films with a fish & chip supper have been very popular. The library has a busy month coming up, as well as their usual Tunes & Tales, Board Games Fridays and Repair Café they will be hosting a Murder Mystery and another Sheep Dip music event.

Like most people at the moment, if you are looking to cut down on the amount of energy your home is using, Harbury Energy Initiative's 'House Energy Saving Fair' on Saturday 11th March will be giving out some hot tips for practical solutions. This is a free entry event.

Warwickshire County Council have sent in a report on the road works at the Bendigo Mitchell junction. Queuing at this junction is now the norm when travelling in this area but it should be worth it once the traffic lights have been installed.

This month Ladbroke are celebrating 100 years of the opening of their village hall. A 1920s themed evening is planned for villagers. Before that, if you want to hear some beautiful music then the guitar concert in church on the 11th is for you.

Finally, we extend our condolences to the families of Jonathan Durrant, Adrian Exton, Doris Perry and Sylvia West.

### April Edition - Harbury & Ladbroke News

**Adverts to:** 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to [advertising@hlnews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@hlnews.co.uk) by Monday 20th March

**Articles to:**  
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# HARBURY DIARY

For local events

## MARCH

- Sat 4 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Embrace Music Festival in aid of Tommy's Baby Charity, 5.00pm start, Village Hall
- Sun 5 **LENT 2**  
Holy Communion, 9.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Baptism, 2.00pm  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 6 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 7 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room  
Chair based exercise class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall  
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School - (Park Lane entrance)
- Wed 8 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Long Itchington (4 miles with optional Pub Lunch)  
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 9 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury WI, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room - A day in the life of a quiz show contestant - Vicky Farmer
- Fri 10 Lent Lunch - raising funds for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal, 12.30 - 1.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Ska Man International, 8.30/9.00pm start, Village Club
- Sat 11 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union, Southam  
House Energy Saving Fair, doors open 12 noon, presentations 12.15 and 2.00pm, closes 3.30pm, Village Hall  
Psychic Night (ticketed), 7.30pm, Village Club
- Sun 12 **LENT 3**  
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Tom Hauley Room  
Messy Church, 3.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall  
Merv's Marvellous Trains (Model Railways), 12.00 - 6.00pm, Village Club  
Icon Youth Club trip, 7.00 - 8.30pm
- Mon 13 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 14 Chair based exercise class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall  
Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room

- Wed 15 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Ryton Pools (5 miles)  
Connections (Dementia) Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 16 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 17 Lent Lunch - raising funds for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal,  
12.30 - 1.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Ben and Soph's Jazz, tickets - 07515 275655, 7.00pm, Village Hall
- Sat 18 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of RNLi  
Leamington Spa  
Harbury Village Cinema presents "Going in Style", doors open 6.15pm,  
film starts 7.00pm, Village Hall  
Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Village Club
- Sun 19 MOTHERING SUNDAY**  
Holy Communion, 8.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
All Age Service, 10.30am Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall  
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School -  
(Park Lane entrance)
- Mon 20 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,  
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Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall  
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- Tue 21 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room  
Harbury Theatre Group, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Village Club  
The Collective - second meeting, 7.30pm, The Shakespeare Inn  
Harbury Society AGM followed by a talk by David Howe '100 Years of  
the BBC'. Doors open 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 22 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park -  
Welcombe Hills (4 miles)  
Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall 'Blood  
Stock' Murder Mystery, 8.00pm Village Library
- Thurs 23 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Parish Council, 7.30pm Village Hall  
'Blood Stock' Murder Mystery, 8.00pm Village Library
- Fri 24 Lent Lunch - raising funds for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal,  
12.30 - 1.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
'Sheep Dip' music session - Harp & Monkey, doors open 7.30pm, show  
starts 8.00pm, Village Library  
Bingo, 8.00pm, Village Club

Sat 25 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of RABI  
Harbury Local Market: 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall  
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library  
Blues Extra, 8.30/9.00pm start, Village Club

**Sun 26 LENT 5**

Holy Communion. 10.30am, Tom Hauley Room  
Icon Youth Club, 7.00 - 8.30pm, Tom Hauley Room  
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 27 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall  
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 28 Bumps and Bundles, 10.30 - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 29 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Stratford  
Greenway (4 miles flat)  
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thurs 30 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Fri 31 Lent Lunch - raising funds for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal,  
12.30 - 1.30pm, Tom Hauley Room

**APRIL**

Sat 1 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Agnes  
Court Care Home  
Children's/Family Bingo, 7.30pm, Village Club

**Sun 2 PALM SUNDAY**

Messy Church, 3.00pm, Tom Hauley Room

Tue 4 Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School -  
(Park Lane entrance)

Wed 5 No Wednesday Walk - Easter break  
Mothers' Union, Communion Service and Tea, 2.00pm, followed by  
speaker Ruth Smith on Victorian Housekeeping, Tom Hauley Room  
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.15pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall  
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thurs 6 Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room  
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Club

Fri 7 GOOD FRIDAY  
Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 8 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of PCC  
raising funds for Heat Light Stone Appeal

**Please note:** the 6th May coffee morning will be cancelled due to the King's Coronation.



**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

Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge
6 Mar	<b>F - R - G</b>	<b>F</b>
13 Mar	<b>F - W</b>	<b>F - R - W - G</b>
20 Mar	<b>F - R - G</b>	<b>F</b>
27 Mar	<b>F</b>	<b>F - R - G</b>
3 Apr	<b>F - R - W - G</b>	<b>F - W</b>
10 Apr	<b>F</b>	<b>F - R - G</b>
<p><b>F</b> = Food caddy - <b>R</b> = Recycling (blue bin) <b>W</b> = Waste (black bin) <b>G</b> = Garden (green bin)                      Wednesday Collection - Parts of Ladbroke - Thursday Collection - Harbury                      Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge and Parts of Ladbroke</p>		



**All Saints  
HARBURY**

### FROM THE RECTOR

*Rev. Andy Batchelor*

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

As the church year progresses, we move once more into Lent. A season which coincides with springtime and the rebirth of nature and new life which we see all around us. Lent provides an opportunity for each of us to grow spiritually and perhaps experience a reawakening of our relationship with God during its forty days. Both Harbury and Ladbroke churches will be hosting Lent lunches this year, where we can share a simple meal together and donate what we might otherwise have spent to charity, this year the devastated communities of Turkey and Syria. At Harbury this will take place in the Tom Hauley Room each Friday in March at 12.00, and at Ladbroke on Thursday 23rd March and Wednesday 28th again at 12.00. Please contact myself or one of the Ladbroke wardens for the location of these events.

We know times are tough at present, and the temptation might be for us to become too inward-looking, and lose sight of the needs of others. Lent reminds us of our dependency on God, and Jesus teaching that we should put others before ourselves. It is also a reminder that despite the darkness of our world, we must also be aware of the impact our prayers have which can, and do make a difference to even the most dire of circumstances. Lent is a time when many people, even those of no particular faith, decide to give up something or make a positive change to their lifestyle. May this Lent be a time of blessing and spiritual renewal for us all.



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# FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

*Liz & Michael*

The year is zooming along and Lent is upon us. We are hoping to raise funds for the Turkish-Syria Earthquake Appeal (DEC) in March by holding Lent Lunches.

These will be on Fridays in March - 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st - and will be held in the Tom Hauley Room from 12.30 to 1.30pm. This will be a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese provided by volunteers followed by a short time of reflection. Everyone is welcome, there is no set price and it is up to you what you wish to donate.

A new activity for Harbury Church takes place on the last Sunday of the month. This is called Muddy Church and the first one took place in freezing weather in January. A group of youngsters, led by Andy & Jenny Dean, met at 10.30 at the start of the church service and were taken out around the churchyard where Muddy Church took place. Later they joined the congregation for communion and much needed hot drinks. Like Messy Church, Muddy Church takes place all over the country and "is a space for wandering and wondering with God. Communities exploring faith together in adventure and outdoor spaces."

Work continues on the installation of the new heating system in church and John Stringer has written an article elsewhere in the magazine. We now have new LED lighting in the Tom Hauley Room which the art group greatly appreciates as they can see what they are painting. It will save on electricity costs as well as improving artwork!

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 16th April following the 10.30 All age service. Members of that council are elected then along with churchwardens so please consider joining that council. We need a new PCC secretary and a new Electoral Roll officer. Thank you to Sally Stringer and Vikki Hall for respectively taking on these roles for the last few years. If anyone is interested in volunteering for either of these roles, please contact us or Rev Andy to find out more.

Messy Church will be held on 2nd April (Palm Sunday) instead of the usual second Sunday 9th April as that is Easter Sunday.

If you have any questions or want to join in and find out more about what goes on then please contact either of us. Liz McBride (612421) or Michael Vincent (614806).



## **Action at last**

All Saints Church, Harbury, is a building site - literally. Inside is a mass of scaffolding, stretching to the roof. Heating panels, like those successfully installed in the Tom Hauley Room, are being fitted to radiate heat on to the congregation. The original

panels will have to be adjusted to fit, and although we may not see the church open for Easter, we hope that the work will be completed by the end of April.

Two new boilers have been fitted. Alone, each one produces two-thirds of the heat needed on the coldest day. In milder weather, only one boiler is needed to raise the temperature to comfortable. The two together will easily heat the church on a freezing Christmas Night. Both are adaptable from gas to hydrogen, a fuel whose introduction is imminent.

Delays for which we are not responsible have meant a late start to the project, with resulting increases in materials and labour costs. Frustratingly, we cannot yet afford to install efficient and effective LED lighting, like that in the Tom Hauley Room. Where costs are concerned, we are running against the wind. One challenge is that fitting the lighting will need scaffolding erected again, when it would have been much more efficient to combine it with the heating work.

We have not yet received approval for essential stonework repairs, despite having listed, measured and photographed every stone we intend to replace.

You can guess where this is leading to. We need more money. The church is already approaching major donors, and a fresh appeal will be launched in the village. The first appeal was astonishing. Village people, including but not exclusively from the congregation, have been enormously generous. To complete the works, and secure our church for generations to come, we need a further two hundred thousand pounds. We gave this - and more - to the first appeal. We can do it again.



## MOTHERS' UNION

*Gillian Hare*

Unfortunately, February's listed speaker was unable to be with us, but a quirk of fate in the form of a teachers' strike enabled Chris to take the meeting. She took us on an interesting journey, looking at the observance of Lent through history. Various Christian traditions have used different ways of focussing our own Faith walk on a reflection of Christ's 40 days in the wilderness. Discussion followed with a general agreement that the idea of giving up smoking, alcohol or chocolate could be relevant if the time and money saved was redirected thoughtfully. Most useful, perhaps, is using the time to examine our own ways of living for others and hence for Him.

We shall, as usual, be preparing daffodils for Mothering Sunday on 19th March.

At the March meeting we will have been delighted by Kath Chinn and her Ukrainian eggs. So our next meeting will be on 5th April in the Tom Hauley room. After the communion at 2pm, there will be a talk on Victorian Housekeeping by Ruth Smith from the Children's Society. If you might find this of interest, do please join us. Visitors are always welcome.



# LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

## MARCH

### Sun 5 LENT 2

Family Communion, followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tue 7 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 8 Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Sat 11 Guitar Concert, 7.30pm, Church

### Sun 12 LENT 3

Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am

Tue 14 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 18 Tours and More, 10.30am - 4pm, Ladbroke Church

### Sun 19 MOTHERING SUNDAY

Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

Mon 20 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY,  
HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO [ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK) BY 5.30PM  
ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD,  
HARBURY OR EMAIL [ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK)

Tue 21 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thurs 23 Lent Lunch, from 12 noon, The Old School

Sat 25 Celebrate 100 years of Ladbroke Village Hall, (must book),  
7.00pm - midnight, Village Hall

### Sun 26 LENT 5

Holy Communion (sung), 9.00am, followed by annual church meeting

Tue 28 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 29 Lent Lunch, from 12 noon, Chapel Ascote Farm

## APRIL

### Sun 2 PALM SUNDAY

Family Communion, followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tue 4 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall



## LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

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

On Saturday 11th March we shall be welcoming William Hudd back to the church for another guitar concert, commencing at 7.30pm and the following Saturday we are offering tours and more. See the Ladbroke Heritage article for more details.

All during March the Church is in the season of Lent and looking forward to Easter. This year you are again invited to join us for a Lent lunch of home-made soup, bread

and cheese and good company! All are welcome; please try and let the hosts know in advance if you are intending to come so that they can cater accordingly. There will be two lunches this year, on

Thurs 23rd March at 12 noon at The Old School

Wed 29th March at 12 noon at Chapel Ascote Farm

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (our 'AGM') will be held on Sunday 26th March after the morning service. So please make sure your Electoral Roll membership is up to date, to entitle you to vote and stand for election if you wish.

### Future Services:

Sunday 5th March	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 12th March	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th March	9.00am	Holy Communion (and Mothering Sunday)
Sunday 26th March	9.00am	Holy Communion (followed by APCM)
Sunday 2nd April	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 26th Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5th March	10.30am	Family Service
Saturday 11th March	7.30pm	Guitar concert

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

[ladbrokechurch@gmail.com](mailto:ladbrokechurch@gmail.com)

## FROM THE REGISTERS

Weds 8th February      Funeral and interment of Jonathan Durrant

Thurs 16th February      Memorial Service for Sylvia West



## LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

*Carol Lane*



It was a bumper turnout for our February meeting on Thursday 2nd when Trevor Langley gave us the most fascinating illustrated talk about Warwick. Firstly, pictures of maps of Warwick from the 1600s showing the changes over time, allowed Trevor to explain about the people and their influences - for example the resiting of the bridge over the river.

Trevor had worked at Warwick Castle as a very young man and had intimate knowledge of the place and its owners,

the Grevilles, Earls of Warwick. Thus he entertained us with amusing anecdotes of his time there, for example, trying to stop a child defacing the priceless Canaletto paintings! He touched on the 'goings-on' involving the notorious Countess Daisy but also the good things she did including the organisation of the annual Dispensary Ball to pay for the Dispensary in Castle Street for the sick and poor of Warwick.

I can't begin to do justice to the wealth of interesting information and stories he told. I urge anyone booking talks for a group to contact him.

Trevor offers a range of talks and we are planning to book one of his walking guided tours of Warwick later in the year. He can be contacted on 07896 594046 or at landtl@hotmail.com.

### **Dates for the diary:**

2nd March, Village Hall at 7.30 Dogs for the Good with Ann Fossey.

6th April, Beetle Drive.

Easter weekend (8th/9th April), Art exhibition in Napton.

4th May, In Church (*because of elections in village hall*) AGM, Resolutions and the voting of the headwear to represent Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge at the Group Meeting. Jackie will then give a short talk about Lady Alice Dudley.

Saturday 13th May, Federation House. Photography and sale 11am - 3 pm.

Monday 15th May, Group meeting in Napton. Ladbroke WI's responsibility this year is to set the competition, which is to make an item of headgear on the theme of the Coronation.

Carol Rhodes is now our link with the Federation and she gave us the latest update.

Dianne suggested the launch of a Dining Club. A date will be announced each month for friends to get together for lunch, morning coffee or afternoon tea whether there are two or twenty able to go.

The date to see Our House at The Spa Centre is 14th March.



## **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.



This month sees the 100th anniversary of the opening of our village hall and we will be presenting a 1920s themed evening in the hall on Saturday 25th March primarily for Ladbroke residents. Further details including how to purchase tickets are on the posters around Ladbroke or on the flyer delivered to every Ladbroke household. If you did not receive a flyer contact Debs Brown. Her contact details are in the hall booking paragraph below.



A reminder that our table tennis sessions are on Tuesday evenings in the village hall from 7.30pm. All are welcome to come along and join the fun.

**Coming  
Soon!**

We will be holding a boules tournament during the summer culminating in a village barbecue in July. We are also planning a quiz night in the autumn; and another supper and film night (date to be confirmed). Watch this space for more events too!



To book your special celebration in our village hall, or if you wish to hold regular classes or meetings, contact Debs (07779 225105 or email [debs.dptv@gmail.com](mailto:debs.dptv@gmail.com)). Despite rising costs we have been able to keep our hourly booking rates for 2023 at £15 per hour, or £12 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).

### LADBROKE VILLAGE HALL MILLENNIUM DRAW FOR JANUARY 2023

£50 Clive Coleman	£25 Kate Picken
£50 Scott and Siobahn	£10 Linda Spence
£25 Margaret Whitehouse	£10 Toni Robison
£25 Avril Court	£10 Geoff Timms

**Margaret Bosworth**



## LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY

*Kip Warr*

There was a packed Village Hall at our open meeting on 7th February to hear Gray and Nicky Lewis talk about their recent excursion on The Silk Road through Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Tables at the front of the hall were set out with silk, felt and ceramic artefacts which provoked much interest during the interval and at the end of the evening.

Gray explained that The Silk Road westwards from Eastern China was not one road but a series of routes leading to Europe. Merchants with camels would transport goods, ideas and culture stopping at inns termed caravanserai. Gray, Nicky and friends followed part of the route through Kyrgyzstan then Uzbekistan, staying sometimes in hotels and sometimes in yurts in various degrees of comfort! The food, including a lot of horse meat and fermented goats' milk, was apparently also an acquired taste. Gray explained about the history and political situation in each country which was brilliantly illustrated with photographs of buildings and Nicky used videos to explain the processes involved in the craft making.

It was a thoroughly good evening and we can't wait to hear where they are going next.



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Drive through Tien Shan mountains



Registan Square Samarkand

On 7th March we shall have our AGM and a competition and photopic on the theme of 'Sparkle'. In April we shall go to the Batsford Falconry and in May we shall be visiting Chedhams Yard in Wellesbourne. Visitors, guests and new members are all welcome to our meetings which are usually in Ladbroke Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month.

For more information, please contact [ladbroke.photoclub@btinternet.com](mailto:ladbroke.photoclub@btinternet.com)



## LADBROKE HERITAGE

*Nicky Lewis & Jackie West*

### Repairs

You may remember we had a ground investigation late last year. It was no surprise that, like most old buildings in Ladbroke and elsewhere, the church has minimal foundations. The buttresses examined stand on clay (+/- a thin weak limestone layer part way down) until about 1.5m below ground level, where there is a solid layer of limestone. At 1m the clay was rather desiccated - probably a combination of the weather last year and the roots of trees in the churchyard. Movement depends on how much the volume changes rather than absolute water content so for now we will just fill the crack in the south aisle wall to keep it weather tight, rather than anything more drastic.

### Activities

Regular and recurring events popped up throughout last month and the Heritage and Friendship group restarted. These get-togethers, once a month on a Wednesday morning in the Village Hall have refreshments and a theme; people sometimes bring photos or an object to show others but it's all very informal and undemanding. The group is targeted at people who don't have the opportunity to go out much, perhaps because of their age, health or caring responsibilities and it is dementia friendly too. But no-one is excluded and in February, regulars were joined by a number of other people specifically attracted by the theme of Gardens and Gardening. If you would like to know more about the Heritage and Friendship Group please contact Carol on 814715.

## PHOTOS BY OUR VISITORS



Ancient Door



A new perspective



Curious neighbours

A few days later we welcomed a group of people from Galanos House to church who wanted to see and find out about Ladbroke Church. Our new portable ramp and sturdy wood chairs with arms meant that everyone was able to come into the chancel and sit down easily to hear a potted history of the building before capturing some of the sights on camera. What was particularly interesting for us was that one visitor's mother had been a live-in servant at Ladbroke Hall about a hundred years ago.

And then it was back to school! We have been disappointed by the lack of interest from local teachers in what we offer, but several from far away have been keen to invite us for Rocks and Fossils sessions. In February Jackie and her samples trekked over to Heron School in Abbeydale, a 1970s suburb of Gloucester. It was a long day but having two hours allocated for each year 3 class meant they could really get into the practical side tasks and it was lovely to see the children so involved in what they were doing. They must have liked it too - they wanted Jackie to return the following week.

At our most recent meeting with our National Lottery Heritage Fund monitoring team, they were very impressed with our activities programme and the way Jackie, especially, has managed the whole project. We've agreed that with approved repairs essentially finished, the active phase of the whole project (and accompanying Lottery funding) will end this summer. A number of activities that were bump-started during the project will continue but there are just three more special events planned. These are:



### **Guitar Concert, Saturday 11th March, 7.30pm**

William Hudd who gave a concert here in 2019, is returning with another blend of classical pieces down the ages and some of his own compositions. Don't miss the opportunity of hearing beautiful music filling our lovely church. You don't need tickets, just come along, enjoy the concert and donate as generously as you like to the retiring collection, in aid of Ladbroke Church.

### **Tours and More, Saturday 18th March, 10.30 - 4pm**

Discover 200 million year old fossils, learn about the stunning stained glass or go on a treasure trail around the village. FREE tours for all and to thank Lottery players who made our recent repairs possible, a free guide book or treasure trail too for those showing a Lottery ticket (terms and conditions and information about many other offers from Lottery grant recipients on [www.nationallotteryopenweek.com](http://www.nationallotteryopenweek.com)).

Fossil tours start on the half hour at 10.30am 11.30am and 2.30pm.

Stained glass tours start on the hour at 11am, 2pm and 3pm

No need to book and children with parents in tow are welcome - fossils are fascinating whatever your age!

### **Birds, Saturday 13th May**

This will include a flying display by birds from Arden Falconry (conditions permitting). More details next month but put the date in your diary now and if you would like to help please let Jackie know on 810331.





## LADBROKE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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*Cllr Nigel Rock*

### **Budget**

It is that time when the District Council sets its budget and a series of scrutiny meetings are presently leading up to the full council decision on 27th February. The Conservative administration's proposals suggest a council tax rise of £5 for a band D property applied to the district council element of council tax. It is worth noting that the District Council gets its funding from a variety of sources - council tax makes up about 48% and business rates about 24% - the rest comes from various 'pots' of money from central government. One problem for the Council is the difficulty of forward planning these days because the government that used to give 'settlements' for the next three years expenditure, now only gives one year. With many other variables this makes it hard for councils to plan for the future.

The Council does have other sources of income, for instance, because the council has something like £10 million of revenue reserves, increasing interest rates are benefitting the council. Green bin users will have noticed the charge has gone up this year and it is the ruling administration plan for it to go up again for the next five years, year on year. The Lib Dem opposition will propose a review of this and of the collection of 'medical' waste in the grey bins for residents with extra need. The opposition are also proposing more resources to improve planning enforcement. The budget already includes provision for climate change (although we need to see how this is spent), cost of living, and improvements to the housing department processes.

### **NHS**

There has been a small amount of progress on the provision of the Doctor's Surgery at Upper Lighthorne in that the NHS have now acknowledged the need. However at a recent meeting, a date of July 2027 for the permanent health facility emerged. Previous impressions given were mid-2025. Some mechanism needs to be found to deal with the interim period, as patients are registering in the surrounding practices as far away as Southam, placing additional strain on those facilities.

I have been working with GP Practices locally because the additional houses over the past few years and added population naturally increases demand. 1323 houses have been built in the Council wards in and around Southam since 2011 with another 263 approved. Anybody who has queued up at the Southam Chemist will have noted problems, although I suspect there are some other reasons on top of increased demand. I am looking into this.

### **Postal Voting - Voter ID**

I remind residents it is a good idea to get a postal vote to avoid photo ID problems at the polling station for the next election at the beginning of May. There has been some confusion about the last date to apply, which was previously said to be 18th April. It seems that because of the extra pressure the government has caused with these (unnecessary) extra rules, the actual deadline date might be a couple of weeks earlier

than before to give election staff more time for processing applications. I recommend that residents apply for a postal vote in good time. More details here:

[www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/postal-and-proxy-voting.cfm](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/postal-and-proxy-voting.cfm)

Email: [elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk) Telephone: 01789 260208

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

This will set future planning policy. I have been in touch with the council about how difficult the public consultation is to understand and use. In response an additional document has now been produced which is intended to help.

SWLP IO Summary.pdf ([southwarwickshire.org.uk](http://southwarwickshire.org.uk))

This is much more user friendly than the main 1200 page document which is still on the council website for reference. [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp)

One thing to look out for is the option of new settlements with some suggestion of sites around this area, among very many other alternatives. Responding to the questions is probably better on the interactive online version so you can dip in and out and focus in on the sections that interest you. You don't need to answer all questions. The 'Issues and Options' questionnaire is about ideas and potential solutions. The council do say they want to hear people's views and no decisions have been taken yet. The Deadline for comments is 6th March.

[nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk) Tel: 07971 343065



## **HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

*Alison Biddle*

### **Parish Council Election - May 2023**

The next parish council election is on Thursday, 4th May 2023. We have ten seats (nine in Harbury and one in Deppers Bridge) and we are looking for new people to come forward and stand for election. It's not as scary as it sounds! If you're interested, please get in touch as soon as possible. You can phone the parish clerk, Alison Biddle, on 01926 614646 or call into the office Monday to Thursday mornings. You will find us in the offices just next to Bull Ring Garage. Nomination packs will be available from the beginning of March and the forms must be returned to Stratford District Council by 4th April 2023 so now is the time for prospective candidates to take action. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **A new town near Deppers Bridge?**

Really? This is just one of many options that are on the table as part of the South Warwickshire Plan Issues and Options Consultation. You can find out more, and make your views known here: <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/issues-and-options-consultation.cfm>

The consultation ends on 6th March 2023 and it's really important that as many people as possible respond at this early stage in the preparation of the new plan which will

become the main planning policy for this area until 2050. The parish council will be making its own response to the consultation in due course.

### **New Flagpole**

We have installed a new flagpole at the village hall in time for the Coronation celebrations. The old one was very dirty and we looked into having it professionally cleaned and overhauled but it was going to cost almost as much as a new one with no guarantee that it would be successful.



### **Cemetery Fence**

We have received many positive comments about the new fence at the cemetery but a few people have also raised concerns about the removal of the hedge. We have tried hard to maintain the hedge over the years; it was cut twice a year and was also wired to try and prevent it from growing outwards and obstructing the path but despite our best efforts, it was causing a real problem because pedestrians were unable to use the footpath. The council would never consider removing a hedge that is valuable to the environment but in this case, the hedge was species poor, i.e. just privet, and there was no evidence of any birds using it for nesting. It was dry and barren and deemed to have little value as a wildlife habitat. There is now the possibility of planting a new hedge using native mixed species on the inside of the fence. The council has not made any decision about this yet but the option is there and may be considered in the future. The removal of the hedge has revealed the steep bank on which it was planted. This is just loose earth at the moment but will be grass seeded to bind it together and should soon look much greener again.



New fencing replaces the hedging at the cemetery  
Photo by Bill Timson

### **Bus Shelter at Binswood End**

The council recently received a petition for a bus shelter to be installed at Binswood End. We are currently working on this. We need to make sure we have the relevant permission from WCC Highways and check whether planning permission is required as this is within the conservation area.

### **No Mow May?**

We are currently considering the possibility of re-wilding small sections of some of the village greens. Allowing the grass to grow longer and remain uncut for a longer period of time will benefit pollinators, insects and birds in the area. This year, we would like to pilot the idea on part of the greens at Binswood End, the Old New Inn and Manor Road. Should these small areas be successful, then next year we will look at carrying it out on a larger scale. We have written to the residents who live nearest these locations to obtain their thoughts on this but anyone who has an opinion they would like to share with us, please email or write to the clerk stating your name and address and whether you support this proposal or not and giving your reasons.





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## HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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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)

Parish Council meetings are  
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To speak on any issue, please  
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## Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

### Harbury Village Library

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- [library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:library@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk)

## Budget 2023/24

The parish council recently approved its budget for the coming year beginning on 1 April 2023. Just like everyone else, we have had to take into account rising prices and balance the cost of these against the services we provide to the village. We have been able to reduce spending in some areas but nevertheless, the overall result is an increase in the precept from £119,677 in the current year to £128,900 for next year. This represents an increase of 7.9% on the annual Band D rate from £99.58 to £107.45. The increase is greater than it has been in recent years but is still less than inflation. It's important to remember that every penny raised from the parish precept is spent here in Harbury and Deppers Bridge for the benefit of our residents. A more detailed summary of the budget will be published in due course.



## HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

John Holden

**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**

### January 2023 Meeting Report

Public Participation - there was quite a number of speakers who had an item on the agenda, which the Council dealt with as they arose.

A villager spoke about the number of stiles there are on various footpaths radiating from the Village and wanted them replaced with kissing gates to help access. The Council agreed to contact the County Rights of Way Officer regards this, as this is a WCC responsibility. The School PTA was requesting a £3000 grant to fund the purchase of reading books for the School - this was agreed to. David Bristow from Harbury Energy Initiative told the meeting that the Group was planning an Energy Saving Fair on Saturday 11th March in the Village Hall. This would provide information and ideas on how households could save energy. As well as seeking financial support, HEI was also hoping for an endorsement for the day from the Parish Council - both were agreed to in principle.

The Harbury & Ladbroke News had submitted a bid for funding the printing costs (£265.00) of the 2023/25 Harbury Directory, again the Council said yes. John Crossling from the local CAMRA Branch spoke about how last year's Beer Festival had had lower numbers attending. One significant factor being the loss of the late night Friday and Saturday buses to and from Leamington. He wondered if anything could be done about providing an evening bus service on those two days? The Council was sympathetic and agreed to contact both the County Council and Stagecoach regarding this. Finally, the Sealed Knott are planning a re-enactment weekend centred on the Playing Fields on the 24th/25th June and were asking for permission for this. The Chairman asked if they had the necessary insurances, which they have, and the Council agreed to their request.

## **Other Organisations**

The Chairman reported that the Library was embarking on a project to improve the insulation of the building and to renew the heating system. Councillor Harris reported on the recent agreement for there to be a healthcare facility on the Upper Lighthorne housing development. Although, it would not be ready until 2027 and, until then, residents living there would have to register with local GP surgeries. Orbit Housing Association is having issues with its plumbing and heating contractor and Cllr. Harris said if any tenants were having problems with repairs to contact herself.

Councillor Kettle drew attention to the Local Plan consultation, which runs to the 8th March. He reiterated how important it was for the PC to respond, as this would set out areas for housing and other developments for the foreseeable future. The PC would consider this at its next meeting, after a SDC briefing due in mid-February. He was pleased to report that in a recent countryside survey on roads maintenance and pothole repairs, Warwickshire had come top!! Although he was aware of one recent local pothole-damaged car!!

## **Planning**

Councillors made no representation to applications to fell a cypress at the Manor House, conversion of an agricultural unit at Harbury Fields Farm and landscaping at land off Bush Heath Lane. They decided to object to the felling of an Ash at Harbury House, although noting that the Tree Officer had not yet visited the site. The Chairman reported on a meeting with Linfoot Homes who want to build 12 two bedroom 'local market' houses on land behind Hall Lane. The Council felt this would be a positive development for the village.

A conifer tree in the Chapel Street Memorial Garden will be felled (after necessary permission obtained) then the paving will be attended to. Under the 'No Mow May' initiative, areas of the Binswood End green, Manor Road and the Old New Inn greens will not be mown during the early part of the summer. The Council will look at the style, costs and exact siting of a bus shelter at Binswood End.

## **Finance**

The Cemetery Burial fees are going up, although the Chairman said it was still cheaper to be buried in Harbury than at other local cemeteries!! The Parish precept for 2023/24 would be £128,900, equating to an increase of 7.9% on a Band D property. The Councils costs are rising, with their Electricity bill doubling this year.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 23rd February, 7.30pm in the Village Hall

### **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, Tony Mancell, Alex Potter, Janet Thornley.



# HARBURY SOCIETY

*Sue Turner*

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Harbury Society. Plans to celebrate this momentous occasion are in hand so watch this space for further details.



## Forthcoming Events

**Tuesday 21st March:** AGM followed by a talk by David Howe '100 Years of the BBC'. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £1.

**Tuesday 18th April:** Presentation by Catriona Rollason entitled 'Remote Sensing of the Sea Floor'. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £1.

**Tuesday 16th May:** Tour of the medieval village and church of Wolfhampcote. Full details will be sent to members nearer the time.

**Tuesday 4th July:** Talk/Tour of Lighthorne. Full details will be sent to members nearer the time.

**Tuesday 19th September:** 'The Last Man in the World' a humorous talk by local actor Peter Walshe which will throw a spotlight on his theatrical career. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £1.

**Tuesday 17th October:** A presentation by Stuart Pierson from Wessex Archaeology featuring their excavations at Coleshill Manor. This is the talk which had to be postponed from November 2022. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £1.

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



## HARBURY WI

*Mary Thompson*

We held our New Year party on 20th January when members brought a lovely variety of food to share. The Speaker was David Kelham who is the current High Sheriff of Warwickshire. He arrived in his full regalia and told members and guests about his working life in Yorkshire, Northumberland, London and Thailand. The position of High Sheriff is an unfunded ceremonial position primarily to support Police, Fire and Ambulance Services as well as his chosen charities during his year of office. We really enjoyed David's talk and were pleased to welcome David and his wife Philippa to our party.

9th February was our “Members Night” when 11 ladies provided puddings for us to try. We had an amazing array of puddings and it was difficult to choose the one we preferred - the winning pudding being a Passion Fruit Ice Cream Loaf provided by Sue Grinstead. Lin Hayes then provided us with two light hearted quizzes. Would you have known how many taste buds a cat fish has (27,000) or what TISWAS stood for in the children’s Saturday morning programme (*This Is Saturday With A Smile*). Well done to Diana Buck who was the winner.



We are planning to have some additional activities on top of our monthly meetings. In January Lin organised a Jigsaw challenge - the next one being a Whist evening to be held in the Tom Hauley room on Thursday 23rd March at 7.30. Ladies new to whist as well as whist experts are all welcome.

At our next monthly meeting on 9th March Vicky Farmer will be describing A Day in the Life of a Quiz Show Contestant.

The final Rural Cinema of this season will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th March at 6.15 for a 7pm start. The film will be “Going in Style” starring Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman. The final date for purchasing tickets will be 4pm on Wednesday 15th March - but the last two films have sold out very quickly so don’t leave it too late!

We have had a successful cinema season and our Community Fund has built up. We have recently agreed to purchase a new DVD player for the village hall as the last film proved that the present DVD player was showing its age! We would be pleased to hear from village organisations who would benefit from some financial support from our community fund. Please contact Ann Mayer (612708) or myself (612050) if you would like an application form.



## HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

*Caroline George*

We have been busy behind the scenes this month working on upcoming projects. We are planning a fundraiser for Heat, Light and Stone which in September which should be something to look forward to. There are also plans for a joint Murder Mystery evening organised by the ACT, the Amateur Community Theatre, comprising groups from around Warwickshire, which will be taking place in June. We will also be meeting soon to decide on our plans for Harbury Carnival and of course our upcoming May production.

## Get involved!

There is plenty to get involved with and we are always looking for new members, either on stage, backstage, directing, producing or front of house. If you are interested, please do come along to one of our monthly meetings (third Tuesday of each month, 7.30 in the Village Club) or get in touch via [harburytheatregroup@gmail.com](mailto:harburytheatregroup@gmail.com)

## Youth Group

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Harbury Theatre Group is considering expanding to include a youth group and is interested to know if anyone may be interested. We are considering either a weekly group, two week summer project or a combination of the two depending on interest. This would be run by members of Harbury Theatre Group on a volunteer basis, but will require some additional volunteers to make it possible.

No previous experience is needed, just some passion and enthusiasm.

If you are interested, please fill out our questionnaire via the QR code.



## FOLK CLUB

*Sue Hartland*

The theme for the 433rd Folk Club was 'Romance' and we were treated to a fine selection of romantic songs.

The Harvesters opened with 'A Cut Above', a song written by Ian about a romantic trip on the Birmingham Canals. This was followed by the well known standard 'Till There Was You'. Sue Harris followed with 'Devoted to You' and 'Love Will You Walk With Me?'. Dennis was next with 'The Streets of Love' and 'One Last Love Song'. Maureen & Sue performed 'Sally Gardens' and 'The Punch and Judy Man'. Rik continued with 'Time in a Bottle' and 'Outward Bound'. Debbie recited two of her self penned love poems and Peter McDonald closed the first half with 'Lord Franklin' and 'Dipsticks and Seals' in memory of Les Barker.

The Choir kicked off the second half singing 'A little bit of Love' and 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight?'. Keith recited a poem entitled 'Love in a Real World' and sang 'Bones'. Des followed with 'Fakenham Fair' and the lovely 'Sammy's Bar' which has a great chorus we all joined in with. David sang 'He'll have to go' and 'I'll be your Baby Tonight'. Bob followed with 'Song of the Ancient Brits' and 'How Can I tell You?' Don continued with 'Since you've been gone' and 'Next Friday Night'. Peter Mason closed the evening singing 'Annie Munroe' and 'Nana's Song'.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the raffle which raised £76 for the British Heart Foundation.

The next Folk Club will be on 2nd March when Debbie will be the host and she has chosen 'Movement' as the theme.



# HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

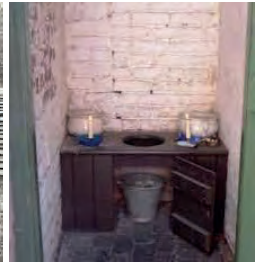
Bill Timson

I have been spending some hours during the cold winter months researching the Victorian era and in particular what it may have been like to have lived in Harbury during the 19th century. The word 'Privy' has cropped up and may need further explanation. 'Privy' an adjective or noun with more than one meaning.

So in this case, the 'privy' in question refers to 'a toilet located in a small shed outside a house or other building'. This would often be shared with neighbours and certainly all members of the family would use it. The privy would often be built a good walk from the house which made it a difficult or impossible journey at night time for the young, elderly or infirm. In this case, a chamber pot would be employed overnight and duly emptied in the morning - into the privy.

Most houses in Victorian times would not have had indoor plumbing, in fact no plumbing at all. The outer reaches of Harbury did not have mains water until the late 1930s / early 1940s and main sewers later than that.

The most basic of privies were built with wooden planks (later brick or stone was used) with a 'tin' roof. A large hole was dug underneath for the 'waste' to collect into; when the hole filled up the structure was moved to another part of the garden, Dry privies relied upon household ash to deodorise human excrement.



There was no toilet tissue, at best squares of newspaper were used as these would decompose. Progress was seen when the waste products were collected instead of 'fertilising the garden'.

I found the following article in a pile of articles donated to the Heritage collection - it was written by village photographer Mike Bloxham and is dated October 1978.

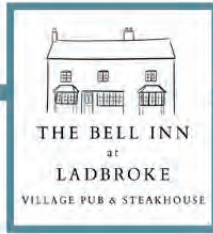
## **'Souvenir of an Unpleasant Task'**

*"Just an old galvanised bucket corroding with age, life nearly over, in one of the gardens along Ivy Lane, used for protection and to encourage rhubarb growth. Life was not always so peaceful, memories of thirty years ago, seem like yesterday.*

*The bucket, condition then bright new, played an important part in collection of village night soil. In those days most toilets or lavatories in Harbury, with the exception of a few large houses, were outside, some distance from the dwellings.*

*Built rather like a sentry box in size, door on front, open space above door. Bucket placed inside and encased under hinged wooden lid seat. Outside, screened by rambling rose, creeper or shrub, lavender bush near.*





Coming up at The Bell Inn, Ladbroke.



### MID WEEK OFFERS

Make steak night or pie night your new date night!  
or at least a night off from cooking!

Wednesday Night is STEAK NIGHT  
&  
Thursday Night is PIE NIGHT

### MOTHERS DAY

Sunday 19th March

### QUIZ & A CURRY

Tuesday 18th

### KINGS CORONATION

Saturday 6th May

### GIN FESTIVAL & FAMILY FUN DAY

June - tbc

### FATHERS DAY

Sunday 18th June

### BELL INN GIN FESTIVAL

Saturday 24th June - tbc

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The Bell Inn, Banbury Road, Ladbroke, Nr Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 2BY

"When I began to find walking increasingly painful about four years ago I asked for advice and was directed to Health First at Southam. This was really good advice and after two appointments the problem had been solved and it continues to be solved." C.L.



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Est. 1956

*During twilight hours, torch or candle considered handy to light way, umbrella when raining, quickness in Winter.*

*On behalf of Southam R.D.C. the gentleman responsible for the weekly night soil clean out for Harbury, was the late Mr William Marlow and son, along with one or two other good folk mucking in together, a horrible but essential job.*

*The vehicle used for collecting the night soil was an oval shaped metal tank cart; between the shafts providing traction was a large old shire horse named Dolly. She knew the journey, travelling almost on her own, with minimal guidance.*

*On collection day, the band of merry men gathered in one of the pubs to replenish with ale before commencement of duty, permitted only after 10pm. On warm nights windows would be closed, people stayed indoors while collectors walked the streets and entered back yards.*

*Sometimes a mishap occurred; in bad weather, frost and ice under foot and possibly excited by beer. This would result in strong language! After the round was complete Dolly would make her way homeward to Churchlands for storage and treatment of the night soil. Fine tomato plants could be obtained on request from there.*

*Bill Marlow, well-known local character stocky build, wore a trilby hat; capable of a tune or two from his concertina, in demand at Christmas time. He lived and carried on a small-holding business at Clifton Cottage next door to the Old Chapel House in Mill Street. His front garden always looked nice, showed nasturtium flowers, an arch of roses and a picturesque well which provided lovely drinking water. Among the outbuildings he kept pigs and earth scratching poultry produced free range eggs, pet cats roamed around the site. There were fruit trees and a walnut tree, alas all gone, three detached houses now stand on the site.*



Clifton Cottage, Mill Street

*The Marlow's also farmed 'Churchlands' at the Ufton end of the village near to the railway cutting. The red brick barn still stands there. Here the family tended livestock, including horses and several mixed breed cows. There was arable land where the grain crops were threshed in the old-fashioned way. The cows were hand milked, and regular customers were supplied with fresh milk measured from the pail into your own container. This was delivered daily on a bicycle which was pushed rather than ridden."*

Long-time Harbury resident, Tony Ceney recalls that "if you were cheeky to Bill Marlow he would throw the contents of the bucket at you - hence small pieces of newspaper 'flowing' down the street". He also recalls that Bill's son Albert was an exceptional athlete and the 'collection' sometimes took place during the day! Tony remarks, 'he was an interesting character and the soil was collected during the day as well!'

Max Wilkins, who lived in Farm Street, referred to the Privy as the 'dry closet'. He writes, *'the dry closet was at the end of the garden, most daily papers ended up here, torn into small square pieces. If one disagreed with political statements, one had the remedy in hand'. Thank goodness for modern times!*

I cannot find any record of Bill Marlow in the burial register; the 1939 register shows his date of birth as 9th August 1890, the 1911 census records him as living at 12, Cooperative Terrace (Ivy Lane) with his parents, two sisters and a brother. His occupation is listed as farm labourer; he died in 1968. Bill's wife Rose died in 1944 aged 62 and is buried in Harbury Cemetery. He left a healthy legacy and Clifton Cottage and its land were sold off. Later the cottage was demolished and three detached houses built on the plot.

*If you have any photographs, comments, or questions about this article please contact us by email at 'group@harburyheritage.org.uk'*

**Other News: Calendar - THANK YOU to all those people who bought a 2023 Heritage Calendar. The calendar was once again supported by local artists who also made their paintings available for sale to boost funds. We sold 185 out of 200 calendars printed and as a result we have been able to give a donation of £500 to Myton Hospice. However, because of the fantastic generosity of one village resident who agreed to match our efforts, we are delighted to hand over £1000 to Myton's Community Fundraiser, Louise Carless.**

**Look at our website for opening times in March and April.**

**www.harburyheritage.org.uk** or visit our Facebook page 'Harbury Heritage Centre'.



## HARBURY ENERGY INITIATIVE

David Bristow

Tel: 07511 679312

**Could your house be warmer, or cheaper to heat?  
Come on 11th March to find out how!**

We hope you have received your copy of the flyer advertising this event, which we are organising on behalf of the Parish Council, and that you have decided to note it in your diary. If you can spread the word to family and friends, and reply to let us know you are hoping to come, that would be even better!

The event will be in Harbury Village Hall, with advisers available from 12 to 3.30pm. We recommend coming for the overview presentation at 12.15 or the repeat at 2.00pm.

The flyer has a QR code to register on Eventbrite - printed here but you can go to [www.harburyenergy.co.uk](http://www.harburyenergy.co.uk) or Facebook, or email [info@harburyenergy.co.uk](mailto:info@harburyenergy.co.uk). If you have questions, please phone David Bristow on 07511 679312.



The speakers on the day will cover everything that could reasonably be done to save

energy, carbon and money when heating your house, and say how much it is likely to cost. They will then sit at tables to provide more detailed information, and so that householders can ask individual questions face-to-face.

We will also be explaining the Government's Eco4 and Eco+ schemes that should come on stream sometime from April this year. At the time of writing full details have not yet been released, but it is likely that they will be for lower income householders, in houses and flats in lower council tax bands, and that have lower Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings. There are also grants for specific measures like heat pumps and electric vehicle charging points.

As you know, HEI is a voluntary group. The expenses for this event have been paid by the Parish Council, and our speakers have agreed to provide their time and knowledge free so that people can understand what may be possible for their individual homes and circumstances, either now or in the future. Some of our speakers are from commercial companies, but HEI will not benefit financially from any of them. HEI is not recommending these companies to residents, but in most cases speakers have been invited because we have heard from one or more local residents who have had a successful service from them.

We are confident that you will find plenty of useful information, and inspiration, to help you save energy, money and the planet. We look forward to seeing you there!



## HARBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Steven Kittendorf*

Harbury's game against Birmingham and Solihull was called off due to a frozen pitch and rescheduled to 18th March.

### **Birmingham Exiles 19 Harbury 33**

Harbury dominated the first half with their powerful forward play enabling Ricky Alford to cross the line with a well taken try. This was quickly followed up with a try by brother Steve intercepting a stray pass to break through the Exiles' defence. Exiles responded with a couple of tries of their own; but Harbury continued to apply the pressure allowing Seymour Smith to intercept a line-out and skirt over from close range to lead 12-19 at half time. Rory Pond notched up an "assist" to gift Steve Alford his second try before Exiles scored a well worked try and Joe Hunt rounding off the match with a try to seal victory.

### **Harbury 2s 24 Shottery 21**

In a week that saw the unexpected loss of Adrian "Pecker" Exton and this being the first home match since the loss of founder member, Graham Shurvinton - "Shurv"; a period of silence before kick-off was held as a tribute to both.

Pershore conceded the 1st team fixture whilst the 2nd team game against Shottery went ahead, albeit with a number of Harbury players bolstering their side. At the end of a thoroughly entertaining match where the lead swapped sides throughout, Sam Tomlison outflanked the opposition to complete the match with a brace of tries.

## Mini and Juniors

We had a great Sunday recently where the older age groups combined with the younger age groups for some fun and games; turns out U7s are quite heavy when piggy backing them for 20 metres, there and back!

Fixtures against both regular and new clubs have been played in the true sporting ethos of the game. Clubs have appreciated the manner in which matches have been played out recognising the prominence of Rugby's core values especially in the way we behave on match days.

We continue to attract new members joining across several of the age groups. Whilst squad sizes grow we ensure that every player gets game time.

Our U15s and U16s have been coached by Coventry RFC first team player George Smith for the last few months with the aim of George transitioning into the Colts coach next year. We have started the process of registering our Colts team and getting things in place to bring Colts back to HRFC. So if you are in Year 11 or Year 12, get down to the club to find out what it's all about!

Last but not least, three of our U16s players have been selected for the Midlands Rugby Academy West and Central teams, these have replaced the Wasps' and Warriors' Developing Player Programmes. Well done guys and go well in your matches!

We offer rugby for U5s up to U16s, so if you have a child who is interested, drop us a message on [harburyrfc.enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:harburyrfc.enquiries@gmail.com) or give Chris, the Chair, a call on 07834 972999.



## GUIDES AND SCOUTS SUPPORT

*Rosanna Hunt*

A big thank you to everyone who responded to our call for volunteers last year. Harbury Guides and Scouts continues to go from strength to strength with Beavers now up and running again, and a seven-strong group of enthusiastic GASS Executive Committee members attending to the upkeep and development of the Scout Hut through fundraising activities.

Beavers has had great support from the community, with visits from guide dogs (Archie Hemming's mum & grandma) and Ed & Ben Wilson with the telescope. The activities set up helped the group achieve their disability awareness and space badges. Other activities completed so far have included: Chinese New Year celebrations, Valentine's crafts, biscuit decorating and lots of fun games. We have a good group of boys and girls from 6-8 from across the village. A good start and we are growing and up to 15 Beavers next term!

Key dates coming up are the Scout Hut spring clean (18th March) and the GASS AGM (22nd April). Please come along and meet the Scouting teams at either of these events. Contact me on the number below with any questions.

The AGM will include updates from all the Guiding and Scouting sections, as well as plans for the Scout Hut, and requests for new committee members.

\*\*\*\*\* **WE NEED A NEW TREASURER AND A CHAIR!!!!** \*\*\*\*\*

Do contact me if you'd like more information on the roles. GASS Committee members are Trustees of the Scout Hut and organise the fundraising events to help with the costs - such as Harbury bonfire night, THR coffee mornings and grant applications.

Without this amazing group of volunteers, the Harbury 1st Scouting and Guiding would not exist, so please get involved - especially if you have little ones coming into Beavers and Rainbows and show your kids the value of contributing to volunteering activity in your village!

Please contact Rosanna 0777 070 4056 if you are interested to discuss more.



## HARBURY TODDLER GROUP

Lynne Barton

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

We are so pleased to welcome the early signs of Spring with lovely Snowdrops, Daffodils and Crocuses and we have a fabulous new path to walk down to the Scout Hut.

Thank you to everyone who was involved, the workman were very accommodating with our pushchairs, bikes and prams making sure the way was accessible.

We continue to meet lots of new parents and welcome them to the group as well as those who have been coming for a little while; everybody always makes new families feel included.

Our annual Calendar with its guest visitors enhance the sessions and keep things vibrant for the children and we particularly love our dance and movement sessions.

***Love Ballet.Com, June's Chatterbox Tunes and Rhythm Time all bring something different.***



## ***The magical world of Toddlers***

Dressing up imaginative play is so important in these early years and it's amazing what excitement a few hats can bring.

Who doesn't like hide and seek especially in a safe environment where you can explore and hide but know that parents and grandparents are not too far away? Secret Dens provide the ideal space for a bit of adventure.

We celebrated Valentine's Day by making Heart Cards for our loved ones and had fun making necklaces and bracelets with different coloured beads always so busy !



## **And Finally**

With much affection, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

**Love from Lynne, Selina, Debbie, Suzi and Judi x x**



**HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL**

*Staff and Committee*

## **A Rabbit came to Pre-School**

Since it is the Year of the Rabbit, we put out a request to parents to see if anyone had a pet bunny they could bring in.

A very big thank you to Emma Browne for bringing in Lillian's pet rabbit to meet all the children. We learnt about how to look after rabbits, where they live and what they eat.





Cookie was lovely and soft and good as gold as were the children as they sat and stroked the rabbit.

Thank you to Lillian, Emma and Cookie.

### **The Three Little Pigs**

The children have loved learning all about the Three Little Pigs. We have been using some straw, stick and brick house props that were made and decorated by some of our ex-preschool children during their time here.

We have been acting out the story with our farmhouse pigs and a wolf at circle time and it has been especially nice to see the children independently taking this play outside, pretending to be the wolf blowing down the house or the pigs in our playhouse.



### **New Resources**

We have recently acquired some natural wooden resources to expand the children's play. They have loved these sets, which includes string, tubes and planks and the children have made some truly remarkable structures.



### **Feeding the Ducks**

Over half term, we are encouraging the children to take their adults out to feed the ducks for a half term treat.

The children have each decorated a bag and filled them carefully with oats and attached a label.



This activity is leading into our topic of 'water safety' which we will be carrying on with after half term.



The children are already very knowledgeable, telling us today that 'we need to stand back from the water in case we sink', so we are looking forward to hearing about what they have to say after half term.

### **Thank you**

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Kimberley who is temporarily leaving us to start her maternity leave after half term. She will be very much missed by children and staff alike and we wish her all the best for the birth of her new son.

### **Looking forward**

We have another busy, albeit short, half term coming up. We will be celebrating World Book Day and the children will be asked to bring in their favourite book to share and invited to dress up as their favourite book character.

We will also be looking ahead to the Harbury Carnival and are excited to be entering a Pre-School float.

If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please 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 PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lucy Bosley - Headteacher

*To love, learn and grow together.*

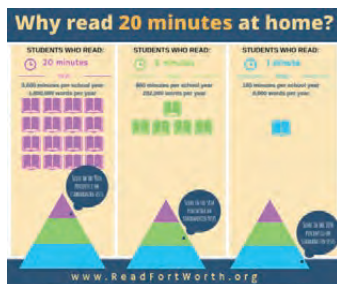
*"Let us not love with words and speech but with action and in truth" 1 John 3:18*

We have launched our 'Love to Read' event over the past few weeks. What better way to spend Valentine's Day than coming into school for a bedtime story and learning about the importance of reading! We know how important reading is and research has proven that there is a relationship between reading frequency and attainment. In fact, children who read every day for 20 minutes score in the top 10% of all children. Reading for pleasure has huge benefits as well: Reading attainment and writing ability; Text comprehension and grammar; Breadth of vocabulary; Positive reading attitudes; Greater self-confidence as a reader; Pleasure in reading in later life; General knowledge; A better understanding of other cultures; Community participation and a greater insight into human nature and diversity.



Richard, from Harbury Community library also brought in a selection of library books for all parents and carers to see. We have also had Key Stage 1 visiting the library over the past few weeks. What a fantastic asset to the village! Alongside this, **the Parish Council and PTA have helped fund 500 new books!** We are so **grateful. Thank you.** This will really make a huge difference to the children at our school. These books are tailor-made to fit alongside our phonics teaching and learning. We have also invested in Accelerated Reader to help us monitor reading and to help check comprehension skills of our children. **Reading is an essential life skill and this will be a HUGE focus here at Harbury CE Primary School. If any volunteers would like to help label books we can offer you a cup of tea and a biscuit!**

Thank you.



# Harbury Village Cinema in the Village Hall



# Saturday March 18th 2023

Tickets:

Tickets available from  
Harbury Village Library

01926 258 776

Cash or card.

Please buy food tickets  
before 15th March.

£11.50 to include fish'n'chips & 2 raffle tickets

OR £6 to include 1 raffle ticket only

**No tickets will be sold on the door.**

Doors open 6.15pm Film begins 7pm

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564 394

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**Refreshments in aid of the NSPCC**



# HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

*Rich Fowler*

With a particular emphasis on the education of children and young people, Harbury Village Library provides services in the nationally defined areas of Reading, Health and Wellbeing, Information and Digital, and Culture and Creativity.

## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM will take place on Monday 6th March at 7.30pm in the library. The meeting is open to anyone in the village with an interest in what we do.

## **Jigsaws**

We've moved our collection of Jigsaws to a specially built unit which, we hope, makes the Jigsaws easier to see and easier to reach. Please ask a volunteer at the library desk to point out the new location.



## **Tickets in March**

Three new sets of tickets will be on sale in the library:

- WI Village Cinema on Saturday March 18th, "Going in Style". Tickets are £11.50 with meal and £6 without meal.
- HEI Murder Mystery, "Bloodstock", on Wednesday 22nd March and Thursday 23rd March. Tickets are £7.50.
- Sheep Dip Session, "Harp and a Monkey" on Friday 24th March. Tickets are £10.

Cash and Card payments accepted.

## **Activities and Events**

Tunes and Tales continues on Thursday mornings from 9.15am to 9.45am. Stories and songs for babies and toddlers.

## **Board Game Fridays**

Come along with friends to play some of the board games in our collection, or bring your own. Board Game Fridays start at 1.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

## **Harbury Repair Cafe**

Takes place in the library on the 4th Saturday of every month from 2pm to 4pm.

## **Classic Book Group**

Our group meets in the library on the 3rd Thursday of every month. We aim to read, and discuss, those "classic" books you always meant to read, but never did. If you're interested in joining us please email [BookGroup@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk](mailto:BookGroup@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk).

## **Biblio's**



Why not meet friends for a hot drink and homemade cake? Our friendly volunteers will be waiting to serve you in Biblio's Cafe on any of the days and times when the Cafe is open, as stated in this article.

## Regular Opening Times

**Library** - Monday and Tuesday - 10am to 4.30pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 9.15am to 4.30pm; Saturday - 10am to 12 noon.

**Biblio's Cafe** - Wednesday to Friday - 9.15am to 12 noon, Saturday - 10am to 12 noon.

Bookings can be made via the following email address:  
bookingsbiblioscafe@outlook.com



## HARBURY CLUB & INSTITUTE

*Club Committee*

- 3rd March Bingo, 8pm
- 10th March MR SKA MAN INTERNATIONAL, 8.30-9pm start
- 11th March Psychic night, ticketed 7.30pm
- 12th March Merv's Marvellous Trains, 12 - 6pm
- 18th March Quiz Night, 7.30pm
- 24th March Bingo, 8pm
- 25th March Blues Extra, 8.30-9pm start
- 1st April Children's/Family Bingo, 7.30pm

February started with an immense sadness due to the shocking passing of Adrian Exton aka Pecker. We as a committee have been deeply affected by this, he was a key part of what we have achieved in the last 18 months, as our Chairman, our friend and also a champion of bringing people together and back to the club. We will strive to continue his efforts in making the club a place for everyone. Thank you for your support.



March brings lighter nights after the winter months and we have TWO incredible acts for you. Mr Ska Man International!! Dig out your best two-tone outfit and come and listen to all the best sounds from this fabulous British era. Also, Blues Extra. A fabulous band singing all your favourite rock and blues. This voice is as stunning as the lady with it. Not to be missed.

Our first psychic night, hosted by Miranda Bishop and Yvonne Reidmoore. Something a little different but sure to be a wonderful evening. Tickets will be available from the club during open hours or you can call 01926 613140. The evening will begin at 7.30pm.

Looking ahead to April we have children's/family bingo and also our 1st Karaoke with Kirstie. Sure to be a hit with all the local village hidden (or not so hidden) talent. 😊

We have lots of plans this year but they will be done with a heavy heart. We will keep you up to date. If you have any ideas and feel like you could bring something to the members and the club, please seek us out for a chat. You can never have enough friends.

Thank you all again for your continued support. We have appreciated the kind words and friendly faces.

To contact us please email: [harburyvillageclub@outlook.com](mailto:harburyvillageclub@outlook.com) or you can telephone evenings on 01926 612498 or pop in and speak to one of our bar staff or a committee member, who will be only too happy to help.



## GARDEN JOTTINGS

*Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery*

There is plenty to do this month if the weather isn't frosty or snowy or too wet. If you have to delay some of the jobs it won't be the end of the world, in fact sometimes it is better to wait a while.

Roses will need pruning, remove any dead or weak growth and add some well-rotted manure if you can get it. Sow sweet peas. Sow lots of hardy annuals such as marigolds, cornflowers, love-in-the-mist to give colour and to attract bees and butterflies. With a bit of luck these will self-seed so you will have them each year. Plant summer flowering bulbs such as alliums, galtonia, crocosmia.

Last month would have been a good time to cut back clematis (the late flowering ones), ornamental grasses and any other perennials, if you didn't do it then there is still time now. Also prune any winter flowering shrubs when the flowering has finished ie. Viburnum, Lonicera fragrantissima and willows.

It is time to plant garlic, onion sets and shallots. Sow some broad beans but try to protect from hungry mice. I grow mine in cell trays balanced on something the mice can't get to then, when they are a couple of inches high, I plant them out. Also sow some peas, salad onions and parsnips.



Don't forget to prune your forsythia and flowering currant shrubs when the flowering is over, cut out some of the older stems almost down to the ground to encourage new growth.

Meanwhile I am continuing the soul destroying process of adding many dead plants

to the compost bins. Those that I moved into the tunnels are fine but I wasn't able to move them all. This is a repeat of what happened in the winter of 2010/2011.

If you are a keen gardener there is always something to do but you can just stand (or sit) and gaze and admire how plants grow either with or without your help.

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



## NATURE NOTES

*Martin & Amanda Randall*

As spring approaches and it starts to get a little milder, one of our favourite sounds in the early evening is the croaking of frogs in our pond. During the winter months, common frogs have been spending their time resting in the mud at the bottom of the pond, under piles of logs or in our compost heap. Then, in early spring, when the breeding season begins, they emerge and become active to find a mate. Individuals can live for 5-10 years in the wild and usually return year after year to the pond in which they were born. The males tend to arrive first and there is often strong competition amongst them.



**A ferment of frogs - can you count them?**  
Photo by Martin Randall

The croaking of males is to attract a mate and to compete against other nearby rivals. When a male finds a suitable mate he will attach himself tightly to the female using 'nuptial pads' on his front feet (a condition known as amplexus) and the two individuals may remain like this for many hours during which time the eggs will be laid and fertilized. Each female lays one or two clumps of frogspawn among marginal vegetation. We have noticed that in our pond this usually takes place around the 15th March. Sometimes we get a maelstrom of mating frogs in the pond because there are so many. Ours is a wildlife pond so we don't have fish, which would otherwise eat the tadpoles, and having the frogs in the garden helps keep slugs at bay.



**Toadspawn is laid in long strings rather than clumps. Photo by Martin Randall**

The common frog is found throughout Britain and Ireland, although its numbers are thought to be in decline because of the disappearance of its usual breeding places and the introduction of disease, so having a small garden pond is helpful to them.



But to help reduce the risk of the disease spreading from one pond to another, it is best not transfer spawn or adults between ponds. It's better to let them find your pond without this assistance.



It is remarkable how quickly wildlife will find a new pond to colonise. In addition to frogs, we also have toads and newts, as well as a whole array of invertebrates. The toads are not as common as the frogs and a few usually arrive later. They have shorter legs and tend to walk or crawl rather than leapfrogging. Another difference is that toadspawn is laid in long strings, whereas frogspawn is in large clumps, so you can tell the difference if you find eggs of these amphibians in a pond.

Being mainly nocturnal, common toads are best spotted at night during the spring, when they too will return to the pond they were spawned. You may see them on their way but do take care when driving on a wet evening because they often cross roads to get to their pond. We know that many make this perilous journey over the road between Temple End and Chesterton Windmill.

The newts in our pond are the smooth newts, one of the three newt species in the UK and much commoner in this part of the country than the palmate newt and the great crested newt. Newts lay their eggs singly wrapped in the leaves of aquatic plants. Their tadpoles are quite distinctive with feathery-looking external gills and, unlike frogs and toads, they develop their front legs first before the hind ones when they are metamorphosing to adults. Adult newts are quite voracious predators of the other smaller inhabitants of the pond and it is fascinating to watch them stalking their prey among the waterweeds!

How did you get on with the Big Garden Birdwatch this year? We had more goldfinches than previously but fewer house sparrows and starlings, both of which have declined in abundance over recent years. However we were pleased to see a couple of lesser redpoll on our bird feeders. This small finch has streaked brown and beige wings and upper parts, and a small black 'bib'. They get their



Lesser Redpoll photo by Ron Knight

name from the distinctive red forehead (hence the name 'red poll'), which is more obvious in the male. Their bills are particularly short and conical, adapted for eating small seeds. They are becoming more frequent garden visitors, particularly to feed on nyger seed. This is of considerable interest and importance because lesser redpolls are a species of high conservation concern. You can read more about them on the link below.

[www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u23/downloads/pdfs/factsheet\\_lesre.pdf](http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u23/downloads/pdfs/factsheet_lesre.pdf)





## FOOD CADDY WASTE

Jacqui Harris

**Following a query from a resident please see the response below.**

The Biffa crews collecting your food caddy waste, should use 240 litre red bins as slave bins to empty the food into prior to it going into the truck. The red bins make it obvious to residents that the food isn't going into the garden waste stream. During a recent collection Biffa said that the red bin had broken so they were using what would appear to residents a 'garden waste bin' as a slave bin.

The crews can't empty the smaller 25L caddies straight into the lorries, this would cause serious health and safety issues. If food does end up in the garden waste bin it is still recycled, but the preference is that it goes separate so it can be anaerobically digested at the plant.



## HARBURY BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

Amanda Randall

### Harbury Village Hall Wednesdays - Beginners 7.15pm Improvers 8.30pm

The new term begins on Wednesday 1st March. There will be six classes finishing on week six with another joint practice session. This is when the two classes overlap for half an hour so that we can all dance and socialise in one group. We had a good time jiving together in last month's practice class (see photo).

#### Dates & Dances

1 / 8 / 15 / 22 / 29 March and 5 April

Beginners: Quickstep and Paso Doble

Improvers: Quickstep and Saunter  
Together

The fee is £15 per couple, per session, 'pay as you go'. You need to bring a partner.

We look forward to welcoming you, whether you have been attending for a while or if you would like to come and try!



Aerial view of Improvers Waltz (photo Gordon Robbins)

# THE VILLAGE STORE

## BISHOPS ITCHINGTON

*We have now owned the shop for over a year and thought we should share some of the exciting new developments coming:*

### EVENTS

**Evening Events** *We ran several evening events last year including Wine & Cheese Tasting and a Gin Tasting Experience with the Warwickshire Gin Company. These were incredibly popular and we are planning to run more this year including some crafting evenings.*

*If you have any suggestions of events you would like to see available, please let us know!*

**Bistro Nights** *Come and join us for evening drinks and nibbles. We have wine by the glass, local beers, lagers, ales & ciders and a special selection of cocktails to try! A tempting array of bar snacks & Spanish Pinchos will also be on offer. Seating is limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis, table booking is unavailable. Adults Only. Dates for your diary are 10<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> April.*

**Book Club** *3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, £5 to include a drink, tickets available from the shop.*

**Dog Walking** *We will be hosting a monthly Sunday dog walk to Bishops Hill Nature Reserve. We'll meet at the shop at 9.30am so folk can stock up on hot drinks and pastries, then go for a wander with our canine friends. The walk will be 2-3km long with opportunities to make it shorter if needed. Upcoming dates are 5<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This event is free of charge.*

**Crafts** *We love to provide a drop in space for children's crafts over the school holidays and will continue to run these on a regular basis.*

*All our events are advertised in the shop window and on our Facebook page  
@thevillagestorebishops*

### FOOD & DRINK

*If you haven't been in to see our lovely menu, please do drop by and take a look. We have yummy treats to eat in or takeaway such as sausage & bacon baps, a brunch menu including avocado smash with feta, award-winning hot pasties, jacket potatoes, handmade samosas, homemade cakes, toasted teacakes, fresh ground coffee, a selection of teas and much more!*

### SENIOR SPECIAL

*We are offering seniors a free hot drink with a purchase of food from the café menu between 1.30pm and 3pm Mon-Weds. Pop in for a cuppa and a chat!*

### GIFTS

*We stock a wide range of beautiful cards and gifts for every occasion including jewellery, hats, scarfs, wax melts and burners, soaps, gift sets, soft toys, Build-a-Bear, paper craft sets and more. We are also keen to support local small businesses and have a lovely range of art and craft from local artisans.*

### PAPERS

*We still provide a daily delivery service of newspapers and magazines to Harbury and surrounding villages, please do contact us if you would like to arrange a delivery.*

*We look forward to giving you a warm welcome!*

Tel. 01926 612387

Email: [thevillagestorebishops@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagestorebishops@gmail.com)

# CONGRATULATIONS, THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS




If you would like to include:

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




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

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



## IT'S QUIZ TIME!




**SPEED QUIZ NIGHT**  
**FRI 24TH MAR**  
 7.30 @ Harbury School

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A night of fun and speed-quizzing with Sphinx Events.  
 Enter teams of up to 4.  
 Licensed bar & lots of raffle prizes to be won on the night - it's one not to miss!  
 Join us and help raise money for Harbury Pre School.  
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**Tickets**  
**£7.50 each**  
 Includes a chip batch courtesy of The Shakespeare



The Shakespeare

## WINDOW CLEANING & GUTTER CLEARING





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**Gutter Clearance**

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Jacqui Powell: 01926 612887 or 07769 683888

Email: [harbury.ballroom.dancing@gmail.com](mailto:harbury.ballroom.dancing@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook (Harbury Ballroom Dancing Group) or Instagram @harburyballroomdancing for further updates.



Jiving

**“KEEEEPP Dancing”!!**



**SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE UPDATE**

*Mike McBride*

Many thanks to those people who came along to our coffee morning despite the wind and rain on Saturday 18th February. We raised £215 for our funds. Our next fund-raising opportunity will hopefully be at the carnival which is on Saturday 10th June. Meanwhile, we will be discussing other things at our meetings so watch this space in the coming months for more details.



Thank you all for your continuing support.





## REPAIR CAFÉ

Rich Fowler

The next Repair Cafe will be on Saturday 25th March, from 2pm to 4pm at Harbury Library. You can send us information about items you're interested in having repaired by filling in the form on our website: [sites.google.com/site/repaircafeharbury/visit/repair-details](https://sites.google.com/site/repaircafeharbury/visit/repair-details)

We now have our own Sewing Machine, so if you know the repair you want to make, but don't currently have a machine, come along and use ours. One of our volunteers will be there to help.



Now that the days are getting lighter and warmer it's time to get your bike out again and start to work on the garden. We can give your bike a quick check to make sure it's still roadworthy after the winter and sharpen your garden tools ready for Spring garden maintenance.

**Wanted!** Volunteer Repairers, for two hours a month to help prevent broken household items ending up in landfill. If you're interested in helping, please email us at [repaircafeharbury@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafeharbury@gmail.com).



## THE WINDMILL RESTORATION

Jeremy Atkins

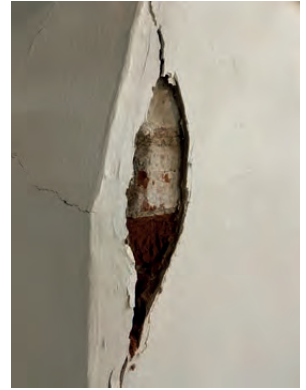
By the time you read this, the scaffolding will be going up around the Windmill. Knowing this is a treasured building in the village I thought readers might like to know what is going on.

The replacement of the



The Windmill, towering over the village - for another few hundred years

cap 40 years ago undoubtedly saved the mill, but the soft wood that was used on the facias and shingles has now exceeded its workable life and needs to be replaced. It will be replaced with cedar as approved by Stratford & District Council.



The internal cement covering is not letting the building breathe and is being replaced

Around the same time as the cap was replaced, a considerable quantity of modern hard engineering bricks were used to replace old bricks and fill holes left by the platform poles. After extensive research, we have identified a softer brick to replace these, again with SDC's approval. Any cement pointing will also be replaced with lime mortar which is more appropriate for solid walls.

On the inside, the walls of the top four levels are also covered with cement which is not letting the solid walls breathe as they should, so this will be removed and replaced with a lime plaster with thermal properties.



All the internal workings have been wrapped in clingfilm to protect them during the work



A drone survey showed the wooden roof shingles and facias in need of replacement and modern hard engineering bricks in use

In the last few years, the bottom two levels have been repointed inside and out and so this work on the top four floors and cap, which will last about six months, will mean that the whole mill has undergone renovation in the last three years and should last at least another few hundred.

The amazing original features inside the mill will all be preserved.



## WEDNESDAY WALKERS

*Gillian Hare*

As walkers, we have been very pleased that "February Filldyke" did not live up to its reputation. From being frozen at the start, the mud has steadily dried up. The snowdrops at Leamington Hastings were later than last



year, but already, with the aconites in that pretty village, putting on a brave show. And we've enjoyed flocks of redwings and fieldfares, seen the splendid park at Coombe Abbey, as well as Upton House.

Next month, on 8th March, we plan to share a pub meal, for those who wish, after a walk at Long Itchington.



## HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE - UPDATE

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*Amanda Randall*

Harbury's swift nest boxes are being constructed as I type! I am told that they will be ready by the beginning of March, in perfect timing for installing them before the swifts return to Harbury in early May.

The Parish Council is in charge of the installation process and the details of this will be confirmed in due course. After this, people will be contacted to discuss delivery and fitting.

Swifts feed on flying insects and a lack of insect food is another main reason (apart from lack of nest sites) why swifts are in danger. According to the Natural History Museum, the UK's flying insects have declined by 60% in 20 years, with a major cause of this decline being related to agriculture. It is the use of pesticides and fertilisers that is killing insects, but not just in our fields. A recent study by the University of Sussex has shown that gardeners who use pesticides are also contributing to the decline of British songbirds. Professor Goulson of the School of Life Sciences, at the University of Sussex explains:

"The UK has 22 million gardens, which collectively could be a fantastic refuge for wildlife, but not if they are overly tidy and sprayed with poisons. We just don't need pesticides in our gardens. Many towns around the world are now pesticide free. We should simply ban use of these poisons in urban areas."

In the UK, gardens cover an area of about 400,000 hectares (988,421 acres), an area greater than all of our national nature reserves! So gardeners have an important role to play in the fight against biodiversity decline. The scientists at the University of Sussex have urged people to stop "spraying their gardens with poison" in order to halt bird decline and instead adopt wildlife-friendly practices. Additionally, the Royal Horticultural Society, the UK's leading gardening charity, agrees that the use of pesticides and herbicides should be avoided if possible and they should only be used, if ever, in small and targeted applications.

Apart from not using pesticides, there are a variety of steps that everyone can take to support insects. Growing insect friendly plants in gardens and even window boxes can help provide food for flying insects and so increase food availability for a variety of bird species, including swifts.

Cutting your grass less frequently is another way to make the world more insect-friendly. Not only does this save time and effort, but it promotes the growth of the wildflowers that insects depend on. Giving over an area of your garden to long grass



and creating log piles can provide space for insects to lay their eggs, and increase in numbers.

So, providing nest boxes is one way that, over time, we can help to increase swift numbers. Another way to help them (and other birds) is by boosting their insect food supply through simple measures in our gardens.

If you have any questions about the swift project, please contact me:

Call Amanda on 01926 613871 or email [a.l.randall0657@gmail.com](mailto:a.l.randall0657@gmail.com).



## THE COLLECTIVE

---

*Rev. Andy Batchelor*

Events in today's world trigger a multitude of questions on issues to which our modern society is wanting answers. All Saints Harbury is planning to respectfully engage in discussion on such issues from both a secular and Christian perspective by meeting on a regular basis in the Shakespeare pub. The next meeting of THE COLLECTIVE will take place on Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm, and monthly thereafter. Our first topic for discussion will be "Ukraine - a 'just' war - should justice be sacrificed for peace?"

The aim is to get to know each other better, hear a short presentation on a hot topic, and spend time discussing it together over drinks in an informal setting. Everyone is welcome and questions and challenges are encouraged! Please do come along.

Any questions beforehand, please contact me: [rev.andyb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andyb@gmail.com) 01926 714295.



## MURDER MYSTERY IN HARBURY VILLAGE LIBRARY

---

*Peter Walshe*

Don't worry, the Library itself is a Warm Welcome Space, but the Horse & Groom right next to Harbury Racecourse is definitely not!

'Bloodstock' is a new murder mystery by Peter Walshe and you are invited to hear the evidence, question the suspects and work out whodunnit.

Come and start with a free glass of wine or soft drink to put you in the mood.

'Bloodstock' will be on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd March 2023. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Tickets are £7.50p including a free drink. You can get them in the Library (cash or card) or via TicketSource (search 'Bloodstock' and scroll down until you see the event entry). No booking fees.

All proceeds will be donated to the e-Wheels charity that transports, without charge, those in need within a 15 mile radius of Harbury.

Book early to ensure you get a seat.



## TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

John Harris

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Warwickshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/warwickshire> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Warwickshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)



## S278 HARBURY LANE / CHESTERTON ROAD JUNCTION

Clare Mcmillan - WCC/Engineering Design Services

### Improvements Works Update

Good news for the neighbours of the Harbury Parish District where the road improvements are taking place and progressing well.

Following the resident's forum held in October 2022 at the Harbury FC, WCC & Montel Civil Engineering provided a detailed overview of the new road layout and proposed time scales. We are now delighted to share with you further updates on the progress to date.

The long-awaited works have begun with initial site clearance works, removal of vegetation together with the completion of trial holes.



We are pleased to confirm that on 23rd January the Montel site team relocated their welfare cabins and site to a permanent site compound courtesy of The Leamington Football Club.

The diversion of statutory services commenced and has progressed well with both Western Power and Vodafone on site.

Following the diversion of utility services earth works will duly commence followed by the removal of kerb lines thus enabling piling works to commence and finally the good news - the carriageway to be widened.

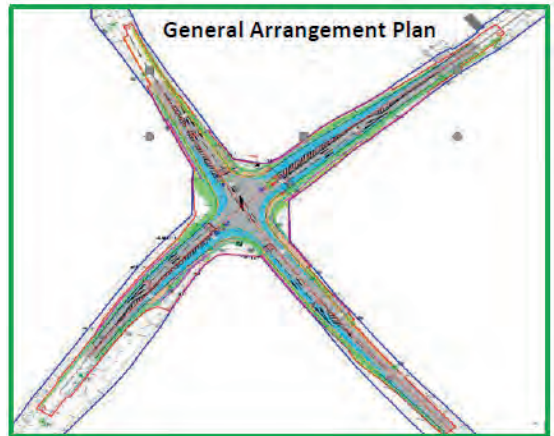
### **Project overview**

To summarise, the works will include the upgrade of a new signalised junction on the Harbury Lane / Chesterton Road crossroads.

The following works will be carried out:

#### **General Arrangement Plan**

- Existing utility diversion works
- Carriageway widening
- Carriageway resurfacing and road markings
- Drainage works
- Construction of retaining structures
- Footway construction
- Landscaping works
- Installation of traffic signal apparatus, road signs and street lighting



The works are necessary to satisfy planning conditions associated with the Taylor Wimpey and David Wilson/Barratt Homes housing development to improve the safety and the capacity of the road junction.

### **Traffic Management**

The four-way temporary traffic light system is now in place and is set up in one of four configurations to suit the location of the works at the time.

Please note - This is being monitored daily to ensure the continued flow of traffic along the carriageway.

Traffic management may be required for the duration of the works however, we will endeavour to remove the temporary signals whenever safely possible.

### **You said, we did**

Following the Community Meeting held on Monday 24th October in Harbury, a number

of residents raised concerns around the initial design of the traffic signal junction to be commissioned within the road layout. Following significant discussion with residents, it was requested by the Elected Member (Cllr Kettle) and supported by a number of residents that Harbury Lane and Chesterton Road would be safer if the proposed design could accommodate separate signal stages to minimise the conflict in the middle of the junction.

Please be advised that the traffic signal design has been amended to address the concerns raised during the meeting. Harbury Lane and Chesterton Road will now have separate signal stages as part of the re design agreed.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and understanding whilst we continue to make good progress.

We look forward to providing you with further news - updates will be provided in Spring/Summer 2023 by Montel Civil Engineering in association with WCC section278 Team.

### Contact us

If you have any queries regarding the works, please contact Brian Palmer on [brianpalmer@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:brianpalmer@warwickshire.gov.uk) or our Public Liaison Officer Clare McMillan on [ClareMcmillan@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ClareMcmillan@warwickshire.gov.uk).

You can also contact the County Council's Customer Service centre on 01926 412515. The centre is open from 8.00am - 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am - 1.00pm on Saturdays.



### SOUTHAM COMMUNITY MINIBUS

*Ann Clucas*

We are a voluntary association based in Southam that provides a self-drive 17 seat minibus to local non-profit making organisations for community use in Southam and surrounding villages.

It is located in Southam for easy collection. A 50% discount is given to clubs and groups whose purpose is primarily the education or involvement of children. Southam Library has the relevant information and application packs: this is also where bookings are made. Half-day hire up to six hours £35.00 Full-day hire £55.00.



**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. Thank you.

<p><b>Monday Club (Supported by Winter Warm Hub)</b></p> <p>Enjoy free refreshments, Wi-Fi, books and games alongside planned weekly activities such as paper quilling, table tennis, calligraphy, and gentle exercise etc.</p> <p>Everyone welcome. Please call to book our FREE crochet and paper quilling session Every Monday 11am - 3pm</p>	<p><b>Galanos House Dementia Café (Free)</b></p> <p>Dementia support group with music and refreshments. Last Friday of every month</p> <p>Next date: 31st March, 2.30pm - 4pm</p> <p>Open to everyone, come along on the day.</p>
<p><b>Café Muse (Free)</b></p> <p>Dementia friendly Music Café</p> <p>Every 4th Thursday of each month</p> <p>Next date; Thursday 23rd March</p> <p>11am - 1pm</p> <p>Call 01789 267567 to book your place.</p>	<p><b>Sporting Memories (Free)</b></p> <p>Reminisce about all thing's 'sport' and some gentle exercise with guest speakers</p> <p>2nd Wednesday of each month</p> <p>10.30am - 12.30pm. Light lunch available afterwards for only £2. Open to everyone, come along on the day.</p>
<p><b>Silver Sunday (Free)</b></p> <p>Join us, bring a friend, and have a dance.</p> <p>Everyone is welcome to come along.</p> <p>Every other month. Next date: 16th April</p> <p>2.30pm. Telephone 01926 812185 Ext 5365 to book your place.</p>	<p><b>International Women's Day</b></p> <p>Ladies only late-night Café</p> <p>We welcome ladies of Southam and surrounding villages to join us for a glass of fizz, positive conversations, and nibbles. Wednesday 8th March, 7 - 9pm</p>
<p><b>Mother's Day - Sunday 19th April</b></p> <p>Treat your loved one to a 2 Course Lunch for only £10.95.</p> <p>Add a glass of wine for £3.50</p>	<p><b>Spring Craft Fayre</b></p> <p>Local artists and crafters</p> <p>Saturday 4th March, 10am - 4pm</p>

### Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club

Last Wednesday of every month

Come along, purchase your own Hub Breakfast, and join in with the banter

Next date: 29th March, 10am - 12noon

### Kids Easter Party

(Breakfast or Lunch with the real Easter Bunny)

Saturday 1st April

Breakfast 9.30 - 11.00am

Lunch 12 - 1.30pm

**Book your tickets today from Galanos House Reception. Suitable for ages 4-10 years. Only £5 per child**

Includes crafts, easter activities and a FREE Cadburys Easter Egg for every child

### Save the dates

#### Easter Bingo

Monday 27th March, 7pm

#### Quiz and Curry Night

Thursday 20th April

#### National Tea Party

Cathy Morris to entertain us.

Friday 21st April, 2.30pm

Follow us on Facebook for updates, offers, and events.

Facebook: @RBLCommunityHub Call: 01926 812185 Ext5365



## READERS' LETTERS

### Dear Editors

*Keith, Martin and Family would like to thank everybody for the kind wishes and support they received on the sad passing of their Mum, Doris Perry.*

*With special thanks to Rev. Bob Clucas for the lovely service and John at the Crown for opening up specially and the lovely buffet provided.*

**Keith, Martin, Chris, Aimee and Jessica**

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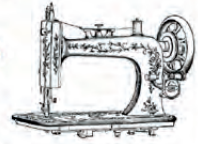
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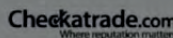
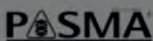
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