

Harbury & Ladbroke News



JANUARY 2024

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HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

January 2024

No. 598

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

Cover Photo: Old New Inn before the renovations started taken by Martin Randall



EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

We hope you all enjoyed the festive season, whether it was attending church services, nativity plays, celebrations or other Christmassy events in our two villages. The Senior Citizens Christmas party held in Harbury Village Hall was very well attended and enjoyed by all; we feature photos in our middle pages. Once again Harbury & Ladbroke have had a lovely display of Christmas lights and in Harbury we have even longer to enjoy them as many will not be taken down until 3rd February - photos with thanks to Ian Hartland.



Ladbroke will be holding their first film night of 2024 on 12th January, please contact Nicky Lewis if you would like to attend. If you fancy taking up a new interest in the New Year, Ladbroke's Photography group and their WI welcome new members.

We wish all our readers, article contributors and advertisers a very happy 2024!



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

JANUARY 2024

- Mon 8 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
- Tue 9 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
- Wed 10 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Lighthorne (3.5 miles - 1 hill)
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and 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 7.30pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 11 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Trevor Langley, "Daddy Long Legs, Shrinking Sue and Deaf Children", Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 12 Harbury WI New Year Party, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Village Hall
- Sat 13 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Heritage Centre
- Sun 14 EPIPHANY 2**
Holy Communion with activity for children, 10.30am, Church
Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, Church
Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall
- Mon 15 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 16 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps and Bundles, 10.30am - 12.00 noon, Tom Hauley Room
The Collective, 7.30pm, Shakespeare Inn
- Wed 17 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall car park - Easenhall - Newbold Revel (4 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 7.30pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 18 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
- Fri 19 Charity Sheep Dip event - from this ground, 7.30 for 8.00pm, Village Library, tickets available from the Library or michael.luntley@gmail.com
- Sat 20 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Myton Hospice
Southam Indoor Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, The Grange Hall, Southam
Harbury Village Cinema presents 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny', doors open 6.15, film starts 7.00pm

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Sun 21 EPIPHANY 3

All Age Service, 10.30am, Church

Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall

Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Mon 22 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall

Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST
OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM

Tue 23 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Harbury Theatre Group, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Village Club

Wed 24 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Grandborough (3 miles - flat)

Knitwits and 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 7.30pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall

Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Fri 26 Rotary Southam 2000 Burns Night, 7.30 for 8.00pm, Village Hall

(Contact 0800 228 9104 or burns@southam2000rotary.org.uk for tickets)

Thurs 25 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Parish Council, 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 27 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of GASS

Councillors Corner, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall

Sun 28 EPIPHANY 4

Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church

Muddy Church, 10.30am, meet in Tom Hauley Room

Zumba, 9.00am - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 29 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall

Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 30 Free Chair-based Activity Class, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 31 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Wellesbourne Walton Hall
with optional pub meal (3.5 miles - flat)

Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall

Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.30pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall

Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

FEBRUARY

Thurs 1 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Club

- Fri 2 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn
- Sat 3 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Hereburgh Morris
- Sun 4 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**
Said Communion, 9.00am, Church
- Mon 5 Badminton, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
- Tue 6 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
- Wed 7 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, Village Hall Car park - Leamington Hastings - maybe with snowdrops! (4 miles - flat)
Mothers' Union Service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Ballroom Dancing, beginners 7.30pm, improvers 8.30pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall
- Thurs 8 Said Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Refuse Collection Rota

Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke
8 Jan	F - R - G	F
15 Jan	F	F - R - G
22 Jan	F - R - W - G	F - W
29 Jan	F	F - R - G
5 Feb	F - R - G	F
12 Feb	F - W	F - R - W - G

F = Food caddy - **R** = Recycling (blue bin) **W** = Waste (black bin) **G** = Garden (green bin)
Wednesday Collection - Parts of Ladbroke - Thursday Collection - Harbury
Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge and Parts of Ladbroke

February Edition - Harbury Ladbroke News



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Articles to:

Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Monday 22nd January



New beginnings can happen any day at any time. They might be planned, they might be unexpected, they might even be unwanted. A new job, a new house, a birth, a death, a new start, a new year. Quite often something has to come to an end for something new to begin.

Maybe from time to time it's worth considering if there is something we need to let go of in order to allow something new to emerge, and sometimes when we experience an unexpected loss, we need to be able to trust that God can and will bring about something good in the changes we face.

We are all on a journey, and along the way we may well find ourselves on unexpected and unfamiliar paths. But wherever we may be there is always someone there with us. However lost and alone we might feel, God will never give up on us, and will always see us through to the end.



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Andy & Liz

Happy New Year!

We are writing this before Christmas looking forward to the busy Christmas period, including the children from Harbury school coming for a carol service on the last day of term, a new dress up nativity service on Christmas Eve as well as having the carol service, midnight mass and Christmas morning services in a warm church. We hope those of you that joined us during the Christmas period enjoyed the services and we'd like to thank the Reverend's Bob, Ann and Barry as well as members of the congregation who led services over the Christmas period whilst Reverend Andy recovered from his operation.

If you joined us in church you will no doubt have noticed the stunning decoration and we'd also like to thank Gillian and her team for the floral pieces and the combination of younger and older members of the congregation who decorated the tree.

The New Year promises to be another busy one for the church. The PCC will be discussing the vision for the church in January to help decide on our priorities for the coming years which we're very excited about.

However works to the church (and the associated fundraising) will also be high on the agenda. There are several areas of the church where the stonework requires urgent work and we will no doubt write about that more in future months.

If you have any questions, we can be emailed on warden@harburychurch.org or phone us - Liz McBride 01926 61242 or Andy Dean 07753 497967.



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MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

A happy new year to all of you; we hope your Christmases were blessed.

As you read this, I confidently expect that we shall have started cheerily with our party. I hope you all had a chance to look at the display in Church illustrating our support of the Mothers' Union project to oppose gender based violence - very sobering.

Chris has used the seed money for promoting awareness of MU, by installing in the toilets in Church and in the library a box of emergency sanitary supplies. We hope they will be a timely help in time of need.

We meet again on 7th February with a talk by Mandy Williams. Members may recall hearing her last year telling us about her work in Azerbaijan. This will be an update on the progress of the shelter for abused women and children in a country where there is little or no understanding or support. Visitors are always welcome. We meet in the Tom Hauley room at 2pm, starting with a said communion service.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

JANUARY 2024

Sun 7 EPIPHANY 1

Family Communion followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tues 9 Photography Club Meal

Wed 10 Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Fri 12 Film Night, 7.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 14 EPIPHANY 2

Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 16 Table Tennis 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 20 ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY
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Sun 21 EPIPHANY 3

Holy Communion, 9.00am (BCP)

Mon 22 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR
EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM

Tues 23 Table Tennis 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 28 EPIPHANY 4

Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 30 Table Tennis 7.30pm, Village Hall

FEBRUARY

Thurs 1 WI, 7.30pm Village Hall

Sun 4 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Family Communion followed by refreshments, 10.30am

Tues 6 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 7 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, (location to be confirmed)



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Reporting on Christmas in time for the H&L News deadline and therefore before all the anticipated events have happened is a dangerous game, but in anticipation we would like to thank Bill and the Choir for all their hard work in putting on our annual Carol Service and for everyone who joined us in the carol singing around the village, the Christmas Eve crib service and our Family Communion Service on Christmas Day. This year, we have had to cope without the assistance of both Rev Andy following his knee operation and Kate Pickin, our organist, as she recuperates following her car accident. We wish them both a continued and speedy recovery and would like to say a special thank you to Rev. Ann for stepping in to lead all our Christmas services and to Debra Neal, Cath Ching and Kathryn Rigby for playing at our services during the month. Thank you too to the Collins family for once again supplying our Christmas tree.

As we look forward to 2024, may we wish you a very happy new year.

Services in January:

Sunday 14th January	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st January	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 28th January	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 4th February	10.30am	Family Communion

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

ladbrokechurch@gmail.com



LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Dianne Surgey

We met on Thursday 7th December for our Christmas Party which we had decided would be in the village hall this year. As you would expect from a WI group, the table was loaded with luscious homemade goodies and tables were arranged so that we could all be seated together. Heather had arranged an interesting quiz and Maggie's granddaughter, Laura, played her guitar as we ate our supper then led a Christmas sing-a-



long before a game of pass the parcel. Dianne took the opportunity to thank Sue Dargan for the mulled wine, those who had decorated the hall and of course, everyone for the contributions of food.

In a short business meeting Dianne explained that the National Annual Meeting will now only be held in person every three years with other meetings online. This year's meeting will be held in the Albert Hall but applications will have had to be made before this edition is distributed. She also showed us the list of 2024 Warwickshire Federation WI future events and will send out details. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 4th January starting at 7.30 when there will be kurling and other games. New members are always welcome.



LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

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



The first supper and film night for 2024 will be from **7pm on Friday 12th January in the village hall**. We will be screening the film Dream Horse - an inspirational feel-good movie based upon a true story which involves a small Welsh community and an unlikely racehorse!

Tickets are £16 each including a two course winter warmer meal and are available from Nicky Lewis (01926 815196 or nicolalewis1958@gmail.com).



The children's play area on the Millennium Green is getting past its best. Although still quite safe and useable, it is in need of a significant overhaul. This will require substantial funding and we are actively seeking grants. We hope to make improvements soon to the areas which need the most urgent attention. In the meantime proceeds of our fundraising events including film nights will go to support this project.



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). Despite rising costs we have been able to keep our hourly booking rates at £15 per hour, or £12 for Ladbroke residents.

We wish all our friends and supporters a happy and prosperous 2024 and hope to see you at our movies during the year.

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 November 2023

£50	Carol Locker	£25	Steve Palmer
£50	Helen Hay	£10	Margaret Whitehouse
£25	Malcolm Wray	£10	Dianne and Trevor Surgey
£25	Carol and Chris	£10	Josh Robison

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike Todman & Jackie West

December's Photography Club meeting had two parts to it. The first was a competition with the theme 'colour'. There were some wonderful print examples resulting in very close scoring.

The second part was a practical photo taking session relating to 'smoke'. It was quite a challenge arranging this inside the wooden village hall! However, a joss stick provided a small trickle of safe swirling smoke that proved elusive to capture, but also a lingering smell! Outside, when the rain stopped, we experimented with small 'smoke cakes'. Our photographers found it challenging to catch the smoky atmosphere and in the end the air was so thick with fumes that we were concerned that neighbours might call the fire brigade! We shall enjoy looking at the results and comparing notes at a future meeting.



Please don't call the fire brigade! - Jackie West



A tricky wisp - Mike Todman

Photographs are © the photographer

We shall be having our annual winter pub meal on 9th January and meeting in the village hall again on 6th February. 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



LADBROKE GENERAL NEWS



LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

A "Happy New Year" to you all. The Roman god Janus, after whom January is named, was the god of doors, gates and transitions. He is depicted with two faces, one looking back and one looking forward. Ladbroke Heritage can do the same.

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Looking back, over 110 years ago, here is a picture taken by the lychgate around 1911. How fashions have changed!



Ladbroke Club Day, Church Parade c. 1911

The large poles held by some of the men are, I believe, the church warden's staves as they match the tall navy blue wooden poles with a brass finial on top still used (very infrequently) at Ladbroke Church. A quick search on the internet led me to the website of a sister All Saints Church (in Whitby) which explains more, but also raises questions.

Wardens' Staves, also known as Wardens' Wands or Prodders, harken back to the earliest days of the Church of England. They reflect a time when a sceptre or staff was carried to demonstrate a person's importance and reinforce standing. But the staff also had practical purposes, including the Wardens' now "near-obsolete" duty of keeping the peace and commanding good behaviour and decorum in the church and churchyard. Early duties of a Church Warden involved putting a stop to rowdiness and in some cases, fining and apprehending churchgoers who were being boisterous, riotous, or indecent. On the other extreme, the Warden's staff was also used to lightly tap parishioners to wake them during services.

We only have two staves at Ladbroke these days, but that's the number I would expect since there are two church wardens. Which begs the questions: why does the photo show at least 14 staves (with some gentlemen holding up to six!), not to mention more smaller ones held by other people. Were they given outright to the office holders on election? Did the Sidesmen (who helped the wardens) have staves too? Does the picture include visiting wardens from other churches? Or is there another reason?



Looking back again, but just one month, December 2023 brought the official end to the Delivery Phase of our project to repair the church and share our heritage. So a huge thank you once again to everyone involved in fundraising, volunteering and supporting all that we have achieved over the last 8.5 years, including Lottery players and The National Lottery Heritage Fund who have given us £314,717.89 in this phase, on top of £23,500 in the Development Phase.

Looking forward to 2024, the **Heritage and Friendship Group** is going strong, meeting on the first Wednesday morning of each month. The title of the group says it all - it's a chance to meet others over tea, coffee and cake and share memories. We have a theme each month and you are invited to bring along photos or objects as well as your stories. Everyone is welcome, especially anyone who wishes they had more opportunity to meet and make friends. For more information please contact Carol on 814715. **Talks, tours** and **school sessions** continue too, contact Jackie on 810331 for more info or to make a booking. No doubt in the coming months we will see more people exploring our church and village with our various leaflets, picked up in church or downloaded from www.ladbrokeheritage.org.uk. For those that prefer a personal guide, we will be re-running our popular all-age **Stained Glass** and **Fossil Tours** of church on Saturday 9th March. More details next month.



HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Alison Biddle - Clerk to the Council

Parish Council News - Winter 2023

Hall Lane Allotments

The parish council is very pleased to announce that it has recently acquired ownership of this important site in the village. Our aim is to preserve its historic use as allotments for present and future generations. We want to work with existing plot holders to improve the site while retaining its character. We have already begun contacting existing plot holders but as there are currently no formal records, we may have missed a couple of people. If you have used these allotments during the last 12 months and we haven't already contacted you, please telephone the parish council office on 01926 614646 and make yourself known to us.

Playing Fields Car Park Extension and Consultation

First, some clarification; the public consultation which we recently carried out was in respect of a possible extension to the car park which would be at the rear of the village hall. In addition, and quite separately, there is currently a plan in process to extend the far end of the existing car park by a few spaces to compensate for those which will be used for EV charging as part of the Harbury Future Energy Project. This scheme already has planning permission and is currently out for tender. It will be funded by a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the community funding the parish council received from the Eastfields Solar Farm. In respect of the recent consultation for the area at the rear of the village hall, we are very grateful to everyone who took part. There was a 22% response rate with 86% being in favour of an extension. We are now analysing all the comments we received and the proposal will be discussed further in 2024. Currently, we do not have any funding for this extension. If the council decides to go ahead, there will be further public consultation so please look out for more information over the coming months.

Replacement of Stiles

Some time ago, one of our local residents asked the parish council to consider replacing some of the stiles on our local field paths with gates. In order to do this, we needed to obtain the permission of WCC and also the landowner. We are pleased to report that the owners of Bridge End Farm in Bull Ring Farm Road, have given their permission for two stiles on footpath SM27 which crosses their land, to be replaced with gates. We will be working in

partnership with the landowner to carry out this work during the early part of 2024. Footpath SM 27 is part of the popular circular route from Bull Ring Farm Road to Ufton Fields and back. The gates will make access much easier for everyone but especially the very young and the older or less mobile members of society.

Tree Planting

Some of you will have spotted the new trees which were recently planted on the green in Frances Road and on the mound at Five Ways. These areas are owned by WCC Highways and we have worked in partnership with their forestry team to bring about these new plantings. The parish council has paid for the trees using money from the Eastfields Solar Farm community fund and they were supplied and planted by WCC who will continue to care for them as they grow. However, that's not to say that we as a community can't help too. If you notice any problems with the trees or if they are showing signs of distress through lack of water, please let us know straight away. We intend to continue to work with WCC and plant more trees next year in various locations around the village.

Seasonal Lights

We are delighted with the wonderful display again this year. Many thanks to all those who helped with the installation on what was a freezing cold day, and everyone who has hosted lights on their property and those who have generously provided an energy supply. The installation team included 29 volunteers; it took 130 'man' hours to put up 675m of festoon lights and 72 spheres, wreaths and stars. A fantastic effort by everyone involved!



For anyone who is worried about energy consumption, all the lights are LEDs and actually use very little electricity. A special thank you to Cllr Julie Balch and Cllr Sam Allen who co-ordinated the arrangements for the installation and the PAT testing. A special mention to Hiresafe Solutions for providing the cherry picker.

We hope you all enjoy the lights as they shine through the winter gloom!

New Councillor

In September, we were very pleased to welcome Kate Gard who was co-opted to the council. Kate has recently moved to the village and is keen to get involved in the community. Kate is very interested in green issues and has been appointed to the council's climate group and also the properties group where she will join the play equipment inspection team. We hope Kate enjoys her time on the council and being part of the community in Harbury.

Councillor Vacancies

We still have two vacant seats on the parish council. We have a great team of dedicated and friendly councillors, supported by the parish clerk, but we would be able to achieve much more if we had another couple of pairs of hands to help. Harbury is a large village and there is always something going on. We need people to help in a variety of ways. Everyone has skills and experience they can use to make a contribution. Please consider if you can help to make a difference in your community by joining the parish council. We meet on the fourth

Thursday of the month. To find out more, please talk to an existing councillor or contact the parish clerk. We will be very pleased to hear from you.

Parish Council Meetings

Members of the public are always welcome at parish council meetings. There is a public forum when people can talk directly to the council on any matter on the agenda. The agenda and minutes are published on our website along with lots of other information. Please visit www.harbury-pc.gov.uk



HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Nicola Thompson – H&L News Correspondent

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

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council - 23rd November 2023

Grants

The first item of business on the Council's agenda was to consider a grant application from the Local Market. Volunteer organiser Steve Ekins explained that the market would like to purchase a "teardrop" flag on a pole which could be placed outside the village hall on market days to attract passing trade. The council agreed to buy the flag themselves as they could claim the VAT back and then donate it to the market. Total cost £222 (exc. VAT)). It was also noted that a previously approved grant had been paid to the Heritage Centre for a replacement door.

Reports from Outside Bodies

Councillors were relieved to hear that the boiler at the library had been repaired for now although research into a replacement is ongoing. It was reported that bookings are up at the village hall including three days of the current production of the pantomime.

Stratford DC

District Cllr Ostrander reported that she had been approached by a resident concerned about parking on the corner of Ivy Lane and the Bull Ring. Councillors were sceptical that Warwickshire CC would support the idea of yellow lines at this junction due to cost etc and it was pointed out that it is, in any case, a parking offence to park close to a junction - but this does not seem to deter people! Cllr Ostrander also said that, following training, she had now joined the planning committee of the district council and was looking forward to getting to grips with all things planning related. She also highlighted that Stratford DC has launched a £100,000 Community Climate Change Fund to which local organisations can apply for funding.

Planning

The council agreed that they should make no representation to the removal of a holly at The Stonehouse, Mill Street and to the crown reduction of a conifer at Corner Cottage, Bull Ring.

Approaches to the developers of Middle Road Solar Farm requesting a meeting to discuss the payment of a community grant had, so far, met with no response.



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HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Unit 2, Bull Ring Business Centre
Church Terrace, Harbury CV33 9HL

Tel: 614646

Website: www.harbury-pc.gov.uk

Open: Monday - Thursday
10.00am 12.00pm

CHAIRMAN:

Tim Lockley

Email: chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk

CLERK:

Alison Biddle

Email: clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council meetings are
open to the Public.

To speak on any issue, please
contact the Parish Clerk

Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Café

Harbury Village Library

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Future Energy Project

Harbury Energy Initiative had prepared and submitted a 500 page tender document for the extension of the car park which is part of this scheme. It was agreed that this will now be uploaded to the local authority contracts finder portal with a tender deadline of 13th December. As the council will not meet again until January, it was agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk in consultation with Cllrs Lockley and Balch to take urgent decisions on this project.

Properties

Car Park Extension Consultation

Slightly confusingly, the council is also consulting on a separate extension to the car park aimed at providing temporary parking on football match days to ease congestion around the village hall. The clerk reported that 228 responses had been received of which 80% were in favour of the proposal. Detailed comments on the responses now need to be analysed and compiled into a report and Cllr Gard volunteered to do this work.

Bonfire

Paul Quinney, on behalf of the GASS Committee, reported that the bonfire and fireworks display had once again been very successful. The day had been very wet so the trailer going up to the bonfire had adversely affected the ground more than last year but the use of strategic boards in places had helped with this.

Skatepark

Cllr Dominick said she had contacted the Skateboard Project, an organisation that advises on design and grant applications. She had also contacted former parish councillor Janet Thornley and now had a substantial folder of her previous applications to look through. A young skateboarder had been asked for advice with formulating a questionnaire aimed at finding out residents' and users views. The council was also very pleased to hear that Paul Quinney already has a CAD file of complete measurements of the playing fields including the skatepark and the BMX area which will be a huge help with design.

Also under the umbrella of the Properties Committee, the council heard a report on the wellbeing project at the allotment, agreed that fencing should be purchased at approximately £26 per metre to plug the gap in the cemetery fence and agreed to renew the water easement licence with WCC for the Tennis Club - this allows water to be supplied to the clubhouse from the allotments.

Environment

Stiles

The council noted that repair work to stiles at Bridge End Farm had been agreed; the parish council will pay for the new stiles and for installation.

Trees

The new trees have now been planted at various locations including on the Mound at Bush Heath Lane.

Street lighting

Councillors were dismayed to hear that another Windsor lantern has been damaged in Ivy Lane in addition to the four other Windsor lanterns that are currently not working due to needing new control gears. The council has full control and liability for all the streetlights

in the village so this was becoming an expensive month for repairs! A discussion ensued on how the light in Ivy Lane could have been damaged; as it is in the narrow part of the road it was thought that a large vehicle could have knocked it.

Seasonal Lights

The seasonal lights will run from 25th November to early February and a group of volunteers including several councillors was in place to put them up. The council approved the order of some new lights to supplement the existing stock and replace broken ones.

Finance

After making arrangements for a budget meeting and considering the reviews of the asset register and the emergency plan, the council considered the question of land registration for the land that the council owns. Although it was agreed that this might be necessary in the future particularly, for example, in the case of the Deppers Bridge play area, it was agreed not to take any action for now.

The next meeting of the parish council is on **Thursday 25th January 2024, 7.30pm** in Harbury Village Hall.

Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:

Tim Lockley (Chairman), Julie Balch (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Jess Dominick, Kate Gard, Alan Knowles, Alex Potter, Keith Thompson.

Would you like to become a Parish Councillor? Call 614646 or email clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk for details.



HARBURY SOCIETY

Sue Turner

Harbury Society's 50th Anniversary Party

On Tuesday 21st November, 54 Harbury Society members enjoyed a very convivial and sociable evening at the Harbury Windmill to celebrate the formation of the Society 50 years ago. This was hosted by the mill owner, Jeremy Atkins. At the beginning of the evening, Ed, Harbury Society Chair, welcomed everyone and then presented Jeremy with a Harbury Heritage Medal and Certificate for his part in commissioning the restoration of the mill to a very high standard for future generations to appreciate.



Jeremy then took groups of members on a tour of the mill to show them the extensive work which has recently been undertaken. Some of the machinery is still in situ on the upper floors and it's easy to appreciate what a hazardous occupation being a miller was. Delicious food, along with wine, was served during the course of the evening.

Before everyone left, Ed, on behalf of the members, warmly thanked Jeremy for his hospitality.

As more members wished to attend than there was space for at the mill, names were selected in a random draw. Ten Harbury Society members, whose names had not been drawn, were generously invited by Jeremy to come along the following week to have the tour and a glass of wine.



Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 16th January: Harbury Society's members' annual meal at The Crown, Harbury.

Tuesday 20th February: Talk by Tricia Scott about the work of the Bat Conservation Trust. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £2.

Saturday 9th March: Coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room.

Tuesday 19th March: Annual AGM followed by a presentation given by Bill Timson, Chair Harbury Heritage Group, entitled 'Harbury Windmill - Past, Present & Future'. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £2.

Tuesday 16th April: Presentation by Mark Newbold entitled 'An Insider's View of the NHS'. Meeting in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm. All welcome - free to Harbury Society members - guests £2.

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.

theWI HARBURY WI
INSPIRING WOMEN *Mary Thompson*

Thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning at the end of November - we raised £231.13 for WI funds.

Also at the end of November, WI members and a few guests attended a Christmas Craft workshop organised by Lin with help from Sue and Judith. We were met with a huge range of craft material and made crackers, gift labels, decorations, Christmas trees out of books, etc. We also had plenty of time to chat over coffee and biscuits - a really enjoyable evening.

On 4th December we welcomed WI members from Ladbroke, Southam, Napton, Priors Marston and Hardwick and Long Itchington for a Carol Service. It was a lovely occasion singing traditional Carols interspersed with a variety of readings. Rev. Anne Mulley led the service and it concluded with a delightful rendition of "Oh Holy Night" by one of our own members, Claudine, and Angie, a choir member friend. The evening ended with mulled wine and mince pies in the Tom Hauley Room. A number of ladies commented on our lovely warm church!

We had a very well-attended meeting on 14th December and we were pleased to welcome

seven visitors. Our speaker was Deb Jones who brought a lovely array of Willow Sculptures. Deb had worked for a number of years as Marketing Director for Premier Foods. She had another baby in her early 40s who had had a number of health problems so she decided to give up her job and look for a hobby. Deb took up working with willow and attended a number of courses, as well as teaching herself. There are 250 varieties of Willow grown in arid and boggy areas. Deb is based in a Craft Centre near to Staverton and teaches basketry and sculpture. She works with children who have been excluded from school and makes large sculptures to order, including a shire horse. During Covid she started an on-line business selling craft kits which proved very successful. Deb makes a lot of wreaths at this time of the year and we also watched as she made a dragon fly - making it look very simple!! The meeting concluded with members exchanging gifts from a bran tub and Ann Mayer was presented with a plant and gift voucher to thank her for her work as president.

At our first meeting of 2024 on 11th January we shall welcome back Trevor Langley whose talk is entitled "Daddy Long Legs, Shrinking Sue and a Handful of deaf children".

Our New Year's party will be held in the Village hall on Friday 12th January 7pm for 7.30. When we shall welcome back Margo McCleary as the speaker.

At the Rural Cinema on Saturday 20th January the film will be "Indiana Jones Dial of Destiny". Tickets will be on sale in the Library and should be purchased by Wednesday January 17th. Doors open at 6.15 for a 7pm start. As we offer fish and chips and a bar we would ask that you don't bring external drinks and food to the film - we appreciate your understanding.

The final event for January is a Ladies Lunch at The Butchers Arms in Bishops Itchington on Thursday 25th January at 1pm.



HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Anna Harper

Harbury Theatre Group has yet again finished a fantastic pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. What a brilliant performance! I can only speak for myself, when I say I loved acting in it. I was one of the villagers of Windy Bottom and as a villager I got to see some of the action. I was amazed as to the quality of the acting and singing. I am right now listening to the music and remembering all the joy we had. How quickly we forget the hard work, and only remember the joy and laughter we shared. A huge thank you to Ali Hodge for producing such a vibrant show. Thank you also to everyone who came to see it - I hope you enjoyed the show as much as I did! Don't forget to 'reach for the stars.'





As a final note on our successful panto, we really appreciate the generosity of local professional videographers and photographers Simon and Anna Clarke of www.WeAreTheClarks.com who filmed a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk on our behalf. Now the cast and crew can watch and enjoy the whole show too. Many thanks are also due to Bullring Garage and Street Chef for their sponsorship in covering our programme and poster printing costs. If you or your business is interested in getting involved with HTG or sponsoring future productions, please do get in touch.

So, what next for us at Harbury Theatre Group? We will be debating that in our January meeting, so keep an eye on our website and we'll see you in 2024!

If you are interested in joining Harbury Theatre Group for our May production, either on stage, in one of our vital backstage roles (lights, sound, costumes, props, scenery - the list is endless!) or front of house, then please don't hesitate to get in touch: harburytheatregroup@gmail.com



HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Jo Banbury

***Jack and The Beanstalk - Written by Alan P Frayn;
performed by Harbury Theatre Group 23rd - 25th November.***

A review by Jo Banbury

Well what a triumph! It is a real treat for me to sit on this side of the curtains, and watch the action, and I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this fabulous panto. Superbly directed by Ali Hodge, I was so proud of what the group achieved, on and off the stage.

So much work goes into putting on a panto like this. It really helps when you have a great script, and this one had all of the usual one liners, slapstick and mayhem you would expect. Telling the traditional fairytale of Jack and his Beanstalk, the audience were guided through the story by the delightful Fairy Sugardust (ably played by Lara Flatters) and less delightful witch, Piccalilli (meanly performed by Nikki Holt) - who both certainly deserved their cheers and boos. As the story unfolds, our eyes were dazzled by the magnificently painted back cloths and sets (thanks to local artist Andrew Lawrence and several other cast members), and exceptional costumes (the production of which as always led by the wonderous Lin Hayes).

Energy and enthusiasm abounded throughout, especially in all of the choral numbers, and it was really great to see so many new faces up on the stage, giving it their all. The selection of songs were well picked to suit the action, and huge well done to Simon Stenner for putting the actors through their paces and creating all of the backing tracks, as well as accompanying live on the keyboard.

A show of double acts, we fell in love with Simple Simon, hilariously depicted by Wendy Lewin and "his" more sensible brother Jack (Celia Stockdale); the bumbling and forgetful King Crumble (majestically played by Keith Hayes) and his more clever witted Queen Apricot (Alison Lewis); and the charming rogues of Scarper (our very own Reverend Andy Batchelor) and Snatchet (cheekily portrayed by Matthew Beaton). Also in the rogue camp was Rancid the Ratman who really did live up to the handle of Rancid, with a creaky voice and almost mouldy complexion (well done Moira Rollason). The final double act which stole the show happened to be the youngest members of the cast, Jamie Sealby and Henry Jones, who did a tremendous job as Buttermilk the Cow.

But what would a panto be without a Princess, and Caroline George was a simply stunning one, with a sparkly innocence and beautiful singing voice. I think most of the audience let out a gasp when an actual Giant took to the stage! The voice of Buster Gut-Bucket (recorded by John Travis) had been heard several times, but I don't think anyone was expecting to actually see this towering Giant take to the stage, and so hats off to Hazel Turner for that creation, and Ian Macwhinnie for stepping in within the last few days to become the man inside the Giant (and also learning the part of Humphrey - you would never have known he was a stand in!).



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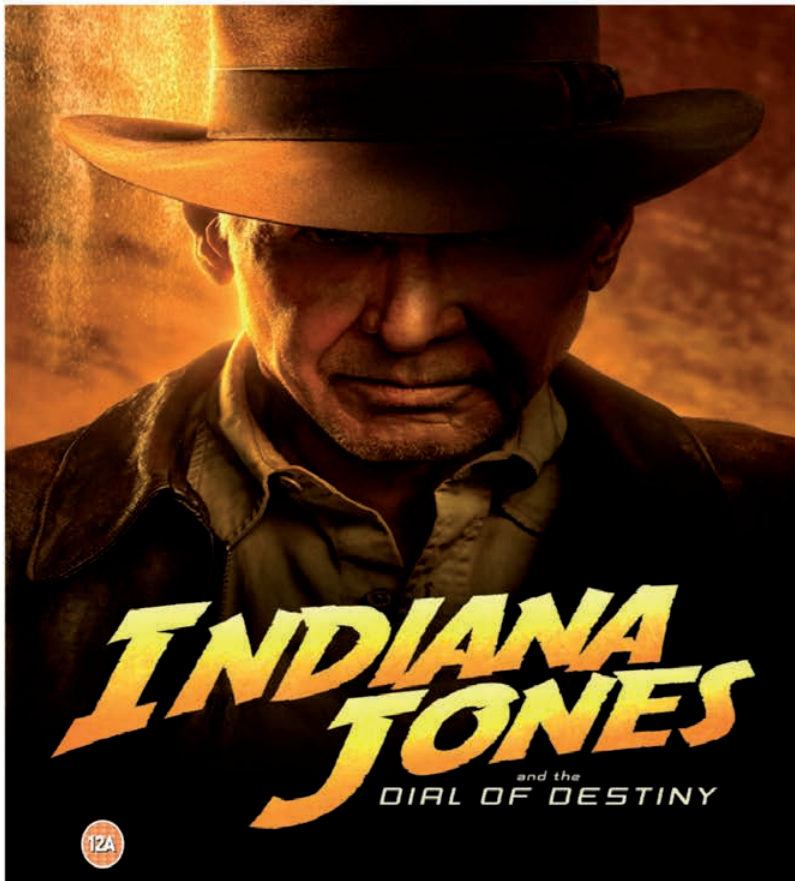
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Moving Pictures

Last, but by no means least, of course there is the Dame - Dotty Dimple! Chris Beaton was the perfect choice for this, and special mention must be made for his commitment to characterisation by actually dying his beard bright pink! Fabulous!

To enable all of the actors to be brilliant on stage, there is of course a sizable crew of people off stage working super hard. I think this year the group had really surpassed itself with the new lighting effects and improved sound, with a highlight of the show being the UV lit magical ballet, bringing the beanstalk to life. So to all of the back stage crew, sound, lighting, wardrobe, front of house, marketing, set designers, choreographers and prompt (too many to mention by name but you know who you are) - blooming well done!

This show was always going to be a tough one - a little bittersweet as it was the first one that the group has done since we lost our long term member, and genius when it came to set building and effects, Bob Hodge. That Ali took this on, so soon after his passing, well I salute you. It was very clear to me that you had worked so hard in directing this panto - big scenes with lots of people don't look like that without someone moving all of the pieces. The only thing is you were so good, you may have found a job for life! I would like to think if Bob was watching, and I am sure he was, he would have been smiling, and felt very proud of you all. And of course, very, very happy with those new gadgets! Three cheers for the Harbury Theatre Group. Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray! HIP HIP HOORAY!



FOLK CLUB

Ian Hartland

Choosing to run a Folk Club without a pre-set theme might seem like a liberating opportunity to sing any song of one's choice. Then again, a couple of dissenting voices suggested that having a theme at all made choosing suitable material so much easier. The Jury is out on that one...

The 443rd Harbury Folk Club was opened by The Harvesters with their 30-year-old self-penned "Bring Out The Old Songs". This was followed with Stephen Foster's "Hard Times Come Again No More". Rik can often be relied upon to surprise and this was no exception. He delivered three poems: "When Daddy Fell Into The Pond", a tongue twister about Betty's Butter and "James James Morrison's Mother". Michael Luntley followed with "Trespass" based on a John Clare poem, and "When A Knight Won His Spurs". Pete and Liz went a capella for their spot, with the skillfully rendered "Patapan" and the 'Trunch' standard "The Ivy And The Holly". Dave Fry made a welcome return to the club and evoked the seasonal spirit with "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town". He followed this with the "Simple Song Of Freedom".

Bob Lucas was up next with an informative introduction to one of the more colourful members of his family, his Uncle George. The song that followed narrated George's adventures in Birmingham. Debbie followed with the beautifully-sung "Scarlet Ribbons" and her poem "Shopping". To close the first half, we welcomed The Somerville Gentleman's Band, who performed Steve Knightley's "Exile" and completed their contribution with the Jim Reeves' classic "He'll Have To Go".

The second half was opened by the Harbury Folk Club Choir with two John Kirkpatrick Christmas songs: "The Holly And The Ivy" and "Chariots". Peter McDonald continued with Huw William's "Rosemary's Sister" and Paul Metsers' "Bring It To Be". No, that's not a typo; the song

means: make it happen. Don Arthurson was next to the floor with the expertly performed "Diddy Wah Diddy" and then his regular December contribution, "In The Bleak Midwinter" which he cleverly intersperses with a hint of George Harrison's "Here Comes The Sun". Pete Grassby made a quick appearance with "The Stranger" before having to leave early for family reasons. Peter Mason was up next and sang the folk club standard "Streets Of London". Then he gave us "When Winter Comes Howling In" (most of us would, I suspect, hope it doesn't).

Keith Donnelly gave us his trademark humorous spot with "Four Minutes, Thirty-Two-And-A-Half Minutes", a reference to when he'd apparently been threatened with legal action over copyright infringement by the lawyers of avant-garde composer, John Cage! He then recalled an anecdote of Christmas pub antics when a student at Warwick University. Bob Hodgkiss squeezed in a valedictory song, "When I Leave The World Behind".

To close an impressive evening of songs and poems, the five-piece Rumble-o performed the Nickel Creek version of "The Fox" and then an instrumental version of Jona Lewie's Christmas anthem "Stop The Cavalry", complete with the obligatory tuba.

Sixteen acts provided an unforgettable evening of entertainment and all we ask each month of an audience is a £1.00 per person donation in a bucket to cover the hire of the room. Now where else can you get such great value?

The raffle raised an impressive £80.00 for Myton Hospice. Next month, on Thursday 4th January, the club will be run by Peter McDonald and he has chosen for his theme: Thanksgiving.



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

Happy New Year! A time for making resolutions and, hopefully keeping to them, at least beyond January! Why not make your New Year's resolution to visit the Heritage Centre in 2024?

At a recent committee meeting of the Heritage Group, we considered how we might make the collection more available / accessible to the public and what we might add to the collection to leave a legacy for Harbury and its people.

We have also emailed out to all the local history groups and societies offering our 'Village Tours' which consist of a guided tour of the village finishing up with refreshments in the Heritage Centre. We have already booked in some tours for the summer.

We now have a 'Welcome Board' so if you come to visit without an agenda or request, we can give you some starting points and explain what the 'collection' contains.

If you do visit us, please bring any old photographs of people or places with you. We can scan them and return them to you during your visit.

School Links

We are grateful to the Primary School for allowing us to use the outside classroom as our base and we have a good relationship with the school, meeting regularly with Mrs. Bosley, the Headteacher. Our discussions include ways in which we can help the teachers deliver the curriculum to the pupils using resources from the collection of documents, photographs etc.

In early December we welcomed Year 4 on their 'Anglo-Saxon' Wow Day. The children dressed in costume and we gave a presentation on the 'Anglo-Saxons in Harbury'. Nigel Chapman, Mary Thompson and myself provided information and a list of possible activities the children could do to enhance their understanding of this key historical period in English History.



Nigel Chapman during the presentation

Visitors from Australia

On the afternoon of Monday 4th December, we had two surprise visitors to the Heritage Centre.

Martin Padbury, visiting family in the village, came to look around and reminisce about growing up in Harbury and attending the primary school in the 1970's. Martin brought along his wife, Vanessa and we were delighted that they spent time with us putting names to faces on some of our many old photographs.

After leaving secondary school, Martin went on to study to be a chef at Stratford College before emigrating to Australia, settling near Perth, where he now runs a chain of petrol stations which provide everything from fuel to arranging weddings and providing the catering!

Martin's brother Steven also emigrated to Australia and we are hopeful that he too will be visiting us in the near future.

Other News

Public opening times remain the same in 2024. We use the Park Lane gate entrance which is signposted and the pathway is lit during the winter months.

First Tuesday in the month 7pm - 9pm and Third Sunday in the month 2pm - 4pm.

Our website gives 'up to date' information and can be accessed via harburyheritagegroup.org.uk

You can email us with requests 'group@harburyheritage.org.uk'

We have a Facebook page 'Harbury Heritage Centre' where you can post photographs etc. and join in threads thus providing information to add to the collection.

Finally - Our fund-raising coffee morning is in the Tom Hauley Room on **Saturday 13th January** - come along and support us please. Raffle prizes welcome!



Martin Padbury, a born and bred Harbury man, who joined us with his wife (who took the photograph), together with me in my Anglo-Saxon costume.



HARBURY E-WHEELS

Bob Sherman

harburywheels@gmail.com www.harburyenergy.co.uk

We are hugely grateful to all those people in Harbury and their friends and relatives who supported our application to the Benefact Movement for Good grants.

The large number of you who nominated us meant we received not one grant but two of £1000 each. Together with the Garden Walkabout and



the other events organised by Peter Walshe, a reduction in our insurance costs and another grant from Postcode Local Trust earlier this year we have sufficient funds to ensure we can serve those who need us in local communities with free transport for another year.

In autumn next year we will need to replace our cars, which is likely to be a costly process, and we have started to think about that challenge. We feel confident that we will be able to continue Harbury e-Wheels through this process, although it is possible there may be a short hiatus during any changeover.

If you know of any agencies that might need our services for their clients that aren't using us already, do put them in touch with us - or us with them.

Happy New Year from all the volunteers of Harbury e-Wheels.



HARBURY JUNIORS NETBALL CLUB

Abi Watson

Although the weather has been keeping us on our toes, with ice or rain or wind. We have been working hard with our training, which is being demonstrated in their recent matches. The under 13s had a very exciting win of 28-26; they have shown amazing team effort particularly in the last quarter. The under 15s unfortunately lost a match, however had a strong game and maintained high spirits throughout. Our under 16 A team had to battle hard, however snatched a win of 16-15. On the 10th December, a few of our teams faced the heavens whilst most people were inside. We are so proud of their determination and grit both on the day but in general, and they are all winners in our eyes.

To celebrate both Christmas and how hard the girls have been working, we had a silent disco which was an absolute hit! It was lovely to see all the age groups mixing, and it was a great way of celebrating our netball community.

We are excited for the training in the New Year and will be looking forward to their hard work paying off in their matches.





Pre-School Nativity

We are very grateful to the Church for hosting our Pre-School Nativity this year. It made the event all the more special and the Church was full of parents, carers and grandparents.

The children have put in a lot of practice, and we have been impressed with their dedication. They have been learning the songs, doing the actions and did a phenomenal job of signing the Makaton signs to Silent Night. They dressed up and all looked fantastic on the stage.



The Nativity was followed by a few Christmas songs, including Jingle Bells, complete with bells. The staff are extremely proud of all of the children and would like to thank all the parents and carers for their support.

Christmas Crafts

The Pre-School is looking very Christmassy! We have our Pre-School tree up, which is full of decorations thanks to the children.

We have made some lovely Christmas cards to take home to our families and decorated CD's to hang on our Pre-School Christmas Tree.



The children have also made some fabulous Christmas crowns to wear at our forthcoming Christmas Party and have been painting their diva lamps and adding glitter for an extra sparkle.

As well as our upright tree, the children also had a lot of fun decorating playdough trees with buttons and a tree on the tuff tray.

We added some masking tape in the shape of a tree on a tuff tray and provided lots of pom-poms, buttons, mini-baubles and tinsel for the children to add carefully to the tree with tweezers. We had some lovely creative designs.

Christmas Party

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party next week. The children will be enjoying party games, music, party food and not forgetting a very special visitor.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and children for their support this term. We are very excited about welcoming all the children back in January.

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





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

A big thank you to **e-Wheels** for helping us to move our **Reverse Advent collections** to local Foodbanks. We had an overwhelming response and it took a few car journeys to move all the food! Thank you to all the families who contributed.



Thank you to All Saints Church for organising our Advent Stations. These were a lovely way of sharing the Christmas message.



Posada

Travelling around our school has been a Posada. Some of you may not know what a Posada is... well... it is Spanish for 'inn'. It is a Christmas activity which lasts from 16th - 24th December when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households or, in our case, classrooms. The posada stays for a couple of days and then begins the journey again. Finally, the Posada will end up at All Saints Church for everyone to read what Mary and Joseph have been up to.



Our school now has an amazing 'Green Team'. They have already led several Collective Worship and are improving the sustainability and biodiversity around school. We are working towards the DFE Climate Action Awards. Back in December, they organised a Christmas jumper swap to help reuse and recycle Christmas jumpers. They have come up with a three-year plan to improve biodiversity within our school. We also created a competition to see who could come up with the best recycled Christmas present! There were some very creative ideas.



Happy New year from all at Harbury CE Primary School.



HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Janice Montague

The library will be starting the New Year with a pair of new leaders who are full of enthusiasm and good ideas. One of them, Liz Ball, writes:

At the beginning of December I went on a training day at Earlsdon Community Library organised by the Community Managed Libraries Network (of which Harbury Village Library is a member). In total there are 564 Community Managed Libraries (i.e. they are run largely by volunteers) in the country and it was interesting to hear how they operate. The theme of the day was digital inclusion and social prescribing but we talked about so much more. These libraries are all a central part of their community and I came away with many ideas. I am definitely convinced that libraries are no longer 'just' about books. Lots to think about in 2024 when along with Michael Luntley I take over as joint library lead.

From all the volunteers who manage and run the library and café in the heart of our community, we hope that 2024 is full of opportunities for all of you. With this in mind, we are always looking for more volunteers to help in the café or on the library desk, either on a regular or occasional basis, so do consider this possibility and come in during our opening hours or look below or at our website (harburyvillagelibrary@org.uk) to see what we offer.

The library is open five and a half days a week, 10 - 4.30 Mondays and Tuesdays, 9.15 - 4.30 Wednesday - Friday and 10 - 12 Saturdays. Biblio's, our café, is open every week, Wednesdays - Fridays 9.15 - 12 and 10 - 12 on Saturdays, serving freshly brewed coffee, tea or hot chocolate plus children's drinks and home baked cakes and biscuits. When the café is not open, you can help yourself to a drink and a biscuit, while you read the daily newspaper, do a jigsaw, admire the artwork on the walls or even read a book. Greetings cards featuring local artists are also available for sale. We also have two public computers which are free to use and colour printing, copying and laminating facilities available for a small charge. We run language classes, games afternoons, book groups, sell tickets, and host other activities like musical evenings, the Repair Café and choir practice. As you can see, our library is already definitely not just about books, but watch this space for future exciting developments.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

Some gardening myths debunked

Gravel or crocks should be placed in the bottom of pots.....nope, it doesn't help with the drainage at all and it's likely that slugs will lurk in among the broken shards. If the plant needs good drainage incorporate the gravel or grit into the compost.

Lawns are low maintenance.....not true, mowing takes a lot of time, then there is the feeding and weeding which is using chemicals and the scarifying as well as watering in dry summers.

Agapanthus flower best when their roots are restricted.....again, not true. I've planted some in the garden and they flower very well. I even have a couple of clumps by the gate where it is often under water in the winter and they are still doing well.

Pampas grass is a sign that the garden owners are 'swingers'.....not everyone has heard of this one but I doubt there is any evidence for this. (I now imagine that all pampas grass owners will be furtively digging them out).

Don't water your plants when it is sunny.....the argument is that it will cause leaves to scorch, it won't. But it is probably wise to water later in the day when there will be less evaporation.

Add sand to clay soil to help it be less sticky.....not a good idea, it will make it more like concrete. Instead add compost, manure or leaf mould.

Happy New Year.



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



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

There is a documented scientific phenomenon called Shifting Baseline Syndrome. That sounds very technical doesn't it? Simply it means that each new human generation perceives as 'natural or normal' the environmental conditions that they grew up in. For example, a study in a rural Yorkshire village found that older residents, compared with younger ones, were more aware of changes in abundance of common species of birds over the previous 20 years.

When we think back to the time we first arrived in Harbury, at the end of the 1980s, there were Spotted Flycatchers nesting in the Lime trees around the churchyard, Grasshopper Warblers could be heard at the bottom of the Co-op field and, frequently, Cuckoos called in the surroundings each spring; but no more. These real changes are not the psychological effect of viewing the past through 'rose-tinted spectacles' as we get older; anyone newly arriving here, whatever age, would not have the same memory of what was normal then, and even our own 'baseline' in the late 1980s would have been different compared to that of people who have lived here for much longer.

The changes are often gradual, comparing one year with the next and it is only by looking back over several years that we can appreciate what has happened to our wildlife. The phenomenon illustrates how the standards of acceptable environmental conditions change depending on where that baseline is drawn, and is, of course, not a criticism of people.

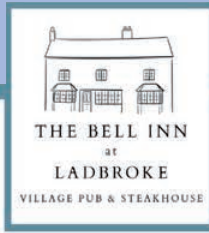
Aside from our personal memories we also need relevant historical information on the natural environment to make a proper assessment of the changing state of the wildlife around us. Most series of data over time are relatively recent; the majority of wildlife monitoring schemes in Europe were only started late in the 20th century. There are formal 'academic' studies but also of increasing importance are the examples of 'citizen science', which involve people throughout the country contributing important information on long-term trends. Indeed, many conservation organisations rely on data collected by members of the public to help them monitor and protect wildlife.

One of the most successful, and probably most well known, community science projects is the Big Garden Birdwatch (BGB). It was started by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in 1979, first as a project for their junior members; also publicised by the Blue Peter children's programme. It was repeated each year and became more and more popular; then, in 2001,



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A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of the team here at The Bell Inn at Ladbroke!



We would like to thank you for all your continued support through 2024 and we are looking forward to some more great events in the diary for 2025!

We want to say goodbye to our wonderful member of staff Bonnie who will be off on her American travels in the New Year. As well as a huge good luck to Dani our General Manager who will be heading off on her maternity leave in January and we will be welcoming Youssef to the team to help hold the reigns!

Never fear though, we will still be hosting some great events throughout the year, including a Comedy Night & Tapas on January 29th to kick the year off!

www.bellinnatladbroke.co.uk

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adults were invited to participate. It is now the UK's largest garden wildlife survey, with around 700,000 people taking part every year. It takes place over the last weekend in January, which will be 26th to 28th January in 2024. There is also a Big Schools' Birdwatch, when school children can count the various different birds they see in their school grounds any time from 8th January to 19th February 2024.

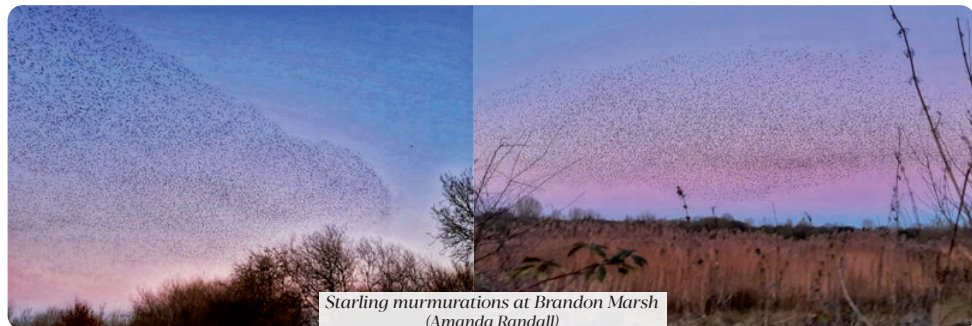
As well as recording which bird species are the commonest in our gardens each year, the RSPB survey also tells us about the health of the various species' populations. For the past twenty years the commonest during the BGB weekend was the House Sparrow, with nearly one and a half million birds spotted in 2023. However, House Sparrows are not as common as they once were because these annual surveys have shown that they have suffered severe declines. In fact, the number spotted in gardens across the UK has dropped by nearly 60% since the first RSPB survey began.

The surveys have also shown how other bird species have fared over the years. For example, Long-tailed Tit numbers were 39% higher in the 2023 Garden Birdwatch compared to 2022, which may be a reflection of the general increase in their UK population since 1995. By way of contrast, UK Greenfinch and Chaffinch populations have declined over the last decade. Both of these finch species have been badly affected by a disease known as Trichomonosis, which can be spread by contaminated food and drinking water. You can help to combat this disease by ensuring that bird tables, feeders and bird baths are cleaned regularly with a mild disinfectant and old bird seed is disposed of to stop food waste building up.

The commonest species in our own garden on the Big Garden Birdwatch last year was the Goldfinch. This is a striking species with bright yellow wing-bars and red feathers around its beak and face. Numbers of this finch have risen steadily in recent decades, as birds have taken advantage of bird food such as nyjer seeds and sunflower hearts provided in garden feeders. We are looking forward to seeing whether it is as frequent a visitor to our garden during the next survey as it was last year. You can register to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch on the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch or use QR code here.



As well as counting the birds in your garden this month you could visit the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust reserve at Brandon Marsh. Some of our friends have been there recently and report that the 'murmurations' of starlings are spectacular. Thousands of these birds arrive in the late afternoons and wheel to and fro around the sky before they fly down to roost among the reed beds overnight. It's a truly breath-taking sight!



*Starling murmurations at Brandon Marsh
(Amanda Randall)*



HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Susan Ostrander (Cllr Harbury Ward)

Happy New Year to everyone in Harbury and Ladbroke. I hope the Christmas period was a peaceful one and that there was time for both festivities and relaxation. I for one will be looking forward to the days getting a little longer but I will enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights for as long as I can!

Winter Issues

At this cold time of year damp and mould can be an issue in homes. This has been mentioned in the media of late, particularly regarding people in rented accommodation. Stratford District Council are aware of this problem and are aiming to provide advice to residents who may be suffering with damp and mould in their homes. The link to their website below contains a link to a paper or video-based guide on ways to reduce damp and mould in the home. Furthermore, residents with this issue in rented accommodation (whether Social or Private) can contact the Private Sector Housing Team who can make representations to the landlord. For those that are worried about consequences of reporting issues to The Council, if the disrepair reported warrants formal action, your landlord may be prevented from evicting you.

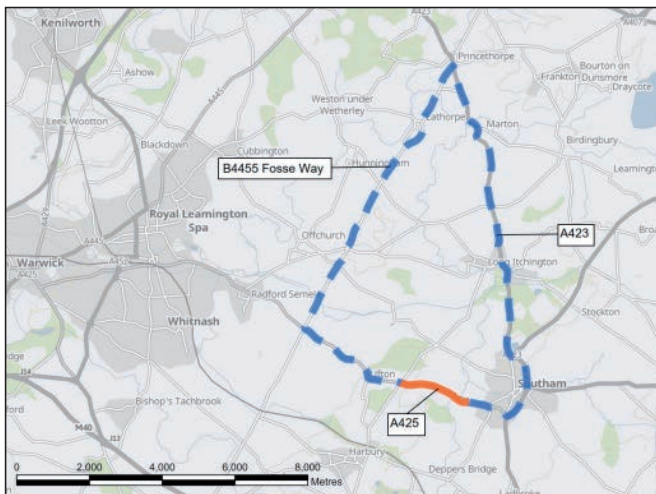
This link and QR code take you to a Council Website page with further information and a link to a guide for reducing damp and mould in the home: If you require a paper copy please let me know and I will try to arrange this.

www.stratford.gov.uk/homes-properties/housing-standards-in-rented-accommodation.cfm



HS2 Road Closures

HS2 will be undertaking utility diversion works on the A425 Southam Road to enable the construction of the new green tunnel. To complete these works safely we will install overnight road closures and temporary traffic lights during the daytime.



— Road Closure
— Diversion

Details: Overnight closures of the A425 Southam Road will be in place, between the B4452 and the B4451, from 8th January 2024 to 6th February 2024. This section of road will be closed between 8pm to 6am (Mon-Fri). A signed diversion route will be in place (please see map below). Outside of the overnight closure period there will be multi-way temporary traffic lights on the A425 Southam Road from 8th January 2024 to 16th February 2024. During peak times there will be manual control of the traffic lights to manage traffic flows. Access to properties will be maintained at all times during these works.

Fosse Way Crossroads

This project is causing considerable frustration amongst residents as the proposed timetable has already been exceeded by several months. This is a highways issue which comes under the remit of Warwickshire County Council but I have been in regular conversation with our County Councillor, Chris Kettle, on this matter and he shares our sense of frustration. A summary of the issues causing the delays is outlined below, including mitigations. Unfortunately, the completion date now looks to be Spring 2024. However, this project is not being funded by taxpayers' money, which is some consolation, it is being funded by money from local development.

As you will all appreciate, there are properties adjacent to this site which were suffering from noise and dust issues relating to the piling operations. As a result, they were forced to adopt a new methodology for undertaking these works so near these properties. The new method required a new design to be written up and approved in November, and the correct materials to be ordered. All of this caused considerable delay. In mitigation, the contractor is laying temporary surfaces to enable the widened widths to be used by vehicles which should reduce the impact of the road's narrowing.

Council Plan 2023-27 Approved

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have approved the new Council Plan which sets its priorities for the District for the next four years.

The Council Plan, approved by Full Council on Monday 11th December, has been produced with input from a wide range of key stakeholders and will provide the direction for the District Council over the next four years and be a critical document in guiding the allocation of resources to priorities.

The Plan's six priorities are:

- **Local Economy**
We will create a resilient, larger, greener and more inclusive Economy.
- **Affordable, Well Built and Maintained Homes**
We will strive to deliver affordable well built and maintained homes.
- **Health and Wellbeing**
Health and wellbeing will be at the heart of the decisions we make.
- **Climate Change**
The time to act is now, we will lead the fight against climate change.
- **Delivery of Service**
We will use your money responsibly in delivering the best services possible.
- **Residents and Communities**
We will act in the best interest of our communities throughout our District, understanding their needs to make responsible decisions.

For further details on the Council Plan

www.stratford.gov.uk/council-democracy/council-plan-2023--2027.cfm





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY COLLECTION 2023

Gill Holden & Nicola Thompson

Further to our article last month with regard to the Poppy Appeal Collection for 2023. We would once again like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection in Harbury, Ufton and Chesterton. The final amount raised was £2597.00 which is slightly up on the total amount collected last year.



QUIET SPACE

Jill Winter & Gill Guilford

For the past year All Saints' in Harbury has been running a monthly group involving twenty minutes silence, on the second Wednesday of the month in the Tom Hauley Room, at the rear of the church. Those who come have found it very valuable, as our lives can often be full of noise and busyness. We would now like to open this more widely to the village community. Anyone of any faith or none is very welcome to join us if you feel you might find it helpful in your life. You would be very welcome.

At 10am there will be tea/coffee available for anyone who would like to meet other people coming for the 'quiet space' that will begin at 10.30am.

The refreshments will be offered first, but if you prefer to come just for the 'quiet space' at 10.30am, that is fine.

At 10.30am prompt, as we gather in a circle, a candle will be lit followed by a short time to settle down and relax. We will hear a brief reading from the leader followed by twenty minutes of silence.

Everyone will spend that silence differently. Some may meditate on a part of the reading they have heard, or a text or a line of a poem that comes to mind; others may have a special word they like to repeat inwardly and some may just want to look at the candle.

Everyone is different and there is no one right way. The main aim is that everyone is comfortable. No verbal prayers are expected from anyone, just simply a time to have a 'quiet space' to yourself in the company of others.

At 10.55am a bell will signify the end of the silence and bring us back together again. At 11am we finish and make our way out.

Our next gathering will be Wednesday 10th January in the Tom Hauley Room, times as above - there is no need to let us know if you are coming, just turn up and give it a try.

(Throughout 2024 we will continue to meet every second Wednesday morning, Tom Hauley Room.)

More information - Jill Winter 612585, 07941 872383 Gill Guilford 07856 764814.



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 engages 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 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm. Our next subject for discussion is - 'New Year, New Start'

Do come along, have a drink and engage in interesting debate.

A very Happy New Year to you all!



HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

Happy New Year to our Customers.

The first Market for the year will be Saturday 27th January 10.00 - 12.30 in the Village Hall.

Councillors' Corner will be there from 10.00 - 11.00am to answer any questions you may have.

Join us for a Tea or Coffee and Bacon Roll.

If you would like to contact us, you can email us harburylocalmarket@gmail.com and also on Facebook @Harbury Local Market, please join our group for regular updates.

Thanks to our Sponsors.



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Gillian Hare

OK, it is still muddy. But yet again we have been lucky and avoided any rainy walks. On possibly the only bright morning in December, we set off in frost and mist to Leek Wootton. As we circuted the golf course the mist lifted and it was delightful. We also enjoyed our annual lunch at the Friendly Inn at Frankton.

New walkers are always welcome. The group is quite informal, no membership list or subscription and come as and when you wish. In January we do not go far afield and mostly look for routes using lanes and tracks for firmer going. The programme is in the diary at the beginning of this magazine; just meet us in the village hall car park at 9.35. Or phone me on 01926 614809.



SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mike McBride

We ended up with 104 guests this year and thankfully the weather was quite mild for the time of year and no rain, so thank you all for coming. We did have some new people this year who thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It would appear that everyone else enjoyed it too, given the thank you cards, letters and your thanks on social media. There was a change to the entertainment this year and Paul Winchester provided a quiz which was certainly challenging and interesting. Thank you, Paul, for all the support you give us.

The raffle helps to finance the party so thanks to those who donated the many and varied prizes to help us.

As a small committee, we could not run this event without the help of all the volunteers that set up the hall and serve the meals and clear up afterwards. In addition to the Harbury Scouts who helped with the setting up, we were also joined in the evening by young people from the Explorers group who helped serve at table. We also had partners and family members and friends of the committee who helped us as well. Thank you one and all and we hope to see you again next year.



The committee would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at our events during the year and thanks for giving us your support. Look out for our schedule of activities in the Harbury and Ladbroke News and occasionally on Facebook; the first will be a coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room on Saturday 10th February 2024!!!



HARBURY BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

Amanda Randall

Wednesdays at Harbury Village Hall

Beginners 7.30 - 8.30pm, Improvers 8.30 - 9.30pm

Would you like to join us but have never tried ballroom dancing before?

Make it your New Year resolution to come and try ballroom dancing! We are a friendly and inclusive social group and we are always pleased to welcome new people to join us. The atmosphere is relaxed and not competitive and dance instructor Anni is very experienced at pacing the class so that everyone is enjoying themselves and no one gets left behind.

A new set of classes begins on 10th January, when beginners will be focusing on the Waltz, learning the Whisk and Chassé and ways to negotiate 'corners' on the dance floor. Improvers will be adding some new steps to their previous Jive routine, so there will be some revision plus learning how to link the old and new steps together.

The fee is £15 per couple, per class, 'pay as you go' and you will need to bring a partner to dance with.

Get in touch with us by email, phone, Instagram or Facebook (details on next page).

Dates for your diaries 2024:

10th, 17th, 24th, 31st **January** 7th, 14th **February**

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th **March** 3rd, 10th **April**

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th **May** (5 weeks)

19th, 26th **June** (Revision) 3rd **July** (Summer social)



Ballroom Christmas Party 2023

Contact: harbury.ballroom.dancing@gmail.com Phone: 01926 613871

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

“KEEEEEP Dancing”!!



POETRY CORNER

Sue Lewis

I would love for there to be a poetry corner in the magazine as I think it would be a lovely regular addition. I'm happy to get the ball rolling with my take on a new year's poem, hope you enjoy.

We would welcome poems to be sent in by other readers - Editors

New years new years a brand new start

New years new years, the bottles of wine probably weren't smart

New years new years, fireworks light up the sky

New years new years, I got a bit of ash in my eye (from the firework)

New years new years, a brand new year

New years new years, my resolution I do fear (cutting down on the cheese)

New years new years, 2024

New years new years, sounds like the new Sue is knocking at my door

New years years new years, I should cut down the cheese

New years new years, oh the pain in my knees (burst cartilage)

New years new years, Amen



READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors

I recently came across a two year old Facebook message which contained some tough criticism of our surgery. There is no doubt that there were some difficulties back then. However, it is probably a bit belated to say that my experience has been very positive for some time.

In hearing of widespread problems elsewhere I feel we should congratulate and thank the staff for what is now an excellent service. Currently face to face consultations within 24 hours appear to be the norm. Hopefully this shows a sincere appreciation of their efforts.

Ed Wilson

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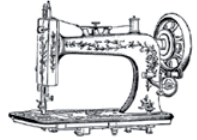
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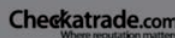
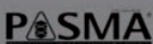
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