Harbury & Ladbroke News



AUGUST 2025



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Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke
4 August	F - R - G	F
11 August	F - W	F - R - W - G
18 August	F - R - G	F
25 August	F	F - R - G
1 September	F - R - W - G	F - W
8 September	F	F - R - 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

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HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

AUGUST 2025 No. 617

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September Edition Deadlines



Adverts to: 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to advertising@hlnews.co.uk by Monday 25th August

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



Cover Photo: Temple End by Martin Randall



EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

We hope you enjoyed the recent Harbury Garden Walkabout. Thank you to all those who opened their gardens and also to those who provided refreshments. We have some photographs of a few of the gardens in this edition – thanks to Phil Thompson.

At the end of August, Harbury Village Hall will once again be hosting the Beer Festival - see article and advert for details. Then, moving into early September, Harbury Village Show will be taking place on Saturday 6th. Schedules are available from the Library, the Post Office and the Milkshed or can be downloaded from the magazine website - hlnews.co.uk/harburyvillage-show.html.

Do think about entering one of the classes, be it showing off your vegetables, fruit or flowers, baking Nan Jean's Fruit Cake or exhibiting your arts and crafts. Also do encourage your children to enter the Young People's categories too. Entry forms should be sent in by Wednesday 3rd September no later than 6.00pm.

Ladbroke Matters are hosting another film night on Friday 8th August, see page 11 for details. Ladbroke Church will be gearing up to take part in the usual Heritage Open Days in September.

Enjoy the summer holidays!



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

AUGUST

Sat 2 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of All Saints - Stone, Sound & Vision

Sun 3 TRINITY 7
Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 4 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 5 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Wed 6 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Ebrington and Foxcote (4 miles)
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall

Thu 7 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Library

Sat 9 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Village Library
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library

Sun 10 TRINITY 8
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 11 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 12 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Wed 13 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Banbury
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall

Thu 14 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WIs Annual Garden Party, 6.00 - 8.00pm, Chris & Andy Rutherford's Garden

Sat 16 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Ladbroke Millennium Green

Sun 17 TRINITY 9
Holy Communion, 8.00am, Church
All Age Service, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Mon 18 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 19 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Society Tour and Tea (bookings required), 2.00pm, Heritage Centre

Wed 20 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Stratford
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall

Thu 21 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Classic Book Group, 7.30pm, Village Library

Sat 23 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of All Saints - Stone, Sound & Vision

Sun 24 TRINITY 10
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 25 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM

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

ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK

Tue 26 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Wed 27 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Lower Shuckborough (4 miles)
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall

Thu 28 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Fri 29 Harbury Beer Festival, 11.00am - 11.00pm, Village Hall

Sat 30 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of All Saints - Stone, Sound & Vision
Harbury Beer Festival, 11.00am - 11.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 31 TRINITY 11
Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Informal Evening Service, 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room

SEPTEMBER

Mon 1 Badminton, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 2 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
Harbury Theatre Group's Business Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Club

Wed 3 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Kenilworth (4½ miles)
Mothers' Union, Service 2.00pm, Meeting 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Deadline for entries for Village Show no later than 6.00pm today
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 4 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Library

Fri 5 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, the Crown Inn

Sat 6 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam Save the Children
Harbury Village Show, viewing 2.00pm, prizes 4.00pm, Village Hall

The Refuse Rota can be found on the inside of the front cover

All Saints HARBURY

FROM THE RECTOR

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

I have just returned from a holiday to a lovely yet remote part of the Greek mainland, where temperatures sometimes exceeded 40 degrees and we had warnings sent to our phones about nearby wildfires (which fortunately we never encountered).

As the schools break up and the holiday season enters full swing it's worth remembering that taking time out of our daily routine is important not just for our mental well-being, but for our spiritual lives too. Even Jesus found it necessary to rest and to take some time away from

his friends and followers. In the Gospels, Jesus is often described going off on his own, usually up a mountain, to sit and reflect and to be with God. Rest is re-creation. Rest makes us whole again. The summer is often a time when we do relax - the warmer weather will often help us to slow down, to sit and relax in a shaded garden, or sit on a beach looking out to sea.

I think that is why we always get so annoyed when the weather breaks just as the holidays begin, as it can be so much harder to relax indoors. In the accounts of the creation of the world, we learn that God rested on the Seventh Day and hallowed it as a day of rest: rest and re-creation are part of our faith's narrative from its very beginnings. This is because we need rest to face the business of life, but also because being rested allows us to more fully sense God's presence and power in our lives.

So, over the coming weeks, I hope we all find some time to rest and put to one side the worries and responsibilities of our daily lives (something I am not always very good at!) in order that both our daily and spiritual lives can be replenished, renewed, and re-created.



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Andy & Bez

August's Adventure

Bez writes: On the 1st July, Andy and I were commissioned as wardens of All Saint's Church. Around 100 people gathered as fellow church wardens from across the diocese pledged to serve 'according to the best of our skill and knowledge.' And that's the plan. Well kind of…I grew up in a Baptist church so becoming a warden in the Church of England is an entirely new adventure, so while August is typically the month of rest and relaxation, for me it will be the start of something very different.

Primarily, I'm hoping to ask questions of the community about what church means to you. This will begin in the primary school as children always have something to say! I'm hoping this dialogue will shape the journey, inform next steps, create a road map and encourage fellow voyagers along the way.

The pandemic, though painful, reminds us of the value of community and the importance of communication so we must build on that. My hope is encapsulated in the warden's pledge and prayer that 'God gives us the grace to fulfil these duties' for the good of the community here in Harbury.

If you have thoughts on what church means to you, please email warden@allsaintsharbury.org or even better pop into church for a warm welcome.

To book the Tom Hauley Room, email Moira at thr@allsaintsharbury.org.

MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

As usual in July, we replaced our normal meeting with a trip. This time, 12 members went for lunch to the Kings Head in Wellesbourne - a well presented and enjoyable meal - before going on to Hampton Lucy. Most of us have often seen this beautiful Gothic building, its tower and huge windows. Many of us, and I include myself, did not realise it is Gothic Revival,

created in the 1870s for the Lucy family who owned Charlecote. Our guide has been a verger there for 30 years, and, as his father lived and worked on the estate, he was a fount of information about the Church, the village and the personalities which shaped it. Inside, it is light and lofty; an impression of a smaller Salisbury Cathedral sprung to mind. Sadly, there is some deterioration and water damage, inside and out. Old buildings always have expensive problems.

Our next meeting will be a service on 3rd September at 2pm. Before that, we are invited to celebrate Mary Sumner day at St John's Kenilworth at 6pm on Sunday 10th August. Please contact Chris if you would like a lift.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

AUGUST

Sun 3 TRINITY 7
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 5 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 6 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Fri 8 Film Night, 7.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 10 TRINITY 8
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tue 12 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thu 14 WI summer outing to Lord Leycester Hospital

Sat 16 Coffee morning in aid of Ladbroke Millennium Green, 10.00 - 11.30am, Tom Hauley Room, Harbury

Sun 17 TRINITY 9
Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

Tue 19 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 24 TRINITY 10
Holy Communion, 9.00am

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ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK

Tue 26 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 31 TRINITY 11
Holy Communion (said service), 9.00am

SEPTEMBER

Tue 2 Photography Club

Wed 3 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Thu 4 WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 7 TRINITY 12
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 9 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Dates for inclusion in the Harbury Diary please to:
The Editorial Office, 31 Binswood End. Tel: 612155 or email articles@hlnews.co.uk



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby
www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

By the time this article is read, we will be in the middle of the school summer holidays. But before term ended, some members of the church joined Southam St James Academy for their year 6 leavers assembly and to give Bibles to the year 6 children.

Ladbroke church has had a formal link with the school ever since Ladbroke's own village school closed, and we try to maintain this link by regular contact, including Rev Andy taking occasional assemblies and two of our members serving as governors. The tradition of giving Bibles to the leavers is also a way of signalling our ongoing support. Sue Moore was part of the group at the assembly and she brought along the Bible she was given when she was a pupil at the school a (large) number of years ago and explained to the children how much she had valued it ever since.

The church continues to open between 10.00 – 4.00 each day for anyone wishing to visit, either for quiet prayer and reflection or to learn about its heritage. Do pop in if you wish.

Future Services and events:

Sunday 3rd August	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 10th August	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th August	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 24th August	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st August	9.00am	Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 7th Sept	10.30am	Family Service

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk **ladbrokechurch@gmail.com**



LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Jackie West – H&L News Correspondent

You may have noticed there was no Harbury and Ladbroke News report on the May meeting as I was unable to go along. Official minutes for all meetings are made available on the Parish Council's website, www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk

I was at the Village Hall on 9th July but as only two parish councillors were present it was not quorate, so the meeting could not proceed. However some info was shared INFORMALLY by those present and our district councillor, Susan Ostrander, gave me a copy of the report she had prepared for the meeting. Both are summarised below.

Traffic through the village

Many vehicles, including huge lorries, had detoured through the village to Deppers Bridge the night the A423 was closed due to a fatal accident between Ladbroke and Southam. There was heavy traffic too the weekend that the A423 was closed for HS2 works. Two villagers reported that their dog was run over ON THEIR DRIVE in School Lane when a car dived in to avoid an oncoming vehicle. They were keen to progress speed monitoring by residents, something that has been considered by the parish council before but did not go forward then, due to insufficient volunteers.

SDC

There is now a liaison officer to strengthen the partnership between SDC and town and parish councils. The District Council has been recognised as the 2nd best in Warwickshire for climate action. The police's Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team continue to visit villages according to their rota, coming to Ladbroke (outside the village hall) for an hour on Tuesday 15th July. Outline planning permission was granted with conditions for five houses on the triangle of land to the north of Windmill Lane.

SDC has joined with the Graham Fulford Charitable trust to offer subsidised health screening, costing people just £14 per test: PSA (prostate) for men over 40 and diabetes and cholesterol for men and women over 18. By the time you read this the screening event at Southam will have happened but there is another at Stratford Leisure Centre on 13th September. You need to pre-book on the Stratford District Council website.

HS2

Having challenged HS2 and EKFB about the proposed 12-16 week closure of the A423 to tie in the new road, SDC understand the closure will be shortened significantly by creating a temporary bypass alongside. I gleaned more information on this, and about Kineton Road closures, when the HS2 community engagement vehicle came to the village in June. On the Kineton Road, i.e. the **A4451 between Southam and Deppers Bridge**, there will be single lane closure with lights as they construct the new road between the roundabout and the bridge and between the bridge and the existing road near Southam Rugby Club. The road will be fully closed for about four weeks in Spring 2026 when they join in the new sections.

The **A423 between Ladbroke and Southam** will be closed for two weeks in the early autumn to create a small section of bypass to allow traffic to continue to use this route while most of the works on the new road are done. The A423 will have to be closed for about four weeks in summer 2026 to link to the new road north and south of the bridge to the existing A423. There may also be some weekend closures; these will be kept as short as possible but when concrete is being laid it is likely to be from Friday evening to Monday morning. I asked if there was any flexibility in closure dates; major events such as weddings and concerts result in lots of parked cars on Church Road and we've had gridlock in the past. The answer was, "No guarantees but let us know as soon as dates are fixed and we'll see if we can avoid those times."

Next meeting: 10th September, 7.45pm

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Sue Moore

Our stalwart H&LNews reporter, Carol was not on duty so again you have my scribblings, ably assisted by a reliable member also called Sue! So here goes:

Our July meeting guest speaker was Julie Howard from Norton Lindsey WI. Julie's presentation was 'Queen Matilda and the Normans'.

Listening to history of William the Conqueror (8th November 1028 - 9th September 1087), the first Norman King of England who reigned from 1066 until his death, Williams's marriage to Matilda of Flanders, subsequent rebellions and family disagreements was like an episode from Games of Thrones!

The name Matilda was used by several generations of Queens and an Empress of Europe, and the history of child brides and William's efforts to ensure a son inherited his throne expanded our knowledge of the Normans. Although known as ruthless and violent, William established a strong centralised monarchy; he and Queen Matilda enjoyed numerous achievements, the commissioning of the Domesday book, the construction of buildings including churches, monasteries and the Tower of London to name but a few. Julie gave us an interesting and informative talk and told us that the Normans were just as interesting as Henry VIII and his exploits, and they certainly were!

After our refreshments Sue reminded members about our summer trip to the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick on Thursday 14th August. We heard a report on our recent Group Meeting at Napton and Sue showed us the competition entries of bunting to commemorate VE80 and the WI's in involvement with the war effort. Southam WI won first prize, and all entries will be sewn together to be used at other group events. Sue told members that it is Ladbroke's turn to host the WI Carol Service and next year's Group Meeting; the church is already booked for Tuesday 9th December. Our Food & Friendship Group have enjoyed a delicious lunch at Malt Kiln Farm, highly recommended if you haven't already visited. Our next meeting on 4th September will be Judith Davidson and her talk entitled 'Learning about CPR', all are welcome so please come and join us.

Still no stories from our seven members' trip to Canada! Perhaps we need an extraordinary meeting, of course with refreshments, again watch this space!

LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

Our Website

Our website www.ladbrokevillagehall.org.uk contains photos of the interior and exterior of our village hall and general information. Please use the contact form on the website to get in touch with us for any reason.

Summer Supper and Film Night

Our next ever popular supper and film night will be on Friday 8th August in Ladbroke Village Hall. The film this time is the 1991 classic 'Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe' - and we will be serving delicious food fit for a Summer's evening. Bring your own drinks.

Tickets are £18 each. Please arrive promptly by 7pm for a screening at 8pm.

Contact Nicky (nicolalewis1958@gmail.com or telephone 01926 815196) for tickets and information - but hurry as we may well have sold out by the time you read this!

Proceeds from this event will go towards improvements to the Millennium Green play area.

What Next?

We have more events planned for later this year:

- Friday 10th October - a quiz night in the Hall.
- Saturday 22nd November – a village Safari Supper.

Hall Bookings

Our hall has a small kitchen, and a stage area with sound and lighting. It can accommodate up to eighty people. So to book your special celebration, or if you wish to hold regular classes or meetings, contact us through the village hall website or telephone Debs on 07779 225105.

Our hourly booking rates are £15 per hour, or £12 for Ladbroke residents. Non-residents may be asked to pay a £50 deposit on booking.

A Reminder

The village hall and Millennium Green are separate registered charities whose admin and finance are overseen by a group of trustees. However, because the upkeep of the village hall and Millennium Green is the responsibility of all who live in Ladbroke we have a larger Ladbroke Matters team which takes care of maintenance and organises fundraising events. We also have a dedicated team of volunteers who bake and supply tasty food for our film nights.

The more you support us with your skills, time, and/or money, the more we can continue to maintain these facilities for the benefit of us all. We are always looking for new team members, so if you would like to join us get in touch via our website.

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for June 2025

£50	Colin and Kay Constable	£25	Kate Todman
£50	Kate Liverton	£10	Kip Warr
£25	Steve and Val Copley	£10	Scott and Siobahn Roberson
£25	Beverly Bradley	£10	Helen Hay

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE & CHESTERTON GENERAL NEWS



LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

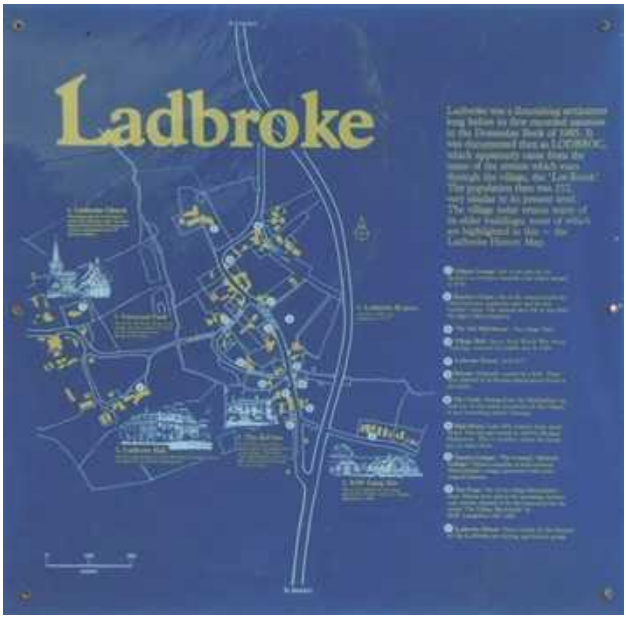
Have you seen the "Ladbroke - Then and Now" exhibition yet? Perhaps you caught it at the Millennium Green celebration in June but if not, or you want another look, go and see what's in the phone box. This month there are photos of the opening of the Millennium Green a quarter of a century ago, Banbury Road, bus transport and a walk up Ladbroke Hill.

Last month the Heritage and Friendship group enjoyed Carol & Geoff's hospitality and views

of their colourful garden while reminiscing about books. Several people showed or shared books they loved as children, one had an ageless theme about doing good deeds while another would definitely fail even the most basic political correctness test today. We had poetry too, and were highly amused by John Betjeman's "Diary of a church mouse". In August we will gather as usual on the first Wednesday morning in the month, 6th August 10.30 - noon at The Old School. Our theme will be "It made me laugh" so an opportunity to share tales, jokes, cartoons and perhaps some more poems. All are welcome so if you would like to join us, or just find out more about the group, please phone 814715.



September is fast approaching and that means Heritage Open Days. In 1985 the Council of Europe set up European Heritage Days to raise awareness and appreciation for the continent's cultural heritage, and the need for its care and protection. Today, 50 countries take part, each running it in their own way. England first held Heritage Open Days in 1994 and last year had over 5,000 events! Running from Friday 12th - Sunday 21st September this year, it's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences, all FREE. Ladbroke Church has taken part since 2015; so that our volunteers can visit other events earlier in the festival, our special exhibition and guided tours will be from Friday 19th - Sunday 21st September. Check out www.heritageopendays.org.uk to discover what's on offer near or far from home and whether you need to pre-book. Nearer the time there will be a printed booklet listing what's happening in Warwick, Leamington and nearby villages available from their tourist offices and I'll put a reference copy in church for people to browse.



Finally, tidying up the vestry last month we rediscovered a blue plastic Ladbroke history map. This one used to be in the church porch until it was replaced by the larger pictorial map of the village a few years ago. If anyone would like the old blue one, please phone 810331 or email ladbrokechurch89@btinternet.com .



CHESTERTON NEWS

Suzy Reeve

Visitors to St. Giles Church, Chesterton during the months of May and June would have seen the tower shrouded in scaffolding and regular visitors would have seen this scaffolding disappear in the latter half of June. At the end of 2023 the required five yearly architect's report on the fabric of the church stated that the church tower needed re-roofing and

repointing. It took us at least fifteen months to obtain a selection of tenders and the required permissions, and to raise the funds to cover the cost of this work and in the meantime an interim repair was commissioned to prevent the ingress of water over the winter of 2024. The work is now finished and from a distance the tower looks as if it's acquired a crown due to the new lime mortar, but this will soon age and blend in.

One of the permissions needed related to the bat population and a survey identified that four species were active in the church: the noctule, common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and natterer's bat. Luckily these bats were most active in the porch and in the body of the church and didn't impede the tower works, although we did have to apply for a development licence from Natural England.

Our sincere thanks go to our grant funders – The Benefact Trust, the Church of England Fabric Repair Fund, the Janet and Bryan Moore Trust and the Listed Places of Worship Scheme – and to all the private donors who so generously contributed to this work. Thanks also to the church visitors who made a donation via the wallbox, for the financial support received from local people and for the various fundraising activities held in the community. We are also grateful to H & B Contractors Ltd. for a splendid job.

Finally, we are delighted that, in addition to the bats, our porch has been used again this year after a two or three year absence by nesting swallows and martins. All visitors are welcome!



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 Harbury Parish Council held on 26th June 2025

After opening the meeting and dealing with the normal business of approving the minutes etc, the council heard reports from village organisations.

Harbury Library

Cllr Mulley reported that a recent volunteer recruitment drive had proved unsuccessful. The library and Biblios Café continue to seek new volunteers; anyone interested in this rewarding volunteering opportunity should contact the library directly.

Village Hall

Cllr Thompson reported that it was a continuing tale of more volunteers needed for the committee at the village hall. They are also seeking a new, permanent chairman. On a more positive note, the hall continues to be well used – bookings are up from last year and the hall recently hosted three wedding receptions.

Warwickshire County Council

The question on many people's minds: "how can a council the size of the Warwickshire be led by an eighteen year old councillor?" was asked by Cllr Lockley. Cllr Kettle diplomatically replied that a new leader would be formally elected at the July meeting of the whole council. The majority of council spending (and hence decision making) is predetermined by government policy, for example adult social care. Cllr Kettle also explained that the education budget is received directly from central government including the SEND budget. For some years now the county council has been allowed by government to overspend on SEND (by around £60 million per annum) by setting up a negative reserve. Cllr Kettle felt that this was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a potential looming crisis, as if the government did not continue to underwrite these amounts, many local authorities, including Warwickshire, would be bankrupted. Regarding more local issues, a number of parish councillors had met with a WCC officer regarding the contentious removal of the horse chestnut near to the doctor's surgery in order to repair the nearby drain. They had "learned a lot about drains" commented Cllr Balch and were now resigned to the fact that the tree would have to be felled. WCC have offered to replace it with a new tree elsewhere.

Properties

Hall Lane Allotments

The council has been informed that it needs to submit a full planning application for both the new entrance and the repair works to the wall. Cllrs were also concerned that many of the allotments were very overgrown with only a handful of tenants still active on their plots. The clerk will contact a known existing tenant to find out more details.

Pineham Farm

Overgrown allotments, particularly the community allotment was also a concern here. It was explained that the grass strip at the side of the community allotment needed to be mown and the areas around the raised beds were also very overgrown. It was agreed that the village contractor would be asked to dig out the bark chippings and replace it with mesh and gravel to keep the weeds at bay. A new twice yearly inspection rota was put in place and it was also agreed that Steve Ekins will carry out the judging for the Best Kept Allotment for the village show.

Cemetery

The Properties Working Party had visited the overgrown areas of the cemetery and drawn up a list of priorities; it was noted that there is a lot of work to be done. The village contractor will be asked for a quote to clear the overgrowth near the chapel first and also separate quotes will be sought to remove two dead trees.

Skatepark

The contractor has completed the necessary repairs and has also submitted plans for two options to upgrade the area. Option 1 would mean renovating but retaining most of the existing equipment at a cost of around £25,000. Option 2 would be a complete replacement of the equipment costing approximately £75,000. Cllrs felt the second option would provide a better long-term future for the site and that, now that the immediate repairs had been completed, they had time to consider how to best to fund it. It is possible that the council could apply for grant funding and it already has just short of £30,000 earmarked in its reserves for this project.

Environment

Replacement Stiles

The Footpaths Group will shortly replace two stiles, one at the end of the Co-op Field and one in Mill Lane; the clerk just needs to complete the final paperwork on this. The council agreed funding in principle for two further stiles on the footpath leading from Bush Heath Road across the field towards Bishops Itchington.

Tree Replacement

Warwickshire CC has agreed to pay for one new tree to replace the one to be removed near the doctor's surgery. The PC ideally would like to have two new ones planted on the strip of grass in front of the old petrol station. The clerk was instructed to request two trees from WCC but, if the County will only pay for one, the PC will pay for the other.

Climate Change
The group had a stall at the carnival recently and have generated some ideas for which they can potentially apply for grant funding.

Finance

Harbury Seniors Football Club
The council agreed to increase the annual pitch rent from £230pa to £250pa.

Website
The clerk explained that, in order to comply with new public sector regulations – with the ominous title of WCAG 2.2 - the council's website will need to be completely updated, replaced or an extensive disclaimer used on the home page. This is in order to comply with accessibility requirements. It is not clear at the moment whether the existing website can be modified in this way and Cllrs were concerned about the potential costs of replacing it entirely. It was agreed that feedback from the web designer should be sought.

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on **Thursday 24th July, 7.30pm at Harbury Village Hall**.

Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:
Tim Lockley (Chairman), Julie Balch (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Kate Gard, Alan Knowles, Ed Mulley, Alex Potter, Robert Stockdale, Ashley Sylvester, Keith Thompson.

HARBURY SOCIETY

David Turner

Harbury Bat Walk

Tricia Scott, the chair of the Warwickshire Bat Group, who spoke to the Harbury Society in February 2024 paid a return visit on 15th July 2025 to take us on a bat walk around the village. On what had probably been the wettest day of the drought our expectations of seeing bats was not high.


Tricia Scott of the Warwickshire Bat Group talks to members of the Harbury Society

However, Tricia was not to be thwarted and commenced with an introduction about the amazing characteristics of this species of mammal. We were told that there are 18 species of bats in the UK, with the most widely spread being the Common Pipistrelle and the Soprano Pipistrelle. These two are very difficult to tell apart, in fact they were only identified as different species in the 1990s and the easiest way to identify the Soprano Pipistrelle is the higher frequency of its echolocation – hence their name! Both species are very small, weighing around 5g, about the same as a 20p coin. We were told that the


Common Pipistrelle

Common Pipistrelle was the species we were most likely to observe that evening but it was possible we might see a Noctule, which is one of the largest of the British species, about the length of the palm of a hand.


Noctule bat

Pipistrelle bats will roost in trees, in crevices of buildings, anywhere in fact. Tricia said she was once called out to the visitor centre at Coombe Park because, when they changed a noticeboard after removing the old one, they discovered a Common Pipistrelle behind it. They will tuck themselves into gaps. In fact, a lady contacted her earlier in the year after she had removed her horse's blanket and discovered three bats snuggled underneath it.

Tricia had brought a number of bat detectors with her and these were distributed around the group with the instruction to set them at 50 kHz, the range at which the Common Pipistrelle emits its echolocation call, but to swiftly change the setting to 20kHz if Tricia detected a Noctule bat, as their echolocation calls are that much lower. The human range of hearing is limited to 20Hz to 20kHz so we need to use detectors to convert the calls to match our hearing range.


One of the bat detectors

Starting the walk at the Church Lychgate, we walked along Church Street to Church Paddock, which we had been give permission to enter. Standing underneath the trees with bat detectors at the ready we soon picked up the rat-a-tat sound of Pipistrelle bats and before long we saw them as they flitted about between the trees. Following this, we walked as a group to the allotments in Hall Lane and we heard a small amount of bat activity. We continued along Hall Lane to the Pound where there were more Pipistrelle echolocation calls emanating from the trees. Suddenly, Tricia told us to switch to 20kHz and before long we could hear a smoother kind of sound, indicating the presence of a Noctule bat - what a result!


Hoping to catch a glimpse of a bat with the aid of bat detectors

We made our way back to the Church and, unbelievably, 90 minutes had gone by. We returned our bat detectors to Tricia (I can imagine them being on one or two people's Christmas list) and Sue Turner thanked her for an enthralling evening.

Harbury Society Programme for 2025

Tuesday 19th August – Harbury Tour and Tea.

Tuesday 16th September – A presentation by Martyn Brunt, Sustrans, about creating and maintaining greenways.

Tuesday 21st October – Presentation by Bill Timson entitled 'The Railway comes to Harbury'.

Tuesday 18th November – Presentation by Catherine Evans, Community and Charity Adviser for the Heart of England Co-operative Society, focusing on the history of the Heart of England Co-op Society.

2026

January – Members' social evening. Date/venue/time TBC.

Tuesday 17th February – A presentation by Steve Dean on the subject of the Staffordshire Hoard.

Tuesday 17th March – Medical Detection Dogs talk by Fiona Baskett.

All talks are held in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm with the presentation starting at 7.45pm. Free to Harbury Society members – guests £2 (pay at the door).

HARBURY WI

Alison Lewis & Mary Thompson

At our meeting on 10th July, we were pleased to welcome Judith and Susie who are volunteers for Warwickshire Hearts based in the Stratford, Leamington, Warwick and Gaydon area. This visit was in line with the National WI drive that "Bystanders can be Lifesavers." Volunteers from Warwickshire Hearts come from all walks of life - some are health professionals, but not all. They are Community First Responders who can often be first on the scene – they have two ambulance cars which the charity has to run.



Judith stressed the importance of starting CPR as soon as possible and the sooner you can use a defibrillator the better. If you find someone unconscious shout for help, dial 999 and put the phone on loudspeaker, start CPR, unlock the defibrillator and follows instructions from the phone call. Judith stressed that you don't need training and you can't do harm.

They asked if we knew where all the defibrillators are in the village, stressing the importance that they should be properly maintained by their "guardians." Defibrillators are registered with the Ambulance Service and they will give guidance on their use. We were invited to "have a go" with the dummies that they bought – CPR and defibrillators. Judith and Susie are very keen to give demonstrations to community groups and schools. The survival rate for out of hospital heart attacks and cardiac arrests in the UK is between 7 and 10%. In Scandinavia it is 60 to 70% because everyone is trained. Incidentally, the rhyme to use when performing CPR is no longer Nellie the Elephant but Staying Alive or Baby Shark!



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WI members have subsequently looked at the location of defibrillators in the village.

Outside and inside Banana Moon Nursery, inside the foyer of the Village Hall, Harbury School staff room, Brooks Drive, Harbury Rugby Club and the telephone box in Deppers Bridge.



warwickshirehearts.org

On Sunday 13th July we had a visit from some lovely ladies from Earlsdon WI. This was arranged as part of this year's Chairman's Challenge, inviting a WI group from another area to visit our village. We met at the Harbury Heritage Centre where Bill Timson gave a short introduction to Harbury's Blue Plaque trail, the guide which has been funded by the WI. A few Harbury WI members then toured the village centre with our visitors, following part of the trail and pointing out other sites of interest, such as the Mill, older houses, the village hall etc. We visited the church and admired the interior including the wall hangings, then saw the war memorial. We returned to the Heritage Centre for tea and home-made cakes and more chat with other members of our WI. We all enjoyed the afternoon, both ourselves and our visitors. New friends made!





A copy of the Blue Plaque trail is available from the Heritage Centre and Harbury Library for anyone who would like one and there is a board by the war memorial detailing the trail.

We don't have a meeting in August but our annual Garden Party for members will be held in Andy and Chris Rutherford's garden on Thursday 14th August from 6pm to 8pm. If they wish, members are invited to arrive in an outfit they might wear for a wedding, garden party or Royal Ascot. Chris has a number of garden chairs, but if a few members can bring a chair it would be much appreciated. If members haven't put their names down for attendance at the Garden Party and the Harvest Supper on 26th September – please let Lin know as soon as possible for catering purposes.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Alison Lewis

Well, our pantomime 'Dick Whittington' has been cast and the cast looks wonderful! New and old faces have come together for your enjoyment and you are certain to have a fabulous spectacle to enjoy. Everyone is looking forward to rehearsals starting in September. Songs have been chosen too and we are looking forward to learning them with our fabulous musical director Simon Stenner, along with some fancy dance moves!

We are always ready to welcome new helpers to the theatre group, and someone with a

sewing machine willing to help Lin Hayes with costumes would be especially welcome this year. It's a big and exceedingly important job for a pantomime as there are many possible costume changes for a large cast.

Another important role is that of producer, to assist the director with all sorts of background tasks to facilitate smooth running of the rehearsal process and the show, working with the team to manage the process of getting the show off the ground. If anyone keen to use their organisational skills is interested in joining our friendly group please get in touch and more details will be given.

All sorts of other helpers are needed to make the show a success, from backstage to front of house, so please get in touch if you would like to be involved. You can find Harbury Theatre Group on Facebook and through the website.

Don't forget to put the dates in your diary - 27-29th November, with a Saturday matinee. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your laughter!



FOLK CLUB

Steve Darby

Number 457

The theme for the evening was "Countries" and Steve as MC began by telling the story of his business visit to Hong Kong many years ago when he became a temporary member of the Wanchai Hash House Harriers and had to run up Kowloon Peak being chased by dogs and had to beware of the odd snake. At the end of the race he faced the "Down Down" ritual by having to drink a pint of beer in one go and his failure meant his left-over liquid was poured over his head.

Sue and Maureen opened the first half singing with "High Germany" and "The Mingulay Boat Song" which originated from the Hebridean Islands and was written by Sir Hugh Roberts. The audience joined in with the chorus and applauded loudly as Maureen and Sue's harmonies were well received. Rik followed and began singing in German and then switched to English as he sang "Mac the Knife" which was a hit in 1959 by Bobby Darin but had been stolen from a German Musical. He followed this with "Rosalinda's Eyes" from Cuba. We then listened to the lovely voice of Cheryl as she sang her self-penned "This land is our land" followed by "Galway Shore". Jason told us of his experience of travelling in Uganda, working for an International Charity where they had taken in a million refugees. This motivated him to write the song, "This dry and dreary land". He also spent time in Pakistan where there were Afghanistan Refugees as well as the Taliban which prompted him to write "Let Me Sit at Your Feet". Peter closed the first half with the Reg Meuross song "England Green, England Grey" and then had the audience in fits of laughter with "They Never Mention the Flies", a tale about how Australians promote their wonderful land but never mention the flies.

The second half opened with lots of humor from the "Daft Dames" as they started with "By the Portals of Leamington" (to the tune of "By the Rivers of Babylon"), which portrayed the story of a poor train service experience from our local station and continued with, "Don't play me your Concertina" using the tune from Evita, "Don't cry for me Argentina". Both songs were adapted from Les Barker songs. Rik sang Abba's "Fernando" (a group from Sweden) and a song with a Mexican name. Peter sang "Shores of Old Blighty" which told of the journey a National Service Soldier made from England to Germany via Holland. Maureen and Sue sang, "Come by the Hills" which reflected the hills of Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The evening

closed with the beautiful big sound of Rumbe-o who started with "Queen Bee" followed by "Three Jolly Fishermen" and finished with "Galway Girl". Ed Wilson managed to link each of their songs to the evening's theme, Bees have Colonies, there's a lot of countries who fish and Galway speaks for itself!

Whilst there were not many performers throughout the evening, it was very entertaining with lots of quality, comedy and laughter, all mixed with serious and thoughtful themes. Everyone enjoyed the evening, which was reflected in the Charity raffle, which raised a very generous £91 for Dementia UK.

The next folk club will be hosted by Ian Hartland on Thursday 7th August and will be held for the first time in the Village Library. The theme for the evening is "Change".



HARBURY FOLK CLUB IS ON THE MOVE!

Peter McDonald

After 13 years at the Village Club, we are moving the Folk Club to the Village Library with effect from 7th August. We feel that, for small audiences, the Library is better suited to our brand of quiet folk music and it also has good acoustics. We're grateful to Michael Luntley for granting us permission and also for demonstrating that successful music events can be run there.

This will be the Folk Club's fourth venue in Harbury, having started at the Old New Inn in 1984. Later on, we moved to the Dog Inn and the Shakespeare before being invited to meet in the Village Club in 2012. We'd like to thank the staff at the Club for accommodating us since then.

What the Library doesn't have, of course, is a bar so we are asking everyone to bring their own drinks and glasses. We hope that you won't be put off by the idea of a folk club without a bar but, instead, enjoy the intimate atmosphere that the Library provides.

We'll continue to ask everyone to put £1 in the bucket to cover the hire fee and, of course, we'll continue with our regular charity raffles each month which have raised thousands of pounds over the past 40 years.

For more information on Harbury Folk Club, see the website at: tinyurl.com/harbury-folk-club or find us on Facebook.



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

The wonderful summer weather continues to make the village a delight and at the Heritage Centre we have been pleased to welcome visitors, particularly those who bring in documents and photographs that we can scan and add to our archives.

Our recent 'wedding display photographs from the 'Mike Bloxham' Collection' prompted Harbury resident, Gerald Stowe, to bring in his wedding day album from 1968, the year he married Kathleen. Gerald was a carpenter who was travelling to Harbury to work on the refurbishment of the Co-op when he met Kathleen. She had just left school and was working at the store when the two started dating. They have been happily married now for nearly 60

years. Charlie Gladden, another welcome visitor, brought in family albums and these included his grandad's wedding; Bryan Wallington marrying Marie. Other photographs we copied from Charlie's family albums include Marie's father, George 'Bunny' Rabey, working on the recreation ground at the Harbury Cement Works and two photographs of the pavilions, long gone now, the sports pavilion and the bowls pavilion. There is also a photograph of the Works' cricket team when George was a team member.

Local resident, Philip Cambray, also brought in photographs of the Cement Works, and some of its staff. He had worked there alongside his father. There was also a Harbury Albion football team photograph which included Philip. Posting this on our Facebook page has led to all of the players being identified. Thank you to all those who make the effort to post this information.

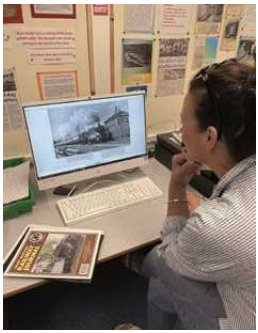


Les Sollis, always a helpful source of village information, posted another football team photograph on Facebook, dated 1978. Les was able to provide names of the players, including himself. All of these photographs we have scanned and copied (with permission) and they have now been added to our growing collection.

Open Gardens at the end of June was once again a huge success, this coupled with the Warwickshire Open Studios, meant the village had many more visitors than usual. The Heritage Centre was open on Sunday 29th during Open Gardens and we had a steady flow of visitors of all ages. We were able to serve them with a cream tea and payment for this has helped to boost our funds. Thank you to all those who came to see us!

At the Carnival we offered people the opportunity to 'come on a village tour' – these are usually offered to other history groups and societies from around the area, however we were delighted to invite 'local' people to find out more about the history of the village. It's not too late to register interest via the email address on our website. Hopefully, we will be able to report back on this next month together with a visit from the Kineton and District History Society, who came and enjoyed our hospitality on Friday 18th July.

Work on the **Eco Homes**, off Bush Heath Lane, and the **Great Western Public House** at Depper's Bridge is progressing at a fast pace. Siobhan Dodd, the Creative Director of the Great Western project, visited the Centre in July to seek out suitable photographs and documents that could be used to add a 'local flavour' to the building's interior. Right: Siobhan is shown researching at the Centre.



We were delighted to be able to provide Siobhan with lots of material. We are really looking forward to the Great Western returning to its former glory; it is planning to re-open at the end of August. A photograph of the pub in August 1964 appeared on Facebook; it is shown here courtesy of Bryan Hicks.



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Tim Lockley
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On Sunday 13th the Earlsdon WI visited the Centre and enjoyed the hospitality of our own WI who provided afternoon tea. The ladies spent time walking around the village armed with 'War Memorial Trail Guides', in order to seek out some of the blue plaques locations.


Lin Hayes welcoming the WI visitors

Our annual **Village Treasure Hunt** will take place on **Sunday 21st September from 2pm**. Come along and take part with friends, family and pets. Amazingly, we are keeping the cost at £5 per team for yet another year. There will be prizes for everyone and a large hamper of goodies for the overall winning team. Look out for the poster in September for more details.

OPEN TIMES of the Heritage Centre to the public in August and September are as follows:

August Tuesday 5th 7 to 9pm and Sunday 17th 2 to 4pm

September Tuesday 2nd 7 to 9pm and Sunday 21st 2 to 4pm (Treasure Hunt Day).

Hope to see you on one or all of these days!

www.harburyheritage.org.uk | group@harburyheritage.org.uk | FB: *Harbury Heritage Centre*

HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Celia Neill

Before we write about future plans, we thought it would be good to tell you a bit more about our trip to France in May. Samois is a lovely village SE of Paris surrounded by the forest of Fontainebleau and on the banks of the river Seine. Some drove there but most of us arrived by minibus. We were greeted enthusiastically by the school children singing both English and French songs. We were then welcomed to the homes of our various hosts, old and new.

During our fabulous weekend we took part in various activities including a quiz and walks in the forest and by the Seine. We also had plenty of opportunities to sample French cuisine. Most of us managed a visit to Paris to see the wonderfully restored Notre Dame Cathedral. We were impressed by the speed of the rebuilding work and the use of modern technology combined with the use of original building techniques.

Following our return to Harbury, we had an afternoon tea when with a chance to reminisce and look at photos. We have also had a BBQ at the home of our chairman, and we will have a meal together as a late celebration of Bastille Day!

We are now thinking about the return visit next year to maintain a now long standing friendship. There is a lot of enthusiasm from the young people of Samois to keep the friendship going and there is a lot of interest in encouraging links with the school. Please do get in touch if you are interested in joining this friendly group.


School children on our arrival



Notre Dame



Families joining for a meal

Our visit to Samois May 2025



A street in Samois



Fontainebleau Forest



Meal for everyone

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Colin Mercer

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



The Club got into Wimbledon mood with our annual Strawberry tournament played on a glorious evening during which, of course, there were generous helpings of strawberries and cream! The 16 players split into two groups of eight to play three round robin matches, each one with a different partner. There were some extremely competitive matches with Lucy Ewen, Jeunine Crabtree, Sue Panton and Ed Lockley getting maximum points to qualify for the final. This was also very close and had to be settled with a tiebreak won by Sue and Ed who were presented with the Owen Bowl.



The summer leagues are down to the last few matches and in Division two of the Banbury league the "A" team has hit a rich vein of form, winning the last four matches to take them to first place. The most recent was at Deddington where Eira Owen, Emma Brangwin, Jeunine Crabtree, Ben Fish, Ed Lockley and Josh Marshall were too strong for the home team and recorded a 9-0 win.

In Division 4 the "B" team has won its last two matches, the last when Charlbury "C" came to Harbury. Lucy Ewen, Helen Cooper, Sue Panton, Nigel Eaton, Ian Reynolds and Colin Mercer were in excellent form and stormed to a 9-0 win. This took Harbury to the top position so with four matches to play there's the possibility of a double promotion – I hope that doesn't prove to be the "commentator's curse"!

In the Warwickshire Seniors league we made the short trip to Stratford and came home with an excellent 5-3 win. Nigel Eaton and Nick Dale won both sets in the men's doubles while Eira Owen and Helen Cooper drew theirs, one set all, to give Harbury a narrow lead going into the two mixed doubles. These were very close with both clubs winning one to secure the win for Harbury and take us to a mid-table sixth position.

The 2024-25 coaching programme has now finished and has been very successful and enjoyed by all the Juniors, Adults and Pickleballers who took part. Many thanks to coolsportz coaches, Ian Shorrocks and Ed Spilman for their hard work and enthusiasm that made the programme a success. The 2025-26 programme will start in September. For more details please contact Lianne Candappa at: Lianne@coolsportz.co.uk or phone/text her on 07919 104093.

HARBURY CUBS

David Bristow

Harbury Cubs are looking for help. Might you have occasional Wednesday evenings free? I did - until, that is, my grandson started Cubs. My introduction was when I took him to a session at Ufton Fields. The car park was the meeting point. We were significantly delayed, I can't remember why, but rather than let him miss the whole session I decided to take him to

catch up with the pack. Of course, they had long since left the car park when we got there but we eventually found them - building dens in the woods! It just looked like a lot of fun. And it is.

There are so many badges for the Cubs to choose from, that any interest anybody has can be shared with the pack. And their enthusiasm is infectious. We have played any number of games for the Teamwork and Team Leader Challenge badges, drawn pictures and made posters, done quizzes, cut up fruit and cooked burgers, toasted marshmallows, used torches to send Morse code messages for the Communicator badge, cycled and pumped up tyres for the Cyclist badge, and tied knots and made ballistas for the Pioneer badge.

Lots of our activities are outside the hut - canoeing, Aqua Jungle, tennis, cricket, picking up litter, visits to the fire station and to the Leamington Gurdwara. We have been out visiting the local area for the Naturalist Badge, dropped raw eggs from great heights for the Scientist badge (only one broke!), and run the Athletics badge in an evening. We have had visits from a guide dog and a wheelchair user for the Disability Awareness badge, from a Tai Chi instructor, and from a friend who taught us a Bhangra dance. And then there are the local hikes, especially the one to Bishops for a pack of chips, and, of course, the Cub camps.



Could you be too old to help? No. Do you need to have a grandchild or know any children in the group? No. Is it a regular commitment that is a tie? No. You give as little or as much time as you can spare - just come when you can. Some volunteers just help with the occasional session. Others just help with camps. Can't make Wednesdays? Other sections meet on different evenings. Do you have to have been a Cub, Brownie, Scout or Guide yourself? Certainly not, but if you were one, you will know how much young people get out of the Scout movement. Do you need any expertise? No. You start just by being an extra pair of

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29 & 30 AUGUST 2025

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* w: how.camra.org.uk
e: events@how.camra.org.uk

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Refreshments in aid of WCS Care

Harbury Garden Walkabo

Photos by Ph

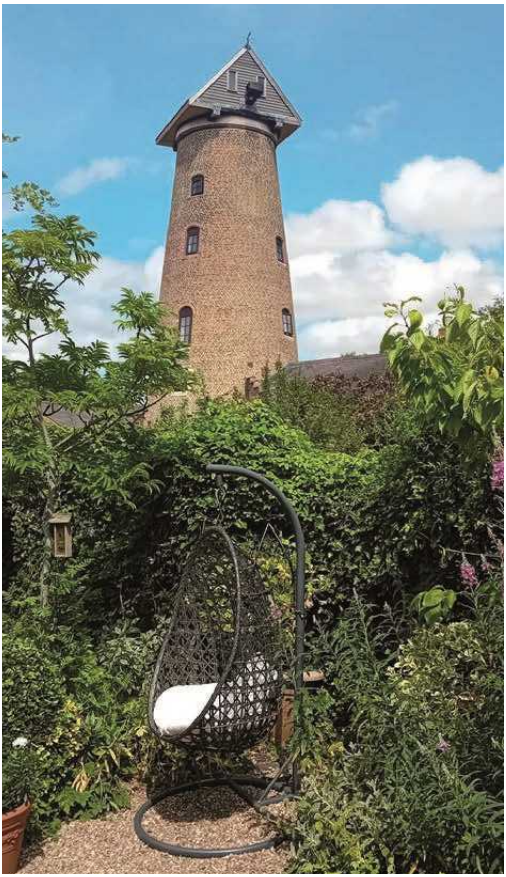






ut 28th & 29th June 2025
il Thompson









We hope you are enjoying your Summer so far?! We still have lots of things planned in the coming months. Plus with the school holidays in full swing don't forget "My Freespirit" loyalty card offer of KIDS EAT FREE. head to the website to find out more!

PIE NIGHT

Every Tuesday tuck into a Chef's pie and a complimentary select drink

BURGER NIGHT

Every Thursday enjoy one of our delicious Burgers served with a complimentary select House Drink

HAPPY HOUR

Every Friday from 4pm-7pm
Draft Beer: £4.75 a pint (Excludes Guinness)
House Wine: 175ml Glass of one of our House Wines £6.00
Prosecco: Glass of Prosecco, just £6.50

LIVE MUSIC AT THE BELL

Last Friday of the month from 6pm

Enjoy great vibes at The Bell with Live Music on the last Friday of every Month throughout Summer.

THE BELL'S BANK HOLIDAY BASH

Sunday 24th August | from 4pm

Join us for our Bank Holiday Party here at The Bell! An unforgettable afternoon of fun, food, and festivities! Freespirit Foodtruck, Live Music, Bouncy Castle and Ice Cream Trike.

OUR BRAND NEW SHEPHERD'S HUT ACCOMMODATION

We are thrilled to introduce our brand-new Shepherd's Huts! Whether you are looking for a peaceful escape, a romantic getaway, or simply a place to stay after enjoying an evening at the pub, our Shepherd's Huts offer a welcoming and memorable experience.

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

hands and a pair of adult eyes. If you decide to develop your role, the training and the Scout resources are very good. Don't fancy Cubs, which is mostly boys of middle junior age? There are Rainbows, Brownies and Guides which are just for girls, or Beavers for younger boys and girls, or Scouts for older boys and girls, and Explorers for young people up to 18. You'd like to help, but would prefer to do admin rather than directly helping with activities? The group would bite your hand off! You would rather deal with adults than children? The Group needs trustees.

Seriously - the Cubs and the other sections only exist because there are volunteers to run them, and if you are able to offer any help - any help at all, no matter how little - you would be very welcome. Anyone over 18 is eligible to volunteer, and we would be delighted to have you.

If you would like to know more, you are welcome to ring me on 07511 679312.

1ST HARBURY SCOUT GROUP & HARBURY EXPLORERS

Katharine Giblin

News from 1st Harbury Group

As we break for the summer holidays it has been another fun and varied term for our scouting sections who have all done lots of outdoor activities. For example, Time on the Water, which is one of the staged badges which continues all the way through scouting, was awarded to Beavers who had fun on pedalos, Cubs kayaking on the River Leam, Scouts who went to Aqua Jungle and Explorers doing paddleboarding. This demonstrates the variety of age-appropriate activities that our young people get to experience in scouting in Harbury.

Looking ahead to September, we still have a bottleneck with numbers in Cubs with a small waiting list and healthy numbers in Beavers and Scouts. Explorers we are still looking to grow from channels outside of scouting so, if you know of any boys or girls aged 14+ who would be interested in trying out Explorers in September, email: harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Beavers (6-8 yrs) – Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm

Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Wednesdays 6.15-7.45pm

Scouts (10½ -14 yrs) – Thursdays 7-8.30/9pm

Explorers (14-18 yrs) – Wednesdays 8-9.15/9.30pm

Our adult volunteers also take a much-earned rest over the summer holidays, but we appreciate everything they do for scouting to keep our young people safe and to provide a fun, balanced programme for them. Thanks to Rob Goode who was a Team Member in Explorers and to Will Ford and SJ Colley for their past contribution supporting several of our sections; we wish them all well as they finish in their scouting roles.

We are always in need of new adult members so if this is something you might be interested in doing then hopefully the article from David Bristow will inspire you to get involved. You can email harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

News from Harbury Explorers





During May/June Harbury Explorers had fun with wheelbarrows in the park, went on a chippy hike from Harbury to Bishops Itchington, did some Arabic cooking outside and paddleboarding on the River Leam.





End of June was our summer camp over at Hatton Scout Campsite which involved activities using axes and a bandsaw and, in the evening, cooking food over fires and sleeping in tents.





During July we did volleyball at the park, attended the District BBQ with the other Leamington Explorer units and we finished the term with an exciting karting session at Mr Karting.

Wishing everyone a good summer holidays and see you in September.

HARBURY TODDLER GROUP

Emily Robinson

As the summer term comes to a close, we've rounded off the year at Harbury Toddler Group with a flurry of excitement, cake crumbs, bubble wands, and one or two sticky fingers.

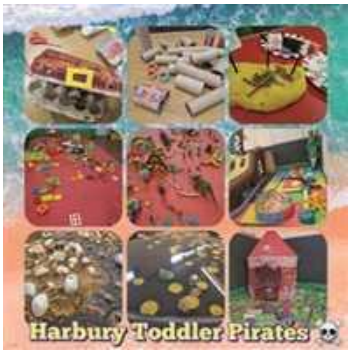




We kicked off July with *Teddy Bears' Picnic Week* - and what a treat it was! The children carefully made their very own teddy lunch bags, filled with a sandwich, fruit, cracker, gingerbread man and a cupcake to decorate. The real challenge? Getting the food into the bag *without eating it first*. Self-control levels were tested, but I was so proud of how sensible everyone was – especially outdoors where we sang songs and watched a failing bubble machine try to work!

The following week, the Scout Hut was transformed into a *pirate's den* for Seaside Week. We had an inflatable pirate ship with a mischievous snake puppet (the kind only a brave toddler would dare to board), a reading cave for pirate tales, panning for gems, and yes - *walking the plank* (no toddlers were harmed in the process). Crafting got old school with egg box treasure chests and Blue Peter–worthy loo roll binoculars, before I was ambushed by a fleet of mini-pirates during a chaotic game of Grandmother's Footsteps. I'm still recovering.







Our final session of the term was a beautiful *End of Term Party* and a chance to celebrate our little ones moving up to Big School in September. With sand between our toes, we made colourful fruit kebabs, enjoyed making live music with Rachel from Rhyme Time. To our fabulous leavers - we'll miss you so much and wish you nothing but fun and adventures in your new settings!





In our last newsletter, I mentioned what a special asset this group

is to the village. Harbury Toddler Group has been running as a volunteer-led charity for over 40 years. It's been a warm, welcoming space for countless families - a Monday morning lifeline where friendships are made over tea, toys, and the occasional toddler tantrum. In this world of technology and WhatsApp groups, the benefit of a face to face group for both parents and children is more crucial than ever.



A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have kept this tradition alive - especially Lynne Barton and friends, who originally stepped in as a Nana "for a couple of years" and ended up running it for over ten, with the amazing support of her charity, Entrust Care Partnership. More recently, the reins were taken up by Chrissie Field and Emily Montague, who steered the good ship Toddler Group through many glitter storms.

As a volunteer-run organisation, I'm sure you'll agree how lucky we are to have this little gem in our village. I'm delighted to announce that a kind volunteer has stepped forward with lots of exciting ideas for the future - so the doors will be swinging open again in September!

It's been an absolute pleasure to step into my teaching shoes again this term and spend time with your wonderful children. Thank you for the warm welcome, the support, and the biscuit bribes. Have a fantastic summer - see you in September!

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Staff and Committee

OFSTED Inspection

We had an OFSTED inspection last month and we are delighted to announce that we have been awarded Outstanding.

The children on the day were all amazing and the inspector enjoyed spending time with the children and staff. She went away with cards and pictures drawn by the children.

Things we are particularly proud of:

"Staff consistently demonstrate exemplary practice across the provision, serving as excellent role models for children."

"Staff are exceptional role models for children's communication and language. They skilfully deliver targeted interventions that support children in making substantial progress in their attention, listening, and speaking skills."

"Staff deploy themselves effectively to ensure high levels of interaction."

"Staff are consistent and sensitive as they support children to make positive behaviour choices. They skilfully engage children when they struggle to follow the rules, and this supports them in understanding staff expectations."

This couldn't be achieved without the whole team who strive daily to provide a fun environment where children grow and thrive. Thank you again to all of the parents and Committee who have been so supportive.

The inspection report is available to read on the Ofsted website.

Warwickshire Inclusion Kitemarking Scheme

We are delighted to also share that we were also awarded Silver last week by Warwickshire Inclusion Kite-Marking Scheme for our support of children with SEND. We attended an award ceremony last week and were presented with our certificate.



Time for School

Earlier this month, many of our children have been in to visit their new schools and meet their new teachers. They have returned enthusiastic and excited to share their experiences. We have also welcomed Reception Teachers to the Pre-School to meet the children.





We have set up a role play school in pre-school. There is uniform for the children to try on, books about starting school, exercise books with pencils and magnetic letters. We clearly have some budding teachers in our midst who have really enjoyed teaching and allocating play time to each other!

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported Pre-School when we opened up our outdoor garden area for Harbury Open Gardens. The weekend was a great success and everyone enjoyed the children's activities and refreshments while we raised funds for the Pre-School.

If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please contact us for a chat or to arrange a visit via e-mail enquiries@harburypre-school.org.uk text 07907 598461 or look at the web site www.harburypre-school.org.uk 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

Geography, Art and Book Week- finished collages

As part of Geography, Art and Book Week, we looked at the stunning picture books of **Jeannie Baker**, including *Window, Belonging,* and *Where the Forest Meets the Sea.* These visually rich stories link closely to the **National Curriculum for Geography**, helping children to explore important themes such as environmental change, urban growth, deforestation, and how humans interact with the natural world. Each illustration is a collage, which we tried to replicate. Do you like our windows? These will become a permanent display in school.



Sports Day

We had a fantastic Sports Day filled with energy, fun, and sunshine! The weather was perfect, and it was wonderful to see so many parents and families joining us for a picnic afterwards. The children all tried their best in every event, proudly demonstrating our school values of **perseverance and teamwork**. It was a day to remember - well done to everyone who took part!

Al-la-la-la-din



The Year 5 and 6 performances of *Al-la-la-la-la-laddin* were absolutely fantastic. The children sang beautifully - several even performed impressive solos - and the acting and energy on stage were a joy to watch. Families and friends filled the hall with support and applause, and many commented on the high standard of the production. A big thank you to everyone who helped with costumes, learning lines, and making the show such a success.

Have a lovely summer break all.

HARBURY SCHOOL PTA

Alice Mellings

Fundraising

Our last fundraising event for the academic year was sports day, selling ice creams after a lovely morning watching the children's races followed by a family picnic which was a huge success; we also sold ice creams on the last day of term which made an income of £250 which will go straight back in to funding the school.

What we have contributed towards



We have said good bye to the year 6's at the end of team, we helped them to celebrate by paying for the coach for their trip to Drayton Manor and also contributing towards the bouncy castle and food for their leavers party at the Shakespeare on the last day of term. I was honoured to be able to frequent the pub and see the children have such fun together celebrating well into the evening. Good Luck to all the children next year starting Secondary School.

We have also provided the school with a maths resource this month to help enrich the children's learning and we have been kindly donated a leaf blower we will gift to the school in order to help maintain the school grounds.

Thank you to everyone who supports the PTA and intern supports the school, enriching the children's learning environment.

Dates for the Diary

Our AGM will be held on the 2nd October 2025 from 7pm, all are invited to come along.

Painting & Decorating by Lana

please get in touch to arrange your free quotation and to discuss your project further

07535 622707
homeandgarden33@gmail.com

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Lottery

Join our Lottery: This is an easy way to support our school and have a chance to win some cash!

Join now and prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd numbers drawn, and 50% of all proceeds go directly back to school.

There will be a roll over due to the summer break, join now as there are big prizes that could be won!

Contact us on harburypta@gmail.com if you want a form to join.



Ongoing Fundraising

Join easyfundraising and support the PTA for FREE!

Just search **easyfundraising** and search: **Harbury School PTA**

Harbury School PTA for all your PTA updates.

HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

Resources for the summer holidays...all available at your local Community Library:

We've got lots of books, but so much more with access not just to our Harbury holdings, but across the County service....magazines, papers, audio books, music. And if you're not already a ticket holder, you can join the County library online or join at the Library desk, but don't forget to bring some ID with your address on.

And our resources are being upgraded. Thanks to a grant from the Parish Council, we are installing new computers (the old ones are not compatible with Windows update). We are hoping to re-configure the computer space to make it more comfortable and serviceable for those who want to work in the Library. And if anyone wants the old computers, let us know by leaving your details with the volunteers on the desk.

The summer craft session for children (must be accompanied by an adult) will be on Tuesday 12th August, 2.15 – 3.30pm. Over the summer break 'Tunes & Tales' with be running a little later than usual, starting at 9.30 with occasional guest story-readers making an appearance.

And if you know a primary school child who is thinking of entering the BBC 500 words competition, we are hoping to put on a few readings of stories by last year's finalists plus opportunity for advice on first drafts for any child thinking of entering. Watch out for posters, fb posts for this. The competition opens 23rd September with a 7th November closing date. Lots of information and examples of stories from last year's finalists available at www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words.

After trialling poetry readings around the garden walkabout this summer, we are starting a Library initiative to take poetry out into the community. Poetry is fun, poetry is normal. Starting in September, we're hosting a poetry evening at The Crown Inn on the evening of the first Tuesday of the month. Bring along a favourite poem you'd like to share with others - a classic, a bit of whimsy or maybe something you've written.....Playing with words - it's a

fun thing. So come along for a poem and a pint, or a haiku and a half, something deep and moving, or a bit of whimsy and a laugh.

Our library is a charity. We raise our own money to keep going. Our wonderful Biblio's cafe provides for our basic expenditure, but otherwise we apply for grants and fundraise. We have a fundraising coffee morning, 10.00am – 12 noon at the Tom Hauley Room on 9th August. It would be lovely to see you there!



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

There is a bramble hedge just outside one of the kitchen windows, not the most beautiful sight but it is such an attraction for wildlife which I think you'll agree we need to encourage. Right now (10th July) it is swarming with insects including bees, butterflies, moths, hover flies, ladybirds and many more. Lesser whitethroats have produced two broods this year, last year blackcaps were nesting here too. It's fascinating to have such a close-up view of all this activity. The only downside is that bramble seedlings pop up all over the garden, often in the middle of a shrub making it hard to remove.

I'm not giving you lists of things to do. If this extended dry weather with high temperatures continues then there won't be much that can be done. I'm anxious about the lack of rain and the effects it will have on trees and other plants and I'm bored of watering. Many crops might fail or be less productive. But most plants are amazingly resilient and seem to recover from all the extremes the weather dishes out. We can only wait and see.

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



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

During the Swift Awarenes Week activity at Harbury library last month, Amanda was approached by Bird's Walk resident Judy Piper who said, "You've told us all about Swifts, but what about our amazing House Martins? We've had two or three pairs nesting on our house over the last few years. They are an absolute delight to watch and listen to - and there's quite a colony over the David Wilson Homes estate!" So Amanda promised to write about House Martins in this month's Nature Notes! Thank you, Judy, for your great idea!

Like Swallows (to whom they are related), House Martins usually arrive in the UK a little earlier than Swifts, reaching us in April. They are summer migrants departing in September and October, when they head back to Africa for the winter. While the migration routes and wintering areas of Swifts and Swallows are known, the precise locations of wintering House Martins within the sub-Saharan African continent remain somewhat of a mystery.

Although still numerous and widespread, recent declines have earned House Martins a place on the Red List of endangered species. Scientists don't fully understand the reasons for the declines, but we do know that birds who build nests on uPVC as opposed to brick, concrete or wood have much lower breeding success; nests are more likely to collapse on the uPVC substrate. Until the 1990s, many House Martin nests could be seen on houses in the Manor Orchard estate and on Mill Street. Sadly, none now exist, presumably because uPVC has



House Martins collecting mud
(Kathy Büscher)

replaced wood on most of these homes. However, encouragingly, they have taken up residence on the rendered, stone and brick homes around Hereburgh Way, Bird's Walk and Hawtin End.

The House Martin is a small bird with glossy blue-black upper parts, a tell-tale white rump and pure white under parts. Unlike a Swallow's tail, its short forked tail has no 'streamers'. A House Martin is smaller than a Swift or a Swallow, with a plumper body and shorter, straighter wings.

House Martins will return from their African wintering grounds to the same nesting sites each year. A pair works together to build an intricate nest, using around a thousand pellets of mud, each carefully collected using their beaks. They can reuse their old nests, saving them about ten days' work collecting mud, so please don't knock down an empty nest. The pair will usually have two broods of four or five eggs in a single summer.



House Martin Nests in Spain
(Martin Randall)

House Martins tend to nest in colonies, sometimes with several nests built side-by-side. We saw these in spectacular numbers in May, while on holiday near Girona, in Spain. The mud nests are usually built under the eaves of houses (hence the bird's name), but they may also nest on cliffs. Unlike the Swallow's open cup nest, House Martins only leave a small opening at the top of their nest and as the chicks grow, they can often be seen peeking out from the hole, impatiently awaiting their next meal.

Whilst House Martins rely on buildings for nesting, they need both plenty of insect food nearby and also a source of mud for nest construction. Earlier in the summer, you may well have seen a large, noisy group of chirruping House Martins gathering mud in the gateway on Bush Heath Lane, just beyond Henry's Place. Ideally, the best way to help nesting House Martins is to create a pond with a muddy edge. But if this is not possible, you can still help by providing them with a tray of wet mud! Make sure this tray is on open ground, away from vegetation where cats may hide, waiting to pounce on the House Martins. As well as providing nesting material, ponds are great for attracting lots of insects for food. Planting native trees, shrubs and wild flowers will further increase insect populations to keep not just House Martins but other insectivores well fed.



House Martins at the nest
(Martin Randall)

Another way to help House Martins is to provide artificial nest cups (available to purchase from the RSPB and Wildlife Trusts, as well as elsewhere online). If you have to remove nests to do renovation works make sure it is outside of their nesting season (it is illegal to remove or disturb an active nest of any bird in the UK). Replacing the removed nests with artificial ones will encourage returning birds to stay and continue to breed. If you don't have any suitable eaves you could create your own by fixing a 200mm+ wooden board to create an overhang.

Unlike the cleaner Swifts, House Martins do leave droppings and this can be an issue for some people. However, the droppings are easily removed with a hosepipe or brush. A droppings board can be placed at least two metres below the nest cups to catch any mess. In some cultures, House Martins are seen as symbols of good luck and protection, particularly when they choose to nest on a person's home!

These small but striking birds are a delight to watch as they swoop and dive to catch insects in mid-air. They'll be with us for several more weeks yet, so make the most of these engaging visitors by finding somewhere to watch them! Locally over the Harbury houses (Judy says that you are welcome to watch her three nests on the corner of Bird's Walk) or skimming nearby lakes, catching insects to fuel their return migration.

For further information about the conservation of House Martins, and how to record your sightings, visit housemartinconservation.com/

Reporting your sightings of any wildlife and plants, not just House Martins or Swifts, makes a valuable contribution to the conservation of nature in the UK. The data are used by conservation organisations, local authorities and researchers to make informed decisions about land management and habitat protection, as well as decisions about planning applications. We use the iNaturalist app, but others are available.

HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

District Councillor Susan Ostrander (LibDem)
(susan4harbury@gmail.com or sue.ostrander@straford-dc.gov.uk)

Policing and Community Safety Focus

As a result of conversations with residents I thought it might be useful to focus this month on community safety. I hope the following information is useful.

In June the Stratford District Council Cabinet endorsed the Community Safety priorities for 2025 to 2029, which was agreed by the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (see graphic for details). Now an action plan will be designed to map out the next steps.



Thank you to all residents who continue to report crimes and also completed the 'Your Say On Community Safety' Survey as this has informed these priorities and therefore the action plan to tackle these priorities.

If you are interested in the crimes that have been reported in our area and want to see trends in the data then visit:

Southam | Your area | Warwickshire Police | Warwickshire Police

Furthermore, if you would like advice on how to prevent crime try here:

Crime prevention advice | Warwickshire Police

Finally, Warwickshire Connected is a free messaging service brought to you by Warwickshire Police. Use it to tell us your priorities, find out what we're doing to tackle them and be the first to hear the facts about any incidents and emergencies near you.

Your input helps shape what we do to tackle crime and bring offenders to justice, making your neighbourhood a better place.

Home Page - Warwickshire Connected

How to Report a Crime in Warwickshire

Is it an **Emergency**? Call **999** if:

- There is an **immediate danger to life**
- **Violence is being used or threatened**
- A **crime is happening right now** (e.g. burglary or theft)
- The **suspect is still on the scene**

For hearing or speech impairments

- Text **999** via emergencySMS (you must pre-register)
- Use **18000** on a textphone
- Use **999 BSL** to contact via a British Sign Language interpreter

If it's Not an Emergency…

Call 101

For non-urgent reports or concerns that don't require immediate police response.

Report Online

Go to: **www.warwickshire.police.uk**

✔ Step-by-step form to direct your report to the right team

✔ Ideal for reporting crimes after they've happened

In Person

Visit your nearest police station – useful if:

- You have detailed information
- You prefer face-to-face assistance

Report Anonymously

Contact **Crimestoppers**

0800 555 111

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

✔ No personal information required

✔ 100% confidential

Be Ready to Provide:

- What happened (a detailed description)
- Time and location of the incident
- Information about any suspects or witnesses
- Any evidence (photos, video, etc.)

Stay Safe with the Hollie Guard App

As part of this month's focus on community safety, Stratford District Council would like to highlight a powerful tool that could help keep you and your loved ones safer: the **Hollie Guard app**.

Hollie Guard is a **free personal safety app** designed to provide reassurance and protection at the touch of a button. Whether you're walking home alone, going for a run, or working in the community, the app can quickly alert your chosen emergency contacts if you feel unsafe.

Once activated, Hollie Guard can:

- **Track your location in real time**
- **Send alerts** with audio and video to your emergency contacts
- **Trigger an alarm** to deter potential threats
- Provide a **"Journey" feature** to safely monitor travel routes

The app was developed by the **Hollie Gazzard Trust**, a charity set up in memory of Hollie Gazzard, who tragically lost her life to domestic abuse. The Trust now works to promote personal safety and help prevent abuse and violence.

Hollie Guard is easy to use and available to download on both **iOS and Android** devices. It is especially helpful for lone workers, teenagers, older adults, and anyone who may feel vulnerable in certain situations.

Please consider downloading it or sharing the information with friends, neighbours, or family members who may benefit. It's a small step that could make a big difference to someone's safety.

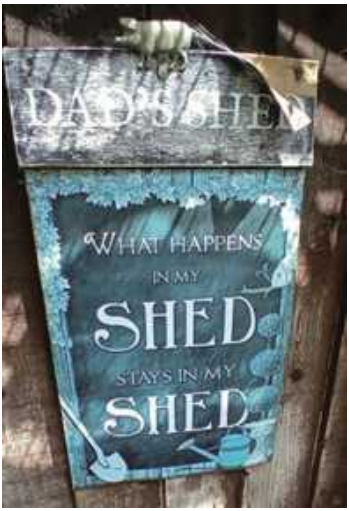


THANK YOU FOR CHARITIES' SUPPORT

Peter Walshe, Trustee, Harbury e-Wheels

The Garden Walkabout was a great success, not only because the weather was lovely over the two days, or that so many fabulous gardens were open, but because it raised excellent funds for charities.





Wendy Hancox and helpers were packed out all day, both days, and the lunches and teas raised a staggering £1,260 (£630 to each of Affected by Bowel Cancer, ABC Club, and Shipston Home Carers). Congratulations to her and all who assisted.

The Church also did well with teas and cakes in the Tom Hauley Room, with added Bell Ringing on the Sunday.

And e-Wheels benefitted by £2,602.87 particularly boosted by over £300 from Jeremy Atkins opening his Windmill for fascinating Guided Tours, Alison Lewis from her tremendous tea and cakes with £197 raised, and a donation of £50 from the sales of Nick & Susie Tawney's pots.

Thank you and let's hope for as kind weather next year on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June.

HARBURY BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

Julie Griffiths, Chair, Heart of Warwickshire CAMRA

The **2025 Harbury Beer & Cider Festival** held on the last weekend of August is our 32nd festival and promises to be a very special occasion. Opening times are Friday 29th August: 11.00am – 11.00pm and Saturday 30th August: 11.00am – 11.00pm.

The festival will feature 30 plus different beers, mostly from Mid Derbyshire, with a few from some of our best local breweries. For lovers of apples and pears there will also be a selection of ciders and perries for you to enjoy (the beer and cider list is available on the website). New this year, there will also be a small selection of wine.

Festival entry on the door costs **£20 for single-day entry** or **£35 for two-day entry**. Tickets are always available on the door, but you can save money if you buy tickets in advance (see our website – **www.how.camra.org.uk** for details).

As usual, the Hereburgh Morris Dancers will be entertaining us on Saturday afternoon and covers band Muve On are making a second festival appearance at 8:00pm.

The festival offers free entry and two free soft drinks to designated drivers. Children are welcome in the hall before 7.00pm and the area outside the festival at any time, but are not allowed in the bar area. Why not bring games to keep children entertained and take advantage of the playground next to the hall? Food and soft drinks are available in the hall too.

If you fancy volunteering to help set up, run and take down the festival, details are on the website.



BUMPS & BUNDLES

Carol Jackson and the Bumps team

"Bumps" has been meeting every Tuesday in the Tom Hauley Room from 10.30am - 12 noon. We have now "broken up" for the Summer holidays and hope to start again in September.

It is an outreach from the church and hopes to help Mums, Dads and childminders with babies and toddlers up to the age of three. We don't actually "do" very much each Tuesday morning except to offer a place for you to sit quietly and have a cup of tea/coffee while the little ones play on the mats or with the many toys available.

The adults are able to swap ideas and new Mums are always happy to know their child is not the only one who ……..! Pregnant Mums and Dads are always welcome.

A lot of our little bundles will be starting Toddler group or Playgroup in September and we wish them all the best. We would like to welcome new Mums in September, we've seen quite a few people with tiny babies in prams – please come along and see what we offer.



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Sheila Burtt

The summer has seen us going further afield for our walks in the last month. In June we travelled to Henley in Arden where we enjoyed wild flower meadows full of butterflies, Fenny Compton and enjoyed a pub lunch at Fleur de Lys at Lowsonford after a very enjoyable walk. So far this month we've been down to the edge of the Cotswolds with a walk at Hornton and a local stroll from Southam and the Holy Well (the oldest Holy Well in England!)

If you would like to join us, just turn up at the village hall car park for 9.40am any Wednesday morning. You can find our programme of walks on the diary pages of HLN.



HARBURY VILLAGE SHOW – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Village Show Committee

We're inviting entries across a wide spread of categories:

- 🥕 Vegetables & Fruit – From prize-winning marrows to the heaviest potato.
- 🌷 Flowers & Flower Arranging – Show off your blooms or your bouquet skills.
- 🍰 Food & Baking – Liqueurs, cakes, jams and more – flavour meets flair!
- 🧶 Crafts – Knitting, woodwork, upcycled wonders – creativity knows no bounds.
- 🎨 Art & Photography – Whether you paint with a brush or capture the moment with a lens.

For the Children we have:

- 🥕 Growing.
- 🧶 Making.
- 🍰 Baking

Or what about painting a pebble?



This year, the growing season has again been challenging, with last year's deluges being replaced by long drought conditions, but some things in the garden or allotments will have flourished. What you couldn't show last year may be this year's prize winner!

In all of our categories, you don't have to be an expert – just someone who wants to give it a go!

Schedules are available from the Library, the Milk Shed, the Post Office, or can be downloaded from: hlnews.co.uk/harbury-village-show.html

HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

No Market this month. The next Market is Saturday 27th September.

Facebook @Harbury Local Market, please join our group for regular updates.

Our Sponsors:









CONNECTIONS CARERS' GROUP

Janice Montague

Please note that there will be no meeting of the above in August as we are taking a short summer break. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 17th September in the Tom Hauley Room at 2pm**. We look forward to seeing all carers, and those for whom they care, for a convivial and supportive session. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please contact one of us (details below).

Jill Baker - 07747 430470 **Janice Montague** - 07956 195405



HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE

Amanda Randall

Contact Harbury Swifts: swifts.harbury@gmail.com

A huge thank you to all the people who have taken part in the first Harbury Swift Survey.

For the team of surveyors, there has been a feeling that we have observed more swifts in Harbury than we have seen for a long time. This may be because more pairs of eyes have been looking out for the birds, but contributors to the Swift Local Network, (a group of individuals and small organisations across the UK who are actively involved in swift conservation) have reported that 2025 has been a good summer for swifts in many parts of the UK.

In fact, the Bristol Swifts Blog goes as far as saying that this has been one of the best swift seasons in the 20 years they have been monitoring the birds. The hot, sunny weather has been good for swift chicks, with their parents finding plenty of insect food for them, and many were able to fledge early. However, when temperatures rise above 30 degrees, fledglings can try to leave the nest too early and fall to the ground, beneath the nest site. Swift rehabbers were kept very busy during the hot weather; in Europe it was worse and rehabbers struggled to keep up with the numbers of casualties being brought to them.

The purpose of the swift survey was to identify and record the exact location of swift nest sites in and around Harbury in order to:

- protect nest sites in case of property renovation, repair etc
- diversify and expand existing colonies by possible future provision of nest boxes
- raise public awareness of the plight of Swifts

We will be collating all the Harbury survey data this month and making sure the relevant

information is recorded on the RSPB SwiftMapper app so that our data are widely available to conservation groups.

The information we have been recording has been the locations where swifts have been flying fast and low at roof-top height, often in groups and often screaming loudly. This is a very good clue that they are nesting nearby. Locating the exact nest sites can be trickier. Swifts don't always enter or leave their nest sites very often, and they are very quick about it when they do, so if you see a swift flying up to a building and vanishing inside, then that's a nest site! It has been exciting to be able to confirm seventeen natural nest sites in the village. I expect there may be more: let's hope we can find these in 2026! Just as exciting to record has been the success of the swift attraction call systems that have been used alongside the Harbury Swift project nest boxes. There have been several observations of juvenile swifts flying past and up to the nest boxes, prospecting for next year, so we hope that they liked what they saw and will return to find a mate and breed next year or the year after.

By early August, the summer swift spectacle is over and many of them have already departed. For me, it is a bittersweet moment in the swift year; their departure feels so sudden: one moment, their screams and scything outlines fill the skies; then silence. It seems a long wait ahead until we hear their calls again next May.

THE GREAT WESTERN

Yvonne Lanchester

I can't believe we are into August and close to opening at the end of the month.

Sunday 20th July started with rain, "just typical" I thought, as we were due to be at the Great Western with volunteers from the community to plant up the amazing planters. Luckily it had stopped by 11am, but if it hadn't I don't think it would have dampened anyone's enthusiasm. The atmosphere was buzzing, as will be the beautiful bedding plants. Buddleia, Lavender







and Petunias, to name few, have been planted with bees, butterflies and other insects in mind.

The large planters are made from beautiful reclaimed 120 year old continental railway sleepers. Paving bricks have been removed to allow for water out and worms in. They have been filled with sand, soil and leaves from the site to enrich the natural bio environment in the soil.

When the volunteers had finished planting, they got stuck into litter picking and sweeping. The hedge got a bit of a trim as well. They were then invited into the building for a tour and refreshments. Thank you to all the volunteers.

Tiling in the toilets is finished, dark green in the Men's and the same style in light pink in the Ladies, with Black and White floor tiles. Painting started on the 21st in the restaurant area.

The train track has gone away to be repaired and all being well should be back and tested by the time you are reading this.

For updates as they happen join us on the community Facebook group "The Great Western Deppers Bridge".

For Job enquiries, table information etc. please see "The Great Western" page on Facebook or email Hello@thegreatwestern.pub



OUR PARALLEL LIVES: TOM AND JOAN SMITH

Joan Smith

As I prepare to leave Harbury after 50 years of it being Tom's and my place of sanctuary, I'm unearthing my old journals. Tom's work took him overseas and I generally followed or 'commuted'. By way of farewell I thought I would offer you a glimpse into our 'other' life. This particular event happened in the early 1990s when Tom was working on the western shores of Lake Victoria reinstating bridges and roads that Idi Amin had destroyed in his attempt to invade Tanzania. It goes like this....



Tanzanian Roadeo!

I didn't know there were so many expletives to describe a highway! I didn't know Tom had such a wide vocabulary! Remember the song about your ankle bone being connected to your leg bone I don't think it's true of us anymore!

Tom met me as pre-arranged at Entebbe airport and the drive through Mutakulu to Kyaka was uneventful and now quite familiar; a smooth and soothing 5 hour trip in comparison to the last three days!!

"I have to go to Dar es Salaam for meetings next week - we'll drive - I can't stand that ferry." My memories of Tanzanian upcountry roads first go back to the 1950s; dusty, corrugated, long but drivable. I had no grounds to question this optimistic decision. I must admit to a few exploding question marks in my mind when we got such conflicting advice: 'Don't drive - fly' being the most direct. Or 'Go via Uganda and Kenya' now would you drive to Marseille via Germany and Italy?

We set off at 8 on Saturday morning - only just having been informed that the last ferry to get across the 'Smith Sound' to Mwanza departed at 4.30. So that left 8 hours to do approx 350 km - no problem .. or was there? ... practically a motorway from Kyaka to Bukoba. We hadn't gone far along the West shore road when I ventured to ask if in fact there was a ferry from Bukoba to Mwanza that Saturday night! There is nothing worse than a failed bitumen road. Tom has missed his vocation, I know that now - he should have been a rodeo rider.

We bounced and shuddered through African remoteness, beyond even the reaches of plastic - the women carried their water in traditional clay pots and gourds. Arriving at Biharamulo

some four hours and 140 km later we had all but given up any idea of catching the ferry and were half-heartedly debating altering course and travelling via Singida, when miracle of miracles, a road appeared - a beautiful, graded unpotholed road along which we sped calculating ever decreasing k.p.h we had to achieve to catch that ferry. Arriving at Sengerema at 3.15, we congratulated ourselves on only having 30 km to go and two whole hours to do this in. There seemed to be a choice of two ferries. An obliging policeman informed us one was out of action, so we took the only option up the Karumo road. We reconfirmed our destination with a strolling fellow European who glanced at his watch and said doubtfully, 'Well, you may just make it; people from the village usually leave by 3.00'. That remark told the whole story of that road! We dodged the crablike buses, lorries and matatus that transported people and goods to and from the ferry and we did make it with half an hour to spare. We were more than thankful when we discovered that not only was it the last ferry for the day, there weren't any on Sundays at all!

An eruption of people, noise and colour as the ferry arrived. We had to reverse onto the boat and it was then we discovered we couldn't lock the steering hard left but could only manoeuvre in a gentle arch; so it took us rather a long time to embark. We found out later in Mwanza that a stone must have damaged one side of the shock. No, they couldn't repair it; no spare parts. "Well at least you go round roundabouts to the right," said Tom. 'Fat lot of good that is in the middle of the Serengeti' I thought.

The main road from Mwanza to Musoma, from which we intended to turn off to cross the Serengeti to Ngorongoro, showed a heartening red on the map. Off we went. "I wonder what the Romans thought of Anglo Saxon roads when they arrived in Britain?" This was Tom's only coherent remark for about an hour. I mulled it over as we resisted vertigo travelling along the tracks which had developed on either side of the highway in order to avoid driving on it! The only places you had to reascend onto the 'carriageway' were at the periodic culverts and even Africa avoidance strategy hadn't worked out how to get round those without going over them.

Our tolerance was just about exhausted when - was it a mirage - a smooth black empty ribbon of bitumen lay before us. We had reached the limits of the suburbs of Mwanza.I had been developing a theory that urban roads were in crisis and regional roads were good. Is it something to do with 'Aid' and local taxes I wondered.

We caught the last of the migration on the western corridor of the Serengeti and that made every aching bone worthwhile. Animals in their hundreds, some so close you could almost touch them. Amazingly as we moved further south they all disappeared and after the Seronera lodge all we saw was a decrepit hyena on a termite hill and several impala. Leaving the Serengeti, we wound up to the Ngorongoro crater area enjoying the contrast of coolness and greenness. I was both amused and saddened by the intermittent cabaret of Masai people who seemingly felt obliged to amuse the 'tourists'. I remember these stately people clad only in a red homespun blanket, spear in hand, when their only care was to herd their cattle and protect them from predators in the thorn corrales at night. Perhaps there was the occasional screaming chase of cheeky European kids let out from school along the main street of Arusha, but no harm meant!

Promising ourselves a trip down the crater on our way back, we left early the next day in dense fog and on a slippery descending murram road. We had assurances that we could reach Dar in a day from there! The road deteriorated - the usual beginning to a day's journey we feared. Obviously roadworks were in hand, but no one appeared to be working. So we crashed over rocky surfaces, descended into the unknown depths of water filled ditches and

wove our way through sand drifts. 'What's new'? I thought. After the statutory three hours and 30 km we arrived at the beautiful Dodoma to Arusha road, complete with bus bays, yellow and white lines, zebra crossings, blue traffic signs and scarcely a vehicle in sight.

We discovered the reason for no work on the road when we got to Arusha and tried to find a bank to change some money. A public holiday - Farmers' day. 'But we celebrated that on 7th July in Kyaka' said Tom! We changed our money in an obliging hotel and set off towards Moshi. "Steering feels soft, I'd better stop." A puncture. Amazing on a reasonable bitumen road after all we'd been through, but then we remembered an area where carpenters had been hard at work! We found the wheel spanners secreted under the back seats, opened the bonnet to get the jack and there it wasn't! Cold rationality came into play - no jack, obviously pinched, so what to do. Tom to go back to Arusha and I'll stay with the vehicle.

Salvation arrived in the shape of Adolf. We couldn't believe our luck, the truck which stopped behind us was a Stirling Engineering vehicle and Adolf was only too willing to rescue other Stirling transport. All African contrivances were brought into play; bushes on the road as danger signals, stones to wedge the wheels, in spite of a perfectly adequate handbrake; and extra timbers to aid the jacking system. We changed the wheel and followed Adolf to a garage where they mended the puncture and we ate our lunch from generous boxes provided by the hotel at the crater. Those lunch boxes were certainly good value.

It was 3.30 - what to do; stay in Moshi or drive on? Dar was still eight hours away we reckoned. The guide book didn't mention any hotels on the road between Moshi and Dar, but there were three 'Hs' shown on our BP. map One in the Usambara Mountains at Lushoto, one at Mombo on the road and one further on at Korogwe. Tom didn't want to waste another whole day travelling, so on we went.

The road was pretty awful between Arusha and Moshi and on as far as the Mombasa turning. Then true to form, when all traffic disappeared so another beautiful bitumen road appeared and we covered the endless road effortlessly. We had a short sentimental stop at the Wami River where the single width Mandera Bridge spanned it stolidly. This was my father's last job in Tanganyika as Director of Roads and Public Works before he left at Independence. We used to come for Sunday picnics to see how the construction was getting along and count the crocodiles in the river. We expected the bridge to have been superseded by a double width bridge to accommodate the new highway which snaked down and up the valley scattering buses, lorries and tankers at every twist. But there it was, the commemorative plaque intact; 'Built by PWD, 1959-60'.

We drove on until six o'clock, tiredness and the Sandalla Inn at Mombo halted us. For £2 we enjoyed the proprietor Daud's hospitality. We parked the vehicle next to the Town Bus in a locked compound behind the Inn. Our double room was bright pink with clean lino on the floor and clean sheets on the bed. The bathroom provided us with water pumped from the nearby river and mosquitoes. Not knowing quite how to deal with a large barrel filled with water and an eccentric shower, we decided to 'pass' and wash as best we could. I hoped I wouldn't have to visit the loo in the middle of the night, or I might have disappeared down it! The hotel boasted no restaurant so we stumbled off to the neighbouring establishment where we downed an omelette and chips and chilli sauce, sadly no tea but cokes out of bottles. Grateful to be horizontal we tucked in our nets and fell asleep, In the morning we sat like two waifs on the edge of our beds and breakfasted off bananas and chocolate bars; the last of our lunch boxes, washed down with some of our remaining water.

We did get to Dar by lunch time and my theory about urban roads held out, both travelling

through small towns on the way and finally at Dar itself where we struggled through the final chaos of 'road improvements' on the Morogoro road, lurching up pavements to circumvent broken down buses and bumping through unlikely diversions to avoid the plant which was attempting to alleviate this jam of traffic, people and traders' stalls.

'Ah well' I thought watching Tom's disappearing figure as he staggered off to try and arrange a meeting, as I fell into the blueness of the Kilimanjaro Hotel's pool we've only got to drive back again!

This was just one of countless scrapes and adventures but always behind it all was the peace of Harbury to come back to. So farewell and thank you for everything. I leave Tom in the Memorial Garden and go off on the next adventure alone.



READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors

Hi there 😁

Around 1981/1982 we moved from Heald Green in Manchester to live in Harbury, at 21 Wagstaff Close, next to the school on one side of our house and, next to Rex and Joyce Humphries on the other side.

Rex and Joyce were great neighbours and full of energy and great spirit. They had two sons, Gordon and Neil and, a daughter, Jilly.

We had a lovely life living in Harbury and enjoyed every minute of our village life there, joining in or supporting events that took place, we also played badminton for Harbury which we really enjoyed and, although 40 years or so on, I can still vaguely remember the names of five players, Kathy? Brian? Martin and Val Smith and Mal Eaton.

Changes in work meant that we left the village around 1987 shortly after our daughter Nicola was born at Warneford Hospital in Leamington Spa, but we didn't leave until after she was christened at the Church in Harbury.

We moved initially from Harbury, to Witney, just West of Oxford then, just a year or so later we moved again, to Hereford where we lived until around 1992 and had our second child, Sarah.

I then took a year out to do my MBA and we moved up to live in Ilkley in West Yorkshire (yes, to Ilkley moor bah tat) and 18 months or so later, we moved to live in Horsham, West Sussex which is where we have lived since May 1994.

Over the years we have made 2-3 visits back down memory lane to Harbury and, we called in to see Rex and Joyce on a couple of those occasions and, I think we may also have got to see Neil and Jilly too. Sadly, Joyce passed away some years ago and, sadly, we heard from villagers this weekend who knew the family, that Rex and Neil also passed away recently so, our thoughts go out to Gordon and Jilly 🙏

Fast forward to this weekend (28/29th June 2025) and we drove up to Harbury to do the Gardens Walkabout and, see work of artists who were displaying and selling their works of art….. what an incredibly fantastic time we had.

The gardeners of Harbury who opened up their gardens can be incredibly proud of the hard work that they put in because, we were stunned, some absolutely amazing gardens and some beautiful gardens, all offering lots of Harbury hospitality and welcome so, a huge thank you from Chris and I for opening your gardens to us and, for the lovely conversations.

We also took a look at the occasional property for sale in the village, wondering whether one day we might come back to stay although, as Chris keeps telling me, if we did that, we might not see our grandchildren as often so, perhaps I will hold on to that dream for now.

Thank you for a great visit back to Harbury this Saturday and Sunday, it truly was a memorable and amazing trip down memory lane and, we have such great images of those lovely gardens.

Dave and Chris Weaver
Horsham, West Sussex

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