Harbury & Ladbroke News



DECEMBER 2025



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Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke
8th December	F - R - G	F
15th December	F - W	F - R - W - G
22nd December	Saturday 27th Dec F - R (not garden)	Wednesday as normal Friday >Monday 29th Dec F
29th December	Saturday 3rd Jan F	Wednesday > Friday 2nd January Friday >Monday 5th January F - R (not garden)
5th January	Friday 9th Jan F - R - W - G	Wednesday > Thursday 8th January Friday >Saturday 10th January F - W
12th January	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

DECEMBER 2025 No. 621

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January Edition Deadlines

Adverts to: 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to advertising@hlnews.co.uk by Wednesday 24th December

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Cover Photo: The Lychgate, All Saints, Harbury by Gill Holden

EDITORIAL

A round up of local news



The Remembrance Service in November was well supported by our uniformed groups as well as villagers who gathered at the War Memorial. We would like to thank Adrian Giblin for sending in his photos taken during the laying of the wreaths.

Well done too to the Guides & Scouts Support (GASS) for hosting another fabulous bonfire and fireworks evening; the event which raised over £10,000 was enjoyed by all. GASS will also be organising their usual Christmas postal service for sending your Harbury village Christmas cards. Drop your cards in at the village library with a generous donation and they will do the rest! Last posting day Saturday 20th – see article.

Details of the Christmas church services can be found in the diary and church articles.

If you missed last year's Tractor Run, the organisers are holding the event again on Saturday 20th December. So if you would like to see a convoy of tractors all decked out in fairy lights and tinsel, in aid of Galanos House, Southam, look out for them coming through our villages – see article for more details.

Please note there are changes affecting the recycling and refuse collection days in the week following Christmas. Details of the changes can be found on the inside cover.

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, the articles and advertising deadline for the January 2026 edition of the magazine will be on Wednesday 24th December. Copies will not be available from the printers until Friday 9th January and these will be distributed as soon as possible after this date.

We extend our condolences to the families of Graham Ashton, Brian George Hill, Josephine Horne, Jim Laidler, Joan Perry and Beryl Webster.

Finally, we wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

DECEMBER

Sat 6 No Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Christmas Fair, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 7 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Muddy Church Advent, 3.00 - 4.30pm, starts from Tom Hauley Room
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 8 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 9 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 10 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Ashow and Blackdown (4 miles)
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 11 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI, Christmas True Victorian Style by Jo Golby, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room

Fri 12 Winter and Christmas Music in aid of e-Wheels (tickets purchased in advance only), door open 6.30pm, concert 7.00pm, All Saints Church, Harbury

Sat 13 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Children's Society
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Senior Citizens Christmas Party, 5.30 for 6.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 14 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Messy Christmas, 3.00 - 5.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 15 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
Harbury Theatre Group Carols, from 7.30pm, Shakespeare Inn

Tue 16 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 17 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Fenny Compton followed by lunch at Merrie Lion (4 miles)
Connections: A Carers' Support Group, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 18 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 20 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of PCC
Southam Tractor Run, coming through Harbury at approx 8.20pm

Sun 21 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Carols for Everyone 10.30am, Church
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
Chesterton Candlelit Carol Service, 5.30pm, St Giles Church, Chesterton

Mon 22 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Wed 24 Christmas Eve
Dress up Service, 3.00pm, Church
Candlelit Carol Service, 6.00pm, Church
Midnight Communion (candlelit), 11.15pm, Church

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

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

Thu 25 Christmas Day
Christmas Day Service, 10.30am, Church

Fri 26 Boxing Day

Sat 27 No Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room

Sun 28 HOLY INNOCENTS' DAY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Gong and Sound Bath Session, 6.00 - 8.00pm, Village Hall

Mon 29 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 30 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Wed 31 Ticketed New Year's Eve Party with bring and share supper, 6.30 for 7.00pm, dancing from 8.00pm. Contact: jennewyearsevecontra@gmail.com or 07961 762585

JANUARY 2026

Thu 1 Hereburgh Morris' Annual Hangover Tour, starting 12.00 noon at the Crown Inn
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Library

Fri 2 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 3 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Rugby Football Club Under 12's

Sun 4 CHRISTMAS 2
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 5 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 6 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
'Poems and a Pint', 7.00pm, the Crown Inn

Wed 7 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Lighthorne (3½ miles)
Mothers' Union, communion service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 8 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Hurricanes Ladies Touch Rugby Training, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Village Hall

Sat 10 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Open the Book

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

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

All Saints HARBURY

FROM THE RECTOR

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

As we move into December, the seasons of Advent and Christmas offer us a rhythm that runs counter to the rest of the world. While the calendar year rushes toward its end with noise and bustle and stress, the liturgical calendar asks us to do something radical: to stop, to wait, and to listen.

Advent is known as the season of the "not yet." It is a time characterised by a holy longing. Like the winter nights that grow longer in the Northern Hemisphere, Advent acknowledges the darkness in the world. The brokenness, the silence, and the yearning for something more. It is the discipline of holding a candle in the dark and trusting that the light is coming, even if we cannot yet see the dawn. It teaches us that waiting is not wasted time; it is active preparation. It hollows us out so that we might have room to receive.

Christmas is the answer to that waiting. It is the arrival of the "already." The mystery of Christmas is not that everything is suddenly perfect, but that God has chosen to enter into a damaged world. The Incarnation in Jesus is the profound truth that the creator does not stay distant but becomes breath, flesh, and vulnerability. The light breaks the darkness not by abolishing it instantly, but by dwelling within it.

Together, these seasons invite us to move from anticipation to incarnation. We prepare our hearts in the quiet of Advent so that we can truly welcome that very special guest of Christmas.

May this season grant you the patience to wait in the quiet and the joy to recognize the Light when it arrives.





FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Bez & Andy

"Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the King."



This is a seasonal favourite and the reason for the season.

All Saints' Harbury, your village church, is ready for advent and open to welcome you to the Christmas services - a WARM welcome awaits. A few years ago we asked the village for donations to fix the heating, so this Christmas is a good opportunity to come and enjoy the benefit of that project now it is completed. As always, there are projects in the pipeline (subject to diocesan approval), as we look to preserve the church building for years to come. We hope to share more in the new year. THANK YOU to all who have given time and money and to the team of volunteers working on preserving the church building for many years to come.

The church is a historic building and a body of believers. Many people are involved in a wide variety of groups and there are teams working to keep the church clean, decorated with flowers, planning and leading worship, running services and we all want to welcome you to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ as a community.

We also want to remind you that the Church Fair is on 6th December and the E-Wheels concert that will showcase the vocal talents of the Sing it Loud choir and the Harbury Primary school choir is on 12th December. We look forward to seeing you there!

For families we have a number of services through December. On Sunday 14th December Messy Church will be having a Christmas theme. On Sunday 21st December our All Age service will be a 'Carols for Everyone' service with lots of fun and Christmas Carols. On Christmas Eve our annual dress up nativity will be at 3pm – children (and adults!) are encouraged to come dressed as someone or an animal from the nativity - Lobsters welcome (for those that recall Love Actually). We will have spare costumes available in church.

Our annual candlelit carol service will take place at 6pm, our midnight communion service starts at 11.15pm on Christmas Eve.

Then, on Christmas Day, family communion service will be at 10.30am – all welcome to bring and show their favourite present!

And lastly, a special thank you to the Harbury Carnival Society for the donation of £50 to Messy Church.

If you have any questions please contact us at warden@allsaints.org.

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

From the Registers

Funerals

31st October	Graham Ashton (Aged 81 years)
7th November	Brian George Hill (Aged 95 years)

Baptism

8th November	George



REMEMBRANCE - 9TH NOVEMBER 2025

PHOTOS BY ADRIAN GIBLIN











MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

As you read this, members will have met for December and some will have no doubt enjoyed the diocesan Advent service at Exhall.

Next year's subs (£39) will soon be due. As you will be aware, this goes to the wider MU work with women and families. If possible, please arrange with Joe to use BACS; if not, cash would be welcome to avoid bank charges.

Our next event will be our New Year party on 7th January. All the usual fun, games and tea. This year, we are very keen to invite visitors; anyone who would enjoy a cheerful couple of hours on a winter afternoon will be really welcome. Please note, this starts at 2.30pm in the Tom Hauley Room, and there will be a bran tub for a small gift.

Your committee wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas as we celebrate the incarnation of our Saviour.



JOHN BURTON MOORE: A TRIBUTE

Fliss Harris

Those of us at All Saints', Harbury who were privileged to worship and work with John, know how much we owed and still owe him: for his friendship, his generosity, his steadfast commitment, his faithful service and, last but not least, for his fearless and tireless campaign against cobwebs!

We all have our cherished memories of John, but I'd like to share one which, though very personal, will, I suspect, resonate with everyone who knew and loved him, and which for me, at least, epitomises so much of the man he was.

Some of you reading this will remember my Dad, Reg Harris, a lovely man, but a very stubborn old soul. No wonder John and he were very good friends! Despite his increasing frailty, Dad flatly refused to receive Holy Communion in his pew, so, week after week, I would haul him to his feet and together we would stagger perilously up to the High Altar. One Sunday morning I became aware that someone was supporting him on his other side: John, of course. This continued until Dad was no longer able to attend church.

That was John all over: seeing every need and meeting it quietly, humbly, kindly, with utter constancy and without any fuss.

So, goodbye John, and thank you for all you have done for us and been to us for so many years. God bless you. May you rest in peace and rise in glory.





LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

DECEMBER

Sun 7 ADVENT 2
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 9 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 14 ADVENT 3
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tue 16 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 21 ADVENT 4
Village Carol Service, 6.00pm (no morning service)

Wed 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
Crib Service, come dressed as your favourite Nativity character if you wish, 3.00pm

Thu 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
Christmas Family Communion, 9.00am

Sun 28 CHRISTMAS 1
Holy Communion, 9.00am

JANUARY 2026

Sun 4 EPIPHANY SUNDAY
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Wed 7 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Thu 8 WI, 7.30pm, Southam United Bowls Club.

Sun 11 EPIPHANY 1
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tue 13 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 14 Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby
www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

On All Saints Day the churchyard was candlelit for our "Shine a Light" remembrance of those that our community has loved and lost. The churchwardens read out the names of those who we were remembering and Rev Andy led us in some short prayers. The theme of remembrance was continued the following Sunday when we paid our respects to those who fell serving our country and wreaths were laid at the memorial by representatives of our local community at the Village Remembrance Service.

During the intervening week Rev Andy (who is our Area Dean) hosted a visit of our new bishop, Bishop Sophie to Southam Deanery and this included a visit to Ladbroke Church, when Churchwarden Sue Moore presented her with a gift from Ladbroke and Napton churches - a handmade cleek with a hazel wood shaft and a beech handle. Cleeks are the sticks that shepherds use when walking with their flock, in contrast to the better known shepherd's crook which is used to catch a sheep round the neck or leg!



By the time this edition is distributed Christmas will be fast approaching. On Friday 5th December we will be welcoming back Spa Chorale for a seasonal concert, beginning at 7.30pm. Admission is free; we will be accepting donations that will be shared between the Chorale and the Church.

We will be holding the village Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6.00pm. This year, members of our congregation have been invited to choose their favourite readings and carols and there will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

On Christmas Eve we will be holding our Crib Service at 3.00pm. This year there will be a slightly different spin on our interactive service for the young and young at heart but as always everyone is welcome, especially little ones. If you can't sit still for long this is the Christmas service for you! You are invited to come along and take part in the singing and action, and as an optional extra to come dressed as your favourite Nativity character - human, animal, angelic or even a twinkling star!

Meanwhile Rev Andy will be almost as busy as Santa and this year's Christmas Day Service at Ladbroke will be at 9.00am.

A warm invitation to any and all of the above, and may we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

From the Registers

Baptisms

19th October	Daisy Amelia Isabel Dedman
26th October	Matthew Patrick Arnold
23rd November	Roman Patrick Finn



Funerals

29th October	Beryl Webster
19th November	Josephine Horne

Future services and events

Friday 5th Dec	7.30pm	Spa Chorale Christmas Concert
Sunday 7th Dec	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 14th Dec	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st Dec	6.00pm	Carol Service (no morning service)
Weds 24th Dec	3.00pm	Crib Service
Thurs 25th Dec	9.00am	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sunday 28th Dec	9.00am	Holy Communion

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



LADBROKE PARISH COUNCIL

Jackie West, Harbury News Correspondent

Official minutes can be viewed on the noticeboard by The Bell Inn and the parish council's website - www.ladbroke-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Report

There was a full complement of councillors at the November meeting and four people from HS2/EKFB but I was the only member of the public so hopefully other villagers will find this report useful.

HS2

Chris James from EKFB started by describing what would be happening in future. There will be a pause in major closures of our two closest roads until the tie-ins of the new over-bridges begin. It is expected that there will be a full 24/7 closure of the B4451 (aka Kineton Road) between Southam and Deppers Bridge for four to six weeks in May/June 2026, so including the late May half-term week. During that time they will be moving utilities, finishing the new road and its tie-in to the existing one. After that is finished, the work to tie-in realigned A423 with its new bridge will happen. Again it will be a 24/7 closure but it is anticipated it will only take two or three weeks as the parallel mini-bypass means more work will have been completed off-line. The start date for the closure of the A423 is not finalised, perhaps starting in July - there is less traffic during school holidays but later may be worse in terms of harvest vehicle movements. Dates could also drift if earthworks etc are seriously delayed due winter weather.

Looking back to last September's A423 closure and considering what could be done better next time. People from HS2/EKFB had held a review with Cllr Kettle and there had been a workshop with the traffic team and WCC. After the initial gridlock, preventing entry into Ladbroke from the north and the cones on the bypass to the south were considered an improvement, though Cllr Copley made the point that there was still a huge increase in traffic coming from the south through the village that needed to turn left into School Lane. The official diversion has to be to an equivalent or higher priority road (but not the M40) which in this case meant a very long add-on to journey times. So it was not surprising that many drivers sought their own alternatives. It had taken a while, but eventually a ghost closure of the village appeared on Google which reduced traffic diverting through Ladbroke somewhat. However, when the A423 opened earlier than forecast, it took a number of days for this to be visible on Google and those detouring through Ladbroke to stop. Next time it's planned to have the same road restrictions and ghost closure of the village on Google and also clearer signage that there is a 7.5 ton limit through Ladbroke. The councillors (and I) expressed the opinion that the multitude of diversion signs for HS2 and other work in the area were extremely confusing. An EKFB traffic officer drives around checking theirs are up in the right place, as defined in the plan. They agreed to share the traffic management plan, including signage, earlier next time (four to six weeks in advance). Signs advising when the road re-opens were suggested, if permitted.

There was feedback on the issue of EKFB/HS2 employees and suppliers using roads through Ladbroke rather than the official diversion. Obviously, some roles (eg the road traffic officer) have to go out on local roads to do their work. EKFB's own HGV movements had been checked and had not come through the village (more than 99% compliance) and van registration numbers supplied had not been company vehicles. Staff coming to and from

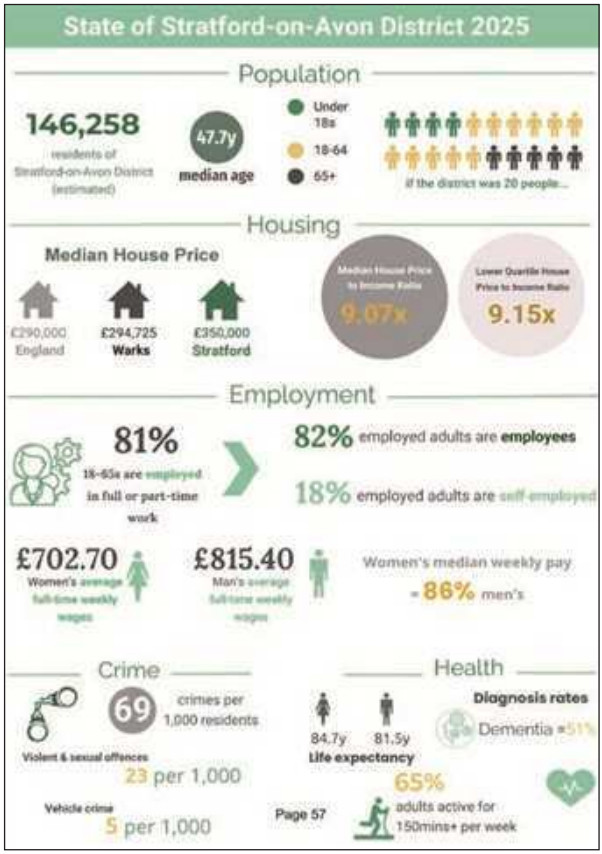
work in their own time are legally permitted to use any public road; they had been encouraged to avoid Ladbroke, but it could not be made compulsory.

Our councillors raised the point that traffic problems in Ladbroke are compounded when there are other works affecting local roads, no doubt originally planned not to overlap but when things over-run, as they frequently do, chaos ensues. The possibility of overnight working to catch up was floated. Cllr Kettle explained that this is usually refused because of environmental impacts such as noise. No planned work permits should be issued by WCC for the Kineton Road, A423 or diversion route during the forthcoming works as HS2 has priority but emergencies may occur and permits for these have to be granted.

SDC

The Government's new rules on housing targets had increased the house numbers required and changed the method of calculation, meaning that rather than a 25 year supply of housing land there was now only 2.7 years. This is below the minimum five years required and the council have the difficult task of finding the least worse way of releasing sites for development to regain control from developers. Some sites that could be developed quickly have been identified, none in Ladbroke but several close eg north of the recent Bishops Hill development, south of Southam *(and, as I read in an SDC public briefing, even Wood Street car park in Southam, though the loss of parking for the town centre makes this less suitable).*

A State of the District report has been issued with some interesting facts and figures. Between 2014-2024 the population increased by 19.7% and 25% are aged over 65, the averages for England and Wales are 7.7% and 19% respectively. SDC has many more detached houses and fewer flats and maisonettes than the averages for Warwickshire or England and, despite an ageing population, there are only 10% bungalows. The infomatic here summarises some of the other headlines: housing, employment, crime and health.



There are two new people in the police's Safer Neighbourhood Team: Insp. Kibblewhite and Sgt. Thompson. They cover a huge rural area including Ladbroke with a focus on visibility, prevention and close partnership, working with councils, schools and residents. Operational priorities permitting, their engagement vehicles come round the villages, including to Ladbroke, on a 6-8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weekly rota, staying for an hour. Attendance from the public has been good in most villages.

A summary of the new £350,000 Community Grant Scheme to improve community spaces and facilities across the district is given on page 63, so I won't repeat it here. Regarding local government re-organisation to combine district and county councils into unitary authorities (UAs) - it was SDC's preference (supported by independent analysis by Deloittes) to have separate North and South UAs but WCC's to have a single one. The latter was supported by consultants PWC and the fact that, while the single Warwickshire UA and also the South UA appear to be financially viable for the first five years, the North UA does not. A final decision on which to recommend to Government would be made by SDC on 17th Nov *and I see on the SDC website that meeting decided for the North and South option.*

Planning

There was no news about the triangle of land north of Windmill Lane. The council made no representation for treeworks at Orchard Bungalow, SDC had granted planning permission for the side extension at Barnbrook but refused it for the replacement building at Dovecote.

Other

It was agreed to replace the defibrillator due to its age. The seat in School Lane towards the brook has rotted and is unsafe to sit on. A councillor offered to remove it as it has been there at least 30 years, has no dedication plaque and it is not known who is responsible for it.

Next meeting: Wednesday 14th Jan, 7.45pm. HS2/EFKB to attend again.

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Carol Lane

When we arrived at The Village Hall on Thursday 6th November, tables and chairs were arranged in a horseshoe. Interesting items were placed in each 'place setting'.



Jackie Barnett had provided all of these items for us to make sugar paste Christmas figures. A member of Newbold Pacey and Ashorne WI, Jackie was a trained occupational therapist whose hobby was making birthday, Christmas and wedding cakes for fun.

First of all, she led us through creating Father Christmas going head first down a chimney (cupcake!) We then went on to the eight or so stages of making a seated father Christmas, complete with beard and moustache, hat with 'fur' and a bobble and black shoes. It was great fun and I think we all carried our efforts home with a certain amount of pride. My Christmas cake decoration this year might actually be different from the last 15 years!



This was all made easy for us by Jackie's meticulous planning. We each started with the cupcake already covered in red with a belt and buckle. We had sufficient pieces of sugar paste in the right colours – even allowing for some of it to be eaten by certain members – and a gold base.

I would really recommend this as a fun way for groups of all ages to spend an evening and Jackie can be reached at jackiebarnettot@hotmail.com

In the business meeting, Sue reminded members that the group Carol Service is to be held in Ladbroke Church this year on Tuesday 9th December at 7.30. Each of the six WIs in the group choose a hymn and a reading and mince pies and mulled wine will be served at the end of the service.

Our Christmas lunch will be on 4th December at 1 o'clock at the Bowling Green.

Sue thanked members who had brought gifts for the shoe boxes and the hope was that we would have a talk from one of the members of Teams4you at some stage.

Dianne provided a report on the Warwickshire Annual Federation Meeting, held at Stareton Hall, Stoneleigh. Jeryl Stone, the National Chair opened it with an update on the latest developments.

The first guest speaker was Sameena Ali-Khan, a familiar face on ITV who began her career in radio some 30 years ago. While at school with Wednesday afternoons free she went to get involved with local radio and, although originally planning to do medicine, she progressed in radio and went back to study for a Masters in TV production. She had great support from her family, feels strongly about giving women equal opportunities on TV, especially as they get older, and does all that she can to promote women and girls.

The second speaker was Lianne Kirkman from the Esther project. Based in Leamington Spa it began in 2011 and was set up to support women who are homeless or suffering from abuse. Lianne went through some very difficult times with mental health problems and abuse. She explained that there is often a cycle of abuse for women who look for support, even from an abuser and they find themselves trapped. Many women in Britain are homeless. They may be less obvious as they sofa surf and have temporary arrangements so are not seen on the street so much as men. Lianne feels strongly about separate women only refuges where women can feel safe so has helped to set up a seven bedroom safe place for women in Leamington. She herself did a lot of fundraising and £2M has been raised in 10 years. They have a new charity shop in Warwick to help with funds.

The final speaker was Denise Nurse, another familiar face from TV on programmes like Morning Live where she gives legal advice. She came from a poor background and her grandparents were part of Windrush. Having trained as a lawyer in Liverpool, Denise moved to a big city firm in London where there were 50 men partners to five women, only one of whom had children. Reaching burn out, she moved to Middlesex and presented the weather for a six month sabbatical. Meeting Jules Hudson led to travel presenting and the rest is history. Denise was brought up in a convent with a strong Christian faith and her mission in life is to help people realise their value. As a business life coach she encourages people to do more of what they love and to love more of what they do. As with the previous speakers, Denise is a strong advocate for women.

Our next meeting will be the games night on 8th January at Southam United Bowls club.

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.

Village Safari Supper

Unfortunately we had to cancel our planned safari supper for November as there were insufficient bookings. This is disappointing, but we will consider whether to try again in the future as it has always been a fun event for the whole community.

The next Film Night and Supper

We are delighted to announce that our next supper and film night is scheduled for **Friday 30th January 2026** in the Village Hall. The film title will be announced soon – so keep an eye open for Nicky's email for more details. Contact her on **nicolalewis1958@gmail.com** if you would like to be added to the circulation email list.

The Millennium Green

Thanks to all who helped to tidy up the Millennium Green last month. Especially Tim Norgate for the use of his truck, and Helen Morten who organised the clear up and produced some delicious biscuits.

Phase one of the play area upgrade has now been completed. Phase two will involve replacing the trim trail and the large swings, both of which are suffering from rotting timber. Regretfully, we had a disappointing response to our questionnaire seeking views on how we replace the trim trail. Contact us via our website if you still wish to comment on this.

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, telephone Debs on 07779 225105 or contact her **through the village hall website which has more details about the facilities**. Due to an unfortunate incident a few weeks ago we are revising our booking terms and conditions for parties.

Our winter booking rates are £16 per hour, or £13 for Ladbroke residents - applicable from October to March inclusive. Non-residents may be asked to pay a £50 deposit on booking.

Can you help?

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 on the lookout for new team members, so if you would like to join us get in touch via our website.

It's that time of the year again!

The trustees and team wish all our friends and supporters a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We hope to entertain you again next year with more village events. See you then!

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for October 2025

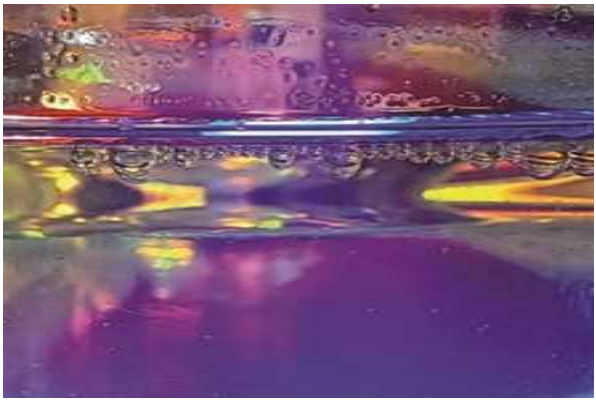
£50	Nicky Lewis	£25	Neil Williams
£50	Simon and Jackie West	£10	Christine Williams
£25	Tracy Juba	£10	Laura Taylor
£25	Tim Malby	£10	Geoff Lane

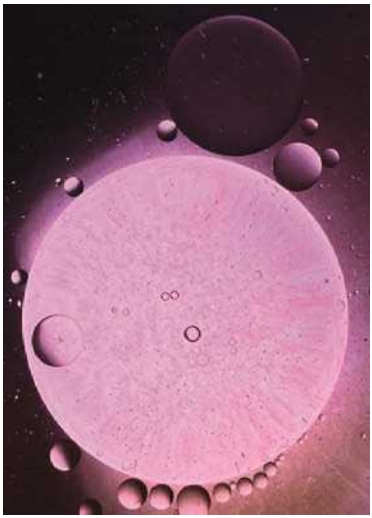
Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Nicky Lewis





Our monthly meeting in November was a fun practical demonstration given by Mike Todman. Mike had researched techniques to photograph spectrums of oil on water, which under normal circumstances don't mix, but with clever additions of coloured dyes and other dispersants, produce colourful patterns and shapes. Mike provided us with the necessary bowls, stands, materials, water and lighting so all we had to do was try and focus on the beautiful shapes and patterns created by these techniques. After a while we got the hang of it; most of us in the end resorted to our phones on macro setting for sharper close up images. The results were fascinating 'other worldly' abstract images, with beautiful colours. It just goes to show what happens when oil and water can mix! Included are a couple of the images from the evening.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd December** at 7.30pm in Ladbroke Village Hall. Our subject this month will be Action, Reaction and Fleeting, and will include both a competition and phototopic on these themes.

Guests always welcome.

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LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

Heritage and Friendship Group

Our Heritage and Friendship Group which is open to all but especially appreciated by older members of our community who do not get out as much as they wish, meets on the first Wednesday each month at The Old School. This article about it was written in the 1980s by Fred Wall, born in 1908, who as a child lived close to Ladbroke.

My daughter bought Ladbroke School, not knowing that it was the one I attended as a boy. I returned on Christmas Day after playing truant for 65 years. We have gathered for our family Christmas tea party.

Entering I found the ground floor almost as it was all those years ago, the Christmas tree standing in the same corner of the room. For a few moments I admire the lovely modern tree - then I was back as a young lad staring wide-eyed at 'that' tree with its small coloured wax candles in their tiny candlesticks amid the homemade decorations with gaily coloured presents hanging from the branches, one for each child.

I recall being given a roll of glossy coloured paper, a small pair of blunt scissors and a pot of glue to be busy with the other children making streamers, Chinese lanterns and fans. Once again I watched the caretaker turning down the oil lamps hanging at intervals from the rafters, the younger mistress with a long taper lighting the little candles, making the tree gradually come to light as if that fairy on the top had just delivered it.

It is 3.30 pm on Christmas Eve - it's the School Christmas Tea Party. As told, each has brought his or her own mug and plate. We are now standing, eyes closed behind our chairs waiting for the Rector to say Grace. At '.....to receive" eyes open and sweep the laden tables, at '.....truly' 34 chairs scrape back and at '.....thankful' accompanied by 34 bumps as we descend to get busy. No, I'm not doing much in Pass the Parcel, Musical Chairs or Hunt for the Sweets, but reserving my strength for Postman's Knock!

A scuffle at the door - Father Christmas has arrived. It's the Major and one or two friends who very kindly provided the tree and presents. At this time the boys are hoping and praying they will get a mouth organ, while at home their parents are hoping and praying they will not.

Now the parents are arriving for a bit of dancing – the Mums raring to go, the Dads backing away. Not too much room so the old fashioned waltz is being enlivened by here a bump, there a bump, everywhere a bump, startled sometimes by a cry of anguish as the blacksmith's boot encounters the dairymaid's toe. We are circling now, singing Auld Lang Syne, at attention for God save the King and with all good wishes we set off home - some to the village others to outlying farms or hamlets.



Note: Major Fell lived with his family and four servants at Ladbroke House.

A month of farewells and remembrance

The Shine a Light evening on All Saints Sunday saw a candle-lit churchyard and the reading out of a long list of the dear departed who their relatives and friends wished to be remembered in this way. A week later, at the Ladbroke Remembrance Service we formally remembered the nine sons of the village who did not return from WWI and all who have sacrificed their lives for peace and justice. We had an email from someone who would like to talk to relatives of Captain Joseph Edward Bailey MBE MC. He was buried in our churchyard in 1994, aged 76, having lived with his wife, Eileen at No. 6 Ladbroke Hall. If anyone knows about his war-time experiences or is in contact with their relatives please let me know (tel 810331).

There were also funerals for three villagers: Beryl Webster, Jim Laidler and Jo Horne in November and Joan Perry died later in the month too. They will all be missed by their friends and families.



JO HORNE

Carol Lane

It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of Jo Horne's death earlier this month. Jo's daughter from America, Kay, had been staying for 10 days so there had been many family gatherings. After a shopping trip in the morning, which resulted in a new pair of earrings for Jo and a lunch, Jo began to feel unwell and was taken to hospital where her heart stopped.

Jo was born in Wormleighton and she could recall visits by the late Princess Diana's grandfather Lord Spencer who was very strict and would measure the height of the hedges to ensure that everything was just so. Jo's Dad was the village bobby in Wolston and called back to serve in the army when war broke out. She lived with her mother and grandmother in Wolston and recalls seeing refugees sleeping under tarpaulins for shelter. The teacher in her school got the class to stand and say a prayer for anyone whose father was missing. Her father returned in 1946 when they moved to Worcestershire where he went into business. Aged 19 she was employed by Teasy Weasy as a make-up artist (not just make-up to look good but to achieve a particular effect). They worked hard and she sometimes started at 4.30am for an Ealing studio film. She worked for 11 years before they opened a salon in Birmingham doing TV work for Pebble Mill.

Jo met her husband, Derek, driving into him on a golf course. He complained but married her 10 weeks later! Jo's husband trained as a chartered surveyor and started a land agency and auctioneering business in Coventry. He dealt mainly with hotels and farms while Jo managed 'the shop', dealing mainly with houses and offering advice to young married couples setting up home. Their business grew to be one of the biggest in the Midlands and they helped to bring Ford to the area.

Jo and Derek brought their four children up at Christmas Hill Farm, Bishop's Itchington, where she also had 'a menagerie of animals'. Jo was always ready to share her time and her love with anyone who needed to be looked after. She organised huge New Year's Eve parties and catered for multiple events in their home.

One summer she bought an old caravan, repainted it and took five teenagers (her children and friends) through France to Portugal. Before the days of cash readily available overseas she used to contact Derek to let him know which town they would be visiting next so that he could wire money through for her to collect. She would also take the children and their friends to their house in Salcombe and stay for weeks in the holidays.

The loss of Richard, their son, was a great sadness to Jo and Derek's death and her failing eyesight forced her to leave Christmas Hill. She enjoyed her house in the centre of Ladbroke







Highlights of November in Ladbroke









and shared it for some years with Alan Rylance who created their lovely garden. Her little Chihuahua, Bertie, was a great comfort to her and she and friend Shirley were an inseparable duo who often entertained everyone with amusing tales of their exploits.



At Jo's funeral in Ladbroke Church on 19th November, five of her grandchildren spoke of their wonderful memories where the heart of the home was always the kitchen and they would often sing together at the top of their voices. Jo could feed the whole family from nothing, and she always fed anyone who was there at meal times.

Jo was a life-force and I can only think that she is regaling the saints with her stories wherever she is. She is a great loss in so many lives.

BERYL THELMA WEBSTER 1933 – 2025

Jackie West (based on the family tribute)



Beryl was born in 1933 in Leicester. When she was a little girl the family moved to Culworth in south west Northamptonshire so she grew up there. Her father was a horse and cattle dealer and, even after she started working as a housekeeper in the nearby village of Eydon, Beryl would still find time to go to markets and horse fayres.

She was a very fashionable lady and caught the eye of farmer and cattle dealer William Henry Webster. They married in 1956 and she went off to farming life. Initially they were tenants at Woodbine Hill Farm, Southam, moving after a few years to their own place, Barn Farm at Ladbroke. Beryl, always immaculate, led a very busy life as a farmer's wife and mother to three boys and two girls. She lived for her family and her beloved Billy whose motto in life was WORK HARD, PLAY HARD. The family would have an annual holiday in Aberystwyth but the children remember summer holidays were mainly fun on the farm: white washing cattle pens, stone picking the fields, running around after cattle and sheep and pony riding. Beryl loved visitors coming to the farm to chat about things outside farming chores. Anyone that called always had a cup of tea and a piece of cake and would be invited to stay for tea or dinner if there was enough to go round.

Billy died in 1985 leaving a massive hole in Beryl's heart and life so, after sorting out farm affairs and letting her sons carry on with the farm, she announced she was getting a job. She was a carer at Bromson Hill Nursing Home, Ashorne for 22 years, looking after people younger than herself in some cases. In between work Beryl enjoying seeing her grandchildren and her daughters took her on holidays abroad. It had been Wales when Billy was alive but now Cyprus, Tenerife, Spain and she loved it. When she finally retired at the age of 80, Beryl had more time to watch the family and grandchildren getting on with their lives.

As her eyesight started failing and her driving licence was taken away she felt her independence was going but she battled on, still immaculately dressed, wearing smart shoes, her make up and perfume and having her hair done every week. In 2022 she went to live with her daughter, Sue, and son-in-law, Andrew, and saw a lot of her great grandchildren; she would say, "I love to see them and I like to see them go". She also loved going to the Day Club at Galanos House Care Home, which really perked her up.

Beryl's passing marks the end of an era at Barn Farm, Ladbroke. She was there an amazing 64 years and will be much missed by all who knew and loved her.

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HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Open: Monday - Thursday
10.00am 12.00pm

CHAIRMAN:
Tim Lockley
Email: chair@harbury-pc.gov.uk

CLERK:
Alison Biddle
Email: clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk

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To speak on any issue, please contact the Parish Clerk

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THANK YOU

Jackie West

I'm sure the many people who came along and enjoyed the bonfire and fireworks would join me in a huge thank you to everyone involved - the landowner for allowing it, the farmer for moving the cattle, those responsible for the bonfire, the pyrotechnics experts, the caterers, the chaps on the gate, those who planned everything, set it all up, cleared away afterwards plus anyone I've forgotten to mention. It was another great evening for our community and all those who travelled to be part of it. Thank you for making it happen.

LOVE IN A BOX SHOEBOX APPEAL – WONDERFUL RESULT!

Sue Wright

This year, thanks to everyone's generous support we have exceeded previous numbers and have taken 85 shoeboxes to the depot.



We received 32 completed boxes and with the extra funds and donations I have been able to complete a further 53 boxes with a great mix of age groups and boys and girls represented - as you can see in the photo.

The coffee morning earlier in the year was a tremendous help both in covering transport costs and funding 'extras'.

I really am incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed in so many ways. It's such an encouragement and thank you all for making this, the 10th year of us supporting Teams4U, a wonderful success.

With love and thanks.



HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

John Holden - 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

Parish Council Meeting – 23rd October 2025

Councillors welcomed a new member to their midst to fill the current vacancy. He is Michael Goodman, who grew up in Harbury and currently lives in Bishops Itchington but has hopes to return to living in the village. There were no members of the public in attendance to raise any matters, so it was quickly onto the Other Organisations agenda item. The roofs at the library are showing signs of their age and repairs will be required soon. Grant applications and fund raising are both likely to be required to meet to costs of the repairs.

Cllr Thompson reported that the school had had a flood in the Key Stage 1 area. Other areas of the school had been made available to teach the children, whilst the insurance claim and repairs were completed.

District Cllr Ostrander had sent her apologies to the meeting due to the half-term holiday but had submitted a report. It highlighted a 3,000 shortfall by 2031 in the number of new

properties that the district was required to provide. The District Council has put in place an action to redress the shortfall. However, our Chairman felt this was a green light to developers to seek planning permission wherever they could.

WCC Cllr Chris kettle had left his sick bed to attend the meeting for his item. The highlight being that the County Council favours having one Warwickshire wide unitary authority. The District Councils favour having a separate north and south Warwickshire authorities. Cllr Kettle said that modelling by WCC had estimated that savings of £57m over five years could be achieved with a single authority. Whereas the two authority model would produce no savings and may well cost more. The Chairman noted that SDC had the lowest Band D Council Tax rate in the county, whereas in north Warwickshire it is much higher. If there was to be a single Warwickshire authority then he foresaw any harmonisation of Council Tax rates would result in our rates moving towards those in the north of the county. Cllr Kettle agreed there would be an equalisation of council tax rates. It was noted that both proposals for Warwickshire will be submitted to the Minister and the Government would decide which one to go with.

Planning – Members of the Council had met with the company behind the proposal to build houses on the Co-op field and the land behind the former petrol station. The notes of that meeting will be appended to the meeting minutes of this October meeting. The Council would be putting in an objection to the application to build two houses on land to the north of Hall Lane. This being for a number of reasons including that the application site is outside the built up area boundary. Also the site already has permission for one dwelling and two dwellings would be over development.

Properties – The PC has submitted the planning application to repair the wall to the Hall Lane allotments. This also includes placing an entrance to the allotments, which WCC highways are not happy about, although it is hoped that the Planners will agree to it. The Council approved a quote to undertake remedial work to a number of trees at the top of the playing fields which are adjacent to some of the Pineham farm buildings. They also agreed to the placing of an order for the ongoing maintenance of the Community Allotments.

Environment – Councillors approved an order to undertake a traffic survey though Deppers Bridge. The bench by the Surgery which was recently removed will be replaced. There was a discussion on whether to have wooden or composite made bench. In the end they agreed to a composite bench. The contract for supplying electricity to the village street lamps expires in the New Year. The question was whether to re-new early on a quote given by a new broker or wait until nearer the time using the previously used broker. There are not many power companies that offer prices for an unmetered supply contract, which is what the council requires. It was agreed to contact the existing broker and see what prices they could offer.

Climate Change – Six replies to the PC's survey which was sent out to village clubs and organisations have been received, although the closing date is the end of October. Will wait and see what the surveys reveal.

Christmas Lights – These will be put out on Saturday 29th November. Volunteers welcome.

Next Meeting – Thursday 27th November at 7.30pm in the Tom Hauley Room.

Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:

Tim Lockley (Chairman), Julie Balch (Vice-Chair), Samantha Allen, Kate Gard, Michael Goodman, Alan Knowles, Ed Mulley, Robert Stockdale, Ashley Sylvester, Keith Thompson.

The railway comes to Harbury presentation

Bill Timson came to the Tom Hauley Room on Tuesday, 21st October to give a presentation entitled 'The Railway Comes to Harbury'.



After being introduced by Secretary Sue Turner, a departure from the usual format followed when Chair Ed Wilson presented a Harbury Heritage Medal and Certificate to Bill on behalf of the Harbury Heritage Group, in recognition of their work in preserving the heritage of the village. Needless to say, Bill was momentarily stunned as he had no idea that this was forthcoming.



He commenced with a picture quiz asking us what links the four pictures?



The answer is 'Great Western'

No. 1 is SS Great Western owned by Brunel.

No. 2 is the Great Western Pub.

No. 3 is the Great Western Railway and

No. 4 is the film High Noon – it's a Great Western!

He then went on to say that, initially, in the 17th century, trucks ran on wooden rails taking coal from the collieries to canals. Later, during the Industrial Revolution, more durable iron rails began to be used. In the 1790s during the 'Canal Boom' men who dug the canals were known as navigators and this was abbreviated to 'navvies' – an army of skilled men, much in demand. They were itinerants, who moved to wherever the work took them. The railway age, 1830 to 1850, was the period of time when railways transformed travel, transportation, and the economy. In 1830 there were only 98 miles of track but by 1850 this had been increased to 6000 miles. Its peak, known as 'railway mania', was between 1843 and 1846, when shares in the railway companies doubled. After which there was a downturn because of over-investment, share prices fell and less new track was laid – though that didn't mean it stopped altogether, in fact the Great Western Railway, including Harbury Cutting wasn't completed until 1852.

In 1844 the Railway Regulation Act was introduced by William Gladstone, which stipulated there should be one train with provision for carrying third-class passengers running on every line, every weekday, in each direction, stopping at every station with a fare of 1 penny per mile. This provided compulsory services at a price affordable to poorer people to enable them to travel to find work.

Bill then presented us with some important timeline facts, including:

1859 – the death of Isambard Kingdom Brunel

1892 – the adoption of the 4ft 8½in standard rail gauge

1948 – railways nationalised

1963 – the Beeching Report when 30% of the rail network was shut down

Bill said that the railway companies faced fierce competition from stage coach proprietors, coaching inn keepers, horse dealers and canal companies. It was claimed that trains were dangerous and frightened livestock, set houses with thatched roofs on fire and took away agricultural land. But every age has opponents of progress, for instance people's objection towards jets passing through the sound barrier today, is no different to the opposition, in the 19th century, towards Stevenson's Rocket travelling at 30 miles per hour.

Why did Harbury get a station and the railway and not Southam? Basically, the people of Southam thought they were well-placed with hotels, coaching inns, turnpikes and didn't want to upset the apple cart. When the navvies set foot on the land where the railway was scheduled to go, the land-owners, armed in some cases with shotguns, turned them away. Therefore, in 1849, the line to Rugby from Fenny Compton was abandoned and the line to Birmingham was laid using the mixed gauge – effectively three rails allowing for Brunel's broad gauge trains (7ft ¼in) and Stevenson's standard gauge trains (4ft 8½in) to run on the same line. Because of the issues requiring freight be transferred from one gauge to the other, a Royal Commission report decided in favour of standard gauge, because it had more railway lines. Broad gauge was phased out and, by the late 1800s, standard gauge became the default and it remains so today.

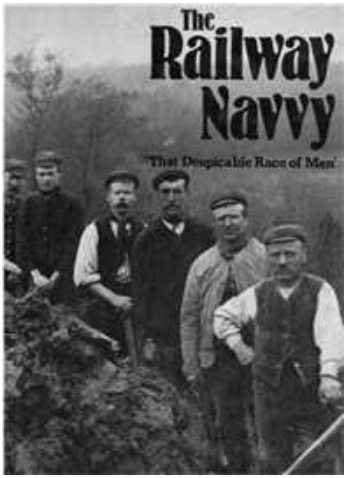
Bill then showed a slide with Turner's 'Rain, Steam and Speed' painting depicting a Great Western steam train going over Brunel's Maidenhead viaduct. A very atmospheric painting which became a great influence on the French Impressionists.



Turner's Rain, Steam and Speed

Bill also showed part of an article from the November 1846 Hereford Journal about a deviation to the original route, avoiding Southam and re-routing it near Harbury. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, aged 27, was appointed chief engineer. Initially, Brunel thought he could construct a tunnel through the hill just outside of Harbury, but after a landslip in which several navvies were killed it was decided that a cutting would be the best solution. Around 1000 navvies were employed to dig the cutting, which is 104ft deep 600ft wide and half a mile long. It was begun in 1847 and completed in 1852. By 1850 a quarter of a million workers, more than the personnel of the Army and Navy combined, were assembled throughout the country. Not all of them were from Ireland, though some were, many fleeing famine. They were mainly men, but some women, from all parts of the British Isles and even continental Europe. At most, the Irish made up about 30% of the workforce. According to the 1851 census for the Birmingham

and Oxford Junction railway it lists less than 2% as being from Ireland. They were pretty well paid at three shillings for an 8 hour day shift and receiving four shillings and sixpence if they worked a 10 hour shift. An agricultural worker, of which there were many at the time, received, by comparison, nine or ten shillings a week. Some local agricultural workers took advantage of this and left the land to work on the cutting, though they would return for the harvest, because that was expected of them.



Travelling from job to job, navvies and their families lived in appalling conditions in rough timber huts with turf roofs, erected in the vicinity of the railway where they worked. Bill referred to a book given to the Heritage Centre which describes navvies as a 'despicable race of men', which he thought was perhaps a bit harsh. Photographs taken of them show them to be a bit on the rough side, but Bill said that, given the nature of the work, they were hardly likely to smarten up. It took a year to train a navvy at which point the average amount of earth each navvy would shift was reckoned to be twenty tons a day using just a wheelbarrow, shovel, pick and crowbar and occasionally some dynamite. However, because of the physical nature of the job they had a working life of about twenty years and by the age of forty they were worn out with no strength left. They were usually dead by the age of sixty.

Some of the displaced soil was used to build embankments along the line, the remainder was distributed over fields in the locality.

With little to spend their money on apart from alcohol, bad behaviour would break out. The crimes were varied; one man was charged with passing counterfeit half sovereigns, stealing was rife, many were arrested for being drunk and disorderly. The existing police force couldn't cope with the misdemeanours of this great influx of men in the village so special constables had to be sworn in to assist and these were paid for by the contractors.

By 1855 £300 million had been invested in the railways in this country, more than anywhere else, by 1860 there were 10,000 miles of track in the UK and by 1909 it had increased to 19,889 miles.

The line from Birmingham to Oxford was opened on 1st October 1852 and Brunel travelled along it in the 'Lord of the Isles,' a broad gauge train. It crashed into a stationary mixed goods and passenger train at Aynho station in Northamptonshire – fortunately, there were only minor injuries.

Harbury had a station close to the village.

In 1961 the railways were losing £300,000 a day and something had to be done about it. Car ownership had increased exponentially, Britain was the second largest manufacturer of cars in the world at the time and travel by car was becoming easier while rail travel was becoming less desirable. Dr Richard Beeching was the chairman of British Railways and he wrote a report about the state of the railways and recommended that 6,000 miles, roughly one third, should be closed. One third of all passenger services were cut and 2,363 stations were closed, Harbury was amongst them. Some of the lines have been converted into the National Cycle Network for cycling or walking.

The station closed to goods trains on 11th of November 1963 and to passenger trains on 2nd

November 1964. The station was demolished, but the three arch bridge remains in use as it was built solely to connect Bull Ring Farm to the village and has been repaired many times.

Brunel's decision to create a cutting rather than a tunnel meant that it was unusually deep with steep sides and has been problematic since the track was laid 150 years ago. There have been a number of landslips – the most recent being in 2015 when over 300,000 tonnes of earth and rock had to be moved away and the cutting terraced back. In 2019-20 the embankment to the east of the Harbury Tunnel was made more stable and was declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

After answering some questions and being thanked by Chair Ed Wilson, he was enthusiastically applauded by a sell-out audience.

Harbury Society Programme:

Tuesday 20th January
Members' social evening.

Tuesday 17th February
A presentation by Steve Dean, Senior Historic Environment Advisor, on the subject of the Staffordshire Hoard.

Tuesday 17th March
Annual General Meeting followed by 'Medical Detection Dogs', a talk by Dr. Fiona Baskett.

Tuesday 21st April
Butterfly Conservation. A presentation by Mike Slater, Chair of Butterfly Conservation, Warwickshire branch.

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 £3 (pay at the door – subject to availability).

If you would like further information about the Harbury Society or would like to become a member, please contact Sue Turner, Secretary, on 07917 055920, email sue@turners.co.uk or visit the website www.harburysociety.org

The committee would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year.

HARBURY WI

Alison Lewis

November's meeting of Harbury WI was our AGM. Always a fun night, different to normal monthly meetings and this year was no exception!

We started with wine or a soft drink and nibbles and a sociable chat around tables!

The AGM meeting began with the President's report, a financial statement and the secretary's report. All very interesting and informative and detailing a very successful and memorable year, full of social occasions, good company, lots of chat, fun and charitable works!

Our monthly meetings have been graced with some exceptional speakers and our village cinema nights continue to earn funds for community projects. Many social events gave us extra opportunities to meet up.

Next on the agenda came election of our President and Lin Hayes was re-elected by a good majority and agreed to serve for a third year. Eight members of the present committee are to continue in their roles and another member was elected to join them. They all work very hard to make our WI what it is and to support our president and I'm sure that will continue in the next year.

Jerusalem then echoed around the Tom Hauley room as we all joined in the singing. And another AGM was concluded.

The monthly meeting then started with no speaker this time but a fiendishly difficult quiz set by Lin. We all struggled to assign countries to the facts around the room but a couple of our members showed superior knowledge (or good guessing!) and got 8 out of 14 correct. Well done Rosemary and Joan!

Our December meeting has the theme 'A True Victorian Style Christmas'. Please come along if you fancy joining our very active and friendly group for what I'm sure will be an interesting and informative talk.

We have lots planned for 2026, including more cinema nights - keep an eye on village notice boards for details. And there are sure to be many more social events and lively meetings, with opportunities to make new friends, and take part in fun activities.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy, happy and peaceful 2026.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Lynn Macwhinnie

As I write this, the Dick Whittington matinee is sold out and we have yet to perform the four shows, as the first of the three dress rehearsals happened tonight. This is when the cast are miked-up, sound levels adjusted, spotlights positioned and atmospheric effects tested thanks to the expertise of our brilliant sound and technical team: Gordon Robbins, Richard Bloxham, William Jones and new recruit Zach Holt. It's always a thrill seeing how the creative input of the entire cast and crew comes together, and will continue to evolve every night this coming week.

Your support means everything, thank you so much. We really hope that your memories of the panto are as fun-filled and enjoyable as our own.

We're already discussing our next production in May. If you'd like to be involved in any way, please do get in touch, we'd be delighted to hear from you: harburytheatregroup@gmail.com

We all send our very best wishes to you and yours for a Happy Christmas and Wonderful New Year!



FOLK CLUB

Stephen, Maureen and Sue

6th November - Number 466

The theme for the evening was "Names" and Maureen surprised the audience by introducing Steve as the first performer. Steve's surname is Darby and he explained that the last time he sang solo with a traditional folk song was when the club was held at the Old New Inn when

he sang the appropriately named "Dick Darby", a song about a hard family life, growing up as a cobbler and having a difficult marriage. It was well received.

Sue and Maureen followed with Bill Caddick's "John of Dreams" and "Lavenders Blue" originating from the 1670's when it was entitled "Lavenders Green". Rik had us all laughing about the funny nun, "Sister Josephine", and "Bluey Brink", the Australian sheep shearer who unfortunately broke wind that caused his shirt tail to set fire; needless to say there was lots of laughter. Bob recalled a friend called Lisa who travelled with Bob down the M6 and whilst driving, he introduced her to a song called "Lisa, Lisa", which was subsequently played about 30 times during the journey. He followed this with the Bangles, song "Eternal Flame". Pete and Liz sang "Bonnie Maid of Fyfe" which contained the name Freeman - Doug and Janny Freeman just happened to be in the audience. They then sang "Tim Maguire" who got a lot of pleasure from playing with fire - he ended up in prison. To close the first half Keith Donnelly entertained us as usual with "Give that Horse a Name"; there must have been a good 50 names to choose from. He then told us about his favourite folk singer Archie Fisher, who had passed away the previous week, so he dedicated "Just a Folk Song" to his memory; it had no name.

The second half started with Harbury Folk Club Choir singing "John Ball" who was a 14th century Lollard Priest and followed with "Eve", based on Hallows Eve. Pete Mason sang "Joseph Baker" and "Willy McBride" then Dave sang "Good Night Irene" and "Johnny Cash", all appropriate names. Peter McDonald sang Huw Williams' "Rosemary's Sister" followed by the Dougie MacLean song "Garden Valley", which featured the name Jenny. Richard sang a song from Dorset with a chorus we could join in with, "My Rose in June", (two names in the title) and then sang the story of John, Paul, George and Ringo coming to stay. To finish the evening, the wonderful Rumble-o performed three songs: the Kinks' "Days", Alan Doyle's "Row Me Bully Boys" and an ancient poaching song. They were well applauded by the audience as they produced such a lovely sound.

It had been a lovely evening's entertainment with every performer giving of their best and providing such a mix of serious stories, humour, traditional folk music and names.

The raffle raised a magnificent £100 which will go to the Motor Neurone Association in memory of David McLenachan, who passed away on 30th October.

Next month's Folk Club will be on Thursday 4th December at the village Library run by Michael with the theme being "Gifts".

HEREBURGH MORRIS

Peter McDonald



Have you ever wondered what Morris dancers do with the money they receive from performance fees and collections? Well, in the case of Harbury's team, Hereburgh Morris, once we've paid our essential expenses such as the hire of our rehearsal venue, we like to make substantial donations to worthy charities.

September was Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month so it was very appropriate

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Wishing all residents and businesses a **Merry Christmas**

We wish all our friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year. **Jackie & Simon**

Sue and Alan Lord *send all our friends in Harbury and Ladbroke seasons greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.*

Stan, Chris and Ro *wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy new year in 2026.*

May we wish all of our friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
A donation to the Mental Health Motorbike Charity will be made in lieu of cards!
With much love,
Kath, Rog and Deb Ellis

Barbara and David Thistlethwaite *would like to wish their friends a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.*

We would like to wish all of our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From all at **Harbury Milk Shed**

Gordon and Ros Baldwin *send best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas to all our Harbury Friends and Neighbours and would like to say how appreciative we have been of the many kindnesses we have received from them during the past year.*

Pat and John Woodward *wish all our friends and neighbours in Harbury, a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. This year we will again, be supporting Charities.*

I would like to wish all my friends and former neighbours in Harbury a very happy Christmas and New Year. Blessings to you all.
Sent with love and happy memories.
Joan Smith

To all our friends in Ladbroke and Harbury, we wish you a Happy Festive season.
Nicky and Gray Lewis.

Gordon Bennett *would like to wish all his friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2026.*
I will be making a donation to the charity Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Gillian Hare *sends best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all her friends.*



A peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year to all Harbury and Ladbroke friends. With warmest wishes from **Karen and Nora Ellis**. *Donations have been made to Air Ambulance as always in memory of Mellis (Martin was known as Mellis!)*

Pauline and Alan Hayes *would like to wish all our friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year (donation to Myton Hospice).*

Ann and Michael Vincent *wish all their Harbury friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year. Instead of cards this year we are making a donation to the charity Embrace the Middle East.*

Our Christmas Greetings to everyone in the village. May this season and 2026 be kind to us all. Many thanks particularly to those who have helped in my recuperation post knee surgery. **Moira Rollason and family** *xx*

Wishing all our friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2026! We will be donating to charity instead of sending Christmas cards this year. **Valerie and Steve Copley**

Season's Greetings to all our friends and neighbours. May your Christmas be full of joy and may the new year bring you good health and happiness. Instead of cards we'll be making a donation to a local charity supporting the homeless. **Mark, Hedy, Arda, Leila & Ben**

Philip & Ann Mayer *wish all their friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and Healthy & Peaceful New Year.*

We would like to wish all our friends in Harbury, a very Happy Christmas, with thanks for supporting us through some difficult times. We will be donating to e-wheels. **Jenny and Andrew Patrick**

Pam Parton *would like to wish all her Harbury friends, a wonderful Christmas and a Very Healthy and Happy New Year.*

Tim and Nicky Knight *wish all their friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

Geoff and Gill Thorpe *wish all their friends a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.*


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that we were able to donate a substantial sum to Ovarian Cancer Action in that month. The occasion was a sunny day at the delightful 'Apple Harvest' event at the National Trust's Canons Ashby where we have danced before. We chose this moment to present our 'cheque' for £850 to Margaret and Jane. Margaret is one of Hereburgh's founder members and is an Ovarian Cancer survivor of 24 years, while Jane, who recently joined us from Royal Oak Morris, is currently undergoing treatment, so this charity is very close to our hearts.

You can see Hereburgh Morris in action locally over the next few weeks:

6th December at 11.00: Parish Church, Leamington, Christmas Tree Festival

6th December at 2.00: Harbury Village Hall for the Christmas Fayre

1st January at 12.00: Crown Inn, Harbury for our annual Hangover Tour.

HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Celia Neill

On Thursday 13th November the members of the Association met in the Village Library for our Annual General Meeting.

The meeting started with a tribute to Ron Temple who should have been chairing the meeting but passed very recently while away on holiday. He was always enthusiastic about twinning events and had some interesting and innovative ideas to take the Association forward. He will be much missed.

This year we were faced with the problem of having to find a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. John and Sally Stringer had decided to retire from the offices they have held superbly for many years but fortunately they are prepared to stay on the committee. Sharon Hancock, a long serving committee member, felt she had to resign because of her caring duties but will always prepared to help when she can. The meeting approved the combining of the chair and vice chair's' duties and that they would be shared by Celia Neill and Sue Crum. The secretarial duties would be shared amongst the members of the committee.
The Treasurer said the accounts had been audited and the financial report was approved. The committee members were re-elected with the addition of two new members.



Looking to the future we will have our Christmas party on the 10th December and as usual will be celebrating Fête des Rois in January. On the weekend, 14th to 18th May we will be welcoming our friends from Samois-sur-Seine to Harbury. We are also pleased to find that links between the schools in Samois and Harbury seem to be progressing and a zoom style meeting with interested parties is being arranged.

If you are interested in this link with a lovely French village please do contact us.

celianeill@googlemail.com or suecrum@hotmail.co.uk

The meeting concluded with a cheese and wine social.



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

This month's article has been researched and written by Harbury Heritage's Vice-chairman, David Turner.

The Flecknoe family

In 1973 six bodies were buried together in Harbury Cemetery. They were John Flecknoe (senior), his sons William and John (junior), Ann Flecknoe the wife of John Jnr, and Henry Hinks. They were all Methodists, but who were they and why were they buried together?

The story begins in 1804 when a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was established in what is now Chapel Street. This proved popular and it was enlarged in the late 1850s. However, by 1970 the chapel needed more repairs than the dwindling congregation could afford and so the last service was held there in December 1971.

It was put up for auction in 1972 at the Regent Hotel in Leamington Spa and, before the bidding began, someone asked whether they were bidding for the bodies in the vault – the fact that the chapel contained bodies was well-known. A solicitor, present, said they were not and they would have to be removed by permission of the Secretary of State for the Environment. The bidding commenced at £1000 and a local builder, Mr John Evetts, who had never set eyes on the chapel, thought it was worth a gamble and he eventually bought it for £2,800. Upon visiting the chapel, he was impressed by the condition and thought it would convert into a nice family home, saying 'I'm rather pleased I've bought it'. Eventually, permission was obtained to remove the bodies from the vault. Six bodies were removed, one was in a lead-lined coffin which was intact, containing the remains of John Flecknoe (senior), and the rest wooden, which had largely decomposed. The remains were in coffins known as 'fish-tailed' coffins because of their shape. There are several theories as to why this should be so, one theory is that it made it more difficult for grave robbers to remove the bodies, but it was probably just a fashion with undertakers from the Birmingham area. The bodies were removed by a London company and re-interred at the cemetery with a service conducted by Rev Ronald Corner, Superintendent Minister of the Leamington Methodist Circuit.

In 2019, at the Annual Leamington History Day, a man approached the Heritage Centre's display and introduced himself as John Evetts. He informed us he had converted the chapel and related some of the issues he had experienced, particularly regarding the removal of the bodies. He told us he had kept photographs and documents about the conversion, which he would like us to have for the Heritage collection, which are now in our possession.

After converting the chapel, John Evetts lived there for a number of years. It is now known as Flecknoe House after John Flecknoe.

John Flecknoe (senior) was born around July 1755 and may have been the son of Henry and Mary Flecknoe of Braunston, Northamptonshire. There are references to him in the 1780 Harbury Enclosure Award Document: being the 'owner of and for and in lieu of three Quarters of a Yard Land' - land that is usually adjacent to a building or buildings and is approximately 30 acres.

John married Sarah Mann at Harbury Church in June 1779. He is described on the marriage certificate as being from the Parish of 'Hillmorten', (now part of Rugby) and Sarah is described as being from the parish of Harbury.

They had four children, Sarah, Elizabeth, John and William. Sarah married Richard Wheeler in Harbury in 1801. Elizabeth married Thomas Scotton in Harbury in 1811 and John married Ann Mann in 1806 in Harbury. William died in 1837 aged just 24.



The lead-lined coffin of John Flecknoe (senior)

When John (senior) died on the 7th January 1835 aged 79 years and 8 months, he is described in the chapel register as being 'upwards of forty years a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society whose remains are deposited in the family vault with his daughter Sarah Wheeler and five grandchildren' – though there doesn't appear to be any remains left of Sarah or the grandchildren.

He appears to have been very ambitious and successful, as the Land Tax Records show that in 1800 he owned land but was also renting land from John Cottrill and by 1805 he was also renting land from a Charles Palmer. He is listed a number of times up until 1830, in the Land Tax Records of owning land.

In his will he leaves houses, lands, furniture, linen, china etc. to his son John. To his daughter, Elizabeth Scotton, he leaves the sum of eight shillings per week for the duration of her life. He also leaves her the use of two cottages for the duration of her and her daughter's life (also Elizabeth), but his son John shall have the option to buy them for £100, if they wish to sell it. He also leaves his granddaughter, Elizabeth, the sum of four shillings per week until she is 21, or gets married, whichever is the sooner. To his other granddaughter, Elizabeth Wheeler, he leaves nineteen pounds and nineteen shillings.


This is the last Will

His son, John Flecknoe (junior) died on the 5th February, 1849 aged 62. The chapel register said that he was *'an active and useful member of the Wesleyan Society'*. Like his father, he appears to have been a successful farmer and is recorded as owning several areas of land in his own right, and he is also shown to be renting some.

His son's wife, Ann died 17th March 1872 aged 86.

Elizabeth Scotton died on 8th October 1860 age unknown.

Of Henry Hinks, the sixth person to be reburied in the cemetery, we have no information of who he was, or how he became to be in the Flecknoe family vault, other than the fact that he died on



The remains of Elizabeth Scotton

1st May 1837. His son is listed on the 1841 census as being a saddler, so perhaps that was the trade of the father. He certainly wasn't related to the Flecknoes and one theory is that his body may have been moved there at some point in time out of convenience.

That's about all we've been able to find out about the Flecknoes - the trouble is that if you're a fine law-abiding person you don't leave much of a footprint for future generations to discover about you.

Conversely, we are able discover much about two men, Richard Beards and Henry Allen, who broke into John Flecknoe's home in Harbury in 1817. They were caught and sentenced to be transported to Australia for 14 years - but that's another story.

Footnote: The current owner of Flecknoe House, Pete Woodward, told us that the date on the house plaque '1832' is a mistake and has no relevance to the family or the building. Also, he was told that the original building is dated around 1740 and was a barn to the farm (the farmhouse is now The Shakespeare pub) before it was bought and converted into a chapel at the start of the 19th century.

Winter Opening times

A reminder that we have decided NOT to open on Tuesday evenings from December through to March.

We will still be open to the public on the third Sunday in each month from 2 to 4pm. So, our next open day will be on the 21st of December.



The Harbury Heritage Group would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

HARBURY E-WHEELS

Bob Sherman
harburyewheels@gmail.com www.harburyenergy.co.uk

A thank you and a request

We have now sold out of tickets for the e-Wheels Christmas concert.

Thank you to all those of you have bought tickets for the concert and supported Harbury e-Wheels. **We have now completely sold out the event**. The church will be full. We are delighted and deeply grateful.

Our request: Please nominate us for a £1000 grant from Benefact Movement for Good.

Support from you will cost you nothing!

The fund is giving away £1000 to 120 charities over 12 days from 1st December. You have helped us succeed before; please help us again. Nominations must be online and close on 15th December. Scan the QR code or follow the instructions on the poster for a very simple process to nominate us or use the link on our website harburyenergy.co.uk/harbury-e-wheels



If you have to fill in the type of charity box, we are 'Community'.



THE BELL INN at LADBROKE

Christmas

Join us for a cosy celebration filled with delicious food and good cheer. Our festive menu is designed to bring you all the flavours of the season, making it the perfect spot to gather with friends and family. So, kick back, relax, and let us help you make this Christmastime a little more special. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

SEE OUR MENUS

Please check our website for details of Christmas events taking place throughout December

Let's create beautiful memories together this Christmas season

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HARBURY JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB

Beccy McDaid and all at Harbury Netball Club

Crikey it's nearly December and we are half way through Netball season - how time flies when you're having fun.

We have not been this busy as a club for quite a while. Six junior teams two senior Saturday teams and a very healthy back to netball group. Harbury netball goes from strength to strength.

We have had strong start from all our junior teams. With improvements being made every week. Both U13 teams are finding their feet in a very competitive division playing against extremely confident and more experienced teams. But each week they are stepping up their game play and proving that practice and patience really do pay off. Our U14 team is quite newly formed and really are now getting into their groove narrowly losing 16-19 to Highway in their latest match.

Our three older age group teams are doing extremely well with the U15s sitting second in their division and the U16 teams are second and third in theirs..

Not bad going at all!!!!!

We have once again been blessed with very generous sponsorship for two of our teams. Many thanks must go to Harbury's very own 'Banana Moon Day Nursery' supplying Hoodies for the U15 team.









Also many thanks to Newton LDP for also supplying Hoodies for our U16 A Team. Both teams look really smart and the girls love their new Kit.

Without the ongoing support of local businesses, our Club would not be able to offer such good value for parents and players alike. It is always VERY much appreciated.

As Christmas approaches I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all and especially our netball families a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR….

With very warm wishes.



HARBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Toby Whelan

November saw two break weeks in the rugby calendar to align with the international games against New Zealand and Australia, but the 1st and 2nd XV (at the time of writing) had one win and one loss apiece, with a final game to come on 30th November. The 1st XV lost narrowly away to Birmingham Solihull Bees before comfortably beating Lutterworth IIs at home, whilst the 2nd XV dispatched Alcester IIs 76-5, before losing in the dying stages to a strong Shipston II team.

The 1st XV have had a disjointed start to the season, having lost games which they definitely should have won, and currently sit in mid-table with a run of four games before Christmas. As the side continues to gel, and players return from injury, there is an expectation that the free-flowing rugby that we've seen over the past few years will return, and we will steadily climb the table. A two point loss away to Birmingham Solihull despite having 14 men for 50 minutes was a promising performance against one of the better sides in the league, and the tries have started to flow as we've now scored 14 in three games, including four last time out against Lutterworth IIs. The 2nd XV have gone from strength to strength, and a late loss against Shipston in awful conditions will not define their season as they look to push towards the top of the league, sitting in fifth as things stand in their first outing into the league structure proper.

Away from the main two senior sides, we were delighted to be able to field three teams on the same weekend for the first time in decades, with the 3s comfortably beating Shottery 42-10. It's worth noting that some four or five years ago the 1st XV used to play friendlies against Shottery, which is testament to the strength in depth we now possess, with more players joining by the week! With local sides in Leamington, Kenilworth, and Stratford regularly struggling to get 2nd XVs out, our playing numbers are to be admired and show how well we're doing, with the Colts set to add more players to the squad in the years to come as the M&Js continue to perform.

Away from rugby, the senior squad have organised and produced a charity calendar, as we raise funds for the club and support a brilliant charity in the form of My Name's Doddie, who do so much to try and battle against MND. The link to purchase the calendar is available on our website, and you will find details of the GoFundMe to support MND on our social media.

Looking forward to December we will have our annual Christmas Party on the 20th December, with tickets available to purchase from the club, whilst in the new year we will host our first 'Ladies Day' on 24th January. The club also now hosts a monthly quiz on the 1st Sunday of every month (7th Dec the next) and we welcome all teams to come and give it a go! Further details available on our social media for all of the above events!

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Colin Mercer

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

Harbury has three teams playing in the Banbury Winter leagues, two in the floodlit and one in the weekend format. The floodlit "A" team has started well and is top of Division 2 after winning the opening three fixtures. Kings Sutton "B" came to Harbury where Eira Owen, Jeunine Crabtree, Ben Fish and James Cattrell were on top form and ran out 8-0 winners. In the next match they travelled to Kings Sutton to play their "A" team and chalked up a 7-1 win in a hard-fought match with three of the eight sets going to tie-breaks.

In Division 3 the "B" team went to Hook Norton "C" where regulars Sue Panton and James Edge were joined by debutants Imi Huins and Jordy Pratt. A close match saw the home team secure a 5-3 win. In the next match Lucy Ewen, Helen Cooper, Ian Reynolds and JP Cosgrove welcomed unbeaten Banbury West End "B" to Harbury's courts. They had an excellent evening and won 5-3 to inflict the first defeat on the visitors and move up to 4th place.



The weekend team started the season in Division 2 with an away trip to the clay courts at Warwick Tennis Club. Sue Johnson, Helen Cooper, Ian Reynolds and John Hutchinson (making his debut) fought hard, but the home team's experience of playing on clay helped them record a 7-1 win.

Our coach Ian Shorrocks is running sessions on Friday for Juniors (4.00-6.00) and Adult Beginners/Rusties (6.00-7.00), and Lianne Candappa is taking the Ladies' group on Friday mornings, 9.30am-10.30am. For more details of any of the sessions, or individual lessons, please contact Lianne at: Lianne@coolsportz.co.uk or phone/text her on 07919 104093.

Finally, a happy Christmas and a prosperous 2026 to all Harbury News readers.

1ST HARBURY SCOUT GROUP & HARBURY EXPLORERS

Katharine Giblin

News from 1st Harbury Group

Email: harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk for the waiting lists at Harbury.

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







News from Harbury Explorers

Harbury Explorers has had a busy term so far with sessions including map skills and hiking practice in preparation for a drop hike where Explorers were blind folded and driven to a destination where they

had to navigate back to Harbury. They have helped build the annual bonfire and attended Remembrance.

10 Explorers from Harbury joined 85 Explorers from the Leamington District at a Halloween themed "Traitors Weekend" at Blackwell Adventure near Bromsgrove. It was a great weekend enjoyed by all.

If you have a young person aged 14-17 years who is interested in coming along to Explorers, we meet on a Wednesday during term time from 8pm. It is a great way to meet different people and to learn new skills. Email harburyexplorers@outlook.com for more information.





GUIDES AND SCOUTS SUPPORT

David Browne





Another year, another bonfire and fireworks event with a lot of planning for everything to disappear into the night sky! We hope you all enjoyed the evening and both the fire and the display. We've seen some awesome photos on Facebook which is great to see. We also hope many of you enjoyed the opportunity to warm yourselves with some food or drink from our local vendors whom we were pleased again to have support the event (shout out to Annabella Bakes, Street Chef, Eliza Jane Pizzas and the Shakespeare for their work in adding to the evening). The Bonfire and Fireworks Night is our biggest fundraiser and we are pleased to report that with your support and the excellent work of our volunteer workforce we have raised over £10,000 towards maintaining the hut and equipment and supporting the uniformed youth groups in Harbury.

This event for the community couldn't happen without our volunteers giving time and

energy in the run up to the event and on the day. We would like to pay particular thanks to:

- Mike McBride and his team of volunteers for such a wonderful display of fireworks.
- Joe & Paul Quinney and the team of Scout leaders and helpers who managed the magnificent bonfire.
- All of the children from our uniformed groups, their parents and other volunteers who turned out with 4x4's and trailers on a clear Saturday morning to collect material for the bonfire. We managed a huge number of collections this year and are always grateful for the kind donations in exchange for us collecting the waste to contribute to the bonfire.
- Naomi and Sue who served up hot food and drinks to our helpers to keep them going.
- Our stewards and tickets team who manned the gates and kept everyone safe on site.
- Everyone who gave time after the event to litter pick, rake ashes and remove bonfire debris from the field.
- Harbury Library who sold tickets and local people who provided straw and lent us a tractor.
- The Parish Council for allowing us to use the playing field and the Village Hall Committee for letting us use the hall.

We also need to say a big "Thank You" to everyone who supported us by coming along to the event. This community support is what makes for a successful event and we are pleased to be part of it.

So with the bonfire finished the G.A.S.S. committee are already working on our next fundraising opportunity …...

Christmas Post 2025



The Christmas post, beginning on **Wednesday 26th November** and running until **Saturday 20th December**. Just in case there is anyone who is not aware of this great service provided by GASS, each year we run a village postal service that, for a donation, allows you to get all your Harbury village Christmas cards delivered in the busy run up to Christmas by our uniformed groups!

All funds raised help to support Harbury uniformed groups and our hut running costs, so please support us!



Harbury Village Library has been kind enough to host our special post box again this year. This will be accessible during normal opening hours Monday to Saturday.

Our popular 24hr access service will also be installed on the outside of the library door. You just need to post your cards through the letterbox and make your donation either online (preferred) or with cash in an envelope (please do not post loose cash through the door). Online donations can be made via GASS Sort Code **30-99-50** account Number **42896363** Ref: **XMASPOST** please give generously!

The Scouts, Guides and Explorers will be sorting the post and our network of volunteers will be making three delivery rounds in December with the final cards arriving at their destinations in time for Christmas.

Don't forget to put the **house name/number** and the **road name** on your envelopes as we cannot deliver your cards without this information. We are able to deliver anywhere in Harbury village but unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to deliver any further afield.

That just leaves us to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from everyone at GASS.

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Staff and Committee

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Children in Need



It was Children in Need last Friday. The weather was torrential outside, but children and staff stayed lovely and warm and cosy on our PJ and slippers day! The children have been learning all about Pudsey Bear and with the help of our kindness mascot (Kayla Cat) they have been sharing all the different ways that they have showed kindness to their family and friends. We have also raised over £40 for Children in Need. Once again, we thank our parents for their support and donations. It is much appreciated and will be sent to a great charity.

Outdoor Learning

While the children were away, we got to play! As part of our recently awarded grant towards outdoor learning resources, the staff had a training day with a representative to review our outdoor area and look at ways of developing the children's learning. The takeaway from the day was that practically anything can be used as a learning tool; funding and space is not an obstacle and the only limit is our imaginations! We had a fantastic day, creating landscapes, dens, representations of each other and making an obstacle course; all using natural materials and some of things we have already outside at the Pre-School. We were excited to return after half term to incorporate some of our ideas into practice.

Animal Clinic



Our role play area is currently full of furry unwell Teddies. Luckily, we have a lot of budding vets in our Pre-School.

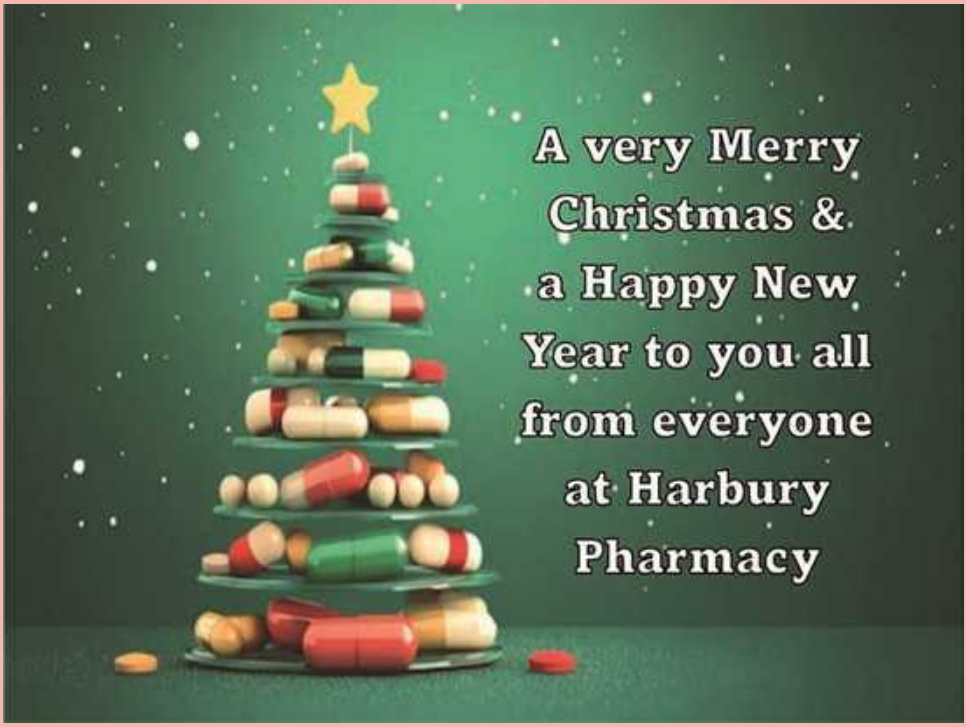
The children have been looking after their 'patients'; putting on bandages, providing medicine, listening to their heartbeat and giving them injections. Our young vets have also been taking phone calls and lots of 'notes'. I am happy to report that the teddies are now on the mend!

The Colour Monster





One of our favourite books is the Colour Monster which tells us all about our different emotions and how they make us feel. Each emotion has its own monster (happy for yellow, blue for sad, green for calm etc). We use our colour



CONGRATULATIONS, THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



If you would like to include:

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



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

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

'Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth, ' 1 john3:18

POD STAFF REQUIRED





HARBURY CE Primary School



Vacancy for a Playworker in The Pod

We are looking for an enthusiastic and dedicated person to join our wraparound care provision, The Pod.

Band D scp 4-5 to work 9 -15 hours per week.

Please contact Liz Kitchener at harburypod@welearn365.com for more information.

Make a difference. We can offer you a fantastic staff team in a welcoming inclusive environment.



HARBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

monster teddies to provide a visual representation of how we might be feeling at any given time. The children have loved painting their very own monsters to match those within the story.

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

Sports - Hockey



Some of our Year 6 pupils had a fantastic time at the Hockey Festival held at St Nicholas Park. The festival featured 7-a-side mixed games, giving everyone the chance to showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Many of the children had never played hockey before, so learning the skills for the festival was a real challenge – and they picked it up brilliantly! It was a lively and exciting event, with lots of great passing, dribbling, and goals scored. The children showed amazing enthusiasm and determination throughout the afternoon, making the school proud.

A big thank-you to all the parents who helped with transport. Well done to all our hockey players for a brilliant performance and for representing the school so positively!

Sports - Rowing

A group of our Y6 pupils represented the school brilliantly at the Indoor Rowing Competition held at Newbold Leisure Centre. This was the first time our school has ever taken part in this event, and the atmosphere was electric from start to finish!

Each competitor took part in a 90-second individual row before teaming up for a fast-paced relay event. We're thrilled to share that two children both came first in their individual races, and our boys' team finished an impressive second overall – out of nine schools competing!



Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination were fantastic to see, and everyone gave their all right to the finish line.

Well done to all involved – what a brilliant debut performance!

Anti-Bullying Week

At the end of November, we launched Anti-Bullying Week with a whole-school assembly exploring this year's theme, *Power for Good*. The children came into school wearing odd socks to celebrate that we are all unique and special – just look at the photo of some of our Reception children proudly showing off their socks!

During our assembly, we looked at different scenarios where bullying might happen and discussed the different roles people might play — such as the target, ringleader, defender, or bystander. The children contributed some very thoughtful comments and showed great empathy and understanding.

These important discussions were followed up in early morning work and PSHE lessons throughout the week, helping pupils think carefully about how to use their power for good every day.



Christmas

KS1 and reception classes have started getting ready for Christmas and learning songs and words for their nativity this year, which is Prickly Hay - A Nativity Hoedown. We are looking forward to seeing this…yeehar!

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy 2026. Thank you for all your support in 2025.

HARBURY SCHOOL PTA

Alice Mellings

Fundraising - Christmas Raffle



Each household in Harbury should have received raffle tickets that can be purchased to help raise funds for the new forest school we are hoping to fund on the school grounds. Tickets are £1 per strip and the raffle will be drawn on Monday 15th December. Please return envelopes with cash and tickets with name and telephone number on the back to the school office or Harbury Library.

Here's the full list of what you could win 👇

- 🏰 **Warwick Castle** – 2x adult tickets for a magical day out
- 🕯️ **The White Company** – Luxury home hamper
- 🍷 **Lola Leamington** – fine wine
- 🏃‍♀️ **Fit 4 Kids** – 2x School holiday activity vouchers
- 💃 **Spellbound Dance Academy** – One month of free dance classes
- 🛍️ **Store & Studio** – £30 voucher
- 💅 **Vicky G Nails** – Nail treatment voucher
- 🏃 **National Running Show** – 2 tickets
- 🧺 **Luxury Food Hamper** – Gourmet goodies
- 💇‍♀️ **Store & Studio** – Wash and blow dry
- 🎄 **National Outdoor Expo** – 2 tickets
- 🧁 **Epic Bakes** – Cakes and bakes voucher
- 🍴 **Fox & Hen** – £20 dining voucher
- 💆‍♀️ **Victoria Austin Beauty** – £50 beauty voucher
- 🥛 **The Milk Shed Harbury** – Local produce voucher
- 🍽️ **The Crown Harbury** – 2-course Sunday lunch for two
- 🎨 **The Running Pheasant** – Personalised name print voucher
- 💅 **Nails by Jess** – Nail treatment voucher

Thank you to all business who have supported with prizes.

Please return tickets purchased to Harbury library, the school or if your envelope has an address on it for a closer convenient drop please post it there. We are so grateful for the community's support and we hope to use these funds to give the children opportunities for more outdoor learning.

What we have contributed towards

We have had a very exciting month and have been able to support the school with **over £4k worth of grants** including:

£300 on new recycling bins for food waste to help teach children the importance of food recycling.

We have funded **coaches and mini buses costing over £1600** to transport the whole school to their annual Christmas theatre trips, enriching their life experiences in the arts and also a transporting Year 4 to their **speed stacking competition** where the children thrived taking part in the event.

We have been able to fund the Year 4 children to all receive a **Saxon Coin** for their WOW Day. Plus granting Year 5 **£700 for two WOW days**, to pay for people to educate the children on the Maya (the ancient civilisation from Mexico), plus a Survivor's day in the spring for their future project. Each year group receive funds when requested for these special projects.

We have been able to grant the school **£1400 to support the technology department**, which includes subscriptions to Digimap which is a geography tool for the computers and new keyboards to enhance the children's keyboard skills.

Dates for the diary

Carol Service Drinks Reception – 4th December 2025

Nativity Drinks Reception – 9th December 2025

School Disco – 30th January 2026

Lottery

Congratulations to Octobers Lottery winners – **1st prize winning £88.90**

Join our Lottery: This is an easy way to support our school and have a chance to win prizes with 50% of all proceeds go directly back to school. The more entries the bigger the prizes!!!

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

Easyfundraising

Please join easyfundraising and support the PTA for FREE! You shop via easyfundraising and the brand you shop from will donate to the PTA

Follow **Harbury School PTA** for all your PTA updates.



HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

Year's end is a-coming and changes afoot...

After many years running Biblio's cafe and representing Biblio's on the Library's Board of Trustees, Jill Baker has decided to step back from both roles to a well-deserved and slightly quieter life. You'll still find her helping at Biblio's but she's passing on the apron of power to others! We will all miss her calm presence and dedication to keeping a warm welcome of coffee and cakes available in the Library. On behalf of the Trustees and all Library users - Thank you Jill. You're a star!

We are now looking for a new person(s) to take on these roles. We would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who may wish to become involved with being a trustee and/or taking Biblio's forward. Both Jill and Kay Garvey (Chair of Trustees) are happy to meet and discuss what the roles entail. The HVL steering group works as a team and looks forward to supporting Jill's successor. Support for the new lead will also be available from Biblio's committee and Jill herself. If you are interested, please get in touch with Jill or with Kay. Kay's email is: chair@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk

Things to watch out for in December

'Poems and a pint' our outreach session in The Crown, continues on Tuesday 2nd December, 7.00pm - Note, poems read at previous sessions are available to read in the Library, see clip on noticeboard for most recent session, previous sessions are collated in a lever arch folder on shelf opposite desk - if in doubt, ask volunteers for location of folder.

We have an extra craft session - 'Christmas Crafts' for children on Thursday 18th December 3.30 - 4.30.

Plus all the usual events which you can find listed on the Library calendar on the website: www.harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk/events/calendar.

Looking further ahead, we will shortly be advertising our next 'Live & Local' production on Friday 16th January - a powerful and moving piece of storytelling simply called 'Mettle'. A one-man show telling the story of his father's war. Tickets available from the library desk and online from ticketsource.

Finally, the Library will be closed for Christmas from 24th December to 2nd January inclusive, although note that the Folk Club will take place on the evening of 1st January.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

The end of the year is almost here, a time of year when not much thought or time is given to the garden so here is a little light relief for an armchair gardener.

Match the common names to the Latin ones, all are winter interest plants.

Arbutus unedo	Aconite
Helleborus niger	Winter Sweet
Cornus Midwinter Fire	Poinsettia
Bergenia	Christmas cactus
Acer griseum	Strawberry tree
Schlumbergera	Dogwood
Eranthis hyemalis	Paper bark maple
Chimonanthus	Christmas rose
Euphorbia pulcherrima	Heather
Erica	Elephant ears



November is usually the month when there are few flowers to be found in the garden but not this year. There are roses, primroses, salvia, schizostylis, verbena, Mexican daisy, hardy geraniums, astrantia and many more. I intend to walk round the garden on Boxing day to see what is flowering then, maybe you could do the same?

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

NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

harburynature@gmail.com

Winter visitors have been arriving; we saw our first Fieldfares at the beginning of November. Now there are larger flocks flying around, giving their distinctive schack-schack-schack call as they fly from tree to tree when disturbed. They are making the most of the abundant Hawthorn berries, Sloes and Crab Apples that are available, and there are a lot this year. They will also be eating the scarlet berries of the Black Bryony that hang like nature's festive garlands on the hedgerows. Those berries, and the rest of the plant, are very poisonous to humans, but many bird species, such as Thrushes and Fieldfares, have digestive systems that can handle the plant's toxic compounds.



Black Bryony Berries (Martin Randall)



Slow & Hawthorn Berries (Martin Randall)

Smaller birds are also on the move. We saw a flock of a dozen or so Pied Wagtails on one of the nearby fields. These familiar, though striking, birds are similar in size to a Robin. They have distinctive black and white plumage, a long tail and slender build. They are widely distributed across the British Isles and parts of western Europe, inhabiting a variety of open habitats, including farmland, urban areas, coastal regions, and wetlands. They are particularly common near water bodies, such as rivers, lakes, and seaside locations. Pied Wagtails are known for their characteristic tail-wagging behaviour, often seen while foraging on the ground near water or on lawns, using their quick movements to catch prey. They are also adept at catching flying insects out of the air.



Pied Wagtail (TheOtherKev on Pixabay)

Pied Wagtails tend to be solitary during the summer breeding season, with most individuals in the south of England being resident year-round. However some from the northern uplands may move south in winter, returning to their breeding grounds in spring. Their social behaviour also changes in winter when they often become gregarious, forming large communal roosting flocks that can sometimes number in the hundreds of individuals. They move to urban and farmland areas, including sewage treatment plants and reservoirs. In urban areas they can be seen on buildings or trees in town centres, which presumably are warmer than the surrounding areas. Known affectionately by us as "car park birds", we have often seen them strutting and feeding around the bushes in the Sainsbury's car park in Leamington, where food scraps and crumbs will be added to their diet. Roosting together helps conserve body heat and provides safety in numbers from predators like sparrowhawks. Pied Wagtails have even been known to roost in ornamental trees with Christmas lights!

There is another wagtail species that is a resident in the UK, the Grey Wagtail. This is a very smart little bird. It has a very long, black-and-white tail and, although grey above with black wings, has a beautiful citrine-yellow rump and a yellow belly. These are quite common birds of fast-flowing rivers and can be found in high densities in the hills of England, Scotland and Wales. Grey wagtails eat ants and midges that they catch beside rivers, and sometimes snails and tadpoles that they find in shallow water. They nest near the water in hollows and crevices lined with moss and twigs. Like the Pied Wagtail they move to lowland areas in winter and can be spotted in farmyards and even in towns. We have been surprised to see a Grey Wagtail on a couple of occasions by our own garden pond - a real treat!



Grey Wagtail (balouriarajesh)

Last month, we asked you to share your favourite local nature photos from around Harbury, Chesterton or Ladbroke, to create a virtual (online) Harbury Nature Picture Gallery. Thank you to those people who have already sent in their photos and videos; you can enjoy looking at them here:

We can upload your photos anytime, so it's not too late to send us yours if you haven't quite got around to it yet! Just email them to harbury.nature@gmail.com, including your name and a short description of what is depicted. You can also share clips from a garden wildlife camera.

HARBURY GENERAL NEWS

HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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

At this time of year, I would first like to wish everyone a peaceful and restful Christmas season. For many of us, the past year has brought its share of highs and lows - nationally, locally, and in our own day-to-day lives. As we look ahead, I want to take a moment to offer my sincere thanks to all those who work, often quietly and behind the scenes, to make our villages and wider community such positive places to live. Your dedication makes an enormous difference, and it is very much appreciated.

In the Autumn, the Full Council have an opportunity to reflect on and debate the State of the District. This report acts as a yearly health check, much like a patient receiving an annual medical review. It highlights areas of strength, such as high life expectancy and business growth, while identifying critical areas needing intervention and resources, such as housing affordability, fuel poverty, and the challenge of diagnosing dementia. I think many residents will find it interesting and so I present here a summary…..

The State of Our District: An Overview for Residents

The annual "State of the District" report assesses the events of the past year (mostly ending 31 March 2025) and outlines future proposals, providing an economic, social, and environmental profile of the Stratford-on-Avon District. This information is crucial, as the issues raised will be considered by SDC during the budget-making process for 2026/27 and will help shape future policies and strategies.

Population and Demographics

Our District is growing rapidly and has an increasingly aging population.

- The estimated population in mid-2024 was **146,258** residents.
- Between 2014 and 2024, the population increased by 19.74%, representing the **8th highest growth rate** among all local authorities in England and Wales.
- Despite this growth, the District remains one of the least densely populated, with 150 people per km^2.
- The median age in SDC is **47.7 years**, which is substantially higher than the England and Wales average of 40.3 years.
- Almost half (47%) of the District's population is aged 50 or older, and over-65s account for just over 25%.

Housing, Affordability, and Development

The District's housing stock, totalling approximately **67,490 dwellings**, is characterised by a greater proportion of detached houses compared to the Warwickshire or English averages.

- **Affordability**: The median house price stood at **£350,000** in the year to end-September 2024, a fall of £25,000 from the previous year. This price is 19% higher than the Warwickshire median.
- **Price-to-Earnings Ratio**: Affordability remains a challenge. The median house price to median earnings ratio is 9.07. For lower-wage earners, the lower quartile house price to earnings ratio is even higher, at 9.15.
- **Rents**: The average overall monthly private rent (as a geometric mean) in the year to end-March 2025 was **£1,069**.
- **New Homes**: In 2023/24, a net total of **1,011 new dwellings** were added, significantly surpassing the target of 730. Affordable housing accounted for 35% of these new completions (354 dwellings).

Crime and Public Safety

The official recorded crime levels for Stratford District have gone down by 4% (1st August 2024 to 31st July 2025) versus the same time period in the previous year

- The crime rate is **69 crimes per 1,000 people**, which is higher than the Warwickshire average of 56 crimes per 1,000 people.
- The most prevalent crimes were violent and sexual offences (22.6 per 1,000 people).
- Vehicle crime is the second most common, with a rate of 5.43 per 1,000 people, which is higher than both the England and Warwickshire averages.
- SDC is working to reduce crime through the Community Safety Partnership. New public safety initiatives include the launch of new Public Space CCTV cameras at Meon Vale and the introduction of Pop-up Safe Spaces in Southam, Meon Vale, Alcester, and Shipston-on-Stour.

Employment, Economy, and Cost of Living

The District demonstrates strong business activity and above-average earnings but faces cost-of-living challenges.

- **Employment**: **18%** of employed adults are self-employed. Male residents are much more likely to be self-employed than females (25% vs 5%).

- **Earnings**: Median weekly earnings for full-time workers living in the District are high at **£766.60**. However, women's median weekly pay is 86% of men's pay.
- The largest number of businesses are in Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (18.15%). Agriculture, forestry, and fishing also account for a significant proportion (almost 9%), much higher than the national average.
- **Fuel Poverty**: **14.9% of households** in the District were in fuel poverty in 2023, which is above the English average of 11.4%.
- **Universal Credit**: As of June 2025, **10,126 people** were claiming Universal Credit in the District.

Health and Wellbeing

Residents generally enjoy good health and high life expectancy, but there are areas of concern.

- **Life Expectancy**: Life expectancy for women is 84.7 years and for men is 81.5 years.
- **Diagnosis Rates**: A significant concern is the rate of **dementia diagnosis**, **which stands at 51.2%.** This is one of the worst rates in the West Midlands, suggesting that 48.8% of people with dementia in the District may be undiagnosed.
- **Active Lifestyles**: 65.4% of adults report being active for 150 minutes or more per week.

Council Achievements and Future Direction

SDC continues to pursue the objectives outlined in the Council Plan 2023–27.

- **Climate Change and Environment**: The Council has adopted its Climate Change Strategy. Key initiatives include implementing HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) as a fuel source for the SDC Waste Fleet, installing solar panels on Stratford and Shipston leisure centres, and giving away approximately **13,000 trees** to farmers in partnership with the Heart of England Forest.
- **Funding and Support**: SDC has allocated **£1.6 million** towards key priorities in the Council Plan. It also secured over £1.1 million in grant funding for 49 projects across the District through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).
- **Neighbourhood Planning**: The District saw the adoption of new Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) for Beaudesert and Henley-in-Arden, Hampton Lucy, and Long Marston. The Council is also progressing work on the joint **South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)**.
- **Local Government Reform**: The most significant potential change is the forthcoming **Local Government Reorganisation**. Following an invitation from the government in February 2025, SDC is developing proposals for replacing the current county and district structure with new unitary councils. A final decision on SDC's formal submission is expected on 28 November 2025.

And finally, some money!

New Funding to Support Our Community Spaces

I am delighted to let you know about a major funding opportunity launched by Stratford District Council to support and strengthen the much-valued community assets across our district.

This year, the Council has created the **Community Grant Scheme 2025**, with £350,000 available for capital projects that improve or enhance local facilities. This is an excellent chance for our villages, community groups and charities to secure investment in buildings, recreation areas, sports facilities, allotments, or other shared community spaces.

Who Can Apply?

Funding is open to Town and Parish Councils, registered charities, community groups, and sports or community organisations with charitable status operating within Stratford District.

What Can the Grants Support?

Projects must relate to capital improvements—meaning physical upgrades rather than day-to-day running costs. Examples include:

- Structural repairs to keep buildings safe and usable
- Improvements to accessibility, such as ramps or handrails
- Extensions or alterations that allow a wider range of community activities
- Environmentally friendly upgrades to reduce carbon impact
- Refurbishments such as new kitchens or bathroom facilities

Projects that support areas experiencing particular challenges or rapid growth will be prioritised.

Grant Levels

Two funding streams are available:

- **Small Grants**: £5,000–£20,000
- **Large Grants**: £20,001–£100,000

Each stream has its own application deadline, and it is important to submit both the online form and the accompanying project workbook in good time.

Find Out More

Full scheme details, the guidance notes, and application forms are available here: www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/community-grant-scheme-2025.cfm

If you need any help or would like to discuss whether your idea might qualify, please feel free to get in touch with me. I am always happy to support local groups in bringing funding into our villages and helping our shared spaces continue to thrive.

Sue.ostrander@stratford-dc.gov.uk



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY COLLECTION 2025

Gill Holden & Nicola Thompson

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection in Harbury, Ufton and Chesterton this year. The following businesses and organisations were kind enough to allow us to use their premises as collection points: The Crown Inn, The Great Western, The Shakespeare, The Salon, the Co-op, Harbury Supermarket, Fosse Garage, Bull Ring Garage, Harbury Village Library, Harbury Village Club, Chandlers Agricultural, The White Hart and Banana Moon.

We would also like to thank Harbury Primary School, All Saints' Church, Harbury Parish Council, and the door to door collectors in Ufton, Chesterton and Thwaites Estate. This year one of our long serving collectors, Ann Ainscow is retiring from organising house to house in

Ufton but will still be involved in the Poppy Appeal. We would like to thank Ann and all the collectors in Ufton for their hard work.

Thank you also to John Holden, Phil Thompson and Bill Timson for help with collecting, counting and banking.

The final amount raised within the Harbury District is currently **£2517.48**. We are waiting to hear our total collected via QR codes and will update the figure in a future edition of the Harbury News.

Many thanks to all who contributed to such a marvellous effort.

Thank you cards showing the amount raised at each outlet will be delivered.



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Sheila Burtt

We've had a great year of walks all over Warwickshire and occasionally venturing into Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. The weather has at times been interesting but only once have we had to adjourn to Biblios because of the rain! We meet every Wednesday for a good walk. It's a great way to get plenty of fresh air, exercise and great company. So if, in the New Year, you fancy joining us just come along to the village hall car park on Wednesday morning at 9.40am. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.



HARBURY SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mike McBride, On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association

The next event will be upon us in no time at all and that is the annual Christmas Party on **Saturday 13th December 2025 at 5.30 for a 6.00pm start** in Harbury Village Hall.

Invitations were delivered and returned in November so we can confirm that everyone who requested places can come along to the party.

As you know, we do not charge or ask for a donation for the party, but we do run a raffle and you can buy as many tickets as you would like. If you wish to donate raffle prizes, they can be delivered to either 1, Park Lane or 32, South Parade.

Planning for the party continues but we would ask that if you are not feeling well or can no longer attend, please let us know as soon as possible to assist our final preparations. Please contact Mike McBride on 01926 612421 or Julie Clarke on 01926 612066 or talk to a committee member.

The members of the committee and helpers look forward to seeing you at the party and we hope that you will enjoy yourselves.

Finally, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

HARBURY MILK SHED – 14TH DECEMBER 2025

The Milkshed Team



We are starting Christmas celebrations early at the Milk Shed. Pop along for a complimentary glass of mulled wine and a mince pie or if you prefer, a MILKSHAKE.

You will be able to see some calves and pet the Guinea Pigs.

We don't see many of our customers and thought it would be nice to meet you. We will be here from 2pm until 4pm on the **14th December 2025**.

Look forward to seeing you and sending Festive Wishes.



BUMPS & BUNDLES

Carol Jackson and the Bumps team

We have had a very successful term and we now looking forward to Christmas. Our last session will be on 16th December when we will be having a small party. We look forward to welcoming new people with their Bundles at of our sessions. All welcome.



CONNECTIONS

Janice Montague

The friendly helpers at Connections welcome all carers and those they care for to our dementia friendly Christmas gathering.

We will be singing a selection of festive songs, playing games and solving puzzles while chatting over tea and cake. Everyone is welcome, and there is no charge.

We look forward to seeing you there, in the **Tom Hauley Room (behind the Church) from 2-4 pm on Wednesday 17th December**.

Please contact Jill Baker (07747 430470) or Janice Montague (07956 195408) for further information, if required.



SOUTHAM CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN 2025

Charley Peake

The Southam Christmas Tractor Run in aid of Galanos House will take place on Saturday 20th December. Tractors will assemble at 4pm at Dallas Burston Polo Ground. Viewing will be open at 5pm before we set off. Times will be as listed below. All times are a rough estimate depending on amount of vehicles on the night etc. To ensure you don't miss us, be at your villages waiting in plenty of time. Keep a look out on our Facebook page - Southam Christmas Tractor Run 2025.

The route around Harbury coming from Ufton, will be down Butt Lane, Vicarage Lane, South Parade, Park Lane, Farm Street, Mill Street, High Street, Hall Lane.

Charity buckets will be around collecting on the night so please do support us by giving your spare change. You can also donate on our charity go funding page link gofund.me/12bd41a9.

Leave Dallas Burston at 6pm

1. Southam central - 6.15ish
2. Flying fields - 6.30ish
3. Napton - 6.50ish
4. Stockton - 7.10ish
5. Long Itchington - 7.30ish
6. Bascote - 7.50ish
7. Ufton - 8.05ish
8. Harbury - 8.20ish
9. Bishops Itchington - 8.40ish
10. Deppers Bridge - 8.50ish
11. Ladbroke - 9ish
12. Back to Dallas Burston Polo Grounds

HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

There isn't a Market in December, our next Market will be in February.

We would like to thank all those who have attended the Market this year and have helped raised funds for local Community Groups.

The 2026 dates for the market will be announced in January.

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

Our Sponsor



NEW! TOM'S TEAS

Elaine Barnden, Michael Vincent & Team

This is a new community activity being put on in the Tom Hauley Room, at All Saints' Church, and we invite you to come along for a free cup of tea, cake, coffee, biscuits and chat. Perhaps you don't know many people in the village, maybe you are new here or just a bit isolated and would like some companionship. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends or catch up with old ones.

The first Tom's Teas will be 2.30 - 4.00pm on the third Monday in January - that's the 19th January 2026. You can be sure of a warm welcome.



PONDER IN THE PUB

Fliss Harris

There will be no pondering in the pub in December! This new discussion group focussing on everyday questions for everyday life, hosted by All Saints', Harbury meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Crown Inn, Harbury, 6.45pm for 7pm start, closing at 9pm.

We meet again on Tuesday 27th January 2026 when the topic will be "You must have imagined it!'

Everyone is welcome. Please come along and join us.

Meanwhile, we wish you a very Happy Christmas.

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TOM HAULEY ROOM
Moira
thr@allsaintsharbury.org

READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone for their cards, generosity and support following the death of John Moore. The kindness of the people of Harbury was, and still is, a great comfort to us.

Also, many thanks to Rev Andy for the lovely funeral service, and to Wendy Hancox for her excellent catering.

With love and thanks,

Anne, Gail & Carole

Dear Harbury

Pudsey Bear



A huge thank you for coming to the Village Hall – and very early in the morning!! on Wednesday 5th November at 7am to say 'hi' to Pudsey and to wave off BBC Coventry & Warwickshire's Radio Presenter Dan Sambell and Actor Rishard Beckett. Dan and Rishard completed one lap of the village as part of their three legged challenge to raise money for the Children in Need Appeal 2025. We were delighted to learn that the Village Hall not only donated the space for a couple of hours but also provided a welcome coffee, tea, hot chocolate and biscuits to keep us all going.



Children in Need have supported Entrust Care Partnership, a not for profit Organisation based in the heart of Harbury, for many years. Entrust provides a range of services for disabled children, young people, adults and their families. The money raised by generous donations from the public has specifically ensured that youngsters with additional needs can have the opportunity to go Out and About with one of our trusted, trained Volunteers supporting their inclusion into everyday activities.



We all had an exciting time and it afforded us the opportunity to say 'we love Pudsey' and to personally thank you for supporting Entrust Care Partnership and the children whose needs we meet.

Lynne Barton

Director, Entrust Care Partnership

lynnebarton@entrustcarepartnership.org.uk

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