Harbury & Ladbroke News



JUNE 2025



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Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke
2 June	F	F - R - G
9 June	F - R - W - G	F - W
16 June	F	F - R - G
23 June	F - R - G	F
30 June	F - W	F - R - W - G
7 July	F - R - G	F

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

This magazine is available by subscription and delivered within Harbury, Deppers Bridge and Ladbroke. Telephone 07900 852236 for details.

HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

JUNE 2025 No. 615

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July Edition Deadlines

Adverts to: 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to advertising@hlnews.co.uk by Monday 23rd June

Articles to: Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Monday 23rd June



Cover photo: Harbury Garden Walkabout by Gill Holden



EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

June traditionally sees Harbury Carnival and Pub Games. If you aren't taking part in the carnival parade on Saturday 7th, do find time to give your support by watching the procession or by spending your hard-earned cash at the fete on the playing fields. The Wheelbarrow Race will be taking place too, on Sunday 1st June.

During the last weekend of June the Harbury Garden Walkabout will be held, with over 20 gardens opening up for the public to look around. Usually a lovely weekend to admire the hard work gone into tending some beautiful gardens. Following on from the success of last year's visits you can also book for a tour of Harbury Windmill on the Saturday. During the same weekend, Warwickshire Open Studios will also be taking place.

With two of the Harbury village pubs recently acquiring new proprietors, we have a short profile of both on pages 60 and 61. We wish them well in their new ventures and welcome them to the village.

In Ladbroke, the Millennium Green is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on Saturday 21st June from 2.00pm at the Millennium Green. See page 12 for details.

We recently heard the sad news that Denis Daley, former Headteacher of Harbury Primary School from September 2003 to July 2012, has passed away. Denis was a popular Headteacher during his time at Harbury. We have also been informed of the recent death of Janice Thraves who was one of the magazine editors from 2004 to 2010, who left the village to live in Stratford.

Finally, we extend our sympathies to the family of Mary Coley, Mary Elizabeth Lloyd and Janice Thraves.



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

JUNE

Sun 1 SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
First Sunday Youth Group, 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Wheelbarrow Race, registration 12.30pm, race begins 1.00pm, starting from the Crown Inn

Mon 2 Booking opens today for Windmill Tours taking place during Open Gardens Weekend on Saturday 28th via TicketSource (search What's On 'Harbury Windmill')
Badminton, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 3 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
Harbury Theatre Group's business meeting, 7.30pm, Village Club

Wed 4 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.35am, behind Village Hall - Hampton Lucy - Wasperton (3.5 miles flat, no stiles)
Mothers' Union, communion service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, Speaker - from the Leprosy Mission, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Deanery Alpha Course, 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 5 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
NHS 'Chat with the Coach', 12.30 - 2.00pm, Village Library
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Club

Fri 6 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, Crown Inn

Sat 7 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam & Bishops Itchington Congregational Church
Harbury Carnival - entrants for parade assemble in Sutcliffe Drive, 12 noon, procession starts at 1.00pm. Fete opens 1.45/2.00pm on Playing Fields

Sun 8 WHITSUNDAY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, starts in Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 9 Badminton, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 10 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 11 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.35am, behind Village Hall - Sawbridge (5 miles, mostly flat)
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 12 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI, Origami Demo and the journey of becoming a surface pattern designer, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 14 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution)
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library

Sun 15 TRINITY SUNDAY
Said Holy Communion, 8.00am, Church
All Age Service, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Heritage Centre open - 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Mon 16 Badminton, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 17 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 18 Senior Citizens outing to Cardiff, coach leaves 8.30am from Village Hall
Wednesday Walk, meet 9.35am, behind Village Hall - Henley in Arden (4.5 miles)
Connections: A Carers' Support Group, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 19 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Classic Book Group, 7.30pm, Village Library

Sat 21 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Church Flowers

Sun 22 TRINITY 2
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Informal Evening service, 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 23 Badminton, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, Village Hall
ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
ADVERTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO 36 MANOR ORCHARD, HARBURY OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@HLNEWS.CO.UK

Tue 24 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 25 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.35am, behind Village Hall - Fenny Compton - Burton Dassett 5 miles, hilly)
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 26 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 28 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Guide God Stuff
Councillors' Corner, 10.00am - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall
Harbury Garden Walkabout, 11.00am - 6.00pm, programmes available from TicketSource or Village Library
Harbury Windmill Open for tours, tickets to be booked in advance only. Booking opens Monday 2nd June: via TicketSource (search What's On 'Harbury Windmill')

Sun 29 TRINITY 3
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Garden Walkabout, 12.00 noon - 6.00pm programmes available from TicketSource or Village Library
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 12 noon - 6.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Mon 30 Badminton, 10.00am – 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

JULY

Tue 1 Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
GASS AGM, from 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 2 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.35am, behind Village Hall - Lowsonford (4 miles, fairly flat optional pub lunch)
Mothers' Union visit to Hampton Lucy with pub lunch, details tba
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 3 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
NHS 'Chat with the Coach' 12.30 - 2.00pm. Village Library
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Club

Fri 4 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 5 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union Harbury

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 enter June many of the young adults in our villages will be well into their GCSE, A-Level or other examinations. I'm sure that we can all remember the fear and trepidation as we entered the exam hall, armed only with a pen or a pencil, at the mercy of the exam paper. Maybe that brings back a lot of memories - ones that we might rather forget! There are some people who feel that Christianity is also a bit like a test, that there are a set of complicated rules and regulations that we need to follow and that we are judged according to how we have done against that list of rules.

Yet, throughout his ministry Jesus teaches us that God understands that we do not always do the right thing, and when we acknowledge that and say sorry to God, he will forgive us. This is the message of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Like that wayward son, when we make a mess of things and eventually turn back to him, God meets us in our sorrowfulness, embraces us with joy, and reveals to us the very core of his being: love and compassion.

So, may we all recognize when we have done the wrong thing, and in turning to God for forgiveness we may feel the warmth of God's love for us. But let us also remember all of those

students sitting exams. We pray that they may feel less anxious, that they might find the right words, and that they do their best. We pray that God may be with them, and that he would give them confidence, calmness, and wisdom. But in all of this may we recognise that our worth to God has nothing to do with how many certificates we may, or may not, have. He knows who we really are and he has plans for us that do not depend on qualifications!



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Andy & Bez

May has brought a quieter month in the life of the church, albeit the Annual Parochial Church Meeting has led to a change in churchwardens. After an incredible 10 years service Liz McBride has stepped down as churchwarden. We are all incredibly grateful for Liz's service over the years, and she remains as Treasurer, keeping her beady eye over the money! Bez Norton has 'volunteered' to step into the breach and she will be transitioning into the role over the next couple of months.

The churchyard looks beautiful in the springtime. We take part in 'no mow May' and therefore some of the grass is growing particularly long at the moment ready to be cut down in due course. Thanks to Bob, Will, Gillian and all those that maintain the churchyard.

Thank you to all those that have contributed towards the Appeal leaflets that were distributed in May. The donations are still coming in, but we will update next month on the total to date and the plans going forward in terms of the works.

If you have any questions, we can be emailed on warden@allsaintsharbury.org or phone Andy Dean (07753 497967).

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

From the Registers

Funeral

Friday 16th May 2025 Mary Elizabeth Lloyd (94 years)

MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

Another fascinating talk this month. Andy Bower who works for the Warwick and Leamington Food Bank. They have collection points in 16 churches, a warehouse in Trident Park and distribute from six centres in Warwick and Leamington, plus some home deliveries in Kenilworth. He explained how the voucher system enables those in need to access food; this involves up to 140 agencies making referrals.

We were impressed by the scale of the scheme, as well as saddened by the need for it in this country at this time. There are at least 1400 food banks in the UK not counting the many independent ones. At least it is easy for us to contribute, via the collecting points in the library or Co-op; we are so grateful to E wheels for transporting it.

4th June - a talk about the Leprosy Mission - please invite anyone who might be interested, or even surprised that this crippling disease is still rife, so many years after antibiotic treatments were developed.

2nd July - visit to Hampton Lucy, with a pub lunch and guided tour of that impressive church. Details at the next meeting.

5th July - Coffee morning in Tom Hauley Room.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

JUNE

Sun 1 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 3 Ladbroke Photography Club, 7pm, Chedhams Yard, Wellesbourne

Wed 4 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Thu 5 WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 8 PENTECOST
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tue 10 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 15 TRINITY SUNDAY
Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

Tue 17 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 21 Millennium Green 25th Celebration, from 2.00pm, Millennium Green

Sun 22 TRINITY 1
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Mon 23 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

Tue 24 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 29 TRINITY 2
Holy Communion (said service), 9.00am

JULY

Tue 1 Photography Club, Summer Social, 7.30pm, Venue TBA

Wed 2 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Thu 3 WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 6 TRINITY 3
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 8 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 9 Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Our church bells and belfry are in good condition, but sadly our ringing team is currently somewhat depleted. By contrast, our neighbours at St James in Southam have a full team but their bells are unsafe to ring. So the ringers from Southam coming to ring our bells is a clear win win solution and we were very pleased that they were able to visit us on the 80th anniversary of VE day and enable us to be participants in the nationwide celebrations.

The following day, we welcomed the Spa Chorale back to Ladbroke for another concert, themed 'Where are the Songs of Spring?'. Around 80 attended another very successful event and we hope that this will become a new tradition.

Our regular Sunday services will be continuing through the coming months, a reminder that all are welcome to join us and also that the church continues to be open for visitors and for quite reflection and prayer between the hours of 10.00am – 4.00pm every day.

Future Services and events:

Sunday 1st June	10.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 8th June	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th June	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 22nd June	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th June	9.00am	Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 6th July	10.30am	Family Communion

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

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Carol Lane

The Annual General Meeting of Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge WI was held on Wednesday 30th April as the Village Hall was being used for elections on our usual Thursday.

In her president's report, Sue Moore thanked members for their hard work in specific areas: Carole Rhodes for her work as secretary; Alison Pollit's treasurer duties; Sue Dargan and Kay Constable for running a stall each meeting helping to raise funds; Dianne Surgey for the Food and Friendship group lunches, Carol Locker for sending cards to members on special occasions; Heather Brooks for the monthly raffle and the taking of money for refreshments and me for writing these notes each month!

The meeting also received the secretary's report and the audited accounts were available for inspection.

All committee members were happy to stand again and as there were no other nominations, the committee remains as follows: Susan Moore, Carole Rhodes, Alison Pollit, Heather Brooks, Carol Locker and Sue Lord. From this group, Sue Moore was elected president for another year and was thanked for all she does. As two of the committee were away the picture shows Heather and Alison standing and Carole and Sue seated.



After a buffet with a sparkly drink, we reconvened for the business meeting. Members had once again been to talk to residents at Galanos and Sue will talk to the managers about us welcoming residents to Ladbroke.

Sally and Dianne had made flags on the theme of VE Day for the competition at the Group meeting at Napton on 9th June. Various venues have been suggested for our Summer outing in August: The Lord Leycester, Barn Farm Garden Centre at Wardington, the National Herb Centre or possibly Michael Heseltine's garden. The choice will be made at the next meeting.

There will be a suggestion box for ideas anyone would like the WI to discuss. Perhaps the most exciting news is that seven members will be off to Canada on 14th May. Their trip will include a visit to Rosa, ex member who now lives in Toronto, so are looking forward to touring Toronto and seeing the CN tower as well as going to Niagara Falls and lakes. They promise a full account on their return. The Ladbroke and Deppers Bridge banner (as seen on the photo) is going with them and thanks were given again to Janet Carlyle for making it.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th June in Ladbroke Village Hall starting at 7.30pm when Philip Yorke will be giving a talk on Investigative Journalism. All are welcome.

LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

Our Website

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

Millennium Green Festivities

We hope you will be coming along to the 25th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the Millennium Green on Saturday 21st June from 2pm. There will be fun for everyone no matter how young or old you are, including live music, food and drink, amusements, stalls, and a bouncy castle! All taking place on the green. Car parking will be available.

The entrance fee is £5 including a raffle ticket – under 14's free. Bring your own chairs, picnic blankets, etc - and don't forget to bring cash for the entrance fee and amusements. All funds raised will go towards the new play equipment on the green.

As this is going to be a big event contact us through our website if you can help in any way.

What Next?

We have more events planned for later this year:

- Friday 8th August – a summer film night.
- Friday 10th October - a quiz night in the hall.
- Saturday 22nd November – a village safari supper.

Hall Bookings

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

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

A Reminder

The Village Hall and Millennium Green are separate registered charities whose admin and finance are overseen by a group of trustees. However, because the upkeep of the Village Hall and Millennium Green is the responsibility of all who live in Ladbroke we have a larger Ladbroke Matters team which takes care of maintenance and organises fundraising events. We also have a dedicated team of volunteers who bake and supply delicious 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 looking for new team members, so if you would like to join us get in touch via our website.

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for April 2025

£50	Graham Lewis	£25	Steve and Val Copley	£10	Tim and Joley Malby
£50	G and T Varriale	£25	Russel Griffith	£10	Cara Jenkins
£25	Pauline Long	£10	Margaret Bosworth		

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Richard Bedwell

This month our subject was Chesterton – not just the Windmill but the village more widely, including Thwaites estate. This brought us some terrific images as you can see. Our June meeting is an outing to Chedham's Yard in Wellesbourne where we will capture images of cartwheel manufacturing.


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LADBROKE GENERAL NEWS

LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

Heritage and Friendship Group

Our meeting last month was the day before the 80th Anniversary of VE day and Diane told us how she had been in London for the celebrations. Others in their 90s could not remember that day specifically but had wartime memories including when war was declared, of being bombed in Leamington (which was the reason his family came to Ladbroke and he married a lass from Deppers Bridge).

Geoff remembered a young lady from London coming to their home in a west country village and her delicious fruit cakes, probably on a par with the one we had that morning, baked by Carol to the WI VE80 recipe. We also shared our memories of what we had been doing on other memorable days such as being at school and seeing the caretaker open a hatch between her house and the adjoining school to tell the headteacher the King had died. Several of us recalled where we were when we heard Princess Diana had died and the fact

Ladbroke's bells were muffled that Sunday morning. Some clearly remembered that August Bank holiday when the SAS stormed the Iranian Embassy to release the hostages and most of us had vivid memories of hearing when the planes crashed into the Twin Towers in New York.



We went slightly off theme looking at old photos, some of which will be appearing in the **Ladbroke – Old and New** exhibition to celebrate 25 years of the Millennium Green. Here's one of the time capsule being lowered into position by the Millennium Stone. We also heard about the incredible bookcases at Anglesey Abbey made of yew reclaimed from a bridge across the Thames. That interesting fact was triggered by deciding that the theme for our meeting on the first Wednesday in June will be BOOKS, so if you would like to share reminisces about your old favourites, why not come along and join us at The Old School 10.30am - noon on 4th June.

OBITUARY

Jackie West



Frances Mary Coley

Frances Mary Coley, nee Barnett, known to us all as Mary, died in March 2025 and there was a service at Ladbroke Church to give thanks for and remember her long life. I only knew her a little, from church and our chats when I took her copy of Harbury and Ladbroke News to her in her flat which looked down on the Pump Room Gardens in Leamington Spa. So the details that follow are from the eulogy at her memorial service which, except for the tale at the end, Mary wrote herself.

"I was born on 30th August 1935 at Ladbroke Hill Farm but my only real memory of that was riding on the back of my Dad's motorbike. I was only three when Mum passed away and my only memory of her is visiting her in hospital, sitting up in bed in a pink bed jacket. Then Dad *[my brother]* Patrick and I went to live at Hall Farm with our grandparents where many happy years were spent before Dad remarried in 1942 and we went round to Forge Garage to live until my grandparents both passed away in 1944. I was educated at Our Lady's Convent School in Southam, I hated school and could not wait until my 15th birthday when I left and stayed at home helping on the farm at Hall Farm until my parents retired in September 1969. Not being retiring age myself, I had to find alternative employment and being a practical person myself it certainly would not be office work.

My first job away from farming was the milk round in Bishops Itchington and in the afternoon at the hairdressing salon in Southam. I then took over as nanny to a family in Barnt Green until the three boys were at boarding school. Then I went as an auxiliary nurse at Blackwell Recovery Hospital, still living in a flat in the home of the family where I worked as nanny. While at Blackwell, I met and married a young man, which was a big mistake so we will pass over that short period of my life. I returned home and went swimming horses at Deppers Bridge for Aubrey Langton *[he had one of the first pools for horses in the area]*. On his moving I went as assistant matron at Dunchurch Winton Hall, finally becoming matron until the headmaster and mistress retired and I moved on yet again. I was housekeeper to an extremely nice couple in Harpenden for 10 years. Then circumstances dictated another move when my father became ill with motor neurone disease. After a short while with Mum at The Bungalow *[in Windmill Lane]* I moved to Kenilworth, going home to help look after Dad on my days off. Although I enjoyed my farming days at Hall Farm and The Bungalow, if I could live my life over

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again I would have gone in for nursing but, being unable to inject iron into one week old piglets, I passed on that.

During my stay at Kenilworth and going backwards and forwards from Ladbroke, I had a car accident whereby I finished up in the ditch wrapped around the telegraph pole opposite a house. Not having a mobile phone then, I went to ask if I could use the phone to ring my garage man and good friend Mark Teverson to come and pull me out. Not too much damage was done, I continued on my way and eventually Mark straightened my car out. The outcome of that episode was that I married the gentleman concerned, Norman Coley on 30th August 1996 and we had many happy years together before he passed away in 2001. When Mum died, I moved to Clarence House in Leamington, I had lived in a flat when I first married and working but it was not the right thing to do in retirement. However, having met up with an extremely nice lady in the same complex I was content."

Several years ago Trish Teverson took Mary to a hospital appointment about a suspect brain tumour. When the consultant told her he needed to do an operation and proposed a date Mary went to her handbag, took out her diary, and told him it wasn't convenient as she had a hair appointment that day! After some persuasion Mary did agree the operation should take priority.

Mary, you were a real character and your life was woven into Ladbroke's history. We remember you with affection.

AGNES COURT

Carol Lane

The Friends of Agnes Court are once again hosting an evening of Open Gardens at Broughton Grange, Banbury, OX15 5DS (www.broughtongrange.com) on 2nd July from 6pm until 8pm. The entrance fee is £10 (under 16s free) and light refreshments will be available. This is a special evening to raise funds for the residents of Agnes Court, (Leonard Cheshire) Home, where my son-in-law has been a resident for eight years following a catastrophic stroke. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.



READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors

Geoff Timms

23rd October 1932 – 14th May 2025

The family are sad to announce that Geoff Timms has passed away peacefully after a short illness at the age of 92. Geoff lived and worked in Ladbroke for his entire life, it was his world.

Geoff was a loving husband to Jean, father to Nick, grandfather to Crawford and friend to many. The family would like to pass on their thanks to all Villagers for their friendship and support during Geoff's life.

Please join us to celebrate Geoff's life at All Saints Ladbroke at 11.30am on Friday 6th June. In line with Geoff's wishes no black ties please, family flowers only.

Nick Timms



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 – Thursday 24th April Meeting

The only two matters raised under public consultation related to the Library grant application and a planning request, so the Chairman deferred any discussion until the matter came up on the agenda. The next item being the application from the Library for a grant to purchase three computers and associated equipment. The Chairman declared an interest with the Library and absented himself from the discussion. Councillors were all in favour of the application, noting that the Library had raised over £500 towards this purchase. A grant of £1500 was agreed leaving the Library still to raise around £250 in order to purchase all that was required. Councillors then agreed to fund the hire of the Village Hall for the Village Show in September.

The meeting then received a report on the recent public meeting on the Great Western at Deppers Bridge to which Councillors Stockdale and Thompson had attended. The new owner of the former pub had outlined plans to restore initially the ground floor, including re-instating the train. He planned to offer quality food at sensible prices with provisions and beers sourced locally. He hoped also to use local tradesmen to undertake the refurbishment. Initially the pub would be open Wednesday to Sunday and those who work from home would be welcome to use the pub as a more sociable working environment. Arrangements had been put in place to fix a cover over the WWI blue plaques that were on the front of the building to protect them from any damage.

Other Organisations

Bob Sherman advised that WCC were still very much committed to the project to install electric car charging points at the Village Hall Car Park. Tender documents had been prepared for this work to be carried out but they ran to 30 pages which was thought to be too much. Whether WCC would be prepared to reduce them remained to be seen.

Councillor Kettle being up for election was limited on what he could report on. Improving the drainage in Mill Street by the Surgery would require a new drain being installed for which a job ticket had now been raised. Cllr Kettle then reported that Severn Trent had recently been fined by WCC for installing temporary traffic lights in Bishops Itchington for four days whilst no work was undertaken. WCC had also fined Severn Trent for three other similar instances in the county. His message was, if you see these pop up traffic lights set up and no work appears to be done for a number of days, contact WCC Highways as they may not always be aware of the situation. The target for pot hole repair is 30 days (may be a temporary repair) or 24 hours for a serious pot hole. It is best to report pot holes via the WCC website.

Planning

The Council decided to make no representation to an extension at 8 Frances Road. Also to the fixing of WWI blue plaques to two houses in the conservation area. Noting that when the WWI plaques were originally installed, the two house owners at that time had decided they did not wish to have plaques on their properties. The new owners being quite happy to now have the plaques.

BT in a consultation were proposing to remove the telephone apparatus from the phone box opposite the Shakespeare. Figures from BT showed that seven calls had been made over the

last few months to helplines. The Chairman recognised that this was a facility for persons who felt unable to make calls from their home or on a mobile. He wondered that if BT did go ahead with the phone removal, whether some form of phone re-provision could be considered in the village for use by those who needed to seek confidential advice/help.

Properties

A suggestion had been received to place a bench in the cemetery towards the top of the main path. This was thought to be worth following up and the Clerk agreed to obtain a quote.

Environment

Councillors were sympathetic to a request to install 'Beware Horses' signs on Chesterton Road. WCC would require a payment of £500 even to consider any need and installation would be quite expensive.

Next Meeting

Annual meeting of the Parish Council and Annual Parish Meeting, Thursday 8th May. Next ordinary meeting Thursday 22nd May. Both meetings at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Annual meeting of the Parish Council followed by the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 8th May 2025

The annual meeting of the Parish Council is where the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected for the year. Then the councillors are allocated onto the various council working parties and as representatives to a number of outside bodies. There was a period of silence when the current chairman Tim Lockley asked if any of his councillor colleagues wished to stand as Chairman, so Tim remains in post. Julie Balch remains as Vice Chair. Most of the Councillors remain on their various working parties. Cllrs Mulley and Sylvester joined the Planning working party – on the basis that there may well be more applications on the way in future. Cllr Sylvester also joined the Climate working party.

The representatives on the Outside Bodies remained the same apart from Cllr Mulley offering to be the Council's representative on the Library Management Committee.

The housekeeping meeting completed, we quickly moved on to the Annual Parish Meeting. As the chairman pointed out, this is the villager's opportunity to hear what our Parish Council and the other elected District and County councillors have done for us over the last year. A pity then that only a handful of residents attended the meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting by saying we are entering a period of uncertainty. There will be a single unitary authority to replace Stratford District and Warwickshire County Councils but what form that will take is far from clear. The South Warwickshire Local Plan is halfway through its formulation and adoption, which will result in more housing in the local area. Lastly, the recent County Council elections had resulted in no party having overall control of the Council but with Reform as the single largest party.

The Chairs for the Working parties then gave a quick report. Samantha Allen for planning said that it had been a quieter year for applications. However, the next five to ten years would see more housing being built in the Village. Cllr Alex Potter Chair of Environment reported that whilst a number of potential sites for planting trees along some of the verges on roads into the village had been identified, the County Council had vetoed them on the basis of road safety. However on the Pound, which is owned by the Council, trees had been planted. The programme to replace stiles with gates on local footpaths had seen four stiles removed on the footpath from The Beeches to Chesterton Road.

Properties Chairman Keith Thompson, said that a bench in memory of Pat Summers who had done a lot for the village had been placed on the playing fields. The extension to the Village Hall car park had been undertaken during the year. He was liaising with a contractor on how best repairs to the Hall Lane Allotments wall could be undertaken. Finance and General Purposes Chair Samantha Allen reported how increasing costs were impacting the Council. There was a wish to totally renew the skate park, which would be a costly job and fundraising would have to take place to enable this to happen.

Lastly for Climate working party Robert Stockdale said he hoped to make contact with organisations in the village to gain an understanding of what they were doing to help reduce climate change. Also to seek their views on what they think the Parish Council should be doing to promote climate related measures.

There were two representatives from village organisations along with the Head of Harbury School to present reports. On behalf of the Library, Ruth Walton said the main project had been the new heating and associated works which had gone very well. New seating had also been provided. The Library is always looking for new volunteers either to work on the Café side or on the Library Desk.

Village Hall Treasurer Steven Friling said the Hall's annual accounts had been approved and a surplus of over £3,000 had been recorded. The Hall had 29 regular hirers and in the last year had hosted 23 parties. There was a quite a number of single bookings. Andy Rutherford had stood down as Chairman and would be a hard act to follow as he was very good at obtaining grants for the Hall.

Lucy Bosley the school Head Teacher reported that the intake for this September's reception class was not full, whereas in previous years it had been. She was concerned about this year's pay award which would not be funded and could cost the school an extra £70,000. The school was also due a SIAMS inspection, jointly by the Church of England and Methodists churches. This focuses on the impact of Church school's Christian vision on its pupils.

District Councillor Ostrander had now completed two years on the Council. Whilst she had dealings with all of the Parish Councils in her Ward, she complemented Harbury on their work. Issues she had been involved with over the year included planning, housing, environmental health concerns and in Harbury anti-social behaviour. She likes to attend village events and to meet villagers. She will be sad to see Stratford District Council go.

Chris Kettle our County Councillor had been re-elected on a majority of just seven votes. This year the Council has a budget of £420m of which £350m will go to Adult and Children's services. Funding for Education is separate to this and comes directly from the Government. Special needs is an issue with £60m being allocated by the Government but the requirement in the county is for £100m. He has pursued the issue of flooding in the Village. The water seeping out at the bottom of Farm Street in wet weather should be dealt with at the end of May. The problems by the Surgery will require a new drain installing which will encroach onto the vegetation on the side.

The traffic lights were completed at the Harbury Lane Junction last year, this funded from developer monies at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath house building. As well as the traffic lights, improvements will be made to the roundabouts at the Fosse Way/B4100 and at the Fosse Way/A425 (Radford to Southam Road) Islands.

Finally by 25th November 2025 proposals have to be submitted to the Minister on how unitary authorities will be implemented in Warwickshire.

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

HARBURY SOCIETY

David Turner

The Archaeology of Harbury



The archaeologist Ed Wilson

Ed Wilson, the archaeologist, has lived in the village for 25 years. He's a professional archaeologist and is the heritage lead to the Environment Agency and helps to ensure when flood defences are planned that archaeological work is built into the construction process. Formerly the archaeological planning advisor for Warwick County Council, he was advising on all planning applications that affected heritage in the county.

Ed's background is as a field archaeologist, originally in Hampshire and then working for the National Trust for a few years at a property called The Vine. He then transferred to Warwickshire before moving to the Environment Agency where he's been for the past 20 years, heading a team that covers the whole country.

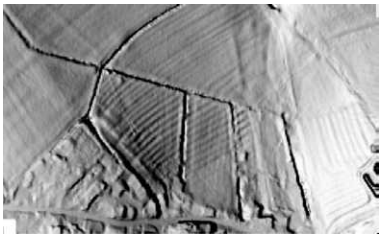
Ed informed us he was going to walk us through 3,500 years of history. We were told that several hundred thousand pounds worth of archaeology has been undertaken on buildings in Harbury since the 1990s. One of the best sources of information to learn about the buildings is the book *'Hungry' Harbury* because, although it was published in the 1980s, our understanding of the buildings in the village hasn't changed much. What has changed he said, was the information about the story of the village which has been generated from the archaeological work. He said his talk wasn't going to cover Harbury's buildings or about its historic records but rather focus on the evidence that has been found in the ground. Although there wasn't much archaeology done until the 1990s, there were a number of chance finds. We were shown a photo of a silver William III shilling that was discovered in the grounds of the Manor House, part of a number of post medieval coins that were found there. When he first came to the village he lived in Church Terrace and he passed round a tray containing objects he had found while digging in the vegetable patch there.

Before 1990 archaeology was mainly undertaken for emergency rescue purposes. Before that university research was mainly responsible for archaeology taking place. Then in the late 1980s, at a construction site in London, the remains of the Rose Theatre were unearthed. This was one of Shakespeare's theatres and there was public uproar when it was going to be destroyed, so a decision was made to change the way that archaeological projects were dealt with. Ed made a controversial statement that, in his opinion, the finest thing that Margaret Thatcher did was to introduce *Planning Policy Guidance 16, Archaeology in Planning,* which made the developer financially responsible for the archaeology they were disturbing during construction. After 1990 anyone who was building anything had to have it assessed to ascertain whether it was going to damage any archaeology and, if it was, they would have to

pay for it. Furthermore, not just have it dug up but to have it processed, reported on and get the information out to the public. Getting the information out to the public was the most important thing because if the story isn't made available then what's the point?

Within Harbury there are a number of legally designated sites – listed buildings. Most of them are post medieval but the earliest is the church and the most recent is the phone box in Mill Street – all of them are Grade II. Another type of designated sites are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, which protects sites that are below ground. Harbury doesn't have any – that's not to say they don't exist, but none have yet been identified.

We looked at a LiDAR 3D map showing Model Farm off Butt Lane and the area behind the doctor's surgery in Mill Street which clearly shows the ridge and furrow pattern of the medieval field system.



LiDAR photo of medieval field system behind Mill Street

Ed thought the reason the ridge and furrow system was so visible in certain areas was because they had been used for grazing and therefore they hadn't been ploughed out. By walking along the footpath that runs along the side of the surgery it is possible to detect how the footpath rises and falls as it cuts through the medieval field system.

Another LiDAR image showed Harbury sitting on a ridge known as the Cotswold Escarpment. Clearly visible is the 1852 railway, still in use today, and the M40 but cutting through these is a prehistoric trackway, known as Lear Street, which dates from at least the Iron Age. This runs straight through the village down Ivy Lane, Church Terrace, Bullring Farm Road and on into Ufton Fields.

One of the oldest objects found in the village was a ceremonial mace head which dates from the neolithic period, around 5000 years ago. It was discovered in a layer of top soil while conducting a trial trench at Treens Hill housing development. The archaeologist who found it thought it could have been imported to Harbury, but Ed felt it more likely that it was made here. There is, in that corner of the village, some very early archaeology with prehistoric finds discovered in the 1950s near to the Fosse Way. When Transco were putting in a pipeline near to the railway around the year 2000 a cremation burial in a pit was discovered.

It has been thought that Harbury has its origins in the Iron Age with an earthwork known as Herber's Bury, a fortified mound and ditch, supposedly named after a female Iron Age chieftain, which gives the village its name. A recent aerial photo shows the area where it is thought to be, depicting Harbury House, the Pound and the 1970s houses in Hall Lane. A bank running in front of the houses in Hall Lane can be followed through to the grounds of Harbury House and back again to the Pound. Can we date this to the Iron Age? Sadly, Ed thought not because on a 2012 watching brief conducted in the grounds of Field House, prior to a garage being erected, a ditch was identified following the line of the Bury. This contained pottery that could be dated to the 11th century and he believes it is highly likely that this is the period the Bury dates from and suggests that it is an early medieval defensive enclosure. He felt it was a pity that a more detailed excavation wasn't undertaken, given the fact that this site had given the village its name. Ed speculated that perhaps the enclosure contained a high-status hall and possibly Harbury House continued as an 18th century replacement.

There are tell-tale 'lumps and bumps' that survive in the village where development hasn't taken place. For example, faint track marks can be detected in the Paddock next to the church.

(Continued on page 28)

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HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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10.00am 12.00pm

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

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

Parish Council meetings are open to the public.
To speak on any issue, please contact the Parish Clerk

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

HARBURY VILLAGE LIBRARY
BIBLIO'S CAFÉ

Volunteers have successfully run our Library and Biblio's Café since 2012!

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OPEN DAY

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VE Day 80th Anniversary











The Sites and Monument Record has some amazing things recorded. During the Second World War the Canadians sent a lot of their young lads to Wellesbourne to learn how to fly. In November 1942 a Wellington bomber took off from Gaydon but lost engine power. The pilot attempted to turn but stalled and the plane crashed into a field next to Butt Lane, opposite Harbury House, killing both members of the crew. Ed was unaware of this story until he discovered it on the Sites and Monuments Record and from this he was able to ascertain that the crew, W/O D T Withington RCAF and Sgt C W Milton RCAF, were buried in the military cemetery at Stratford upon Avon. The pilot was only 25 and had been married for only four weeks.



Aerial photo of the area believed to be the Bury

An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 1916 on the site of the old petrol station revealed the remains of a medieval drain, indication that a medieval structure had once stood on that site.

Following a planning application in Bull Ring Farm Road, a geophysic survey revealed a ridge and furrow field system indicating that the site had not been inhabited.

Four trial trenches were dug when the two houses next to the Spinney were built. A pit was discovered but remains undated due to the absence of any pottery that would help to determine its age.

At 1 Dovehouse Lane in 2016, prior to development, two trial evaluation trenches were dug in which one trench revealed late Anglo Saxon pottery sherds. The other trench contained pottery of 11th or 12th century, indicating a settlement at Harbury prior to the Norman Conquest.

Six trenches were dug during an evaluation north of Vicarage Lane. One trench nearest the road contained pottery dating from the early medieval period. The development did not proceed so Ed is unaware whether they were required to make further investigations. He felt that this seems to be a failing with the current system, in that initial investigations are not followed through so we're not getting the full picture. Consequently, when the development takes place, a lot of the information will have been lost.

Metal detectors are used to identify new sites but used responsibly. They're not used on known sites because what then happens is that information is taken out of context and an overview is lost.

We were shown some items dating from the Roman period which Ed had found on the edge of the village. He passed round a tray of artifacts - rim sherds, the tops of pots - quite large items which suggests they haven't travelled far. They would have been items purchased from the market at the Roman settlement at Chesterton. There's evidence of a Roman farmstead that Ed has identified on his walks around Harbury – not high status, a small farm, something isolated, that would have had fields and cattle. It signifies Roman activity in the area, which we knew already because a Roman coin had been found in the grounds of the Manor House.

The big local archaeological story at the moment is HS2 which, whether you're in favour of it or not, has resulted in tens of millions of pounds being spent locally on excavations. At Offchurch, on the line of HS2, a Romano-British settlement has been discovered with hut

circles, buildings and enclosures. Some of it, not at risk, will be left in the ground, but where the line runs through it a detailed excavation has been taking place and Ed expects that a mass of information will be published over the next ten years, which will prove really helpful in our understanding of the landscape around Harbury.



Artifacts from a Roman farmstead found by Ed near to Harbury

The developer who built the houses on Bush Heath Lane in 2015, brought in MOLA - the Museum of London's archaeological department. They conducted a geophysics survey followed by the digging of a large number of trial trenches and, in one corner, what Ed described as proper archaeology was discovered. Iron Age pottery was found dating from the 1st century and into the Roman period. Also pottery sherds from the 13th and 14th century were discovered, making it a very interesting site. As a result, the developer was required to undertake a full excavation, probably the first proper excavation conducted in Harbury. A gulley ditch was identified which would have surrounded an Iron Age round house. Adjacent to this were rubbish pits, where waste would have been disposed. Next to this, and pre-dating it by a thousand years, was a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, containing the remains of 33 adults buried in pits, close together, not scattered about, so this would have been a formal area where people came to bury their dead.

Ed drew our attention to one of the artifacts, a Neolithic waste flake which he had found in his vegetable patch – evidence of someone actually making tools in our village maybe 6000 years ago. We were encouraged to keep our eyes peeled when we are digging in our gardens as you never know what might turn up.

For anyone wanting further information, the primary place where all archaeology records are stored is the County Historic Environment Record managed by Warwick County Council at Shire Hall and can be accessed by the public by making an appointment.

Another brilliant resource is the Archaeology Data Service, where all archaeologists are obliged to submit their reports as a condition of planning and these are available to everyone to download and read at leisure. A useful website is Windows on Warwickshire where a number of photographs, stories etc. can be accessed.

After Ed had answered a number of questions, he was warmly thanked by our own Ed, the Chair, to which the archaeologist replied that 'Two Eds are better than one'!

Harbury Society Programme for 2025:

Saturday 7th June – Harbury Carnival.
Tuesday 15th July – Bat Walk with Tricia Scott from the Bat Conservation Trust.
Tuesday 19th August – Harbury Tour and Tea.
Tuesday 16th September – A presentation by Martyn Brunt, Sustrans, about creating and maintaining greenways.
Tuesday 21st October – Presentation by Bill Timson entitled 'The Railway comes to Harbury'.
Tuesday 18th November – Presentation by Catherine Evans, Community and Charity Adviser for the Heart of England Co-operative Society, focusing on the history of the Heart of England Co-op Society.

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

HARBURY WI

Mary Thompson

When the current WI committee realised that our May meeting coincided with VE day we decided that we should do something to mark the occasion. We started with "Let's have some prosecco and puddings" which led to an incredible evening.



The Tom Hauley Room was decorated with bunting, paper chains and red, white and blue decorations. Our members arrived in an amazing array of costumes - Rosie the Riveter, factory workers, office workers, land girls, housewives red white and blue outfits etc. They bought an interesting selection of memorabilia – medals, photographs, service records, ration books, gas masks, uniforms etc.





Chris had organised a music and booklet for a singalong – "Leaning on a Lamppost," "Hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line," "Berkley Square," "Lambeth Walk" and we concluded with the song that we understood would be sung throughout the country at 9.30pm "I Vow to Thee my Country."

The evening concluded with the promised prosecco and 1940s puddings provided by the committee – rice pudding, chocolate blancmange rabbit in a bed of green jelly, queen of puddings, shortbread, scones, rhubarb crumble, fruit cake. Everyone agreed that it had been a memorable evening and thanks especially to Lin for her enthusiasm and organisation.





At the start of the meeting we had to formally discuss the resolution which will be discussed at the National AGM on 4th June. We unanimously supported that "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" which aims to encourage women to have more confidence with things like CPR and using a defibrillator. You will see a link with this resolution when you see our Carnival entry on 7th June. We hope you will support our Cake Stall at the carnival.

At our next meeting on 12th June we shall welcome Rakha Madahar who is going to give an Origami Demonstration and describe the journey of becoming a surface pattern designer. Visitors most welcome - 7.30 for 7.45 in the Tom Hauley Room.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Ali Hodge

Thank you to the audience who came to see our recent production, "Death by Detective", by David Pemberton, a comedy drama based on a Sherlock Holmes' story. We had some very complimentary comments from members of the audience, "Great energy" "Very enjoyable! " "Engaging detective story with some entertaining characters!"

No sooner have we finished one production then we're planning the Village Panto! This year it will be "Dick Whittington" by Alan P Frayn. From the sewers of London to the shores of Morocco, the script overflows with comedy, action and visual business. Performances will be 27th to 29th November, Village Hall, Harbury.

If you ever fancied being in a panto or helping, now's your chance. It's fun working together, singing songs, and enjoying the corny jokes. Why not try your hand at a wicked King Rat, or a comic Captain Cuttlefish and his ludicrous sidekick, Scupper? There's the usual Dame, and the romantic leads, and of course Tom, the talking cat. The Chorus is busy as well. There will be plenty of rehearsal time to boost your confidence.

Interested? We are holding a script read through and casting on Tuesday 17th June 7.30pm in Tom Hauley Room, behind the church. Anyone 14 years and over is welcome. Contact harburytheatregroup@gmail.com to let us know you are coming or if you want to know more. And if you want to be part of the fun, but can't make 17th June, don't worry just let us know.



FOLK CLUB

Peter Bones

In recent folk clubs, there seems to have been a general trend towards there being fewer performers taking part. The 460th meeting of the Folk Club, which was on 1st May, only had nine performers. However it was a case of quality rather than quantity as I felt all the performances were to a very high standard. It also meant that the evening was relaxed, and we finished not long after 10.00pm. This meant that for most of us oldies we were able to return home for our night-time cocoa at a reasonable hour.

Being 1st May, those in the audience who were members of Hereburgh Morris had observed the local tradition of being up at 5.00am to dance the dawn in at Chesterton Windmill. Before dancing begins the well-known 15th Century song "Hal an Tow" which officially welcomes in the summer, is sung. I therefore thought it fitting for the folk club to start with singing the same song.

The theme for the evening was "events" so after Hal an Tow, Liz and I continued with the John Conolly song "Broadside Man" which was set in the 19th century when news events were mostly made known by the singing of ballads.

The evening continued with a variety of songs, mostly with a connection with the "events" theme and these included songs about a mining disaster; storm at sea, a massacre in Scotland, as well as several songs about happier and humorous events.

Liz and I finished the evening at about 10.05pm with the song "Singers' Farewell" from the singing of Mal Waite. The members of the audience were still in fine voice and enthusiastically joined in with the choruses. It brought to an end what had been another fine evening.

For a list of who sang what, please visit the Folk Clubs website at tinyurl.com/harbury-folk-club

The raffle raised a very substantial £95.00 for the Trussell Trust Food Banks. Thanks to all those who bought tickets.

The next meeting of the club will be on 5th June, when it is to be hosted by Peter McDonald and the theme is to be "Ups and Downs".

HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Ron Temple



On arriving at Samois we were greeted by the children of Samois School who sang for us.

As a thank you we presented a gift from our school including pictures of our schoolbox to the Directeur of the school at Samois, as shown in the photo.

The children sang beautifully and the school is very keen to have links with Harbury School.

A visit to the flower market in Fontainebleau was arranged for Saturday. We had a Samois quiz and games and special cake at Saturday night's meal in the village.

Sunday saw everyone travelling to Paris which is nearby to Samois.

Monday morning we all travelled back from Samois to Harbury. Everyone had a really great time.









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HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

In the last two editions of the magazine I have been documenting the progress of the 'War Memorial Trail', a project that actually started ten years ago when Parish Councillor Chris Gibb headed up a team of volunteers, 23 in total, to research the 34 Harbury men killed during the first world war.

The outcome of that research led to 19 blue plaques being designed, manufactured and fitted to houses around the village where the men had lived. The purpose was to create a permanent reminder to our and future generations that ordinary people had paid the ultimate price serving their country in times of conflict.



In June last year, it was suggested by Parish Council chairman Tim Lockley that the world war two servicemen also deserved recognition for their bravery; so the second part of the project was born. Sharon Hancock, a well known village figure, has carried out extensive research on all of the names on the Harbury war memorial. Her research on the ten world war two men was the starting point for what would ultimately be called 'The War Memorial Trail'. Tim researched where the men had lived and fortunately all of the homeowners were in favour of having a plaque fitted to their property.



Heritage vice chairman, David Turner, carried on the excellent work that Richard Marshall-Hardy had produced in the first part of the project, by designing the new batch of blue plaques and an accompanying booklet providing information on all of the individuals. David also designed the interpretation panel which stands proudly next to the war memorial on the Crown Green.

David is currently working on the biographies of the World War II men, written by Sharon, so that they can be added to the Parish Council website together with the updated map. A grant was applied for and received from the ***National Lottery Community Fund*** which covered most of the expenditure and our own W.I. group generously paid for the booklets to be printed. The panel was erected at the end of April and the last two plaques were fitted just in time for the commemoration event held in the library on Sunday 11th May. Once again, thank you to Chris of '**Just Anything**' who carried out the fitting of the plaques and the panel, for his generosity in what he considered *'an honour to be able to do something so important for the village'*.



Guests arriving for the service at the war memorial

Sixty guests attended the commemoration afternoon on a

sunny Sunday afternoon. They included relatives of the servicemen, mainly World War II, although three of the plaques were for World War I servicemen who did not have a plaque. Also in attendance were members of the parish council, homeowners who accepted a plaque and members of the Heritage Group committee, amongst others. Drinks and canapés were served, there was a short talk about the project and then we walked up to the war memorial for a special service. Reverend Andy's service was beautifully delivered and appreciated by everyone. Tim Lockley read out all of the names on the war memorial. People were then free to roam around the village, using their guide booklet, to see the plaques.

At about four o'clock tea and a delicious range of cakes were served back in the library by Jill Baker, Ann Mayer, Jo Lockley and other helpers to whom we were very grateful. It was lovely that the relatives, in particular, had been able to join us on this special occasion. There are now 31 plaques in and around Harbury, an everyday reminder of the village men who did not return home.

Open Days in June and July

The Heritage Centre will be open to the public on the following days: Sunday 15th June 2-4pm.

During the Open Gardens weekend we will be open on Sunday 29th June 12 noon - 6pm.

In July on Tuesday 1st 7-9pm and Sunday 20th 2-4pm.

It would be great to see you during these warm summer months.

See our website for more information www.harburyheritage.org.uk

We also have a Facebook page Harbury Heritage Centre.

HARBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Steven Kittendorf



Warwickshire Honours

Massive congratulations to Ollie Smith, one of our talented U17s players, who proudly represented Harbury at the Warwickshire County U17s Festival on May 4th.



Ollie made a real impact on the day, scoring 2 tries in the first game and helping the squad to 2 wins out of 3 matches. A brilliant performance and a great example of the skill, dedication and team spirit we nurture here at Harbury.

This is what it's all about — seeing our home-grown talent shine on bigger stages. From our Mini & Junior section right through to Colts, we're proud of the player pathway we offer to support every young player's development.

Well done, Ollie — and well done to all the players representing Warwickshire U17s!

Steve Prance – A Harbury Legend

After 15 incredible years of volunteering at Harbury RFC, we say a heartfelt thank you to Steve Prance, who has stepped down from his role after being a cornerstone of our Mini & Junior section.

Commemoration of VE Day and the













The family of Charles Bird

The family of Raymond C

unveiling of The War Memorial Trail













eney and Thomas Biddle

The family of George Tanner

For most of that time, Steve has been the first friendly face that many young players and their families have met — guiding our U5s and U6s with warmth, patience, and infectious enthusiasm. He has inspired countless children to give rugby a go, and his influence has rippled through the age groups — including the current U18s Colts, who are now preparing to take their next step into senior rugby.



Steve has truly shaped what it means to grow up playing rugby at Harbury.

While this may be the end of an era, it's far from goodbye. We are proud to have made Steve a Life Member of Harbury RFC, and we know we'll still be seeing him around the club (see you on VPs Day!).

As we look ahead to the future of our Mini & Junior section, we do so with a deep sense of gratitude for the foundations Steve has helped build. The new chapter is bright — and it's standing on the shoulders of giants.

Mini & Juniors – Chairman's Report

Our Mini and Junior season has been a fantastic journey filled with development, teamwork, and success whilst enjoying a packed calendar of fixtures, with strong performances across all age groups.

A standout highlight was our own festival, which brought together clubs and showcased the spirit of the game.

Our Junior players made us proud with selections to the DPP and County squads, recognising their hard work and talent. We closed the season with memorable tours that capped off a brilliant year. Thanks to all players, coaches, and parents for their dedication and support throughout the season.

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

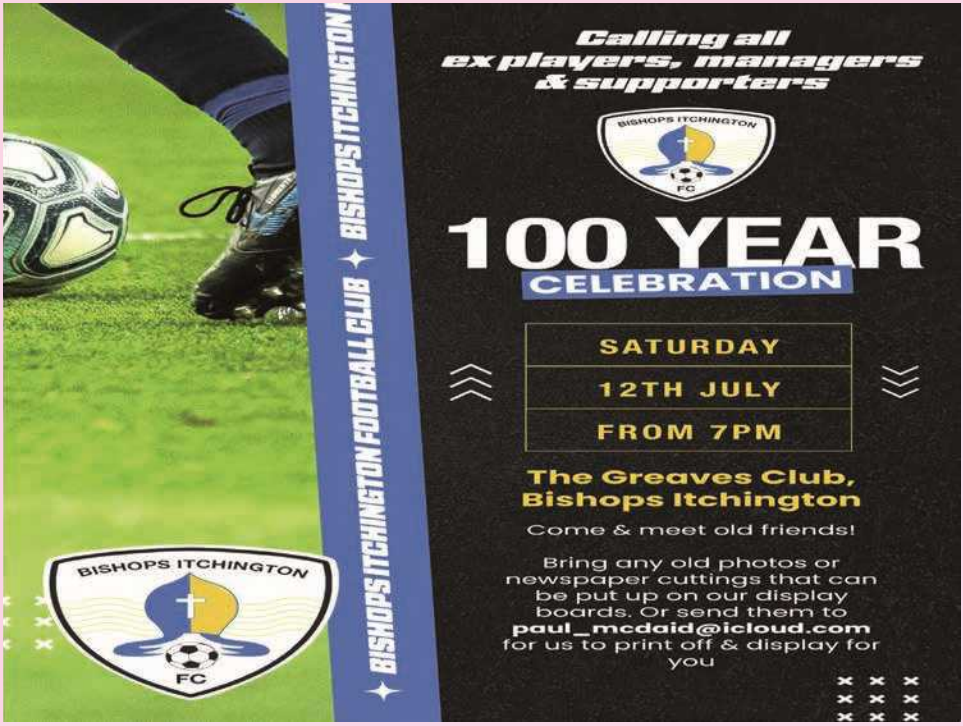
Colin Mercer

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

The club is holding fun Family Open days on Carnival Day, 7th June from 2.30pm to 4.00pm and 14th June from 10.00am to 12.00pm. If you've played in the past but not for a while or never played but fancied getting into the mood for Wimbledon the courts will be open to come and have a hit. It's open to anyone of any age so if you have children or grandchildren who would like to try tennis bring them along – age appropriate equipment will be available and club members on hand to answer any questions. On 14th June from 10.00am to 12.00pm our Head Coach Lianne Candappa as well as members will be there. If you're interested or would like more information please contact Colin Mercer, sucolmercer@me.com



Lots of summer league matches have been played and in the Warwickshire Seniors League we travelled to Claverdon



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

reviews

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TREATMENT
RESULTS

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Jonathan Small
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Foot & Gait Clinic
www.healthfirstsoutham.co.uk

'We fix the feet that others can't fix'

where Helen Cooper, Clare Callaghan, Nigel Eaton and Colin Mercer enjoyed a very competitive match and earned a 4-4 draw. This was followed by a home fixture against Alcester when Clare and Colin were joined by Eira Owen and Nick Dale. Another enjoyable match ended in a narrow 3-5 defeat.

It's been a good start for the Banbury League teams. In Division 4 the B team won both opening matches, starting with a long trip to Charlbury and an excellent 6-3 win for Angie Clifton, Clare and Helen, Joe Robson, James Edge and Ian Reynolds. In the next match Brackley C were the visitors and for this one James and Helen played with Lucy Ewen, Sue Johnson, Thomas Woodhead and Nigel and came out 7-2 winners. The team is currently in second place.

In Division 2 the A team had a very close match with visitors Brackley B. It was all square going into the last three rubbers. Josh Marshall and James Owen had a good win in the men's doubles but Emma Brangwin and Lucy Ewen in the ladies, and Ed Lockley and Jeunine Crabtree in the mixed lost and the visitors went home with a 5-4 win. The team is in third place.

In the weekend format we started with an emphatic 8-0 home win against Priors Marston with Emma, Eira, Joe and Nigel being too strong for the visitors. It was down to earth with a bump in the next match when Nigel and Eira were joined by Sand Sobisol and Sue Johnson and lost 0-8. Harbury's cause wasn't helped when Sue suffered an injury before the match started and had to concede 4 of the 8 sets. Despite the defeat the team is still in third place.

The coaching programme is going well. Pickleball with coach Ian Shorrocks is on Friday afternoons, along with his other sessions 4.00-5.00pm Mini Reds (4-9 years), 5.00-6.00pm Greens (10yrs +), 6.00-7.00pm Adult Beginners, 7.00-8.00pm Adult Cardio. Ed Spilman's Ladies'Coaching session is on Fridays, 9.30-10.30am and he can also offer individual coaching on Monday afternoons. For more details of any of the above, please contact Lianne Candappa at: Lianne@coolsportz.co.uk or phone/text her on 07919 104093.

1ST HARBURY SCOUT GROUP & HARBURY EXPLORERS

Katharine Giblin

News from 1st Harbury Group

Our young people and leaders have had a few weeks off from scouting during the Easter holidays but are now back enjoying a fun and varied programme with lots of outdoor activities during the summer term. Beavers have celebrated VE Day & done a walk around the Blue Plaque Trail, Cubs had a go at cricket at Southam Cricket Club and Scouts have been having fun cooking over fires.

Scouts are heading off on their summer troop camp next week to Horley Scout Campsite near Banbury and Beavers/Cubs will be camping together in June at Rough Close Scout Campsite near Coventry. Our young people gain so many life skills from being at camp.

News from Harbury Explorers

We had a small uptake for our Explorers Taster Session where everyone enjoyed lighting fires with steel flints, cooking smores and making popcorn parcels. All who attended had a great time. If anyone fancies trying out Explorers, you can email Katharine Giblin at harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Malia, from Harbury Explorers, went with nine other Explorers from the Leamington District to the VE Day 80 Celebration Concert at Horse Guards Parade in London. It was an experience she will not forget.



Explorers will be off on their summer camp in June to Hatton Scout Campsite.

Waiting Lists for Harbury Scouting & Adult Volunteering

If you would like your child added to the waiting lists for any of the scouting sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers) please email harburyscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk.

We are always after more adult volunteers to help run our weekly sessions or get involved with GASS. If you are interested or want to find out more, please do get in touch at the same email.

GUIDES AND SCOUTS SUPPORT

Paul Quinney

Hut Improvement update

Further to our report in March, we have made significant progress with our first-floor extension to create a flexible meeting space and storage for wider use of this valuable village facility. Following a 45k grant from UKSPF fund awarded through Stratford District Council, WCC Green shoots funding and group reserves, you may have seen our original tiled roof and sheet roof replaced with a large yellow box to form the new first floor space. See below some work in progress pictures of the outside and inside the space. This is the limit of the funding we currently have in place and we are now appealing to businesses, organisations, and the wider community to help complete the cladding, windows and fit of the internal space as well as the larger fundraising challenge of replacement of the main hall itself.

We would appreciate any help to realise this be it time, materials or fund-raising grant assistance. This includes;

- Partitions • Doors • Electrical wiring and lighting
- Kitchen units • Plumbing • Decoration • Flooring

The committee again apologise for any inconvenience caused during this phase of the works and look forward to reporting further on our progress.

Our next fundraiser is at the Village Hall supporting the Harbury Carnival with tea and cakes. Come and see more about our plans and progress and support the village uniformed groups.





Local School's Nature Grant

We are delighted to have been awarded the Nature Grant from the People's Postcode Lottery. As part of the grant, we will receive products for open-ended play outside; training on how to make best use of our outdoor area; and advice on how to make our outdoor area environmentally and climate friendly.



In the Garden

The children have been very busy creating some fabulous artwork for our Pre-School float. This year our theme is anything Garden! They have been painting flowers, trees, minibeasts and what has been produced so far is looking fabulous. They will also be creating collages using recycled materials.

Our tadpoles are growing rapidly so we have been looking at the lifecycle of frogs and have been watching closely for any changes in the tadpoles week by week. Many of the children love to dance and sing so we have been enjoying jumping like frogs and singing Five Little Speckled Frogs using props.

Outside we have been searching for bugs, especially looking for new residents in our bug hotel. Because of the heat, watering our plants and vegetables has been popular as has painting with water on the outdoor blackboard.

Inside our role play has become an 'outdoor picnic area' complete with a picnic bench and chairs, picnic play food, artificial grass and some animals. The children have been enjoying putting their picnic items into a hamper and having a 'picnic' with their friends.

We are excited to be opening our Pre-School Garden up for Harbury Open Gardens during the end of June.

VE Day

On the 8th May we had a little Pre-School celebration to mark the occasion. We talked about being kind and gentle towards each other, talking to each other to resolve any issues, or finding an adult who can help when needed.



The children enjoyed looking at and waving flags, listening and dancing to music played by the Glenn Miller Band along with a street party style

(Continued on page 45)

WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE BELL...



FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 15th June | Bookings from 12pm - 6pm

Celebrate Dad this Father's Day! Treat him to something special and make memories that last a lifetime. Whether it's a delicious meal, a relaxing experience, or a fun family outing, now is the perfect time to book and show your appreciation. Don't wait—secure your spot today and make this Father's Day one to remember!

MILLENNIUM GREEN PARTY

Saturday 21st June

Enjoy an eventful day of fun for all the family with Live Music, Games, Stalls, Competitions, Great Food and Drinks at the Ladbroke Millennium Green Party!

Please note there will be a small entry charge and stalls will only take cash

QUIZ & A CHILLI

Monday 23rd June & Monday 8th September

Get your thinking caps on and round up your team for another evening of fun, friendly competition, and great prizes. A delicious Chilli will be served at 6:30pm with the first round of the Quiz starting at 8pm.

Book your table with a £10pp deposit which includes your food & £2.50 to the quizmaster for your ticket on the night.

Please bring cash on the night for your Quiz Ticket.

LIVE MUSIC AT THE BELL

Friday May 30th | from 6pm

Enjoy great vibes at The Bell with Live Music on the last Friday of every Month throughout Summer, with our first one starting on Friday 30th May!

THE BELL'S BANK HOLIDAY BASH

Sunday 24th August | from 4pm

Join us for our Bank Holiday Party here at The Bell! An unforgettable afternoon of fun, food, and festivities! Enjoy delicious bites from our Freespirit Foodtruck, refreshing Drinks and Live Music. With fun for all of the Family including a Bouncy Castle and Ice Cream Trike it's defintiely one for the diary!

WEEKLY DEALS AT THE BELL

PIE NIGHT

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

BURGER NIGHT

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

HAPPY HOUR

Every Friday from 4pm-7pm

Draft Beer: £4.75 a pint (Excludes Guinness)

House Wine: 175ml Glass of one of our House Wines £6.00

Prosecco: Glass of Prosecco, just £6.50

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celebration snack. Julie kindly made mini scones for the children to eat with spread or jam and we had some delicious strawberries (with apple or banana as an alternative).

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

VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations



We had a wonderful time on VE Day with lots of exciting and meaningful moments. The children created a fantastic, extra-long stretch of bunting, which now decorates the school entrance and hall - do take a look next time you're in! Some of us even braved the chilly weather to enjoy lunch outside.

Year 6 impressed us all by leading class worship across the school. They demonstrated both their leadership and their deep understanding of World War II. Later, we joined the rest of the nation in observing the two minutes' silence at 12.00pm - a powerful moment of reflection and respect.





Year 3 visit to The Ashmolean Museum

Our Year 3 students embarked on an unforgettable journey to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. The museum, with its excellent Ancient Egypt collection, provided the perfect backdrop for our young learners to delve into the wonders of the past.

Their enthusiasm for learning was palpable as they eagerly absorbed every detail presented

to them during their 'Egyptian Detectives' workshop. It was fantastic to see their curiosity come alive amidst the ancient artefacts showcased in the museum.



Later, our students had the extraordinary opportunity to actually handle ancient artefacts themselves, a hands-on experience that ignited their imaginations and deepened their understanding of history.

The engagement and behaviour for learning exhibited by the children was excellent and we received several positive comments from members of the public. Undoubtedly, this excursion proved to be an enriching experience for our Year 3 students, helping them to foster a deeper appreciation for this fascinating time period and the wider world around them.

Courageous Advocacy

We encourage all our pupils to be courageous advocates and make a difference in the world. This term, it was Lily and the year 3 team who fundraised for Blood Cancer UK. They did a wonderful bake sale after school and also went on to sell more around the village. They raised approximately £280! Well done. This really shows our school Christian values of love in action linked to our school bible verse. **"Let us not love with words and speech but with action and in truth" 1 John 3:18**

Let's hope the sunny weather continues so we can make the most of our amazing school grounds.



We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Denis Daly, former Headteacher at Harbury School. Denis served the school with dedication from September 2003 until his retirement in July 2012. He was a much-respected leader, known for his encouragement, kindness, and passion for school sport - especially cross country running. Many of us have fond memories of working alongside him, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

HARBURY SCHOOL PTA

Alice Mellings

Fundraising

We have just completed our yearly sponsored walk. What an afternoon we had!! The children in 'infants' did so many laps of the 'daily mile' within the school, we couldn't keep track!! The juniors had a very grownup responsibility of walking around the village to raise sponsorship, and what a fantastic job all the children did making both the school and PTA very proud!!



Thank you to all involved, including the children, teachers and marshals, of which there were many, supporting such a joyful event raising funds for the school. We will be pleased to announce the total once we have received all sponsorship money back; please send your money into the school office for collection, Thank you!



Coffee Morning

Thank you to all who baked, ran and organised our coffee morning at the Tom Hauley Room. We raised £267. Thank you to all the lovely customers who came along for the morning and to the Church for facilitating the sale.

What we have contributed towards:

This month we have purchased some bull nose javelins to help support the children's development in athletics.



Our next goal is to raise funds for the school to get a staff member a recognised qualification in forest school teaching and also purchase resources for the new forest school in order to expand the wealth of knowledge that the school has to offer at Harbury.

Dates for the Diary

13th June: Father's Day Shop.

Lottery

Join our lottery: This is an easy way to support our school and have a chance to win some cash! For just £2, you can get a number in the school lottery. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd numbers drawn, and 50% of all proceeds go directly back to the school.

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

Easyfundraising

This is our latest donation from easyfundraising, it so easy to join and support the PTA for FREE!

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



Ongoing Fundraising

Use code: HarburyPTA and get 5% off all orders over £40, with **Cana Wines**

Code Club: Thank you to Chris and Gareth who run code club for children in Year 6 who want to learn more about coding using Scratch. They donate their proceeds back to the PTA, whilst providing an invaluable life skill for children in this modern day society. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

FACEBOOK

Harbury School PTA for all your PTA updates.

HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

Drop-in session: 2.30pm Friday 6th June, for anyone interested in volunteering in our community Library and our wonderful cafe - Biblio's. All welcome.

Volunteers are special. They make things happen. Lots of things.



Last year we celebrated our volunteers with a summer barbecue. We're doing it again this year. Our library, cafe, building and all the art displays and events that we host and the trustees that oversee us are all organised and run by volunteers.

Volunteering is a bit like volleyball...it's best when you're part of a team!

Although our team has approximately 100+ volunteers, we are always looking to recruit new members. Many have served since the Library became a community library, a charity, in 2012. And, like any large community organisation, we are always open to and keen to encourage new ideas, initiatives and developments. Books sometimes stand still, but volunteers are always on the move, looking for ways to engage widely and fully across our community.

Do you have a spare moment or two? Do you have a view about how we could serve our community better? Would you simply like to be part of a large, friendly team that draws upon a wide range of skills and interests in baking, books, barista, building and being part of a blossoming community cultural hub?

Volunteers are many and various...some quietly efficient, some noisy, gregarious.

The last year has been a very busy one with the heating project and, most recently, a change in the County online catalogue. Moving on, we are looking forward to a quieter rhythm, the borrowing of books, a drinking of fresh brewed coffee and delicious home-made cakes, a series of events and hirings from touring professionals (Live & Local), to merry murder-mysteries, live music, book groups, language classes, home-schooling group, 'pleasant pastimes', tunes and tales, children's craft sessions, story-telling and more. If you'd like to play a role in making all this happen, come along on 6th June at 2.30pm.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

Very little is predictable at Bridge Nursery, top of the list is the weather (every year is different), then visitor numbers can vary enormously from day to day, also there are 'in' plants which change from year to year. No-one wanted hostas or Carex elata 'Aurea' last year but both are selling well this season. I need that crystal ball, I need to be able to second guess what will be desirable now.

Oak before ash, you're in for a splash, ash before oak you're in for a soak. If this dry weather continues it will be very challenging to grow any fruit and veg. It is ironic that after the excessive rainfall during winter 2023/24 we now need our crops and gardens to be rained on. On the plus side there seems to be almost no slug or snail damage.



In case you missed sowing various vegetable seeds there are other people who have a surplus. Try asking the question on local Facebook pages and/or visit villages fetes and open gardens where you may well find some young plants for sale for just a few pence. It's such a shame that Greenleaf Nursery on the edge of Southam was demolished for HS2, he grew a good selection. I'm currently watering Sarah's tomato plants while she is away for a short break, she has far too many.....

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



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

We spent a pleasant couple of weeks in the Yorkshire Dales at the beginning of May this year. The weather was very fine; cold in the evenings with occasional frost when we first arrived but it then became very warm. This meant we could watch spring unfolding as the trees leafed up and woodland plants like wild garlic, primroses and bluebells started to appear. When we



Oystercatcher (Kev on Pixabay)

first arrived, the Oystercatchers were noisily establishing their territories in the fields surrounding the house where we were staying. Smart black and white birds with a long orange-red beak, Oystercatchers are normally thought of as coastal birds but they are also found inland, particularly in northern Britain, where they feed on worms rather than the shellfish of their coastal diet. As time went on they became less noisy once the females had settled to their nests, whilst the males maintained a vigil nearby, occasionally stirred into defending their territory against the black-headed gulls that can be opportunistic predators of the eggs.



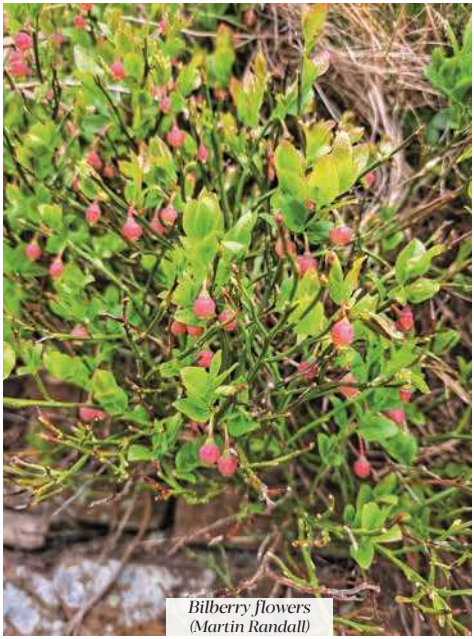
Black Grouse (Jayne Simmons)

While we were staying in the Dales, Martin wanted to revisit a particular locality high on the moorland, which he used to visit as a teenager (a long time ago!). It was necessary to set off early in the morning, so we left the house at dawn and drove to the site, hoping to see one of the UK's rarest breeding birds, the Black Grouse. It is a Red Listed species, indicating high conservation concern. The Black Grouse population in England is facing a significant decline due to factors like habitat loss and overgrazing, and the overall population remains restricted to a few areas, particularly upland regions. This species is noted for its 'lekking' behaviour, where several male birds display together and compete to attract females. In order not to disturb the birds we stayed in the car, watching the distant moorside through our binoculars from several hundred metres away. We were fortunate to see four male birds displaying with their white under-tail feathers fluffed up. A fascinating display, and as we quietly drove away we reflected that those four male birds represented a significant proportion of the English population of about 1,500 males (and only about 5,000 in Britain); sadly very many fewer than Martin used to see all those years ago. There are active conservation management initiatives underway to try and stabilise and increase the population, by making the habitat more suitable and reducing pressure from predators. Also there has been some translocation of birds, which aimed to deliver range expansion. This was a success with released cocks lekking and attracting hens that subsequently bred successfully.

On our walks elsewhere we saw that the bilberries were coming into flower. These fairly inconspicuous flowers would produce juicy bilberries later in the year - a valuable food for many upland birds, like the Black Grouse. We also noticed another rarity; a very unusual plant



Common Toothwort (Martin Randall)



Bilberry flowers (Martin Randall)

that neither of us had seen before, the Common Toothwort. That is really a misnomer because it is quite an uncommon species; it's found in only a handful of locations in Warwickshire and only occasionally elsewhere. Toothwort is not a green plant as it does not have the chlorophyl for photosynthesis. Instead it is parasitic, meaning it relies on other plants for sustenance and nutrients. It grows attached to the roots of various trees and shrubs, most commonly hazel, but also beech, elm and lime.

In the quiet centre of the village of Reeth, not far from where we were staying, we came across a peaceful green oasis, Reeth Community Orchard Garden and Wildflower Meadow. This community space is set in the beautiful old walled garden of Hudson House, formerly Barclays Bank in Reeth. In 2002, the garden was derelict and overgrown. A determined group of volunteers launched an ambitious project to restore the garden and bring it back into use as a productive orchard, with a tiny, but stunning wildflower meadow. Grant money was used to purchase from local businesses. For example, a local stone waller repaired the walls, the gate was made by a local blacksmith, and seating and



Reeth meadow and orchard (Amanda Randall)

sculptures were commissioned from local crafts people.

The garden is open all year round, with borders full of colourful perennials, a shady bench under an old apple tree, and an area where young children can play alongside the small wildflower meadow. This meadow recreates the hay meadows higher up the dale. Visually stunning and teeming with wildlife, species-rich hay meadows are an important part of our rural and cultural heritage. The very richest meadows can support up to 120 plant species, and provide food and nesting sites for a wide range of insects, mammals and birds. Sadly, over the last 100 years 97% of our hay meadows have been lost.



Metal flower sculpture at Reeth (Martin Randall)

Community meadows like this one act as 'stepping stones' allowing insects to move across the landscape and thrive. These meadows also increase habitat connectivity across a wider UK network, helping to support threatened wildlife. Buglife, (Europe's only charity dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates), has initiated project B-line (B for Biodiversity, but also for Bee!). B-Lines are insect pathways that link up existing pollinator-friendly habitats, creating a network that will weave across the British landscape. B-Lines bring a range of benefits to wildlife, people and agriculture, including: helping our wildlife respond to climate change by making it easier to move around; giving opportunities for everyone to play a part and help create the B-Lines network; and increasing the number of insect pollinators and the benefits these bring to our food-producers (pollination being an important 'ecosystem service').

Closer to home, we were pleased to find another newly-created Community Orchard at Pound Lane in Lillington, in an unmown area, full of wildflowers. (Readers may remember our piece last year on Wellesbourne's Community Orchard, which was funded by Wellesbourne Parish Council.)

Function Rooms and Premises AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

HARBURY RUGBY CLUB	HARBURY SCOUT HUT	HARBURY VILLAGE CLUB
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HARBURY VILLAGE HALL	**HARBURY VILLAGE LIBRARY**	**TOM HAULEY ROOM**
Claire McGurk Tel: 07963 110522 *harburyvillagehall@googlemail.com*	**Michael Luntley** *communityhub@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk*	**Moira** *thr@allsaintsharbury.org*

HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Susan Ostrander (District Cllr Harbury Ward)
(sue.ostrander@stratford-dc.gov.uk or susan4harbury@gmail.com)

County Council and By-Elections Update:

In May there were two District Council by-elections and the County Council elections were held.

By Elections for District Council:

Alcester West - Turnout 44.77%

Tom Ballinger - Liberal Democrats - 403 Elected
Emma Daniell - Conservative Party – 265
Andrew Foster - Labour Party – 241
Ashley Jones - Reform UK – 278
John Stott - Green Party - 37
Number of votes cast: 1,224

Welford-on-Avon - Turnout 41.64%

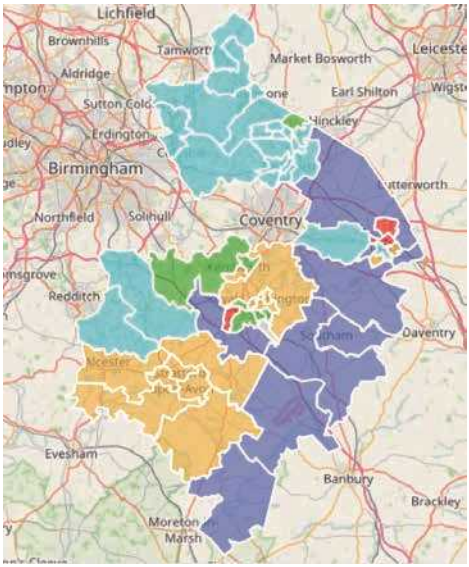
Cliff Brown - Liberal Democrats - 485 Elected
John Hartigan - Labour Party – 29
Neil Lawrence - Reform UK – 330
Christian Reeve - Conservative Party – 190
Penny Stott - Green Party - 32
Number of votes cast: 1,069

County Council Elections

65 candidates contested 13 divisions on Warwickshire County Council in the Stratford-on-Avon District area on Thursday 1st May 2025. Feldon Division includes Harbury and Ladbroke.

Feldon (Our local Division) - Turnout 37.26%
Louis Adam - Liberal Democrats – 1126
Rachel Frenguelli - Labour Party – 192
Joshua Hearne-Wilkins - Reform UK – 783

Christopher Kettle - Conservative Party - 1133 Elected (by just 7 votes)
Michael Mordue - Green Party – 159
Overall, for County Council:



57 57

Total seats by party

Conservative Party	9
Green Party	7
Labour Party	3
Liberal Democrats	14
Reform UK	23
Whitnash Residents Association	1

Community Climate and Nature Fund – 3rd Round

On Monday 7th April, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Cabinet approved more funding for round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund (CCNF). Further information can be found here: Community Climate Change and Nature Fund | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

£150,000 has been allocated from the Climate Change Reserve to the CCNF, previously known as the Community Climate Change Fund (CCCF), for the next round of funding.

The fund will provide opportunities for the following groups to apply for grant funding:

- Town and parish councils
- Properly-constituted community and charity groups operating within the Stratford-on-Avon District
- Sports clubs

It is interesting to see where the previous round of funding was allocated. Many of these projects will save money in the long run:

Upper Lighthorne Parish Council	*Community action to increase the local hedgehog population*	£1,042
The Bear Pit Theatre	*Upgrade of theatre stage lighting from tungsten to LED*	£4,980
Tiddington Village Residents Association	*Water quality monitoring and improvement in the River Avon*	£1,392
Kineton Village Hall Association	*Insulation of the Village Hall*	£9,850
Ilmington Community Shop	*Solar panel installation*	£6,000
Stockton Village Hall Committee	*Solar panel and battery storage installation*	£7,750
Shottery Memorial Hall	*Solar panel and battery storage installation*	£5,500
The Shakespeare Hospice	*LED lighting upgrade at Avenue Farm site*	£4,790
Warwickshire Rural Hub	*Creation of an online hub for the South Warwickshire Area Network for Wildlife (SWAN)*	£4,370
Shipston-on-Stour Town Council	*Increasing biodiversity at Cornmill Meadows*	£1,620
Stratford Sports Club	*Installation of SmartCellar technology*	£1,085
Tysoe Village Hall Trust	*Installation of 2 destratification fans at the Village Hall*	£2,152
Escape Arts	*Provision of sustainable cooking workshops, two new accessible community growing spaces, and installation of a rainwater harvesting system*	£5,426

PUB GAMES

Mike McBride, John Broomfield

Just an update, and some of the events may have taken place by the time you read this. However, if you have visited any of the participating establishments, then you will have seen posters about the games and may already be in a team.

Last year we had TEN teams take part and hopefully we will have the same number this year. Although we try and have some outdoor games those of you who have come along in the past will know that we can move inside should the weather not be "flaming June". Over the years we have had hundreds of people (and generations) join us to play a variety of games.

This year they will start Monday 2nd June through to Thursday 5th June, commencing at 7.30pm each evening.

The schedule this year will be:

Monday 2nd	Horseshoes – The Village Club
Tuesday 3rd	Aunt Sally – The Shakespeare
Wednesday 4th	Table Skittles – The Gamecock
Thursday 5th	Quiz – The Rugby Club

While there is a maximum of 12 players per team, only four players are needed for each game so there is nothing to stop a team having just four players as long as they are happy to turn up to play every evening. This gives plenty of flexibility for friends, neighbours, and colleagues etc. to get together and enter a team, so why not come along and enjoy the fun?

The games usually last a couple of hours.

Points are allocated for each event and the team with most points at the end of the four nights will be presented with the Pub Games shield.

We do ask for an entrance fee of £1 per person per team.

Entry forms will be available in the local pubs and club in May or you can contact me on 01926 612421 or John Broomfield on 01926 614258 to register or if you have any questions.

HARBURY CARNIVAL 2025

Harbury Carnival Committee

Saturday 7th June

It's Carnival time - are you ready??

The parade assembles at 12 noon along Sutcliffe Drive ready for judging.

At 1pm the parade travels through the village – so get your pennies ready!!

Arriving at about 1.45pm at the playing fields and the fete is officially opened.

Around the field there will be a wide variety of stalls offering a range of arts, crafts, jewellery, food and drink.

In the main arena you will be able to watch the fancy dress competition and the dog show along with a performance by Love Ballet.

Then why not try out the fun fair, say hello to the stilt man and look out for some of the new things happening this year?

And don't forget to buy your tickets at the raffle stall and be in with a chance to win £100 cash along with many other great prizes.

All the money raised will be shared out between local charities and groups in the village.

So come along and enjoy this great village tradition.









HARBURY SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Everyone who requested a seat for the trip to Cardiff will be going, unless we have contacted you to say that we have sold out. So, please turn up at the Village Hall on **Wednesday 18th June**. The coach will be leaving at 8.30am.

Please remember that when you get to Cardiff it is up to you what you do as it is not a guided tour.

There is plenty to see and do in Cardiff but you can visit the tourism website at https://www.visitcardiff.com/ to get up to date information of what is happening and copies of maps and so on.

We run a stall at the Harbury Carnival as a fundraiser and this year it will be a sweet tombola. If you should have any unwanted sweets that you don't want the temptation of eating, then we will be happy to help you by taking the temptation and using it in a good cause. Any donations of sweets or chocolate can be left at **32 SOUTH PARADE**.

We hope that you enjoy Cardiff and don't forget to come and see us at the Carnival and meet some of the committee members.

HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

The Harbury Local Market this Month is Saturday 28th June 10.00am to 12.30pm in Harbury Village Hall.

There you will find local Traders selling: art, crafts and food.

The Community Group we will be supporting this Month is "Night of our Light".

Come join us for tea or coffee and a bacon roll.

Harbury Parish Councillors will be there 10.00 – 11.00 with Councillor's Corner to answer any questions you may have.

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

Our Sponsors

HARBURY GARDEN WALKABOUT SAT 28TH & SUN 29TH JUNE 2025

Peter Walshe, Trustee, Harbury e-Wheels

We have over 20 gardens open this year (11am - 6pm on Saturday 28th June and 12noon - 6pm on Sunday 29th June) some with teas, coffee, cakes, lunches and art/photography exhibitions. So put the dates in your diary now!



A special drop-in activity that coincides with Swift Awareness Week will be in the Library (Saturday 2 - 4pm). Find out about Super Swifts, birds with amazing powers! Make a paper swift, track its incredible journey, hunt in the Library for quiz clues.

And the Harbury Pre-School, a space where children play, learn and grow will be offering children's activities with refreshments available. It includes a bug hotel.

Bellringing (you can have a go) will be in the Church on Sunday afternoon with teas in the Tom Hauley Room (in aid of the Sound and Stone project).

This year coincides with a Warwickshire Open Studios weekend so we will have a number of gardens with free exhibitions and the Harbury Heritage Centre will also be open on the Sunday between 12 noon and 6pm.

Entry is by Programme and these will be available in the Library from Monday 23rd June (cash or card, £5 an adult, valid for the same person both days) with proceeds to Harbury e-Wheels. If you need to book before that you can use TicketSource (search What's On 'Harbury Garden Walkabout 2025') and collect your programme from the Library on the day.

An extra attraction is a tour of Harbury Windmill by Jeremy Atkins (see separate article for details).

Any questions please contact Peter Walshe on 07446 779879 or peterdouglaswalshe@gmail.com.



HARBURY WINDMILL GUIDED TOURS SAT 28TH JUNE 2025

Peter Walshe, Trustee, Harbury e-Wheels



Jeremy Atkins has kindly volunteered to lead tours of his beautifully restored Windmill to help raise funds for e-Wheels.

They are restricted to those fit enough to climb the six floors (with some steep steps) and to a total of 10 per tour.

Tours will be on the hour (and lasting about 45 minutes) during the Garden Walkabout from 11am to 5pm on Saturday 28th June.

Booking opens Monday 2nd June: PRE-BOOKING ONLY via TicketSource (search What's On 'Harbury Windmill') with a donation of £5 per person for Harbury e-Wheels. The historic 200-year-old Windmill in the middle of Harbury Village has recently been further restored with the original cap workings being viewable with a new glass ceiling and superb views from the top. Only rarely open, we recommend you make the most of the opportunity as well as supporting a local charity.

Any questions please contact Peter Walshe on 07446 779879 or peterdouglaswalshe@gmail.com.



BUMPS & BUNDLES

Sally Stringer and the Bumps team

Don't forget Bumps and Bundles meet every Tuesday during term time in the Tom Hauley Room behind the church – just follow the path to the left of the church - 10.30am until 12.00. No booking required, just turn up; or you can have a morning off and send your little angels with their dads, grannies, grandads or other minders. We have lots of toys to help to keep the children occupied.

We also welcome pregnant mums who can come, chat and meet the other mums.

You also get free tea/coffee and biscuits! What more can you ask for?

We welcome children up to three years old.

We also have a Facebook page – look us up for more information

Hope to see you soon.



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Gillian Hare

What an amazing month it has been for enjoying the countryside! Such a fast developing season meant the bluebells nearly beat us to it. But we saw lots in Oakley Wood. A lot of work has been done since we were there last, with the main paths being surfaced so they can be used by buggies and less abled walkers without sinking in the mud. We could see signs of some good conservation work too - no doubt lots of volunteers doing their bit. Well done to them. A new route for most of us took us out of Bubbenhall, ducking in and out of woodland and seeing some rather smart properties! And, as ever, a pub lunch at Norton Lindsay went down well.

This month's programme is on the diary page; we continue to welcome new walkers; just turn up behind the village hall by 9.40 or ring Gillian on 614809.

ALL CHANGE AT THE CROWN AND THE GAMECOCK

John Holden

Last month saw new proprietors take over at both The Crown and Gamecock pubs. We welcome them to Harbury and hope that their new ventures are successful.



The Crown's new proprietors are Jo and Dominic who have moved over from Malvern where Dominic was Head Chef at the 'Inn at Welland'. He always wanted to be a chef and trained straight from leaving school and has worked since in a variety of fine dining restaurants. Dominic grew up in Redditch and Jo is originally from Cheltenham. She is going to continue her job as a Paramedic working part time for South West Ambulance Service out of Tewkesbury.

Deciding they wanted to manage a pub themselves; Dominic and Jo had been looking over a large area for one that they felt suited them. They were attracted to Harbury and the Crown due to the strong sense of community and the facilities that the pub offers. Although Dominic has worked in highly rated restaurants and pubs, he wants to use his skills to produce a small regularly changing seasonal menu that will be attractive to customers. There will also be Daily Specials and they will offer bar snacks. Sunday roasts will also be on the menu.

They are happy to be led by what villagers wish to see on offer at the pub, whether it be for food or beers. They will be using local suppliers and an interesting initiative is that they would like to use any surplus fruit and vegetables that allotment holders or gardeners may have. Already a near neighbour has offered cooking apples from their tree this autumn. There will be two ales on the bar and they are using a wine merchant who as well as supplying popular wines will also provide more individual wines such as organic wines, which will change on a regular basis.

The couple are planning on running workshops which will include Hand Pottery Building and other crafts. There will also be 'Chef Events', where Dominic and other chefs will offer a one off menu exploring a variety of dishes. They are happy to host small community groups, such as book clubs or the like. The Crown will initially be open Tuesday to Sunday lunchtimes and evenings. Many of the staff who used to work in the pub will continue to do so, so as well as new faces there will be familiar staff there as well. Do keep an eye on the Crown's social accounts for more details on upcoming events.

At **The Gamecock** Nicola and Shaun have re-opened the pub after being closed since last autumn. Nicola has moved from Nuneaton whilst Shaun was previously over in Bromsgrove. Nicola has a daughter and a grandson who have lived in the village for two years. Her grandson goes to the village primary school. Nicola for the time being is continuing with her job at Birmingham Airport where she works on the Jet 2 check in desk. Shaun is a retired Engineering specialist High School teacher who taught over in Bromsgrove. Nicola managed a number of pubs some years ago but Shaun is new to the trade, both are keen to make a success of it.



Shaun and Nicola have decorated the bar areas and the Brewery has replaced all of the beer lines and hand pulls. After being closed for so long the existing equipment was in a sorry state! The brewery are also going to replace all of the kitchen equipment. The couple are shortly planning to offer deli food such as ploughman's lunches. Once the kitchen is up and running they plan to offer home comfort meals at a reasonable price. They will also plan to serve breakfasts and afternoon teas.

Initially the pub will be open afternoons and evenings. Families are most welcome and at this time of year the beer garden is very attractive. Free pool is available to play and you may occasionally even hear Nicola who enjoys singing particularly Motown or 60's numbers.

THE GREAT WESTERN

Yvonne Lanchester

On Wednesday 30th April work started on the Great Western. Heras fencing was erected. Skips and digger arrived. The rubbish was cleared and the grass was strimmed and mown. The trees and bushes around the back were removed. Looking so much better.

The Blue Plaques on the front of the building have been carefully covered to protect them while work is being carried out.



The Community Benefit Society had a meeting with Shane on the 12th May who gave us an update. At this stage there isn't much to report. The water board and electricians have visited the property to work out what needs doing. The clear up continues. We also bounced around ideas for when it gets closer to opening.

Updates as they happen can be found on Facebook The Great Western Deppers Bridge.

LITTER PICKS

Ian Reynolds



Monthly litter picks have been paused as everything is now nice and overgrown. We will wait and see when the council cuts an area back, we should then go out and clear up after that. As we don't have timings for that please join our WhatsApp group so I can easily communicate with you as it will be adhoc over the summer months.



HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE - UPDATE

Amanda Randall

Contact Harbury Swifts: swifts.harbury@gmail.com



Swifts were spotted in Harbury a little earlier this year, with the first birds seen flying high over the village on 26th April, by Sarah Smith. This early arrival appears to have been the case over the whole of the UK and these birds were possibly flying en route further north. More swifts were seen above the village on May Day and Terry Hunt reported seeing his first swift of the year storming up Mill Street on 4th May! In some towns and villages, the arrival of the swifts is celebrated with a welcome parade by local schoolchildren, sometimes in very large numbers. In Askrigg, in the Yorkshire Dales, where we were lucky enough to visit last month, there is a banner to welcome the local swifts!



The experienced breeding adult birds are the first to return, seeking out the nests they have faithfully used, year after year. Harbury's swift surveyors have already seen some of these birds, slipping, in the blink of an eye, under the eaves of a house in Harbury whose owner says that he looks forward to their annual return, making a note of the date each year. We wish them a successful breeding season. Unlike some species of birds who are able to breed two or even three times during summer,

there is only enough time for swifts to raise one family before it is time for them to migrate back to Africa. Swifts lay just two or three eggs and it can take around forty days before the chicks are fully-grown.

There are two opportunities in June to spread the word about swifts. Come and find me on Carnival Day 7th June, when I will be in the Parish Council tent with some beautifully illustrated leaflets about swifts, for both adults and children.

Later in the month, from Saturday 28th June to Sunday 6th July, is Swift Awareness Week 2025. On Saturday 28th June, 2-4pm, there will be a free drop-in session in Harbury Village Library for children to discover more about Super Swifts, birds with amazing powers! Make a paper swift, track its incredible journey, hunt for the quiz clues. Why not pop in to the Library during the afternoon, between visiting some of Harbury's Open Gardens?



Hope to see you at one or both of these events!

Warwickshire East
Primary Care Network

FREE HEALTH COACHING SERVICES AT HARBURY LIBRARY

Ludmila Enticott

Health Coaching – How can it help with management of long-term chronic conditions?

When we consider how much time we dedicate to managing our health each year, it becomes clear that most of it happens outside the doctor's office or hospital; where we live, work, and go about our daily lives with a health condition. The everyday choices we make – what we eat, how we move, how we relax, sleep, and connect with others – have the greatest impact on our wellbeing. Yet we often overlook this and place all the responsibility for our health on doctors and nurses. But we play an important role too. By making supportive choices at home, considering what we can add to our own wellbeing, we can help our bodies better handle life's challenges. These choices can build our resilience, reduce symptoms, and even improve our health – especially when living with long-term conditions. In fact, lifestyle changes often have the biggest impact on chronic illnesses.

These days, a new field of work and research relating to health is emerging. It is called Lifestyle Medicine whereby people take a much more central role to their health. Lifestyle Medicine explores the connections between our personal choices in life and our health. There is solid evidence that what we do at home, outside the consulting room, influences our health the most. But although everyone knows a healthy diet and active life is important, it can be hard to change old habits. This is where a Health Coach could be of help. Health Coaches have the time and skills to work with people in the long-term, helping them identify priorities and goals related to their personal circumstances. They can also help people explore previous barriers they encountered before when failed attempts to improve lifestyle might have led them to demotivation. Health Coaches are trained to work with people without telling them what to do but helping them identify what they want to do for themselves.

The only criteria to get a referral to a Health Coach in the NHS is interest in doing more for yourself and making some changes to improve your own health.

If you would like to know more about free Health Coaching sessions, educational programmes

and how to get involved, consider coming along on a **first Thursday** for an informal **'Chat with the Coach' at Harbury Library from 12.30 to 2.00pm (term-time only).**

You can also contact us via email, visit our website or enquire at your local surgery about getting a referral to the Health Coach.

We look forward to being of help.

EAST PCN – www.wepcn.co.uk

Email contact for self-referral: cwicb.we.connect@nhs.net

Harbury Surgery - Kineton Surgery – Fenny Compton Surgery - Southam Surgery - St Wulfstan Surgery



READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors

To all who helped with and contributed to the coffee morning held on Saturday 10th May in the Tom Hauley Room - a huge 'thank you' for your generosity in raising in excess of £500 for our appeal for Myanmar and Pann Nan Ein.

It has been very gratefully received.

Ros Baldwin

foodbank

LOCAL FOODBANK donations of non-perishable items as listed below which supplies the surrounding area, including Harbury, can be left at:

Harbury Village Library Foyer
(Wight School when open)

e-Wheels driver
Wight School car-park on Mondays between 11.30am - 12.30pm

Harbury Co-op
Tall basket by door

• Potatoes - tins and packets of instant mash • Tins of meat • Jars of pasta sauce

• Tins of spaghetti in sauce • Tins of fruit • Sponge puddings • Custard • Small bags of sugar

• UHT milk • Toiletries such as: shampoo, shower gel, soap, toilet rolls and cleaning products.

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We're open Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
and Saturday 9:00am to 2:00pm.

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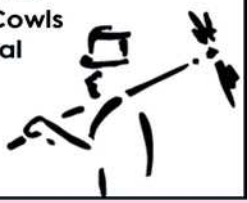

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