# Harbury & Ladbroke News



NOVEMBER 2025



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| Week Commencing Monday | Thursday Collection - Harbury<br>Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge | Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke |
|---|---|---|
| 3 November | F - W | F - R - W - G |
| 10 November | F - R - G | F |
| 17 November | F | F - R - G |
| 24 November | F - R - W - G | F - W |
| 1 December | F | F - R - G |
| 8 December | 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

NOVEMBER 2025 No. 620

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

**December Edition Deadlines**



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

**Articles & Christmas Greetings to:**
Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Monday 24th November



**Cover Photo: Ladbroke's Bonfire firework finale by Mike Todman**

# EDITORIAL

*A round up of local news*



We were saddened to hear the news of the recent death of John Moore. John was a founding member of the Harbury News back in 1974 and was editor and chairman for sixteen years, retiring in 1990. John was also very involved with All Saints, Harbury too, including being Church Warden for a number of years. Our condolences go to John's wife Anne and family. Anne was also a great supporter of the magazine, holding a number of roles over the years.

John and Anne pictured here in 2014 at the magazine's 40th Anniversary Party.

Early proposals to build houses on a number of sites in Harbury village are in the pipeline. We wonder how our infrastructure will bear up, let alone the sad loss of our green fields. All we can do is wait until planning permission is submitted and object if you feel necessary.

It will be a busy time for community events in Harbury during November. See the diary for details. With thoughts turning towards Christmas, regular December events see the Harbury Christmas Fair on Saturday 6th and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on the 13th.

Following the success of the Ladbroke Matters Quiz Night, a Village Safari Supper is being organised for 22nd November – see article for details if you wish to take part. A Christmas Concert will also be held on 5th December in Ladbroke Church for everyone to enjoy.

In next month's edition of the magazine, we will be publishing Christmas greetings from those villagers who prefer to give donations to charity rather than send individual greetings cards. Please submit these to the magazine in good time and no later than deadline day, Monday 24th November.



# HARBURY DIARY

*For local events*

**NOVEMBER**

Sat 1 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union Harbury
Harbury Craft Fair, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Village Hall
Guitar Workshop, 2.00 - 3.30pm, Village Library

**Sun 2 TRINITY 20**
Said Communion Service 9.00am
All Saints Service, 4.00pm, Church
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 3 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 4 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Heritage Centre open, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
'Poems and a Pint', 7.00pm, the Crown Inn
Harbury Theatre Group business meeting, 7.30pm, Village Club

Wed 5 BBC CWR Children in Need - three legged race around the village, starting at 7.00am, returning at 7.45am Village Hall
Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Priors Marston (3½ miles)
Mothers' Union, communion service 2.00pm, AGM followed by social time/quiz starts 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 6 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Library

Fri 7 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 8 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Church Flowers
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Harbury Bonfire and Fireworks, gates open 5.00pm, bonfire lit 6.00pm, Firework display at 6.30pm, Village Hall Playing Fields

**Sun 9 TRINITY 21**
Service of Remembrance, 10.15 - 11.15am Church / Parade to Memorial
Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 10 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 11 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 12 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Hunningham (4½ miles, flat)
Quiet Space, 10.00am, 19 Farm Street, Harbury
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Tickets for Harbury WI Village Cinema to be purchased by today from Village Library - film showing on Sat 15th November
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 13 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI's AGM, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room

Fri 14 Lego Club, 3.30 - 4.30pm, Village Library

Sat 15 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam Men's Shed at Galanos
Harbury WI Village Cinema presents, ''White Bird,' doors open 6.15pm, film begins 7.00pm, Village Hall

**Sun 16 TRINITY 22**
Said 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)
Circle Singers of Leamington Spa - Afternoon Tea Recital www.circlesingers.co.uk, 3.00pm, Village Hall

Mon 17 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 18 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Society, 'The history of the Heart of England Co-operative Society', doors open 7.30pm, presentation 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 19 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Loxley and optional lunch at Touchdown Café (4 miles flat)
Connections: A Carers' Support Group, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 20 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

Fri 21 Sheep Dip Session - Rag Mama Rag, doors open 7.30pm, Village Library

Sat 22 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Warwick RNLI
Councillors' Corner, 10.00am - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Christmas Local Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall

**Sun 23 CHRIST THE KING**
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Informal Evening Service, 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 24 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Harbury Home Education Movement Session, 1.00 - 2.30pm, 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 25 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Ponder in the Pub "Hope - don't abandon it" 7.00 for 7.30pm, the Crown Inn

Wed 26 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - tbc
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 27 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Parish Council, 7.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Theatre Group presents 'Dick Whittington', 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 28 Lego Club, 3.30 - 4.30pm, Village Library
Harbury Theatre Group presents 'Dick Whittington', 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 29 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of All Saints Ladbroke
Harbury Theatre Group presents 'Dick Whittington', 2.30 and 7.30pm, Village Hall
Setting up of village Seasonal Lights and Switch on Today

**Sun 30 ADVENT SUNDAY**
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

**DECEMBER**

Mon 1 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall
Southam Lions Club and Santa visit Harbury from 5.30pm (see article)

Tue 2 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Southam Lions Club and Santa visit Harbury from 5.30pm (see article)
Harbury Heritage Centre open - 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Wed 3 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Combrooke (4 miles)
Mothers' Union, communion service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Ben and Soph's Jazz Christmas Special, doors open 6.30, show 7.00 - 9.00pm, Village Hall, Tel: 07515 275 655 / www.ticketsource.co.uk/bsjazz
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

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

Fri 5 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 6 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of tbc
Christmas Fair, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Hall

**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

November is often a month that brings back many memories, with particular emphasis on the many services of Remembrance that take place in churches across the nation.

Memory is often a mysterious part of our nature. When my father was in the advanced stages of dementia he struggled to remember his family but could clearly recall events that took place decades ago. From a Christian perspective God tells Israel in Isaiah 46, to "Remember the former things," He is calling them to reflect on their history - not just as a collection of events, but as a story of God's faithfulness. Memory can help us to anchor our identity; we remember who we are in our new life with Christ.

We also celebrate God's faithfulness, we recall how He has delivered, provided, and led us, and we are able to build hope for the future because what God has done before, He can do again. Of course, memory can often be closely associated with nostalgia, when we long for a 'golden age' which in reality was not as wonderful as we have come to think it was. The days of Christendom have gone and the church faces many new challenges. So memory should not be a longing for the "good old days," instead it can be a spiritual act of worship that grounds us in truth, strengthens us in trials, and points us forward in hope.

So we hold on to our memory of who God is, what he has promised, and what he has done through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Despite the frailties of old age and the devastating consequences of dementia, may we always remember deep down who we are, and more importantly, whose we are.



## FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

*Andy & Bez*

November is an important time to remember those fallen in war and those loved ones who have died. By the time you have read this we will have held our All Saints Service in memory of those that have died, particularly in the last year.

We also look forward to welcoming everyone to the Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November where we remember the people that gave their lives so we can enjoy ours. Their sacrifice gives us much to be thankful for. The service will start in church at 10.15am and then will conclude with a short service around the War Memorial at around 11.00am.

We also explored the theme of gratitude in our harvest service on 19th October. The church family gathered to celebrate all that we have and we heard about The Fosse Food Bank and the work of E wheels from Bob Sherman. We all enjoyed a bring and share lunch afterwards and it's amazing how there is always food left over! A good time was had by all and we hope to repeat this on other occasions.

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 6th December from 2pm in Harbury Village Hall. If anyone is interested in having a "trade" stall please contact Liz McBride on 01926 612421 or via the email treasurer@allsaintsharbury.org.

All the usual fun and games will be happening as well as refreshments, raffle and opportunities for present buying – or just to catch up with friends and neighbours.

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

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

### From the Registers

**Funeral**

22nd October 2025 John Burton Moore (92 years)

## MOTHERS' UNION

*Gillian Hare*

Such an interesting speaker in October; the Rev Richard Wilde works with the Methodist Church to liaise with the farming community. His talk was entitled "Where have all the flowers gone" so we were expecting doom and gloom about the damage to the environment by modern practices. Whilst much of that is true, and he explained some of the background going back to the drive for food security after the war, the changes in consumer demands and the effects of Brexit, there was also a lot to be positive about. The sophisticated computers in the huge tractors we see enable seeds and sprays to be applied with such accuracy that there is no overlap or excessive use - a win win for costs and the soil. There are now grants for sustainable farming, e.g protection of headlands, hedges and streams, as well as regenerative methods which improve the land by minimum tillage and secure use of manures.

He also talked about the effect on farmers of loneliness as well as financial worries, and the wonderful work of the Farming Community Network. This offers an immediate telephone helpline as well as practical support. A lot of contacts are made at the markets although online commerce is cutting back on those opportunities for people to meet and share. At some markets there are drop in medical centres which may pick up health issues before they become too serious.

We were left better informed but with much to think about.

We next meet on 5th November for a brief AGM and a social time and again on 3rd December.

The diocesan Advent service will be on Monday 1st December at Exhall at 11am - speak to Chris if you would like to go.

We meet in the Tom Hauley room at 2pm, starting with a said communion service. Visitors are always welcome.




## ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS FAIR

*Elaine Barnden*

The All Saints Harbury Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday 6th December 2 - 4pm, at the Village Hall.

Donations for the following gratefully received..... otherwise, please do come along and join in the festivities.

- Chocolate for Tombola
- Bottles for Tombola (any size as long as they fit under a bottle bag)
- Red wine - mulled wine stall
- Cakes on the day for cafe and stall
- Good items for gifts or as raffle prize

The above can be dropped off in church or to Liz McBride, 1 Park Lane 01926 612421.

Proceeds to the Stone, Sound & Vision Appeal.

Many thanks for your generosity!



# LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

## NOVEMBER

**Sun 2 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments
"Shine a Light" candlelit churchyard from dusk, names read out in church 6.30pm

Tue 4 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thu 6 WI - sugarcraft with Jackie Barnett, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 7 Deadline for contributions and completed shoeboxes to be given to Sue Wright (see article)

Sat 8 Bonfire and Fireworks, gates open 6.00pm, display approx. 7.30pm, Farmyard Field

**Sun 9 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**
Village Remembrance Service, 3.00pm (no morning service)

Tue 11 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 12 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School
Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall

**Sun 16 TRINITY 22**
Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

Tue 18 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 22 Safari Supper (see article)

**Sun 23 SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Mon 24 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 25 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 29 Coffee Morning in aid of Ladbroke Church, 10.00 - 11.30am, Tom Hauley Room, Harbury

**Sun 30 ADVENT 1**
Holy Communion (said service), 9.00am

## DECEMBER

Tue 2 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thu 4 WI Christmas Outing, 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed

Fri 5 Christmas Concert by Spa Chorale, 7.30pm, Church

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



# LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Our Harvest Festival at the beginning of October saw the Church beautifully decorated and the service well attended. A special thanks to Jackie for organising some children's activities – these proved so popular that one boy did not want to leave to go to his friend's birthday party!

On 2nd November, we shall again be lighting tea lights in the churchyard at dusk and then commemorating those we have loved and lost, with names being read out from 6.30pm. All welcome. The following Sunday, 9th November, we shall be holding the village Remembrance Service at 3.00pm. Please note that there will be no 9.00am service that day.

The Christmas season will soon be upon us, so please note the special events in December listed below for your diaries. Other Sunday services in December will continue as usual unless otherwise stated.

**Future services and events**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 2nd Nov | 10.30am | Family Service |
| | 5.00 - 7.00pm | Shine a Light |
| Sunday 9th Nov | 9.00am | No Service |
| | 3.00pm | Village Remembrance Day Service |
| Sunday 16th Nov | 9.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sunday 23rd Nov | 9.00am | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 30th Nov | 9.00am | Holy Communion (said) |
| Friday 5th Dec | 7.30pm | Spa Chorale Christmas Concert |
| Sunday 7th Dec | 10.30am | Family Service |
| Sunday 21st Dec | 6.00pm | Carol Service (no morning service) |
| Weds 24th Dec | 3.00pm | Crib Service |
| Thurs 25th Dec | 9.00am | Christmas Day Holy Communion. |

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

# LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Carol Lane

Wednesday 1st October was a special open meeting and members were joined by husbands and other friends, many from the farming community, to hear Rod Adlington and Guy Minshull tell of their adventures rowing The Atlantic. Sue introduced our speakers as 'farmers and thrill-seekers' and Guy started the talk by saying if you're going to have a mid-life crisis have a big one! Rod had lost his three year old son, Barney, to meningitis and he wanted to do something to mark what would have been Barney's 21st birthday.

Their training included rowing machines and they rowed for two hours most days for nine months. They bought a 28ft carbon fibre boat with a cabin at both ends and space for rowers in the middle. They recruited – and carefully vetted – two other rowers so an ex paratrooper and a vet whose name was Anna joined the crew.

They started in Lanzarote and their goods were delivered in containers. They then spent three to four days packing. For example, each person would need 5,000 calories per day so daily ration packs per person were assembled. Other teams were also planning the route and courses including first aid and survival were provided.

At last, on 2nd January 2022, they set off watched by a crowd of 300 people. Taking it in turns, Guy and Rod made what sounded horrendous into interesting and amusing stories. The rule was that each member of the crew rowed for two hours on and two hours off and they should be harnessed to the boat at all times. They showed pictures of their blistered hands but Rod said their bottoms were even more sore. We were spared pictures of those. The Trade Winds which were expected to aid them during the trip didn't ever come and their weather forecaster said that one storm led to the worst conditions for ten years. This all made the journey take longer than they hoped. However, to compensate there were fantastic sunrises and sunsets, and wonderful wild life – flying fish, dolphins and a marlin, which is known to attack a boat with its sharp spear, followed their boat for 30 minutes one day.

Routines included desalinating water every day and scraping the bottom of the boat every two weeks as well as the 'bucket and chuck it'!

After 52 days, the video of their arrival in Antigua, flanked by a flotilla of 40 boats, and their reunion with their families was really moving. They were feted with a meal at a huge table with onlookers. They had rowed 3,250 miles at an average of 2.4 knots and the project raised £120,000 for the Meningitis Charity. This was increased by £300 with takings from the entrance and raffle at our meeting.



*Guy Minshull, Sue Moore and Rod Adlington*

As it was such a full evening, a sheet of local WI information was given to all members in which Sue also thanked all who had helped at the coffee morning, the proceeds from which go towards the cost of speakers and the hire of the hall. The Christmas outing will be on our usual night of 4th December. The venue will be discussed nearer the time. The November meeting on Thursday 6th will be on sugarcraft with Jackie Barnett.

# 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.

### Village Quiz Night

We held our annual village quiz night last month. Thanks goes to Helen Morten (organiser and quizmaster), Carol Lane (organiser), Kip Warr (scorer), and to the 13 teams who took part. Congratulations to the winning team – Swans and Roses. A full report can be seen elsewhere in this issue.

### Village Safari Supper

We are planning a village safari supper for the evening of **Saturday 22nd November**. This is a fun way to socialise with other villagers, especially if you are a newcomer. It doesn't involve seeing any lions or elephants, but you will be eating your starters at the house of one host, and your main meal at another house before all of us meeting up for desserts, probably in the village hall.

Contact Kip Warr (**kip.warr@gmail.com**) or Anthony Tierney (**anthonytierney@hotmail.co.uk**) for more information, or if you would like to host a meal or take part in the safari.

Further details will be available very soon. Funds raised will go towards the Millennium Green play area.

### Hall Bookings

Our hall has a small kitchen, and a stage area with sound and lighting. It can accommodate up to eighty people. So to book your special celebration, or if you wish to hold regular classes or meetings, **telephone** Debs on 07779 225105 or contact her **through the Village Hall website which has more details about the facilities**.

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

### Can You Help?

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

The more you support us with your skills, time, and/or money, the more we can continue to

maintain these facilities for the benefit of us all. We are always 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 September 2025**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| £50 | Chris Ennew | £25 | Alan and Sue Lord |
| £50 | Simon and Jackie West | £10 | Jo Rose |
| £25 | Mike and Kate Todman | £10 | Richard Walker |
| £25 | Jim and Pauline Laidler | £10 | Kevin and Kate Pickin |

**Margaret Bosworth**



# LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

*Richard Bedwell*

October saw a wonderful presentation by Gray Lewis of his journey by jeep through Pakistan and the Himalayas on the Karakoram Highway.

The next meeting of the Ladbroke Photo Club will be a workshop in the Village Hall on Tuesday 4th November on the subject 'Oil on Water'.

We will be experimenting with differing effects that can be created with oils, water, detergent, and light effects. So bring your cameras (and tripods, but not essential); macro lens would be ideal but even phone cameras will capture good pictures. Please feel free to come along to join in or just observe!




# LADBROKE & CHESTERTON GENERAL NEWS




## LADBROKE HERITAGE

*Jackie West*

Last month the Heritage and Friendship Group enjoyed hearing how people had met their husband or wife. Many recalled their first meeting and where it was ... at a dance, work colleagues, at the pub, a music club, on holiday, even a blind date etc. There were tales of persistence and minor disasters overcome before the couple tied the knot. Don told us of a business trip to Canada, scheduled to last two weeks but actually lasting two months with the unexpected and very pleasant surprise when he finally returned of seeing his wife and children there at the airport to welcome him back to England.

November's meeting is being postponed a week as several of us will be at Beryl Webster's funeral, so we will be meeting on Wednesday 12th November, 10.30am - noon at The Old School. Our topic will be "My Desert Island Disc". Everyone is invited to tell us why a piece of music is special to them. Hopefully some will have recorded a snippet on their phone (or let us know in advance so we can do this) so we can listen to it too. If you would like to know more about the group please contact Carol on 814715.

Our website, **ladbrokeheritage.org.uk**, has lots of information about Ladbroke's history, its man-made and natural heritage and includes a contact page. A few days ago we received an


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email from a Tom Johnson, who used to live in the village, asking if we could point him to any old photos online, as he now lives in Australia. I was happy to oblige with attachments and links and in further emails he sent various memories of life here 70-80 years ago. Here are some of the photos and his memories.

*I used to live in Bridge Lane and attend Ladbroke School during 1943 to 1948. My aunt, Minnie Fleming lived in the then house opposite the village hall adjacent to the Bell Inn until the mid 1960's. My mother a Mann grew up at the Shakespeare Inn in Harbury during WW1.*





*I think the little cottage we lived in was thatched at that time. If I recall correctly The Gilks family lived next door and then the Timms. Geoff Timms was a little older than me but cricket played on Bridge Lane would have included him. The photo of the School is just how I remember except it had brown sticky paper criss crossed on the windows in case of blast. I spent a lot of school holidays in Ladbroke in the 1950's staying with my aunt as my parents were overseas, my father in the RAF. I have wonderful memories including the choir at the church and working with Uncle Tom Fleming who built wheelbarrows in his spare time. I recall a big kerfuffle when they transported the flying wing along Banbury Rd and negotiating the sharp corner at the entry of the village from Southam. My Uncle ran the Butchers Arms in Bishops Itchington so regularly visited there.*

*That was the house we lived in [on the left in the photo]. My Uncle Tom Fleming was originally by trade a Carpenter and Wheelwright and used to have a business building Wooden Farm Carts before settling in Ladbroke. He lived in the house attached to the Barn that fronts the Pub Yard, opposite the Village Hall. He lived there until he died and as a sideline repaired Wooden Carts. He taught me how to use a spokeshave to make the wheel spokes. He also built very strong wheelbarrows they too had a wooden wheel with a metal tyre.*



*My friend at that time was Richard or his surname was Richardson and believe he went on to become a builder. He lived in the Red Brick house on the other side of Banbury Rd, next door to what was The Boules picturesque half timbered thatched cottage, during the war Mr Boules had a business in Leamington making wiring harnesses for the war effort.*

*There used to be a dairy half way along Bridge Lane only few houses away, we went daily to collect our milk. I think the farm associated with it was behind the Village Hall and ran up by the POW Camp.*

## LADBROKE QUIZ

Helen Morten



On Friday 10th October we held the annual Ladbroke Quiz. Apart from being great fun, we managed to raise £586 for the Village Hall and the Millennium Green which was a tremendous result! The Hall was packed to the rafters, and all seemed to engage with a wide range of quiz questions, including a picture and music round. The raffle was also a great success, and for one quiz table in particular!

Many thanks to all the organisers for their hard work and commitment, to Sea Star in Southam for the delicious fish and chips and Tesco for the quiz prizes. Thank you also to all who attended to make the night such an enjoyable occasion.

## TEAMS4U - LOVE IN A BOX SHOEBOX APPEAL

Sue Wright

Thanks to all who have already donated boxes, items and funds.

This year's deadline for contributions and completed shoeboxes is **Friday 7th November**.

Contact suewright21@googlemail.com or 07768 333675 for more details.

## SPA CHORALE

Margie Bosworth

**Have Yourselves a Merry Christmas.**

Spa Chorale, under the directorship of Kevin Stannard, returns to Ladbroke Church on Friday 5th December at 7.30pm.

Enjoy a selection of music and prose for the festive season. Featuring carols, well-loved songs and some yuletide favourites.

Interval refreshments will be available. Donations on the door please. Thank you.

## CHESTERTON NEWS

Laura Harris, Parish Administrator

**St. Giles Church Candlelit Service**

Come and share in the wonder of Christmas at our Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 5.30pm.

Enjoy traditional carols and a festive singalong led by the Harbury Folk Club Choir, with bell ringing from 5pm to welcome you in.



Afterwards, join us for mulled wine and mince pies as we celebrate together.

All are welcome - and children especially so!



# HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Nicola Thompson - H&L News Correspondent

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

## Meeting of Harbury Parish Council held on 25th September 2025

Casual Vacancy: Following the resignation of Cllr Alex Potter, the council formally invited applications for co-option to the council.

**Public Participation**: Around 20+ residents were in attendance at the meeting and raised concerns on the following issues:

- Speeding through Deppers Bridge – It was noted that the volume of traffic travelling through Deppers Bridge has increased significantly and persistent speeding is causing a danger to residents. The weight limit on the bridge is also being largely ignored. Residents were advised to report their concerns to the County Cllr Kettle (who had offered apologies for this meeting) and to raise their concerns with the police.
- Land off Butt Lane: Community Consultation by Bloor Homes – Stephen Friling, speaking on behalf of a number of others present, stated that the proposal to build 150 new homes on this site was not needed, practical or wanted. The development would have a detrimental effect on the surrounding countryside and breaches the "protected" east boundary of the village as stated in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan also stated that any development which threatened the rural nature of the village would be opposed. This is a consultation rather than a planning application at present but it is expected that a full outline planning application will be submitted before Christmas. Cllr Lockley said that unfortunately, central government had "changed the goalposts" on building targets which made applications such as this much more difficult to counter; furthermore, as the targets are based on the actual number of houses built this is encouraging developers to submit applications but not to actually start building work. District Cllr Ostrander said that Stratford DC is currently considering shortening the legal commencement dates (currently three years from an application being granted) in order to prevent this.
- Graffiti on Skatepark: Mr Friling volunteered to clean the obscene graffiti on the skatepark himself with the council's permission.
- 4 Vicarage Lane – Planning Application for five Retirement Dwellings – A resident with a property bordering this land raised concerns that the boundaries shown in the application are not accurate which was confirmed by others present. It was also commented that this development would remove one of the last remaining green spaces in the village.

## Other Organisations

**Harbury School**: Cllr Thompson reported that the school has a new assistant headteacher. The number of children in Reception this September was down, although this is typical across all schools. The school also has a new catering contractor and is working towards becoming a 'forest school'.

**Village Hall**: 2024 saw a 19% increase in bookings overall and bookings are up by 11% again in 2025 so far. The committee would welcome enquiries from anyone interested in joining the committee.

**Harbury Future Energy**: Paul Quinney, on behalf of the group, reported that Warwickshire CC had still not put the project out to procurement. In more positive news, the group intended to apply for funding for other projects in the village from Midlands Energy Hub.

**Warks County Council**: Cllr Kettle had sent in a written report in his absence of which the chairman picked out one item of interest: that the county will be prioritising the policing of illegal parking near schools.

**Stratford District Council**: Cllr Ostrander explained that the Government's new rules on housing targets had increased both the house numbers required and the method of calculation. Under this new framework, the district council's 25 year housing supply had been decreased to just 2.74 years, below the mandated five year requirement. This leaves all areas within the district open to vulnerable development. Stratford DC is currently looking at all the options to bring the supply back up to five years including using reserve sites, bringing empty homes back into use and pressing developers to implement their permissions instead of land banking.

Cllr Ostrander also highlighted the Warm Homes Local Grant which enables householders to improve the warmth and insulation of their homes free of charge (eligible households only) – for further information visit the council's website https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/warm-homes-local-grant.cfm

Cllr Ostrander also highlighted round three of the Community Climate and Nature Fund which provides parish councils, charities, community and sports groups with funding for local green projects. Enquiries should be sent to climate.emergency@stratford-dc.gov.uk

### Planning

The council made no representation to a proposed first floor extension at 19 Manor Road and to external elevation alterations to windows and doors and changes to the internal layout at 16 Binswood End.

**4 Vicarage Lane 25/01802/FUL**: Erection of five dwellings. The council had previously submitted a provisional objection to this application and agreed to maintain the objection and add to it by highlighting concerns over the accuracy of boundaries on the plans and also the provision for bin collections if the bin lorries cannot directly access the site.

**New Development Proposals**: Members of the council had met with the developers regarding land north of the former cement works and also with representatives of Bloor Homes on land off Butt Lane. The notes from both these meetings, which do not prejudice the council's ultimate comments on the planning applications, will be made available on the council's website as soon as possible – visit www.harbury-pc.gov.uk The council has not yet had the opportunity to meet with the developers of land off Mill Street.

### Properties

**Allotments**: A planning application has now been submitted for the new entranceway to the Hall Lane allotments. The clerk raised concerns that the whole area was becoming very overgrown and it was agreed that a working party will meet with the current tenants and form a plan to tackle this. The clerk will shortly meet with the contractor to get a quote for clearing areas around the community allotment at Pineham Farm.

**Playing Fields**: The village bonfire and firework display will be held on Saturday 8th November and the council agreed the use of the playing fields as usual. It was agreed that the village maintenance man will pressure wash graffiti on the skatepark and also the paint on the wall behind the mini goal posts. Cllr Sylvester was added to the playing fields

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inspection team, a small group of cllrs who check the play equipment on a regular basis. Cllr Allen volunteered to lead a small group to be made up mainly of interested people outside of the council which will research the best options for the skatepark.

**Environment**: Cllr Mulley volunteered as the new chair of the Environment group.

**Stile Replacements**: The stile at the bottom of Mill Lane has now been replaced with a gate. The stile on Mill Street is still awaiting replacement.

**Tree Inspection Report**: Members agreed a quotation of £1580 for work recommended by the inspection report carried out by Arbscape.

**Speeding Traffic – Deppers Bridge**: Following concerns raised by residents, the council agreed to enquire what the cost of an updated traffic survey would be.

### Climate Change

Cllr Stockdale reported that members of the climate change group were meeting with the Earthworms at Harbury School and had also made contact via email with most of the groups and businesses in the village. Cllr Sylvester will attend a local climate engagement programme in October.

**Christmas Lights**: All of the existing lights have been PAT tested ready for this year with the exception of the lights for the front of the library which are the property of the library. It was found that nearly all of the wreaths plus approximately 1000 bulbs from the festoons have failed. The council agreed the purchase of 2500 new bulbs – extra ordered to last – plus new spheres at a total cost of just over £2000. The lights will be put up on Saturday 29th November – all volunteers wishing to help are welcome.

**Next Meeting**: **Thursday 23rd October in the Village Hall**

**Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:**

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

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



## HARBURY SOCIETY

*Sue Turner*

As Bill Timson's 'The Railway comes to Harbury' presentation occurred the day after the H&LN deadline, this will be reviewed in the December edition of the magazine. In the meantime, as Harbury is still, for the moment at least(!), surrounded by arable fields, I thought I would describe some of the traditions associated with harvest-time.

### Customs of the Cornfield

Many harvest customs are connected with bringing in corn or other cereal crops. For example, 'Hollaing Largesse' is one of the traditions of the field. If a stranger passed a field in East Anglia where people were harvesting, the reapers would form a circle and shout 'Holla Lar! Holla Lar! Holla Lar-Jess!' The stranger would then be expected to make a donation to them to help pay for their harvest supper!

The last sheaf of corn had a particular significance in the field. In Cornwall, one of the reapers cuts this with a scythe and holds it aloft, shouting 'I have 'un! I have 'un! I have 'un!' The other



*Haymaking in Victorian times*



*Corn Dolly*

farmworkers reply 'what 'ave 'ee? What 'ave 'ee? What 'ave 'ee?' The reply is 'A neck! A neck! A neck!' Then everyone joins in shouting 'Hurrah! Hurrah for the neck!' In some other parts of the country, this differs slightly with the ceremony being called 'Crying the Mare'.

That final handful of corn stalks might then have been woven into a 'corn dolly'. This represented the spirit of the corn and was kept until the following spring to ensure a good harvest next year. In Hampshire, this is a Kern Baby and in Devon a Kirn Babby. But the corn dolly isn't always in the shape of a figure. A variety of regional dollies include the Cambridgeshire Handbell, Durham Chandelier and Worcester Crown.

In Carshalton, Surrey, there's a 'Straw Jack'. This is a large figure made from the last straw harvested from the fields, paraded through the streets and ceremoniously burned among music and general revelry.

### Orchards and Vines

Harvest time involves a whole array of other crops too, including apples, cherries, hops and potatoes. For families living in polluted parts of London in the early half of the 20th century, an annual September trip to the hop fields of Kent provided a breath of fresh air. This was hardly Butlins; these were working holidays, and accommodation was cramped and unhygienic. But for many children, it was a rare chance to see the countryside, encountering their first cows and running free around the woods and fields.

Apples are picked a little later in the year, usually in October. Over 2,500 varieties of these popular fruits were developed in the UK but nowadays it's hard to find more than a couple of types in supermarkets that have been grown here. That's why it's always a treat to go to an apple day or festival in the countryside where you can try a whole array of appetising apples!

### Suppers and Services

Naturally, a celebration of the harvesting of food often involves special feasts or dishes. Bread is often featured. A loaf might be baked into the shape of a wheatsheaf, and on Lammas Day, the first of August, bread baked with freshly picked corn was taken into the local church to be blessed.

Harvest suppers, or sometimes churn suppers, named after the big jug of cream that might be offered, were traditionally hosted by the farmer. They brought together the community of

people who'd helped bring in the crops as a way of saying thank you and celebrating a successful growing year. It's said that Reverend Robert Hawker, a vicar in Cornwall, introduced the idea of having a harvest festival in church in the 1800s, with hymns giving thanks for the bounty of the fields and orchards.

St Michael's Mass, or Michaelmas, commemorates Archangel Michael who defeated Satan in the war of Heaven in the Bible. It's celebrated on 29th September each year, and it was customary to eat a roast goose, fattened on the stubble of the harvest field, to mark the occasion.

Goose Fairs were held across the country, including a famous one in Nottingham. Thousands of geese were walked to the city from Lincoln, Cambridge and Norfolk, to be sold. Today Nottingham's Goose Fair is over 700 years old, and times have changed. There are rollercoasters, big wheels, waltzers and dodgems – but you're unlikely to see a goose!

**Harbury Society Programme:**

**2025**

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

**2026**

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

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

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

**Tuesday 21st April** – Butterfly Conservation. A presentation by Mike Slater, a volunteer with Butterfly Conservation for more than 40 years.

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 - subject to availability.)

## HARBURY WI

Mary Thompson

At the end of September we held our Harvest Supper where a lovely meal was organised by three of our members with assistance from others. Our thanks to the Lost Farm in Grandborough for providing the delicious beef.

The speaker was Philip Yorke who entertained us with tales of his life as an investigative journalist. He started life as a Sports Journalist but then changed to be an investigative journalist trying to find the story behind the story. He took us into a world of hidden microphones and cameras. Philip was sued for libel 13 times but never lost a case.

Fraud and corruption were his brief. He told us of his work in Liverpool in the 1990s and then a major Football scandal. Finally he told us of an investigation involving the building industry

and the IRA which led him to find 16 bugs in his London flat. The pressure of this story on his wife and himself led him to stop his work and he now writes books about the English Civil War.

On 8th October, seven members had an inspiring day when they attended the Warwickshire Federation AGM held at NAEC Stoneleigh. We were welcomed by National Chair Jeryl Stone who reminded members that we still belong to the largest women's organisation in the UK.

The first speaker was Sameena Ali- Khan who has been a newsreader on Central News for 22 years. Her parents came to England from Pakistan in the 50s and 60s. She had initially wanted to train as a doctor but things didn't work out and she eventually achieved a Masters in Television production. She said that women in media still face a challenge but Sameena clearly loves her job and said she has met lots of people and done lots of things. She commented that if women were in charge maybe the world would be a better place.

The second speaker was Lianne Kirkman from the Esther Project which is based in Leamington. Lianne went through a mental health crisis when she was 19 and 39 and as a result she has set up support groups for women going through domestic abuse, addiction, coming out of prison etc. 60% of women in Britain are homeless in some way and she believes that mixed gender support is no good for these women. She has helped set up a seven bedroom property for women in Leamington and is trying to create a Women's Centre for Warwickshire. This is a project that is well worth supporting.

The afternoon speaker was Denise Nurse who works on Escape to the Country and Morning Live. Her family came from Dominica and Barbados but she was born in East London. She has been a solicitor for 25 years and set up her own Flexible Law firm. She changed career and went to work as a Sky weather presenter and now loves working on the BBC programmes Escape to the Country and advising on legal matters on Morning Live. Denise advised us to say yes to new offers and light a spark in us all. The one programme that she would love to appear on is Strictly come Dancing.

In August, as part of the Chairman's Challenge, Harbury members welcomed fellow members from Earlsdon WI – showed them our village and entertained them to tea in the Heritage Centre. We submitted a book to record the visit. Fillongley WI won the competition but Harbury was one of three WIs commended for their work. Warwickshire Federation Chair, Sue Postlethwaite closed the meeting thanking many members and her husband for their support during her three years as chair. Ruth McCartney was introduced as the new Federation Chair.

At our meeting on 9th October we welcomed John Parnell who models balloons in schools, markets, street fairs, children and adult parties and WI meetings. He took us back to the 1300s when the Aztecs used animal parts to make balloons to send to the gods. Balloon modelling started in the 1930s and the Japanese made long balloons in the 1950s. John demonstrated modelling a wide variety of balloons – dogs, swords, flowers, hair dryers, swans, spectacles





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## HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Website: www.harbury-pc.gov.uk

Open: Monday - Thursday
10.00am 12.00pm

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

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

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To speak on any issue, please contact the Parish Clerk

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and cats. He made the point that balloon modelling isn't just for children and a number of members had a go at making a balloon dog with great results. This was a very enjoyable evening and John proved to be a man of many talents. If anyone has watched episode one of "Murder before Evensong" on Channel 5, John is the juggler in the red coat.



The meeting on 13th November is our AGM which we make into a social occasion with wine, nibbles, chat and a quiz. We shall look back at the last year and make plans for the future. We are very much hoping to recruit some new committee members. Most of the present committee have served for a number of years and we need to attract some fresh blood to ensure the future of what is a very successful village organisation.

The next cinema is on Saturday 15th November when the film is White Bird – a 2024 war drama based in 1942 France starring Helen Mirren, Orland Schwerdt and Ariella Glazer. Tickets should be purchased by 12th November.

## HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

*Lynn Macwhinnie*

There is lots happening on the count-down to Panto! Our cast are well into the groove of perfecting their dance routines, designed by our enthusiastic choreographer Ellie, the talented granddaughter of a Harbury resident.

Our wonderful Wardrobe Mistress, Lin Hayes, is a familiar presence at rehearsals, tape-measure and notepad at the ready, to measure the cast for their costumes. There are about three costume changes for everyone, so imagine all the designing, cutting, sewing and ironing that entails!

Harbury's well-known artist Andrew Lawrence has finished adding the final touches to his splendid, colourful backdrop of Dick Whittington's London. Celia Stockdale and Keith Hayes, who as well as being in the cast, are also busy sawing, hammering and painting stage props. In addition, there are stage props where Paul Ayers-Hunt has been creative with 3-D design technology. See if you can guess what those ones are when you come to enjoy the show!

Showtimes in November are Thursday 27th, Friday, 28th, Saturday 29th at 7.30pm plus the Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Online tickets are already on sale. Buy using the QR code, or logging on to fienta.com/o/dick-whittington/ or from the 1st November pop into Biblio's, have coffee and cake, and stop at the Library desk for paper tickets.

We look forward to you joining us for all the fun!



## FOLK CLUB

Peter McDonald

We had a good turnout of audience and performers for the 465th session of Harbury Folk Club on 2nd October and the Library was comfortably full right from the start of the evening. It was good to see many more singers finding their way to our new venue. The theme for the evening was 'The Senses' which is so wide-ranging that it didn't really pose any problems for the singers when choosing their material.

I started with a Tom Paxton song, "Annie's Going to Sing Her Song", which puts the emphasis on Hearing. Sue and Maureen also had a Paxton song – the multi-sensory "Marvellous Toy" – which followed the traditional "Blow the Candles Out". Rik was next with the 1952 ballad, "You Belong to Me", and then a lovely recollection of "Joan the Leather Queen", a cheeky song written by the late Ron Shuttleworth for his wife, Jean (both regulars at Harbury Folk Club in the distant past). We hadn't seen Campbell for a while so it was good to be introduced to his new singing partner, Ruth, and two of his own songs, "Hold You" and "When Billie Sang the Blues". Pete Grassby was in particular good voice with two Harvey Andrews numbers, "Unaccompanied" and "Gift of a Brand New Day" – two very different but fine songs. Michael closed the first half with "Watch the Stars" by Jimmy Reed and the bluesy "My Sugar So Sweet".

Though they were missing nearly half of their singers, the Folk Club Choir boldly started the second half as an octet with two songs – "Bringing in the Sheaves" by Jim Boyes and the not-so-folky "True Colours", a significant hit for Cindy Lauper. My second song was "Polly Von" about a careless hunter who fired a fatal arrow at his lover (presumably because of his poor eyesight). Mike was another singer to introduce his singing partner, Janine, with "Eyes on the Prize" (a song associated with the US Civil Rights Movement) and then "You Look Like You Love Me", a novel song by Ella Langley. Andrew was next with his own lively song, "Summer", then he joined forces with Hugh to sing their hard-hitting song "The Man With No Friends" about a certain Russian president (you can hear their recording of this song on Spotify). Hugh followed with a poetic sequel to the song to reflect recent political developments and the relationship with a certain US president. He then read a more light-hearted verse called "Leave Me Alone", voicing the feelings of an older generation. It was good to welcome Kim again (once she'd found the door to the Library in the dark) with her two songs, the self-penned "Conkers in the Grass" about autumn, followed by Dougie MacLean's "Not Lie Down". Without Liz, Pete had to go solo and he treated us to his own funny song, "The Carnivore Is Over", and then the historic "Three Score and Ten", about a deadly storm in 1889 which cost the lives of many Grimsby fishermen.

It was a particularly enjoyable and varied evening of high-quality music with a nice big audience to appreciate it (what a bargain for just £1 per head!). The charity raffle raised an

excellent £90, to be split 50/50 between Cancer Research UK and Ovacome (a support organisation for Ovarian Cancer sufferers and their families). My thanks to the team who set up the room and also the many who helped to turn it back into a library at the end. It's a non-trivial task but many hands make light work.

The next Folk Club will be at 8pm on Thursday, 6th November, in the Village Library with hosts Steve, Maureen and Sue and their theme 'Names'. There's more information about the Club on the web at: tinyurl.com/harbury-folk-club.



## HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

At the start of September my wife and I visited the landing beaches and war cemeteries of Normandy. My father had fought in World War II and landed on French soil not long after D Day (6th June) in 1944, so the visit had a personal connection. Fortunately, he returned home safely, unlike many hundreds of thousands of others who were less fortunate.



The number of museums, monuments and other reminders we visited brought to life and gave a detailed account of those dark days some eighty years ago. Just a couple of miles from where we were staying was the hugely impressive British War Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer. As well as the memorial itself there was a stunning display of 1,475 giant silhouettes, made from steel plate, each one standing 6'6" high, heads bowed in honour of the servicemen who fell on D-Day itself. The artwork produced by a company called 'Standing with Giants', was a stunning reminder of why we were there.



On Sunday 9th November our annual Remembrance service and ceremony will take place in Harbury and all over the country, in cities, towns and villages.



The 34 names on the World War I plaque and ten names on the World War II plaque will be read out as we bow our heads in respect of those service men and women who lost their lives fighting for their country. Poppies will be worn as a reminder and a symbol of the desolate battlefields of the Western Front after World War I. The 'last post' will be played and at 11 o'clock we will observe two minutes silence.

Six months ago, on a sunny Sunday in May we commemorated the eightieth anniversary of VE Day. Many relatives of those names on the cenotaph attended a service on that day too; this was also the day we unveiled the interpretation panel next to the memorial. I wonder how many families have looked at it or used the 'War Memorial Trail Guide', delivered to every home in Harbury leading up to that event? The guide gives details of all of the men killed in both World Wars who lived in the village at the time, as well as the location of the Blue Plaques around the village. There are 29 plaques in total listing some 34 names. Another panel can be found at the entrance to Oakfields off Bush Heath Lane. This explains why the roads on this estate are so named. This is also war related.

Perhaps now is a fitting time of year to go out and look at all of these reminders in our village of the sacrifice ordinary people made for our freedom and the peace we now enjoy every day.

### Other News

Open Days in November: The Heritage Centre will be open to the public at the following times:

**Tuesday 4th November 7 to 9pm and Sunday 16th November 2 to 4pm**. Entrance is via the Park Lane school gate and the path will be lit when it is dark. Come along this month and look at our ever increasing collection especially the World War 1 and 2 information that we hold.

### Special Event

You are invited to the Heritage Centre on **Sunday 21st December (2 til 4pm)**, to join our volunteers for a drink and a mince pie to celebrate the festive season. There will also be a new exhibition called 'Views of Harbury' for you to look at.

## HARBURY E-WHEELS

Bob Sherman

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

### Christmas concert for e-Wheels



**Tickets now available online!**

Harbury e-Wheels will present a magical evening of winter and Christmas music in All Saints Church Harbury on 12th December to raise funds for the charity. Over 100 performers will entertain us and lift us high into the Christmas spirit. Doors open at 6.30pm and the concert starts at 7pm.

circlesingers
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## An Afternoon Tea Recital

**Continuing our 65th anniversary**

**Sunday 16th November 2025 at 3:00pm**

**Harbury Village Hall, South Parade, Harbury, Leamington Spa, CV33 9JE.**

Come and join us for refreshments and some light musical entertainment

**Tickets: £8 in advance or £10 on the door**
From 01926 612788 or email: circlesingersleamington@gmail.com

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**110 Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV8 1HL**

**Thursday 13th November | 10am - 2pm**

**Bring along your Gold, Jewellery, Watches, Silver, Antiques and Collectables**

**Items may be consigned into Auction**
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Hansons Derbyshire, Heage Lane, Etwall, Derby, DE65 6LS

**Refreshments in aid of WCS Care**

Leamington choir Sing It Loud, Harbury Primary School Choir and saxophone quartet SevenFourSaxes will bring us an evening of wonderful music with opportunities for you to join in.

**Tickets are now on sale online** from TicketSource at £10 (£5 children up to 11 years).

To access ticket sales go to TicketSource.co.uk using this link: bit.ly/47184tj or search on What's On > Harbury Sing It Loud.

We are deeply grateful to Sing It Loud for supporting us as their current selected local charity and enabling this concert and for the children of Harbury Primary School for being willing to perform for us.

## HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL
*Staff and Committee*

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

### We're Going on a Bear Hunt

'We're going on a Bear Hunt, we're going to catch a big one, we're not scared!' We have had a lovely couple of weeks recounting Michael Rosen's Book.



The children have loved hearing the story and acting it out. In our outdoor area, we set up a 'forest', 'snowstorm', 'river', 'grass' and 'mud' and 'cave' and the children enjoyed going through all the different areas before discovering a bear!

Inside, we created a mini variation of the story using props on a tuff tray and it was great to read the story with the children and then see them acting it out with their friends as they played.



### The Tiger who Came to Tea

In our role play area, we set up Sophie's Kitchen from Judith Kerr's book. In the kitchen, we have food for the tiger to eat, drinks and a huge container of 'Tiger Food'. We also have some 'tigers' in there and a tiger onesie costume so the children can pretend to be the tiger.

The children's imaginations have been lovely to watch as they acted out their favourite bits of the story, with a few additions!

### Diwali

We have started to learn about Diwali, the Festival of Light, and how it is celebrated. We have an Indian Role Play area with Indian clothes and artefacts for the children to explore and wear. We have made some lovely Rangoli patterns using stencils and paint and we will be

trying some Indian food during snack time. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up in some of the Indian clothes and wearing the bracelets and head dresses.



We have been making our own Diva lamps out of clay and also lit some battery-operated candles. The children really enjoyed sitting in the candle-light and learning about Diva lamps.

Our Autumn curriculum is in full swing. The children have loved our cosy Autumn corner complete with some cuddly Autumn animals, materials in Autumn colours and leaves and conker foliage on the ground



The children have loved incorporating the Autumn finds into their learning in various different ways. They have been exploring conkers and rolling them down a chute and making collages out of twigs, leaves, conkers and twigs.

We have incorporated some Autumn finds, such as sticks, conkers and pinecones into the playdough and the children have been using their imaginations to create some wonderful playdough designs.

### Pre-School AGM

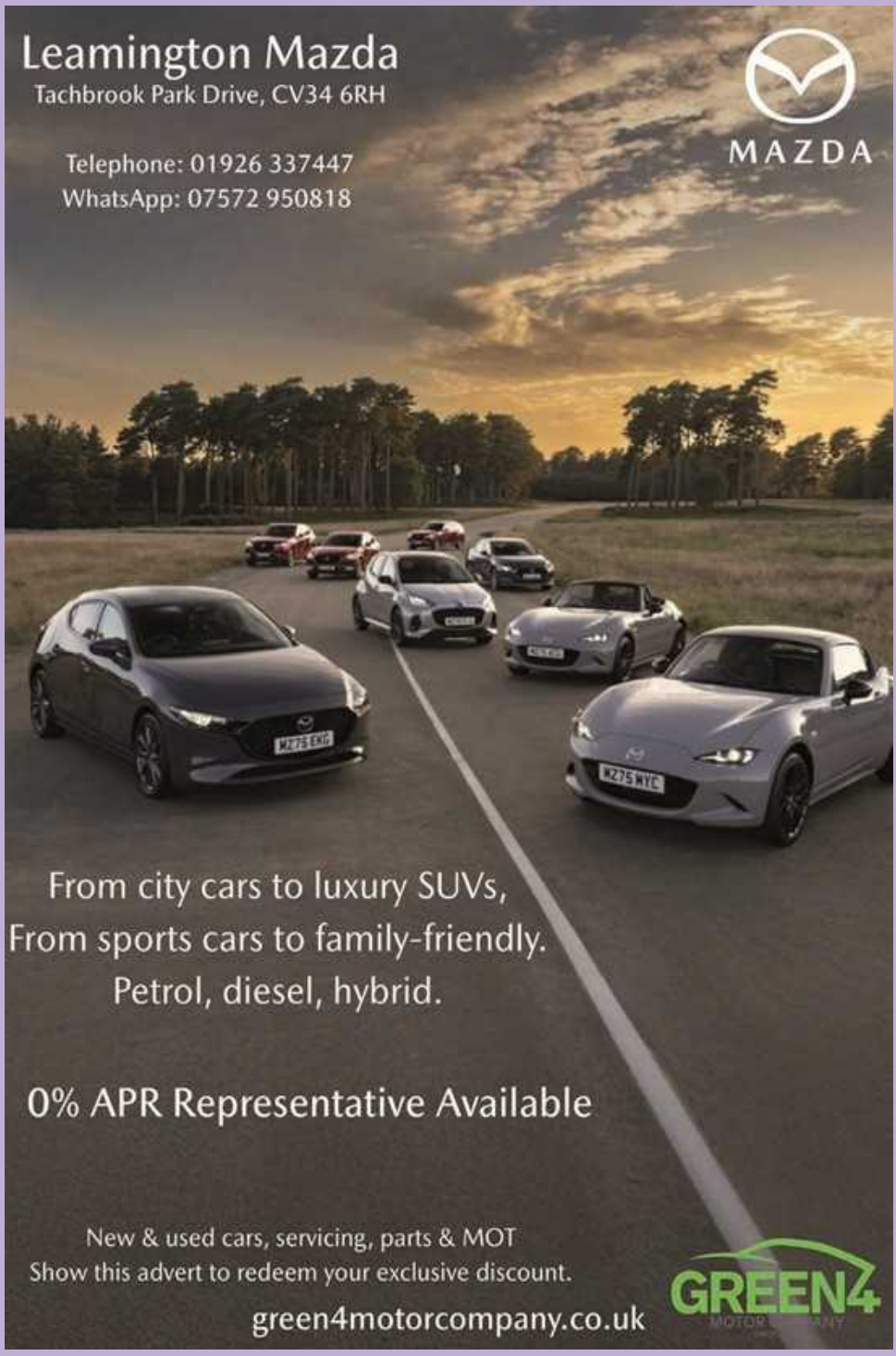
This week, we held our Annual General Meeting to celebrate another year of Harbury Pre-School. We are extremely grateful to our Committee members and parents who continue to support us. They are already in the planning stages for our next fundraising event. We would also like to extend our thanks to everyone in the village who has supported us in any way over the last twelve months.



### Forthcoming Events

Visit Santa in his grotto at the Harbury Christmas Market on Saturday 22nd November to raise funds for Harbury Pre-School.

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

## Harvest

We had a wonderful collective worship at All Saints Church. Year groups 1-6 took part and shared their reflections about Harvest. Thank you to Rev Andy for teaching us about flavoured crisps....mushroom crisps, banana crisps and even barbecued crickets. Yes you heard right.. barbecued actual crickets which some children were brave enough to try! Rev Andy helped us reflect on 'wonder'. It was a good reminder that all of us can have a 'golden wonder' moment. A moment when we sit back and think, even for just one minute, about everything that is good in our lives, such as the beauty of the world around us, and the fact that our families, friends and people in our school and our community show us love and care for us. We remember this especially at Harvest time and thank God for all he has given us. We thank our parents and families for their generous donations to the Fosse Food Bank.




## Boreatton Park- PGL

The year 6 pupils (and staff) enjoyed a fantastic week at PGL Boreatton Park in Shropshire. They experienced so many adventurous and unusual activities. I was lucky enough to visit for a day and experience some of these adventures. They were smiling from ear to ear and full of stories of the best activities. I also had a go at swinging from the BIG swing! I was immensely proud of all the children and the staff who attended. Well done all.



## Fire Engine Visit



Our Year 1 and Year 5 children had a very special visit from the local Fire Service. The firefighters talked to the children about how to stay safe in an emergency and what to do if there is a fire at home or school.

Year 1 enjoyed learning about the firefighters' protective clothing and exploring the fire engine! Year 5 took part in a more in-depth session about fire prevention, safety planning, and the importance of responsibility when using electricals and technology.

These visits are an important part of helping our children understand how to keep themselves and others safe, and we are very grateful to the Fire Service team for their time, enthusiasm, and care.

# HARBURY SCHOOL PTA

*Alice Mellings*

## AGM

Thank you to all who attended the AGM, it was so lovely to see so many of you there, including governors, teachers and parents. We were quite overwhelmed by the support.

Here is an overview of the year:

| Fundraising- Income | Profit |
|---|---|
| Break the rules day | £817 |
| Wreath Making | £546 |
| Christmas Cards | £241 |
| Christmas Raffle | £317 |
| Disco | £639 |
| Easter Tombola | £206 |
| Street Chef | £39 |
| Non Uniform Day | £33 |
| Sponsored Walk | £2349 |
| Father's Day | £470 |
| Mother's Day | £456 |
| Lottery | £1728 |
| Coffee Morning | £259 |
| Ice cream sale | £289 |

| Other - Income | Profit |
|---|---|
| Easy Fundraising | £270 |
| Code Club | £1061 |
| Donations | £100 |
| Asda Cash Pot | £140 |
| *Tesco Stronger Starts | £1000 |
| *29th May 1961 Charity | £4000 |
| WI | £433 |
| CAF Interest | £28 |

| Outgoings - grants to school | Grant |
|---|---|
| Y5 WOW day - Mt Everest | £294 |
| Y4 Coombe Abbey Coach | £320 |
| Testbase | £395 |
| Sensory Wall | £838 |
| Century Learning KS2 | £1375 |
| Athletics Equipment | £95 |
| Reception Ryton Pools | £270 |
| Pressure Washer | £239 |
| Y6 Leavers Party donation | £250 |
| Y1 Workbooks | £352 |
| Y2 Workbooks | £330 |
| NFER Maths Books | £153 |
| Y6 Leavers trip Coach | £550 |
| Easter Eggs | £42 |
| Thrive Shed | £1286 |
| Buddy Bench | £393 |
| Widget Subscription | £664 |
| Maths Books | £52 |
| Test Base | £395 |
| Christmas theatre coaches | £1050 |

**Grant Money*

## Learn to Bake & Decorate!

Join our friendly local baking classes in Harbury — perfect for all ages!

**Bread Baking for Beginners**
Discover the secrets to soft, crusty loaves and bakery-style flavour. Limited spaces

**Children's Cookie Decorating Classes**
Fun, creative sessions for kids – they'll bake, ice, and take home their treats!

**Where:** Harbury Village Hall **Starts:** December 2025 **Call/Text:** 07913905881

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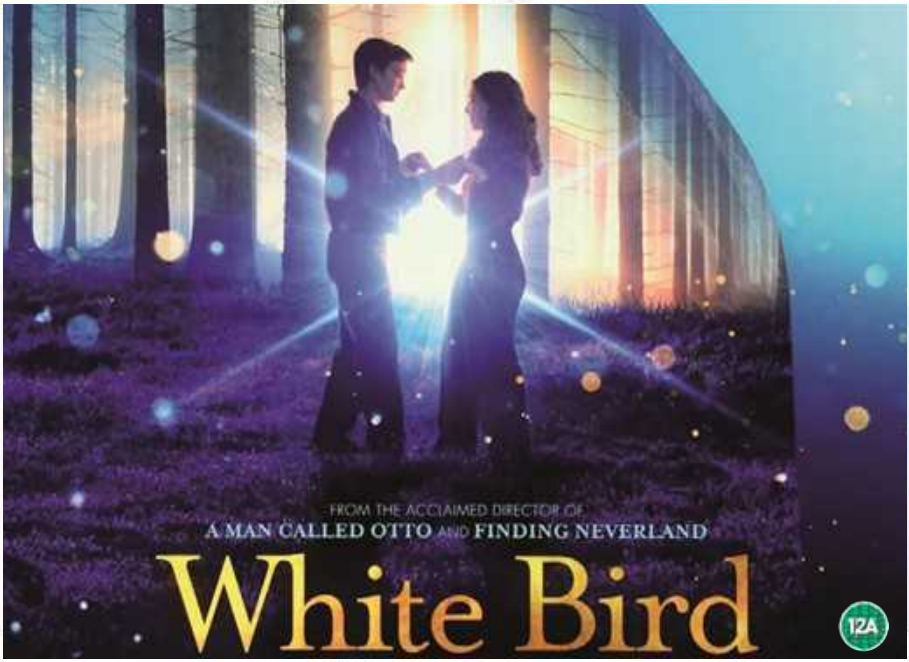
# Harbury Village Cinema




## Sat 15th November

Tickets: **£14** with fish'n'chips & 2 raffle tickets.
**£8** ticket only with 1 raffle ticket.
Tickets from the Library by cash or card.
Please buy before 12th November
**No tickets on the door.**

**Doors open 6.15**
**Film begins 7pm**

**Licensed Bar**

Moving Pictures

Harbury theWI

LIVE &LOCAL

## Thank You…

The PTA team want to say a **massive thank you to Lucy Biddle** who has chaired the PTA for the last year, who's team made a staggering £20k for the PTA. £14k of which has gone straight back into funding resources and events for the school.

Lucy has made the decision to stand down, but will still very much be a supporting role within the PTA, so thank you.

Also, we want to give a **huge thank you to Alice Lenton** who has been the treasurer for over five years, keeping the team under check, and sorting all the numbers behind the scenes, with hundreds of hours of support under her belt.

You will both be missed so much.

Thank you to the new team, both old and new who are ready for another year of fun and fundraising.

Our new team consists of Alice Mellings, as the new Chair, Victoria Woodhams as the new secretary, Laura Moore as the treasurer, Ruth Edge as joint co vice chair along with and Sarah Davis who has joined the team. We are all looking forward to working closely together to achieve another fun filled year of lots of fundraising.

## Earthworms

We are excited to announce our new collaboration with Earthworms, with **Amy Pevin-Lewis** and the team who will be working closely together fundraising and making lots of positive changes to the schools' grounds.

## Fundraising

In October we had **BREAK THE RULES DAY**, which was a highlight for the children and a lovely way to end half term. We are excited to share with you the total once all the donations have all come in.

## Code Club

Code Club is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for Y5 and Y6 children to get a taster of coding, it is run by **Chris** and **Gareth**, a fantastic team of volunteers who donate all of their fees to the PTA, it is a fantastic price of £2 per class and the children love it.

## What we have contributed towards

Really exciting news is that forest school is coming to Harbury Primary School!!!! We have granted £900 for a qualification for Mrs James to be **the forest school lead**, her training







consisted of a 3-day work shop in October, followed by two more days in November, along with an 18-month course when she will become a fully fledged forest school leader.

We have also funded **Speed Stocking Cups**, which is a fun sport competition that the children have had so much fun practicing for with the new resources.

We have also funded £410 for a **history workshop** which helped bring the learning about the stone age through to the iron age in Britain, this embedded the learning, bringing their learning to life.

## Dates for the Diary




Friday **28th November** is our annual **Wreath Making Workshop**. £30 per person including all items to make your wreath and a drink on arrival. Please use the QR code here for payments.

It is a lovely community evening filled with fun, laughter and you get to take away your very own hand made wreath to proudly hang on your door throughout the festive months.

## Christmas Raffle

The PTA are excited to announce that we will be running a Christmas raffle where we will deliver raffle tickets to the comfort of your front door – so watch this space, lots of exciting prizes to be won!!! All monies raised from the raffle will go towards our outdoor forest school and other outdoor learning opportunities which we can tell you about more in the New Year!!! Watch this space!!

## Lottery

Congratulations to September's rollover winners.

**1st prize £179 ~ 2nd prize £51**
**3rd prize £25.**

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




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

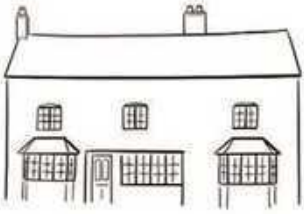
## Easyfundraising

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




## Facebook

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



# THE BELL INN at LADBROKE

# Christmas

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

## SEE OUR MENUS

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

*Let's create beautiful memories together this Christmas season*

The Bell Inn
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# HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley



Wow! A stunning, riveting piece of theatre, in the library, with Notnow Collective's performance of 'Pepper & Honey'. A powerful and moving piece of theatre - a one-woman show of grace, compassion and exquisite characterisation. And deft handling of audience participation - prep for baking pepper biscuits....

We have another powerful one-hander coming up in January, watch this space for news and all the usual social channels and noticeboards around the village.

And our new 'Lego Club' is coming together, lot of bricks in use, fortnightly on a Friday afternoon. Thanks to Aaron for taking this on.



Delighted to be able to say that the Library's 'Threads Project' is progressing apace. Massive thanks to all those who have offered their needle power for this; we have about a dozen folks honing their embroidery skills on this, including some who've not handled a needle for 60+ years - yours truly. We are close to completing the flower heads that identify our roots across the globe and hope to be starting soon on the large bouquet that represents a snapshot of those who have followed a plethora of routes to call Harbury 'home'. If you'd like to know more or would like to add your needle to the mix, let me know via the Library desk. Here we are being shown how to finish off a piece of flower head embroidery.

We are grateful to the following sponsors for support for the Threads Project: Southam Carpets, Alster Kelly Solicitors, Coventry Co-op and Harbury WI.

Silent Reading Group has started in the Library - Thursday afternoons, 2 – 3.30pm. No pressure on what to read or to share and discuss, just a refuge to give yourself time for a quiet read. Go on, give yourself permission to read during the day....you know it makes sense!



## GARDEN JOTTINGS

*Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery*



As another birthday drifts by I find myself continually thinking about how to carry on gardening into the future. The harsh reality is that I can no longer do what was so easy ten or even five years ago. Bits of my body hurt if I do too much. My strength and stamina have diminished but luckily I can still bend, just not for too long! Here are a few strategies which might help...If you can afford it get someone to help do the harder jobs (easier said than done, not enough experienced people who have availability)... have some raised beds to reduce the amount of bending... plant 'easy' plants including shrubs and perennials, and more drastically, move to a smaller garden or a flat. This issue will creep up on all who love gardening even those of us who are in denial about getting older.

On the plus side, being outdoors is good for our general health and well-being even if nothing much is achieved, it is good to mooch about, maybe pull an odd weed or two, trim this and deadhead that. There will be plenty of days during the winter when it will be too cold and wet to do anything except study seed catalogues and make plans for next year.

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



## NATURE NOTES

*Martin & Amanda Randall*

We are writing in mid-October and looking forward to what the approaching Autumn will bring in the way of nature to spot. We have not yet seen any migratory thrushes, like Fieldfares or Redwings, but we won't have to wait long before they arrive after their long southward journeys to overwinter in the fields and hedgerows around us. The crab apple tree



*Golden Plover (Calling Curlew)*

opposite our house is laden with fruit, so we hope to see those birds feasting among its branches later in the year.

One early autumn visitor has already appeared; in most years we see Golden Plovers near the 'Five Ways' junction on Plough Lane. There were about a hundred of these wading birds flying in a tight flock there a couple of weeks ago, calling with their high-pitched piping and whistling calls before coming to roost on the ploughed fields. Golden Plovers are medium-sized wading birds, a little smaller than Lapwings, with which they sometimes form mixed winter flocks. They have a distinctive gold and black plumage in summer, with the black feathers replaced by light brown and white in winter. The European Golden Plover is a bird of the arctic tundra during the summer months. We have seen them in Iceland, which holds about a third of the global population and where they are regarded as birds that herald the arrival of spring. There are also small breeding populations in the UK from the Pennines north into Scotland. In winter the UK resident birds are joined by others from their northern breeding grounds to form large flocks in on lowland farmland and muddy estuaries around the coast. We saw thousands at the RSPB Tichwell reserve in Norfolk in February this year - a very impressive sight.

This time of year provides a good opportunity to look for mushrooms and fungi. We have enjoyed our fungal forays over the last few weeks and spotted many different species in woodland and pasture. They come in all shapes and sizes; some are quite extraordinary. Most people will be familiar with the Fly Agaric, it is the 'classic' fairy-tale toadstool with its shiny



*Fly Agaric*
*(Martin Randall)*



*Scarlet Elf Cups*
*(Martin Randall)*

red cap covered in white spots. These toadstools are often found near birch or pine trees. Keeping with the fairy-tale theme, another red fungus is the Scarlet Elf Cup. A tiny species that favours areas with high rainfall, being found on decaying sticks and branches on the damp woodland floor. They have very short stems which attach to the leaf litter, giving them the appearance of little hollow bowls. In past times, Elf Cups were made into arrangements with moss and leaves and sold as table decorations.



*Chicken of the Woods*
*(Martin Randall)*

Some fungi are very small and delicate, whilst at the other end of the scale we

saw a magnificent, large Chicken of the Woods fungus on a tree stump in Pineham Avenue recently. Also called the 'Sulphur Polypore' fungus, due to its distinctive sulphur-yellow colour, this bracket fungus is comprised of many thick, overlapping brackets. The individual brackets are soft and spongy when young and exude a yellow liquid if squeezed. It can often be found in tiered clusters on oak, but also likes beech, chestnut, cherry and even yew. The dark crevices created by the fungus offer a woodland haven to invertebrates, including rare beetles.



*Snowy Inkcap (Martin Randall)*



*Ivory Waxy Caps (Martin Randall)*

It is often just the fruiting bodies of these different fungi that are visible, arising from an unseen network of tiny filaments called 'hyphae'. The fruiting bodies produce microscopic spores for reproduction. Many mushrooms have spore-producing gills on the underside, whilst the undersides of others, such as the bracket fungi, are covered with pores from where the spores are released. The microscopic fungal hyphae form a network that spreads through wood, detritus, and soil, releasing enzymes to decompose organic matter and recycle essential nutrients back into the ecosystem. This process is vital for soil health and creates habitats for other organisms. And linking back to last month's nature notes, we spotted a small Snowy Inkcap fungus growing on a cowpat; it was continuing the work of the insects that had previously started to decompose this food resource!

Knowing that we write these monthly notes, and that we will be interested, people often share their nature photos with us. Sometimes these are phone photos and sometimes videos from wildlife cameras. We always enjoy looking at them and it's great to know that other people are also enthusiastic about their local wildlife. One of our friends had a great suggestion: why not share your local nature photos with us and we might be able to include some of them in future Nature Notes.

If you have a favourite photo or wildlife camera clip that you've taken of nature around Harbury, Chesterton or Ladbroke, please email it to harbury.nature@gmail.com, including your name and a short description of what is depicted. Send your pictures or video footage to that email address before 30th November for inclusion in a virtual Harbury Nature Picture Gallery, where you'll be able to choose your favourites. Be sure to send only local wildlife images; no kangaroos or elephants, please!!

Some of you may know of Emily Hunt, whose grandparents live in Harbury. Emily wanted to demonstrate that although many young people are currently thought to be disengaged from nature, that in fact this isn't the case. Emily created The Green Gallery online using photos taken by students at her school, proving that a great many of them had engaged with nature and recorded the moment in a photograph. In Emily's words:

*"It is the act of noticing nature that is vital to forming a generation who care for and feel connected to the natural world"*

All of us, whatever our age, make that same connection when we stop to admire nature, be it a landscape, a shiny conker, or a colourful caterpillar going about its business.

We look forward to seeing your pictures.

# HARBURY GENERAL NEWS

## HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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

Autumn with its beautiful colour changes and shorter days has now properly arrived. We are getting ready to carve some pumpkins at my house and eat some of the too many sweets I bought for the 'trick or treaters'! I am looking forward to a night of silliness with the neighbourhood children, especially after writing about some of the serious issues outlined below:

### Restoring Local Control over Housing and Development

I wanted to provide an update on an important issue that affects planning decisions across our District. Stratford-on-Avon District Council has agreed a detailed Action Plan to restore our five-year housing land supply, which will help us regain greater control over where new housing is built.

Earlier this year, due to the change in government rules in the national planning framework, a national planning appeal found that the District currently has only 2.74 years' worth of deliverable housing land, falling short of the Government's five-year requirement. More than 60% of councils find themselves in this situation, although not all are under the same pressure

from developers as not all areas are so lucrative for developers. This has made it harder for the Council to refuse speculative developments outside of our planned settlement boundaries.

The new Action Plan sets out practical steps to address this, including:

- Preparing an Interim Policy Statement to guide decisions and clarify which local policies still carry weight.
- Identifying and promoting suitable sites for new homes, including those from Neighbourhood Plans, the Site Allocations Plan, and the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan.
- Speeding up planning processes by encouraging developers to build on sites with existing permissions, simplifying legal agreements, and helping to unlock stalled developments.
- Reviewing housing supply assumptions to make the best use of available land, including appropriate "windfall" sites.

These measures should help deliver around 2,500–3,000 new homes over the next few years and bring the District back to a full five-year supply by summer 2027.

The sooner we restore that position, the sooner we can return to a plan-led approach — meaning local communities, not speculative developers, will again have the greater say in how our villages and towns grow.

For those who are interested, the detail may be viewed at page 83 of the Cabinet papers: tinyurl.com/y8we99em. A further report on this work will be coming back to Cabinet in March 2026 and I will continue to update residents in the interim.

### More on Local Government Reorganisation

I also wanted to update residents on one of the most significant issues currently facing Stratford-on-Avon District Council – the Government's plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the Government has announced its intention to abolish all remaining County, District and Borough Councils in England and replace them with new unitary councils. These new councils would deliver all local services, combining the roles currently carried out by Warwickshire County Council and the District and Borough Councils such as Stratford-on-Avon.

Here in Warwickshire, there are two main options being considered:

- Two Unitary Councils – one for North Warwickshire (based on North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, and Rugby Borough Councils), and one for South Warwickshire (based on Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils).
- One County-Wide Unitary Council – covering the whole of Warwickshire, the option currently favoured by Warwickshire County Council.

The current preference of Stratford-on-Avon District Council is for two unitary councils, one for the north and one for the south of the county. This approach would allow decisions and services to be delivered at a more local level, better reflecting the distinct communities and priorities across Warwickshire. This was also the conclusion of an independent consultation exercise by Deloitte's: tinyurl.com/2venk2bu

Following a major public engagement exercise this summer, in which more than 2,300 residents shared their views, 73% of respondents favoured two smaller unitary councils, compared with 22% preferring one single county-wide council.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council will make its final decision on which option to support at an Extraordinary Council Meeting on 17th November 2025, before formally submitting its recommendation to the Government on 28th November.

The Government is expected to run a formal consultation in early 2026, with a final decision expected next summer. If approved, the new unitary councils would come into effect from April 2028.

This represents the biggest change to local government in a generation, and while there is still much to decide, I will continue to keep you updated as the process develops — especially on how these changes could affect our local services and parish communities.

**New £350,000 Community Grant Scheme Launched**

Some good news to close with……I am delighted to let you know that Stratford-on-Avon District Council has launched a new £350,000 Community Grant Scheme to help improve community spaces and facilities across the District.

The scheme is designed to support capital projects that make community spaces more accessible, resilient, and welcoming — helping them continue to serve residents for years to come. It also marks the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Days, aiming to create lasting "living memorials" that honour the spirit and sacrifice of past generations.

Funding will be available in two bands:

- Small grants between £5,000 and £20,000 (total fund £50,000)
- Large grants between £20,001 and £100,000 (total fund £300,000)

Eligible applicants include Parish and Town Councils, charities, PTAs, community interest companies (CICs) and other non-profit groups.

Projects could include:

- Repairs or extensions to community buildings
- New or improved kitchens, toilets, or accessibility features (like ramps or handrails)
- Enhancements to recreation grounds, play areas, and allotments
- Creation of new community assets and spaces

Workshops will be held to help applicants prepare their bids, and all projects will be assessed based on their community impact and deliverability.

Applications opened in late October and close in early 2026, with successful projects due to be announced around Armed Forces Day in May/June.

For full details and how to apply, visit https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/community-grant-scheme-2025.cfm or contact the Communities and Social Inclusion Team at socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2025

*Gill Holden & Nicola Thompson*

Further to our article in last month's magazine. Just a reminder that poppy merchandise is still available from the following village outlets:

- Bull Ring Garage
- Harbury Co-op
- Harbury Village Club
- Harbury Village Library
- Harbury Village Stores
- The Crown Inn
- The Fosse Garage
- The Great Western
- The Salon
- The Shakespeare Inn

Alternatively, if you would like to donate to the Royal British Legion direct then please scan the QR code here which is specifically for our Harbury collection area, or you can go to:

www.poppyshop.org.uk/pages/make-a-donation

**Every Poppy Counts!**

Thank you for your support.



## BUMPS & BUNDLES

*Carol Jackson and the Bumps team*

"Bumps" has been meeting every Tuesday in the Tom Hauley Room from 10.30am - 12 noon. Look for more details on the colourful posters around the village.

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

It has been good so far this term that we have had toddlers from previous terms and also new people.

A hot drink, plenty of toys for the children and lots of chances for a chat and you can walk there.

If you haven't been before give it a go, we are a great bunch of people and a chance to make new friends!!

## HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

*Steve Ekins*



The next Market is our Christmas Market Saturday 22nd November in the Village Hall 10.00 until 12.30pm.

Supporting Harbury Pre School, Up to 30 stalls selling local produce, food,

art and crafts. Free admission, tea/ coffee and bacon rolls available.

Councillors Corner will also be there to answer any question you may have from 10.00 to 11.00am.

We are also on Facebook @Harbury Local Market join for regular updates.

Thanks to our sponsor



## PONDER IN THE PUB

Fliss Harris

This new discussion group focussing on everyday questions for everyday life, hosted by All Saints', Harbury, will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at The Crown Inn, Harbury; 7.00 for 7.30pm, closing at 9pm.

We meet on Tuesday, 25th November when the topic will be "Hope - don't abandon it". Everyone welcome.

Please come along and join us.



## HARBURY SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Invitations will be delivered in November to those of you on our mailing list. We hope that you are looking forward to the Christmas Party and that you have the date set in your diaries. As a reminder, it will be on **Saturday 13th December in the Village Hall**. The **doors open from 5.30 for a 6.00pm start**. We are asking that replies to the invitations be returned to the library by **Saturday 29th November**.

There is a maximum number of people that we can seat in the village hall and places will be allocated as invitations are returned. As is our custom, we do not contact you to confirm that you have a place. Assume you have a place unless you hear otherwise.

As usual we will be having a raffle at the Christmas Party. If you would like to donate prizes, they will be most welcome and can be delivered to either 1 Park Lane or 32 South Parade.

If you want further information or are interested in joining or helping us, please contact Mike McBride on 612421 or Julie Clarke on 612066 or talk to a committee member.

Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you at the party and hope that you will enjoy yourselves.

## BBC CWR

Michelle Bailey-Le Long - Senior Content Producer

### Children in Need

Come and be the Wave and Welcome Party!

Join us as we wave and welcome BBC CWR Presenter Dan Sambell and actor Rishard Beckett

as they do their Children in Need three legged challenge. On Wednesday 5th November they will be doing a three legged walk from Harbury Village Hall at 7.00am and will be doing a loop around the village and ending back at the Village Hall about 7.45am onwards.

Pudsey will be there to wave them off and welcome them back and he wants to invite you to join us. You can come wave them off or welcome them back or both! If you would like to come please email Michelle.bailey-lelong@bbc.co.uk

## SOUTHAM & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB SANTA VISITS 2025

Rebecca Bourton

### Southam Lions Santa Visits



Once again Father Christmas has asked the members of Southam and District Lions Club to accompany him on his annual visits to Southam and some of our surrounding villages.

Starting on Monday 1st December, Santa will set out at 5.00pm or 5.30pm each evening and the sleigh will be stopping at four or five places during every visit. The schedule below shows which roads he will be stopping in Harbury.

For details of the time he plans to be there look out for the notices placed at each stop and online. Facebook: Southam & District Lions News Page.

This year all money collected during the visits will be donated to the Harry's Pals charity.

### We will be visiting Harbury on:

### Monday 1st December, 5.30pm start - Harbury 1

Stopping at: Hereburgh Way 5.45pm, Manor Road 6.15pm, South Parade 6.45pm, Frances Road 7.15pm.

### Tuesday 2nd December, 5.30pm start - Harbury 2

Stopping at: Brooks Drive 5.45pm, Manor Orchard 6.20pm, Mill Street 6.50pm, Dickens Road 7.30pm.

*Note: All timings are of course approximate and visits may have to be rescheduled in the event of bad weather.*


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**TOM HAULEY ROOM**
Moira
thr@allsaintsharbury.org



# READERS' LETTERS

***Dear Editors***

*The family of Evelyn Woodfield would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their cards and support. Also for the donations for Warwickshire Air Ambulance which raised in excess of £350.*

*Thanks also to Rev. Andy Batchelor for the lovely funeral service and Heart of England Funeral Services (Southam) for all the arrangements.*

***Tony Woodfield and Family***

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
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