Harbury & Ladbroke News



SEPTEMBER 2025



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Week Commencing Monday	Thursday Collection - Harbury Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge	Wednesday & Friday Collections - Ladbroke
8 September	F	F - R - G
15 September	F - R - G	F
22 September	F - W	F - R - W - G
29 September	F - R - G	F
6 October	F	F - R - G
13 October	F - R - W - G	F - W

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

SEPTEMBER 2025 **No. 618**

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October Edition Deadlines

Adverts to: 36 Manor Orchard, Harbury or e-mail to advertising@hlnews.co.uk by Monday 22nd September

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



Cover Photo: Heritage Centre Annual Treasure Hunt by Sue Turner



EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

September sees many children starting Nursery, Primary or Secondary school for the first time with others returning to their familiar classes and friends. Older teenagers will be venturing further afield joining university courses. We wish them all well.

With the start of autumn, in Harbury during September, there will be the Village Show on Saturday 6th. The Village Cinema run by the WI sees their first film night of the season "The Penguin Lessons" on Saturday 20th. The Heritage Centre will be running their annual Village Treasure Hunt on Sunday 21st from 2pm onwards. Please do support these events if you can.

It is anticipated that in early September, the Great Western pub will re-open after many years of closure. A lot of work has had to be undertaken to refurbish the building which includes re-instating the miniature railway that many residents will remember from previous times. We wish the proprietors well with their new venture and would encourage villagers to support the pub.

As usual All Saints Church Ladbroke will be joining in with the national Heritage Open Days from 19th to 21st September. You will be very welcome to visit - see page 13 for details. There are many other local places opening which are not normally accessible to the public, see www.heritageopendays.org.uk for specific dates and information.

Finally, we send our condolences to the family of Evelyn Woodfield.



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

SEPTEMBER

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

Sun 7 TRINITY 12
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Muddy Church, 3.00 - 4.30pm, starts in Tom Hauley Room
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

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

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

Wed 10 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Stockton (4½ miles, flat) with pub lunch
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 11 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI, Memoirs of a Royal Footman by Ian Scott-Hunter, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 13 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury WI
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library

Sun 14 TRINITY 13
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 15 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 16 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room
Tickets for Harbury WI Village Cinema to be purchased by today from Village Library - film showing on Sat 20th September
Harbury Society, A presentation by Martyn Brunt, Sustrans, creating and maintaining greenways, doors open, 7.30pm, presentation 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 17 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Honington (5 miles, one hill)
Connections: A Carers' Support Group, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 18 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Classic Book Group, 7.30pm, Village Library

Sat 20 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Ladbroke WI
Harbury WI Village Cinema presents, 'The Penguin Lessons', doors open 6.15, film begins 7.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 21 TRINITY 14
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)
Village Treasure Hunt, from 2.00pm, Heritage Centre

Mon 22 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall

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

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Tue 23 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

Wed 24 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Butlers Marston (4 miles)
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 25 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Parish Council, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 26 Harbury WI Harvest Supper, Speaker: Philip York - Life as an investigative Journalist, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Village Hall
Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, 11.00am - 1.00pm, Village Hall

Sat 27 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Theatre Group
Councillors' Corner, 10.00am - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 28 TRINITY 15
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Informal Evening Service, 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

Mon 29 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 30 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Bumps & Bundles, 10.30am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room

OCTOBER

Wed 1 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - TBC
Mothers' Union, communion service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, Speaker - 'Effects of climate change on farming practices', Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 5.00 - 5.30 & 5.30 - 6.15pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 2 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury School PTA AGM, from 7.00pm, School Hall
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Library

Fri 3 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 4 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam Bowling Club

Sun 5 TRINITY 16
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Muddy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, starts Tom Hauley Room
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall

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

FROM THE RECTOR

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

I love summer, and this year seems to have been one of the best for many years, although of course the extended lack of rain has been a problem for our farmers. But now September arrives, bringing with it that crisp, fresh air with a slight chill in its breath, whispering of the cold to come. The leaves change around us from blankets of green into glorious transient masterpieces of radiant colour that seem to change just a little each day until one day the wind blows the canvas clean for another year. A new school year begins, and students move into a new season of their lives.

September brings the opportunity for a fresh start in different ways, and from a faith perspective we see examples of that in our services of Baptism and Marriage, many of which I have conducted this summer as I cover for the vacancies across our Deanery. We celebrate the beginning of a journey of faith in baptism, and the start of a new life for the married couple in the community.

Fresh starts are everywhere in our relationship with God, so the question becomes whether we're prepared to take God up on that offer. In the Bible there is a story of a rich young man, who asks Jesus what he needs to do to gain eternal life. Jesus makes him a life-changing offer when he says "Drop everything and follow me; make a new beginning." Unfortunately, at least at that time, the young man just couldn't take the offer. Something held him back.

This September, perhaps we could think about what may be holding us back from a fresh start. Is it time to give up a bad habit? To devote more of our precious time to those in our lives who need that time more than we do? Maybe even to give church a try? You may find that's it's not what you expect!

Whatever the case may be, I pray that we all experience the excitement, the freedom, and the beauty that comes as Autumn dawns, and take hold of the fresh start that God always offers to us all.



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Bez & Andy

Buying uniform, school shoes and essential equipment signals Back to School. Whether excited or anxious about the end of the summer holiday, new things start in September. This is also the case at All Saints, where we have a guest speaker in our new informal evening service on **28th September**. Rev Eleanor Jeans (pictured right) from St Paul's, Leamington will be joining us at 7.15pm in the Tom Hauley Room, refreshments from 7pm. The new Welcome Pack, brimming with information about the church community has been revised and circulated to expand communication about events.



Rev. Eleanor Jeans

There is also a leaflet containing information about children's groups available at the back of church or you can email administrator@allsaintsharbury.org for more information.

So, why not make September an opportunity to come back to church? A warm welcome awaits whatever age or stage of life you are and there is no need for a uniform, new shoes or equipment!

A new term also sees the return of our children's work after a break for the summer.

Muddy church will now move to meet at 3pm til 4.30pm on the first Sunday of the month, starting on 7th September, with the next one on 5th October. Muddy church is generally aimed at children up to the age of 11 with a mixture of practical activities taking advantage of meeting outside. Messy church will return as usual on 14th September at 3pm finishing after a meal at 5pm.

For secondary school aged children we have a group that again meets on the first Sunday starting on 7th September at 5pm. This group spends time exploring being a Christian as a young person and also have fun activities and snacks.

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

20th August 2025 Evelyn Woodfield (Aged 86)

MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

A quiet month for us; time to enjoy the summer. Four of us did go to join the branch at St. John's Kenilworth, for a celebration of our founder, Mary Sumner. With other diocesan members, including Karen Morris our President, we were made most welcome to an inspiring service followed by a glass and a piece of cake in honour of the branch's 120th anniversary.

Our Autumn programme starts on 3rd September with a service in church at 2pm followed by a social time. We would love to welcome anyone to join us - just come.

The next meeting will be on 1st October with a communion at 2pm in the Tom Hauley Room. The speaker's topic is the effects of climate change on farming practices. This is especially topical this year, and again anyone interested will be most welcome.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

SEPTEMBER

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

Tues 9 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 10 Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Sun 14 TRINITY 13
Holy Communion 9.00am

Tues 16 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 19 Heritage Open Day, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Church

Sat 20 Heritage Open Day, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Church

Sun 21 TRINITY 14
Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am
Heritage Open Day, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Church

Mon 22 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

Tues 23 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 28 TRINITY 15
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 30 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

OCTOBER

Wed 1 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School
WI Meeting, "Rowing the Atlantic", open to all including men, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 5 HARVEST FESTIVAL
Family Service, 10.30am followed by refreshments and children's activities

Tues 7 Photography Club, "Travels along the Karakoram Highway - a journey through Pakistan" by Gray Lewis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 10 Quiz Night, 7.00pm, Village Hall

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



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby
www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Although our church is open daily, the Heritage Open Days each September do give a particular opportunity for visitors. This year these will be on 19th – 21st September and an exhibition by Ladbroke Photography Club will be included, see Ladbroke Heritage article for more details.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service this year will be on Sunday 5th October. We shall not be hosting a harvest brunch in the village hall this year but there will be refreshments and children's activities available after the service. All welcome.

Future Services and Events

Sunday 7th Sept	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 14th Sept	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 21st Sept	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th Sept	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5th October	10.30am	Harvest Festival Family Service

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

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Carol Lane & Sue Moore

On 14th August, eleven members enjoyed the Summer Outing at the Lord Leycester Hospital. Brother John, who has lived there with his wife for 13 years, gave us a most interesting and informative guided tour.

This was followed by tea and cakes during which Jenny's granddaughter instructed us in how we could use our mobile phones properly!

September's meeting will be on Thursday 4th with Judith Davidson's talk entitled 'Learning



about CPR' and a heads up for our October meeting which is planned for Wednesday 1st October instead of our usual Thursday night meeting. This will be an open meeting with refreshment, and our talk is entitled 'Rowing the Atlantic'. We invite non-members and husbands to listen to two very brave men who wanted to raise awareness and funds for Meningitis UK. Please do join us in the village hall at 7.30pm, there will be a raffle and hopefully we can make a donation to this worthy cause.

LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

Our Website

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

Summer Supper and Film Night

We hope you enjoyed our supper and film night last month. As always our talented chefs provided a delicious meal – this time a summer menu of cold dishes and tasty desserts. Huge thanks to them as they worked incredibly hard this time being down in numbers.

Our film 'Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe' was another great choice even if it was over 30 years old. Some of us had already seen it first time round, but had forgotten a lot of the plot!

The event raised £570 towards the Millennium Green play area.

The Millennium Green Trim Trail

What is the trim trail? Well, it's the wooden climbing apparatus on the Millennium Green which, if you have visited the play area recently, you will see is in bad shape having succumbed to 25 years of British weather. We are planning to upgrade and/or replace it, but we need your views. So we have devised a questionnaire which you can read more about elsewhere in this issue.

Many thanks to Helen Morten and Simon West for their technical skills in making the questionnaire possible. Please complete it using the QR code or the link in the article.

What Next?

Friday 10th October is our next **quiz night** in the Hall including a fish and chip supper. So if you're a Mastermind, a University Challenger, or even an Only Connector get your teams ready!

Quizzing starts at 7pm sharp. The 'Countdown' is starting, so don't end up 'Pointless'. More details soon.

On **Saturday 22nd November** we are planning a **village safari supper**. This is a great way to meet other villagers, especially if you are a newcomer. More details will be along soon.

All funds raised from these events 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, contact us through the **village hall website or call** Debs on 07779 225105.

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

A Reminder

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

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

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for July 2025

£50	Steve Morten	£25	John Herriot
£50	Erica Kemp	£10	Roger Plaskett
£25	Margie Bosworth	£10	Carol Locker
£25	Clive Coleman	£10	Martin and Debra Neal

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Richard Bedwell

Our last meeting, in July, was our summer meal and quiz. September marks the start of the new season of club meetings. This month's meeting will see us having a competition of Architecture images, these could be local or from far away. We will also share our images of our June visit to Chedham's Yard in Wellesbourne - you can see some of our Architecture pictures in Ladbroke Church during Heritage Open Days, see article on page 13. Please do come along and enjoy the photographs.

We can also give early notification of our October meeting which will be a talk by Gray Lewis - Travels along the Karakoram Highway, a journey through Pakistan. These talks are always incredibly interesting and entertaining, so please do come along - Village Hall, 7th October at 7.30. All welcome, free for members, visitors suggested donation of £3.



LADBROKE GENERAL SECTION



LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

The *Ladbroke, Then and Now* **exhibition in the phone box** was refreshed in mid August. It now shows photos of the school, different street scenes and Ladbroke Hall. For the latter you

can spot the addition of windows, changes at the back and see the original one horsepower lawn mower.



For our August meeting of the **Heritage and Friendship Group** the theme was 'It made me laugh' which brought back memories of several radio and TV shows. Opinions were mixed about The Goons but we all loved Morecambe and Wise and their recalled best sketches, such as preparing breakfast in time to music and the one with Andre Previn when Eric "played all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order". We listened to jokes, many of them words out of the mouths of children and remembered Joyce Grenfell's teacher monologues "George, don't do that". A very tattered book of Thelwell cartoons was passed round - the plump girls on even more rotund, hairy ponies are timeless and the section on home buying seemed just as funny today, 60 years since it was published. My favourite is the one where the estate agent has his hand squeezed in the gap between two new houses, saying "They are detached, of course".

Before you read this we will have met again and shared tales of journeys. We meet on the first Wednesday morning each month, to chat over a cuppa and cake. If you would like to join us or find out more about our friendly group, please contact Carol on 814715.

Heritage Open Days are nearly upon us. The festival runs from Friday 12th - Sunday 21st September. There will be special events, places not usually accessible throwing their doors open to the public and free entry at National Trust and other properties. You can search for what's on where and when on the **heritageopendays.org.uk** website. This will also say if you need to pre-book or just turn up on the day. There is a lot of choice but the nearest for most readers will be Ladbroke Church. Some of you may be thinking "I've been there before." or "That's always open isn't it?". Yes, the building is open daily 10am - 4pm for anyone who would like to come and pray, reflect or just explore this fascinating place with its stunning stained glass and interesting fossils but we always do something extra special for Heritage Open Days. This year, thanks to Ladbroke Photography Club, there will be a small exhibition of photos on the theme of Architecture from 13th - 21st September. Also on Friday 19th 2pm - 4pm, Saturday 20th 10am - 4pm and Sunday 21st 2pm - 4pm.

There will be volunteers to welcome you, guided tours (pre-book a time and topic or see what's available when you arrive), and a have-a-go challenge to build a tall spire from a few sheets of paper. So whether you have been before or not, why not come along during Heritage Open Days this year and discover something new at this historical gem on your doorstep. Bring your friends too.

LADBROKE MILLENNIUM GREEN TRIM TRAIL WE NEED YOUR VIEWS!

Helen Morten, Trustee Ladbroke Matters

This year, Ladbroke Matters through fund raising and grants, has been able replace the play equipment for the young children in the village. For those of you who have seen the play equipment, we hope you like the result! However, there remains on the Green most of the original wooden trim trail, which is falling apart and unlikely to last much longer. Therefore we need to come up with a solution as to whether we replace the trim trail (see picture) with

a similar item of equipment or look at some other options. We would like to know your views on this subject so if you are interested in future developments for the Ladbroke Millennium Green please complete our questionnaire using this link

forms.gle/KUSnxZpCHBf9NzJu6 or the QR code right.

Many thanks for your support and interest.

Email: hrmorten61@gmail.com





HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

John Holden - H&L News Correspondent

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

Parish Council – Thursday 24th July Meeting

With Tim Lockley being on holiday, it fell to Vice Chair Julie Balch to take the meeting. Your correspondent was the only member of the public in attendance, so the Public Participation agenda item was quickly dispensed with! Our District Councillor was away on holiday and County Councillor was attending another meeting and would be along later.

Planning – there were a number of applications for work on trees including at: 41 Farm Street, 13 Mill Street, two houses in Temple End and at The Shakespeare with the Council making no representation to them all. They also made no representation to an extension at Hillside Farmhouse and the construction of a bungalow on land adjacent to Northfields. The council agreed to support the campaign to reinstate the £6k grant that was available to help fund the production/revision of Neighbourhood Development Plans. The grant being recently withdrawn by the Government.

Properties – Hall Lane allotments - the plans detailing the wall, which needs repairing along the proposed new entrance, needs to be amended prior to the submission for planning permission. There is an opportunity to adopt a more regular layout for the currently vacant plots before they are let to new tenants which the clerk will discuss with existing plot holders. At the Pineham Farm allotments, it was agreed that the plots there should have markers. Depending on the cost, each row could be marked out rather than each plot. There was then a discussion on how the recently created community allotment plots, and in particular the access areas around them, could be kept clear. It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain a quote for an initial tidy up of the area and then for regular mowing/weed prevention.

Provisional quotes for refurbishing the skate park were indicating that the work would cost in the region of £110k. Whilst the Council had about £30k earmarked for this, the remainder would have to be fundraised. It was agreed to obtain formal tenders for this and then see how the balance could be raised.

Environment – the council were in the process of obtaining agreement from the landowners to enable the last two stiles to be removed and have gates installed on Footpath SM62 (Co-op Field to the Railway). It was agreed to fund replacement litter pickers for the group that


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collects up litter in the village and surrounding roads. The annual tree survey had been completed.

Climate Change – the working group were preparing a questionnaire to go out to all clubs and organisations in the village. The council would write to BT, suggesting that the land at the Telephone Exchange could be turned into a community orchard, once the Exchange is redundant. The group was also seeing if solar panels could be installed on some of the non-residential buildings in the village like the club and library; although with the latter some councillors thought that would spoil the look of the building.

Next Meeting – No meeting in August, the next is Thursday 25th September at 7.30pm 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, Alex Potter, Robert Stockdale, Ashley Sylvester, Keith Thompson.

HARBURY SOCIETY

David Turner

Harbury Tour

On Tuesday 19th August members of the Harbury Society met at the Heritage Centre for a guided tour around Harbury. Following an introduction by Bill Timson we split into two groups and were led around the village on a two hour tour.



Bill Timson, Chair of the Heritage Group, gives an introductory talk to members of the Harbury Society at the Heritage Centre

A brief description follows: leaving the Centre we made our way to Chapel Street and talked about the Wesleyan Chapel now Flecknoe House which, following the removal of coffins in 1972, was converted into a private house. We then talked about the Gamecock, once known as the New Inn (there were two pubs with the same name in the village), The Fox public house which was virtually next door (now demolished) and the Old Bakery once run by the Thornicroft family and which is now a house.

We were shown an early 20th century photo of Chapel Street in which the chapel of rest could clearly be seen at the end of the street within the cemetery, though this is now hidden by trees. Turning left at the end of Chapel Street we passed by the Village Hall, which had been opened in 1962 by our then local MP, John Profumo, who would shortly after become embroiled in a national scandal. Turning left down Ivy Lane the terrace on the left was once known as Co-operative Terrace, having been built by the Co-op on land which had been their market garden. At the end of Ivy Lane on the right is the nursery Banana Moon. This had once been the Dog Inn, a building that replaced a thatched version which had burnt down in 1887.

After turning right into Church Street, we learnt how a church had stood there since the 13th

century and that the church had been restored and extended in the latter part of the 19th century with the tower heightened using brick. Opposite the church stood the old rectory which was demolished in 1960 and a blue plaque, dedicated to Reginald Beardsworth, is sited on one of the newer properties that was subsequently built on the site. He was the son of Reverend John Edward Beardsworth, the rector during the First World War and is proof, if that were needed, that war is no respecter of persons.

Around the corner is the war memorial on Pump Green. It was erected in 1920 and moved to its current site, from the centre of Dovehouse Lane at its junction with Crown Street, in 1973 because it had become a traffic hazard. The pump situated a few metres from the war memorial is the reason that Crown Street was originally called Pump Street. Church House, opposite, was once divided into 4 cottages with a hardware shop situated in the end one. It has since been converted back into one dwelling.

Next to Pump Green is Wagstaffes, the original school in the village founded in 1611 by Thomas Wagstaffe, a benefactor. This became the infant school after the Wight School opened in 1856.

The Crown Inn, dating from the 18th century is the oldest public house operating in Harbury. The Homestead, opposite, was once a sweet shop and then a butchers. On the corner of Crown Street and Hall Lane is the Village Club. This had originally been a reading room and then a coffee shop, started by the owners of Harbury Hall. It became a working man's club with sponsorship from Frank Osbourne, a later owner of the Hall. Opposite is Orchard House and a late 19th century photograph shows it was once thatched. This house shares a feature with a number of other cottages in Harbury of having a raised roofline with brick being used to heighten the walls, as stone was no longer available. Walking along Hall Lane we came to Harbury Hall, although access is gained from the entrance in Bull Ring Farm Road. The demolition of part of the boundary wall allowed us to see an aspect of Harbury Hall normally hidden from view. Harbury Hall is a Victorian building but its exact age is unknown and it is now divided into apartments.

Turning into Bull Ring Farm Road, we saw photographs of the Three Arch Bridge over the railway which had opened in 1852. The cutting, through which the railway line travels, was hand dug between 1847 and the opening in 1852. It was then part of the Oxford to Birmingham branch of the Great Western Railway and its construction was overseen by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. We retraced our steps to Church Terrace – a row of Victorian houses, once owned by the Nottingham Odd Fellows Society which were sold in 1950 for £90 each.

After turning right into the High Street we stopped at the community-run Library, a building which was opened in 1856 as the Wight School by the Rev. William Wight for the children of agricultural workers. In 1866 it became the main school for older children until the 1970s when the new school was opened. Three butchers shops were once operating in the High Street and we looked at a photograph of G T Alcock's Butchers where Phoenix House stands today – so named because of the fire mark on the wall, evidence that it was once insured with that company. Opposite is the Co-op which opened there in 1869. In 1863 three Bustin brothers had opened a shop in a cottage in Mill Street which had proved so successful that after six years, they had been able to purchase the property where the Co-op is now located.

We turned right along Mill Lane to view Harbury Windmill. It is 70 feet high – the tallest windmill in Warwickshire and had been built around 1802 using stone from Chesterton Manor for the lower floors and brick above that. It once had a balcony which was used for

electioneering and a band would march around it while playing. We also learnt that two millers had tragically lost their lives there. Returning to the High Street, the Old Post Office is on the corner of Mill Lane. A photograph of around 1920 shows it with two ladies, Mrs Cooper, and her daughter Helen, who ran the Post Office. We continued along Mill Street, past the Shakespeare Inn, which had no association with the bard whatsoever and on to the Primitive Methodist Chapel. This mainly catered for the agricultural workers and their families. It was opened in 1852 and closed in 1933 when it was converted into a residential building. Recently refurbished, the original plaque is visible in its original position. Some of us with more stamina carried on to the Grade II listed Manor House, the Old New Inn and Pool Cottage, once part of Pool Farm, reputedly the longest thatched building in Warwickshire, before returning to the Heritage Centre for tea and cake.



Enjoying tea and cake at the Heritage Centre following the tour

Harbury Society Programme

2025

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

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

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

2026

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

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

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

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

HARBURY WI

Mary Thompson

We had a very successful "Outdoor Games" event in the Village Hall garden at the end of July. About 24 members enjoyed games such as Jenga, Smite and Connect 4 plus enjoying a cup of tea and a chat with friends.

The summer continued with our annual Garden Party which was held on 14th August in the lovely garden of Chis and Andy Rutherford. We were pleased to welcome the Warwickshire Federation Chair, Sue Postlethwaite and Treasurer Sue Gill. The committee had suggested members might like to attend dressed for a wedding or garden party and they all looked splendid – hats as well. Thanks to the committee members who arranged the evening and to Chris and Andy for their hospitality.





We have a large collection of WI memorabilia in the Heritage Centre but the committee agreed that it really needed sorting out so it can be properly documented. We spent an interesting afternoon at Ann's starting to look at the material. We have returned some albums to the Heritage Centre but there is still much to do! If any members have more recent photographs of WI events we would be pleased to add them to the collection.

Our monthly meetings resume on Thursday 11th September when we shall welcome Ian Scott Hunter describing his time within the Royal Household as a Royal Footman. Visitors are most welcome – Tom Hauley Room 7.30 for 7.45pm.

The Harvest Supper will be held in the Village Hall on Friday September 26th 7.00 for 7.30pm. The speaker will be Philip Yorke talking about his life as an investigative news journalist. Members are welcome to bring one guest – cost £9 per person. Remember to bring your own drink and glasses. Please contact Lin if you haven't put your name on the list of attendees.

The Cinema Season starts again on Saturday 20th September - Harbury Village Hall. The film is **Penguin Lessons** a 2024 comedy starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce. The story is inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. Tickets can be purchased from Harbury Library - cash or card - they should be bought by Wednesday 17th September. Tickets cost £14 with Fish and Chips and two raffle tickets, or £8 without food and one raffle ticket. Doors open at 6.15 for a 7pm start – bar open at 6.15pm. We use some of the profit from the cinema to support local community projects so respectfully request that you don't bring your own food and drink.

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HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Celia Stockdale

Hello theatre lovers!

As you are probably aware, we have now cast the characters for our Panto, Dick Whittington! We are very excited to welcome new members to the group including a mum and daughter new to the village - look out for the evil Ratlins! In addition, we have another new younger member who wants to study drama and performance who is joining our chorus. There will be plenty of long standing members too, including a well-known Harbury villager playing the Sultan.

As you know, a performance has many facets and we have begun planning scenery and sets. With this and other roles in mind, please contact harburytheatregroup@gmail.com if you would like to get involved in this or other non-stage roles.

Finally, we will keep you posted on our activities and don't forget, the Panto dates are 27th to 29th November including a Saturday matinee. Tickets will be on sale from the end of October.



FOLK CLUB

Ian Hartland

"Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better"
(Richard Hooker 1547-1600)

The Folk Club has moved to the Library, a venue lacking in a bar but amply supplied with quiet space and a pleasant ambience. This is a permanent move for the foreseeable future. Whether from curiosity, or loyalty, a good crowd turned out for the club, and everyone seemed to enjoy the self-sufficiency requirements of bringing one's own refreshments.

The theme for the evening was "Change" and commenced with me singing The Band's "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" and one of my own compositions "One Hit Wonder". Pete and Liz were next with Ralph McTell's "Fergus Frog" from his 'Alphabet Zoo' album. They followed it with "Transvestite Progression" a humorous alternative to traditional songs about women dressing as men to become sailors or soldiers. Rik was next and I didn't write down the title of his first song. His second song was Jake Thackray's song "The Lodger" about the antics of the landlady and her amorous daughters. Cheryl followed with her self-penned song "Changes" and then delighted everyone with her a capella version of Joni Mitchell's "The Circle Game". Colin and Carole were next on stage with "Hey, Hey A Working Day" and then the wistful "County Down" a song about displacement and change. The first half was brought to a close by Peter McDonald with Paul Metsers' "Bring It To Be" and James Keelaghan's "River Run", both featuring participation-inducing choruses.

After a short break the second half was expertly kicked off by Don with his acoustic version of Led Zeppelin's "Been A Long Time". His next song was the more traditional "Lowlands of Holland". Jason was next with his well observed self-penned songs "Designated Driver" and "She Takes Off Her Shoes And Dances In The Rain". Peter Mason provided "Peppers And Tomatoes", another Ralph McTell song, and followed that with "Early One Evening", an amusing observation of pub 'improvements'. With space to fill, Rik was invited back for

another song and gave us "Barrack Street", a tale of woe for a sailor who finds himself in a change of women's clothing after too much drink. Colin and Carole returned with a train song, "The Canadian" by singer/songwriter Eileen McGann. Peter McDonald sang the one song the rest of us had missed as an ideal match for the evening's theme, Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changing". To close the evening in a wistful mood, Pete and Liz sang "A Celtic Blessing", with the appropriate refrain "Until We Meet Again…"

The raffle raised a very impressive £75.00 in aid of Cancer Research UK. Next month's Folk Club will be in the Library when Pete Bones will be hosting. His theme for the evening will be: School and Education. All we ask in return for an evening of fine acoustic music is a £1.00 donation to cover the hire of the room. Bring your own drinks and glasses/cups and enjoy the entertainment.

HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

As we move into early Autumn and school children return to their new classes and new schools, we wish them luck on the next stage of their education. Harbury School broke up in July and on the same day we hosted the Kineton and District History Group. They enjoyed an informative tour around our village followed by afternoon tea.





Both halves of the Kineton and District History Group

A similar event took place on Tuesday 12th August. This time the visitors were local residents who joined our volunteers on a very hot evening to find out more about the history of the village. Once again tea and cakes were served and hopefully everyone went home more informed. *The group are shown opposite next to the war memorial.*

The next group to 'come on a village tour' is the Harbury Society, on Tuesday 19th August.

The football season has started again, too early in my opinion, as we are all enjoying the hot summer weather, more akin to cricket and tennis than running around kicking a football! Having said that, there is currently a display in the Centre outlining the story of Harbury's football team that started over 100 years ago. It includes some 'new' photographs of more recent teams, which you may feature on. Come in and have a look!

Volunteers have recently been busy sorting through the P1 collection of photographs: *'Village Street Scenes from the 1980 onwards'* and reorganizing them so that visitors can find



photos of a street or road more easily. We now intend to update the collection by adding 2025 street scenes, hopefully providing future generations to see how the village is changing. You may see volunteers around the village with their cameras taking the 2025 photographs.



On the 8th August (8th month) at 8.08pm I took part in the annual ceremony of 'Appeasing the Rat' at Halford Bridge down the Fosse Way. A tradition that goes back hundreds of years when there was a problem with the crops being eaten by rats. The solution was to feed them with 'any other food that was available in order to appease them.' Today, after a short ceremony, chunks of cheese are thrown into the Stour.' We were all encouraged to chant 'for Halford!', 'for the Vikings!' and 'for King Hal!' It's a well-attended event and afterwards the Halford Bridge Inn made food available together with live musical entertainment. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening which certainly brings the villagers of Halford together. **Do you know of any strange, local customs that could be 'celebrated' in similar style, to bring Harbury residents together? If so, get in touch.** ***Email: group@harburyheritage.org.uk***



On the subject of annual events, this year's **Village Treasure Hunt** will take place on **Sunday 21st** September from 2pm onwards; **the entry fee is still only £5 per team**, cash only please (all profits go towards the running of the Heritage Centre). Once again, the winning team will receive a 'Treasure Chest full of goodies!' There will be the children's Lucky Dip and the chance to meet some pirates! *'A fun and easy to complete competition which takes you for a pleasant stroll around the village.'* ***NOTE: Please use the Park Lane school gate entrance.***

Look out for the Treasure Hunt posters around the village during September.

Next Heritage Centre opening times to the public: Tuesday 2nd September 7 until 9pm, Sunday 21st September 2 until 4pm and Tuesday 7th October 7 until 9pm – come along and see our award-winning Heritage Centre housing the village archives.

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Colin Mercer

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

Our BBQ tournament started with the temperature at 32°C, nearly hot enough to fry the sausages on the pavement slabs! 17 took part in two groups of eight and nine with lots of very close matches. Each group was narrowed down to the four players who had scored the most games in their matches to go forward to the semi-finals.



The first was Nigel Eaton and Lucy Ewen taking on Makha Kandola and John-Paul Cosgrove, the second Andy Smith and Helen Cooper against David Bristow and Jeunine Crabtree. The BBQ had been lit by this time and the smell of sizzling sausages wafted across the courts but didn't affect the players concentration in another two close matches with Makha, JP, Jeunine and David making it to the final. The temperature was balmier by this time and the battle ensued with JP Makhan winning to close a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Many thanks to Peter Walshe for his usual super organisation.

In the Banbury Summer League the "A" team of Eira Owen, Emma Brangwin, Sue Panton, Ben Fish, James Cattrell and Ed Lockley travelled to Division 2 leaders Brackley "B" for a top of the table clash. All nine rubbers were closely contested but Brackley managed to win by 6-5 to retain top spot. The next match was at Byfield where Sue was joined by Helen Cooper and Jeunine Crabtree, with Josh joining Ben and Ed. The team returned to winning ways with an 8-1 win and, with two matches to play, still has an outside chance of overhauling Brackley who have now finished their fixtures.

The "B" team are in a similar position in Division 4 after playing Deddington "C" at home. Helen, Clare Callaghan, Angie Clifton, James Edge, Nigel Eaton and Colin Mercer overcame the visitors 6-3.

The Weekend team is also in 2nd place after Sue, Angie, Ian and Nigel drew 4-4 with Hook Norton "B" on a very hot afternoon.



In the Warwickshire Seniors Summer League, the final match was at Warwick Tennis Club who needed an 8-0 win to claim the league title. Unfortunately for the Harbury team of Eira Owen, Sue Panton, Nigel Eaton and Colin Mercer, Warwick were too strong and got the win they needed! It's the first season of the league and has been very enjoyable playing nine competitive and friendly matches meeting new teams and players. To celebrate 7th place most of the squad enjoyed an end of season meal in The Crown. Helen Cooper and Wendy Lewin also played but couldn't make the meal.

The Autumn coaching programme starts on Friday 5th September. Coolsportz coach Ian Shorrocks will be running sessions for Pickleball, Juniors and Adult Beginners/Rusties, and Lianne Candappa will be taking the Ladies' group on Friday mornings. For more details please contact Lianne Candappa at: Lianne@coolsportz.co.uk or phone/text her on 07919 104093.

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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

Welcome

A huge welcome to all the new pupils in our reception class and to new pupils who have joined other year groups. We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year. We also congratulate Mrs Neale and her husband Phil on the safe arrival of baby Seth. We also welcome two new members of staff - Mrs Justine Clarke (Maternity Cover SENDco) and Mrs Yvette Horton Assistant Headteacher.



Justine Clarke



Yvette Horton

Opal Playgrounds

We are very excited to share that our school is beginning its journey with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)! OPAL is a nationally recognised programme that transforms playtimes by providing children with rich, creative, and adventurous opportunities outdoors. Over the coming weeks, we will be working together to develop our playground so that every child can experience the joy of play in new and imaginative ways - building teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving skills along the way. We can't wait to see our children leading their own play, trying out new ideas, and making the most of every moment outside.

We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival on Friday 3rd October 2025.

HARBURY SCHOOL PTA

Alice Mellings

Fundraising

What a year we have had. Thank you to all who have supported the PTA either through volunteering, donating prizes or supporting one of our events.

We are excited for the upcoming year and the fundraising we have in store.







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Dates for the Diary

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

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

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

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



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Harbury School PTA for all your PTA updates.

HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

Our younger readers are now back at school. We wish them every success in their new school year. Massive congratulations to all those who took part in the 'Summer Reading Challenge.' For any children who haven't brought in their summer reading list to collect their 'Challenge' medal, closing date is Saturday 6th September.

We still have some starter packs for primary children thinking of entering the BBC 500 short story writing competition. They are available from the Library desk. Each pack contains a link to the BBC 500 website, competition rules, sample stories from last year's competition plus a pen and notebook to get writing in. The competition doesn't open until 23rd September. We will offer feedback and support sessions later in the month (closing date is not 'til November).

Big thanks to Jo and Dom at The Crown for agreeing to host the Library's first 'outreach' activity - 'poems and a pint'. The next 'poems and a pint' will be on Tuesday 7th October, 7:30pm and henceforth on the second Tuesday of the month. Come along for lighthearted, serious, curious and occasional epic readings of poetry by the good, the great and the local.

And one to watch out for....: our first 'Live and Local' show this season is on Friday 17th October. It is likely to be sold out by the time the October edition is distributed, so keep an eye open for the posters. The show is called 'Pepper & Honey'. It's a powerful and moving exploration of themes of food, home and belonging. There might even be scope for some audience participation. Tickets will be on sale from week beginning 15th September.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

Am I always complaining about the weather? This year is turning out to be one of the driest for a very long time. The cracks in the garden are getting deeper and wider as the weeks without rain continue. I put my arm down one of them up to my elbow then got nervous in case all the slugs were at the bottom. It was 50cm deep. Trees are shedding leaves already and a couple of shrubs have shrivelled and become brown and crispy mounds. Many other plants are much shorter than usual and flowering has finished earlier this year. Not all the plants are looking stressed though. Surprisingly the Veronicastrum and Lysimachia 'Firepower' (both normally wilt the moment it gets dry) are growing well.



This is the month when we all think of getting more bulbs for the garden for a colourful spring display but unless we have significant rain it won't be possible to dig holes to get them in the ground. The solution is to plant them in pots and plant them out later in the winter or even wait until existing bulbs appear so you know where the gaps are. Cuttings can be taken of tender shrubs and plants such as pelargoniums and some of the shrubby salvias to ensure you have 'spares' in case we have a bad winter. Don't forget to bring houseplants back inside before the end of the month.

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



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

The general consensus seems to be that this year has been better than 2024 for butterflies. However, comparing one year with the next is not the best way to judge changes in the populations of wild species. We will have a better understanding of whether 2025 has been an exceptional year compared to past trends, or just one similar to historical averages, once the results of the Big Butterfly Count have been released. Those are expected at the end of August, after we have written these Nature Notes.

Certainly we have seen more of some species, such as the Large and Small Whites, in our garden and on local walks, although there have been some notable absences. There seem to

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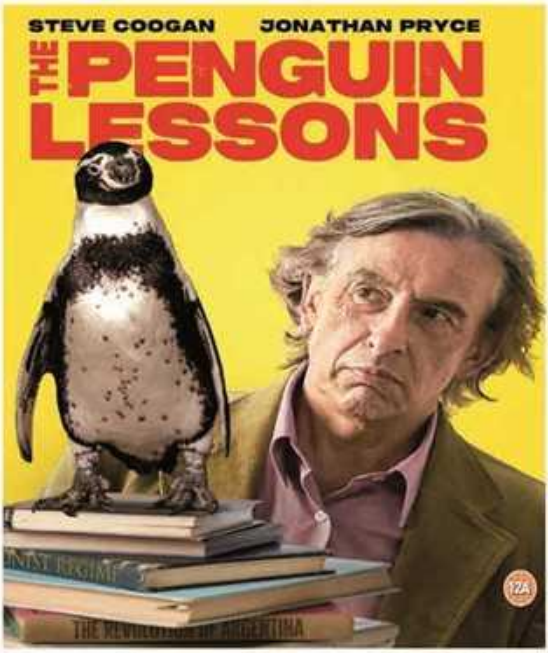

Sat. September 20th 2025

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Moving Pictures

LIVE &LOCAL

have been very few of the blue butterflies this year, both the Common Blue and the Holly Blue. The Common Blue has faced a long-term decline due to habitat loss but can have strong recovery periods influenced by weather conditions, so we may see more of them next year. Holly Blue populations naturally fluctuate because their caterpillars are attacked by parasitic wasps. Despite these fluctuations, the long-term trend for Holly Blue butterflies is positive, with an overall increase in numbers and a clear northward expansion.

One particular butterfly, the Gatekeeper, has been a frequently spotted species this year. Also known as the Hedge Brown, this is one of the brown butterflies, with large orange patches in the middle of the wings. It has one large eyespot on the forewing and one smaller eyespot on the hindwing. The forewing usually has two small white 'pupils' in the eyespots, which tell it apart from the similar, but darker, Meadow Brown.

Gatekeeper butterflies are on the wing for most of July and August. They are often found along hedgerows, field edges and where clumps of flowers grow in gateways. The adults feed on the nectar of Bramble, Ragworts and Wild Marjoram. The eyespots on Gatekeeper's wings are said to deter predators like birds, though the wing of one feeding on Marjoram in our garden had that part of its wing missing; perhaps a bird thought that was the head of the insect!

Many other butterflies and moths carry bright warning colours for protection against predation. For example, Tiger Moths use bright red



Gatekeeper Butterfly (Martin Randall)



Scarlet Tiger Moth (Emily Montague)

and black colours on their hindwings as a warning to predators, signalling that they are unpalatable or toxic. When threatened, these moths may expose their red hindwings, which contrast sharply with the black and white forewings. In addition to visual warning signals, some Tiger Moths also produce clicking sounds or disrupt bat sonar to further deter predators. One species, the Scarlet Tiger Moth had not been recorded in Warwickshire before the 1970s but they, and also the similar Jersey Tiger, are increasing their range to more northerly areas of the country. It is thought this summer's record breaking warm, relatively dry conditions have helped them spread their wings in abundance and settle in parts of the UK where they may have never occurred before. We have had reports of them being found locally in recent years, including this year.



Adult Cinnabar Moth (Martin Randall)

The caterpillars of Tiger Moths are well known for their dense coats of stiff hairs, which serve as both insulation and protection, irritating the mouths or skin of potential predators. The Cinnabar Moth, a commoner red and black moth, has caterpillars that are less bristly than the



Tiger Moth larva (Martin Randall)



Cinnabar Moth Larvae (Martin Randall)

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10.00am 12.00pm

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

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

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Tiger Moths, and also relies on defensive adaptations: its black-and-yellow stripes warn predators that it is poisonous, because of the toxic alkaloids it accumulates in its body from feeding on Ragwort. Cinnabar Moths are more frequently encountered locally, particularly on uncultivated ground and, again, its bright colours warn predators that they are poisonous. These are just some examples showing how different moth species use hairs, toxins, and warning colours as effective survival strategies.



Black Garden Ant Swarm (Martin Randall)

More insects were on the wing at the end of July this year, when our lawn became a stage for the dramatic emergence of flying Black Garden Ants. There were at least six separate nests sending out swarms almost simultaneously. The usually quiet grass suddenly shimmered with activity as dark-winged males and larger queens pushed their way to the surface, taking advantage of the warm, humid conditions that signal the start of their nuptial flights. Each nest erupted in bursts, workers bustling around the entrances to protect and usher out the winged forms, while clouds of ants lifted into the air in coordinated waves. The sight was both chaotic and mesmerising, but over in less than half an hour. It was a reminder of the hidden colonies thriving beneath the lawn and the synchronised precision of this once-a-year natural event that could easily be missed.

HARBURY GENERAL NEWS

HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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

This month's most important update is about what the proposed new Unitary Council – set to represent you – could look like. There is a consultation that everyone is invited to consider. The decision made about how to reorganise our area will have a considerable impact on us all so I do hope that you will take this opportunity to browse the documents and add your voice to the consultation.

Have Your Say on the Future of Our Councils

Big changes could be coming to the way our local councils work – and your voice matters.

The Government has decided that the functions of Warwickshire County Council and the five District/Borough Councils – **Stratford-on-Avon**, **Warwick**, **Rugby**, **Nuneaton** &



We hope that you enjoyed our family fun, Bank Holiday Bash! We still have lots of things planned in the coming months. And with kid's now back at school for the autumn term, it's time to start thinking about Halloween! Details of our spooktacular Ghost Hunt coming soon!

PIE NIGHT

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

BURGER NIGHT

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

HAPPY HOUR

Every Friday from 4pm-7pm

Draft Beer: £4.75 a pint (Excludes Guinness)

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

Prosecco: Glass of Prosecco, just £6.50

QUIZ AND CHILLI

Monday 8th September

Get your thinking caps on and round up your team for another evening of fun, friendly competition and great prizes.

Book your table with a £10 deposit per person which includes your food and also £2.50 to the quizmaster for your ticket on the night.

(please bring cash on the night for the quiz ticket)

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Bedworth, and **North Warwickshire** – will be merged into one or more "Unitary Authorities" (single councils responsible for all services).

Two options are on the table:

1. **One single council** for all of Warwickshire (around 617,000 people).
2. **Two councils** – one for South Warwickshire (**Stratford & Warwick Districts**, around 295,000 people) and one for the north.

An independent Deloitte report, commissioned by Stratford District Council, suggests the **two-council option** would be better for residents – keeping services more local, with potentially lower council tax and better councillor-to-resident ratios. Others favour one large authority, saying it would simplify services like social care, highways, and education.

You can read the Deloitte report here or click on the QR code:

www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/213895/name/Appendix%204.pdf

You can also read the *Reshaping our Councils for the Future of Warwickshire* document here or click the QR code:

www.stratford.gov.uk/files/content_type/Reshaping_Our_Councils_Booklet.pdf

A public consultation is running from **Thursday 7th August to Sunday 14th September**. Please take a few minutes to have your say – it will help shape the final decision.

How to take part:

- Online: www.shapingourcouncils.co.uk/get-involved/
- Paper copies: Call Stratford District Council on 01789 267575

The final plans will go to Government in November, with a decision expected in 2026. New councils could be in place by 2028.

Local government should be local – so please make your view count!

Five Year Housing Land Supply

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has released an interim update to its Five-Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) position, reflecting recent changes to national planning policy and a significant increase in Local Housing Need (LHN).

Following the Government's revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and an updated methodology for calculating LHN introduced late last year, the District Council's annual housing requirement has risen from 730 to 1,126 homes per annum.

In response, the District Council has reassessed its housing land supply assumptions, particularly regarding delivery expectations from key sites.

Despite these adjustments, and some challenges from developers, the District Council believes that it continues to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, with the updated position showing a supply equivalent to 5.06 years. This ensures that the Core Strategy retains full weight in the determination of planning applications. The effect of the validity of the Core Strategy is important in ensuring that all applications conform with planning policy and prevent unsuitable developments.

HS2 and Road Closures

There will be A423 closures between Ladbroke and Southam during September and November. This relates to the construction of the bridge there and the connection to the road. The disruption, whilst regrettable, is less bad than it might have been due to the intervention of councillors and council officers in putting pressure on HS2 and the contractors who intended much longer closures. In detail the 'estimated timings' are:

- Early September 2025 - Two-week road closure to join the bypass to the current road. Operation of bypass around north bridge approach road. 30mph speed limit in place.
- November 2025 - Weekend road closure to install safety barriers in the road on the south approach road, by layby to continue construction safely.
- Summer 2026 - Three-to-four-week road closure for permanent tie-ins of new bridge.
- Other 'occasional' weekend closures or traffic management may be required.

Silver Award from Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme

And some positive news……Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been awarded a Silver Award from the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS).

The prestigious award recognises employers who have actively demonstrated support for the Armed Forces community by implementing policies to help them.

To achieve the Silver award, organisations must proactively demonstrate that the Armed Forces community is not unfairly disadvantaged as part of their recruitment policies.

They must also actively ensure their workforce is aware of their positive policies towards the defence community and understand issues for reservists, veterans, cadet force adult volunteers, and spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Sheila Burtt

We've enjoyed a glorious summer of walks with a great range of routes all over Warwickshire and beyond into Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. The good weather was a welcome change to some of the muddier walks of the winter.

We now have a full programme of walks organised up to the end of the year. So if you would like to join us, come along any Wednesday morning, to the village hall car park by 9.40am. That day's walk will be detailed. We share lifts and don't forget a drink for our break half way round.



BUMPS & BUNDLES

Carol Jackson and the Bumps team

"Bumps" has been meeting every Tuesday in the Tom Hauley Room from 10.30am - 12 noon. We start again on 2nd September, look for more details on the colourful posters around the village.

It is an outreach from the church and hopes to help Mums, Dads and childminders with

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

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!!

THE GREAT WESTERN

Yvonne Lanchester

The wait is almost over. At time of writing, it is anticipated the opening date will be 6th September.

So, what has been happening? A lot actually, there has been a final push in the last couple of weeks, finishing the kitchen and toilets, lots of painting, digging up floors and laying flooring.

The two most exciting bits of news are, first the train track is back after it was removed, restored, replaced. The second is an amazing find when digging up the floors. In what was the first extension when it was built the original flag stones were uncovered. All the flags that were found have been kept.

The flooring in the toilets have black and white tiles and continue out in the pub along with wood flooring.

The chimney has been swept so we can look forward to a cosy fire in the winter.

We have photos from the 60s when the station was still there. We are still looking for photos, stories and history. There are still some gaps in the timeline and history. If you or family/friends have anything hidden away we would love to hear from you.

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











CONNECTIONS CARERS' GROUP AND DEMENTIA CAFE

Janice Montague

After a brief summer break, we are looking forward to welcoming back our loyal volunteers and regular visitors to our next meeting, where as usual we will be providing support, pastimes and a musical interlude - plus tea, coffee and cake! It is a friendly and informal chance to chat with others who have similar experiences. Everyone caring for someone with dementia, or other short or long term conditions, is invited to come along with them to the Tom Hauley Room (behind Harbury Church) at 2pm on **Wednesday 17th September**.

We look forward to seeing you. If you have any queries, please do contact one of us below:

Jill Baker - 07747 430470

Janice Montague - 07956 195405

HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

The next Market is Saturday 27th September. Supporting Harbury School (cooking/ baking).

Stalls providing food, art and crafts.

Councillors corner 10.00 to 11.00am for any questions you might have.

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

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Fliss Harris

Enjoying the Library's "Poems and a Pint"?

Why not try "Ponder in the Pub", a new discussion group, focussing on everyday questions for everyday life, hosted by 'All Saints', Harbury, coming soon to a venue near you - the CROWN INN, Harbury.

Everyone is welcome. For details of our first meeting, watch this space….!

HARBURY CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2025

Fiona Crossan

Just a reminder that this year's Craft Fair will be held on Saturday 1st November from 10.00am – 4.00pm at Harbury Village Hall. Free entry and all funds raised will be donated to Myton Hospice.

We will have a wide selection of handmade crafts available – several new stalls again this year so why not come along and either treat yourself or make a start on your Christmas shopping while supporting Myton Hospice at the same time. We do still have a few stalls available so get in touch if you are interested in selling your home-made crafts.

As usual tea, coffee and cakes will be available throughout the day along with hot food at lunch time. If you are able to donate a bottle for the bottle tombola or a prize for the raffle please get in touch. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Please contact Shirley on 01926 612798 or Fiona on ficrossan@outlook.com if you can help in any way. Thanks.



HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE

Amanda Randall

Contact Harbury Swifts: swifts.harbury@gmail.com

The last swifts of 2025 reported flying over Harbury were seen on 10 August; now the skies are quiet once again.

Many thanks to the Harbury swift survey team whose work has demonstrated the value of 'Citizen Science'. It would have been impossible to gather so much information this summer without their concerted efforts. I think we all enjoyed taking part - and even recording "no swifts" is useful information. Thank you to those of you who have already uploaded your 2025 sightings of swifts to the RSPB SwiftMapper site. I shall add the remaining information that has been given to me.

It was important to carry out this survey in order to have a baseline of information about Harbury swifts. The RSPB SwiftMapper records needed updating and a systematic survey had not been carried out previously. It is vital to know the location of swift 'hotspots' in the village, in order to protect existing nest sites. This knowledge will also help focus efforts to increase the Harbury colonies of this red listed bird in the future. But it is also important to know where swifts are absent, so that we can try to establish why that might be the case, and whether or not we can encourage them to occupy some of these areas in the future.

The survey has located at least eighteen natural nests, under eaves and in holes in the walls of a variety of properties in Harbury. People who know that they have nesting swifts on their property are delighted, which is good news for the swifts.

Another observation has been that playing swift calls alongside nest boxes definitely draws the swifts down to investigate, and I personally have seen a number of boxes where swift attraction callers are in operation, being prospected for the first time. Let's hope these birds will return next year and take up residence. Thank you very much to Harbury WI's committee, for their very generous donation towards purchasing additional swift attraction caller kits for some of the other Parish Council swift nest boxes. These callers will be played at a low volume, early morning and in the evening, to encourage the newly mature birds to investigate the nest boxes next year. (The swifts don't need the calls played loudly for them to be able to hear.)

Since the initiation of the Harbury Swift Village Project, people from other nearby villages (including Lighthorne, Napton, Moreton Morrell, Leek Wootton, Combrook and Kineton), have been inspired by our project to set up something similar in their own villages, which is very encouraging for swifts. Swifts have been fortunate to receive a high media profile this summer, which has also benefitted their cause!

Looking ahead to next year, we intend to repeat the Harbury swift survey and I am very grateful to those of you who have already agreed to help in 2026.

Thank you, too, to those people who have made some great suggestions for next year. I will report on the progress of these in future editions of The Harbury & Ladbroke News.

One of our aims for the survey was to raise awareness and enthusiasm for swifts within the village and to get more people talking about them. I think this has been achieved!

WIGLEY COMMUNITY FUND

Adorah Mulombi - Wigley Investment Holdings

The Wigley Community Fund (WCF) was established in 2021 by Wigley Investment Holdings to give back to the communities closest to its headquarters at Stockton House. By offering grants to individuals, groups, organisations, charities, schools, sports clubs, and village projects within a 7.5-mile radius, helping local people bring their ideas to life and continue to do the work they already do.

Since its launch, the fund has awarded over **£45,000 to more than 45 local causes**, supporting projects no matter how big or small, ranging from life-saving equipment to youth development, sports facilities, disability support, and community events.

Keeping communities safe

One of the earliest grants helped to fund **a defibrillator in Stockton village**, making sure life-saving equipment is available for residents and visitors in times of need. It's a small project but vital piece of kit that has the power to make an immeasurable difference to a rural community in an emergency.

Investing in young people

Young people are at the heart of many projects the fund has supported. At **Southam College**, the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme was supported with funding for transport, ensuring students from all backgrounds could take part. Ensuring the programme is accessible to all ensures as many young people have possible have the the opportunity to build their confidence, independence, and resilience - skills they'll carry with them for life.

The youngest members of our community have also benefited from grants through the WCF, with **Stockton Toddlersaurs** using their grant to put towards additional storage, cleaning equipment, toys and more. **Harbury Toddler Group** have also received funding from the WCF, which was used to support the group's running costs.

Championing local grassroots sport

Many local sports clubs have also benefited from the WCF, receiving grants for new kits, training equipment, and improved facilities. Supporting grassroots sport helps to create opportunities for young people and adults to stay active, build friendships, and develop a sense of pride in their teams and communities. For players, this means the chance to play in safe, supportive environments. For parents and volunteers, it's about seeing their community clubs thrive.

Southam Ladies Rounders used their grant to purchase equipment, allowing them to take on more members while keeping it as affordable as possible for local women. Spectators benefitted from new seating at **Long Itchington Cricket Club**, meaning more people from the village can enjoy the cricket.



Taking care of the older generation

The Wigley Community Fund also recognises the importance of supporting older generations. Support has gone to groups like the **Marton Over 60s Afternoon Tea**, which gives older residents a regular opportunity to come together, share stories, and strengthen friendships. This helps to reduce loneliness and remind people that they are valued members of their community.

In Southam, the fund has backed the local centre for **Warwickshire Vision Support**, a charity working with elderly people and those with sight loss. Their services improve wellbeing and provide support for elderly people and those with visual impairments. This helps to reduce isolation, build confidence, and ensure people feel cared for and connected.

Celebrating community events

Community events are another area of focus. The fund helped the **Harbury Carnival**, a much-loved tradition that brings people together to celebrate village life. Events like these strengthen community spirit and create lasting memories.

Supporting those with additional needs

Many individuals and groups with additional needs or disabilities have been awarded funding through the WCF. **Entrust Care Partnership** supports over 1,500 individuals, offering Friendship Groups where children and young adults can learn and experience new activities in a relaxed and safe environment. Funding has allowed this service to be sustained.

Apply for the next round

The Wigley Community Fund opens for applications **twice a year**, **in March and September**,

offering grants for facilities, equipment, health and wellbeing projects, youth and sports initiatives, disability support, and community events.

The next round of applications opens **1st – 10th September 2025**, and Wigley Investment Holdings is encouraging anyone with a community project in need of support to apply.

If you're involved in a local group or project that could benefit from extra support, we'd love to hear from you.

For more details on eligibility and how to apply, please visit:

www.wigleyinvestmentholdings.com/about/wigley-community-fund or call us on 01926 670 600.

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