Harbury & Ladbroke News



AUGUST 2026



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10 Aug	F	F - R - G
17 Aug	F - R - G	F
24 Aug	F - W	F - R - W - G
31 Aug	F - R - G	F
7 Sep	F	F - R - G

F = Food caddy - R = Recycling (blue bin) W = Waste (black bin) G = Garden (green bin)
Wednesday Collection - Parts of Ladbroke - Thursday Collection - Harbury
Friday Collection - Deppers Bridge and Parts of Ladbroke

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HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

AUGUST 2026 No. 629

EDITORIAL 4
HARBURY DIARY 4
FROM THE RECTOR AND CHURCH NEWS 7
LADBROKE NEWS 9
CHESTERTON NEWS 18
HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL 20
CLUBS & SOCIETIES 24
EARLY YEARS & SCHOOL 41
LIBRARY 44
GARDENING & NATURE 44
GENERAL SECTION 49

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Cover Photo: Mill Street Cottage flowers by Gill Holden



EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

We hope you enjoyed the recent Harbury Garden Walkabout. Thank you to all those who opened their gardens and also to those who provided refreshments. See photos in middle pages.

With the children now on their summer holidays from school, hopefully families will be enjoying a well-earned break during August.

September though kicks off with more village traditions, 4th and 5th sees Harbury Village Hall once again hosting the Beer Festival - see article and advert for details. Then Harbury Village Show will be taking place on Saturday 12th. Schedules are available from the Library, the Post Office and the Milk Shed or can be downloaded from the magazine website - hlnews.co.uk/harburyvillage-show.html. Do think about entering one of the classes, be it showing off your vegetables, fruit or flowers, making a Quiche Lorraine or exhibiting your arts and crafts. Also do encourage your children to enter the Young People's categories too. Entry forms should be sent in by Wednesday 9th September no later than 6.00pm.

The Ladbroke Matters team recently held a great evening of nostalgia. Their Seventies Summer Breeze event was a great success and enjoyed by all. There was also a wonderful concert in church – see photos of both events.

The deadline day for articles will be a day earlier next month for September's edition, on Sunday 23rd August.

Congratulations to Lucy Warner and Lee Curtis on their wedding in Ladbroke Church. Also to Charley Whittaker and Daniel Varney and to Lucy Davis and Benjamin Gabriel on their recent marriages in Harbury Church.

Finally, our condolences go to the families of Jennifer Ingram and Stephen Perry.



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

AUGUST

Sat 1 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of TOFS (Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula Support)

Sun 2 9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Scout Hut
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Village Hall

Mon 3 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 4 Harbury Heritage Centre open 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
Poems and a Pint, 7.00pm, Crown Inn

Wed 5 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Bourton on Dunsmore (3½ miles, flat)
Children's Art Classes (www.elainepurcell.com), 10.00am - 1.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm

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 Harbury WI
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library

Sun 9 10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Scout Hut
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Village Hall

Mon 10 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 11 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Heritage Centre Village Tour, 6.00pm, from Heritage Centre, Park Lane Entrance - please contact group@harburyheritage.org.uk if wishing to attend

Wed 12 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - tbc
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm

Thu 13 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 15 No Coffee Morning in Tom Hauley Room

Sun 16 11TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Said Holy Communion, 8.00am, Church
All Age Service, 10.30am, Church
St. Giles, Chesterton, Holy Communion Service, 10.30am
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Village Hall
Harbury Heritage Centre open 2.00 - 4.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Mon 17 Tom's Teas. Free Tea, Cake, Coffee, Friendship and Chat, 2.30 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 18 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Society visit to Court Barn Museum Chipping Campden, 10.00am - pre-bookings only with Secretary

Wed 19 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall – Eydon (4½ miles with some stiles)
Children's Art Classes (www.elainepurcell.com), 10.00am - 1.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm

Thu 20 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI Garden Party, 6.00 - 8.00pm, 2 Old Paddock, off Bush Heath Lane
Classic Book Group, 7.30pm, Village Library

Sat 22 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Church Light and Sound Appeal

Sun 23 12TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Village Hall

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Mon 24 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 25 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Wed 26 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Shrewley (3½ to 4 miles)
Children's Art Classes (www.elainepurcell.com), 10.00am - 1.00pm, Village Hall
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm

Thu 27 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Children's Craft Session, 2.15pm, Village Library

Sat 29 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Church Light and Sound Appeal

Sun 30 13TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Village Hall

Mon 31 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

SEPTEMBER

Tue 1 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Heritage Centre open 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)

Wed 2 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Brailes (4½ miles)
Spellbound Dance Classes, 1.45 - 2.30 & 4.30 - 6.30pm, Village Hall
Mothers' Union, service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm

Thu 3 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 4 Harbury Beer Festival, 11.00am – 11.00pm, Village Hall
Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 5 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Carl Lewis Foundation
Harbury Beer Festival, 11.00am – 11.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 6 14TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Muddy Church, 3.00 – 4.30pm
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, *Radford Semele 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

Usually, the dog days of August are quiet. Many of us are away on holidays, the fields are heavy with harvest, and the church calendar takes a gentle breath. But this year, on Wednesday 12th August 2026, the skies above our parishes are putting on a spectacular, double-bill performance that if you are like me, you won't want to miss.

In an extraordinary celestial coincidence, we are about to witness both the deepest solar eclipse in decades and the peak of the Perseid meteor shower on the same night. Starting in the early evening, around 6.15pm BST, the Moon will begin to take a visible "bite" out of the Sun. While Spain and Iceland will see a total eclipse, the UK will be just out of the area of totality. Still, across our region, just over 90% of the Sun will be obscured. The maximum eclipse will be seen around 7.10pm to 7.15pm BST.

As the Sun hangs low in the west-north-west, it will look like an inverted, frown-shaped golden crescent rather than a typical smiley face. It will cast an eerie, surreal, cool twilight across our gardens and churchyards. Please don't look directly at the Sun with the naked eye or regular sunglasses. You can buy special eclipse glasses to observe safely. Once the Sun finally sets, the celestial show is far from over. Overnight on 12th–13th August, the famous Perseid meteor shower reaches its annual peak, promising up to 100 fast, bright shooting stars per hour. Best of all, because the Moon is blocking the Sun during the day, we will have a New Moon at night. This means the night sky will be perfectly ink-black, with absolutely zero natural moonlight to wash out the fainter meteors. It is all too easy to get so swept up in the busy, daily details of life on earth that we forget we live on a tiny sphere spinning through a vast, beautifully ordered masterpiece. As the Psalmist wrote thousands of years ago:

"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them?"

This August, let's take the invitation to step outside, pull up a chair, and look up in wonder. Let the shadows and the shooting stars remind you of the scale of our Creator's love - and the quiet assurance that the One who guides the stars also holds us safely in the palm of His hand.



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Andy & Bez

With the summer holidays under way, we want to let you know you are welcome to events in the church. In fact, on really warm days the church is a cool spot to rest in.

This year, All Saint's has been busy with christenings and weddings and there will be a total of ten weddings in 2026, but that doesn't have to be the only time you visit!

The church is not just a building (there has been a worshipping community here since the mid 1200's), but a community of people that gather to do life together – share in the ups and downs of life. In July we enjoyed a BBQ in the Vicarage as well as a bouncy castle. If you've not been to church recently please join us at a communion service, family service, Messy church or Muddy church. These groups in particular are an engaging way to talk about Jesus and get active with crafts in Messy Church or active outside with Muddy Church. You can email wardens@allsaintsharbury.org to find out more.



Thank you to all those that came along to do the Teddy Bear zip wire, which raised over £200. The volunteers helping to run the refreshments in the Tom Hauley Room also did a magnificent job (I bought a lot of treats that weekend!). All of the fundraising efforts have been aimed at making sure we can fund the essential stone work and improve the audio visual equipment. With this in mind, we want to ensure the church building is fit for purpose and ready to welcome you to more community events. Which one will you join us for?

From the Registers

Baptism

5th July Edward and Phillipa

Weddings

4th July Charley Whittaker and Daniel Varney
18th July Lucy Davis and Benjamin Gabriel

Celebration of Life

14th July Jennifer Ingram (87 years)
9th July Stephen Sidney James Perry (69 years)

MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

Our July meeting saw 11 of us visiting the Church at Knowle (near Solihull). We were warmly welcomed by several of their MU and given a clear and interesting potted history of this ancient parish and impressive building. As is often the case, it has had its ups and downs of fortune, including a close brush with destruction by Cromwell's commissioners! It was saved when they were told that frequent flooding by the river Blythe prevented the parishioners travelling to worship at Hampton in Arden. (It flooded and closed roads last winter - some things don't change!)

We then looked round the building, helped by a quiz thoughtfully prepared for us. Then, a welcome cup of tea and a choice of homemade cakes concluded a very happy afternoon.

We have since held a coffee morning, to support the wider work of MU as well as funding our gifting of Bibles to every couple marrying in Harbury and Ladbroke.

We have a break in August so meet next on 2nd September when we open the autumn season with a communion service at 2pm followed by a social time and tea.

This would be an ideal opportunity for visitors to come and meet us; we are very friendly!

Meanwhile, enjoy the summer; keep cool.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

AUGUST

Sun 2 TRINITY 9
Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 4 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 5 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Thu 6 WI Summer Outing to Sezincote Gardens

Sun 9 TRINITY 10
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tue 11 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 16 TRINITY 11
Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am

Tue 18 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 23 TRINITY 12
Holy Communion, 9.00am

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Tue 25 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 30 TRINITY 13
Holy Communion, 9.00am

SEPTEMBER

Tues 1 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

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

Thu 3 WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 6 TRINITY 14
Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 8 Table Tennis 7.30pm Village Hall

Wed 9 Parish Council Meeting, 7.45pm, Village Hall



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Jackie West

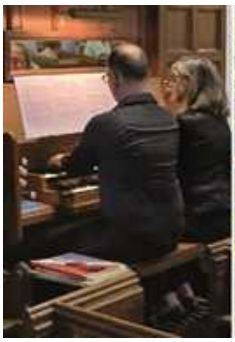
www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk



When Peter asked me to do the church report this month he thought there would not be much to report on, except the concert which is described a few pages on in the Ladbroke Heritage article. How wrong he was. First off, after the family service in July there was a presentation to thank Sue & Alan for all their support over the last 20 or so years and wish them well when they move.

Then events and happenings came tumbling one after another in rapid succession for eight days.

- It started on Friday 10th with members of the PCC discussing how we can move towards net zero carbon emissions. So one of the hottest days of the year found us in church discussing heating; how ironic. There is no ideal solution but a phased approach, introducing some electric pew heaters while retaining the existing gas central heating system for background heating seems the best first step. There will a display about these proposals in church from the first Sunday in August so everyone has a chance to see what is planned.
- On Saturday 11th, it was our big event - the 150th Anniversary Concert, see page 17.
- The following day, Sunday 12th, we had another of our occasional evensong services rather than a morning service. As a result fortunately no-one was at church when a huge bough of the neighbour's cedar tree decided it had had enough of overhanging the churchyard, snapped off and ended up at ground level.
- On Wednesday 15th, we presented bibles to the Year 6 leavers at Southam St James primary school. A number of us at church were given bibles at the end of our primary or start of our secondary education and we are honoured to be able to continue this tradition with the school that took on our pupil allocation when Ladbroke's own school closed. We pray for God's blessing on all the recipients as they develop and grow up.
- Then on Friday 17th the morning air was filled with the sound of chainsaws, shredder and leaf blower as tree surgeons removed the broken bough and brash, ensuring the churchyard was back to normal for a wedding that afternoon.









As I write, the summer holidays are upon us and I'm hoping things will slow down a little. Ladbroke church building is open daily for those that would like to come inside, pray, contemplate or just explore. Our year round opening times are 10am - 4pm but **most weekdays in August the church will be open until 7pm** so you can visit later in the day too, perhaps come and enjoy the peace inside after a long hot day at work.

Services this month follow the regular pattern and are shown in the Ladbroke Diary above.

From the Registers

Marriage

17th July Lucy Warner and Lee Curtis

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Sue Dargan

At our meeting on Thursday 2nd July the speaker was Jonathan Smith, Fleet Manager and Trustee for Warwickshire and Solihull Blood Bikes (WSBB). In 1962 Margaret Ryerson, having witnessed a need for quick blood transportation, was inspired to set up the first of these charities with her husband in Surrey.

Other groups began to form from 1969 and the transportation network began to grow. Across the country, and indeed the world, more bikers came together to help their own communities, leading to Blood Bike groups becoming registered charities.

2011 saw the formation of Warwickshire Free Wheelers, supporting local hospitals and clinics in our county. In 2014 Warwickshire merged with Solihull to form WSBB.



Jon brought his huge motorbike in to the village hall and detailed the cost of running it, especially renewing tyres and wheels when they hit potholes, normally on dark rainy nights.

Nationally Blood Bikes support 141 NHS Trusts and 16 Air Ambulance's, all free of charge, and their motto is 'always ready to ride, all weathers, 365 days a year'.

Services to the NHS include blood, breast milk, medicines, spinal fluid and blood samples. Breast milk is delivered quickly to Birmingham Women's Hospital for freezing and storage before being delivered to maternity units when required.

Volunteer riders mostly have full time jobs and still agree to work a 12 hour shift every month, after specialist training and paying personally for their DBS checks and hi vis jackets. 90% of all calls must be collected and delivered within one hour! Running cost average £75000pa, this includes fuel and servicing, all is funded totally by monies raised or donations to the charity, not to mention the tremendous support from the Freemasons.

We all agreed, WSBB are real life heroes and Sue thanked Jon for his enjoyable and informative talk.

After our refreshments, we discussed our Summer outing to Senzincote Gardens on Thursday 6th August. Our new committee member Maggie informed members that her craft group was due to meet for the first time later in July.



Sue then presented Sue Lord, a long standing committee member, with garden vouchers and a card wishing her well in her new home, but stressed that Sue was not leaving us entirely and would still be attending meetings. We thanked Sue for all she has done for our WI over the years.

Our next meeting is Thursday 3rd September, and our speaker is Beth Adams, Nutritionist, helping us to 'jumpstart our day the healthy way' we meet at the Village Hall at 7.30pm. If this sounds interesting to you, please feel free to join us, all are welcome.

LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

August is the month to take a break and enjoy the Summer weather, rain or shine, before we begin again in September. So this month our column takes a break from its usual format, but do read this account of our amazing 70's evening held at the end of June….

Seventies Summer Breeze

We celebrated the 1970's on Friday June 26th in Ladbroke Village Hall with an event called 'Seventies Summer Breeze' - a nod to the Isley Brothers' hit record of June 1974. Fifty people were booked in to celebrate an evening of fun, food, quizzes, and music.

Echoing the summer of 1976 when Britain was in the grips of a heatwave, the temperature outside the hall was in the high 20's (or mid-80's Fahrenheit in 1970's parlance) when we opened the doors at 7pm - causing at least one guest to comment 'Less 'Summer Breeze' more 'Disco Inferno''.

Some of the guests and most of the helpers were dressed in 70's' style and Gray Lewis must be commended for his hippy regalia including a long black wig which he tied back as he manned the bar. Our official photographer, Russell Griffith, made sure those in 'fancy dress' were recorded on film during the evening (see photos).

We had posters of 70's pop icons displayed around the walls, and various 70's style decorations. There was a picture quiz of 70's pop groups; and album sleeves with the writing removed which guests could identify whilst enjoying their main meal of 70's fare prepared by a wonderful team of village cooks. This included quiches, coronation chicken, sliced ham, and various salads. In addition, there was a 'hedgehog' of pineapple and cheese on cocktail sticks (remember those?) and 70's style nibbles on each table.

After the main course, David, our MC and DJ for the evening ran a 'Beat the Intro' music quiz including one hit record from each year of the 1970's. A team which included guests from The Bell Inn won – the prize being a bottle of Mateus Rose (as seen when empty with candles in the spout and solidified candle wax around the neck in all the best 70's wine bars). The picture quiz was won by a team which included Steve and Helen Morten – the prize this time was a box of Milk Tray (which the lady loves, apparently). Well done both teams!

Ladbroke's Summer Breeze



Gray & Nicky



Mandy & Mick



Alan & Sue



Sue & David



Food is served

As we enjoyed our desserts - a retro menu of black forest traybake, peach melba, and trifle, a selection of clips from 1970's adverts, TV programmes, and films were shown much to the delight and amusement of those who remembered them from first time around. Thank you Mick Moore for arranging these.

Following this, Gray Lewis made a speech thanking Alan and Sue Lord who are soon to move away from Ladbroke. Alan has served on the Ladbroke Matters team for 20 years in various capacities including most recently Chair of Trustees. They were presented with a photo book of highlights of their time in Ladbroke and garden vouchers for their future home.

Next, the tables were moved to the side, the video screen rolled up, and the hall transformed into a 70's disco with David as DJ. He had earlier collected requests of 70's music from some of the guests, but unfortunately not all of these were played due to time constraints - for which he apologises. However, the dance floor soon filled up and everybody seemed to be enjoying the choice of music – and yes, he did include 'Disco Inferno'! It was great to see people dancing the night away including our outgoing chair and his wife; and our incoming chair, Debs Brown, taking the mike on 'Nutbush City Limits'.

Although we thought that many of the records seemed longer than we remembered – perhaps it was because we were all younger then with more stamina – a great time was had by all.

Booking our Hall

Our hall has a small kitchen, a hearing loop, a performing arts music licence and a stage area with sound and lighting. We can accommodate up to 80 people, so for your special celebration, or if you wish to hold regular classes or meetings, book through our village hall website www.ladbrokevillagehall.org.uk which contains photos of the interior and exterior of our village hall and general information including more details about our facilities, and our booking terms and conditions.

Our summer booking rates are £15 per hour, or £12 for Ladbroke residents - applicable from April to September inclusive. Non-residents may be asked to pay a deposit on booking.

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for June 2026

£50	Kip Warr	£25	Mandy Herriott	£25	Kate Pickin
£50	John and Jenny Barrett	£10	Sheena Healey	£10	Colin and Kay Constable
£25	Issy Palmer	£10	Sue Lord		

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Jackie West

Last month was our summer social evening where, as is our custom, we focus on delicious food rather than photography. We did have a small competition on the subject of "Amusing signs", here is one seen outside a pub.



We are not meeting in August but return to our first-Tuesday-evening-in-the-month meetings on 1st September when our competition and photo topic subject will be "Abandoned Places". Visitors and new members are welcome just come along to the Village Hall for 7.30pm. If you would like more information about our small, friendly club please email nicolalewis1958@gmail.com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LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

A great day and a fabulous concert

"The music was wonderful, Bill [Bosworth] would have appreciated the expert organ playing and the choir."

"I wouldn't have missed it for the world",

"An amazing concert, it was really wonderful"

and written to someone who didn't make it *"You missed a treat, the concert was fabulous"*

On Saturday 11th July there was small invasion of our village by 26 Germans ... at our invitation. Kantorei Prenzlau and friends had come to give a concert in church to celebrate the 150th birthday of our organ, made by the company Hill & Son. On arrival they briefly met their hosts for later in the day and then set off through the village for their rehearsal.

I sat in and was amazed how strict a taskmaster their musical director Hannes Ludwig was. The choir started with a good 15 minutes of physical and oral warm up exercises and then it was onto the pieces they would sing later in the day. Instructions were all in German of course, so I only got the gist of them but there was much gesticulation involving the back of the neck and hands flowing from the mouth which I assumed meant loosen up and let the sound flow. Notes and harmonies had to be perfect, I think Hannes tried to get the starting pitches for the first piece from an app on his phone but with the mobile signal in church so bad, he reverted to analogue techniques - out came a tuning fork to help him sing the starting note for each section of the choir. The choristers were moved around to get the sound balance right and once they began singing, there was the timbre, crescendos and diction to get perfect too. The choir didn't seem to mind being corrected and encouraged and the final result was definitely worth it.

Rehearsal over, the choir went back to their hosts for lunch and a quick change of clothing before returning to church for the concert itself. It started with Bach's famous Toccata & Fugue and closed with a roof-raising rendition of "Now thank we all our God", sung simultaneously by the choir in German and audience in English. In between there was fine a cappella singing and beautiful music from the cello and organ, but I wonder what our resident bats thought of the cuckoo in their midst! After the concert the hosts and a few others joined our guests in the village hall to get to know them a little more and wish them well for the rest of their UK tour.

At the end of the concert I was presented with the English edition of Hannes' book W. Hill & Son (1832-1916), organ builders by appointment. Ladbroke organ is included alongside many of its illustrious big brothers located in Westminster Abbey, York Minster, Kings College Chapel Cambridge, Sydney Town Hall and the one moved from Kilbarchan in Scotland to Hannes' church, Marienkirche in Prenzlau, Germany, to name but a few. This book joins others belonging to our church, including Ladbroke and it's owners, published in 1914 which covers the Lords of the Manor since 1086 and Rectors since 1290, and both the large leather bound Bible and prayer book presented in July 1876 when the church was re-opened after the George Gilbert Scott renovation. If you would like to see any of them just ask.

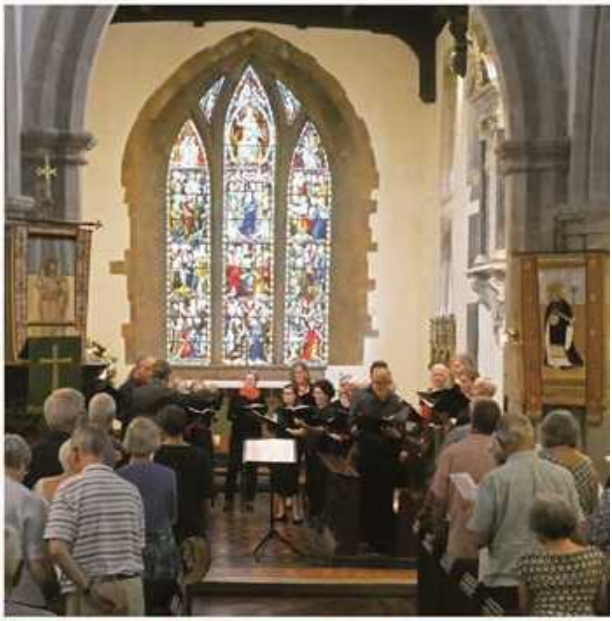




150 years

Anniversary Concert







Ladbroke Treasure trail - now updated and free to local people

Back in 2022, with help of professional illustrator Jessica Hartshorn and local children, we created a treasure trail and many a happy hour was spent by teenagers and families walking around Ladbroke solving the clues to find who helped Robert Catesby hide his stash of gold and where.



Over the last few years, some of the answers to clues have gone, so the remaining copies of the trail booklet have been updated and to clear stocks we are giving them away free to local residents. You can pick up a copy in Ladbroke Church or email ladbrokechurch89@btinternet.com to have one popped through your door. It's a great way for newcomers to explore the village or a fun activity to do with visitors of all ages.

Heritage and Friendship Group

We continue to meet on the first Wednesday morning of the month at The Old School to reminisce over a cuppa and cake. In July our topic was films and film stars and in August we will be sharing our memories of Adverts. For more information or to let us know you are coming please contact Carol on 01926 814715.



CHESTERTON NEWS

Stephanie Ainslie

Windmill Opening



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As part of the spectacular **Warwick Heritage and Culture Weekend**, the iconic 17th-century Chesterton Windmill is opening its doors to the public once again. It is a rare chance for visitors to explore one of the county's most famous landmarks. **But this magical event simply cannot happen without you**.

To keep the open day safe, welcoming, and running smoothly, we are looking for a fantastic team of local volunteers to lend a hand on either Saturday, Sunday, or both!

How You Can Help

We have **morning or afternoon shifts** available for the following essential roles:

- **Safety Stewards**: Helping guide the public safely in and out of the windmill.
- **Car Parking Crew**: Welcoming visitors and directing traffic at the site.
- **Refreshment Team**: Serving up smiles, tea, and cake in our busy refreshment tent.

A special 'Thank You' Perk for Volunteers

We are incredibly grateful for your time, and we want to show it! Every single volunteer will be invited to an exclusive, **private tour of the windmill**. Best of all? You will completely **jump the big queues** that we have seen at this highly popular event in the past, giving you an intimate, crowd-free look inside this historic treasure.

Join Our Team Today!

If you love local heritage, want to support your community, or simply fancy a rewarding day out in the Warwickshire countryside, we would love to hear from you

Email: steph.a1@icloud.com or **Phone**: 07903 193615

(Please leave a message if there is no answer) Thank you for helping us keep Warwickshire's history alive!



HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Nicola Thompson – H&L News Correspondent

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

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25th June 2026

Public Participation: Two members of the public expressed concerns about ongoing and long standing anti-social behaviour relating to the supply of drugs. Despite regular reports to the police and to Orbit Housing, to date no action has been taken and residents had been advised that they should supply "better evidence" to the police. It was noted that the police will be dealing with a high number of similar situations and cannot prioritise them all. Cllr Lockley said that anyone concerned with this issue should contact him in confidence and he will pass on their comments to the police.

Community Grants: The PC agreed two small grants for Harbury Village Show for hire of the village hall and from Harbury Toddler Group for new shelving. The third grant application on the agenda was from Harbury Pre-School for £1500 towards the replacement of the rubber outdoor play surface. The total cost of the project is expected to be around £16,000 and

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councillors queried how the group intended to finance the remainder of the cost. The chair of the Pre-School explained that they intended to apply for further grant funding, had recently run a successful burger stand at the carnival and also had some reserves that could be used if necessary. It was agreed that the full amount requested of £1500 should be granted.

Other Organisations

Harbury Library: Due to the current heatwave, the library had been closed for the previous two afternoons and was scheduled to be closed for a third.

Village Hall: The committee had recently held its AGM. It was noted that at present the hall has plenty of upcoming bookings.

Future Energy: The group has been in discussions with a company which advises on reducing energy bills and hopes to organise an open meeting for residents in the near future.

SDC & WCC: Both the district and county cllrs had sent their apologies but had forwarded reports. It was noted that the County Cllrs' Grant Fund was now open and accepting applications from local groups typically for small grants up to around £1000 (although there is no set maximum). Applications should be received by 26th July.

Planning

Linden Farm Cottage, 35 Deppers Bridge: Change of use of annex to short-term self-catering accommodation. After discussions with SDC, the PC agreed to drop their previous objection to this application.

Notified Addresses on e-Planning: The council agreed to support a proposal for SDC to show all the addresses notified of planning applications on their website. This follows several instances of residents not being informed of nearby applications including one for the building of a new house.

Properties

Hall Lane Allotments: Following feedback on a previous unsuccessful application, the council will re-apply to SDC for a grant to enable them to install a mains water supply on the allotments. One new tenant has been found and the council may consider having an 'open day' in the future to generate more interest.

Pineham Farm Allotments: The local home schooling group has taken on one of the community plots.

Cemetery Bank: A local landscape gardener has offered to plant bulbs and generally tidy up the bank on the outside perimeter of the cemetery. This was agreed.

Proposed New Cemetery: Following a period of no progress on the possible new cemetery, the council has now received the positive news that it will be possible to go ahead on the land ownership. The land in question is off Bush Heath Road on the outskirts of the village. It was agreed to go ahead with getting the land transferred into PC ownership whilst also considering a cemetery survey and perhaps engaging a planning consultant.

Environment

Kissing Gate: Two quotes, both for around £600 plus VAT had been received for the new kissing gate at Pineham Farm Allotments and it was delegated to the clerk to make the final decision on which one should be ordered.

Conversion of Streetlights: A quote of around £17,000 had been received to convert all the remaining streetlights to LEDs. The council considered that anything above the regularly budgeted amount could be met out of its reserves, however members agreed to source additional quotes before making a final decision.

Climate & Biodiversity

The council adopted the draft Parish Biodiversity Statement and Policy and the Parish Nature Recovery and Action Plan. These documents will be available to view on the parish council website and will be reviewed every four years. Members heard an update on the new swift boxes which have sadly not attracted any new residents yet although there is still time during this season. The working party had hosted a successful stall at the carnival.

Finance & General Purposes

Cllrs considered how best to spend a windfall of £4777 received from the Community Infrastructure Levy which was stipulated to be spent on "village improvements". It was agreed that two new benches should be purchased, one for outside the cemetery and one for near to the doctors' surgery. One small complication to be overcome is that current WCC policy is that contractors should have a minimum of £10m in public liability insurance and the proposed contractor has only half this amount.

EV Charging Station: The council's solicitor has reviewed the lease and bought up a number of potential issues which will need to be resolved. The clerk and Cllr Lockley will have a face-to-face meeting with their legal rep. before referring the matter back to WCC.

Items for Next Agenda: Cllrs and members of the public were sweltering in the heat in the village hall but in council matters there is a need to look ahead and Cllr Balch had her mind on the Christmas lights – they will be on the agenda for next month.

Date of the Next Meeting: 16th July, 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, Michael Goodman, Alan Knowles, Ed Mulley, Robert Stockdale, Ashley Sylvester, Keith Thompson.

HARBURY SOCIETY

David Turner

Visit to the Warwickshire Lavender Farm

On a glorious day in July a group from the Harbury Society travelled to the Warwickshire Lavender Farm at Bubbenhall. As we had arrived in good time, we had a quick wander round the site before going to the barn where Ian Jamie was to give his talk about the lavender farm he co-owns with his wife, Pippa.



The Harbury Society group

Ian explained that he isn't a farmer. His father had wanted him to follow in his footsteps and become a doctor but, much to his father's

disappointment, he became a salesman and for 40 years ran a packaging business in Coventry, supplying big names such as L'Oreal, Estée Lauder and even the Royal Family. He said these contacts have proved invaluable as outlets for the oils and products now being produced on the farm.



Ian Jamie, standing beside his distillation equipment

The talk started by Ian describing the world of 100 million years ago. It would have looked very different to today with shallow seas, ferns and similar plants dominating the planet. However, plants had a major reproduction problem to solve and flowers provided the answer. Today, 90% of plants flower and this was a significant development in plant evolution. Beetles were thought to be the earliest pollinators and flowers provided food for them in the form of nectar. The plants use scent and colour to attract pollinators – bees are also able to see ultra-violet. Birds, moths, butterflies, bats, bees and wasps are also successful pollinators. Ian went on to say that two years ago, due to poor weather conditions, there were no bumblebees or butterflies and, amazingly, the lavender gave off no scent, leaving Ian to surmise that lavender somehow detects there are no pollinating vectors and consequently doesn't waste it's time producing scent.

We then heard about Ian's favourite insect; the bumblebee. He said there are 275 varieties of bees in the UK which can be broken down into three types: solitary bees, bumblebees and honey bees. Only the honey bee makes honey as food which keeps the colony alive over the winter. Bumblebees and solitary bees lay eggs from which new bees emerge in the spring. Ian has a theory that lavender has evolved to attract bumblebees because their tongues are longer than honey bees which means they can get into the flower to reach the nectar. Evolution has taught the lavender that birds, bats and honey bees are not good pollinators for them and so, when there are no bumblebees, they don't give off any scent. He could be wrong, he said by way of a caveat.

A few years ago Ian was looking to retire and his wife Pippa asked him 'what are you going to do when you retire? You're not going to sit around drinking coffee all day, you've got to do something.' In his spare time, he was a beekeeper, so he thought that something related to that might be a possibility.

His family and the dog used to holiday in Exmoor and he was in the habit of strapping his hives in the back of the car and taking them along so they could feed on the moorland heather. He related that on one occasion, on the return journey, they were involved in a road accident and the dazed bees escaped from the hives filling the windscreen with about 100,000 of them. When a policeman approached the car he took one look at the predicament and waved him on. After arriving home he took the hives out of the boot, left the car door open and the next morning the bees had all returned to their hives. It was then that he had the idea of growing his own lavender on a half acre field at his home, so that's how it started. He researched it, put in thousands of pounds worth of drains, persuaded all his school friends to assist him and then the rains came and the whole field became a swamp. It was a disaster because his property, like much of Warwickshire, was on clay which, as most of us know, becomes very water logged in rainy weather - all those hours and hours of work came to nothing. Shortly after, on his way to work, he was directed down Watery Lane in Bubbenhall and he saw a 'for sale' sign for a 20 acre, south facing field and he bought it that same day in 2019. What is special about Bubbenhall is that, unlike the rest of Warwickshire, it's not on clay, it's on sand deposited about half a million of years ago by an ancient ice age river.

Ian and his school friends planted 20,000 lavender plug plants, two feet apart and when they went the next day, all the crows and seagulls had pulled the plugs out, so they had to start all over again. Realising he knew nothing about lavender farming, Ian visited farms in Norfolk, the Cotswolds and Kent. In Kent he met a lavender farmer called Simon Charlesworth, who has won gold medals at Chelsea and Hampton Court. Simon said to Ian 'you're obviously absolutely clueless about farming lavender' and he had to agree he was. 'I'll tell you what' said Simon 'you buy your plants from me and I'll mentor you' and that's what happened. He showed him the things he had to get right, such as leaving one and a half metres between the rows in order to get a tractor through. Apparently, Ian's still in contact with him and he phones up monthly to see how it's going. Three types of lavender are grown on the farm: Folgate for their flowers, Grosso for soaps and cosmetics and Maillette for oil used for fragrances by Parisienne perfumers. These are the varieties grown on most lavender farms. Being organic, all the weeding has to be done by hand, which is crucial on the back and knees. Ian's school friends assist with this and call themselves 'the lav boys'. At this point he had a whole field of lavender and people asked him 'what are you going to do with all this lavender?' and he said it was originally going to be forage for his bees but he has since discovered that honey bees don't get much nectar from lavender as their tongues aren't long enough. It was suggested to Ian that he should distill it.



The tank of the distillation equipment into which the cut lavender is lowered

Ian needed to learn about distillation and contacted a company called Forsyths in Scotland who are one of the largest manufacturers of distillation equipment in the world. He spoke to the managing director, Mr. Forsyth, who drove all the way down from Scotland to meet Ian, ascertained the requirements and, within a few weeks, installed a system to distill lavender oil, including the plumbing and electrics, and also instructed them how to operate it. It was great service from a British company said Ian. Water is heated in the equipment to give off steam and the freshly harvested lavender is lowered into it in cages. The lavender has to be distilled within three hours of being harvested. A lesson he learned the hard way after they harvested all the lavender and left it in a pile for some time which rendered it useless. Some of the lavender is hung to dry to make scented bouquets which are sold in the shop for Christmas. We saw a picture of his son, Thomas, on a tractor which Ian called the harvester, which is used for gathering the lavender flowers.



The harvester

The café, which we later visited, had been converted from a stable by a farmer that Ian knows, who is also a civil engineer. All the profits from the café go to the charities Parkinsons UK and Huntington's Disease and to date they have raised about £40,000.

Another idea of Ian's is to start a vineyard. As he also knows nothing about growing vines he has had to seek help and he was told he could expect to get about 1000 bottles in the current year. The soil is acidic, so it's going to be a fizzy wine and will be called Bubbenhall Buzz.



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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

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



Unfortunately they had a frost in the spring and lost about a third of their crop, but watch this space.

That concluded our visit to the lavender farm which was thought by everyone present to be well worth a visit.



Lavender Field

Harbury Society Programme:

Tuesday 18th August – Visit to the Court Barn Museum and tour of Chipping Campden.

Tuesday 15th September – A presentation by Dr. Sharon Hancock giving details of the names on the blue WW2 plaques in Harbury.

Tuesday 20th October – The History of Wood Street Carpark, Southam – a presentation by Bernard Cadogan.

Tuesday 17th November – 'A Year as High Sheriff of Warwickshire' by Joe Greenwell.

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

HARBURY WI

Mary Thompson

At our meeting on 9th July we welcomed Jan Warner who has been collecting Infantalia for 50 years; Jan and her husband have a museum at their home near Banbury. Jan bought a whole range of baby's bottles, old-fashioned medicines, baby's milk powder and children's toys and rattles.

Jan told us that in the mid-1700s only a quarter of children survived to their 1st birthday.

Women who gave birth in the country might be helped by a midwife who wouldn't be medically trained. Mothers often worked in the fields and babies could be born in a field. Babies would be wrapped in bits of fabric. The children would be fed by their mothers and when they were weaned would share family food.











Wealthy families could afford a physician. Mothers were in a lying in chamber which was kept very warm and dark. Babies were rubbed all over with salt and bathed in wine. They were bound in lots of clothes and kept by a fire, most titled babies would be fed by a wet nurse.

Cleanliness and poor diet were always a problem. In the 18th century the death rate in mothers and babies was frightening. Propriety milk food came in during the mid-18th century. Feeding bottles were made of almost anything.

This was a fascinating talk and members enjoyed looking through all the objects and photographs that Jan bought.



On 16th July seventeen members gathered in the sunshine at the garden of the village hall to enjoy their annual Games afternoon. Jenga, Smite, large dominos etc were enjoyed by some members while others were happy to enjoy a cup of tea and have a chat to friends.

We are having a coffee morning in the Tom Hauley room on Saturday 8th August.

Our annual members Garden Party will be held on Thursday 20th August, 6pm to 8pm at Gill's house – 2, Old Paddock, off Bush Heath Lane. If you haven't put your name down to attend please let Lin or any committee member know. If you can bring a chair and cash for the raffle that would be helpful.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Alison Hodge

We are already planning our next production, performances 26th, 27th and 28th November. We will be presenting Lilies on the Land by the Lions Part. The play brings to life the experiences of young women who joined the Women's Land Army during World War 2. Coming from all backgrounds they were sent far from home. Many of them had no idea where milk came from! They had to learn very fast and pitch in without complaint. They were critical to increasing the country's home grown food supply.

Harbury had its very own Land Army girls. Mary Entwistle who lived in Ivy Lane wrote two books about her time working on local farms. They are available in Harbury Heritage Centre, I can recommend them. I was also drawn to direct this play as I had an Aunt who served in the Land Army. The script was written using anecdotes, memories, poems and over one hundred and fifty letters from women who were proud to have been girls in the Land Army. They are a collective voice full of strength, and courage. This is the heart of Lilies on the Land.

There are several small parts in the play, both male and female. If anyone is interested in being involved please contact harburytheatregroup@gmail.com



FOLK CLUB

Peter McDonald

The 474th session of Harbury Folk Club on 2nd July was a quiet affair with a smaller-than-usual audience and just eight 'acts' performing but I think we all felt that we'd had a very pleasant, relaxing evening in the Library with some quality music. My theme for the evening was 'Laughter and Happiness' and it was interesting to see how the singers interpreted that – fortunately, it wasn't all side-splitting gags!

I started the evening with Eric Bogle's 'Barbecue Song' which pokes fun at Australia's 'national institution', and I followed that with 'I Hate IKEA', a rather cruel dig at the furniture shop that we love to hate. Terry was up next with a nice version of Anne Murray's 'Snowbird'

accompanied in his unique guitar style. He followed that with his self-penned blues called 'I wish it was the early 60s back in Lower Earley', reminiscing about a small Berkshire village that has been overwhelmed by residential development. Dave scored maximum theme points for his songs – 'The Laughing Policeman' and 'Happy Together'!

Rik convincingly read a poem based on 'The Remember Song' (written by Steve Walters and popularized by folk singer Tom Rush), with amusing lyrics about memory loss, and then, in complete contrast, a fun song called 'Sunbathing'. Peter Mason was in a romantic mood as he sang Tom Paxton's 'When You Shook Your Long Hair Down' and then Ralph McTell's 'Nana's Song'. Without her usual singing partner, Sue bravely stepped forward on her own to give us 'Gypsy Girl' then it was left to Pete & Liz to close the first half with 'Another Day Begins' and 'The Cuckoo'.

The Folk Club Choir started the second half in its smallest line-up yet – just seven of us this time – with two amusing songs, 'Place in the Choir' and 'Let's Recycle', the latter containing comprehensive advice on disposing of household waste. After the Choir, I asked each of the singers to do one more song and I started with my 'Cigarette Packet Song'. Rik surprised us by singing 'Oh What a Beautiful Morning!' from Oklahoma, Dave did Donovan's 'Yellow is the Colour', Peter Mason chose a thoughtful song, 'The Wisdom of Standing Still', and Terry promised 'I won't get drunk any more'. Pete returned to the stage to give us a marvellous performance of the monologue 'Albert Goes To Cleethorpes' and then he was joined by Liz to finish the evening with 'Daddy Fox', giving us plenty of opportunities to sing along.

Despite the low numbers, the charity raffle raised an excellent £95, in aid of the Venezuela Earthquake Appeal (DEC), and this was subsequently boosted by several generous donations, making a grand total of £130! As always, my thanks to the team who helped set up the room and also the many who helped to turn it back into a library at the end.

The next Folk Club will be at 8pm on Thursday, August 6th, in the Village Library with hosts Steve, Maureen and Sue and their theme 'Heroes and Villains'. There's more information about the Folk Club, including news of future events and reports on previous sessions, at the website: harburyfolkclub.org.uk.

HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

John Stringer

Harbury Twinning Association celebrates 14th July, Bastille Day, annually, with a dinner and sometimes with songs including *La Marseillaise*. Bastille Day, known locally as *La Fête Nationale* or *Quatorze Juillet*, is the biggest public holiday in France. The day commemorates the 1789 Storming of the Bastille, marking the birth of the modern French Republic.

The fortress was a hated symbol of the reign of King Louis XVI and his mercenary troops and of the *ancien regime*. Its physical destruction was a powerful political statement of the end of the Bourbon monarchy's absolute control. The Republic secured vital gunpowder from its armoury, and released a few long-forgotten prisoners.

It's slightly hypocritical for us to celebrate its fall, since our twinning village, Samois sur Seine, was loyal to the King. But we never avoid the opportunity to eat and drink, and this year we were royally entertained at the Shakespeare Inn. Excellent food and service, and the Shakespeare's wine stocks, made for a great 237th anniversary event.

Our thoughts were with the people of Samois who, on the same day, could see smoke rising from the forest of Fontainebleau, where a wildfire was burning close to the palace.

To find out more about Harbury Twinning Association, to share in our activities and maybe join us, search Harbury Twinning Association on Facebook, or try harburytwinning.org.uk.



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

Lots of news to catch up on this month and some dates for your diary. First of all many thanks to all the people who visited the Heritage Centre on the Sunday of Open Gardens at the end of June. At one time all the seats around the tables were occupied with visitors enjoying cream teas and cakes. All the profits go towards running the Centre.

I'm once again very grateful to Les Sollis for supplying the contact details of Annabelle Cox (nee Sutcliffe), the daughter of Dr Jack Sutcliffe junior, who many established residents of Harbury will remember ran his G.P. practice from Victoria House in Farm Street. My request to Annabelle was to supply a photograph of her late father so that we could add it to our archives. Shown below are two of a number of photographs she sent:





Left: Captain Jack Sutcliffe, Reconnaissance Corps during WW2

Right: Dr Jack and Mrs Rosemary Sutcliffe arriving at Harbury Church, possibly for the wedding of the daughter of the local vet Mr Jock Stobo.

Incidentally, I have asked Annabelle if she can find a photograph of her grandfather Jack senior, who was also a G.P. in Harbury, so that we may add this into our archives.

Another exciting addition to the village archives received recently is an intrinsic and personal collection of photographs and documents relating to the Rainbow Brothers who lived with their parents at Orchard House in Pump Street. (Now The Homestead, Crown Street). We are **greatly** indebted to Fliss Harris, niece of the brothers, who has very kindly donated this unique collection, including Sargent Frank Rainbow's Military Medal and Bar, cut from his uniform after he was killed in battle during World War 1 and returned to his parents.

Both Frank and his brother Raymond lost their lives during the War; they are remembered on the War Memorial in Crown Street. There is also a blue plaque on the house where the family








Harbury Garden Walkabo

Photos by Gill Holde

















out 27th & 28th June 2026

n & Nicola Thompson










lived, in their honour. A third brother, Reginald, who also served, returned safely home which was at least some comfort to his grieving family.

'The Rainbow Collection' is now ready to view at the Heritage Centre and is well worth seeing.



Frank and brother Reg in their uniforms

Part of the ongoing work at the Heritage Centre is to create a 'Roll of Honour' for **all** village residents who fought in the two world wars. Ironically this research has proved easier for the 44 names on the War Memorial but for those who returned home safely like Reg Rainbow, the task is more complex.

For instance, a newspaper cutting (undated), headed *A Prisoner of War*, reads as follows: *Mr and Mrs E.A. Morris of Co-operative Terrace, have received news that their son, Edwin Alfred Morris, Royal Berks Regt., who was missing from May 27th, is now in good health, but a prisoner of war.* Do we know any more about him? Can he be added to the 'Roll of Honour'? Can YOU help supply names and details of relatives who can be added to the list? We would love to hear from you if you can.

Our contact details are on our website; www.harburyheritage.org.uk Or why not come along to one of open days, dates and times are shown at the end of this article.

Dates for your diary:

Village Tour – On Tuesday 11th August we are once again offering to take village residents on a tour around Harbury pointing out landmarks and providing information about our historic village. Find out more about where you live. **Contact us if you would like to come**. (email 'group@harburyheritage.org.uk') The cost is £7.50 per person and includes tea and cakes afterwards. The tour will start from the Heritage Centre at 6pm, entrance via the Park Lane school gate.

Village Treasure Hunt – Advance warning that this popular annual event will take place on **Sunday 20th September** starting at 2pm from the Heritage Centre. No need to book, just turn up. Cost £5 per team – Cash only please.

Open Days: In August: Tuesday 4th 7 to 9pm and Sunday 16th 2 to 4pm.

In September: Tuesday 1st 7 to 9pm and Sunday 20th 2 to 4pm. (including Treasure Hunt).

HARBURY FUTURE ENERGY

Bob Sherman

Climate, energy and you

Could you help our community to reduce energy costs and work on solutions to the rapidly changing climate?

Harbury Future Energy and its predecessor group Harbury Energy Initiative has since 2010 helped reduce the running costs of most of our community buildings including the school, the library, the scout hut, the rugby clubhouse and the village hall. We are developing our



What's Coming Up at...

THE BELL INN, LADBROKE

AFTERNOON TEA EVENT

Saturday 15th August | bookings from 1pm - 4pm

£25 per person – Includes tea & coffee
£30 per person – Includes a glass of Prosecco or Pimms & lemonade, plus tea & coffee
Come and join us for a delicious afternoon tea, served from 1pm – 4pm. Enjoy a tasty selection of sandwiches, cakes, and freshly brewed teas – the perfect way to relax and catch up with friends!
Keep an eye out for our menu coming soon!

QUIZ NIGHT

Monday 24th August | £15 per person
Food served at 6:30pm | Quiz starts at 8pm

Gather your favourite team members together and get ready for an evening of tasty food, good laughs, and some competitive fun!
We'll be serving up delicious Tandori Chicken Curry from **6:30pm**, followed by the quiz starting promptly at 8:00pm.
Teams can hold up to 6 players per group, secure your spot by speaking with a member of the team.
Great prizes, great atmosphere – don't miss it!

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Adverts with payment to:
Sue Dronfield,
36 Manor Orchard, Harbury
See Diary for deadline dates

Cheques payable to 'Harbury & Ladbroke News' or BACS details upon request



next set of ideas for people's homes and locally owned energy generation with the aim of channeling income into the community. We want and need to expand our Board membership and volunteer support.

You don't need to be a renewable energy expert (I'm not) but if you are please think about it. Are you good at engaging people? Have experience of project management, legal, financial or insurance expertise? Or perhaps you have been involved in community energy before. Maybe, like me, you are passionate about the issues and want to help to work on solutions. Please get in touch with me if you would like to discuss it more: shermanbob55@gmail.com

Our next project

Our next project under consideration, which we presented at the Carnival, is working with a commercial company on reducing homeowner energy costs through their Sunscribe scheme. The company instals solar panels and a high capacity battery free and subscribers pay a monthly subscription lower than their current electricity costs. The company is coming to Harbury to explain the way this will work and answer your questions on 11th September in the Tom Hauley Room at 7.30pm. I hope that you can make it. If you feel that the costs of renewable energy installation are prohibitive then this could be a solution for you.



HARBURY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Chris Woodhams

Harbury Rugby Club – Ready for a New Season

As the start of the season approaches, Harbury Rugby Club is looking forward to welcoming new and returning players of all ages as we prepare for an exciting year both on and off the pitch.

Our thriving **Minis & Juniors** section continues to provide a fun, inclusive environment where children can develop not only as rugby players, but as people. At the heart of everything we do are the RFU's core values of **Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship (TREDS)**. These values help young people build confidence, resilience and friendships that last well beyond their time on the rugby field.

Whether your child is completely new to rugby or already has experience, they'll find qualified coaches, a welcoming atmosphere and plenty of opportunities to learn, develop and most importantly, enjoy the game. Our annual tours, family socials and strong community spirit make Harbury RFC about much more than just Sunday mornings. Come see what it is all about on the 6th September.

The excitement doesn't stop with our younger players. The senior section is also looking ahead to an exciting season, with **both 1st XV and 2nd XV league teams**, alongside **monthly 3rd XV/Veterans fixtures**. It's a fantastic opportunity for players of all abilities to enjoy competitive rugby, return to the game after time away, or simply pull on a Harbury shirt again with friends old and new. Training has already started on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm.

From our youngest Minis taking their first steps in rugby to our senior players representing the club on Saturdays, Harbury is proud to be #OneClub. With strong links to Coventry Rugby and a clear pathway through every age group, we're committed to helping players enjoy the game for life.

If you've been inspired by rugby on television, are looking for a new sporting challenge, or simply want to become part of a welcoming local community, we'd love to hear from you. New players, volunteers, coaches and supporters are always welcome.

Come along, give rugby a try and discover what makes Harbury RFC such a special place to be.

1ST HARBURY SCOUT GROUP & HARBURY EXPLORERS

Katharine Giblin

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

Beavers (6-8 yrs) – Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm
Cubs (8-10½ yrs) – Wednesdays 6.15-7.45pm
Scouts (10½ -14 yrs) – Thursdays 7-8.30/9pm
Explorers (14-18 yrs) – Wednesdays 8-9.15/9.30pm



News from 1st Harbury Group

This term we have had several big achievements by some of our adult volunteers. Congratulations to Andy Dean who received his 25 years' service to Scouting and John Rea and Paul Quinney who received The Award for Merit for exceptional services to Scouting; all presented by District Lead Volunteer Mark Payne.





Naomi Moir stepped down as Treasurer at our AGM in June and received her five years' award from Group Lead Volunteer Paul Quinney. A huge thanks to Naomi for all her support with scouting and her time on the GASS Trustee Board as Treasurer. She will be greatly missed.

All the sections have had a busy summer term.

One of the biggest highlights was the county camp we attended at Ragley Hall which was GetIn 2026. Harbury took along 54 young people from Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers with 18 adult volunteers. We camped with 5000 other people from Warwickshire Scouting for two nights and had an amazing weekend of experiences.

Harbury Explorers



Harbury Explorers is our oldest section for young people aged 14-18 years. We have plenty of space if any boys or girls would like to join in September. We are the feeder group from both Harbury Scouts and Bishops Itchington Scouts but also have young people who come from Guiding or have never done either. We meet on a Wednesday during term time from 8pm and it is a great way to meet different people and to learn new skills. Email harburyexplorers@outlook.com for more information.

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Staff and Committee

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Harbury Open Gardens





This year, we were excited to open our Pre-School garden during the village Open Gardens.

The children have been very busy over the last few months helping to plant herbs (which they can use in our mud kitchen), flowers, bulbs and some vegetables. They have been watering them at every given opportunity and by the date of the Open Gardens everything outside was looking splendid.

The weather was kind to us and we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the afternoon. We had refreshments available and the children were able to play with some of our resources, for example, the water tray, the sand, read some stories or play with our small world resources. They also had the opportunity to decorate their own plant pot.

Keeping Ourselves Healthy

We have been learning about all the things that we can do to contribute to good health. These include learning about healthy food, exercise, good hygiene, sleep, oral health and emotional wellbeing.

Using our 'mouth' resource we have been talking about the importance of looking after our teeth and practising our tooth-brushing techniques.

We have converted the role play into a Doctor's surgery/hospital so the children have been treating the babies and learning about how different medical instruments are used.







End of Term Teddy Bear's Picnic

As we reach the end of another academic year, we are looking forward to our end of term Teddy Bear's Picnic and Graduation Ceremony on the 17th July in the Village Hall.

We will be enjoying a packed lunch together with the children and their parents/carers and holding a short Graduation for our school leavers.

This year, we have also booked the Magical World of Stories to come to run some activities and read some stories with the children.

The staff team would like to wish all our school leavers all the best in their new schools.



If you would like further information, or to register a child for Harbury Pre-School, please 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.

Fundraising

Last month was a busy and successful one for the PTA. Thanks to our brunch and ice cream sales at Sports Day, and refreshments at the Year 5 and 6 production of *The Wizard of Oz*, we raised an incredible £600.

We also held our very first second-hand school uniform sale. A huge thank you to the parent who kindly volunteered to organise it on behalf of the PTA. The sale was so well received that we'll be bringing the uniform stock along to future events for parents to browse.

Grants to School

We're delighted to have funded over the past month:

- White Rose Maths books for Years 1 and 2 (£583)
- Coach transport to a rugby event (£80)
- New car park signs around the school (£400)
- Year 6 leavers' books (£299)

Looking Ahead

We're hoping to hold another wreath-making workshop in November. If anyone is able to supply a large quantity of foliage, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch at harburypta@gmail.com.

Thank You

As we reach the end of another academic year, we'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful PTA team – Laura, Sarah, Victoria and Ruth – for the time, energy and enthusiasm you have dedicated throughout the year.

We're also incredibly grateful to our wider group of volunteers who step in to help at events. Your support helps make everything run smoothly and enables us to continue raising valuable funds for our school community.

Dates for the Diary

Autumn term 2026

- Harbury School PTA AGM 7th October 2026 - Harbury CofE School Hall
- Break the Rules Day Thursday 22nd October 2026
- Wreath Making Friday 27th November 2026
- PTA Christmas Raffle Draw Monday 14th December 2026

Spring term 2027

- School Disco Friday 29th Jan 2027
- Mother's Day Shop Friday 5th March 2027

Summer term 2027

- Sponsored Walk Friday 28th May 2027
- Father's Day Shop Friday 18th June 2027

HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

It's summer! The Summer Reading Challenge is in full swing. And while you're encouraging your children with good reading habits, don't forget to feed you own. If you're not sure where to begin, see our Volunteers' recommended reads for a start. And don't forget, we have a children's craft session on Thursday 27th August from 2.15pm.

Looking ahead, how about 'tiffin & tales'? Or, maybe 'muffins & murders'. Or 'crumpets and crime'? If you like a good short story and you'd like to listen to one, we're starting 'tiffins and tales' on occasional afternoons from September onwards in the Library. Come and enjoy an appropriate slice of cake, a cup of tea and listen to a 15-20 minute short story. And if you fancy reading a short story, get in touch at the Library desk. We might start with once a fortnight to see what the demand is. If you have any favourite short stories that you would like us to read, leave a note at the Library desk. Watch out for further advertising come September.

For now, if you're off chasing the sun, or sitting tight and enjoying it coming to you, have the bestest summer possible. Come September we have an autumn evening programme of music, professional story-telling and concerts - watch this space.

And finally.....the Library's Christmas lights that have hung for many years are no longer fit for purpose. At the July meeting of the Library Steering Committee we agreed that we would no longer try to get the old lights mounted on the Library. In their place we intend to purchase new lights in keeping with the lighting scheme adopted by the rest of the village centre. If anyone would like to salvage the old lights, please get in touch.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery



I rarely get any feedback to these jottings but I had one the other day suggesting that I do a 'plant of the month' section which seems a good idea so I will start with Asters or what is more commonly known as Michaelmas daisies. Experts have recently re-classified them and some now have new names which include *Symphyotrichum* and *Callistephus* but I shall stick with Aster for now. They generally start flowering in August although some can be in flower as late as October and a pretty dwarf one as early as May. There is a wide range of colours including pink, white and different shades of purple. The height ranges from approximately 5cm up to 120cm. Grow in sun rather than shade. Like many plants they struggle a bit in drought conditions but are normally very easy to grow.

Now here is a big question.....how can we manage to continue to enjoy gardening if we keep having record breaking temperatures in the summer? I feel sure that one of the answers is to

plant plants in the autumn rather than the spring as used to happen 2 or 3 generations ago. Then they can get their roots established and are less likely to need watering through dry periods. Also to mulch the borders with bark or compost to help reduce evaporation, and keep down the weeds. In recent years the trend has been to buy container grown plants in April, May and June, then it tails off as autumn approaches. It might help the frazzled nursery owner to have an income through the summer but I would happily shift those earlier three months until later in the year.

You may know that plants in containers are more susceptible to frost damage than those in the ground so logically the same applies during heatwaves. In both cases the pots can be moved to a more sheltered place and/or can have some hessian or horticultural fleece wrapped round to help protect the roots.

Just one last thing, if you are going on holiday perhaps invest in an irrigation system especially of you have a few containers rather than rely on friends and neighbours. One customer was saying how she offered to do the watering for someone while they were away but it turned out to be for a month(!!!) and was taking an hour each evening.

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



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

Harbury.nature@gmail.com

We enjoyed the open gardens in Harbury this year and it was great to see that many of those gardens had ponds of all different sizes. Garden ponds are so important for nature close to our homes, especially in this hot, dry weather. They are one of the best ways to encourage wildlife into the garden. Whether it is a large wildlife pond or a small, shallow pool, water has an amazing ability to attract nature. In fact, a garden pond can support more wildlife than many other garden features and even a small pond can become a thriving oasis, providing food, shelter and breeding places for a remarkable variety of creatures. They can also provide a tranquil area to take a rest and just watch the wildlife within and around them.



Pond Skater (Martin Randall)

As well as frogs and newts, there are other familiar pond inhabitants to watch. Skimming effortlessly across the surface film of the water are pond skaters, the largest and commonest of the insects that make the most of this unique part of the pond and are among the first insects to colonise a new pond. Watching them dart, turn and race across the pond surface is one of the many pleasures of having a wildlife pond. There

are nine species of pond skater in the UK, all under 2cm in length. Pond skaters are 'true bugs' like aphids - insects equipped with piercing mouthparts. The common pond skater emerges from hibernation in April and lays its eggs. Hatching soon after, the nymphs moult several times before becoming adults. As adults, they are strong fliers so can colonise new ponds quite easily. Their long, slender legs are covered in thousands of tiny water-repellent hairs that trap air, allowing them to exploit the surface tension of the water. They are active predators, detecting the ripples and vibrations made by insects that have fallen onto the water and quickly skating across to seize their prey, then suck the body fluids from their victims!



Blue-tailed damselfly
(Martin Randall)



Large red damselflies mating
(Martin Randall)

Other 'true bugs' that can be found in the pond are the water boatmen and backswimmers (the latter sometimes confusingly called 'greater water boatmen'). Unlike pond skaters, these bugs are underwater insects, darting through the vegetation in search of food. Both are excellent swimmers, using their long, oar-like hind legs to propel themselves through the water, and both are capable of flying to colonise newly created ponds. The two are often confused, but they are quite different insects with contrasting lifestyles. Back swimmers, as their name suggests, swim upside down just beneath the surface and are active predators, hunting insects and their larvae, small crustaceans and even tadpoles; sometimes they compete with pond skaters for insect prey on opposite sides of the water's



Blue-tailed damselfly egg laying
(Martin Randall)

surface film. Water boatmen, by contrast, usually swim the right way up and, in most species, feed on algae, decaying plant material and tiny aquatic organisms, making them important recyclers within the pond ecosystem. Both insects carry a bubble of air beneath their wings, allowing them to breathe underwater for extended periods before returning to the surface to replenish their supply. Watching these two very different swimmers going about their lives is a reminder that even a small garden pond contains a surprisingly rich and varied underwater world. However, take care: if handled carelessly, back swimmers can deliver a surprisingly painful bite!



Dragonfly exuvia on waterside vegetation (Martin Randall)

Dragonflies and damselflies are among the most colourful and captivating visitors to a garden pond. During the summer months, males patrol territories or perch on waterside vegetation, while females arrive to mate. Many species mate with the male clasping the female behind the head and the female curling her abdomen forward to receive sperm, the pair creating a heart-shaped outline. After mating, eggs are laid either directly into the water or inserted into the stems and leaves of aquatic plants. The eggs hatch into aquatic larvae, known as nymphs, which are voracious predators, feeding on insect larvae, tadpoles and other small aquatic animals. Depending on the species, this underwater stage may last from one to several years. When fully grown, the larva climbs out of the water onto a reed, rush or other emergent plant. Its skin splits open and the adult dragonfly or damselfly slowly emerges, pumping fluid into its wings before taking to the air. The empty larval skin, known as an exuvia, is often left clinging to the vegetation as the only evidence of this remarkable transformation.

The plants growing in and around a pond are just as important as the animals. Native species such as marsh marigold, water forget-me-not and water mint provide nectar for pollinating insects while offering shelter and places to lay eggs. Floating plants help shade the water, keeping it cooler in summer and reducing the growth of algae. The water itself is an important resource for bees, butterflies and many other insects to drink from.

A wildlife pond does not need to be large, expensive or elaborate. Even a small pond can make a real difference. Gentle, sloping edges allow animals to enter and leave safely, while logs, stones and longer grass nearby provide shelter. It is usually best not to introduce fish, as they eat many of the insects, tadpoles and newt larvae that a wildlife pond is intended to support.

In a world where natural habitats are under increasing pressure, and ponds and wetlands continue to disappear from our countryside, garden ponds have become increasingly important. Collectively, they form a network of mini nature reserves; small habitats that help wildlife survive in both towns and villages. Finally, even if you don't have a pond, remember it is important to provide fresh drinking water for garden visitors – birds by day and hedgehogs and others at night.

Nifty Needle

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Tel: 01926 641741 E-mail: info@niftyneedle.co.uk Website: www.niftyneedle.co.uk



HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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

This is a highly significant month for news from Stratford District Council with an update on the final consultation stage for the Local Plan and a decision having been made on local government reorganisation – both items I have been reporting on regularly.

South Warwickshire Local Plan – Final Consultation Stage

Following last week's meeting of Stratford District Council, the next stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan has now been approved to go out to public consultation – this is the Regulation 19 stage.

As District Councillor for Harbury, I want to report that our ward will be affected by the proposals in this Plan as some sites in Harbury have been included as part of the Local Growth Housing strategy (see image and table below). These are not new settlements but additional housing in Harbury. These sites and several others were under discussion recently but I was strongly led to believe that they would not be included in the final figures. I am disappointed to see that some of them have been.

I know many residents will also have strong views about what is being proposed. Harbury is seen to have already taken its fair share of new housing. However, I just want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the housing numbers we are working to have been imposed by central government and not by Stratford. The figures that we must meet are high: 50,000 new homes by 2050 across South Warwickshire. We must integrate these numbers into our plan, otherwise it will be thrown out by the government planning inspectorate. No plan would lead to a housing free for all by developers, and this would certainly be worse for Harbury and the rest of the district.



Table 3: Additional local growth housing sites proposed to be allocated

Village	Site	Reference	No. of houses
Bishop's Itchinqton	Dadglow Farm (West)	BI1.1	99
Bishop's Itchington	Land West of Butchers Close	BI1.2	16
Gaydon	Land East of Banbury Road, Gaydon	GAY. 10	21
Gaydon	Land SW of Warwick Road	GAY. 8	52
Gaydon	Land N of Manor Farm, Kineton Road	GAY.9	17
Harbury	Land North of Chesterton Road/Temple End	HAR.2	20
Harbury	Land West of Bush Heath Road	HAR.3	102
Harbury	Land off Bush Heath Lane and Temple End	HAR.1	120
Kineton	Land west of Southam Road	KIN.1	50

The Regulation 19 consultation is the final stage before the Local Plan is submitted to the Government for independent examination. Unlike previous consultations, this stage focuses specifically on whether the Plan meets the legal requirements, has been prepared correctly and is considered sound.

The South Warwickshire Local Plan will shape where homes, employment, services and infrastructure are located across Stratford and Warwick Districts through to 2050. It is essential that any future development is supported by the roads, schools, healthcare and community facilities needed to ensure existing and new communities can thrive.

Over the past five years there has been extensive public engagement, with more than 22,000 responses received during the Preferred Options consultation earlier this year. Those responses have led to a number of changes to the Plan before it reaches this final consultation stage.

I would strongly encourage everyone to take the time to read the proposals and submit their views. This is the last formal opportunity for residents, businesses and community organisations to influence the Local Plan before it is examined by an independent Planning Inspector.

The consultation will run for seven weeks from **21st July until 8th September 2026**. Responses can be made online through the South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation Portal (see below), by email, or by post. Printed copies of the consultation documents will also be available at many locations across the district including Harbury Library.

Further reading:

1. Joint Cabinet Committee Meeting Agenda Pack from the 14th July, See page 7-29 (Includes table 3 above and details of the proposals and rationale): democracy.stratford.gov.uk/documents/g7071/Public%20reports%20pack%2014th-Jul-2026%2018.00%20Joint%20Cabinet%20Committee.pdf?T=10
2. SWLP Policies map – DS7 shows the housing locations in Harbury: experience.arcgis.com/experience/70c478d30063472a92645967bbd17b6b
3. South Warwickshire Local Plan Portal – for consultations: www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/publication-regulation-19-consultation.cfm
4. Stratford District Council Link: www.stratford.gov.uk/news/index.cfm/item/138809

South Warwickshire's Future – A Positive Step for Our Communities

After months of uncertainty, I'm delighted that the Government has confirmed Warwickshire will be reorganised into two new unitary councils, creating a new South Warwickshire Council covering Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick districts.



I have consistently believed this is the right outcome for our area – as have the majority of residents - and I'm pleased that the Government recognised the distinctiveness of South Warwickshire when making its decision. Our rural communities, market towns and villages have very different needs from the more urban and industrial parts of the county, and this new structure will allow services to be designed with those differences in mind rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

For residents in Harbury Ward, this is an important opportunity. A single South Warwickshire Council will bring together services that are currently split between the District and County Councils, making them simpler to access and, I hope, more responsive. Planning decisions, highways, parking and many other services will sit under one authority, reducing duplication and making it easier to coordinate investment in the infrastructure our communities need.

The Local Plan has already been developed around the South Warwickshire geography, so having one council responsible for delivering it should lead to more joined-up planning. That means a better opportunity to ensure new development is supported by the roads, schools, healthcare facilities and other infrastructure our communities need, while also enabling planning enforcement to be carried out more effectively.

South Warwickshire has enormous strengths. Alongside our beautiful countryside and thriving agricultural sector, we are home to world-leading automotive and software businesses and a growing technology sector. Having a council focused solely on South Warwickshire means we can better support both our rural economy and our innovative businesses, creating opportunities for local people while protecting the character of the places we value.

Of course, creating two new councils will not be without its challenges. The transition must be carefully managed to ensure services continue without disruption and that communities across South Warwickshire, including our rural villages, receive fair representation and investment. That must remain a priority throughout the process.

The Government has indicated that it was impressed by the case made for two unitary councils, recognising that this approach best reflects the unique characteristics of different parts of Warwickshire. I believe that is the right conclusion. Decisions affecting South Warwickshire should be made by people who understand our communities and the opportunities and challenges we face.

The new council will not come into existence immediately. Shadow elections are expected to take place in May 2027, with the existing County and District Councils continuing to deliver services until 31st March 2028. From 1st April 2028, the new South Warwickshire Council will formally take over responsibility for local services.

This is a significant change to local government, but I believe it gives us the best opportunity to create a council that is closer to its residents, more accountable and better able to deliver the high-quality local services our communities deserve.



HARBURY GARDEN WALKABOUT
THANK YOU!

Peter Walshe, Trustee, Harbury e-Wheels

A massive thank you to all who made this year's Garden Walkabout such a success. We raised just over £2,500 for Harbury e-Wheels and the same again for a variety of other charities, plus the Harbury Parish Church 'Stone, Sound and AV' Appeal. Thank you to everyone who supported us: the garden openers, the volunteer helpers and the walk-abouters and Jeremy Atkins for opening his wonderful Windmill again for fascinating Guided Tours.

This year we had three firsts. The popular Swimming sessions in Jane and Luke Kempton's pool – with lovely warm conditions. Poems on sticks in most of the gardens plus a few ad-hoc readings organised by Michael Luntley. And the dizzying Teddy Zip Line set up by William Jones from the top of the Church Tower!

As usual the Village buzzed with this community event over the weekend.

We hope that next year is as kind, so put Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June in your diary now!







WITSEND OPEN GARDEN

Wendy Hancox

As part of the Harbury Open Gardens event in June an excellent £1080 was raised for charity at Witsend, Hall Lane. I should like to thank all my good friends who assisted by taking orders, serving food and washing up. This includes my son, Darren, who helped with everything. Also a big thank you to all my loyal customers who have been coming every year for lunch and afternoon tea. I look forward to seeing you all again next year.





HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE

Amanda Randall

Contact Harbury Swifts: swifts.harbury@gmail.com

A Swift Half @ the Shakespeare Inn





Firstly, many thanks to Helen, Alice, Sam and Frankie for their support and help for this Swift Awareness Week Event.

Twenty-four people attended and we filled the back room to capacity! After a short talk to explain the purpose of Swift Awareness Week, share some amazing facts about swifts and explain why they are in decline, we watched the film "The 'Other' Taylor Swift". This film celebrates the work of Louise Bentley, a remarkable woman who dedicates her summers to caring for swifts that have left the nest too soon. A common reason for this happening is during very hot weather, when the young swifts come too close to the nest hole entry while trying to get cool, they either jump or fall out. It is a beautifully shot film that everyone enjoyed and with an ending that I think left us all moved.

Regulars may have noticed that the Shakespeare's car park and garden are always good places to watch our swifts from. So we rounded off the evening watching swifts above the car park followed by a short walk around Harbury to see some nest sites. The swifts put on a brilliant aerial display for us!

Acrostic Poem Competition



Thank you to all the children who contributed an acrostic poem for the competition, and to Harbury School for their support. There were some excellent entries, which showed how well the children had listened during their swift assembly before half term and also researched their subject matter, before putting pen to paper. So many of the poems reflected the "Ows" (swifts in decline), "Wows" (swifts are birds with amazing superpowers and are zooming around us at 70 miles an hour!) and "Nows" (what we can do to help swifts) that school focuses on.

Some very creative entries made it tricky for Michael Luntley from Harbury Library and I to choose our two winners. However, congratulations go to Ace Jordan in Year 2 and Ottilie Smith in Year 5. The winners each receive a mug featuring Harbury Swifts and Harbury Library logos and a crocheted Swift egg cosy (a swift weighs the same as a crème egg!). Congratulations and well done.





Here are their poems:

Swifts
Whizzing wings
In the sky
Flying fast
Through the air
Soaring through the sky
Ace Jordan Year 2

Soaring through the sun and rain
While sleeping with only half a brain
If you see a swift's nest
Find a way to save the rest
Today, because of our behaviour
Swifts need a kindly savior
Ottilie Smith Year 5

Children's Swift-themed Craft Activity in the Library

My thanks to Sue Cooke and Kay Garvey for giving up their afternoons to help with the various swift-themed activities that had been prepared. Unfortunately, we didn't have as many 'customers' as we had hoped, with competition from abseiling teddies and swimming at Kingston House! Nonetheless, the children who did take part demonstrated fantastic listening skills and memories for facts about swifts that they had learned at the School Swift Assembly before half term. We were most impressed!



Final Highlight

Very many thanks to the team of Swift Champions who have been monitoring Harbury's swifts over the last three months. The season didn't begin as well for the birds as it did last year, with several weeks that were cold, wet and windy. But as I write, we are in another heatwave and the swift activity has been spectacular to watch and listen to, with a group of twenty or more birds zooming overhead! Finally, a bonus highlight has been that our sharp-eyed swift monitors have spotted some nest sites that we haven't located previously!

HARBURY WORLD WAR I MEN

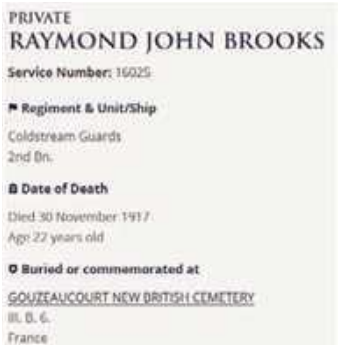
Chris Gibb

I encouraged my daughter to visit one of our men's graves when passing through northern France on the A26 motorway, and I'd like to encourage other readers to do the same.

Raymond Brooks, the son of John and Elizabeth, lived at 5 Springfield Terrace, Harbury which is where some of Vicarage Lane is today.

Raymond was awarded the Military Medal.

Emily is pictured at Raymond Brooks' grave.


PRIVATE
RAYMOND JOHN BROOKS
Service Number: 16025
Regiment & Unit/Ship
Coldstream Guards
2nd Bn.
Date of Death
Died 30 November 1917
Age 22 years old
Buried or commemorated at
GOUZEAUCOURT NEW BRITISH CEMETERY
III. B. 6.
France





HARBURY BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

Julie Griffiths, Chair, Heart of Warwickshire CAMRA

The **2026 Harbury Beer & Cider Festival** held this year on the first weekend of September will be our 33rd festival and promises to be a very special occasion. Opening times are Friday 4th September and Saturday 5th September: 11.00am – 11.00pm each day.

The festival will feature 30 plus different beers, mostly from Leicestershire and Rutland. There will also be a selection from the breweries based in the Heart of Warwickshire area, look out for details on how to vote for the best beer in our region!

For lovers of apples and pears there will also be a selection of ciders and perries for you to enjoy (the beer and cider list will be available on the website). New this year, there will also be a small selection of wine and non or low alcoholic drinks.

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

As usual, the Hereburgh Morris Dancers will be entertaining us on Saturday afternoon.

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

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



WEDNESDAY WALKERS

Sheila Burtt

We are a friendly group of walkers who meet every week to walk in our local countryside. We always meet at the village hall car park at 9.40am on Wednesday morning. The walk always has a "leader" for that day and we always share cars to get to the start. Walks are usually between 3½ and 5 miles in length, with a "coffee stop" half way round. We try and walk, come what may (although the hot summer sometimes meant we had to adjourn to a local cafe!). We always welcome new members. It's a great way to get to know people, make new friends and get to know our local countryside. No booking required! Just turn up any Wednesday.



TOM'S TEAS

Elaine Barnden, Michael Vincent & Team

The free cakes are fabulous! And the conversation and friendly chatter make Tom's Teas a lovely way to spend an hour or so once a month. Why don't you drop in and see what you are missing.

This is a new community activity, started in January this year, being put on in the Tom Hauley Room, at All Saints' Church, and you are invited to come along for a free cup of tea, cake, coffee and chat.

Perhaps you don't know many people in the village, maybe you are new here or just a bit isolated and would like some companionship.

Tom's Teas are held on the third Monday of every month, from 2.30-4.00pm in the Tom Hauley Room, and are well attended with 35-40 people coming each month. So the next 3 Tom's Teas will be on:

- Monday 17th August
- Monday 21st September
- Monday 19th October

It's a great opportunity to meet new friends or catch up with old ones. You can be sure of a warm welcome.



HS2 – ROAD CLOSURES UPDATE

John Holden

The contractors working on HS2 at the time of going to print are not able to confirm the dates for the A423 August road closure. No further news either on the B4451 closure. They have advised that up to date details and dates are published online at www.HS2.org.uk/warwickshire. Although I cannot immediately find anything newer than June on this website!!



HARBURY VILLAGE SHOW – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Gordon Robbins

One thing remains the same: It's never a good growing year!!



Despite this, I know from past experience that gardening magicians will display truly impressive examples of their art. Likewise culinary wizards will offer mouth-watering delights and witch(craft) exponents will amaze us with wonderful creations!

We have over 100 categories available for entry. There are the traditional vegetables of every variety, flowers to display both in their own right or as part of a display and food, creatively baked a la carte or to a recipe. Preserves and pickles and liqueurs. Turn your wit to writing a limerick using the word 'Scandal'. Or if your skill is sewing, knitting or painting, we have sections just for you!





Photography subjects this year are: Time Worn, Hidden Corners, Tiny Worlds, Shadows (B&W) and Portrait with a Twist.

There is a separate children's schedule. The 7 and unders have a choice of growing a vegetable or flower, doing a potato print picture, making a vegetable animal, recycling an egg box, or decorating a hard-boiled egg. The 8-12s can also grow a vegetable or flower, but can show

their talents with a model of a volcano, bake colourful cupcakes, show a photo of garden wildlife or paint an animal, bird or flower!

Full details are of course shown in the schedules which are available from the Library, Milk Shed, Post Office or can be downloaded from: hlnews.co.uk/harbury-village-show.html

HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

We are taking a break for the Summer.

Our next Market will be Saturday 26th September 10.00am until 12.30pm.

This September's local Community Group we are supporting, is Harbury Junior Football Club.

Up to 30 stalls selling everything from curries, cakes, meat, dog treats to art and craft.

Free entry, buy a raffle ticket, come and join us for a tea or coffee and a bacon roll.

Councillors Corner will be there 10.00 – 11.00am to answer any question you have.

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

Our Sponsor

PONDER IN THE PUB

Rev Andy Batchelor

We are not meeting in August, but back in September.

It is an opportunity to discuss life's big questions from a secular and Christian perspective.

We normally meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month, 6.45pm for 7pm (close at 8.30pm) at the Crown Inn, Harbury.

There is a different topic each month. Everyone is welcome. Please do join us in September.

CARERS4CARERS

Lisa Barnett

Your local support group for family carers. We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month (except December when it's the second Friday) from 10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Loved ones are welcome too – they can join our Companionship Group during the meeting.

Friday 28th August. We do something different in August - contact us for details about our relaxed morning coffee at a local hotel. Loved ones are welcome.

Friday 25th September. We're back at Kineton Village Hall. Please join us for a gentle movement session (seated) from Arts Uplift.

For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, send an email to kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or explore our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk (new website under construction).



POETRY

by Jules Whiteside

Don't walk on by

Stop and think when you're out about town
that someone is lonely someone is down.
Try to imagine that person is you
what would you long for that person to do?

Please stop and talk for a minute to me.
I'm just like you I'm human you see.
And I'm one of god's children and I pray every day
that someone will stop and make my pain go away

I'm helpless and homeless but I have a good heart
And I wasn't like this not at the start
I just want to talk to someone who cares
And the pain in my heart just longs to be shared.

It doesn't take much to have your world fall apart,
and lose all the things that are close to your heart.
By the grace of god go you and I
So dig down deep give compassion a try,
Make someone's day,

Don't walk on by

Not all homeless people have a car up the street or go home to steak and chips. Maybe some do, I don't care, I'll take the chance and I won't walk on by. Some of the most interesting people I have ever met were homeless with their story to tell. Search your soul you'll be very surprised what a few comforting words can do to help turn someone's life around.

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