Harbury & Ladbroke News



JULY 2026



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6 July	F - R - G	F
13 July	F - W	F - R - W - G
20 July	F - R - G	F
27 July	F	F - R - G
3 Aug	F - R - W - G	F - W
10 Aug	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

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

HARBURY & LADBROKE News

Published monthly to reflect all aspects of local life

JULY 2026 No. 628

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Articles to: Harbury Pharmacy, High Street or e-mail to articles@hlnews.co.uk by 5.30pm, Monday 20th July

Cover Photo: A Harbury Garden and Windmill by Martin Randall

EDITORIAL

A round up of local news



King Monty and Queen Elodie were at the front of the Carnival Procession last month. It turned out to be a fabulous day and congratulations go to the Carnival Committee for once again organising the event. Photos of the Carnival are on our middle pages and we would like to thank Anthony Allcock for sending these in. Our thanks also go to Heather Clarke and Bill Timson for the Wheelbarrow Race shots.

If your child will be looking for something to do in the long school holidays, Harbury Village Library will once again be running the national summer reading challenge with a theme of "Read to the Beat." Children aged 4 to 11 years can register at the library from Saturday 4th July onwards. Keep an eye out too for special activities connected to the reading challenge happening in the library over the summer holidays.

The final instalment of events in Ladbroke, written by Carol Lane, as seen through the eyes of Charlotte Errington, the Rector's wife, is in this issue. Don't forget the concert on 11th July in Ladbroke Church – no tickets required. Do let the Ladbroke Matters' team know if you have any ideas for future events.

Finally, our condolences go to the families of Alice Brettell and Nora Ellis.

HARBURY DIARY

For local events

JULY

Sat 4 No Coffee Morning
Stegastomp Dance Weekend, continues, Village Hall - stegastomp.co.uk for tickets
Registration for Summer Reading Challenge begins today, 10.00am - 12 noon, Village Library

Sun 5 5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am, Church
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Scout Hut
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Radford Semele Village Hall
Stegastomp Dance Weekend, finishes 4.30pm today Village Hall - stegastomp.co.uk for tickets

Mon 6 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 7 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Heritage Centre open 7.00 - 9.00pm, Harbury School (Park Lane entrance)
Poems and a Pint, 7.00pm, Crown Inn

Wed 8 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Shrewley (4 miles)
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 1.45 - 2.30 & 4.30 - 6.30pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 9 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI, Survival of the fittest - a brief history of childrearing by Jan Warner, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 11 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Galanos House
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library

Sun 12 6TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Village Hall

Mon 13 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 14 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Wed 15 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Harbury local walk
Spellbound Dance Classes, 1.45 - 2.30 & 4.30 - 6.30pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 16 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Classic Book Group, 7.30pm, Village Library
Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sat 18 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Teams4U Shoebox

Sun 19 7TH 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 20 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Tom's Teas. Free Tea, Cake, Coffee, Friendship and Chat, 2.30 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room

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

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

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

Wed 22 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - TBC
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 23 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Sat 25 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Mothers' Union Harbury

Sun 26 8TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Informal Evening Service, 7.00pm, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm, Village Hall

Mon 27 Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 28 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Ponder in the Pub - 'What am I doing here?' 6.45 for 7.00pm, the Crown Inn

Wed 29 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - TBC

Thu 30 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room

Fri 31 Ben & Soph's Jazz Night, www.ticketsource.co.uk/bsjazz, 7.00 - 9.00pm, Village Hall

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, Village Hall
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)

Wed 5 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Bourton on Dunsmore (3½ miles)
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

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

Fri 7 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, Crown Inn

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

FROM THE RECTOR

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

If you've stepped outside lately, you already know that this summer is turning out to be an absolute scorcher. With meteorologists tracking a massive 'Super El Niño' weather pattern affecting the whole world, the heat is certainly making its presence felt. Melting tarmac, overworked fans, and the collective hunt for the nearest patch of shade have quickly become our daily routines.

While it's wonderful to relax in the sun, intense heatwaves present real challenges. Extreme heat isn't just uncomfortable; it can be dangerous, especially for the vulnerable. This month let's make a conscious effort to look out for one another. We can pop in on elderly, unwell, or isolated neighbours to ensure they are keeping cool and have everything they need. We could also offer a lift to church, the doctors, or the shops for someone who might struggle to walk in oppressive heat.

When life feels overwhelming, whether due to the debilitating temperatures or the internal pressures of a busy schedule, we are invited to find our rest in God. Our church buildings, with their thick stone walls, are a wonderful place to find physical coolness, but they are also a sanctuary where our soul can rest in the quiet surrounded by centuries of prayer and worship that have seeped into its very fabric.

Wishing you all a safe, hydrated, and blessed July!



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Andy & Bez

The summer holidays are not far away and as the temperatures soar, you can find a cool spot in the church. We have several groups running throughout the week and at the weekend including Messy and Muddy Church. The photos are from an Ark that was built in the Tom Hauley Room. Children decorated the paper boat before it was recycled.





The Tom Hauley Room is great space which is used for a number of church activities but can also be booked for private functions – please email thr@allsaintsharbury.org.uk

We also had the annual visitation from Bishop Sophie Jelley in Coventry which Andy and I attended. See picture on p8.

The fundraising for Stone and Sound was successful and over 80 people attended the organ recital. The audience enjoyed the several Fugues by Bach and toccatas. The Harbury Primary

School did an excellent job of performing two songs from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Further events will be happening and we hope, by the time you read this you would have enjoyed the Garden Walkabout and had some tea and cake in the Tom Hauley Room – we look forward to welcoming you to upcoming events.



From the Registers

Baptism
Sunday 21st June - Lily Rose

Celebration of Life
Sunday 21st June - Alice Brettell (101 years)

MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

In June we were treated to another interesting talk, this time about the Community of the Cross of Nails. Inspired after the bombing of Coventry Cathedral to work towards peace and reconciliation, there are now 211 partners worldwide.

Did you know Chris, our branch leader, is now a published author with her carefully researched biography of Mary Sumner who founded the first MU in Hampshire 150 years ago? We congratulate her for her epic efforts; I'm sure she will be pleased to show it to you.

We have a break now until we meet again in September and wish all our members a refreshing summer.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

JULY

Sun	**5**	**TRINITY 5** Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments
Tue	7	Photography Club Summer Buffet, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Hallsfield
Wed	8	Parish Council Meeting, 7.45pm, Village Hall
Sat	11	Concert by Kantorei Prenzlau, 3.00pm, Ladbroke Church
Sun	**12**	**TRINITY 6** Evensong, 6.00pm (no morning service this week)
Tue	14	Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall
Sun	**19**	**TRINITY 7** Holy Communion (BCP), 9.00am
Tue	21	Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 26 TRINITY 8
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Mon 20 ARTICLES FOR NEXT ISSUE TO: HARBURY PHARMACY, HIGH ST OR EMAIL TO ARTICLES@HLNEWS.CO.UK BY 5.30PM

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

Tue 28 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 28 TRINITY 9
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tues 30 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

AUGUST

Sun 2 TRINITY 10
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



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Our Annual Church Meeting was held at the end of May and the Annual Report detailing our activities and also the Accounts were received and approved. There are still some spare copies in the Church if anyone would like to pick up a copy.

The following were re-elected to the PCC:

Margie Bosworth, Sue Lord, Janet Moore, Susan Moore (Churchwarden), Jenny Rigby (Parish Safeguarding Officer), Peter Rigby (Churchwarden), Kathryn Smith, Jackie West.

On Saturday 11th July we will be celebrating the 150th Birthday of our Organ by holding a special concert at 3.00pm with a choir and organist travelling to us from Germany to help celebrate the occasion. Kantorei Prenzlau with organist Hannes Ludwig will be playing works by Bach, Saint-Saens, Vivaldi, Elgar and Mendelssohn. Admission is free, with a retiring collection, so please come along if you are able to do so.

The following day, Sunday 12th, we will be holding our next Evensong service. This will start at 6.00pm and will be in place of our normal morning service that day. All welcome.

Future Services and events:

Sunday 5th July	10.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 12th July	No morning service	
	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 19th July	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th July	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 2nd August	10.30am	Family Communion

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

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Carol Lane

Our speaker on Thursday 7th June was Jennifer Rigby but not Ladbroke's Jennifer Rigby! The one who came to speak to us from Staffordshire is the artistic director of a company called AuntyJen Productions.

She went to school in Colwyn Bay and then on to Aberystwyth University but her love was always for acting. Not having the money to go to drama school, she described starting at the bottom, working in various theatre companies and in the Shakespearean Gardens in Stratford.

Even though she looked really young, we all related to her background watching the TV entertainments we remembered: Blankety Blank, Generation Game, Christmas specials etc, which were watched together as families and talked about the next day with colleagues.

However the Covid lockdowns were catastrophic for the arts which was when she answered a call for 75 volunteers to help vulnerable people. From this she called herself 'Jenny in her shed' and started to broadcast on line to anyone who wished to listen. She sent out something entertaining for 107 consecutive days even reading Pride and Prejudice at one stage.

The talk was entitled 'Classic Comedy Monologues' and between telling us about herself she morphed into different characters so became Joyce Grenfell trying to keep children – even Sydney – in order, Victoria Wood as a tour guide at Howarth and Jenny Joseph in her poem about the lady who will wear purple when she gets old.

Her latest venture is a production company, the aim being to bring the arts into the community – for example she and 37 performers took a production of Midsummer Night's Dream to 29 venues which was watched by over 2,500 people. Although the actors are paid, the 'back room' staff and the costume makers are all volunteers and £4,500 was given to the NHS.

The final monologue was the well known Albert and the Lion but she performed it brilliantly, changing her hat for every change of character – be it Albert's cap, Mrs Ramsbottom's hat, the policeman's helmet or the judge's wig. More information can be found out at contact@auntyjenproductions.co.uk

It was a very busy day for the WI as five members had already attended the screening of the National AGM in Harbury Village Hall that day. For a full account of this meeting (information submitted by Dianne) please see the Harbury WI section.

Our Summer outing will be to Sezincote Gardens on 6th August at a cost of £15.

The Food and Friendship group had enjoyed lunch at The Great Western this month.

It has been suggested that the proposed craft group might look at creating something needed for the Esther Project which looks to help women facing challenges relating to homelessness, which is supported by the WI.





The following Wednesday, 10th, Ladbroke hosted the Annual Group meeting in Harbury Village Hall with members from Stockton, Southam, Napton, Harbury present. The entertainment for the evening was Ella Kenrick with powerful renditions of many well known songs from musicals. The main picture shows Ruth McCartney, Federation Chair, Ella Kenrick, singer/performer, Sue Moore, Ladbroke and Depper's Bridge president, Sue Gill, Federation Treasurer and Jeryl Stone, National Chair. The competition this year was to make a book mark on the theme of climate change. Janet Carlyle from Ladbroke WI was announced the winner; she and her winning entry are shown on the preceding page.

The next meeting will be held in Ladbroke Village Hall on Thursday 2nd July from 7.30pm when we will hear about the work of the volunteers who make deliveries to hospitals, clinic and homes, known as the Blood Bikers.

LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

By the time you read this we will have had our Seventies Summer Breeze evening. From the forecast it looks like it might be a warm night so I hope everyone enjoyed the event and didn't get too hot.

In case you were wondering about the artists and years from the seventies paragraph titles in my article last month here are the answers:

Who are You? - The Who (1978)
Rock On – David Essex (1973)
Get in the Swing – Sparks (1975)
Telephone Line – Electric Light Orchestra (1977)
What's Going On? - Marvin Gaye (1971)
I Want to Break Free – Queen (1984) Spot the 'deliberate mistake'!
Changes – David Bowie (1972)
Come on Over to my Place – Drifters (1972)
Knowing Me, Knowing You – Abba (1977)

Get in touch

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

Future events

After the seventies evening we are looking forward to holding more events this year. Possibilities are a quiz night, ceilidh evening, or a live music evening. Let us know through our website if you have any other ideas, or which of our events you especially enjoy. All profits from our events go towards the upkeep of the village hall and the Millennium Green.

Hall Hire

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 eighty people, so to book your special celebration, or if you wish to hold regular classes or meetings, contact Mick through the village hall website which has more details about our facilities including our revised 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.

This is us

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

The more you support us with your skills, time, and/or money, the more we can continue to maintain these facilities and hold fundraising events for the benefit of us all. We are always on the lookout for new team members, and we have recently welcomed Erica Kemp onto our team. If you would like to join us get in touch via our website, or have a word with one of our team.

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for May 2026

£50	Erica Kemp	£25	Nicky Lewis
£50	Helen Morten	£10	Josh Robison
£25	Margaret Bosworth	£10	Russell Griffith
£25	Simon and Jackie West	£10	Martin and Debra Neal

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Nicky Lewis

Our June meeting was outside on a beautiful evening at Claydon Locks where Gray Lewis gave us a talk on the history of our local canals, especially the South Oxford Canal from Napton to Oxford, which played an important role in the Industrial Revolution transporting coal and other goods from the West Midlands to London in the late 1700s and early 1800s.



The canal celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2025 and between 1790 - 1820 the Oxford Canal was the main transport route from the Midlands to London (the M1 of its day). After it was opened in 1790 the company was the most profitable in the world and due to the high fees it could charge it returned dividends of 55%, until the Grand Union Canal was built in the 1820s as a more direct route to London, leading to intense competition between the two canals.

The South Oxford Canal extends for 75 miles and passes through 46 locks on its journey from Napton to Oxford, where it joins the River Thames. The locks are only one boat wide (a maximum width of 7 foot 2 inches - hence "narrow boats") and a maximum of 76 feet long.

In contrast the Grand Union Canal from Birmingham via Hatton and Braunston to London can accommodate two boats side by side in its locks, another reason that the Grand Union proved to be more successful.





The talk provided the background history to the national canal network and of the local canals, and provided some ideas for our Summer Project, which is Canals in all their Glory! Members can enjoy days out locally and further afield on the canals and can focus on any aspect of the canals; the many and varied types of narrow boats, different lock types, canal boat decorative painting, canal side pubs, wildlife and the different types of bridges. The Oxford Canal was privately financed, and several times ran out of money between its start in 1774 and completion in 1790, hence the solid brick bridges over the canal between Napton and Banbury, were replaced south of Banbury by cheaper swing, wooden bridges. Our competition and phototopic will be at our December meeting on the 1st.

Gray volunteers for the Canal and River Trust as a Lock Keeper locally on both Oxford and Grand Union Canals, so also gave us a background to their operation, funding status and volunteering - he then demonstrated how to empty or fill a lock with water, to enable a narrow boat to pass through by opening and closing the lock gates, using the paddles at each end! Steve Gale also took some great drone photos of our group.

This month's photos are from Steve Gale (drone photos) and Nicky Lewis.

We are a small friendly club who meet once a month in Ladbroke Village Hall. For more information contact me on nicolalewis1958@gmail.com

LADBROKE GENERAL NEWS

LADBROKE HERITAGE

Carol Lane & Jackie West

Heritage and Friendship Group

Last month our topic was *Health Matters* which brought back memories of concentrated orange juice (delicious) cod-liver oil (OK) and a mixture of the two (absolutely horrible!); school milk wasn't popular either because it was often warm or had gone off. And do you remember signing school friends' plaster casts when they had broken their arm or leg?

We also heard stories of very young children in hospital to have tonsils and adenoids removed, sometimes as a precaution (!) and of course parents couldn't stay, which must have

been very frightening for the children. Our older members grew up before vaccines and before antibiotics were common place. One family was most concerned when after a day out their daughter said she couldn't feel her feet - could it be polio? Off they went to the doctor where she had to remove her shoes and socks. What a relief when they discovered she had used elastic bands to hold up her socks and they were so tight they were stopping the circulation! Another memory was of having scarlet fever as a boy over 80 years ago. It was often fatal back then but he recovered after being given one of the early antibiotics and he remembers the house having to be fumigated by letting off something like a firework inside.

As we meet on the first Wednesday morning each month, by the time this edition is in your hands you'll be too late to come to our July meeting but you are welcome to join us in August to reminisce over a cuppa and cake. For details of the next theme, where we will be meeting or to let us know that you are coming, please contact Carol on 01926 814715.

Concert

Saturday 11th July, 3pm at Ladbroke Church



This month is sequicentenary of the re-opening of Ladbroke Church, after its Gilbert Scott renovation which included a new pipe organ made by Hill and Sons. We invite you to come and celebrate the instrument's 150th birthday with Hannes Ludwig and around 25 members of the choir, Kantorei Prenzlau. No tickets required but there will be a retiring collection for church funds. All welcome. Since there will be many people parking on the road, please walk or car-share if you can and park considerately if you come by car.

1876-2026 Celebration

The final instalment of events in the village 150 years ago, written by Carol Lane, as seen through the eyes of Charlotte Errington, the Rector's wife.

A Great Achievement



I started to tell you all about the celebrations in the School Room after the re-opening service on 6th July 1876. Well, a Gentleman of the Press, from Leamington Courier noted down all the speeches and so I can tell you exactly what the Bishop said about John's achievements *"Only four years elapsed since Mr Errington had taken possession of the living of Ladbroke, and in that short time he had accomplished much. There was no school there of any sort but now they were assembled in a spacious schoolroom, with its master's house adjoining. He has set up a new ring of bells; and instead of a dilapidated neglected church, with its roof in danger, its foundations decayed, and its porch tottering, they had celebrated divine service in a completely renovated structure, beautifully fitted with the best oak, with traceried panel-work and carvings of exquisite workmanship, and with an organ quite in harmony with all that surrounded it."* His lordship concluded by proposing the "Health of Mr and Mrs Errington" and everyone cheered. I felt very honoured and privileged to have been part of all of this.

John first thanked God for giving him the health and strength and means for accomplishing such a work, and bringing it to a successful completion. He said that he hoped God may be pleased to accept it as a lasting benefit to the people of Ladbroke. John did not say we had left Ashbourne four years previously because he had been suffering from a long illness. Ladbroke was supposed to be less demanding but I think the challenge of the church and the school was a wonderful mental stimulus and allowed him to keep going.


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He thanked everyone for their kind wishes, their sympathy and interest in the restoration, for coming to the reopening and for their offerings. Then he continued: *"There is another person from a distance among us today to whom I shall always feel deeply indebted, and without whose direction, mature knowledge, and loving care our church would never have recovered her former features and historic value - I mean Sir Gilbert Scott. I owe it to him that our old shattered porch, is still the old church porch in complete and perfect condition. I owe it to him that the fine old oak cradle-roof which was condemned as only being fit for the fire, is now the admiration of all who raised their eyes up to its rafters of nearly 600 years existence. Yes, he has repaired and replaced that embowed roof under which one of my earliest predecessors, Roger de Ladbroke, chanted the 'Te Deum' and sang the litany 550 years ago. I have reason to think that the people of this country are immensely indebted to Sir Gilbert Scott, not only for his great public works and architectural skill, but also for his conscientious adherence to those principles which he has laid down for the conservation of our ancient edifices. I have sometimes heard it remarked that to employ Sir Gilbert Scott is the most expensive proceeding; but this from experience I deny. He has saved our church porch; he has saved our roof; and I am quite sure that he has saved my pocket. Ladies and gentlemen, I give the health of Sir Gilbert Scott."* Even louder cheers followed this speech.



Sir Gilbert Scott, after acknowledging the compliment paid to him, said: - *"In directing the work so happily completed today, my object has been to repair, rather than to restore, for restoration is a term which it would be well, perhaps, if we could get rid of. I have endeavoured to bring out the main and original features of Ladbroke church, which gave its character to the building, so as to allow it to speak for itself, and to tell its history. During the progress of the work, it was found, as is often the case, that much more was necessarily required to be done than was first contemplated; this, of course, required additional funds. But no obstacles or difficulties were on this account raised by Mr Errington, he never complained, he never grumbled, but he has done his best to meet these demands. He has been so good as to say that I have saved his pocket. I can only assure you that had it not been for the genial and hearty manner in which he has backed us up in all that was required to be done, you would not have seen Ladbroke in the state of completion which it has reached today."*

What an accolade was that for John – I was quite overcome with pride.

We walked back from the schoolroom to the Rectory to spend the rest of the afternoon there. Then we saw the bell ringers trudging back to the church to climb the winding stairs and soon the bells rang out again summoning us all to evensong. The service went well, and I think everyone was so pleased with the way the whole day had gone, the rendering of Sir J. Goss's anthem 'Stand up and bless the Lord' almost raised the new roof. Mr Parkin, the organist from Ashbourne excelled himself showing off the smooth sound of our lovely new organ. The Archdeacon of Stafford preached on a text from Hebrews encouraging the congregation to 'Go on unto perfection'. When the collection was counted we had another £40 towards what was still owing for the church repairs. Obviously finding the money for this project had been a huge worry and we were grateful to the many people who had donated. I thought John was quite right when he said that Sir Gilbert Scott had saved his pocket as Sir Gilbert's fee was only £129 7s 4d out of the entire expenditure of £3043 10s 8p. Donations added up to £1702 8s 5d and John made up the remainder which was well over a thousand pounds.

We carried on living in the Rectory and serving the people of Ladbroke but we had a great sadness two years after the grand opening when our second son Arthur died when he was just eight years old. We buried him in the church yard at the back of the church and chose a pink granite memorial. I had to choose the next memorial on my own when John died four years after that so I decided on the same design as Arthur's but scaled to John's size. By this time, Mr Palmer-Morewood had bought the advowson from my father and he offered the parish to Mr John Deacon so Wilfred, Walter, Eliza and I had to move then to allow the new family to take over. Such a sad year as Wilfred died as we were planning the move so he joined his father and brother in Ladbroke Churchyard. At least I could visit them all together and remember those heady days in 1876 when we celebrated the rebirth of our lovely church and the birth of its school.



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

Annual Meeting followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held 28th May

Annual Meeting

The main agenda of meeting was preceded by the AGM of the parish council at which it elects its Chairman and Vice-Chair and appoints members to its working parties and outside bodies. Both Cllr Tim Lockley and Cllr Julie Balch were unanimously re-elected to the posts of Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Appointments to the various working parties largely remained unchanged with the exception of Cllr Thompson who stood down as chair of the Properties Working Party. Cllr Sylvester was elected chair of this group in his absence. Appointments to the various outside bodes also remained unchanged.

Ordinary Meeting

Public Participation

The owner of Linden Farm Cottage, Deppers Bridge spoke in favour of her planning application which seeks to convert the use of an annex from ancillary accommodation to a short term self-catering holiday let. It was explained that the annexe would be let to no more than four people at a time, with no parties allowed. The owner lives in the adjoining building and there is plenty of parking onsite. It is anticipated that people renting the annexe would use local amenities such as the Great Western and contribute to the local economy.

A resident asked if a future agenda item could cover various issues regarding SDC planning administration. It was agreed that Cllr Lockley would meet with him informally in the first instance to discuss his concerns.

Residents of Wagstaffe Close raised a number of issues connected with the proposed heat pumps at Harbury School. There were concerns about the large size of the pumps and the continuous noise that they would emit – if unprotected this could be as loud as 80 decibels which is the equivalent of high street traffic, although it was noted that an acoustic fence would be constructed. There were also concerns about the construction traffic and vehicular access to the units for maintenance; residents requested that this should be via the main school entrance and not through Wagstaffe Close.

Outside Bodies

Harbury Library: Cllr Mulley reported that the library had successfully appointed two new trustees but that there was currently no new lead for the café. The LED screen, which was financed through a grant from the PC, had been installed and a volunteer found to update it regularly.

Harbury School: Cllr Thompson reported that the school had a full intake for September 2026 plus a large waiting list. The outdoor learning project was proving very successful and the school playgrounds now boast a mud kitchen, a sand pit, ride-on vehicles and dressing up clothes to name just a few of the activities.

Twinning Association: There had been a recent visit from residents of Samois-sur-Seine who had enjoyed, amongst other things, a history tour around the village organised by the Heritage Centre.

Village Hall: It is hoped that progress will be made on the new charging points soon. A new booking secretary is now in place.

Warwickshire County Council: Cllr Kettle reported that the five year plan had been agreed at the annual meeting of the council. After pressure from opposition members, the ruling Reform group had conceded that "Climate Emergency" should remain as a priority alongside other priorities such as the cost of living crisis. Other county council matters of note are that gullies will continue to be cleared on a two year cycle.

Planning

1. **The Cattle Building at Hurdiss Farm**: conversion of the existing building and creation of parking spaces to service the proposed new dwellings. Cllrs noted that these are four bedroomed houses but there is very little outdoor space attached to each. It was also noted that there has been a number of individual applications for this site which makes it difficult to comment on the overall levels of development. It was agreed that the council would register a "comment" with SDC highlighting these points.
2. **Lullington Lodge**: T1 yew, trim to clear property by 1.5m, T2 yew – fell, T3 cypress fell – no representation.
3. **7 Binswood End**: Remove conifer hedge to ground level – no representation.
4. **Denys Close, Temple End**: T1 cherry, reduce crown, T2 walnut, reduce lateral spread – no representation.
5. **Harbury Primary School**: Installation of two air source Heat pumps. It was noted that projected noise levels fell into acoustic category C which is too high for a residential area. Cllrs also felt that the application was "skimpy" on details with no figures given for expected savings and no construction plan. It was resolved that the Council should object to the application on the grounds of noise levels, insufficient mitigation measures and the need for a construction plan which does not include access via Wagstaffe Close. The council will also request that an independent person assesses the expected noise levels.
6. **Linden Farm Cottage, Deppers Bridge**: Change of use of two-bedroomed annexe to self-catering holiday cottage. Cllr Allen pointed out that the application was not in line with the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Core Strategy. A previous application in 2021 had been refused due to the location's isolation from amenities. It was agreed to object to the application and refer SDC back to the original decision four years ago.

Properties

Hall Lane Allotments: The wall in front of the allotments has now been repaired. Cllr Sylvester intends to apply to SDC for the installation of a water supply to the site and the council agreed to match fund this up to £5000. The vacant lots need to be strimmed again to keep them under control.

Pineham Farm Allotments: It was agreed to advertise the vacant plots on this site on the village noticeboard. Cllr Balch suggested offering the vacant sections of the community allotment to the cubs and scouts groups, the Primary School Earthworms group and the home schooling group.

Memorial Garden, Chapel Street: Two quotes had been received for resurfacing the garden, and the council agreed the most reasonable of these which was £3750 for a resin finish.

Tennis Club: The resurfacing work was agreed.

Environment

There was still no update on the outstanding stile replacements and the clerk requested that it be removed from the agenda until there is something to report.

The draft biodiversity strategy should be ready to be circulated to councillors in the near future. It was noted that progress on the replacement of some of the swift boxes was still being made and that Martin Randall had designed an excellent poster advertising the group's presence at the Carnival.

Finance

It was agreed that the clerk could purchase a new filing cabinet for the office. The lease for the office is to be extended for a further period. The insurance quote was also agreed and cllrs made the decision to get a new updated valuation for the cemetery chapel for insurance purposes. The home schooling group had requested that they be able to use the playing fields for some of their activities. This was agreed at no charge for the summer term, however charges will be reviewed in the autumn.

Items for the Next Meeting

Streetlights: Cllrs Lockley and Mulley have compiled a list of non-LED lights which need to be replaced – it was suggested that it might be possible to do this in one year but will be discussed at the next meeting.

Bench outside Doctors' Surgery: The current parish council contractor seemingly does not have sufficient public liability insurance to replace this bench – this will also be fully discussed next month.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 25th June, 7.30pm in Harbury Village Hall.



HARBURY SOCIETY

David Turner

Visit to the UK Vegetable Genebank

On the 21st May a group from the Harbury Society travelled to the UK Vegetable Genebank which is part of the Warwick University Life Sciences Department on the Wellesbourne Campus. We were met there by Dr Charlotte Allender who heads the genebank and has worked there since 2006.

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Charlotte informed us that their focus is on the conservation of the genetic diversity of vegetables that are capable of being grown or of interest to the UK, although their collection is global and they have samples in their collection from 118 different countries and they exchange seeds with other genebanks around the world.



Introduction to the Genebank

Following the Second World War, the site was originally home to the National Vegetable Research Station (NVRS) with the aim of improving food security and vegetable production. Funded largely by a special Oxfam appeal to combat global famine, the official UK Vegetable Genebank was built and opened at the Wellesbourne site in 1980 with the aim of storing and conserving seeds of both heritage varieties and their wild relatives. In 2004 both organisations (NVRS and UKVGB) were integrated into the University of Warwick.



Dr Charlotte Allender

There are around 14,000 samples of seeds in the collection. Their biggest family is brassicas which includes cabbages and cauliflowers but there is also a large collection of onions, carrots and lettuce and these represent the four major species held. In total there are about 47 different species in the collection, including celery, parsnips, radish, salad leaves and watercress. The collection does not include hybrid varieties and they no longer create new varieties themselves; that is left to commercial organisations to determine what characteristics in a species they require.

Like other genebanks, seeds are kept in reserve and made available for researchers, plant breeders, sometimes directly by farmers and sometimes for education and training purposes so usually organisations rather than individuals. Their work keeps the diversity of crops available for plant breeding and plant breeders can access these 'pure' seeds to help develop new pest and disease resistant varieties that meet current and future challenges.

The purpose of conservation is to try and get the material used. There's not much point in conserving a species if it just sits there, forgotten and not used, so they emphasise they are very keen to support people, farmers, plant breeders, other research organisations, etc. by making seed from their collection available. They exchange seeds with genebanks around the world and, to safeguard against unexpected disasters, duplications of the seed collections are stored in multiple locations.



Plants with plastic bags containing flies for pollinating

We were then shown how they conserve the seed in the genebank. The seed is dried to a

moisture content of 5% by weight in the drying room. It is then put into pouches made of a plastic and foil laminate to prevent it reabsorbing moisture from the atmosphere. A special device removes the air and then heat-seals the pouch - removing the air further improves longevity. It is crucial for them to know exactly how much of each seed sample is in store and a barcode system is now employed to facilitate this. When they introduced barcodes they had something like 150,000 packets of seed and maintaining stock levels was becoming difficult. By scanning the barcode, the variety, when it was packaged, the stock level of each seed sample can be ascertained.

On the day of the visit, the atmosphere was very warm and humid, so the conditions in the drying room were very pleasant to experience at 15°C and 15% relative humidity.



The Drying Room

The seed collection is maintained at a temperature of -20°C, similar to that of a domestic freezer. The genebank has two cold rooms for storing the seed. Before the seed goes into the cold room a germination test is carried out, and then a further one is performed every 10 years. It's a very necessary part of managing the collection. Some crops store a bit better than others. Brassicas probably store the best, often for decades; onion and lettuce, not as long.

When a request for seed is received they will send a small package, usually half a gram, and accordingly record the reduction in seed stock. Once their seed levels reach a set threshold, which, for most things, is 5 grams they will then shortlist that seed sample for regeneration by propagation, which is mostly undertaken in-house.



Plants housed in an isolation cage

We then walked around the facility outside. There are three glasshouses for propagation and regeneration when stock falls to a certain level. Isolation cages are used to prevent cross-pollination but certain species can be propagated within the same cage, such as cauliflower and carrot, which don't cross-pollinate. Insects assist pollination in certain species and we saw flies undertaking this task which were constrained in plastic bags covering the flower heads. When the pods or seed heads are ripe they are harvested, dried, cleaned, dried further, before being weighed and packed for storage.

Outside we saw beds of carrots, onions, lettuce, cabbages, and cauliflowers being propagated. These were protected by nets or glass to prevent them being eaten by wildlife – Dr Allender told us that, just prior to our visit, she had seen a hare examining the beds in the hope of getting a free lunch.

That concluded our tour of the genebank and secretary Sue thanked Dr Allender for an excellent tour, which we all found very informative.



One of the outdoor propagation beds with netting for protection

Harbury Society Programme:

Tuesday 18th August – Visit to the Court Barn Museum, 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 the end of May, 15 members attended a Fused Glass Workshop with amazing results. Fiona is hoping to arrange another workshop in November.

On 4th June Harbury welcomed 30 members from Harbury and nearby WIs for a screening of the National AGM which was held online this year. Jeryl Stone, national chair, who is a Warwickshire member, opened the meeting with the singing of Jerusalem. She mentioned that some WIs had closed but 50 new ones opened with the current membership at 170,000. There are now 22 virtual WIs and prison WIs are flourishing. Jeryl mentioned various projects supported by the Public Affairs Department some of which include Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers, Start the Heart, NHS Dentistry and the Microplastics Bill.

Tracey Baker, Hon Treasurer, outlined the on-going financial pressures facing the WI; measures are being taken to reduce operational costs. The newly launched WI magazine will be a larger seasonal one.

The first speaker of the day was Mary Lewis who had worked with Jane Goodhall, the famous primatologist, who passed away recently. They were involved with work with Chimpanzees in Tanzania and the Congo; she also helped to improve the lives of local people with her Roots and Shoots initiative.





The second speaker was Michelle Dougherty, the first female Astronomer Royal. She gave a fascinating presentation on a Space Craft, with a very specialist camera, which sends pictures back to earth every day building up an invaluable collection of data. Michelle thought that commercial space activity is a real way forward but expressed concern that space is becoming very crowded.

We then went on to the first resolution regarding Accessible Public toilets which was passed with a 95% majority.



After lunch we heard from Anne Boden who started the online Starlings Bank at the age of 54. She gave up a well-paid job, but after facing a lot of obstacles found a financial backer and in 2017 launched her customer base. Anne is very much into technology and was very positive about the development of AI but said we need to consider the implications on different generations. She encouraged us to be strong and look after ourselves in a world where women can still be overlooked.

We then moved on to the second resolution regarding support for homeless women which was passed with a majority of 92%.

As the meeting drew to a close we heard surprise messages from Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia and Jacinda Arden, former Prime Minister of New Zealand. Jeryl announced that the next National AGM will be held in Hull on 3rd June 2027.



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HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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



Many thanks to Lin who masterminded the screening and to Harbury members who made cakes and served tea and coffee.

On 10th June Ladbroke WI hosted the annual Group Meeting for WIs from Ladbroke, Harbury, Napton, Stockton, Southam and Priors Marston and Hardwick in Harbury Village Hall. We were pleased to welcome Jeryl Stone and Warwickshire Chair Ruth McCartney. We heard interesting reports from each institute and then enjoyed a splendid buffet organised by Ladbroke. We were entertained by local singer Ella Kenrick who had a wonderful voice and sang a range of songs from jazz to musicals. A very enjoyable evening.

On 11th June we held our monthly meeting when we were entertained by John Parnell who told us about the history of Hula Hoops which have been around for thousands of years. They were originally made from garden cane but in the 1920s the first Frisbees were made from plastic and then plastic hula hoops were made in Australia. In the mid-1960s everyone in America had a hula hoop. John learnt to use a hula hoop at a Juggling Club in 2006; it took him two days to learn. He launched a website selling hoops in 2007; now if you buy a hoop it comes in sections. John goes into schools and teaches WIs to use hoops; his advice was that bigger hoops are the easiest to use - 36 to 39 inch hoops are ideal. A number of our members then had a go and were very successful! John told us that he has recently taken part in filming for "Shakespeare and Hathaway" and "Father Brown."

Six of our members enjoyed taking part in the procession at the Carnival dressed as Nifty Fifties – coming first in the Adult Walking class. Thank you to our members who made savouries and cakes for the Cake Stall and everyone who bought from the stall. After expenses, we made £180. 37 for the Esther Project. Many thanks to Ann who made the cake for the Guess the Weight of the Cake which weighed 9lb 2oz and was won by Stephen Friling.

We now have a break after a busy and successful 10 days. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th July in the Tom Hauley Room – 7.30 for 7.45 when Jan Warner will be talking about the History of Child Rearing entitled "Survival of The Fittest." We always welcome visitors.

On Thursday 16th July we shall hold our annual outdoor Games Afternoon in the garden of the Village Hall from 2pm to 4pm. Come and enjoy some outdoor games like Jenga and Skittles or just have a chat and a cup of tea.

A reminder that application forms for grants from our Community Fund are available from the library – closing date 31st July.



Nora Ellis

Members of Harbury WI were very sorry to hear that Nora Ellis had passed away on 27th May at Tithe Lodge, where she had lived since 2019 when she left Harbury.



Neville and Nora were farmers and on retirement moved to Temple End. They were very active in the village – Harbury Twinning, Church lunches, the Coffee mornings and bell ringing. Many Harbury WI members remember Nora for her cheerfulness, friendliness, excellent cooking, knowledge of flowers and flower arranging. We remembered Nora at our June meeting and one member said that Nora made the best marmalade ever.

Some members will be attending Nora's Funeral on 25th June.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Celia Stockdale



Well, what a busy two months we are having! First, the great performance of our May Production, 'God of Carnage'. This was a resounding success from the first night and used a different way to present a play by performing it 'in the round,' which meant the audience were really close to the action! Thanks to the cast and Becci Denny Director, who also doubled up as Penelope. Feedback included comments such as 'Wonderful, 'cast were superb' and 'Wasn't ready for it to be over'. Well done team Carnage!!

Now over to Wendy Lewin for news of our participation in the carnival games:

With three teams the Drama Queens were well represented at the carnival games. Monday was Aunt Sally at the rugby club and it was a cold and windy affair, not our strongest performance! Trying to hit a small skittle on the top of a post throwing a wooden stick is quite challenging! Tuesday on to bar skittles, much more our style and Andy scored one of the highest scores! Wednesday was horseshoes at the Gamecock and Louise was in her element, a natural talent! Then there was all to play for at the quiz and we did much better, two of our teams coming 3rd and 4th. It was all great fun and of course, it's the taking part that counts! Thanks so much to Mike and John for organising it, we look forward to taking part again next year.





Great photos everyone! Finally, we will be having auditions for our next Production on 29th June at 7.30pm East Room, Tom Hauley Rooms. Come along if you are interested to read 'Lilies of the Land' a play about the Women's Land Army WW2.



FOLK CLUB

Peter Bones

With having had a few meetings of the folk club where we have been a little short of performers, I thought I would ask if the Folk Club Orchestra and the Folk Club Choir could do a spot each. This would be a first since the library became our regular venue.

Being conscious of the time and space that would be required to set up the orchestra, I decided to put them on first to minimise disruption. However, my plan was thrown into disarray owing to the interminable temporary traffic light fiasco at Radford Semele resulting

in two members of the orchestra being delayed and not being able to make it for the start the evening. Liz and I therefore started with a couple of songs and were ably followed by Sue and Maureen.

By the time Sue and Maureen had sung their two lovely songs, the orchestra was complete and ready to perform. With the theme of the evening being "Flora and Fauna", they performed three medleys with at least one of the titles of the tunes pertaining to plants or animals. The orchestra seemed to be well appreciated by what was becoming a sizable audience.

Not only was the audience large in number, it also included more people prepared to perform than we have had for many months. In fact, there were no fewer than 17 performers to try and fit in the time available.

Fortunately, most of the performers kept their introductions to a minimum, and the songs chosen were not too long, so by just before 10:30, we had enjoyed a broad range of music and poetry presented to a high standard by a variety of performers. Most of the items performed were connected by varying degrees to the theme of the evening.

One good thing about being a compere is being able to choose how to draw the evening to a close. I therefore asked the choir to finish the evening with one of my own personal favourite songs. This is "Home Lads Home" which is a song about the horses used in World War 1. It was a fitting end to what had been another lovely evening.

A full list of what was performed during the meeting is on the Folk Club website harburyfolkclub.org.uk.

The raffle raised exactly £100.00 which was donated to the Harbury e-Wheels. Many thanks to those who bought tickets.

The next folk club will be on July 2nd and is to be hosted by Peter McDonald. The theme will be "Laughter and Happiness".

HARBURY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

John Stringer

How good is your French?



Samois-sur-Seine is a beautiful riverside village south-east of Paris, in the forest of Fontainebleau. Its residents have been twinned with Harbury for nearly thirty years. Every other year, members of its twinning association spend a weekend in Harbury. Every other year, our members travel to Samois, to be welcomed and entertained by the Samoisiennes. When they come to us, we offer them hospitality and events both within and beyond the village. When we visit them, they return the kindness. Fine food and drink are involved. And conversation. Much of it is in English; some is in French. Making ourselves understood, and following their talk, is one of the most entertaining activities. The picture shows Samois on the river Seine.

You don't need to speak French to enjoy yourself. My wife is close to fluent. My schoolboy French is limited; but it has improved no end for practice, and words come back to me that I recall from 65 years ago. Besides, French people love to practise their English. And they are

keen to learn new words and phrases. Catching site of the copy of *Private Eye* I was reading on the coach, my host enquired 'Please, what is legover?'* Translation took some time…

Between the visits, the Association enjoys social events and activities. Again, food and drink play a large part. Membership can lead to new friendships; we have been twinned with our French family from the start. Outside the annual visits, we have shared family events, and they have made us welcome in their holiday home. It is all part of the most enjoyable experience.

In 2027, we shall visit Samois again. The trip may well coincide with the Samois Open Gardens weekend.

If you would like to see if Twinning is for you, look at our website at harburytwinning.org.uk. or ring one of our co-chairs on 01926 612819 or 612094. No obligation. Join one of our social events: play boules or skittles, maybe. We shall welcome you. Try it.

*The French equivalent is 'Jambes a l'aire' – legs in the air, should you wish to know.



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson



On the 170th anniversary of the opening of the Wight School on Harbury's High Street, it is natural to ask: **what became of the man whose vision brought it into being – the Reverend William Wight?**

His early life and his years in Harbury are well documented, particularly in John Stringer's "All Saints' Church Harbury: The Story of a Warwickshire Village Church" (2012). Wight served as vicar here from 1852 to 1865, a period in which he attempted one of the most ambitious social experiments ever undertaken in a rural English parish.

A Man Formed by the Hardships of the Industrial Age

Born in London in 1809, Wight grew up amid the poverty, overcrowding, and moral decline he associated with urban life. Later, while serving in a large northern parish, he became convinced that society could not be improved unless ordinary people were given **better housing, education, and moral guidance**.

Between 1849 and 1852 he travelled widely across Britain in search of a place where he could build what he called a **"Model Parish"**. Funds were running low when he discovered Harbury – then a village of around 1,000 people, with no school for working class children and hundreds of railway navvies living in poor conditions. Harbury's high ground, good water supply, and absence of tithes or church rates made it, in his eyes, the ideal setting for reform.

The Harbury Experiment

Once appointed vicar, Wight launched a sweeping programme of social improvement. His "Model Parish" included:

- **Model Cottages** – well ventilated, properly drained homes with gardens; no lodgers, no beer or tobacco shops.

- **Evening Classes** – three nights a week for women, three for men.
- **A Model Library** – over 300 volumes, strictly no fiction.
- **Moral Police** – trusted parishioners accompanying the vicar on late night rounds.
- **Savings Bank** – a penny bank for children and the poorest families.
- **Sick Society** – an early form of mutual aid healthcare.
- **Railwaymen's Classes** – reading, writing, arithmetic, singing, and Sunday Bible instruction.
- **Printing & Binding Factory** – providing employment and producing Wight's own pamphlets and books.



Education lay at the heart of his vision. In 1856 he applied to the Bishop of Worcester for permission to build a school for children and adults – the building that became known as **The Wight School**, now home to our community-run library and Biblio's Café.

Local historian and well known villager Neville Ellis, described Wight as *"one of Harbury's most distinctive Victorian figures – a reforming minister who tried to reshape the village into a disciplined, sober, industrious community. His influence is still visible in the school, the cottages, and the ethos of community self help."*

Disappearance from the Record

When Wight left Harbury in 1865, he effectively vanished from Warwickshire's historical record. I have been unable to find any surviving documentation suggesting he took another parish, founded a new model community, or continued his reforming work elsewhere. His public career appears simply to have ended; perhaps, as some have suggested, through exhaustion after more than thirteen intense years of social engineering.

A New Chapter in Chislehurst



The trail picks up again thanks to Joanna Friel's book, *"Fortune and Distinction: A History of Lubbock Road, Chislehurst"* (2018). John Stringer kindly donated a copy to the Heritage Centre, and from it we learn that by 1874 Wight was living in a striking villa on the edge of Chislehurst Common.

He named the house "**The Arab's Tent**," a nod to his extensive travels in Egypt, Arabia, and Syria, travels that also earned him the nickname "the Arab." The house was a high status Victorian villa built in the fashionable Orientalist style, known locally for its eccentric architecture and sweeping views.

By this time Wight appears to have been a retired or semi retired clergyman of independent means, his reforming energy spent.

Final Years and Legacy

William Wight died of pneumonia on 16 October 1884, aged 74. He is buried in St Nicholas Churchyard, Chislehurst – the same resting place as William Willett, originator of British Summer Time, and Sir Malcolm Campbell, the land and water speed record holder.

His will, as Joanna Friel records, was 'highly contentious' and makes fascinating reading.

Other News

On Saturday 13th June we ran a stall jointly with the Harbury Society, the theme of which was the sixtieth anniversary of England winning the FIFA World Cup. Thank you all those who attended and had a go on our target football game and our quiz all about the 66 World Cup. Tim Lockley was the lucky winner of the chocolates, although there were several all correct entries Tim's was pulled out of the hat.





OPEN DAYS in July and August – *we will be open to the public in July on Tuesday 7th - 7pm to 9pm and Sunday 19th 2pm to 4pm. In August the dates and times are: Tuesday 4th 7pm to 9pm and Sunday 16th 2pm to 4pm.*

Village Tour – we are once again offering Harbury residents the chance to find out about the history of the village by joining us on **Tuesday 11th August at 6pm** for a walking tour followed by refreshments at the Heritage Centre. If you would like to book a place email group@harburyheritage.org.uk or phone me on 07813 739972.

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Colin Mercer

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

Plenty of activity on and off the tennis courts in June including taking part in the pub/club events during Carnival week. We tried to transfer tennis skills to Aunt Sally, Table skittles and Horseshoes with mixed results but excelled in the quiz to get an overall second place. A huge thank you to everyone on the Carnival Committee for organising such an enjoyable week.



Back on court In the Banbury Summer League, the "A" team is still looking for a first win after losing at Division 4 leaders Brackley "A". Eira Owen, Sue Panton, Helen Cooper, Ben Fish, James Cattrell and Josh Marshall had some very close matches, but the home team eventually won 6-3.

The "B" team were in action with Sue Panton, Sue Johnson and Wendy Lewin, Nigel Eaton, James Edge and Jordan Pratt travelling to Tysoe. There was some entertaining tennis, but the home team were too strong and won 7-2.



What's Coming Up at...

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Monday 6th July | £15pp

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Call the team to book your space

WINE TASTING EVENING

Saturday 25th July £25 deposit

Treat yourself to an evening of exceptional wines and delicious food. Guided by our expert Master of Wine, Emily, you'll explore a specially curated selection of wines, each perfectly paired with cheese-inspired dishes. Keep an eye out on our website for the menu coming soon.

THE BELL'S BEER FEST

Saturday 1st August From 12pm

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In the Warwickshire Seniors League, the weather has not been good, three matches postponed and the fixture at Kenilworth looked in doubt, but the rain held off. Sue Panton and Clare Callaghan played a marathon Ladies doubles rubber winning a long first set tiebreak with Kenilworth taking the second, while Nigel Eaton and Colin Mercer lost both sets. The mixed doubles were both halved giving Kenilworth a 5-3 win.

Friday coaching is in full swing and coolsportz coach Ian Shorrocks is running sessions for Juniors (4.00-6.00) and Adult Beginners/Improvers (6.00-7.00), Lianne Candappa is taking the Ladies' group from 9.30am – 10.30am. All sessions are open to non-members, and you can come along for a free trial. Ian also runs a Pickleball session from 3.00-4.00, a cross between tennis, badminton and pin-pong. It's fun and social, easy to pick up and low impact.

For more details of any of the sessions, or individual lessons, please contact Lianne at: Lianne@coolsportz.co.uk or phone/text her on 07919 104093.

By the time you read this Wimbledon will have started and you may have been inspired to try tennis or get back to playing after a break. To encourage this, we're offering free courts for the Wimbledon fortnight, until Sunday 12th July. They can be booked online at: clubspark.lta.org.uk/HarburyTC/Booking

The Club offers affordable tennis and welcomes players of all ages and standards and offers a four-week free trial. For more details contact Colin at sucolmercer@me.com

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Staff and Committee

Carnival

We were delighted to win first place in the children's category for our Pre-School float. This year, the theme was stories and book characters. The float was decorated with the children's creations which including paintings of story characters painted by our wonderful Pre-Schoolers.

The children dressed up as book characters, including 'a cat in the hat', a very hungry caterpillar, a witch, a butterfly, bluey, a dalmatian, a builder, a rabbit, a tiger and a ladybird to name a few! The staff team dressed up as crayons from 'The Day the Crayons Quit'.

The staff are extremely proud of how well the children sat on the float or walked alongside it with their parents and carers.



We would like to express our thanks to the Hadley's for the use of the trailer, George and Heather Clarke for storing the tractor, Tesco for donating the food, Quigley's Butchers for the meat, the Rugby Club for the barbeque, the Carnival Committee for their support, our Pre-School parents and Committee for their help decorating the float and running the barbeque, the staff for their hard work leading up to and on the day and last but not least, our amazing pre-schoolers for their art work, dressing up and sitting so well on the float.

Lifecycles

Over the last few weeks, we have been all about lifecycles. As well as having tadpoles and ladybirds, we have introduced five little caterpillars into our Pre-School. We have been

watching carefully over the last few weeks. They grew bigger and bigger and then moved up to the top of their pot and hardened.



This week, they have been placed in the net ready for the next stage of their transformation.

Hopefully we will be setting them free soon!

Smoothie Time!

One of our lovely Pre-Schoolers brought her smoothie maker into Pre-School. The children chopped up some fruit using safety knives and added it to the smooth maker to make a delicious smoothie for snack. A perfect treat for a hot day!





As the children were so enthusiastic about their smoothies, we transformed our role play area into a 'kiosk' selling healthy smoothies, juices and ice cream. The area included a selection of pretend fruits and vegetables, weighing scales, a till with cards and money, jugs, bowls, whisks and spoons and beakers. We also included some recipes to follow with numbers of fruit to count and a menu.



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 http://www.harburypre-school.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook.

HARBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lucy Bosley - Headteacher

To love, learn and grow together.

"Let us not love with words and speech but with action and in truth" 1 John 3:18

Spirituality Week

As part of our ongoing focus on spirituality and wellbeing, children recently had the opportunity to experience a labyrinth walk in school. The labyrinth provided a calm and reflective space where children could slow down, think, and simply enjoy a moment of peace.





They responded thoughtfully and used the labyrinth with great care and respect. Many shared positive reflections afterwards, describing the experience as "so relaxing and calm," while others commented that "the centre was cosy" and made them feel peaceful. Staff also took the opportunity to join in, experiencing their own moments of calm reflection alongside the children. It was wonderful to see our whole school community engaging with the experience in ways that felt meaningful to them. We are grateful to be able to offer opportunities such as this, which encourage reflection, wonder, and a sense of connection with ourselves, others, and the world around us.

World Cup Lunch!

The flags are up in the hall and Caterlink provided a spectacular themed lunch on Wednesday to mark the start of the World Cup! A huge thank you to cooks whose enthusiasm, kindness, and hard work made the occasion so special. The children thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food and the exciting atmosphere.





We are incredibly grateful for all that our kitchen team does each day to make lunchtimes such a positive part of school life. From freshly baked bread and colourful salads to the ever-popular fruity hydration station, they go above and beyond to provide healthy, appealing meals with care and creativity. Their dedication helps our children feel valued and nourished, and we truly appreciate everything they do for our school community.

The Day of the African Child

Year 3 had such an amazing opportunity to take part in The Day of the African Child at St Margaret's Primary School in Whitnash. Before the trip they worked to collaboratively design and make a Harbury School banner representing our link with UMC School in Bo, Sierra Leonne. All 15 link schools from our local area were present at the celebration and a super day of celebration took place with arts, drumming, and singing! We joined the parade, proudly displaying our banner, and singing one of our link songs: Lift Your Banners High. Thank you to all the staff and parent helpers on the day.



The children were so full of enthusiasm following this day and have used this to create some beautiful artwork. They will also be sharing their experiences in one of our whole school worships later in the term.

Fundraising



In June, we held our **Father's Day** sale, offering a range of tray bakes, mugs, LEGO key rings and other gifts. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, the event raised an impressive **£330**, which will go directly towards supporting the school and its pupils. Thank you to everyone involved and made this happen.

Grants to School

We are delighted to have awarded the school a grant of **£360** to fund sleepers for repairing the raised beds and to help provide a new sandpit for the reception children. We would also like to thank a very kind parent who generously gave their time and skills to help construct the sandpit.

We have also donated **£1523** to Opal equipment to support Harbury pupils with outdoor play and learning in lunch and break times. We have paid for the coach for pupils to go to Southam athletics to represent the school, **£400** for buses for Year 3 to go to the Ashmolean Museum which is a fabulous trip where the antient Egyptians come to life. **£250** for Ryton Pools for the reception children to enjoy their first trip out with school learning all about nature. Finally, the PTA funded White Ross Maths Books for Year 1 and 2 at a cost of **£583**.

Open Gardens

We were incredibly proud to work alongside Earthworms to open the school grounds to visitors. Guided tours showcased the tremendous efforts of the staff, children and volunteers who have worked so hard to develop and enhance the outdoor spaces. It was wonderful to share these achievements with the wider community and celebrate all that has been accomplished.











Looking Ahead

Our final fundraising events of the year will be the **Sports Day Brunch** and **Year 5 & 6 production drinks reception**, which will bring our fundraising activities for the 2025/26 school year to a close.

What a wonderful year it has been! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported, volunteered, donated, attended events and contributed in any way to our fundraising efforts. Your generosity and enthusiasm have made a real difference to the children and the school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dates for the Diary

- Harbury School PTA AGM
- Date: 7th October 2026
- Venue: Harbury CofE School Hall

HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

Summer's arrived! We're open for books and all our usual activities from crafting, pleasant pastimes, lego club, etc. And if it's summer, then it's time for the Summer Reading Challenge.

The theme this year is 'Read to the Beat' - inspiring children to explore connections between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity. We have the packs, it all starts 4th July when children can visit the Library, sign up and receive their 'collector folder'. Watch out for the posters for more information.

School summer holidays begin on 20th July. For the duration of the school summer holiday, please note that both the Library and Biblio's cafe will run on a slightly later opening time, from 10.00am in the morning.

And talking of Biblio's....Do you bake? Do you bake scrummy cakes? Do you bake scrummy-yummy cakes of the sort that folks who come into Biblio's cafe love to eat? If so, we'd love to hear from you. We're always on the look-out for new bakers for our cake supply. If you'd like to offer one of your culinary confections to Bilbio's, whether regularly or occasionally, do contact us on bibliostrustee@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk.

As mentioned last month, the library is available for community groups to hire when we are closed. The new Harbury Agentic Building Club is now running - and fully booked. In addition, the Art and Well-being sessions that ran for four weeks a couple of months back is looking to return. Maria, who will run it, has provided a poster - see the Libary fb page - and is looking for expressions of interest.

The art poster also features on the new screen in the library which is now up on the wall with a bright display of posters advertising a range of activities. We've been planning this for some time and it's great to see it up. Many thanks to Jo Marston for taking on the job of updating the information. It looks great.

On a personal note, I've been visiting all the different year groups at the primary school for story-telling sessions over this last term. Always great fun with wonderful and enthusiastic pupils. While telling an old tale about grains of rice and a chessboard (a story that generates some very large numbers) one young lad of 9 or 10 says, 'is that a quintillion?' Well it was! But who'd have thought a year five pupil would know about quintillions. Brilliant! Made my day.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

Growing and selling plants is a tricky business to be in. There are trends which I can't keep up with. The weather plays a big part obviously. Basically I would like a crystal ball to know how busy I might be and which plants will sell. To illustrate this let me tell you about the second Sunday in June which turned out to be the busiest sales day since starting here 27 years ago. Most of the purchases were done between 10.30am and 1.30pm. The previous Sunday the sales were about a tenth of this sum. My ability to be adaptable is challenged. Perhaps having had some rain means that people can get some planting done at the moment. Luckily I have plenty of plants almost ready for sale plus new cuttings taken but I'm not sure I could sustain that level of demand.



Some of the intensity of the jobs to be done at this time of year slows down a bit but most people who are keen can always find something to do. I rarely sit and enjoy it but I hope you can. Maybe some roses need dead-heading, some vegetables need picking especially peas and beans before they get too large and there are usually some weeds that continue to grow. If you have fruit trees they will need some pruning and some hedges might need cutting. The hornbeam here is usually trimmed around this time of year. Mowing is relentless unless we have another dry summer, a repetitive task but the results are pleasing.

Do try to visit open gardens for the National Garden Scheme, such a worthwhile charity, there are many to choose from. Incidentally I have already sent £800 plus to headquarters and there are still three months to go.

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



NATURE NOTES

Martin & Amanda Randall

Harbury.nature@gmail.com

We recently took a walk alongside a local river and enjoyed spotting some of the wildlife it held. That was not along the Leam or Avon but the River Itchen, which forms part of the historic boundary between the Harbury and Ladbroke Parishes. The river is one of Warwickshire's smaller rivers, rising near Wormleighton and flowing northwards for almost 29 kilometres before joining the River Leam. Although modest in size, the stretch of river between Bishop's Itchington and Deppers Bridge meanders through open farmland, bordered by hedgerows, grass margins and occasional patches of wetland vegetation. The valley provides a contrast to the surrounding arable fields, creating a mosaic of habitats that

supports a wide range of species. Like many lowland rivers in central England, the Warwickshire Itchen acts as a "green corridor", enabling wildlife to move through the countryside between otherwise fragmented habitats. Hedgerows, ponds, ditches and riverside vegetation all contribute to this network, increasing the ecological value of the landscape.



River Itchen at Deppers Bridge (Martin Randall)

The river supports a variety of aquatic and semi-aquatic wildlife. Along the riverbanks, reeds, rushes and waterside plants provide habitat for insects and nesting birds. Dragonflies and damselflies are common during summer, while there are also records of kingfishers that may occasionally be seen darting low over the water. We saw many damselflies sitting on vegetation at the river margin, some had not yet gained their full adult colouration because they were newly emerged from their aquatic larval stage. Upon the water were the floating pads of yellow water lilies, a common plant of still or slow-moving water, and by the banks, abundant yellow flag iris. The surrounding fields and hedgerows support species such as yellowhammers, linnets and kestrels, while mammals including foxes, badgers and bats use the river corridor for feeding and movement, and there is the possibility that water voles and otters may be present along this watercourse. Fish species recorded in the Itchen include roach, dace and chub, all characteristic of healthy lowland streams.



Yellow Flag Iris (Martin Randall)

The historic crossing at Deppers Bridge adds a cultural dimension to the landscape. Documentary evidence records a bridge here as early as 1397, reflecting the long-standing importance of the river as both a route and a boundary. The present bridge dates from the twentieth century, although there are some remnants of the medieval structure nearby. For centuries, the crossing linked neighbouring communities while marking parish boundaries and providing access across the floodplain.

Despite its rural character, the River Itchen faces several environmental challenges. Water quality is a continuing concern. Agricultural runoff containing fertilisers, pesticides and sediment can affect river ecology, while sewage overflows during periods of heavy rainfall have become an issue common to many British rivers. Indeed, a major pollution incident occurred in 2009, when agricultural chemicals entered the river Itchen near Southam and caused a significant fish kill. Fortunately thousands of young fish were later released into the river to help restore populations. The recovery highlighted both the vulnerability of the river ecosystem and the importance of active conservation management. Community-led monitoring projects elsewhere along the Itchen, such as at Long Itchington, have emerged in response to concerns about pollution and declining river health, reflecting a growing awareness of the need to safeguard our freshwater habitats.

Climate change is likely to increase these pressures because of more intense winter rainfall and more frequent extreme weather events. Although much of Harbury and the surrounding area lies within zones of relatively low flood risk, the floodplain of the River Itchen remains vulnerable to localised flooding. Increased winter flooding can damage habitats, erode riverbanks and transport pollutants into the watercourse, while hotter and drier summers may reduce river flows and place additional stress on wildlife.



Oxeye Daisies at Temple End (Martin Randall)

Today, the stretch of the River Itchen between Bishop's Itchington and Deppers Bridge remains a tranquil and attractive feature of the Warwickshire countryside. The combination of its historical significance, wildlife value and ecological importance make the Itchen far more than a simple parish boundary. Protecting the river's water quality, habitats and floodplain will be essential if future generations are to enjoy the rich biodiversity and rural character in this part of Warwickshire.



Oxeye Daisies (Martin Randall)

Local roadside verges, roundabouts and some fields are swathed in oxeye daisies at present. Their large blooms appear from June to September. The flowers are so bright that they appear to 'glow' in the evening, giving them other common names of 'moonpenny' and 'moon daisy'. These wildflowers are pollinator magnets. Their wide, open central disks act as perfect landing pads for a variety of insects, including various

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species of bees, and butterflies like the small tortoiseshell and red admiral. Other insects too, can be found on the daisy blooms. Beetles, such as red soldier beetles and ladybirds are attracted to them. They are also a favourite stop for species of hoverflies: crucial pollinators that feed on both pollen and nectar. Other flies, such as the 'picture-winged' flies, whose adults have attractively patterned wings, feed off the flowers and lay eggs on the flower head in which the larvae live and pupate.

The importance of flies as pollinators should not be underestimated; they are the second-largest and second-most important group of pollinators globally, right after bees. While they lack specialised pollen-carrying structures that are found on some bees, their hairy bodies inadvertently trap and transfer pollen as they travel between blossoms, searching for nectar and nutrients. In alpine and Arctic environments, where bees struggle to survive, flies are the dominant and most important pollinating insects. Some are also bred specifically for this purpose. Blowflies, the metallic-looking, highly active flies, are commercially managed to pollinate seed crops in greenhouses and isolation tents: something that Harbury Society members recently observed while on a visit to the UK Vegetable Genebank in Wellesbourne. In this way, flies provide an important ecological service, vital for securing the production of some of our food.



HARBURY GENERAL NEWS



HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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

There are a few things to report on here so I will get straight in. Firstly, with a performance Update on the District Council.

District Council Performance Update

At its June meeting, Stratford District Council's Cabinet reviewed the Council's Annual Performance Report, which looked back at progress made during 2025/26 and assessed how well the Council is delivering against its priorities.

The report painted a largely positive picture, with two-thirds of the Council's priority actions fully achieved during the year and further projects progressing well. While some longer-term initiatives will continue into the coming year, the overall report demonstrated strong delivery across a wide range of services that affect residents and communities across the District.

Among the year's achievements were the launch of a new District Council website to make services and information easier to access, health screening initiatives to support earlier diagnosis and better health outcomes, and a major business conference attended by more than 200 organisations to help promote economic growth and local employment.

The Council also introduced new community grant funding to support local projects and facilities, while continuing to provide assistance to residents facing financial hardship through warm homes schemes and other cost-of-living support.

Good progress was also reported on environmental priorities, with most actions within the Council's Climate Change Action Plan either completed or underway. This included a range of projects aimed at supporting nature recovery and improving biodiversity across the District.

The report highlighted ongoing work to deliver the Council's Housing Strategy, support vulnerable residents, strengthen engagement with town and parish councils, and progress major strategic projects such as the South Warwickshire Local Plan.

While there is always more to do, particularly in areas that residents regularly raise with councillors, it was encouraging to see positive progress being made across many of the services and priorities that matter most to our communities.

One item that Cabinet considered and agreed is outlined next…

Updated Local Enforcement Plan

Planning enforcement is one of the issues that residents most frequently raise with me, and many people have told me they would like to see improvements in this area. In response, the Council has increased capacity within the Planning Enforcement team and recently approved a new Local Enforcement Plan to provide a clearer and more transparent approach to dealing with breaches of planning control.

The revised plan replaces the previous 2021 version and has been developed following consultation with residents, parish councils and councillors. Thank-you to everyone who took the time to respond to the consultation and share their views.

The plan is intended not only to guide the work of the Council's enforcement officers, but also to help residents understand the process and the steps that may be taken when breaches of planning control are reported.

A key change is the introduction of a strengthened priority system. The most urgent cases will receive a site visit within one working day, with other significant cases visited within 10 or 20 working days depending on their severity. This will help ensure that breaches causing the greatest harm, particularly those affecting heritage assets, the environment or local amenity, are dealt with promptly.

The Council will continue to seek practical solutions through discussion and negotiation wherever possible. However, where serious or persistent breaches occur, a wide range of formal enforcement powers is available and will be used where necessary.

The new plan should provide greater consistency in decision-making and help protect the character, environment and heritage of our communities. It also gives residents and parish councils a clearer understanding of how enforcement cases are assessed and progressed. The plan is available to view on the District Council's website for anyone wishing to understand the enforcement process in more detail. https://democracy.stratford.gov.uk/documents/s77435/Appendix%201.pdf

Supporting Rural Communities Through the Rural Crime Advisor Service

In the sections above, I highlighted some of the ways Stratford District Council is working to improve services and respond to issues raised by residents. One area that is especially important in our rural communities is crime prevention and community safety.

As a ward with many farms, agricultural businesses and isolated properties, rural crime remains a concern for many residents. Theft of machinery and equipment, vehicle crime, livestock worrying and environmental offences can have a significant impact on both livelihoods and quality of life.

The joint Rural Crime Advisor service, funded by Stratford District Council and the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner, continues to provide practical support to

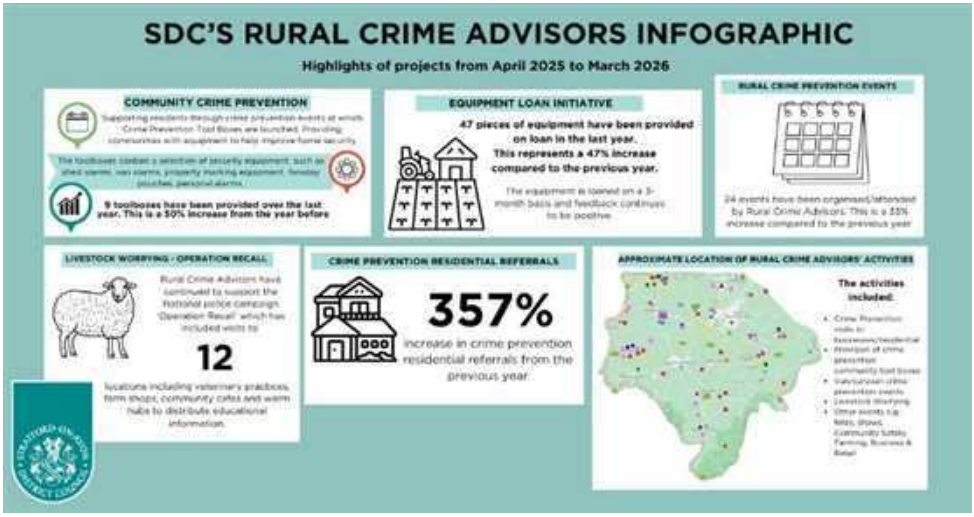
residents, farmers, landowners and businesses across South Warwickshire. The emphasis is on prevention, helping people improve security and reduce opportunities for crime before incidents occur.

During 2025/26, the service supported 780 residents and businesses, the highest level of engagement since the programme began. There was a 73% increase in attendance at crime prevention events, residential crime prevention referrals rose by more than 350%, and loans of security equipment increased by 47%.

Additional funding enabled the Rural Crime Advisors, Rebecca Jenkins and Alison Packer, to expand their work significantly over the past year. Their support includes advice on home and farm security, vehicle protection, livestock worrying, environmental crime and a range of other issues that affect rural communities.

The growth in requests for home visits and security advice suggests that more residents are becoming aware of the service and taking proactive steps to protect their homes, businesses and property. This is particularly valuable in rural areas, where distances can be greater and farms and isolated properties can be more vulnerable to criminal activity.

The Rural Crime Advisor programme remains an important part of the wider work being undertaken to support and protect our rural communities. The infographic below provides a summary of the service's activities and achievements between April 2025 and March 2026.



If you would like to find out more about how the rural crime advisors could support you please use this link: www.stratford.gov.uk/community-safety/rural-crime.cfm

And finally, this wouldn't be complete without a reference to the South Warwickshire Plan…

South Warwickshire Local Plan Update

I know that the South Warwickshire Local Plan continues to be one of the issues of greatest interest to many residents, and I have reported on its progress in previous editions of this magazine. This new local plan will shape future housing, employment and infrastructure across South Warwickshire up to 2050.

As mentioned last month, the Joint Cabinet Committee of Stratford and Warwick District Councils met in May to consider the next stage of the plan. Rather than proceeding

immediately, it was agreed that further work should be undertaken before recommendations are made to the two Councils.

The plan is now expected to be considered by both Councils in July. If approved, it will move to the Regulation 19 stage, which is the final public consultation before the plan is submitted for independent examination by a Planning Inspector.

Unlike earlier consultations, the Regulation 19 consultation focuses on whether the plan is legally compliant and sound. Residents and organisations will be able to submit representations on these matters, which will then be considered as part of the examination process.

I will continue to keep everyone updated as the plan progresses and will publicise the consultation when it becomes available. In the meantime, those wishing to learn more can find a wide range of background information and supporting documents on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website: https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/



HARBURY WHEELBARROW RACE

Heather and Vicky

On Sunday 7th June, the sun was shining and the village turned out in force for this year's Wheelbarrow Race. The route started at The Shakespeare this year and continued on to Harbury Rugby Club @The Old New Inn, The Gamecock, Harbury Village Club, The Crown and back to The Shakespeare.







We had the largest number of teams enter since we took over the running of the Wheelbarrow Race in 2017. The men's beer race was won by Jay Ramsay and Matt Hughes in a time of 9mins 44secs. The women's beer race was won by Harriet and Mia in a time of 24 mins 23 secs. George and Jodie Simpson won the mixed team beer race in 12 mins 48 secs. James and Alex Edge won the water race in a time of 9 mins 39 secs. While Albie Biddle and Archie Mellings were our fastest junior team and made it round the course in a fantastic time of 12 mins 7 secs. Ross and Morgan Lewis were the winners of the trophy for Best Fancy Dress. John Mortimer and James Mansell won the trophy for the fastest time for a team with a combined age of over 80 years old.

WHEELBARROW RACE 2026



















After 10 years, this year was our last year running the Wheelbarrow Race and we have loved organising this fantastic village event. Hopefully we have a team of volunteers lined up to take the reins for next year's race. We would like to thank The Shakespeare, Harbury Rugby Club, The Gamecock, Harbury Village Club and The Crown for their support over the years. The event simply could not happen without your generosity. A huge thank you to Moira and her team of volunteers for keeping our timings in check. Thank you to the village for supporting us through the last decade. We really have had a blast and look forward to cheering on the new team next year.

HARBURY CARNIVAL GAMES WEEK 2026

Mike McBride & John Broomfield

This year, we had TEN teams take part in the Pub games and 90 people competed in one or more of the games and were supported by many. The ten teams this year were: The Wallingtons, Drama Queens, Dream Team Too, The "A" Team, Harbury Village Club, The Shakespeare, Harbury Tennis Club, Harbury Rugby Club, The Gamecock and The Crown.



The winners of the individual events were as follows:

Horse Shoes – Harbury Rugby Club

Aunt Sally – The Wallingtons

Table Skittles – The Gamecock

Quiz – Harbury Tennis Club



Although a bit chilly, not flaming June, it did not rain this year during the games, so the games that could be played outdoors, were.

At the end of the competitions the winners were Harbury Rugby Club with 61 points, followed by Harbury Tennis Club with 57 points, The Wallingtons

with 56 points, The Gamecock with 50 points, joint fifth with 44 points were Harbury Village Club and Drama Queens, then The Crown with 43 points, Dream Team Too with 35 points, The Shakespeare with 28 points and the "A" Team with 22 points.

The winners were presented with the Dan Killian Carnival Pub Games Shield.

If you want a bit of fun playing games, not too seriously, on early June evenings and want to put a team together, please get in touch with the organisers when the games are advertised in 2027. You only need four people for each event out of a maximum 12 players per team – and they could be the same four who enter them all. It's good fun and gives you a chance to meet many fellow villagers and to visit our well-known hostelries. Perhaps those teams who have taken part in previous years will enter again? You could start planning now.

Our thanks must go to all the teams for taking part. Along with the team players each evening and the supporters it was great to have so many people come along. Last but not least, we would like to thank the licensees for letting us use their premises; it would be difficult to hold the events without you.

As part of the Harbury Carnival family, we would like to thank Vicky and Heather, who organised the wheelbarrow race for the last ten years, for keeping a Harbury tradition running.

Tempting fate but we look forward to seeing you all again in 2027.

HARBURY CARNIVAL

Harbury Carnival Committee

What an amazing day!!

Lovely weather ensured you all turned out and the carnival was a huge success.

The parade of floats all looked fabulous and the judges, Amanda and Martin, had trouble choosing the winners - a full list is below.

The Shirley Pipe band started the procession off and Royal TKT Cheerleaders led the way for the second half with an amazing display of acrobatics.





The parade was welcomed on to the field in true 'Debs our MC' style.

Along with delicious food and drink, the Dassett Alpacas and Southam Fire Station made an appearance again. There was also plenty of entertainment with live music from the Ünnëcëssäry Ümläüts, a dog show, animal magic show and of course our pirate Stilt Man!

It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves, whilst raising money for local groups. We have only just started counting all the pennies, so we will let you know when we have a total.

Thank you all for making it such a great day and keeping this village tradition alive.

Parade winners



The Lisa Tebaldi Trophy - first in the best decorated trade float - The Crown with The Vinyl Record Club.

Second The Shakespeare Inn with Mardi Gras and third The Great Western with their Saloon Bar.

Harbury Carnival Trophy for best private/non-trade float was awarded to Haidee's family and Friends.

Harbury Carnival Shield for best children/junior float – went to Harbury Preschool with Favourite Stories and second was the Rugby Club Juniors with Where's Wally.

Best decorated bike/pram/car - first The Robinson Family with Very Hungry Robinsons.





Second Kayla with Princess in a Pink car and third Pony and Trap with Jamie, Karma the dog and Pickle the pony.

John Ridgeley Trophy for best adult walking group – first Harbury WI with Pink Ladies and second the Guide dogs.

Most imaginative walking tableau went to Rainbows, Brownies & Guides with their Through the decades – 80 years of Guiding in Harbury.

Tim Percival Cup for child best original costume in parade went to Megan Lewis with her shark costume.

And the Sue Andrews Cup for adult best original costume in parade went to Emily Robinson for her Strawberry Lady.

As a couple of our long standing and valued committee members are stepping back next year we desperately need to find another



couple of volunteers with good organisational and/or design skills to enable us to continue next year.

If you think you fit the bill please get in touch via our Facebook page or by emailing harburycarnival@gmail.com



HARBURY SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Julie Clarke, On behalf of the Harbury Senior Citizens Benefit Association

On the 17th June we went on our annual day trip, this year we went to Shrewsbury. It was such a lovely day. We left the village at 8.30am and arrived in Shrewsbury at 10.30am. According to the feedback from many of you, you all enjoyed it.





We were dropped off in the centre just outside St Chad's Church then we were able to explore and see what we wanted. Some did the river cruise, others went to the Castle. We did the river walk along the River Severn, then walked through The Quarry, a 29 acre riverside park in the town centre where they host the famous Shrewsbury Flower Show every summer.





There were a lot of independent boutiques, cafes, and pubs which of course we visited. We also visited the Indoor Market which sold just about everything you would need.

We headed back to the coach at 5pm and arrived back in Harbury at 7pm. A very good day.



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 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 three Tom's Teas will be on:

- Monday 20th July
- Monday 17th August
- Monday 21st September



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



PONDER IN THE PUB

Rev Andy Batchelor

An opportunity to discuss life's big questions from a secular and Christian perspective.

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

The topic for the 28th July is "What am I doing here"? Everyone is welcome. Please do join us.



HARBURY SWIFT VILLAGE

Amanda Randall

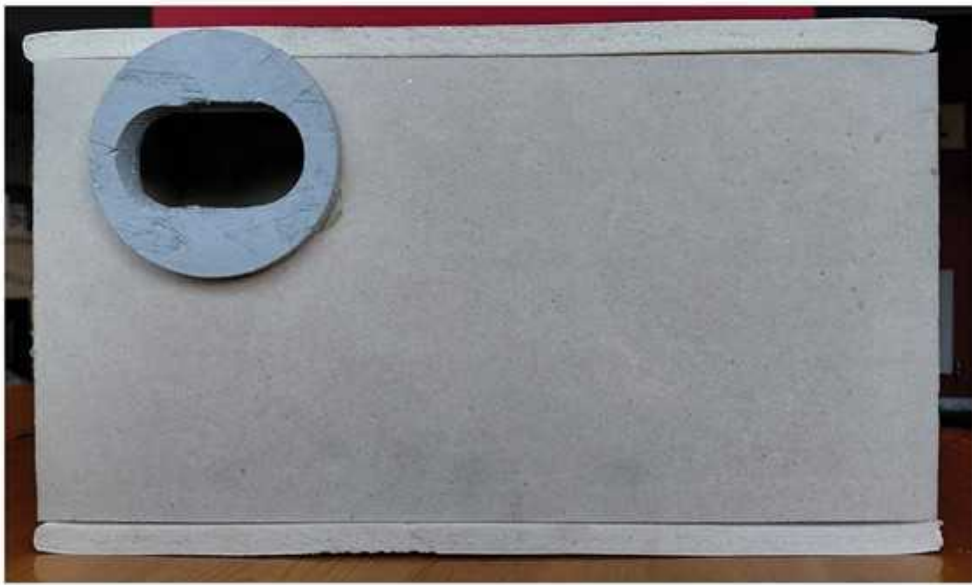
Contact Harbury Swifts: swifts.harbury@gmail.com

Exciting News

I am delighted to let you know that I have been in consultation with Orbit Housing and the social housing group Fortem, during their roof refurbishment work in Manor Road, and there has been a very positive outcome.

Roof refurbishment generally spells disaster for swifts, as the work seals off their nest sites and prevents them from accessing their lifelong homes. Roof renovation and the resulting loss of nest sites is one of the main factors contributing to the 60% decline in swift numbers in the UK over the last 25 years. It is believed that a pair of swifts will never nest again if their nest site is lost. Swifts are known to injure themselves or even die while trying to enter their blocked nests.

However, where natural swift nests currently exist in Manor Road, Orbit and Fortem have agreed to fund and install soffit nesting boxes specially designed for swifts, thus ensuring







that when the birds return next year they will still have a home to return to. In addition, where residents are in agreement, the companies have agreed to incorporate soffit boxes in their other property refurbishments in Harbury, including some properties in Frances Road, as well as Manor Road.

This will be a valuable increase in the nesting opportunities available to swifts in our village, alongside our nest box project. I am grateful to those people who have asked to be included in this programme. I am also very grateful to Orbit Housing for not just funding the programme locally, but also for sharing what they have done for swifts in Harbury with their wider Property Improvement Team in the Midlands. Hopefully, this will lead to other areas providing homes for swifts in the same way and contribute to helping stop the decline in these incredible birds.

If you are wondering what exactly a soffit nest box is, it is an artificial nesting chamber is designed to be installed within existing or new build soffits, providing a safe, discrete nesting spot for swifts, who would naturally nest in roof crevices. The specially designed, lightweight

boxes are glued inside the soffit. The swifts can swoop up and enter through a slot in the soffit board itself, leaving the exterior of the house looking unchanged. The box contains a nest cup to help keep the swift's eggs from rolling out. They are self-contained meaning the swifts are not able to access the rest of the building or roof space.

If you are contemplating roof work, please check the SwiftMapper website to see whether or not swifts have been recorded nesting at your property. If they have, then it is vital that any refurbishment work must not occur during the breeding season, as swifts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Please do ensure that any natural nests that might be blocked when the roof is refurbished are replaced, either with a suitable external nest box, a swift nesting brick, or a soffit box.

Even if you don't have naturally nesting swifts, please consider fitting one or two soffit boxes for future generations of nesting swifts to use. The boxes need to be fitted no less than five metres above ground as the birds exit vertically downwards. Multiple boxes can be placed along the soffit, ideally about 1m apart. A clear flyway in front is required for access by the birds, which swoop upwards to the entrance hole.

Acrostic Poem Competition

Thank you and well done to all those who entered the competition. It's not possible to let you know the winners yet, as the deadline for the July Harbury News is before judging has taken place! However, all the entries will be on display in the Library during Swift Awareness Week (until 5th July). Do come and read them.

Final Highlight

I understand that two girls in Year 4 at Harbury School have written to the King about their concern for swifts. I hope they will share with us the reply from His Majesty.



HS2 – ROAD CLOSURES UPDATE

John Holden

HS2 contractors are now saying that the proposed four week closure in July on the B4451 between Deppers Bridge and Southam has been put back to the early Autumn. The closure of the A423 between Southam and Ladbroke is still scheduled for August, commencing sometime during the first week.



HARBURY VILLAGE SHOW – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Gordon Robbins



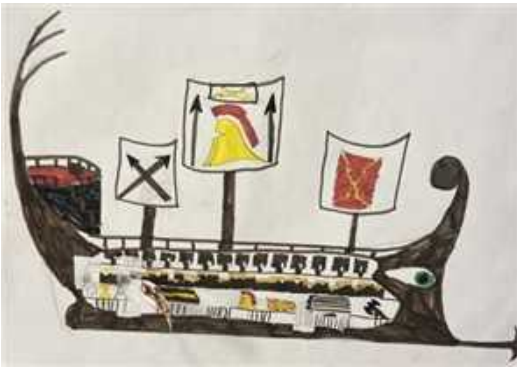
As I write this article there is a 'Red Warning!' of extreme heat for our area. We may not have been subjected to such headline grabbing prophecies in the past, but reading back in old articles for the Horticultural Show, as it was known pre-1989, there have long been complaints of extremely poor growing weather and how it should not put entrants off exhibiting. This is just as true today, as what you may normally consider not a very good specimen for exhibition, might well outshine





other entrants who've had equally trying growing conditions!

The change in 1989 from Horticultural to show to Village Show was prompted by the co organisation with the W.I. where lots of other creative categories were included which covered baking, crafts, painting, photography and of course the Children's sections.



Schedules are readily available at the Milk Shed, Post Office and Library and also downloadable from: hlnews.co.uk/harbury-village-show.html.

A reminder that this year the show will feature the Cubbington Silver Band whose prowess is well known over Warwickshire. So, while you peruse and wonder at the exhibits of the show, you will also be serenaded! What more could anyone ask for a cracking day out!!

CHESTERTON WINDMILL OPEN DAY – SAVE THE DATE!

Stephanie Ainslie

We are delighted to announce that **Chesterton Windmill** will be opening to the public as part of **Heritage Open Days**, managed by Warwickshire County Council's Heritage & Culture Team in partnership with the National Trust and Chesterton Parochial Church Council.

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, involving thousands of local volunteers and organisations. Every year, in September, it brings people together to celebrate their heritage, community and history. Stories are told, traditions explored and histories brought to life, offering the public a chance to discover hidden places and try new experiences.

As part of this nationwide celebration, Chesterton Windmill will be welcoming visitors on **Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September**, from **10am to 4pm** on both days.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore this remarkable historic landmark and observe the internal workings of the mill with a Master Miller, learn more about its history and enjoy refreshments in a friendly community atmosphere.

To help make the weekend run smoothly, we are looking for volunteers to lend a hand in three key areas:

- Help within the Mill – welcoming visitors and assisting with the flow of people through the building
- Help in the refreshments tent – serving drinks and refreshments and helping create a warm welcome
- Help with car parking – guiding visitors safely and efficiently as they arrive

Volunteer sessions are **3¼ hours (including safety briefing)**, with a choice of either a morning or afternoon shift. Whether you can help on one day or both, every contribution will be greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you. Without enough volunteers, we will not be able to go ahead with this event and as a thank you, all volunteers will be invited to enjoy a private tour of the Windmill.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of this special weekend at Chesterton Windmill, please get in touch for more information.

Call or text Stephanie on 07903 193615

Email: steph.a1@icloud.com

Come along, get involved and help make this year's Chesterton Windmill Open Day another memorable community event.

heritage open days

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire

HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

We are taking a break of three months for the summer.

Our next market will be Saturday 26th September 10.00 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.

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CARERS4CARERS

Lisa Barnett

Carers4Carers, your local support group for family carers, meets on the fourth Friday of the month (except December) from 10.30–12.00 at Kineton Village Hall. Loved ones are welcome and can join our Companionship Group.

Friday 24th July: Caroline Graham from Healthwatch will talk about the future of the service and hear your experiences.

For details or help with transport, contact Gillian: 07947 893504, kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or visit our carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.



SOUTHAM OPEN GARDENS 2026

Emily Jamieson

Southam in Bloom are excited to take part in the Open Gardens national event again on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July.

Once again there will be the amazing opportunity to visit a selection of spectacular private gardens.

Details for map purchasing and timings are on the Southam in Bloom Facebook page www.facebook.com/share/g/1LJnmbf3Vn/

This is a wonderful chance to explore Southam's beautiful gardens and grounds - a perfect recipe for a great day out.



READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors

Nora Ellis passed away peacefully on 27th May aged 93 years. She and her husband Neville retired to Harbury in 1994, from their farm on the Fosse Way.

She and Neville were active members of the Church and were bell ringers. They joined the Harbury Society, the Horticultural Society, and the French Twinning Group. Nora also joined the WI and became a committee member. After Neville's death, and with her health deteriorating, she moved to Tithe Lodge in Southam. The family would like to thank all her friends from Harbury and the local area, who visited her over the last few years, as her mobility failed and she found it difficult to leave her flat.

Karen Ellis & Kathryn Wickson

Dear Editors

Please convey a big thank you to the largely unseen group who give their time to keeping our local footpaths clear of long grass, brambles and stingers. Most of the paths are well walked, showing how many people appreciate your efforts. It is yet another instance of how blessed we are here by the number of volunteers who make this such a special place to live.

Gillian Hare



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HARBURY VILLAGE HALL	**HARBURY VILLAGE LIBRARY**	**TOM HAULEY ROOM**
Booking Secretary Tel: 07563 044772 *harburyvillagehall@googlemail.com*	**Michael Luntley** *communityhub@harburyvillagelibrary.org.uk*	**Moira** *thr@allsaintsharbury.org*

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