Harbury & Ladbroke News



MARCH 2026



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2 March	F - R - G	F
9 March	F - W	F - R - W - G
16 March	F - R - G	F
23 March	F	F - R - G
30 March	F - R - W - G	F - W
6 April	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

MARCH 2026 No. 624

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The Editors reserve the right to amend articles as they see fit.

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Cover Photo: Magnolia Tree in Manor Orchard by John Holden

EDITORIAL

A round up of local news

The magazine's annual subscription is due next month. We are very pleased to let you know that with advertising covering 54% of the costs, we have held the rate at £10 for 2026/27. As a full colour magazine, giving all the local news, featuring local advertisers and costing under £1 per month, we feel it is very good value! We do, however, need to bring in income to cover our rising costs each month so please do pay as promptly as you can when renewing your subscription.

With this edition you should find an insert detailing the three ways of how you can make your payment. To pay by electronic transfer please visit our website hlnews.co.uk and click on the 'Subscriptions and BACS Payments' tab. Complete the Google form and then make payment from your bank account. Alternatively, please deliver the money yourself to your distributor or, if that is difficult, wait for your distributor to call. Thank you!

A new community activity which started in January at the Tom Hauley Room continues to welcome villagers where you can meet new friends or catch up with old ones. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits plus plenty of chat are guaranteed. See the diary for upcoming dates and the article this month 'Honouring Tom' on page 52.



Rain, rain and more rain was what we have received so far during 2026. The photo shows Jessica and Emily playing in a very wet Farmyard Field in Ladbroke. However, with spring fast approaching, green-fingered residents are reminded that by 1st April they will need to renew their subscription to the garden waste collection service run by Stratford District Council. The annual charge for this year is £50 for each green bin.

Ladbroke Church will be holding some thank you events which include guided tours in March. Also there will be a special service to celebrate Mothering Sunday and also an Easter Trail.

Finally we extend our sympathy to the families of Laura Oliver and Josie Taylor.



HARBURY DIARY

For local events

MARCH

Sun 1 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Said Communion, 9.00am, Church
Muddy Church, 3.00 - 4.30pm, start in Tom Hauley Room
Youth Group, 5.00 - 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm Village Hall

Mon 2 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 3 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Poems and a Pint, 7.00pm, The Crown Inn

Wed 4 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Welcombe Hills (4 miles)
Mothers' Union, meeting starts 2.00pm - "Let us Flourish" by Jenny Dean, followed by communion service, Tom Hauley Room

Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 5 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Library

Fri 6 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sat 7 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam United Bowling Club
WI Soup and Pudding lunch in aid of the Esther Project, 1.00pm, Tom Hauley Room

Sun 8 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Messy Church, 3.00 - 5.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm Village Hall

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

Tue 10 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

Wed 11 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Wormleighton (4½ miles)
Quiet Space, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 12 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury WI, Pigments, Perfumes & Piquancy - Plant Chemistry in Action, 7.30 for 7.45pm, Tom Hauley Room
Harbury Theatre Group's Business Meeting, 7.30pm, Village Club

Fri 13 Sheep Dip Session with Dana Robinson, doors open 7.30pm, Village Library

Sat 14 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Southam Twinning Association
Repair Café, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library

Sun 15 MOTHERING SUNDAY
Said Communion, 8.00am, Church
All Age Service, 10.30am, Church
St. Giles, Chesterton, Holy Communion Service, 10.30am
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 16 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
New! Tom's Teas. Free Tea, Cake, Coffee, Friendship and Chat, 2.30 - 4.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 17 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Harbury Society, AGM followed by 'Medical Detection Dogs', a talk by Dr Fiona Baskett, doors open 7.30, presentation at 7.45pm

Wed 18 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall - Napton (4 miles)
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Tickets for Harbury WI Village Cinema to be purchased by today from Village Library - film showing on Sat 21st March
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

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

Sat 21 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Harbury Heritage Centre
Harbury WI Village Cinema presents, "Brooklyn" doors open 6.15pm, film begins 7.00pm, Village Hall

Sun 22 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Informal Evening Service, 7.00pm, Tom Hauley Room
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm Village Hall

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Mon 23 Badminton, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Village Hall
Martial Arts, Juniors 5.45pm, Seniors 6.45pm, Village Hall

Tue 24 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall
Ponder in the Pub "Is being good, good enough?" 6.45 for 7.00pm, the Crown Inn

Wed 25 Wednesday Walk, meet 9.40am, behind Village Hall – Moreton Morrell (3½ miles)
Knitwits and Pleasant Pastimes, 2.00 - 4.00pm, Village Library
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Murder Mystery, 7.30pm, Village Library
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

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

Sat 28 Coffee Morning, 10.00am - 12 noon, Tom Hauley Room in aid of Agnes Court (Leonard Cheshire Home)

Councillors Corner, 11.00am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Harbury Local Market, 10.00am - 12.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 29 PALM SUNDAY
Sung Holy Communion, 10.30am, Church
Zumba, 9.00 - 10.00am, Village Hall
RCCG Holy Ghost Zone Royal Leamington Spa Sunday Service, 10.30am - 1.30pm Village Hall

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

Tue 31 Everyone Active Fitness, 10.00 - 11.00am, Village Hall

APRIL

Wed 1 No Wednesday Walk
Mothers' Union, communion service 2.00pm, meeting starts 2.30pm, Tom Hauley Room
Spellbound Dance Classes, 4.30 - 7.00pm, Village Hall
Hereburgh Morris Practice session, 8.00 - 10.00pm, School Hall

Thu 2 Table Tennis, 9.30 - 10.30am, Village Hall, Tel: 01926 612951
Holy Communion, 10.00am, Tom Hauley Room
Crafts, 2.15 - 3.30pm, all ages welcome, Village Library
Folk Club, 8.00pm, Village Library

Fri 3 Meeting Point, 12.30pm, The Crown Inn

Sun 5 EASTER DAY
Sunrise Service around the fire followed by coffee and bacon sandwiches, 6.30am
Said Holy Communion, 9.00am
All Age Service (no communion), 10.30am
St. Giles, Chesterton, Easter Sunday 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

Mon 6 Lambing Open Day, 12.00 - 3.30pm, Lodge Farm, Chesterton CV33 9LG

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

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

All Saints HARBURY

FROM THE RECTOR

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

This month I celebrate my birthday, having reached that point when I sometimes would rather not celebrate another passing year! But from a Christian perspective each birthday is a reminder of the moment God said, "Let there be..." about us. Before we had done anything to earn our place, before we had qualifications, a job, a reputation, or a single achievement,

God loved us into existence. It reminds us that our primary value is not in what we do, but in who we are: a beloved child of the Creator. In the Christian tradition, we often speak of two birthdays: the day of our physical birth and the day of our new birth in Christ. Our physical birthday celebrates our entry into the world; our spiritual birthday, which might be our baptism, confirmation, or simply a moment of commitment, celebrates our entry into God's Kingdom. A birthday is an opportunity to reflect on how these two lives are developing. How are we being shaped by that new life? As we look back we see the ways God has been our Shepherd, guiding us through seasons of change. A birthday is a moment to give thanks for our homes, families, and the people around us. It is a moment to "number our days" as the Psalm puts it, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom.



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Andy & Bez

We have had two all age services this year and met new faces and families which is always encouraging to see, and by the time you read this, we will have had the second afternoon of Tom's Teas in the Tom Hauley Room. Both are great ways to meet people and socialise especially when Tom's Teas has delicious homemade cakes!

In the February all age service we saw the Temple that was built in Messy Church – pictures here. This was a great activity and sparked lots of conversation about the historical building and the story of Jesus as a 12 year old going to the temple with his parents. If you want to find out what happened while they were there, then please come along to Messy Church!









There is a lot going on for the village and we welcome you to events that take place in church, Tom Hauley Room or the Crown for Ponder in the Pub. If you are looking for a Quiet Space, space and time to reflect on life and God, then there is a group for this as well and we will have more on that next month.

All Saint's will be hosting a Lent course and anyone interested in joining a group to discuss and prepare for Easter can get in touch via warden@allsaintsharbury.org.uk to show your interest.

If you haven't been along to Ponder in the Pub then you can give that a go too – 24th March will be the topic 'Is good, good enough?' it promises to be very engaging.

And Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday of April this year. We will again meet at 6.30am to greet the sunrise with bacon sandwiches served after a short service outside round a fire. There will then be a said communion service at 9.00 and then an All Age Service at 10.30am

followed by an Easter Egg hunt so hopefully something for everyone to celebrate the Lord's rising!

Next month we hope to give you an update on the Memorial Garden access which, when completed will give easy access for village residents and visitors to the memorial area when paying their respects to loved ones buried there.

From the Registers

Funerals

3rd February	Josie Taylor
6th February	Laura Oliver

MOTHERS' UNION

Gillian Hare

We started the month in style with our rescheduled New Year party. No snow this time, and we were pleased to welcome several visitors. We hope they enjoyed the excruciating jokes in the parcel as well as the company and the tea.

We have also held a bread and broth lunch; this was very well supported and raised a wonderful total of £239. This will make it possible to continue to respond to some local needs as well as supporting M U's wider work with families elsewhere.

Do look for our box of prayers in church. Feel free to use them when you are there for a quiet ponder and take away any that speak to you.

We are invited to join Southam branch for a service marking the world day of prayer, 2pm at St James Church on Friday 6th March. Formerly the "Women's World Day of Prayer", the format is the same and this year put together by women in Nigeria. This is always an informative and usually humbling experience. We will sort out lifts at the next meeting.

Our next meeting will be on 4th March. Please note a change to our usual format as we will have the talk first, at 2pm, followed by the communion service. Our speaker will be Jenny Dean, wife of our churchwarden, about "Flourish" which supports teenage girls. Anyone who would be interested in this very topical subject will be most welcome.



LADBROKE NEWS & DIARY

MARCH

Sun 1 LENT 2
Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 3 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall

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

Thu 5 WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Sun 8 LENT 3
Evensong, 6.00pm, (no morning service)

Tue 10 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Wed 11 Guided tours of church/village (must be pre-booked)

Sat 14 Guided tours of church/village (must be pre-booked)

Sun 15 MOTHERING SUNDAY
Family Communion, 10.30am
Guided tours of church/village (must be pre-booked)

Tue 17 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Thu 19 Lent Lunch, from 12 noon, Chapel Ascote Farm

Sun 22 LENT 5
Holy Communion, 9.00am

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

Tue 24 Parish Council, 7.45pm, Village Hall

Sun 29 PALM SUNDAY
Holy Communion, 9.00am

Tue 21 Table Tennis, 7.30pm, Village Hall

APRIL

Wed 1 Heritage & Friendship Group, 10.30am - noon, The Old School

Thu 2 WI, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Fri 3 GOOD FRIDAY
Tenebrae Service of Light and Shadows, 6.30pm

Sun 5 EASTER DAY
Family Communion, 10.30am followed by refreshments

Tue 7 Photography Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall



LADBROKE CHURCH NEWS

Peter Rigby

www.ladbrokechurch.org.uk

Back by popular demand, we shall be holding an Evensong service on Sunday 8th March at 6.00pm. Please note that this will be instead of our normal 9.00am service.

We are now in Lent, six weeks in the church's calendar that recall Jesus preparing for his ministry in the wilderness and also serve as a time of preparation for Easter. One of our traditions at Ladbroke during this period is our Lent Lunches, when we meet in people's homes for home-made soup, bread and cheese and good company. By the time this edition is published, we shall be halfway through Lent and one of these will already have taken place but there is still time for you to join us at Chapel Ascote Farm on Thursday 19th March at 12.00 noon for the second.

Celebrate Mums everywhere

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally Mothering Sunday. This year this falls on 15th March. This is the third Sunday of the month, so instead of our normal 9.00am BCP service we shall be having a special Family Service at 10.30am. Please note the change of time.

This special service will have lots of participation across the generations, do join us if you can.

There will also be a display on the theme of Mums, families and love, which will move to the phone box afterwards. We expect most artwork will come from youngsters but all all ages are welcome to contribute. For anyone that prefers colouring rather than start with a blank sheet of paper, there will be colouring sheets in the church porch from 1st March. Just help yourself to some of these and leave the finished works in church by Saturday 14th March.

Easter Trail

Our 2026 Easter trail for the young and young at heart takes the form of a scavenger hunt, looking out for different things in nature which remind us of the first Easter. Leaflets with the instructions will be in the church porch from Saturday 28th March.

Holy week this year begins on Sunday 29th March. On Good Friday (3rd April) we shall be holding a Tenebrae Service at 6:30pm and on Easter Day (5th April) our Family Service will be at 10.30am.

All are welcome to join us at any of these events and services.

Forthcoming Events and Services:

Sunday 1st March	10.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 8th March	6.00pm	Evensong (no morning service)
Sunday 15th March	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service
Thursday 19th March	12.00 noon	Lent Lunch at Chapel Ascote Farm
Sunday 22nd March	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 29th March	9.00am	Holy Communion (said)
Friday 3rd April	6.30pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sunday 5th April	10.30am	Easter Day Family Communion

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

LADBROKE & DEPPERS BRIDGE WI

Carol Lane

As we went into Ladbroke Village Hall on the evening of Thursday, 5th February, Jane Neary was already standing at the front with Harry Potter in her arms – as you can see from the photograph!



Harry is her therapy dog and accompanies her to hospitals, hospices, schools and to individuals, where he allows patients or children to pet him which they find reduces their stress levels.

The size and breed of the dog is not important but the temperament is everything. The dog must be over nine months and have been with the same owner for over six months so that the dog's character is truly known. They must be happy with anyone touching their paws and ears, not snatch treats and be calm in noise or problem situations.

The idea of using dogs in this way was started in the 80s and Jane, who was an exhibition florist at the time, co-founded Warwickshire Therapy Woofs after that.

Jane had been brought up with dogs and her flatmate had a chihuahua but when that one died she went to look at another chihuahua advertised in the paper. There, she and an eight week old dog puppy looked at each other and it was love at first sight. This long haired chihuahua became Roo after Wayne Rooney, and when he accompanied her to Crufts where she was arranging flowers he was nominated for Pat Dog of the Year. Out of 7,000 nominations, Roo came second two years running.

Jane left floristry and was working on a stroke unit when the Andrew Lloyd Webber programmes to find actors for musicals were going on. Other staff suggested she should enter Roo to be Toto in Wizard of Oz and as the auditions were at Stoneleigh, she went along. Judy Prenger, one of the judges who won the chance to play Nancy in Oliver, picked Roo out and he was one of the last 30 but didn't get the part.

Sadly he died in 2018 and Jane acquired Harry Potter. Wanting to do something in Roo's memory she and Harry Potter climbed Snowdon, raising £1,500 during which she kept a daily blog to get therapy dogs noticed. Particularly the name attracted a lot of interest and they were involved in photographs for publication of 007 movies, Skyfall and Quantum of Solace.

She and other therapy dog owners were contacted by someone and asked to keep a date free. The event, in Theresa May's time in office, was to de-stress MPs in parliament and she spent 20 minutes with Boris.

It was a most fascinating meeting and amazing how owning a therapy dog gave her an entry into so many different scenarios.

In the business meeting, Sue informed us that it is our turn to host the 2026 Group Meeting which will be on Wednesday 10th June in Harbury Village Hall. The entertainer will be actress and singer, Ella Kendrick. The competition will be to design a bookmark – one entry per WI – and the National and County Chair persons will be attending.

The Food and Friendship Group had an excellent meal at The Crown in Harbury.

The Annual County Meeting will be live streamed at Harbury Village Hall on Thursday 4th June from 10am – 4pm.

Sue is to find out whether there are any collections for Ukraine as the people face their harsh winter with no heating or electricity.

WI subs will be £54 this year but they are not due until April.

The March meeting on the 5th in Ladbroke Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. will be Dr Heena Hargovan Kennedy showing us how to put on a sari and other aspects of Indian culture. This will be an open meeting and we are hoping that many of you will join us.

LADBROKE MATTERS

David Wright

Our Website

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

Upgrade of Village Hall Audio

It has been proposed that we install an induction loop in the village hall to assist those with hearing difficulties. The team are considering this possibility.

New Trustees/Team Members

We were delighted to welcome Mick Moore recently as a new trustee.

We are always on the lookout for new team members and/or trustees, so if you would like to join us get in touch via our website, or have a word with one of our team.

Upcoming Events

We are looking forward to holding more fundraising events later this year. The possibilities are a 60/70s themed soiree; a race night; and a murder mystery evening. Let us know through our website if you have any other ideas, or which of our events you especially enjoy.

The Millennium Green Play Area

Phase two of the upgrade to the play area will commence later this year. This will involve replacing the trim trail and the large swings, both of which are suffering from rotting timber. There is still time to make any suggestions for the upgrade via our website.

Hall Bookings

Our hall has a small kitchen, 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, telephone Debs on 07779 225105 or contact her through the village hall website which has more details about our facilities.

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

Can you help?

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

The more you are able to support us with your skills, time, and/or money, the more we can continue to maintain these facilities for the benefit of us all.

Ladbroke Village Hall Millennium Draw for January 2026

£50 Chris Ennew
£50 Mandy Moore
£25 Martin and Debra Neal
£25 Trevor and Jan Jay
£25 Carole Locker
£10 Helen Morten
£10 Nicky Lewis
£10 Helen Walker

Margaret Bosworth



LADBROKE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Nicky Lewis

We have had a couple of quiet months at Ladbroke Photography Club, and the wet weather has thwarted many attempts to get outside with our cameras. In January we enjoyed a meal out at the Great Western which was well attended and enjoyed by club members and guests. We had a 'cameras down' evening, so I have no photos to include!

In February our intended meeting was put on hold as we had a better offer from Kineton Camera Club to attend an event organised by their committee. The speaker was Colin Hales,

who held us spellbound as he told us how he built his own small plane (in a shed!), then flew it first to America, via the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland then eventually on to Russia via Alaska and Aleutian Islands. With only enough fuel for 3.5 hours flying time, this presented a huge logistical challenge and several very scary moments. Colin is an experienced aircraft engineer and pilot, and through luck, charm and a building celebrity status managed to both navigate and negotiate his way to and through Russia. He then set off for home via Japan (China would have none of it and wouldn't let him in) where he successfully landed in the north. He had to stay there for several months, as Japan wouldn't let him leave, until one day he decided to move to the south….and promptly crashed his plane on a golf course. He was badly injured, the plane was smashed up, and he spent several months in hospital recovering. Thanks to his by now massive following and crowd funding to pay his medical expenses, he eventually made it home. Colin is a fearless explorer and entertaining speaker. He still intends to retrieve the bits of his plane from Japan and rebuild it in his shed!

We will hold our AGM in March, to decide on our programme for this coming year. Most months we have a competition and Phototopic which has been set by the committee. The subjects are wide and varied, to suit all interests and styles of photography. We also arrange trips out or give ideas for days out on a photography theme. This year's focus will be a project on local canals, following a talk by Gray Lewis.

If you have an interest in photography and would like to join us, please come along to our monthly meetings in Ladbroke Village Hall. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors' fees are £3, or annual subscription is £25. We are a small friendly club and welcome all ages and abilities. You don't have to be a brilliant photographer or have a fancy camera to join in. Mobile phone photos are fine! Our evenings are convivial and we always have tea/coffee and cake! Email me if you are interested on nicolalewis1958@gmail.com.

A couple of photos to whet your appetite and remind us of summer:






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LADBROKE HERITAGE

Jackie West

Last month the Heritage and Friendship Group talked about our favourite places. Where would yours be? Are you someone whose choice depends on the time of day, at 10pm being tucked up in bed was very appealing to members of our group. Perhaps your favourite place is where you can get lost in your hobbies; Don described his workshops at home, he has not just one, or even two, but three of them. There's a mechanical and a separate radio workshop in outbuildings and an electrical workshop in his loft. He brought pictures to show all the equipment they housed and told us tales of how he came to acquire or make some of these.

Two favourite places others shared with the group were previous homes: Sue chose the farm just outside Southam where she grew up and Trevor the Carribbean island of Antigua where their home had been a former High Commissioner's house, a property that came complete with maid, two dogs and a terrifying gardener! Beautiful places with happy memories were chosen by the rest of us, ranging from bluebell woods, to the mountains of Mourne running down to the sea, Robin Hood's Bay and St Petersburg. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 4th March, 10.30am - noon at The Old School and our topic will be early school memories, I wonder how many old class photos will make an appearance and if we'll recognise anyone in them.



March is the month when The National Lottery Heritage Fund like recipients of their grants to say a big thank you to Lottery players, something we have been pleased to do for the last few years. However we don't just thank Lottery players as the repairs to our church 2020-2023 also relied on the support of many other generous people. This year our thank you to

everyone takes the form of **free pre-booked guided tours** on Wednesday 11th March, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th (Mother's Day) covering one or more of these topics:

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We will be refreshing the phone box display soon, with artwork on the theme of Mum's, families and love, please see church article for more details.

SAVE THE DATE: **Saturday 11th July**

Almost 150 years to the day since it was first played, the organ in our church will again delight all who come to hear it. We are thrilled that a choir from Germany, organist Hannes Ludwig and other musicians are coming to give a concert in Ladbroke Church. More details to come but save the date now: Saturday 11th July, 3pm.



CHESTERTON NEWS

Stephanie Ainslie

A Day That Bridged the Gap Between Field and Family

There are some days that quietly restore one's faith in the enduring ties between countryside and community. The lambing open day held last year on a family farm in Chesterton was one of them.

Helped enormously by a mercifully dry sky — no small blessing in a season often defined by mud and mizzle — the event drew a steady stream of families, grandparents, and curious visitors. They came not for spectacle, but for something more meaningful: a glimpse into the real, unsanitised workings of a commercial sheep farm at its busiest and most hopeful time of year.

For many, lambing exists only as a pastoral image on greetings cards or television screens. Here, it was something altogether more tangible. Outside in the fields, the farmer hands were keeping a vigil on heavily pregnant ewes, waiting to bring them into warm, straw-lined sheds once they had lambed. Newborn lambs wobbled uncertainly on fragile legs, their first hours of life unfolding under the careful eyes of the farming family whose livelihood depends upon their survival.

It was, in every sense, real life — and that authenticity was precisely what gave the day its quiet power. Perhaps nowhere was this more evident than in the lamb "nursery," which quickly became a focal point of delight. Here were the smallest and most vulnerable lambs, those needing extra care and bottle feeding. Children gathered wide-eyed, watching with intense concentration as warm milk was offered through rubber teats. The opportunity to gently cradle a lamb — to feel its surprising warmth and hear its soft bleat at close quarters — created moments that will linger long in young memories.

These simple interactions matter more than we sometimes realise. In an age where food arrives shrink-wrapped and anonymous, understanding its origins — and the care, skill, and responsibility behind it — is profoundly important. The open day, in its modest way, was an education.

Next door, another quiet lesson awaited. Young calves, sturdy and curious, stood alongside their protective mothers. Their size alone was enough to command respect from smaller visitors, but their calm presence offered reassurance. Here was another reminder that farming is not merely about production, but about stewardship — of animals, land, and future generations.

Of course, no rural gathering would be complete without hospitality, and in this regard the farm did not disappoint. For some, it must be admitted, the tea and homemade cakes rivalled the livestock as the day's chief attraction. Steaming mugs warmed cold hands, while generous slices of Victoria sponge and fruit cake fuelled animated conversation. Around trestle tables, neighbours caught up, strangers became acquaintances, and the quiet social glue of village life did its work.

Yet beyond the animals and the refreshments, there was another dimension that set the day apart.

A service, led by Barbara Clutton, offered a moment of reflection amid the bustle. It was not elaborate, nor was it intended to be. Instead, it acknowledged something fundamental: the deep interdependence between people, animals, land, and seasons. In that farm building — surrounded by the sounds and smells of new life — her words carried particular resonance. Lambing is, after all, both fragile and hopeful. It represents continuity, renewal, and the quiet resilience upon which rural life depends. It is the resetting of the farming clock.

Events like this do more than entertain. They reconnect.

They remind those who do not farm that agriculture is neither abstract nor automatic. It is skilled, demanding, and deeply human work, shaped as much by uncertainty as by routine. They remind farmers, too, that their work is valued — that the long hours, sleepless nights, and constant vigilance are seen and appreciated.

Most importantly, they help ensure that the next generation understands. A child who has bottle-fed a lamb is unlikely ever to think of farming as distant or irrelevant.

In a rapidly changing world, where rural and urban lives can feel increasingly separate, such days matter enormously. They build understanding not through lectures or campaigns, but through experience — through straw underfoot, a lamb in one's arms, and conversation over tea.

But the real success of the day lay in something less visible: the strengthening of a bond between farm and community that has endured for generations — and, one hopes, will endure for many more.

Our next Lambing Open Day will be on

Easter Monday 6th April, 2026, 1pm – 4pm

Lodge Farm, Chesterton CV33 9LG

Free Entry - Open to all - (No dogs please)

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HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

John Holden – H&L News Correspondent

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

Parish Council Meeting – 22nd January 2026

Public Participation

Despite their being four planning applications to consider which were for additional housing in the Parish, there were only two members of the public present. They were there to discuss problems that residents experience when exiting Ivy Lane onto South Parade. When cars are parked near to the junction, particularly on the right hand side of South Parade as you exit Ivy Lane, drivers' vision is totally obscured both for cars leaving Ivy lane and for drivers travelling eastwards along South Parade. In December alone there were two minor collisions at this junction.

Councillors were sympathetic to this matter which has arisen before. WCC are against placing double yellow lines in this area, because there is no one to enforce them!! A mirror opposite the junction was suggested, although again WCC does not install these. Councillors did suggest a meeting with County Highways to see what could be done to make the junction safer.

Other Organisations

Harbury School is hoping to install an air source heating system subject to grant funding being awarded. This will help improve the schools carbon footprint.

District Councillor Ostrander reported that 23,000 responses had been made to the draft of the South Warwickshire Local Plan which are taking time to work through. The District Council has opened a consultation on increasing the Council Tax levied on second homes in the District. She then informed the meeting that Severn Trent are saying that Southam sewage treatment works, which also treats foul waste from most of the villages neighbouring Southam, is up to capacity. However Severn Trent have a statutory obligation to connect to and take waste from new housing developments in the area. Councillors wondered if this could be a reason for the District Council to then turn down new housing planning applications? Cllr Ostrander thought not as at appeal the application would be approved. Councillors then wondered whereabouts the foul waste would then overflow if it could not be treated!!

Planning

Councillors then considered the holding objections that they had submitted for the following applications.

Land north of Mill Street objection already submitted no changes suggested. It was however noted that WCC Highways had objected raising the same concerns that many had made relating to traffic, parking and congestion in Mill Street. It was hoped that this might influence the planning committee.

Land north of Harbury Depot – A response had been submitted to SDC. However the Chairman suggested waiting to see what the Planning officer's report says on the potential development. He thought that the Officer would recommend the outline scheme being approved, albeit possibly with less houses or as a phased development. If this was the case then there would be no point in the PC making any further objections.

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Land north of Hall Lane – objection made still stands although noted outline approval for two houses already granted.

Land at Bull Ring Farm Road – Objection has been submitted citing access difficulties. However this application is almost certain to be approved. The District Council having withdrawn from the planning appeal relating to the Council refusing the previous application for self-build houses.

Properties
Work should begin shortly on repairing the wall by the allotments in Hall Lane. The council is looking to install a water supply to these allotments. However Severn Trent charge £195 just to provide a quote for installation which the meeting agreed to fund.

Environment
Discussions are ongoing with the Landowner/Farmers over whose land the footpath (SM84) from Bush Heath Road to Bishops goes through, regarding removing the stiles and installing gates.

Climate Change
A bid for a grant to support the Earthworms project at the School has been made. If this is successful then a further bid for the Forest School will then be put forward.

Finance & General Purposes
The PC will make an application to the District Council's Climate Fund for new LED lighting and the installation of a card payment machine at the tennis courts. This is because the PC owns the courts. The card payment machine will enable the use of the courts during the dark winter evenings.

Budget & Precept 2026/27
A number of charges and allowances are uplifted in April. Some like the Clerk's salary are set nationally, whilst others including Councillor's allowances and Cemetery fees which will rise by £2 are determined locally. The Council's general reserves at £204k were thought to be too high and it was agreed to transfer some funds to the Skateboard Park and the New Cemetery development funds. Most of the Council's budgets will roll over from last year, except for the Street Lighting which is being increased by £25k to enable lamps to be replaced with LED bulbs and where necessary also new spheres. The Parishes precept on Council Tax will rise by an average of 5.7%.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 26th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Current Parish Council members contactable via the Parish Office are:

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



HARBURY SOCIETY

David Turner

New Year Feast
Thirty-one members of the Harbury Society met on a very wet night at the Shakespeare Inn on Tuesday 20th January for its annual New Year Feast.

When we were all seated in the cosy conservatory, two quiz sheets were distributed to the members for their perusal and they divided themselves into teams. One was a picture quiz and the other was ten tricky riddles and, not only were there points to be gained, but there were prizes as well for those with the most efficient grey matter.

The delicious food was promptly served and everyone settled down for a very convivial evening.

With everyone's brainpower suitably refreshed, the matter of the two quizzes was tackled with enthusiasm. After the answers were read out, resulting in groans from some competitors and cheers from others, chocolates were given to the teams with the highest scores.

Chair Ed thanked the Secretary, Sue Turner, for organizing such a delightful evening and everyone departed in a happy frame of mind.



Harbury Society members enjoying a relaxing evening and concentrating on the quizzes

For your amusement here is one of the quizzes:

Ten Tricky Riddles

1. What can you catch but not throw?
2. What is always in front of you but can't be seen?
3. I am easy to lift but hard to throw. What am I?
4. What is so fragile that saying its name will make it break?
5. What gets wetter when it dries?
6. How do you make the word ONE disappear?
7. I have no life, but I can die. What am I?
8. The more of this there is, the less you can see. What am I?
9. What has holes all over but still holds water?
10. I go around the world but never leave the corner. What am I?

Answers on next page

Harbury Society Programme:

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

Tuesday 21st April – Butterfly Conservation. A presentation by Mike Slater, Chair of Butterfly Conservation, Warwickshire branch.

Thursday 21st May – A visit to the UK Vegetable Genebank, Wellesbourne.

Saturday 13th June – Harbury Carnival.

Thursday 2nd July – A visit to Warwickshire Lavender Farm, Bubbenhall.

All talks are held in the Tom Hauley Room. Doors open 7.30pm with the presentation starting at 7.45pm. Free to Harbury Society members – guests £3 (pay at the door – subject to availability).

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 & Hilary Scott

Harbury WI held their Winter Party on 23rd January – members provided a delicious buffet.

The speaker was Jess Henderson who became the first lady bus driver. Jess started work as a Clippie age 25 in Northampton earning £26 a week. She didn't have a driving licence but a boyfriend offered to buy a car if she learnt to drive. The boyfriend went but she learnt to drive. She tried to become a driver but was told that women didn't drive buses in 1972. Jess went back to live with her parents in London because her marriage had failed. She drove ambulances for four years and then saw an advert in St Albans for bus drivers - male or female. She was told she was too small and they didn't employ ladies. Nevertheless she was persistent and was given the opportunity to start training on a Yellow Peril bus which had huge pedals, no power steering and she needed to double de-clutch. She took her test on 7th November 1976 in London in thick snow. The examiner was very impressed and her badge is now displayed in the London Transport Museum. Eventually Jess went to Hendon garage in North London where life proved difficult because female clippies tended to be married to male drivers so Jess wasn't welcome. Eventually they found her her own conductor – Huwie James from St Kitts. After a while she was promoted to Inspector – she had to wear a man's uniform. She was checking on passengers, drivers and conductors.

Age 55 Jess retired on a full pension and she moved to Daventry, where she worked for Stagecoach as a driver for six years. Age 80, she now drives a minibus for a community transport group and teaches people to drive. This was a most enjoyable talk with lots of amusing stories about driving in snow, catching drivers who were stealing money and events on a night shift in central London.

ANSWERS TO RIDDLES: 1. A Cold 2. The Future 3. A Feather 4. Silence 5. A Towel 6. Add a G in front and it's GONE 7. A Battery 8. Darkness 9. A Sponge 10. A Stamp

At our next meeting on 12th March we shall welcome Dr Alison Foster whose talk is entitled "Pigments, Perfumes and Piquancy – Plant Chemistry in Action."

The final cinema of the season on Saturday 21st March will be showing "Brooklyn". Tickets should be purchased by Wednesday 18th March.

Our coffee morning was in aid of The Esther Project. The project is a safe women-only group based in Leamington, supporting women in Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth and South Warwickshire who are facing mental health challenges, Domestic Abuse, Addiction, Homelessness and involvement in the criminal justice system. In spite of the damp morning it was well supported and we raised £240.60 for the project. The total, added to the money raised at Gill's coffee morning, is £489. We welcomed members of Milverton WI who had read about us online. Many thanks to our members Claudine and Fiona for raising our profile on social media!

The February General Meeting was Members' Night with delicious wine, cheese and biscuits. There was much head scratching over the two quizzes 'All Day Breakfast Quiz' and 'Identifying Celebrities' when they were younger. A very enjoyable and social evening!

The Group Meeting will be held at Harbury Village Hall on 10th June. Harbury WI are running the competition 'A Bookmark in any Medium' so please bring your entry to the next meeting in March.

Members are encouraged to hang green hearts on the bush outside The Library for the WI Climate Coalition: Show The Love.

Unfortunately the cinema tickets have sold out, but there is a waiting list. The fish and chips will be served at 7pm, followed by the film.

HARBURY THEATRE GROUP

Brittany Bain

Going into March we have had our auditions for our May production "God of Carnage" by Yazmina Reza, and are now gearing up to start rehearsals!

God of Carnage is a biting dark comedy about two pairs of upper-middle-class parents who meet to civilly discuss a playground fight between their sons. As the evening progresses, alcohol and insults cause their polite facade to shatter, descending into childish chaos, shifting alliances, and raw verbal violence.

If you are interested in being part of the May production, as a backstage hero, please do not hesitate to contact us via harburytheatregroup@gmail.com! Extra hands to paint sets, light up the stage, mic us up or manage the stage are always welcome!

So pencil us in for 14th - 16th May 2026 for a wonderful dark comedy to liven up your day! Ticket information will be released soon!



FOLK CLUB

Peter Bones

As the meeting of the February Folk Club approached, I became increasingly worried about whether we would have enough performers to fill an evening. Some of our usual contributors were at another folk event in Birmingham, some were ill and some were away visiting their families. It was also raining heavily which tends to discourage some from coming.

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HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Open: Monday - Thursday
10.00am 12.00pm

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

CLERK:
Alison Biddle
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By 7.30pm the library was ready and I was expecting a very quiet night. However by the time we started at 8.00pm, we had a reasonably sized audience of 25 and there were nine performers willing to take part.

With Valentines Day being only nine days away, I decided to have "Love and Romance" as the theme for the evening. Liz and I started the evening with the well known music hall song "Just Like the Ivy". The performers who followed seemed to find material of varying degrees of relevance to the theme and we were treated to some fine music, poetry and banter. I particularly enjoyed the tune "Romantic Waltz" which Anne Clucas had written. It was played beautifully on her viola with a sensitive accompaniment provided by Bob on guitar. Another highlight for me was the clever and amusing poems written and presented by Michael Luntley.

A full list of what was performed during the meeting is on the Folk Club Website tinyurl.com/harbury-folk-club.

Once again there was a warm and friendly atmosphere with good entertainment with plenty of laughter, and culminating with everyone joining in with the singing of the well-known Robbie Burns love song, "Green Grow the Rushes".

The raffle raised £52.00 which was donated to the Salvation Army. Many thanks to those who bought tickets.

The next folk club will be on 5th March and is to be hosted by Peter McDonald. The theme will be "Beer and Wine".



HARBURY HERITAGE CENTRE

Bill Timson

I would like to start this month's article with **an apology** to John and Sharon Hancock, Brian and Theodora Wilne. In my Doctor Sutcliffe article in February I ended by saying that, *'Dr. Sutcliffe was the quintessential village GP. His death (and that of his father before him) marked the end of an era of 'traditional' family medicine in Harbury'.*

Well of course that was not correct. Dr John Hancock and Dr Brian Wilne, fully supported by their wives, had succeeded Jack Sutcliffe Junior as Harbury GPs in the late 1960s. They continued 'traditional family medicine practice' for many more years to come, putting the patients first at the expense of their personal and family lives.

Brian and Theo arrived in 1966, having met and trained in Birmingham, Brian completing his GP training and Theodora qualified as a midwife. John and Sharon followed soon afterwards in October 1969. They had met in Leeds also training as Doctors. The Wilnes settled in Temple End and the Hancocks in Mill Street.

Morning surgery would start at 9am in the small surgery on the corner of Farm Street and Sutcliffe Drive. Space was at a premium so much so that patients would queue outside until receptionist/secretary, Mrs Muriel Grey, called them in. Prescriptions were dispensed from this building too, prepared by the doctors not just for Harbury but for other nearby villages as well. At noon the surgery phone line would be switched over to one of the two doctors' homes and the same happened again at night for emergencies. Everything revolved around the surgery, home and family life played second fiddle.

On Tuesday afternoon and evening the Hancocks would be off duty and took the opportunity

to go the theatre, to friends for dinner or just for a drink in the pub. Even then baby sitters would be left with a number to phone - no mobiles in those days, in case there was an emergency. Holidays too were seen as a luxury as this put pressure on the doctor left in charge.

Brian and John had training in obstetrics, as it was still common for babies to be delivered at home in the 1970s and 80s. At the same time there were two district nurses / midwives living in the village, sharing a house in Dovehouse Lane: Nurse Alexander and Nurse Wade. They provided good support for the doctors. If a rugby or football injury needed treating at the weekend the surgery would be opened up and the injury stitched up as necessary. The doctors would make home visits in all weathers. On one occasion during snowy conditions, John strapped on his skis to make the visit.

There was an evening surgery on Monday, Thursday and Friday, starting at 6pm, often the doctors would not get home until 8pm, missing out on parents' evenings, watching their children in school plays and other events.

In short the village was provided with a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week service. Both Sharon and Theodora provided vital support dealing with all manner of problems and directing their husbands on urgent calls. The two doctors knew their patients really well and **there was a great deal of trust built up with families**. Home visits, minor surgery, delivered babies was all part of the service provided; they knew their patients really well.

Julian Giles, a third GP joined the practice for a short time. This meant that weekend duty was now one in three not every fortnight! In July 1990 the new surgery opened in Mill Street. John and Brian both finished full time work there around 2000 but continued to work part time.



Under Tony Blair's government, General Practices changed. The GP contract was altered and wholesale changes introduced. The 2004 GP contract and the '48 hour access' target shifted practices towards larger, more corporate models, reducing the traditional, personal link between GPs and patients.

Nevertheless, Harbury is still very fortunate to have a GP practice in the centre of the village today. Doctors Snowdon, Wilkinson, Panting and others followed on at Harbury and Bishops Itchington Surgeries in the 1990s and beyond. Even so, people still stop John and Brian in the village today and thank them personally for the treatment they received and rightly so.

HARBURY E-WHEELS

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

Cinderella; a new Murder Mystery

Harbury Village Library will once again host a Murder Mystery for the benefit of e-Wheels on Wednesday 25th March at 8pm (doors open 7.30pm). FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY.



You will see dirty goings on behind the scenes of an amateur production of Cinderella. They arrive for a rehearsal, but Cinderella doesn't. There are tensions in the group and bad feelings.

This popular interactive entertainment is the latest work by John Stringer, who has created an evening of twists and turns in which you, the audience, are invited to work out who-dunnit.

To help your imagination and creativity wine (or a soft drink) will be available for a suitable donation to the charity.

Tickets at £7.50 will currently be on sale at Harbury Village Library (cash or card). Numbers are limited, so make sure you book early.

Hiss, boo or cheer Anastasia and Drizelda, the ugly sisters, Cinderella's stepmother Baroness Sidebottome, Fairly Godmother Lucinda and Dandini. There is even one half of the Horse. One of them, surely, deserves to be caught.

HARBURY TENNIS CLUB

Colin Mercer

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

Rain has put paid to most tennis so far this year, but the three teams have all managed some Banbury League action. In Floodlit Division 2 the "A" team had a top of the table clash at home with second placed Kings Sutton "A". As expected, it was a very close match for Eira Owen, Jeunine, Crabtree, Ben Fish and James Cattrell and was only decided in the final mixed doubles. Jeunine and James "did the business" for an overall 5-3 win and win the league with 2 fixtures to play. In Division 3 the "B" team of Sue Johnson, Lucy Ewen JP Cosgrove and Colin Mercer entertained Middleton Cheney "B", winning 5-3. Another close match and again settled in the mixed doubles with Harbury winning three of the four sets played to move up to 4th place with three fixtures left.

The Weekend team has been hardest hit with postponements only managing two matches since October both against top of the league Warwick. The second was at home with Joe Robson joining Sue, Lucy, and Colin. The match was interrupted by torrential rain, but we managed to finish it with Warwick coming out on top by 6-2. This leaves the team at the bottom of Division 2 but with four fixtures to go not all is lost!

The Friday coaching has also been disrupted by the rain but at the time of writing the sun is shining so let's hope things improve! Our coach Ian Shorrocks is running sessions on Friday for Juniors (4.00-6.00) and Adult Beginners/Rusties (6.00-7.00), and Lianne Candappa is taking the Ladies' group on Friday mornings, 9.30am –10.30am. 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.

1st HARBURY SCOUTS

John Rea

On the first Saturday in February fifteen intrepid Scouts and three leaders set off on our annual early year weekend getaway; this time it was to be mid-Wales. We met early morning, loaded the minibus and were quickly on our way. One of our Scouts Sat picks up the story …

From Harbury we set off on a wonderful journey to Wales. We got on the minibus and were ready to go. We went through dizzy roundabouts and bumpy speed bumps. We crossed bridges and we stopped about halfway for refreshments. Somewhere we said our goodbye

to England and continued our journey in to Wales before arriving at a place called Llanfyllin (say clan – fyllin). A few miles later we reached our destination and parked near a huge dam at the head of large reservoir called Lake Vyrnwy. From here we were going to start our 5-hour hike. First of all, we ate some homemade cakes…..

Now Josh continues the story … After we arrived on the minibus, we realised that we were next to a park, right beside where we had stopped. At the entrance to the park there was a small brook. There were three ways to get across it: a wide bridge, some wet and slippery logs that were buried at each end, or the braver option, jumping the ditch entirely. With only one Scout already wet, we started our hike across the dam. Lots of scouts were finding stones and seeing if they could throw them in to the deep water. At the end of the dam, we reached the first 'hike-y' bit, where many scouts were choosing hiking sticks for the long walk ahead.





The hike took us up and away from the dam into some wild and beautiful countryside. You'll have heard people saying that this has been the wettest start to the year on record and judging by the sodden ground and the fact that the small streams had turned in to raging torrents, then this bit of Wales stands testament to this. In fact, we had to modify our route when we couldn't safely cross a stream. None of this deterred the Scouts though and we happily made good progress, eating our packed lunches by a much smaller dam in the hills, before looping our way back down towards the minibus. We finished the hike tired and a little damp, but it wasn't particularly cold and high spirits maintained.





A short drive then delivered us to our overnight accommodation, which was an old Victorian workhouse, now repurposed as a history centre and bunkhouse. The three dormitories were quickly allocated boys, girls and leaders, and the showers were confirmed as piping hot!

A little later we were all tucking in to the tasty chicken pasta meal that Simon had pre-prepared, and the tired Scouts were quickly re-energising. Time to work off a little steam

with some indoor games, before we settled in to watch a film that we projected on to the whitewashed wall. 90 minutes later, and stifling yawns we all tucked in for the night, and remarkably it seemed after only a short period of chatter we were all fast asleep.

Up bright and breezy the next morning, cereal and bacon-butties consumed, we headed out into the neighbouring field for some more games.





Back to Sat … It was 9:20 on Sunday. We had a wonderful breakfast of cheese sandwich and hot chocolate. Shortly after breakfast we were outside to play cricket. We smashed the ball at batting and accurate throws in bowling. We played for about an hour and after that we got on our minibus.

We got on the minibus and we were off to a mini wonderland named Crystal Leisure Centre. We stopped to eat sandwiches and more cake, before arriving at the swimming pool. We swam with all our confidence and went through swirly water slides. We enjoyed our wonderful experience in this fantastic place.

Later we got back on the minibus to go back home. We talked and talked about our trip to Wales. Eventually we reached Harbury a little early, so we helped unpack and waited until for our mums and dads to pick us up. We had a wonderful time!

And the final words go to Sid ... After getting tired from playing cricket, we headed to our next destination Crystal Leisure Centre. We were so excited, so we took our swimming kit and rushed to have some fun in the water. When we got there, we changed quickly and our scout leaders went up to sit and relax. We wore our wristbands and started swimming. We went in the two slides which was great fun. After all the fun it was time to head home. The bus journey was slow but finally we reached home at around 6.30 and waited for our parents in the scout hut. It was time to say goodbye, so we took our bags and headed home. Though it was only a short trip it was lots of fun!

Diolch (thank you in Welsh)

HARBURY PRE-SCHOOL

Staff and Committee

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

We have had a busy couple of weeks at Pre-School. As part of our topic around traditional tales, we have been reading and re-enacting Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children





have been playing in the bears' cottage with the bears, where they can dress up as Goldilocks or as a Bear! We have been using the language of size when looking at the different bowls, chairs and beds Goldilocks tried and also made some yummy porridge for a snack to warm us all up. We added oats to a tray with lots of bowls and spoons for the children to scoop, pour and feel the texture of the porridge oats.

Chinese New Year



2026 is the Year of the Horse and the children have been enjoying learning all about China and how the Chinese New Year is celebrated. We have transformed our role play into a Chinese home corner with lights, Chinese dress up costumes, Chinese 'noodles' and lanterns. The children have also been painting colourful dragon heads using our home-made Chinese Dragon as a guide.

The Chinese Dragon dancing is always a favourite with children and staff. The children get into groups and each group take it in turns to bang the drums, wave the flags or dance around under our infamous dragon to traditional Chinese Music.

The children have also enjoyed eating Chinese noodles, prawn crackers and stir fry and carefully cut up their own vegetables with a safety knife. They used chopsticks to eat their stir fry and we were impressed with their ability and persistence.

We have been re-enacting the story of the Great Race which determined the order of the animals to their representative years. Using a fabric 'river', 12 animals and the emperor, the children loved recreating the story and finding out why there is no Year of the Cat.

Burns Night

The children have been learning about Scotland in celebration of Burns' Night. The children have been making some Scottish flags and looking at traditional Scottish dress. We have had our castle and knights out for the children to access and play. Learning about Scotland has enabled us to think about where we live and learn about differences between different countries and cultures.

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 website www.harburypre-school.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook.



What's Happening...

MARCH AT THE BELL INN, LADBROKE

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday 15th March

Save the date and celebrate the special ladies in your life this Mother's Day at The Bell. A delicious set menu will be available, keep an eye out for more details coming soon! Booking is essential.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Tuesday 17th March

Get ready to celebrate with our St. Patrick's Day-themed dishes! Keep an eye out for the delicious specials carefully curated by our chefs.

LIVE MUSIC with 'ADAM LEE'

Friday 27th March | from 6pm

Join us for a fantastic night of live music with 'Adam Lee'. Sit back, enjoy great tunes, delicious food and drinks, and the company of friends in a cosy relaxed atmosphere.

bellinn@freespiritpubs.co.uk

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Ladbroke, Nr Southam,
Warwickshire, CV47 2BY

Harbury Village Cinema



Harbury Village Hall
Saturday March 21st

Tickets:
£14 with fish'n'chips & 2 raffle tickets.
£8 ticket only with 1 raffle ticket.
Tickets from the Library by cash or card.
Please buy before March 18th

Doors open 6.15
Supper at 7pm
followed by the film

Licensed Bar

Moving Pictures

Harbury theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

LIVE &LOCAL

To love, learn and grow together.

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

Children's Mental Health Week

We have been celebrating Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the theme 'This is my place'. This has been an important part of discussion - where we each belong and what makes us feel accepted and safe. We have talked about groups the children belong to, the wider community and, of course, school. Some pupils had a go at creating a belonging map - all about them.



Online Safety Week- Internet Safety Day

You may recently have heard Education Secretary **Bridget Phillipson** speaking about the growing consensus that mobile phones should not be used in schools.

BBC coverage: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgk827r8mrzo

Alongside this, the government has launched a **consultation on restricting social media access for under-16s**, recognising the increasing evidence of harm to children's wellbeing.

Government announcement: www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-drive-action-to-improve-childrens-relationship-with-mobile-phones-and-social-media

Closer to home, **Southam College**, in line with its Multi Academy Trust, has strengthened its approach to mobile phones. From January, the policy has moved from *"not seen, not heard"* to phones being **kept in student bags at all times**. In their letter to parents, the school shared some deeply concerning statistics about smartphone use and its impact on young people.

Our Smartphone Free Childhood Initiative

Last year, we launched our **Smartphone Free Childhood Initiative**, and so far **20 families** have signed the Parent Pact. We're asking more families to join us.

Warwickshire Parent Pact results:

www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/parent-pact-results?region=warwickshire

Other school communities are already well ahead of us — the more families who sign up locally, the easier it becomes for everyone.

Why Delay Smartphones? Smartphones weren't designed with children in mind, yet they've reshaped childhood almost overnight.

- **89% of UK 12-year-olds** now own a smartphone
- **1 in 4 children aged 5–7** already have one
- The average age for a first smartphone is **just nine**

Instead of growing up gradually, children are being drawn into a digital world designed to keep them hooked. The impact is wide-ranging:

Opportunity lost - Children today spend less time outdoors, playing, reading, moving, and socialising face-to-face — and far more time scrolling alone.

Harmful content - Explicit, violent and extreme content is only a few clicks away, often pushed by algorithms. Once seen, it can't be unseen.

Mental Health - Rates of anxiety, depression and self-harm among teenagers have risen sharply since 2010 — coinciding with widespread smartphone adoption. Research shows a clear link between early smartphone use and declining mental health.

Addiction and attention - Apps are deliberately designed to be addictive. The average teenager now receives **over 200 notifications a day**, fragmenting focus and making concentration increasingly difficult.

Family life - Smartphones can quietly take centre stage at home, leading to conflict, constant negotiations over screen time, and less uninterrupted family time.

Cyberbullying - Disagreements no longer end at the school gate — they can follow children home, day and night, with no space to switch off.

Sleep - Blue light disrupts sleep hormones, while late-night scrolling and notifications keep children alert when they should be resting. **The Parent Pact: Easier Together**

We know being the only parent saying "not yet" can feel tough. But when we delay together, it becomes easier for everyone.

The **Parent Pact** is a collective agreement to:

- Delay smartphones until at least age 14
- Delay social media until at least age 16

It's organised around school communities — so every additional family strengthens the support network for our children.

Sign the Parent Pact here: www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/parent-pact

Wheelchair Basketball

We've had an amazing and truly humbling two days with the Warwickshire Bears, which perfectly reflected our school values of Love in Action and Inclusion. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience – from racing around in the super-zippy wheelchairs to showing outstanding teamwork, resilience and perseverance.

This event gave pupils a powerful opportunity to develop empathy, respect and understanding, celebrating everyone's strengths and ensuring that all felt valued and included. Staff also loved being part of such an inspiring experience.



A huge thank you to Miss Riman for organising such a fantastic event. Pupils are already asking for it to return next year! It has been an incredibly inclusive and inspiring couple of days.

Parent feedback:

"I just wanted to say thank you for giving the children the opportunity to try wheelchair basketball. They all came home absolutely buzzing from the experience. All three really enjoyed it, and I think it's fabulous that they are given these new experiences to try in school."

Fundraising

February has been a quieter month on the surface, but we've been busy working hard behind the scenes on **grant applications** for two new **bike shelters**. This should help children safely store their bikes, and it will also benefit the wider community who use the school for clubs and visiting the Heritage Centre. The plan is to have one shelter at the front for visitors and one at the back in the playground, making cycling to the site easier and safer for everyone. – So, watch this space!!

GoHenry

We are so excited to have teamed up with **GoHenry** who provide a debit card and app that helps kids aged 6–18 learn to earn, save, spend, and even invest.

GoHenry will donate £25 to Harbury School PTA for every parent who signs up using our link and has an active card for 28 days, scan the QR below to join today.



Donations to the School

We may have had a quiet month of fundraising, but donations to the school are still happening!

We're delighted to share that we've contributed **£1,000** towards a Festival of Fun for both Infants and Juniors — a fun-filled sports day planned for later in the year.

We've also spent **£1,500** on the Accelerated Reader program, which helps improve children's reading comprehension by matching books to their reading level, tracking progress, and motivating pupils through quizzes and goals.

In addition, we've invested another **£4,000** in ICT, helping to support and improve the school's digital learning resources.

Earthworms

Earthworms have been in hibernation since before Christmas; however, we are excited for Spring! Lots of planning has been underway including renovating the pond and the forest area to improve biodiversity and opportunities for learning. We are really excited to welcome the children back to our Friday afternoon sessions in the school gardens after half term when we will be preparing the ground for our village show entries and looking at how we can make our school grounds more welcoming for bees and birds. We are always keen to expand the natural world to our eager children- if anyone has knowledge that they would like to share please do let us know!

Earthworms has a new email address: harburyearthworms@gmail.com so please do get in touch.

Dates for the Diary

- World Book Day – 5th March
- Mother's Day Shop - 13th March
- Easter Excitement - 27th March

Lottery

Congratulations to our January Lottery winners:

- 1st Prize Number 90 winning: £83
- 2nd Prize Number 61 winning: £23
- 3rd Prize Number 172 winning: £11

This is an easy way to support the school while having a chance to win!

- 50% of all proceeds go directly back to the school
- The more entries, the bigger the prizes! email harburypta@gmail.com for more details.

HARBURY LIBRARY & BIBLIO'S CAFE

Michael Luntley

You know, of course, that we have lots of wonderful books - fiction, classic, contemporary, romance, thriller, childrens', non-fiction etc., that we like to lend out to people. We have games we like folk to use, plus of course wonderful cakes and coffees - though they're not for loan - they're sort of for keeps.



But we're branching out...and are delighted to have custody of a new community resource courtesy of the County Crime Prevention Team - a box of delights of crime prevention materials, many of which will be available to loan or take away. Liz has been negotiating with the Crime Prevention Team on this, so over to Liz.....

We were very pleased to host the Crime Prevention Team from Stratford District Council on 7th February. They spoke to around 30 Harbury residents whilst the cafe was open on the Saturday morning. Advice on crime prevention and personal safety was well received. All sorts of materials were available to take away: UV pens, door alarms, movement sensors, personal alarms, window locks, stickers, key protectors and leaflets. They have left us a huge box of this kit, plus equipment to do postcode marking on portable items.

The Crime Prevention Team also offer home visits for individuals who wish to make their home more secure. The Rural Crime Advisors are not security experts. They are, however, able to provide suggestions to help boost your home's security. Home visits take about an hour and, on completion, you'll be provided with some crime prevention equipment to keep and information leaflets for reference. If you would like to know more about a home visit, contact the team on:

Rebecca Jenkins
rebecca.jenkins@stratford-dc.gov.uk Tel: 07866 672 895

Ali Packer
alison.packer@stratford-dc.gov.uk Tel: 07976 238 329

In the first instance we are going to make our Library kit available for loan at the Repair Cafe. This takes place on the afternoon of the second Saturday of the month - next one 14th March. But keep an eye out for other events and times when we put this equipment out for loan and advice. As other dates and times are arranged, they will be announced on Social Media and Library posters.



GARDEN JOTTINGS

Christine Dakin from Bridge Nursery

Once again it was a very wet January which means not much 'proper' gardening was done so I'm feeling a bit gloomy about all the things that need doing as soon as the weather gets a bit better. I can now own up to being a fair weather gardener along with most other people.

I have a theory that gardening mostly consists of removing stuff including prunings, dead stems, dead plants, grass cuttings (unless you have a mulching mower), leaves in the autumn and weeds. I have creeping buttercup, thistles, ajuga, hairy bittercress, rosebay willow herb, groundsel, docks, dandelions, brambles and nettles. (I've probably missed some.)

But the one I'm really finding difficult to control is wild carrot. It wasn't here for the first few years (maybe a bird introduced it) but it seeds prolifically often into the middle of a plant making it hard to remove. It has moved all over the site and is threatening to take over. I'm convinced that weeds have some sort of survival instinct because they often put themselves among similar plants or deep under a shrub where they get overlooked unless you have beady eyes like mine! Perhaps I should have a 'Know your Weeds Workshop'?



Other jobs include feeding and pruning roses, sowing hardy annuals: peas, broad beans and parsnips, plant onion sets and shallots.

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

Harbury.nature@gmail.com

"Mad as a March hare" is a phrase rooted in both history and nature. The saying dates to at least the early 1500s when it referred to the breeding season of hares. Latterly, it became familiar because of Lewis Carroll's character in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.



Hares seem almost mythical creatures, featuring in many medieval manuscript illustrations and belonging as much to folklore as to farmland. These long-eared sprinters are one of the most distinctive mammals of the British countryside and Warwickshire remains one of the counties where they may still be encountered.

Britain is home to two species of hare: the mountain hare and the brown hare, the latter being the lowland species found in Warwickshire. Larger than a rabbit, with longer ears tipped in black and powerful hind legs built for speed, the brown hare is an animal of open landscapes. It favours arable farmland, grasslands, and wide fields where it relies on keen eyesight and sheer speed, rather than burrows, for safety.

Unlike rabbits, hares do not dig burrows. Instead, they rest during the day in shallow depressions known as "forms", scraped into the ground among crops or rough grass. From these modest shelters, a hare can remain surprisingly inconspicuous: motionless and flattened, relying on camouflage until danger is almost upon it. When alarmed, however, it is capable of speeds approaching 45 miles per hour (70 km/hour), and is famous for sudden turns and long bounding strides that can easily outfox a pursuing predator.

For much of the year, hares are largely solitary animals, coming together during the breeding season, which can begin as early as January and continue through summer. This is when one of their most celebrated behaviours occurs: "boxing". On bright spring days, hares can be seen standing upright and striking at one another with their front paws. Once believed to be sparring males, we now know that these bouts are frequently females fending off over-enthusiastic suitors. It is a dramatic spectacle, which has helped give the hare its place in art and legend.

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Refreshments in aid of WCS Care



Brown Hare
(Nathalie Burblis)

Female hares give birth to leverets, usually two to four at a time, which are born fully furred, with eyes open, and ready to move. This is a crucial difference from rabbits, whose young are born blind and helpless underground. Leverets are concealed individually in vegetation rather than gathered in a nest, reducing the risk of predation. They are left alone for much of the day, relying on their stillness and camouflage to avoid detection, while the mother returns briefly, once per day, to feed them. This dispersed strategy often leads to human misunderstanding, when these solitary youngsters are mistaken for abandoned animals but, in most cases, they are best left exactly where they are. Females may produce up to four litters per year, this relatively high reproductive output reflecting natural mortality rates.

Hares favour arable land with crop diversity, which offers year-round food resources and shelter. Their herbivorous diet varies seasonally, and includes grasses, herbs, cereal crops, and agricultural weeds. In winter, hares may also browse on shoots and bark. In Warwickshire, brown hares are most commonly found where large fields are interspersed with grass margins, hedgerows, and uncultivated patches.

The edges of large arable fields, especially those growing cereals, oilseed rape, or legumes, provide ideal feeding and resting habitat. Harbury and its environs are near excellent habitats for spotting brown hares. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times to look, when hares emerge to feed and their movement is easier to detect, the low light catching their distinctive silhouettes. We have seen them recently from the Fosse Way, near the Welsh Road junction to Offchurch, and also on the fields west of Bush Heath Lane.

Like much of our native fauna, hares are facing long-term declines across the UK. Changes in farming practices, loss of mixed agriculture, increased field sizes, and the removal of hedgerows have all reduced suitable habitat. Modern machinery can also pose a serious risk

to resting hares and leverets, which are especially vulnerable during spring silage cutting and late summer harvest. Conservation efforts now focus on wildlife-friendly farming, leaving field margins, and maintaining a mosaic of crops and cover that allows hares to feed, shelter, and breed.

Fleet-footed and enigmatic, the brown hare remains an important indicator species for the ecological health of farmland landscapes. In Warwickshire, its continued presence reflects areas where agricultural productivity still coexists with structural and botanical diversity. Observing a hare, whether resting motionless in a field or running at full speed across open ground, reminds us of the adaptations required to survive in exposed environments and of the ongoing importance of managing farmland with wildlife in mind.



Buff-tailed Bumble Bee feeding
(Martin Randall)

We have a winter-flowering honeysuckle in a sheltered spot in our garden. On the very rare sunny days at the end of January



Buff-tailed Bumble Bee
(Martin Randall)

and beginning of February, we noticed a single large bumblebee foraging on the plant's nectar and collecting pollen. This was a queen Buff-tailed bumblebee, one of our largest bumblebees. They are some of the first queens to emerge in late winter or early spring, usually from February onwards, so ours was quite an early observation. Only newly mated queens survive the winter, after the old colony has died back. The queen spends the harsh weather hibernating underground, in leaf litter or even compost heaps. With the arrival of spring, the queen wakes up to start her brand-new nest colony from scratch. Worker 'Buff tails' emerge roughly six weeks after the nest is established; then new queens and males are produced towards the end of the three to four month nesting period. This species can be seen up to the end of September but in the south may be active through to November. We will be watching for more bumblebees in our garden as the spring progresses.



HARBURY GENERAL NEWS

HARBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

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

Spring has finally come, although sitting writing this now it is raining and has been raining pretty much every day for at least the last week! My two dogs are forever muddy and I am really looking forward to fewer muddy paws in the house!

I wanted to start with some good news which is that Harbury Scouts group were successful in their application for funding in the third round of the Community Climate and Nature Fund. They have been awarded £5,985 to install solar panels on the roof of their scout hut. Only six projects across the District were successful so this is very good news. I am sorry that not all applications coming from our ward were successful but there will be further funding opportunities so I hope more money may flow in this direction before the District Council is lost in the Local Government Reorganisation.

Speaking of which…The government has launched a consultation to invite residents, businesses, and key stakeholders, to have their say on what Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) should look like in Warwickshire.

As I have shared with you before, currently Warwickshire has two tiers of local government; Warwickshire County Council as one tier and the five District and Borough Councils as the second tier.

Local government reorganisation is planned because central government has set out a national policy to reorganise the current two-tier system of local government in England to one tier. Warwickshire is one of the areas affected by that policy.

In November 2025 the Councils submitted their preferred options to Government. The Government is now looking to consult with the public and stakeholders to help them to make their final decision. The Government is consulting on whether residents would prefer one unitary council for Warwickshire, or separate north and south unitary councils.

How to take part - If you would like to share your views on Local Government Reorganisation in Warwickshire, the easiest way to take part is to provide your feedback through the on-line survey: consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/warwickshire/

The consultation is open until **Thursday, 26th March**.

Development and Five Year Housing Land Supply

Many of you will be aware of large-scale development proposals in and around Harbury, including Mill Lane, Butt Lane, and the Old Cement Works near Bishops Itchington. These are largely driven by Stratford-on-Avon District Council's current shortfall in the five-year housing land supply, a situation caused by changes to national planning rules. Around 60% of councils nationally are in the same position, managing development proposals that have fewer planning hurdles. See below for further background on this.

To address this, the Council has published a draft Interim Policy Position Statement for public consultation. This sets out which existing planning policies are considered out of date, how national planning policy will be applied in the meantime, the implications for neighbourhood plans, and how the Council intends to support appropriate and deliverable housing proposals. The aim is to ensure new housing is delivered in the right locations, with the infrastructure communities need, in a way that is well-planned and sustainable.

The consultation is open to residents, developers, parish councils, and other stakeholders until 5pm on **Monday 9th March 2026**. You can view the draft statement and submit responses online. The outcomes of the consultation and the finalised statement will be considered by Cabinet on 13th April 2026.

Background:

- In October 2024, the Council reported a 24.65-year housing land supply under the methodology at the time.
- Changes to the NPPF in December 2024 revised housing need and delivery calculations, reducing the supply to 5.06 years.
- A Planning Inspectorate appeal in September 2025 confirmed that, as of 31st March 2024, the District could only demonstrate a 2.74-year housing land supply.

This consultation is a key opportunity to understand how housing proposals will be assessed while the Council works to restore a full five-year supply. Your input can help ensure that future development is sustainable, well-planned, and supported by the infrastructure our communities need.

For more information and to respond, please visit: www.stratford.gov.uk/news/news.cfm/current/1/item/138700

Stratford District Supporting Local Businesses

Last month I reported that there would be a business forum in Stratford. On the 3rd February over 180 people came together in Stratford to network, hear from successful local businesses, and learn about the finance, advice, and support available to small businesses.

The Business Conference was organised by Stratford District Council (SDC) and supported by the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub. It recognised that our district is home to many small and micro-businesses, which form the foundation of the local economy and are vital to our communities. In December 2024, there were 8,400 businesses in the district: 90% were micro-businesses (0–9 employees), 8% small businesses (10–49 employees), with the remainder being medium or large employers.

A key purpose of the conference was to strengthen the partnership between the public and private sectors. It provided an opportunity for businesses to access information on funding, support, and advice, while allowing the Council to better understand the challenges local businesses face and explore ways to help them grow.

Sustainability was a major theme. Businesses are increasingly recognising the need to manage resources efficiently and build resilience in supply chains, particularly in response to energy price volatility. The Government's upcoming Circular Economy Strategy—expected in 2026—will guide businesses on resource efficiency and waste prevention, with measures to support economic growth and resilience. Once this guidance is published, the Council and partners will help local businesses implement the necessary changes.

Events like this conference are crucial for fostering connections, opportunities, and support for our local businesses, ensuring they continue to thrive and provide the services our communities rely on.



HARBURY DIRECTORY 2026-28

Gill Holden

The Harbury Directory is due for renewal with the last copy covering 2023-25. If you run a village organisation or group and would like to be included in the 2026-28 edition, please contact me at articles@hlnews.co.uk or call 612155. If your organisation/group already appears in the directory, you will be contacted to check if your entry needs to be updated or can remain the same.



PONDER IN THE PUB

Fliss Harris

Tuesday, 24th March 6.45 for 7pm. Join us at THE CROWN INN, Harbury to explore life's big questions in a friendly, welcoming space. This month's topic: 'Is being good, good enough?'

Everyone is warmly invited to take part.

HARBURY LOCAL MARKET

Steve Ekins

Our next Market will be Saturday 28th March 10.00am until 12.30.

This month's local Community Group is Harbury Netball.

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

Councillors Corner will be there 11.00 – 12.00 to answer any question you have.

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

Our Sponsor HARBURY PARISH COUNCIL



NEW! TOM'S TEAS

Elaine Barnden, Michael Vincent & Team

This is a new community activity being put on in the Tom Hauley Room, at All Saints' Church, and we invite you to come along for a free cup of tea, cake, coffee, biscuits 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. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends or catch up with old ones.

Following the first two Tom's Teas in January and February, which were both very enjoyable and well attended, going forward Tom's Teas will be held on the third Monday of every month from 2.30 - 4.00pm, in the Tom Hauley Room.

So, the next three Tom's Teas will be on

- **Monday 16th March**
- **Monday 20th April**
- **Monday 18th May**

You can be sure of a warm welcome.





HARBURY SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE UPDATE

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

We had a fundraising coffee morning in the Tom Hauley Room at the end of January. Thank you to everyone who came along, donated raffle prizes and bought cakes. After expenses, we were able to add £158.40 to our funds. A few months to go but, our next fund raiser will be at Harbury Carnival in June.

At this time of year we also start to discuss where to go on our summer outing. Nothing decided yet, but watch this space.

We hope you had a chance to meet members of our committee at the coffee morning and we look forward to future activities.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

HARBURY CARNIVAL

Harbury Carnival Committee

Save the Date - HARBURY CARNIVAL – Saturday 13th June 2026

Now is the time to start planning your fancy dress or float for this year's carnival.

We always want to make the carnival bigger, more successful and fun for everyone but to do that we need your help.



So if you have a few hours to spare to source raffle prizes or some ideas for improvements or you would like to help on the day, please get in touch by emailing us at harburycarnival@gmail.com or through our Facebook page.

CONNECTIONS

Jill Baker and Janice Montague

It is with sadness, and some pride, that we have ended the monthly Connections meetings in Harbury for those with dementia and their carers. The number of visitors has diminished in recent months, which may be due to the increasing number of dementia-friendly activities that are available in the local area, which is a positive development.

We would like to thank our amazing volunteers who have supported us over the years, several from our inaugural meeting, including those who sang songs or baked cakes for us regularly. We are very grateful to you all.

HARBURY GARDEN WALKABOUT
SAT 27TH & SUN 28TH JUNE 2026

Peter Walshe, Trustee, Harbury e-Wheels



Call for Entries

The main fundraiser for Harbury e-Wheels (which transports those in need for no charge) will happen on Saturday 27th June (11am - 6pm) and Sunday 28th June (12noon - 6pm). This is a call for you to open your garden – big, small, wild – whether you have done so before or for the first time.

It is a special weekend which should include a Painting and Photo Exhibition and Swift Awareness Week in the Library, the Harbury Heritage Centre and Earthworms Garden Area at Harbury Primary School.

And with your cooperation over 20 gardens of all sizes and shapes.

Please contact Peter Walshe on 07446 779879 or peterdouglaswalshe@gmail.com.



HONOURING TOM

Fliss Harris

Since its opening on 3rd December 1989, the Tom Hauley Room, named in honour of the man whose bequest made possible its very existence, has played a crucial part in the life of All Saints', Harbury and of the whole village community.

So many of us have benefited from its welcoming space. How many of us have relied on it for family events, happy and sad: for birthday gatherings, wedding receptions, Christening parties, wakes? How many of us enjoy the fellowship of the Saturday coffee mornings which have raised thousands upon thousands of pounds for so many good causes within the village and way beyond it? How many groups hold meetings there?

But how many of us actually remember the man whose generosity began it all? With the passing years, it's inevitable that there remain fewer and fewer of us who knew him. So here, heavily reliant on articles published in earlier issues of the Harbury and Ladbroke News, is a brief portrait of Samuel Thomas Hauley or "Tom" as he chose to be known.

Tom moved to Harbury with his family in 1932. His father had a smallholding at West End Cottage, Mill Street, where they kept chickens, sold eggs and, occasionally, poultry. After his father's death, Tom found keeping chickens too much, and turned the smallholding into an orchard. Tom bequeathed his cottage and the land to the church. It was this gift and the efforts of the fundraising committee formed after his death that realised Tom's request "for the church to install a toilet" and so much more besides!

What lay at the heart of Tom's bequest? His Christian faith.



Tom was a devout member of the congregation of All Saints': 50 years a chorister, also a Churchwarden, a School Governor and a bell ringer. He raised and lowered the flag on the tower, serviced the bells, looked after the churchyard and, from 1939 until his death on 22nd July 1987, wound the church clock twice a day. Tom was a familiar sight, morning and evening, pedalling or pushing his bike up the hill, at some point adding to this, a third daily pilgrimage to ring the Angelus, the traditional noonday call to prayer.

It is particularly fitting to remember Tom as All Saints' launches the aptly named "Tom's Teas" held on the third Monday of every month in his Room. January's session was very well attended and equally well received. So, if you





would like a warm welcome to a safe place, an opportunity to make new friendships and renew old ones, a time to chat over a free cuppa or two with some delicious homemade cakes thrown in, please do join us between 2.30 and 4pm in the coming months.

What would Tom, the shy, humble man, who earned the respect and affection of everyone who knew him, make of all this? He would undoubtedly be gobsmacked! He would, we hope, be quietly pleased: he would play down his part in the whole thing: he would most certainly endorse the words of the then Rector, Canon Antony Rowe, as he welcomed everyone in Harbury and Ladbroke "to share our pleasure and our joy at the Service of Dedication". The Rector wrote:

"All along the way, we have been shown such goodwill and courtesy and everyone involved has wished to do the very best they could for us. Experiencing the building of this room has been a veritable parable demonstrating that nothing is brought to a good conclusion unless all play their part to the full and God blesses the work"

So, whenever and for whatever reason, we come into the Tom Hauley Room, let's remember Tom and give thanks for him and for all, living or dead, whose past work and generosity have brought us this present blessing.

CARERS4CARERS

Lisa Barnett

Carers4Carers – your local support group for family carers. We usually meet on the fourth Friday of the month (except December) from 10.30am to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall. Loved ones are welcome too – they can join our Companionship Group during the meeting.

Friday 27th March - Citizens Advice. We're welcoming Lynne Morris, Reach Out and Help caseworker with Citizens Advice South Warwickshire to tell us about the work of Citizens Advice and, in particular, their home visiting service for people who struggle to access support in person.

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

READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editors,

I would like to thank everyone for the many cards, messages and kind, generous words received since Josie Taylor passed away on 6th January. It was heart-warming to see so many people attend the church service. I am sorry that I was not able to see everyone at the end of the ceremony but would like to thank you all for the generous donations made to the support group TalkDementia.uk

Clive Taylor and family

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