

**Harbury & Deppers Bridge**

**Annual Parish Meeting  
2017**



**Harbury & Deppers Bridge Annual Parish Meeting**  
**11 May 2017 at 7.30pm**  
**Harbury Village Hall**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome by Cllr Tim Lockley
2. Presentation by WCC Cyber Crime Officer
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2016
5. Matters arising from the minutes
6. Report from the chairman of Harbury Parish Council
7. Reports from Harbury Parish Council working parties:
  - Planning
  - Environment
  - Properties
  - Finance & general Purposes
  - Deppers Bridge
  - Neighbourhood Development Plan
  - WW1 Centenary Project
8. Reports from village organisations (if your organisation has not already provided a written report or you would like to add something further).
9. County & District Councillors' Reports & Questions
10. Any other business

# Minutes of Harbury Annual Parish Meeting

12 May 2016 at 7.30pm  
Harbury Village Hall

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tim Lockley, chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

## Present

16 Electors of the parish (including 9 parish councillors)

## In Attendance

Mrs Alison Biddle, Clerk to Harbury Parish Council  
County Cllr Stevens  
District Cllr Harris

## 1. Welcome

Cllr Lockley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

## 2. Apologies

Cllr Tony Mancell; Andrew and Jenny Patrick; Nicola Thompson; Mary Thompson

## 3. Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 28 May 2015 were agreed as a true and complete record of that meeting and were duly signed by the chairman.

## 4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 5. Report from Chairman, Harbury Parish Council

Cllr Lockley referred people to his written report in the booklet which had been circulated. Most of the Network Rail work on the cutting has now been completed. There are still some issues regarding drainage on the Three Arch Bridge. The Core Strategy has still not been finalised.

## 6. Reports from Harbury Parish Council Working Parties

Written reports had been provided by the chairs of the working parties and were included in the booklet for people to read. In addition, the following comments were made:

### Planning

Not such a contentious year. The group's remit had changed and now, instead of routinely reviewing all planning applications, they attend meetings about specific planning issues, including the area planning committee, as required. The task of examining planning applications to be considered at the parish council meeting is the responsibility of all members, not just those on the planning group.

### Environment

The group has made evening visits to inspect street lights and is continuing with a programme of replacement. They are continuing to press for improvements to the Harbury Lane/Fosse Way junction. The village bus service and the route through the village has been the subject of a recent public consultation. There was a good response from residents with the result that the

existing route should be maintained. It is worth noting that some villages have had their bus service cut recently.

### **WW1 Project**

This has been built on Sharon Hancock's original research. The aim is to install plaques on the houses of the men killed in the war whose names are listed on the war memorial. A village trail will be created and the individual history of each man will be put on the website. A group of villagers has carried out the further research needed and the next stage will be to approach householders for permission to install the plaques. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant will pay for most of the work.

### **Properties**

Regular inspections of the play area, playing fields and play equipment have been carried out. The old bark pits have been replaced by a new wet pour safety surface. Current plans include an enhanced all weather walking route to encourage people of all ages to take more exercise. A vote of thanks was given to Pat Summers and her band of volunteers who have carried out so much work in the cemetery. The difference is amazing. The cemetery is nearing capacity and the council is actively looking for a new burial ground.

### **Finance & General Purposes**

There has been an increase in the precept this year to cover a number of key expenditures. These include a new cemetery fund, the neighbourhood plan, the introduction of staff pensions and repayment of the amount borrowed from reserves to cover the cost of the new safety surfacing in the play area.

### **Deppers Bridge**

There are still problems with HGVs travelling over the rail bridge. This is being monitored by residents and reported to the police. The cost of installing lighting at the chicanes had been investigated but it was too expensive to take forward.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

A planning consultant was appointed in the spring of 2015 and good progress has been made. A final draft of the document is expected soon and will be submitted to SDC for formal public consultation.

### **7. Harbury Village Hall**

A written report had been provided and was included in the booklet. There was nothing to add.

### **8. Harbury Library**

A written report had been provided and was included in the booklet. Sharon Hancock has taken over from Tim Lockley as the chairman, the committees have been restructured and they are working really well. The kitchen roof has been repaired and they are now re-landscaping the front of the building. The café has become a village hub. They are looking at improving the lighting system to make it more efficient and energy saving. They are also hoping to install solar panels on the roof.

### **9. Harbury Twinning Association**

A written report had been provided and was included in the booklet. There were no questions.

## **10. Harbury Neighbourhood Plan Group**

Please see minute 6 above.

## **11. County & District Councillors**

### **WCC**

County Cllr Stevens gave a resume of his year as the chairman of the county council which included meeting veterans of the Second World War and royalty. He has enjoyed being involved in village issues including efforts to improve traffic along the Fosse Way, in particular at the Harbury Lane junction. He also mentioned the proposal for WCC to join the West Midlands Combined Authority and the possible merger of “blue light” services.

### **SDC**

District Cllr Harris was newly elected in May 2015. She had never been a councillor before. She has been busy attending planning committees and district council meetings. She had not realised how much work was involved. As both JLR and GLH are in her ward, the largest part of her work has been on planning issues.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Cars parked in Church Street are regularly damaged by passing traffic. Can something be done about this? The parish council has asked WCC Highways about the possibility of a one way system and/or double yellow lines but without success.

**Meeting closed at 8.50pm.**

## Parish Council Chairman's Report

As we enter the seventh year of austerity, and a continued squeeze on local government finances, it is worth highlighting the ways in which the parish council has worked to mitigate the impact of budget cuts on the local community. Every year the district and county councils cut back on the services they can offer, and the money directly granted to the PC by SDC has also been reduced. Those financial burdens now fall on the parish, and where the parish council can help to mitigate the impact on services, we have acted. Back in 2011 a major re-organisation of the library service threatened the Harbury branch, but the PC worked with a dedicated group of volunteers and provided financial guarantees that helped establish what has now become a thriving community hub. This past year has seen a reduction of the bus service in the village, but Cllr Gibb worked with WCC and Stagecoach to improve what was originally proposed, and devised an innovative offer for young people to encourage bus use. We have also negotiated with developers to ensure that money for village organisations, such as the village hall, is included in the amounts they have to contribute toward local infrastructure. There are some on-going frustrations. An offer from a developer to build a brand new surgery for Bishops Itchington, that would also benefit Harbury, is currently stalled in NHS bureaucracy despite the support of both parishes, district and county councillors and the local MP. We hope this will be resolved soon.

The PC's budget has increased as it takes on new tasks, but I believe it offers excellent value for taxpayers. We have continued to invest in the assets we have, such as the playground, cemetery, and park while upgrading to new LED streetlights. We support local groups via grants, and this year we will contribute toward the new memorial garden at the church.

The extra duties assumed by the parish council have involved extra work for our clerk and commitment from councillors. I am very grateful for all their hard work on behalf of the parish and I would like to pay particular tribute to Alan Knowles who has retired from the council after 10 years of diligent service.

**Tim Lockley**  
**Chairman, Harbury Parish Council**

## Planning Working Party Report

The website – [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk) – has all the relevant information which enables parishioners to look at current plans and those from the previous six months. We would encourage people to look at plans; especially those that affect them personally or the parish as a whole. Our website is linked to Stratford-on-Avon District Council's website but often the plans on a screen are small and difficult to appreciate fully. Hard copies of all planning applications with clear, detailed images are sent to the parish office where they may be viewed by residents during opening hours.

The remit of the parish council's planning group changed during 2016. Previously the group examined planning applications on the Monday before the PC meeting and made recommendations to the whole council, which were used as a guide when voting. Only when a proposal was thought to be contentious was each councillor required to express an opinion.

These monthly meetings are no longer held as all councillors are required to look at planning applications and respond accordingly – “support”, “no representation” or “object”. I am told that the planning group still has a role to play in wider issues such as the proposal for gypsy & traveller sites, the former cement works site, the Gaydon & Lighthorne Heath development and interpreting new legislation, but members of the group only volunteer to go to area planning meetings in which they have a particular interest.

The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 means that more extensions are being undertaken by residents without the requirement for parish council consultation. It is advised that the proposal is discussed with the local planning authority (Stratford DC) before any building work commences.

‘Tree works’ in the conservation area are still referred to the parish council because trees and hedgerows need to be protected to sustain the population of birds and wildlife in our rural environment.

Harbury Parish has not been inundated with the same number of planning proposals from developers that other parishes have had to contend with, and the Harbury Neighbourhood Development Plan should ensure we have a say in what happens in the parish.

Many thanks to Keith Thompson, Alan Knowles, Samantha Allen and Chris Gibb for their support during the year, especially time spent at training sessions, the area planning committee meetings and meetings in general.

#### **Cllr Pat Summers**

#### **Chair of Harbury Parish Council Planning Working Party**

Members: Cllrs Gibb, Thompson, Knowles and Allen

## **Environment Working Party Report**

2017 has seen more LED or “white lights” installed, in order to comply with new legislation requiring the phase out of mercury based lights and replacement with LED or white light. Work started with the pole mounted lanterns, before focussing on those lights on steel columns and the replacement of the Windsor lanterns. 16 Windsor lanterns remain to be replaced.

We have continued to press for improvements to the Harbury Lane / Fosse Way junction. A scheme with traffic lights and junction widening has been included in the Gaydon Lighthorne Heath ("GLH") development, which is now proceeding, and we will continue to press for the scheme to be completed before the development.

We were disappointed, but not surprised, that the village bus service was reduced to a two hourly frequency in December 2016 due to low usage. We have worked with the county council and Stagecoach to encourage greater usage, and in 2017 we have organised and part funded a "two for one" bus voucher for village teenagers.

#### **Cllr Chris Gibb**

#### **Chair, Harbury Parish Council Environment Working Party**

Members: Cllrs Lockley, Thornley, Allen and Christou

## Properties Working Party Report

Weekly playground inspections and quarterly risk assessments continue and necessary repairs and maintenance have recently been carried out.

Many thanks to Cllr Pat Summers and her hard working 'Friends of the Harbury Cemetery', for their valuable time and commitment. This year we will be introducing a programme of risk assessment for the monuments in the Cemetery. This will be for the safety of visitors to the cemetery.

An area of land off Bush Heath Road next to Pineham Farm, has been offered to the parish for a much-needed new cemetery. We will need to have the land surveyed to check for its suitability and then be able start the process of public consultation and planning.

**Cllr Steve Ekins**

**Chair of Harbury Parish Council Properties Working Party**

Working Party Members: Councillors Thompson, Knowles, Mancell and Thornley and Christou

## Finance & General Purposes Working Party Report

First, I would like to thank our clerk, Alison Biddle, for all of the help and support she given to me and all of the councillors in the past year.

An extract of the council's financial report for 2016-17 (subject to audit) is included at the back of this booklet. A copy of the full accounts for 2016 – 2017 will be published on our website in due course and will also be included in the parish council's annual report. Our income and expenditure is well in line with our planned budgetary controls.

The parish precept for the coming year, 2017/18 has increased from £97,664.00 to £104,952.00 (plus £7,288); this gives an increase of £4.16 per year for a Band D property within Harbury parish, an increase of 35p per month.

The F&GP working party recommended this precept to the full parish council; this budget will allow us to fully fund our plans for the year 2017/18.

This budget will, in addition to our normal responsibilities permit us to carry out our plans in the following areas;

- **Playing Fields** – £12,000 for new play equipment, in the children's play area.
- **Cemetery** – £5,000 towards the new cemetery fund, now at £10,000.
- **Neighbourhood Development Plan** – £2,000 for the NDP costs, total is now £12,000, before any grants are accounted for.
- **Grants** - £12,600 maximum towards the Memorial Garden project.
- **Bus Use** - £1,500 to fund the Young Peoples Bus Use Incentive Scheme.
- **Other Items to be noted** –
  - Library Maintenance Fund contribution remains at zero.
  - The streetlight replacement programme funding continues.
  - The council tax support grant has been reduced by 25%, to £1560.

- The council tax base rate has increased to 1112.5, due to the increase in property numbers in the parish. This effectively lowers our council tax per property (Band D) from £96.91 to £94.34.

The parish office is open four mornings a week; this gives access to the parish council, the clerk and to minutes, reports and planning application etc.

Our website provides another way to keep in touch with the parish council, giving online access to the minutes, meeting schedules, quarterly reports and the contact details for the council. The parish council's Facebook page is a useful source of information.

Recent Harbury parish planning applications can be viewed via our website, along with the information for many Harbury village groups and societies. Please go to <http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk/>.

My thanks go to my colleagues on the F&GP group, Councillors Tim Lockley, Pat Summers, Chris Gibb and Steve Ekins for all of their contributions and commitment throughout the year.

**Cllr Tony Mancell**

**Chair, Harbury Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Working Party**

Members: Cllrs Ekins, Lockley, Summers and Gibb

## Deppers Bridge Report

The old telephone box is still proving very useful for book swaps. Any extra books you have can be taken to the Harbury Library.

A new parish notice board will be installed later this year on the green next to the post box, to replace the old one that was removed a few years ago.

**Cllr Steve Ekins**

**Parish Council Ward Member for Deppers Bridge**

## Neighbourhood Development Plan

The steering group would like to thank councillors and residents for their support during the last three years.

Michael Wellock from Kirkwells was appointed as the consultant to lead us through the final stages of our submission and he attended meetings and drafted the required policies. The final draft plan was approved by the steering group and the parish council in November 2015. The document was sent to Stratford -on-Avon District Council for their comments at the end of 2015 and they asked for some of the wording to be amended. The plan needs to sit side-by-side with SDC's Core Strategy and we believe we have achieved this.

At the end of 2016 the parish council reviewed the responses it had received to the formal public consultation carried out in the summer of 2016 and voted to amend the settlement

boundary because of concerns raised by two residents. As a result of this amendment, the draft plan was subject to a further public consultation which ran from 6 February 2017 until 20 March 2017. This has delayed the formal examination by the planning inspector and the referendum until later this year. The parish council will shortly review the responses received in respect of the second consultation and decide whether any further amendments should be made to the draft plan or whether we can now proceed to the examination stage.

The steering group wishes to acknowledge the work put in by residents who worked on the Village Design Statement (1998) the Parish Plan (2004) and the Parish Plan Update (2012): the starting point for this project.

We know that legislation changes (month by month sometimes) and we don't expect everything to be included, as it was a 'snapshot' of what was happening in 2014, but please be assured that the group's only concern has been protecting Harbury Parish and supporting the wonderful community that we have here.

**Councillor Pat Summers**  
**Harbury NDP Group**

## **WW1 Centenary Project**

This project has been supported by the parish council throughout and is based on original research by former parish councillor, Sharon Hancock. A project management team was set up last year and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant obtained to carry out further research on the names of the men on the village war memorial and to erect plaques on the houses, or location of long gone houses, where the men lived. The plaques form a village trail with the output of the research now being told on a dedicated section of the parish council website.

The conclusion of the project saw villagers and school children gathered at All Saints Church on Wednesday, 3 May 2017 for a short service of remembrance led by Rev Craig Grocock to mark the centenary of the death of then vicar's son, Reginald "Rex" Beardsworth, who was killed at Vimy Ridge on 3 May 1917. Rex emigrated to Canada before the war and died fighting with a Canadian regiment. He was one of 33 men from the village who were killed in WW1. The names of the fallen were read out during the service by a relative and a past and present pupil of the school. The guest of honour was Lieutenant Colonel Simon Rushen, Chief of Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces in the United Kingdom and Her Majesty the Queen was represented by Sir Timothy Cox, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

Harbury villagers have spent the last two years researching the men's stories and their former homes in the village have now been marked with blue plaques to commemorate those who died. There are 19 blue plaques in total in and around the village and five new streets at the new housing development in Bush Heath Lane have also been named after the men.

The research has recently been published at <http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk/worldwar1.htm> . The website was spotted by the family of Reuben Barfoot in the USA who subsequently contacted the parish council and as a result we were able to put them in touch with other family members in Warwickshire. Reuben Barfoot fell at Ypres on 22 May 1917, aged 23. Before the war he had been a jockey and lived beside the Fosse Way.

The 33 men who were killed represented about one in ten of the villagers eligible to fight. They came from all walks of life: as well as the vicar's son, there were cavalry officers from the village's grand houses, a butcher, jockey, bank clerk, railwayman, farmhands, cement works labourers and professional soldiers and sailors. They fell on the Western Front, but also far from home, off the coast of Chile and in Greece, and are mostly buried in Commonwealth War Graves. Several clearly covered up their age to sign up. Most of the village cricket team served, and five were killed.

The parish council would like to thank the members of the project team and all the Harbury residents who have contributed in many and various ways. We hope this project will help the memory of the men from Harbury and their individual stories to live on for many future generations.

**Cllr Chris Gibb**  
**Chair of WW1 Centenary Project Team**



## Reports from Village Groups & Organisations

### Harbury Village Hall

I am amazed to find that I have just made my 10<sup>th</sup> report to the village hall annual general meeting. This year the committee has, to some extent, been able to take a breather after the colossal efforts over the last few years which have seen so much improvement and modernisation of the hall. The most significant changes since the hall was built in the early 60s. We are not resting on our laurels however and our plans to upgrade the heating, lighting and insulation are well advanced.

The Fundraising Committee, chaired by John Hancock, has done a wonderful job these last few years, our thanks to them. Fundraising is currently on the back burner but can be resurrected should the need arise.

It has also been ten years since the Harbury Village Cinema started and this has become a very popular village event. Our thanks are due to Lana Long and her family for all their hard work and also to Tom and Flo, Lana's Mum and Dad, for all their work behind the scenes with the cinema and also for their unstinting efforts keeping the hall spick and span. As far as the cinema is concerned we are looking for someone else to come forward and to give the Long family a break. The cinema is a good fundraiser and can be run by any group in the village who wish to raise money.

I must also thank the committee for their enormous contribution and whilst not mentioning individuals, few people realize how much is involved in coping with bookings, invoicing, health and safety, day to day management of the hall, all by our team of volunteers.

Sadly, Chris Finch, our Vice Chairman, a mainstay of both the committee and the village community, has not been at all well and is recovering from major surgery. We wish her a full and speedy recovery

On the more mundane front I am pleased to be able to report that the hall booking levels remain strong with increasing interest from outside of the village, much of which comes from the website. Our financial position is similarly healthy.

On a personal note I was somewhat embarrassed to find I had been nominated for an award in the New Year's Honours list. Thank you very much indeed to those involved but of course the BEM should have really gone to the entire village hall team.

Finally, an example of why running a small business, which of course the village hall is, can be exasperating; Scottish Power supply the hall's electricity and to date have made seven, I think, appointments over a couple of years to replace the supply meter. I am still hoping they will turn up and do the job!! Perhaps I should not blame Scottish Power but their contractor G4S!!

**Geoff Thorpe**  
**Chairman, Harbury Village Hall**

## The Friends of Harbury Cemetery

On the first Thursday morning of each month this group gets together to garden and weed both the neglected graves and the undergrowth at Harbury Cemetery (weather permitting).

We formed as a voluntary group because there were complaints that the cemetery had been neglected over the years as family members had moved away or died themselves. Other parishes had groups of residents who helped in the community and I thought it would be a good idea for this to happen in Harbury. There is now a core of 10 volunteers and other people who attend on an ad-hoc basis.

There is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing the improvements that have been made and the compliments we have received. We obtained grants to buy aggregate to put on graves and to buy bulbs and plants – the intention is that the cemetery becomes a haven for wildlife and an attractive area to visit. Some grant funds were spent during 2016 on improving neglected graves and extensive planting of bulbs so that the benefits will be seen in 2017.

2000 native English bluebell bulbs were planted and the children at Harbury School helped in this work. 250 daffodil and tulip bulbs were also planted and they made a spectacular show this spring. Wildflower seeds were sown in March/April with flowers expected to bloom throughout the summer.

To allow room for more graves 'spoil' was removed from around the edges of the cemetery in the summer of 2016. The yew trees that frame the pathway into the cemetery were also pruned in February 2017. Grass seed was put down in the spring and we are hoping to open the cemetery on the Garden Walkabout weekend so improvements can be seen by everyone. Although it must be realised that Harbury Cemetery covers a large area and work is on-going.

The next project for the parish council is to replace the rotten fence that is held up by ivy on the corner of the Park Lane /South Parade junction.

Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way.

**Cllr Pat Summers**  
**Group Co-ordinator**

## Harbury Energy Initiative

Membership of the HEI Steering Group stands at 11 with Steve Brough and John McGowan having joined recently and Derek Price having left to live by the seaside. We were very sad to lose in addition Steve Dolley, our treasurer since inception, to cancer early this year.



The electric car club remains our main activity, not by intention, as there is much else we would like to do, but just in terms of the weight of activity. Usage is increasing, largely because Harbury e-Wheels has become more and more in demand, but also because we have managed to promote more private use. We hope to persuade people planning to replace a second car to

try the car club first as it very likely to save them money (and reduce the number of cars in the village). 475 bookings, 1,450 hours of use, 11,500 miles of journey, 5.6 tonnes of carbon saved with nil NOx or hydrocarbon emissions isn't a bad start for the first eighteen months of a slightly ambitious and experimental rural car club scheme. In the first quarter of this year Harbury e-Wheels, our free social transport scheme, delivered 338 hours to bring people to their essential appointments as against just under 100 hours in the same period in 2016.

In July Harbury e-Wheels separated from HEI, although there has to remain a close relationship, and became a separate body with its own board. We have 5 board members, 9 volunteer drivers and 5 volunteer coordinators. The level of demand on our service means that we have an urgent need to raise funds. Since e-Wheels began in November 2015 we have relied on grants and small donations; that is no longer enough. In October last year we held our first fundraising event, a well attended talk called 'My Life in a Freezer' given by experienced polar explorer Mark Wood. On March 31st we ran a second event, this time a concert in church at which we launched an appeal for regular small donations. We now have sufficient funds to run the scheme till November but will need to attract more support to reach our target figure of £6,500 a year in annual giving.

HEI has always sought ways to deliver a low carbon agenda through the community's buildings. The school has come high on our list and we managed last summer to liaise with the county and have LED lighting installed in some of the rooms. This work is continuing and we will seek ways over time to gradually convert the whole school's lighting to LEDs, saving them considerable money in the long term. We also worked with the church on the Eco Church agenda and delivered an evening of talks on environmental issues as part of the diocesan 'Reconciling a Wounded Planet' ® programme and organised a tour of the churchyard conservation area.

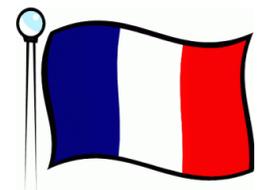
Our attempt to help the library and pre-school by competing for funds to put PV panels on the roof failed. The process was fraught with complications and the voting system so confusing that we had no chance of attracting the votes we needed. We will wait for another opportunity.

Our work does attract interest beyond the immediate neighbourhood. Last year I addressed a seminar at Stoneleigh run by Coventry University and Greenwatt as part of a final presentation of the Warwickshire Rural Electric Vehicle project. Because of our creation of Harbury e-Wheels as a primary use for the electric car club, we were seen as an innovative and interesting case study.

**Bob Sherman**  
**Chairman of Harbury Energy Initiative**

### **Harbury Twinning Association**

During the last twelve months, the twinning association has continued its usual fund raising and social activities which we reported each month in the Harbury and Ladbroke News. Members participated in the carnival week wheel barrow race, the pub games and ran a baguette stall on carnival day.



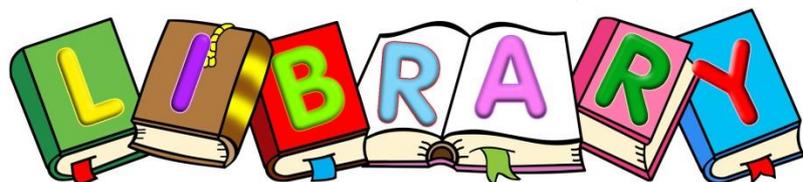
The highlight of the year was the bi-annual visit to Samois-sur -Seine. Forty-five members of the association left Harbury on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>, having heard the shock news that Britain had decided to leave the European Union. We were met on arrival by the French mayor who assured us that despite the referendum result the bond of friendship that had been built up between the residents of our two villages would continue. Our hosts welcomed and suitably entertained us during our stay. This was the week that the people of Samois held their annual Django Reinhardt Jazz Festival and on Saturday evening we were invited to attend a performance which, because the island in the Seine where it is usually held had been flooded, was relocated to the grounds of Fontainebleau Palace.

In October we brought back to the village hall the very popular jazz group "*Playing Django*". The year ended with a Christmas party in the Tom Hauley Room and the New Year started in January with a "*Fete des Rois*" celebration.

**Tony Thomas**  
**Harbury Twinning Association**

## Harbury Village Library

Harbury Library continues to thrive thanks to the hard work of the volunteers and the financial support of Biblio's cafe also supported by a large team of volunteers. A total of 8,567 loans of Warwickshire County Council books were made in 2016. In addition, there were 3108 loans of our own 'Blue label' books. We now have 3,600 books of our own. The three public computers



are in regular use. They have access to the Ancestry Family History site and to the British Newspaper Archive and were extensively used by researchers for the WW1 project. The library has hosted a number of activities including 'Tunes and Tales' for toddlers, book groups, 'Meet the Author 'events and contributions to the Referendum debate.

A working party is currently looking into improving the display of books in the library and funds are available to invest in new shelving. The lighting has been considerably improved with the installation of new LED units and the windows above the desk and computer area have been fitted with anti-glare film. The outside area has been replanted by Bob Sherman and the cycle racks moved to the side. We look forward to the installation of the new parish notice board.

Biblio's is very much the social hub of the village with customers enjoying high quality coffee, tea and cakes. Although it's main purpose is the financial support of the library it also provides a place where friendships are made and it enriches village life.

At the AGM in March, the steering committee was re-elected and consists of Sharon Hancock (Chairman), Janice Montague (Library), Jill Credland (Biblio's), Tim Lockley (Parish Council), Liz McBride (PCC), Naomi Neale (Harbury Primary School) and Nicola Thompson (Treasurer).

I would like to record my appreciation of the hard work of the committee and the volunteers. Finally I would like to say how delighted we were that Jill Credland was recognised in the New Year's Honours List with the award of the BEM for services to the community of Harbury

**Sharon Hancock**  
**Chairman, Steering Committee**

## Harbury Village Show

The Harbury Village Show is a community event where all residents and local organisations have the opportunity to showcase their skills and talents. The schedule of entries covers numerous categories and is diverse, covering skills from flower arranging to photography. There is also a special schedule for young people's entries.

In order to keep the event accessible to all sectors of the community, the village show committee tries to keep the costs as low as possible, and aims to be non-profit making. To that end, the grant from the parish council to cover the hire of the village hall was invaluable and the committee is indebted to them.



If you have the opportunity to visit our website [www.harburyvillageshow.uk](http://www.harburyvillageshow.uk) you will see the quality of entries from previous years in the gallery section.

**Gordon Robbins**  
**Treasurer, Harbury Village Show Committee.**

## Victorian Street Fayre

This tri-annual event (every three years?) was held in October 2016 and the parish council very generously donated £2,000 towards the event. Although the weather was against us this time, we saw a very high turnout from the start to around 7pm, with only a brief lull during the rain when the Gamecock was full to overflowing. One of the tenets of the Victorian Street Fayre is to provide good entertainment for the village without charge. This year we were able to see the return of Mr Alexander who has been highly successful in the previous two VSFs and we had some new acts and entertainment in the Wonder Tent at the other end of Chapel Street. Without the parish council's grant we would not have been able to book such quality entertainment.

Many of the local charities and businesses were also represented at the event and the parish council grant was used to subsidise the stall rental for the charities and local not-for-profit groups.

Measuring benefit is always subjective with events of this type but local businesses certainly do see an increased footfall as a result. Local groups that had stalls or provided food were also able to gain visibility and add to their profits, although the food court was not quite as successful as previous years due to the bad weather. I think the biggest benefit of events like the VSF and

the carnival is bringing Harbury people together and reminding ourselves of what a great community we live in.

The VSF raised just over £3000 for Harbury Primary School PTA. This was around £500 lower than the previous time but accounted for by the weather slightly reducing the turnout. The PTA is still discussing with the school a number of options of how best to spend their combined funds.

**Brian Young**  
**Victorian Street Fayre Committee**



**Parish Council Attendance Record May 2016 to April 2017 (maximum 13 meetings)**

<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Number Attended</b>	<b>Percentage Attended</b>
Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman	13	100%
Cllr Keith Thompson, Vice-chairman	12	92%
Cllr Sam Allen	10	77%
Cllr Chris Christou	11	85%
Cllr Chris Gibb	11	85%
Cllr Pat Summers	10	77%
Cllr Alan Knowles (retired April 2017)	10 (max 12)	84%
Cllr Tony Mancell	12	92%
Cllr Steve Ekins	7	54%
Cllr Janet Thornley	12	92%

**Contact Your Parish Council**

For copies of official minutes, planning applications and lots more information.

Clerk to Harbury Parish Council:  
 Alison Biddle MILCM  
 2, Bull Ring Business Centre  
 Church Terrace  
 Harbury  
 Leamington Spa  
 CV33 9HL

Office opening hours: 9.00am to 12.00pm Monday – Thursday

Telephone: 01926 614646

Email: [clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.harbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk)

**Harbury Parish Council**  
**Financial Statements Year Ended 31 March 2017 (subject to audit)**

Year Ended 31/03/16	Income & Expenditure	Year Ended 31/03/17
<b>GENERAL PARISH FUND</b>		
<b>£</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
95,250.00	Precept	97,664.00
2,770.00	Council Tax Reduction Grant	2,100.00
46.44	Interest received - deposit account	29.67
	Interest received - Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	122.01
1,000.00	Allotment rents	1,050.00
1,750.00	Burial ground fees	1,815.00
-	Playing field hire	450.00
35.04	Wayleave	35.22
993.02	Grass verge contribution - SDC	993.02
20,380.00	Grant funding	13,150.00
1,078.00	Transfer from Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	-
-	Sports clubs conts to Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	3,740.00
699.85	Other contributions/misc	1,703.59
		-
<b>124,002.35</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>122,852.51</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
18,858.29	General administration	23,409.10
228.50	Training	189.00
198.93	Purchase of office equipment	89.60
3,732.92	Parish office	3,695.48
20,000.00	Grants (includes village hall)	5,717.60
8,949.25	Neighbourhood Plan	3,568.00
313.00	WW1 Project	6,774.00
	<b>Running costs:</b>	
2,441.95	Allotments	2,410.12
4,096.86	Burial	8,592.83
5,464.79	Open spaces	5,522.89
30,256.08	Playing fields & car park	17,735.28
1,078.00	Tennis & netball court works	1,078.00
1,600.08	Non-estate roads	1,600.08
16,501.77	Street lighting	24,197.83
225.00	BMX track	275.00
3,370.87	Purchase of village assets / village improvements	543.00
1,870.00	Contribution to sports club fund	-
3,325.00	Councillors allowances	3,150.00
<b>122,511.29</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>108,547.81</b>
1,491.06	<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>	14,304.70
	Transfer to Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	-4654.01
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>9,650.69</b>

		<b>SPECIFIC FUNDS (Earmarked Reserves)</b>	
Year Ended 31/03/2016			Year Ended 31/03/2017
£		<b>Tennis &amp; Netball Courts Fund</b>	£
		<b>Income</b>	
120.14		Interest received	122.01
1,870.00		Contributions from parish council	1,870.00
3,740.00		Contributions from sports clubs	3,740.00
- 1,078.00		<b>Less expenditure</b>	- 1,078.00
<b>4,652.14</b>		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,654.01</b>

<b>Balance sheet as at 31 March 2017</b>			
Year ended 31.03.2016		Year ended 31.03.2017	
£		£	
		<b>Current Assets</b>	
249.83		Payments in advance	264.14
589.89		VAT Debtor	2,027.88
-		Other debtors	-
100.00		Cash with clerk to the council	100.00
126,548.78		Cash at bank	139,291.30
<b>127,488.50</b>		<b>141,683.32</b>	
		<b>Less current liabilities</b>	
- 1,469.52		Creditors	- 1,359.64
<b>126,018.98</b>		<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>140,323.68</b>
		Represented by:	
102,930.74		General fund balance b/f	104,421.80
1,491.06		Less deficit/plus surplus	9,650.69
104,421.80		Balance 31 March	114,072.49
		Specific funds:	
21,597.18		Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	26,251.19
<b>126,018.98</b>		<b>140,323.68</b>	