

Village Life

**This month's edition is
sponsored by
Kara Belmont**



Harbertonford's newsletter



Issue 299, January 2026

Welcome to 2026 and the January edition of *Village Life*, in which we try to keep you informed of local news & events. It's delivered to your door each month by volunteers.....

And many thanks to those volunteers who deliver this newsletter. Every month, without complaint:

- John & Jean Blackler (Old Rd/Main Rd)
- Dave Brown, Sarah Orme, Rob Summers (Bow Rd/Riverdale)
- Sue Groom (Moreleigh Rd/Main Rd)
- Piers Whiting (Woodland Rd/Packs Close)

Also many thanks to **MAP Accountants** in Harberton for the monthly printing of *Village Life*. We've made use of MAP's service (really friendly & efficient) since 2017 – it's a fantastic support for us. Thanks again, Melanie, Sally, Eve & Traci.

HSSG – *Village Life* provides news and information to every household in the village, so get in touch if you have any information or events that you would like included.

A downloadable version (PDF file) of *Village Life* is available here: www.harbertondevon.co.uk/villagelife.htm

Sponsorship – many thanks to Kara for sponsoring this edition. Her generosity has enabled us to print & distribute 400 free copies of the newsletter.

Norma Arlene Dance passed away peacefully in Lakeview Care Home on 24th November, aged 90. A native of Birmingham, Norma married Geoff, a fellow Brummie, in 1954. They emigrated to Ontario, Canada where they lived for over 20 years, raising four children, who, with their parents' devotion, wanted for nothing. Returning to the UK, Norma & Geoff settled in Bow Road, H/ford. As well as her family, Mum's passion was her garden, where she enjoyed her love of flowers. She was always friendly with her neighbours and she loved to chat to anyone passing by. Mum will be sadly missed by her children and their families. Rest In Peace, Mum

Kath Pearson died on 25th November, aged 104. We shall print Kath's obituary in February's newsletter.

St Peter's Church

Carol Service

Sun. 21st Dec. @ 9:30am (+ refreshments)

Midnight Mass

Wed. 24th Dec. @ 11:30pm

Holy Communion

Sun. 18th Jan. @ 9:30am



Everyone very welcome. The church is open to all every day (9am-5pm). 3rivers.org.uk

P.C.C. lottery – thanks to everyone who belongs to the lottery. You can join at any time, £12/yr. It really does help to keep the church going. Phone Frances (732297).

Dec. winners: 1. Graham Clayton, Woodcourt Rd.

2. Jazz Peters, Packs Cl. 3. Betty Nicholls, Farleigh

Lottery: 2026 renewal - just a reminder that the 2026 payments of £12 will soon be due, please pay your usual collector. If you would like to join, please contact Frances (732297) or Sue Lethbridge in the shop.



Christmas tree – massive thanks again to Jackie Stephens for donating a Christmas tree to the village for this year's festivities. Also, huge thanks to the many villagers who helped with installation, lights etc. etc. Our tree is much admired and it's a tremendous advert for H/ford.

You ought to sing carols around it!!...



Carols Round the Tree

2025's carol singing (church car park):

Sun. 21st Dec. (5:30pm).

Mince pies & hot drinks.



It's a lovely, seasonal village event & all ages are very welcome. It will be cancelled if very wet. Peter Beamish (07984-677157)



Christmas Raffle with some super prizes!! A fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust & our village shop. Tickets: Buy in shop.

The draw is on **Mon. 22nd Dec.** Don't miss out!!

TURKEYS, GEESE & Veg Boxes for Christmas

at Stanborough Farm, Halwell. Taking orders on: 01548-821306 or stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com



Recycling and waste collection

Collection dates over the festive season (as per the SHDC website):

Usual day	New day	Usual day	New day	Usual day	New day
25 Dec	27 Dec.	1 Jan.	3 Jan.	8 Jan.	9 Jan.
26 Dec.	29 Dec.	2 Jan.	5 Jan.	9 Jan.	10 Jan.
29 Dec.	30 Dec.	5 Jan.	6 Jan.		
30 Dec.	31 Dec.	6 Jan.	7 Jan.		
31 Dec.	2 Jan.	7 Jan.	8 Jan..		

- w/c 12th Jan. – normal service



Opening times for Christmas period and New Year's Day:

- Christmas Eve (Wed.): 8am - 6pm (shop & PO)
- Christmas Day & Boxing Day (Thu. & Fri.): Closed
- 27th to 31st Dec. (Sat. to Wed.): Normal hours (shop & PO)
- 1st Jan. (Thu.): Closed

Christmas gifts in the shop – we have an excellent range of small seasonal gifts for sale. Pop in and peruse!!



Harbourne Filling Station
will be OPEN AS USUAL throughout the holiday period EXCEPT FOR

- Christmas Day: 9am - 6pm
- Boxing Day: 8:30am - 9pm
- New Year's Day: 7am - 9pm

**Happy
New
Year
2026**

New Year's Eve Party - Village Hall (7:30pm)

Live music & buffet. No bar, bring your own drinks
Anyone interested in singing/entertaining welcome
Any questions, ask Nigel Holmes

The Flower Club continues to thrive and will re-start on
Wed. 7th Jan. We meet in the afternoons for the winter period
starting at 1:30pm each time. New members are very welcome
to come along and see what we do. No membership fee, just £3 a
session to pay for the hall. This includes coffee and biscuits!
Info: Pauline 01803-732393

Sustainable Harbourne Valley (SHV) would like to wish
Everyone a very merry Christmas and New Year. We look
forward to next year's fun and informative talks and workshops -
more nest boxes; compost; Give & Take and a lot about our River
Harbourne. To hear more about these events and to share your
thoughts, come to the Green Drinks at The Church House Inn,
Harberton, on **Wed. 7th Jan. at 7pm.**

For all SHV info go to: www.sustainableharbournevalley.org.uk

Harbertonford Youth Project (Thurs., 6-7:30pm) – it's H/F's
Youth Club. Usually every fortnight, at our Village Hall.


Next three months Info: deekelly.traye@gmail.com

Jan. 8th & 22nd **Feb. 5th & 19th** **Mar. 5th & 19th**

Harberton Parish Council's (PC) next ordinary meeting is at
Harberton Parish Hall on **Tue. 13th Jan. (7:30pm).**

clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org

Parish Neighbourhood Plan (PNP) - Dear Parishioner, the
Parish Council (PC) has approved the PNP for the six-week
Regulation 14 consultation. We now invite your formal
feedback. Please read the document on the PC website
<https://www.harbertonparishcouncil.org> and respond online using
the feedback form found online. The consultation period is open
from **Mon, 12th Jan. to Sun. 22nd Feb. 2026.**

??? **Coffee morning - Tue. 20th Jan. (10:30am)**
 In the Village Hall. Only £1.50 for coffee & biscuits.
Raffle & most times there are jams etc. for sale.

Please come along – you are very welcome. This is our 36th year!!

Frances (732297).


Harberton & H/ford History Society - we look forward to
H'seeing' you at our first online talk of the year on :

Tue. 27th Jan. at 7.30pm.....

Regular speaker Andy Crabb (Dartmoor archaeologist): "The
Dartmoor Newtakes; the tenements before the 19C land grabs
and possible future landscape changes."

Please see website for registration details: <https://h3s-history.org/>
Thank you for your support in 2025. Best Wishes for 2026 and we
look forward to an interesting year ahead.

Many thanks, Jill.Powell-Redlion@outlook.com

 **Open Mic 2026** - with around 140 people in
attendance & a record 15 different acts at our
December gathering we are excited to see what
2026 will bring! With a few acts already booked in for
Fri. 30th Jan. it might be a good idea to book your
slot in advance, although as ever, we will try to find
performance time for 'walk-ins'. We look forward to another night of
cracking entertainment and warm vibes. Many thanks for your talent
& enthusiasm! Love, Gavin & Guy. To book a slot contact Gavin:
middlewoodart@gmail.com

From the last *Open Mic* - a shanty song written for H/ford:

"Heave Ho, lads - stow that cord
Raise up a pint for Harbertonford
From Devon we sail with pride in our bones
But will we get home? Hey!"

Village Hall bar & Sunday Skittles – Reminders:

The VH bar is open **every Friday** evening from **7:30pm**
Skittles is **every Sunday** @ the VH, **(7-9pm)**. All are welcome.
Cost: £2 (inc. coffee/tea & biscuits). Info: John (732588).

Contact your local MP, Caroline Voaden, for help with an
issue that you are facing. As part of her remit, Caroline can
assist with anything that is the responsibility of a national
government department, such as pensions and benefits. You can:
email her at: caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk or
phone her office at: 01803-658461.

Manager Required for H/ford Community Shop & Post Office

Salary: £19,500 pa (25hr/wk). Days of work to be agreed.
Building on our success since taking over the business in 2023
and the hard work of our paid staff and a committed band of
volunteers we now want to appoint a paid Manager to drive the
business forward and help ensure its resilience and long-term
sustainability. The Manager's main role will be to ensure the
smooth daily running of the shop, help drive increased sales and
further develop our premises as a lively social hub for local
people. If you are interested, please email hvcs.drive@gmail.com
to request further information about the vacancy including details
of the application process. Please do bring this to the attention of
anyone else who might be interested.

Make 'growing your own' a New Year's Resolution and
sign up for a plot with H/ford Allotment Society. We have a
couple of small plots cleared, covered and ready to plant, why not
give it a try? Email has-sec@outlook.com and arrange to come
and see what's available.

Energy RESET is a new project run by Citizens Advice South
Hams to provide in-depth help and advice for people
struggling with their energy bills. RESET's fully qualified energy
advisers will help the most vulnerable households, check if they
are paying too much for their gas and electricity, help people
understand their bills, find ways of saving energy around the
home and make sure they have all the available support they
need. To find out more visit the website at:
resetenergyadvice.org.uk/ or phone free on 0800-995-6890.

Harberton Cricket Club: indoor nets (1) adult & (2) youth from
mid-Jan. Info: Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876) or
jamie_fit@hotmail.com www.harbertoncc.com

Harbertonford FC – very wet of late and a flooded pitch a
fortnight ago. No home games now until NY. Season to date:
Sat. side - P10, W4, D1, L5. Sun. side - P10, W6 D3, L1. For
results, fixtures & news: www.bit.ly/hf-fc

Info: John Mills (j.mills@nhs.net), Mike Bishop (07813-120390).

Football club lottery: £160 prize money/month. Cost: £5/mth.
Nov. winners (£80/£40/£10/£10/£10/£10):

Matt Ghillyer/Carl Southcott/Nigel Holmes/Mike Bishop/
Phil Osgathorpe x 2 (Dec's draw not yet done).



This newsletter was printed by
MAP Accountants, whose offices
are in Harberton. Please phone
Melanie Allday (01803-867655)
for details of MAP's services

Season's greetings to all readers. Many thanks for your
continued support.

Next issue – contributions to Graham Clayton (732603 or
g1clayton78@outlook.com). The copy deadline for the
February newsletter is 20th January.