

# 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.

**H**SSG – *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](http://www.harbertondevon.co.uk/villagelife.htm)

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

**N**orma Arlene Dance passed away peacefully in Lakeview Care Home on 24<sup>th</sup> 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

**K**ath Pearson died on 25<sup>th</sup> November, aged 104. We shall print Kath's obituary in February's newsletter.



### St Peter's Church

#### Carol Service

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. @ 9:30am (+ refreshments)

#### Midnight Mass

Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> Dec. @ 11:30pm

#### Holy Communion

Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. @ 9:30am

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

**L**ottery: 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. 21<sup>st</sup> 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. 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Don't miss out!!

### TURKEYS, GEESE & Veg Boxes for Christmas

at Stanborough Farm, Halwell. Taking orders on: 01548-821306 or [stanboroughfarm@hotmail.com](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> 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
- 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. (Sat. to Wed.): Normal hours (shop & PO)
- 1<sup>st</sup> 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



### 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

**T**he Flower Club continues to thrive and will re-start on **Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> 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

**S**ustainable 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. 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. at 7pm.**

For all SHV info go to: [www.sustainableharbournevalley.org.uk](http://www.sustainableharbournevalley.org.uk)  
**H**arbertonford Youth Project (Thurs., 6-7:30pm) – it's H/F's Youth Club. Usually every fortnight, at our Village Hall.

**N**ext three months Info: deekelly.traye@gmail.com  
Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>      Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>      Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

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

[clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org)

**P**arish 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, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. to Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2026.**

???

**Coffee morning - Tue. 20<sup>th</sup> 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 36<sup>th</sup> year!!

Frances (732297).

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

**Tue. 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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:

**V**illage Hall 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).

**C**ontact 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](mailto: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 [hcvs.drive@gmail.com](mailto:hcvs.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.

**M**ake '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](mailto:has-sec@outlook.com) and arrange to come and see what's available.

**E**nergy 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/](http://resetenergyadvice.org.uk/) or phone free on 0800-995-6890.

**H**arberton Cricket Club: indoor nets (1) adult & (2) youth from mid-Jan. Info: Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876) or [jamie\\_fitz@hotmail.com](mailto:jamie_fitz@hotmail.com) [www.harbertoncc.com](http://www.harbertoncc.com)

**H**arbertonford 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](http://www.bit.ly/hf-fc)

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

**F**ootball 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

**S**eason's greetings to all readers. Many thanks for your continued support.

**N**ext issue – contributions to Graham Clayton (732603 or [g1clayton78@outlook.com](mailto:g1clayton78@outlook.com)). The copy deadline for the February newsletter is 20<sup>th</sup> January.