

Village Life

This month's edition is
sponsored by
Katie Marie & Christie Lenee

Harbertonford's newsletter

Issue 288, February 2025

Welcome to the February 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.

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 on these two village websites:

- www.harbertonford.com
- www.harbertondevon.co.uk

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

Bill Downie, long-time resident of H/ford, died peacefully after a long illness on 10th December, aged 75. His funeral service was held in St Peter's Church on 23rd January. There will be an obituary for Bill in next month's newsletter.



St Peter's Church service:

Sun. 16th Feb. (9:30am) – PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME - followed by refreshments. All very welcome. The church is open to all every day between 10:30am & 4pm. 3rivers.org.uk

Last month's Plough Sunday service was enjoyable and well attended. The vicar blessed the plough, the soil and the seed for the coming year. This was followed by refreshments and lots of chat. Thank you to all who helped in any way.

Parking -if there is a notice in the carpark requesting cars to be moved please try to remove your vehicle as requested, this can be for any number of reasons.

P.C.C. lottery – thank you to all who support the lottery. For anyone who has not paid for 2025 (£12) please contact your usual collector or give your money to Sue Lethbridge in the shop. Any problems - please contact Frances (732297). Jan. winners:
1. John Blackler, Old Rd., £30

2. Val Pears, Nth Huish, £20, 3. Clifford Dement, Blackawton, £10
Church cleaning – we need one or two new cleaners, so if you have a spare hour each month and would like to help out please phone Frances on 732297.

Carols Round the Tree (CRT) – many thanks to all who supported this year's seasonal get-together. £59 of donations to the Christmas Tree fund was collected. As mentioned on the evening, we are looking for someone to take over as CRT organisers from 2025. Many thanks, Jackie Clayton (732603)

Village Play Park – Spring Clean!! Helpers needed!! With spring approaching, Peter Beamish (07984-677157) is keen to start tidying up the Play Park and he's hoping to get a small team together to support him. If you can help in any way on either day - **Sat. 1st/Sun. 2nd Feb (10am-2pm)** - Peter would be hugely grateful. Many thanks in advance.

For babies and toddlers - a reminder that the Fledglings Stay & Play group has resumed at the village school:

Tuesday mornings in term time (9:15-10:45am) 🧸⭐

There's a range of activities for babies & toddlers. It's run by one of the school's trained nursery staff. Tea, coffee & cake available!

Harberton & H/ford History Society – no news this month.

Many thanks Jill.Powell-Redlion@outlook.com

Community Speedwatch – no sessions of late. We still need one or two more volunteers.

Thanks, Phil laurence.phil.dixon@btinternet.com

Photos taken by local photographer Jimmy Swindells at

FordFiesta 23/24 available to download or print - please email him for details & pricing at: jim@jimmyswindells.co.uk

All profits will go to support H/ford Play Park revamp.



The Flower Arranging group meets fortnightly in the Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to join, either making an arrangement or just watching. Tuition is available. Our next two meetings (10:30am) are: **Wed. 5th Feb. & Wed. 19th Feb.** More info: Pauline 01803-732393.

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

Dates: 6th Feb., 6th & 20th Mar., 3rd Apr.

Half term (15th-21st Feb.) - Fun Run & horse stable visit

Easter hols (12th-20th Apr.) – trips/activities tbc

Key contact: deekelly.trave@gmail.com

Harberton Panto - Alice In Wonderland

Fri. 7th Feb. (7:30pm) & Sat. 8th Feb. (2pm & 7:30pm)

It's at Harberton Parish Hall. Tickets (£10/£5) from liz@anglecottage.plus.com or Liz Fearn (866749)

Harberton Parish Council's (PC) next ordinary meeting is at our Village Hall on **Tue. 11th Feb. (7:30pm)**.

clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org

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Coffee morning - Tue. 18th Feb. (10:30am)
In the Village Hall. Only £1 for coffee and biscuits. Raffle and most times there are jams etc. for sale.

Please come along – you are very welcome. Frances (732297).



Village Hall Quiz – Fri. 21st Feb. (8pm)

Dust off those brain cells @ '25's first VH quiz!! A fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, a charity that's working towards a

brighter future for everyone with CF by funding cutting-edge research, driving up standards of care & supporting people with the condition & their loved ones. £2/head, max. 6/team. No team? Don't worry, that can be sorted out on the evening. Very friendly, good fun. Bar open. Vicki Taylor, vct.wrns@yahoo.com

The H/ford Allotment Society – a couple of allotment plots have become available. They're a perfect size for the novice gardener, tidy and ready to go in time for the spring. Email has-sec@outlook.com to arrange a viewing but be quick as we expect these plots to be snapped up.

PTFA	Quiz Night at the village school	PTFA
	A fundraiser for the PTFA!!	
	It's on Fri. 28th Feb. Doors open: 7:30pm , Quiz starts: 8pm	
	Bar, snacks & card payments available	
	Cost: £5/team. Maximum six people/team	
	Prize for the winning team + a raffle on the night!	
PTFA	All welcome. A fun night guaranteed!!	PTFA

Sustainable Harbourne Valley (SHV) - on **Wed. 12th Mar.** in the Village Hall we have again our local wildlife expert, John Walters, with a talk about our amazing migrant birds: "House Martins, Swallows & Swifts". Their decline is seriously worrying. John will introduce these birds and give advice on providing food & nest sites for them. SHV plans to chart the nesting sites of these birds in the village so bring along any info. to the talk.



Harberton Optimists Golf Society (est. 1997) - if you are an active member of a golf club or a golfer who would like to play different courses around Devon with a relaxed and friendly society, then please contact James Miller (07860-579951) or email: james@jamestmiller.co.uk

Citizens Advice South Hams works with the Energy Saving Trust to help you stay warm and save on bills. Five top tips:
 ● Check your radiators ● Check your boiler's flow temperature
 ● Keep heating at the lowest comfortable temperature (usually 18-21°C)

● Book a boiler service ● Don't rely on portable electric heaters
 To find out more about these steps, including useful short videos, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/information/energy-savers-week/ If you're worried about being able to pay your energy bills, contact us on 0808-278-7948.



Fantastic pre-Christmas takings (£1,200/day average) and the Post Office was super busy as well.

Thanks, as ever, for all your support – it means such a lot to shop/PO staff & volunteers to see & serve so many customers.



One of our most popular lines is Vicky's Bread, an artisan bread business (www.vickysbread.co.uk), based in Helston, Cornwall. It started in a

small industrial unit and is now a thriving brand making rustic, holey, chewy loaves that you won't find anywhere else. Vicky is passionate about her craft and this, alongside her specialist training, results in loaves with deep, nutty crusts & bold flavours. We still need volunteers to help ensure that the enterprise is financially sustainable. If you'd like to help out please call Belinda Burt: (07501-900027)

Diary date: note that the THCL (shop/PO) AGM is booked for **Thu. 24th Apr. (7:30pm)** in the Village Hall.

!!!! Support your community shop/PO !!!!

Youth cricket - Harberton Cricket Club (HCC) has indoor cricket nets for 10-12 year olds at Totnes Leisure Centre on **Mon. 3rd & 10th Feb.**, then the **first four Mondays in Mar. (5:30pm)**. A great introduction to playing with a hard ball. HCC's U12's & U11's are in a league for the first time, so new members are very welcome as there will be lots of cricket in the summer (weather permitting!). **Info:** Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876)

Senior cricket – HCC is also offering winter nets for older players. It's at Totnes Leisure Centre (**Sundays, 12:30-2pm**) on these dates: **2nd/9th Feb, all Sundays in Mar. & 6th Apr.** Call Jamie Fitzpatrick for more info about HCC (07798-631876).

Weather watch – was 2024 particularly wet overall? Many thanks to David Groom for this data (in inches) for H/ford:

	2024	2023	2022	Av.1984-2021
Total rainfall	64.1	65.3	44.3	47.3

2024's rain was similar to 2023 & much higher than '21 & '22. It was well above the annual average for the past 40 years. The third wettest year since 1984. The past decade has shown a trend of higher rainfall:

	2015-2024	2005-14	1995-2004	1984-94
Avg. rainfall pa	52.4	47.7	44.7	48.1



Extra opening hours on Saturdays!!

Don't forget!!: our PO is now open for an **extra 2½ hours every Saturday pm, i.e. to 3:30pm**

So, in a normal week the PO's hours are:

Mon. - Fri. 8am-6pm and then Sat. 8am-3:30pm

Wanted! New home in the village - we now have a cash buyer for our house on Moreleigh Rd. and are still looking for our new home in the village or nearby. Please get in touch if you're listing your house in the new year, and want to save on estate agents fees! 2+ beds, semi or detached, garden essential, budget max. £500k. Many thanks, Nicola (07783-176826) or nicolalang84@gmail.com

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).

Footpath - I have approached the Parish Council to ask that a proper footpath be provided beside the A381 between the top of Old Road and a point opposite the junction of the lane to Harberton to allow safer pedestrian access between the two villages. If you agree please make your support known - petition in shop or contact me directly. Many thanks, Sue Groom sue.groom@outlook.com or 01803-732462

Harbertonford FC – still not much action for the two teams, but it has been a bit drier of late, so fingers crossed The Saturday side sit 8th in Div. 2 of the SDL (W4, D2, L5). They host Mount Gould in the Lidstone Cup on **Sat 1st Feb.** The Sunday side are top of their league (W11, L1) and host The Anchorage 2nds, (Devon Supplementary Cup QF) on **Sun 9th Feb. (am)** For results, fixtures & news: www.bit.ly/hf-fc **Info:** John Mills (j.mills@nhs.net), Mike Bishop (07813-120390).



Dog owners!! If you use the football pitch to exercise your dogs, PLEASE PICK UP ANY MESS IT LEAVES. We had to clear three piles before a recent game and lots over the Xmas break. We don't mind people using the pitch, but please be a reasonable dog owner. Dog mess is unhealthy & unsightly. Not taking responsibility for it is totally unacceptable. Many thanks.

Football club lottery: £160 prize money/month. Cost: £5/mth. **Dec. winners (£80/£40/£10/£10/£10/£10):** Paul Turner/Jake Harmieson/Chris Hatch/ Ben Davies/ Graham Clayton/Kieran Brown. (Jan's draw not yet done).

Village contacts

- ❖ **Police:** PCSO Russ Broadhurst 30534. **Tel:** 07703-886012 or russell.broadhurst@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
- ❖ **Village Hall bookings:** Jean Blackler (732588)

Year Planner 2025:

21 Feb., VH Quiz

24 Apr., Village shop/PO AGM

7&8 Feb., Harberton Panto

28 Feb., PTFA Quiz

2 Aug., Village Show



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

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