

Village Life

Harbertonford's newsletter

This month's edition is
sponsored by
Kath Pearson's family

Issue 300, February 2026

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

HSSG – VL 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 VL is available here: www.harbertondevon.co.uk/villagelife.htm

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

Kath Pearson passed away on 25th November aged 104. There is a memorial service for her in St Peter's Church on **Mon. 16th Feb. (2pm)**. Tea & biscuits afterwards, at the church. Kath moved to Packs Close with her husband John, from Clacton, Essex in 1987. They both loved Devon, the village and the surrounding walks. John passed away in 1997. She was an active participant in the Gardening Club, helped with floral arrangements at the church and enjoyed knitting, word puzzles and watching various sports on TV until her hearing and eyesight declined. She made many friends in H/ford and, with the help of her neighbours, continued to live on her own until, following a fall, she was admitted to Torbay Hospital where she passed away peacefully the next day. Kath leaves four children and their families.



St Peter's Church

Holy Communion – Sun. 15th Feb. @ 9:30am

Everyone very welcome. Refreshments afterwards. 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).

Jan. winners: 1. Sue Miller, Totnes

2. Ann Inder, Mill Meadow 3. Lesley Bowen, Rattery

Lottery: 2026 renewal – the 2026 payments of £12 are due. Please pay your usual collector. If you would like to join, please contact Frances (732297) or Sue Lethbridge in the shop.

Carols Round the Tree was terrific. Many thanks to Peter for the music and Sadie & Team for the mince pies & hot drinks.

New Year's Eve Party – many thanks to Nigel Holmes for putting this together. It was an excellent way to start 2026.



Open Mic, Fri. 30th Jan. (7:30pm) @ VHall. Most acts already sorted. Please email me if you'd like to book a slot and we'll see what we can do. We look forward to another night of cracking entertainment and warm vibes. Gavin - middlewoodart@gmail.com

No Open Mic in Feb. Next one is **Fri. 6th Mar. (7:30pm)**.

The Totnes Household Waste Recycling Centre site (run by DCC), on Babbage Rd. Industrial Estate, will be closed from **Sat. 31st Jan. to Sun. 15th Mar. (inclusive)** as it undergoes maintenance and engineering works. Full details here: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2026/totnes-recycling-centre-closing-temporarily-maintenance>

The Flower Club continues to thrive and we meet in the afternoons for the winter period **starting at 1:30pm** each time. Next two meetings: **Wed. 4th & Wed. 18th Feb.** 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

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
Feb. 5th Mar. 5th & 19th Apr. 2nd, 16th & 30th

Fledglings is a baby & toddler group held at H/ford School for babies up to 4 years. **Sessions 9:30-10:30am every other Tuesday**, based around discovery, messy play, art & farm-themed fun. On **Tue. 10th Feb.** we have the *All the Love* session. Cost: £3/child/session. Bookings/queries: please email adminharbertonford@thelink.academy or call 01803-732352.

Fledglings is kindly sponsored by Incy and Daynes Farm.

Harberton Parish Council's (PC) next ordinary meeting is at our Village Hall on **Tue. 10th Feb. (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**.

Melvyn's Bingo - the next two events @ Halwell & Moreleigh Village Hall are on **Fri. 13th Feb. & Fri. 20th Mar. (7:30pm)**.

<https://www.facebook.com/melvynsbingo>



Point-to-Point at Buckfastleigh racecourse (take Lower Dean exit off A38) on **Sun. 15th Feb.**

Six races in all – the first @ noon.

Entry: £15pp & U16s free.

www.facebook.com/groups/buckfastleighraces

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).



??? **Coffee morning - Tue. 17th Feb. (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. To ensure that the coffee mornings can continue extra helpers are needed. Could that be you? If so, please let Frances (732297) know.

Whist drive – the **fourth Monday** of each month (**7:30pm**). At Halwell & Moreleigh Village Hall.

Harbertonford Primary School - our School Garden project is now up and running. We have purchased and installed a polytunnel and will be working with local volunteers to move, rebuild and install raised beds for the planting areas. If you'd like to get involved with supporting our project, perhaps volunteering an hour or so to help maintain our raised beds, we'd love to hear from you.
Jack Pemberton

Teatime Talks at the Garden Café in Dartington – something for everyone in Feb.: ●Beekeeping ●History● Our local MP ●Devonly Voices ●Fungi ●Share Shed ●Nordic walking Mostly local presenters. For **Feb. events (all at 2:30-4pm)** go to: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574594723868> Eventbrite ticketing link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-garden-cafe-120764427671>

Quiz

Village Hall Quiz

Fri. 20th Feb. (8pm)

Quiz

A fundraiser for the **Cystic Fibrosis Trust**

A friendly, fun quiz. £2pp. Max. 6/team. No team? No problem - we'll sort it out!! Bar open. Vicki Taylor: vct.wrns@yahoo.com **!!SUPPORT THIS FANTASTIC CHARITY!!**

Something for the gardener's diary - free Home & Allotment Composting Workshop. Suitable for beginners or more experienced composters. It's on **Sun. 22nd Mar. (10am-1pm)** at our primary school. More info. and registration details next month, or look out for posters. A *Sustainable South Hams* event.

Harberton & H/ford History Society - our next talk will be in May when we also have our AGM. More info. next month.

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

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. The Manager would 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.

The deadline for applications is Mon. 2nd Feb.

We need a new Riverford milk collection person for the shop on a Friday morning. Could you help out? It means driving to Riverford Farm and collecting the milk/cream order. Please contact Belinda on 07501-900027. Many thanks

Shop & PO closed on Wed. 4th Feb. (from 1pm) – this is so that a stocktake can take place. Sorry for any inconvenience.

The Christmas Raffle raised over £400 (split 50/50 - Cystic Fibrosis Trust/village shop). Many thanks, everyone.

Weather watch – was 2025 particularly dry/wet? Many thanks to David Groom for this data (in inches) for H/ford:

	2025	2024	2023	Av.1983-2022
Jan-Apr	18.6	30.1	22.3	16.4
May-Aug	9.1	11.9	13.4	11.6
Sep-Dec	26.8	22.1	29.6	19.4
Total	54.5	64.1	65.3	47.4

So 2025 was, overall, drier than the two previous years, but 2023/4/5 were all wetter than the 40-year average to 2022. March 2025 was the driest March (<¼ inch!!) in David's data.

Universal Credit (UC) changes (from April 2026) - the amount of UC you get is changing because the UC standard allowance is increasing. A monthly UC payment = a standard allowance + any additional amounts you might get, based on your circumstances. To see what this means for you go to the *Citizens Advice* website. If you need help claiming UC you can call the *Citizens Advice Help 2 Claim team* (free) on 0800-144-8444.

H/ford Allotment Society (HAS)

We're busy at HAS getting plots ready for new tenants in the Spring....why not be one of those new tenants? Never had an allotment and don't know where to begin? No worries, there's plenty of experienced growers to offer advice, share seedlings and be supportive. You don't even need to buy tools as there's a good selection to borrow from our communal shed. A quote from a member who joined last year: *'I have enjoyed being an HAS member so much and the allotment is bringing me (us) so much joy & abundance. Only last night we cooked a beautiful meal, once again with our lovely produce. The energy & vibrancy in the food is like no other. It has been also very nourishing for our hearts & minds and has been keeping us grounded and happy. All the advice & guidance have been wonderful.'* Give it a go and get in touch with the HAS Secretary at: has-sec@outlook.com. A visit can be arranged for you to see what's on offer.

A Date For Your Diary - for all you gardeners, arts & crafts people, photographers, aspiring chefs or anyone who just likes to 'have a go', mark **Sat. 1st Aug.** in the diary for the H/ford Flower & Produce Show. Provisional schedule available soon.....

Harberton Cricket Club - What's On in 2026 for both children and adults:

- **Weekly (@ 17:30) from Mon. 19th Jan:** hardball nets for 10s-13s at Totnes Leisure Centre (TLC).
- **Weekly (@ 12:30) from Sun. 1st Feb:** adult nets at TLC. Perfect opportunity for those keen to try & get back into cricket.
- For the spring and summer we have once again entered junior teams in the Devon League. We have U13s and U12s hardball teams. Also we have an U10 softball team. In parallel we will be running ECB *All Stars & Dynamos* sessions for 5s-10s.
- We are considering an informal friendly women's/girls' softball cricket session one evening/week through the spring & summer. We have a core group interested in starting up but we are looking to gauge further interest. Message me if that's something that you may want to take part in.
- For adult cricket this summer we have, as ever, a full schedule of friendly cricket with matches most Weds. & Suns. Also, weekend tours to West London and the Cotswolds.

Direct message me for further information:

Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876) or jamie.fitz@hotmail.com
www.harbertoncc.com

Harbertonford FC – very wet - hardly any home games since Nov. The Sat side hope to play their (home) Herald Cup match soon.....The Sun. side are now in the third round of the Ken Rickard Cup. For results, fixtures & news: www.bit.ly/hf-fc Info: John Mills (j.mills@nhs.net), Mike Bishop (07813-120390).

The football field is a Community Landing Site for the Devon Air Ambulance. Please store loose equipment (inc. practice goals) to the sides of the field after use. Many thanks.

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

Siobhan Edwards/Jake Harmieson/ Jake Harmieson/Alan Hamlet/James Bailey/David Hart (Jan'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

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