

Village Life

Harbertonford's newsletter

This month's edition is
sponsored by
Gerry & Mary Ward

Issue 301, March 2026

Welcome to the March edition of *Village Life (VL)*, in which we hope 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 Gerry & Mary for sponsoring this edition. Their generosity has enabled us to print & distribute 400 free copies of the newsletter.



St Peter's Church

Mothing Sunday Service for everyone

Sun. 15th Mar. @ 9:30am (+ refreshments)

Easter Service (with primary school pupils)

Wed. 1st Apr. @ 1:30pm

Please join us. It's always a lovely service.

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).

Feb. winners: 1. Hazel Willis, Moreleigh Rd.

2. Janet Wooster, Hernaforde Ln 3. Kathy Dixon, Main Rd.

Lottery: 2026 renewal – a few 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.



Open Mic, Fri. 6th Mar. (7:30pm) @ VHall. Last month's *Open Mic* hosted four wonderful first timers including entertaining stand-up comedy and a brilliant sax player who travelled from Cardiff!! All of you are welcome to come and have a go!

Diary date: **Sat. 18th Jul.** - the inaugural *Great Wide Open Mic* on stage on the field (mid-pm to evening). YOU make this happen, so to get involved contact middlewoodart@gmail.com

Cheers, Gavin and Guy

The Flower Club meets on Weds. afternoons (from 1:30pm each time). Our next two meetings are on:

4th Mar: "At the Water's Edge" & **18th Mar:** "Winter Warmers"

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 & 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 two months Info: deekelly.traye@gmail.com

Mar. 5th & 19th Apr. 16th & 30th

Harberton Parish Council's (PC) next ordinary meeting is at Harberton Parish Hall on **Tue. 10th Mar. (7:30pm)**.

The Community Emergency Planning Meeting – this is now on **Thu. 12th Mar. (6-8pm)** at our Village Hall. Join the community workshop to be better prepared for flooding. Share experiences, find out where to get help, understand how to navigate statutory services, hear from Devon Community Resilience Forum, plan your response to flooding. Find out why to plan, what to include + the hazards & risks to know about. To

help us plan the event, it would be helpful if people register for it by emailing clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org

A reminder to let us know what you think of the draft Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan before the deadline of **Mon. 23rd Mar.** This formal legal consultation period invites people living & working in the parish to comment on the draft plan. You can download a PDF copy of the plan and documents from www.harbertonparishcouncil.org/hnp and submit your comments via an online form, email or post (details on website) or by emailing harbertonneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com



Point-to-Point at Buckfastleigh racecourse (take Lower Dean exit off A38) on **Sun. 15th Mar.** Seven races in all – the first @ noon.

Entry: £15pp & U16s free.

www.facebook.com/groups/buckfastleighraces

The Totnes Household Waste Recycling Centre site (run by DCC), on Babbage Rd. Industrial Estate, remains closed until **Sun. 15th Mar.** for maintenance & engineering works. Full details: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2026/totnes-recycling-centre-closing-temporarily-maintenance>

Community shop Management Committee - you are warmly invited to a friendly get together at the Village Hall on **Mon. 16th Mar. (7-9pm)**. This is a fantastic opportunity for the local community to come together, socialise with neighbours, and discover ways you can help support our much-loved community shop. We're particularly keen to meet people who might be interested in joining our management committee – a vital role to ensure our shop continues to thrive. Previous experience is not essential, just a willingness to get involved and make a difference to village life! However, if committee work isn't quite your thing but you've got skills to share – e.g. social media, marketing, fundraising, organising events, or helping with premises maintenance & development – we'd love to chat about how you might support the team in other ways. Absolutely no commitment on the night, just a chance to enjoy a free glass of wine & nibbles, and have a friendly chat with current committee members and other members of the team to find out more. We hope to see you there! If you are unable to make the meeting, but would like to find out more, please contact us on hvcs.drive@gmail.com

Community Shop Manager - we are delighted to tell you that we have appointed Fiona Jardine, who will be employed for 25hrs/week from 1st April. We are confident that Fiona's approach & experience will strengthen our great team of people, help drive new business and ensure that our shop continues to develop and be a great place for customers and all involved.

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

Melvyn's Bingo - the next event @ Halwell & Moreleigh Village Hall is on **Fri. 17th Apr. (7:30pm)**.

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

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 Mar. (10:30am)

In the Village Hall. Only £1.50 for coffee & biscuits. Raffle, jams etc.(often), lots of chat (always!)

Do 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.

Free Home and Allotment Composting Workshop Sun. 22nd Mar. (10am-1pm) @ H/ford Primary School

Join us for a morning looking at practical ways to turn kitchen & garden scraps into nutritious compost. We will be looking at principles & different approaches to composting, and how to apply them to different materials, small-scale composting equipment and dealing with common challenges. There will be some equipment available to demonstrate, including a tumbler, wormery, Hotbin and Bokashi. The workshop is suitable for beginners and more experienced composters alike. It will be led by Melissa Harvey of Sustainable South Hams. To register your interest, and help us know numbers, use this link:

<https://buytickets.at/sustainableharbournevalley/2010760>

or scan the QR code on posters around the villages.

Sustainable Harbourne Valley (SHV) - on Sat. 28th Mar. (10am to noon)

we are running our annual, always popular **GIVE AND TAKE** morning. This year it is in H/ford Village Hall. All are welcome from across the parish & beyond. Everything is free of charge so come along and have a rummage. In return we just ask that you bring your unwanted items to donate: clothes, household items, books, garden tools, children's toys etc. We do ask that things are clean & unbroken please as it makes it easier for our volunteers to donate unwanted items at the end of the morning. This year we will also be running a **SEED SWAP** at the event so bring along any unwanted seeds you may have and take away something new to grow. Refreshments will also be available for a small charge to cover costs.



Energy Local
Totnes

Energy Local Totnes is a pioneering community energy club helping residents of Totnes and surrounding areas to buy and sell locally generated renewable electricity at a fair price. By using locally generated electricity from the hydro plant at Totnes Weir (with solar now also integrated) members help to keep more energy spend within the community, reduce their carbon footprint, and save up to 30% on their energy bills (when compared to the average UK electricity price). To learn more, visit: www.tresoc.co.uk/elt

Harbertonford Primary School – many thanks to all who helped relocate the raised beds and move our compost & woodchip in our new school garden. If you are able to help with the upkeep of the garden, particularly in the school holidays, we'd love to hear from you. We would also like to recognise everyone who supports our regular PTFA events. Thanks to your donations of time and/or money, we were able to purchase a brand-new set of laptops for the pupils. Jack Pemberton

Harberton & H/ford History Society – our AGM (Village Hall) is on **Tue. 12th May (7pm)**. Followed by Graham Lovegrove's talk: "Operation Tiger? Operation Disaster!" (Slapton events in WW2). If you enjoy local history we welcome new committee members. Many thanks, Jill.Powell-Redlion@outlook.com

Harbertonford 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 – we have a good selection to borrow from in our communal shed. A visit can be arranged for you to see what's on offer. Key contact: has-sec@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.

Citizens Advice South Hams (CA) - people face problems when buying clothes, shoes & accessories online – e.g. poor quality, delivery delays & scams. Nationally, last year, CA helped 18,000 people with complaints. Our top tips include: research before buying from a company you haven't used before (check reviews on search engines); watch out for heavily discounted too-good-to-be-true prices and closing down sales and be mindful of targeted shopping adverts in your social media feeds. If you've fallen prey to this type of scam and you paid by debit or credit card you may be able to get a refund. For more information check out the CA website at citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/

Get Ready for Growing - Let's get Sowing – H/ford Flower & Produce Show 2026 on **Sat. 1st Aug.** So, time to get the potatoes chitted and the sweetpea and sunflower seeds sown!!

We've just had the second wettest January (12 in.) in the past 43 years. Nov. 25 to Jan. 26 was the wettest Nov.-Jan. in that period (29 in.). The average for Nov.-Jan. is 17 in. So from November we've had about 70% more rain than the average. Many thanks to David Groom for this data (1983-2026) for H/ford.

Harberton Cricket Club 2026 - for children and adults

- **Weekly (@ 17:30) to end March:** hardball nets for 10s-13s at Totnes Leisure Centre (TLC).
- **Weekly (@ 12:30) to Sun. 29th Mar:** adult nets at TLC. Perfect opportunity for those keen to try & get back into cricket.
- In the season we have re-entered junior teams in the Devon League. We have U13s and U12s hardball teams and an U10 softball team. Plus we have ECB *All Stars & Dynamos* for 5s-10s.
- We are considering an informal friendly women's/girls' softball cricket session one evening/week through the season. We have a core group interested in starting up but we are looking to gauge further interest. DM me if that's something that interests you.
- For adult cricket this summer we have a full schedule of friendly cricket - matches most Weds. & Suns. Also, tours to West London and the Cotswolds. Contact me for more info: Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876) or jamie_fitz@hotmail.com
www.harbertoncc.com

Harbertonford FC – the Sunday side are in the Devon County Sunday Senior Cup final (April). *Another* cup final!! Fantastic! 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. **Jan. winners** (£80/£40/£10/£10/£10/£10):
Graham Clayton/Nigel Holmes/Gina Bovey/Linda Allen/
Callum Payne (x2) (Feb'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 April newsletter is 20th March.