

# Village Life

Harbertonford's newsletter

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

Issue 290, April 2025

**W**elcome to the April 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](http://www.harbertonford.com)
- [www.harbertondevon.co.uk](http://www.harbertondevon.co.uk)

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

**M**any thanks to everyone who responded to last month's request for sponsorships. We now have sufficient funding to carry us into 2026.

**B**ill Downie died peacefully on 10<sup>th</sup> December, aged 75. A native of Buckfastleigh, Bill, with his wife Louise and son William, moved to H/ford in 1981. Bill loved the countryside (especially bird life) and, with Louise, was actively involved in conservation issues for much of his life. He enjoyed a successful business career, building on his training as an engineering draughtsman. He worked as a Building Services Consultant and, from this, in 2015 he set up his own infrastructure consultancy business. Bill will be sorely missed by many people in this area and we send condolences to Louise, William & family.

**G**eof Broom died in Somerset on 5<sup>th</sup> February, aged 82. Geoff & wife Lynda lived in H/ford for about 20 years, before moving to Somerset in 2019. Geoff, a proud son of Gloucestershire, was an economic geographer by training. Latterly he specialised in economic modelling, through which he developed a successful consultancy. Geoff did a lot for our village, e.g. the Parish Hall committee, the History Society and Fordstock plus he drove the Harbourne Shuttle. For eight years he was on the Parish Council. Four of these were as Chair, a role to which he applied his customary insight, diligence & fairness. Geoff lived a full & varied life. His passing leaves a huge void for his family and many friends. Our thoughts are with Lynda, Mark, Jonathan & family.



**St Peter's Church - Easter Sunday Service**  
(Apr. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am), followed by coffee.

Everyone very welcome.

The church is open to all every day between 10:30am & 4pm. [3rivers.org.uk](http://3rivers.org.uk)

**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). Mar. winners:

1. Tim & Gilly Godwin, Bow Road, £30
2. Barbara Gardiner, The Old Mill, £20
3. Phil Dixon, Main Road, £10

**P**rimary School Easter service - at St Peter's. Everyone is most welcome. It's on **Thu. 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr. (1:30pm)**.

**C**hurch cleaning - hopefully **Thu. 17<sup>th</sup> Apr. (10am)**. If you have any time to spare please come along, even if it's only for a short time. Many hands make light work. Coffee provided.

**A**nnual Parochial Church meeting – **Tue. 13<sup>th</sup> May (2.15pm)** in the church. If you have an interest in the future/keeping the church open, we would like to hear any suggestions you may have. Your church needs you!!

**O**ur soup and puddings event went very well raising over £300. We had a lovely time. A huge thank you to all who contributed in any way. We are so grateful for your help.

**T**he Farm Comes To Fledglings at H/ford School - Daynes Farm's baby animals are coming to meet us on **Tue. 1<sup>st</sup> Apr. (9:15-10:30am)**! Babies & toddlers + parents/carers are welcome to come and see the farm animals and then come back into the hall for a cup of tea, cake and a chat. No booking required.

**H**arbs Primary School is raising money towards some new play equipment for its pupils. To kickstart this effort, the pupils took part in a 6½ hour runathon last month. All pupils took part, showing resilience and teamwork to make sure there were always at least two runners on the track across the whole school day. Local MP, Caroline Voaden, also joined in during her visit in the morning. Thank you to all those who sponsored our pupils. So far we raised over £2000. We are also looking for volunteers to help build some raised beds for a new school allotment area. If you have some knowledge or experience of doing this, and can spare a few hours over the spring months, please get in touch with the school.  
Jack Pemberton, Academy Head

**F**ledglings Stay & Play group (@ the village school) has a range of activities for babies & toddlers. **Tuesdays in term time (9:15-10:45am)**. It's run by one of the school's trained nursery staff. Tea, coffee & cake available!

**T**he Flower Arranging group normally meets fortnightly in the Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to join, either making an arrangement or just watching. Tuition is available. This month's meetings: **(Weds. @ 10am)** are on **2<sup>nd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Apr.**

More info: Pauline 01803-732393

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

Dates: **3<sup>rd</sup> Apr., 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May.** Info: [deekelly.trave@gmail.com](mailto:deekelly.trave@gmail.com)

**H**arberton Parish Council's (PC) next ordinary meeting is at Hour Village Hall on **Tue. 8<sup>th</sup> Apr. (7:30pm)**.

clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org

**S**ign up/Renew for SHDC's **Garden Waste Collection** - you can now sign up to or renew your sub. for garden waste collection for 2025/26. The service costs £68. The quickest & easiest way to sign up is at: [www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste) - the website is also full of information on the service.

**H**arbertonford Play Area ...NEEDS...YOU! If you'd like to learn more about how you could get involved, by being part of a committee, which could make significant fundraising applications to improve the range of exciting play features, please join us at the Village Hall on **Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> Apr. (7:30pm)**.

Best wishes, Peter Beamish


**V**illage 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).

**Easter Eggventure** – fundraiser for **HARBERTON** Play Park.  
•Easter Crafts •Easter Egg Hunt •Kids' clothes/toys/books.  
It's at the Play Park on **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Apr. (10:30-12:30)**.

Info: [hpfa@harbertondevon.co.uk](mailto:hpfa@harbertondevon.co.uk)

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**Coffee morning - Tue. 15<sup>th</sup> Apr. (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).

**The H/ford Allotment Society** – for information on an allotment plot in the village email: [has-sec@outlook.com](mailto:has-sec@outlook.com)

**The Harbertonford Community Limited (THCL)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Venue: H/ford Village Hall, Woodcourt Rd, H/ford TQ9 7TY

**Date: Thu. 24<sup>th</sup> Apr. (7:30pm)**

The bar will be open from 6:45 pm for drinks. On the house: home-made snacks made from ingredients available in the shop. All members of THCL (shareholders), residents of H/ford & surrounding villages, staff & volunteers are invited to attend and participate but only members may vote. The committee are up for re-election and we are keen to encourage those of you with skills that could benefit the enterprise, to consider joining us. If you would like to stand for election, please contact

Steve Woollett, Chair, THCL Management Committee:  
07870-587713 or [stevewoollett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stevewoollett@hotmail.co.uk)

Likewise, contact Steve if, as a shareholder, you wish to submit a resolution at the AGM.

**Citizens Advice South Hams** - can you spare some time to help people in your community? We are looking for more volunteers to join our team helping thousands of local people overcome their problems and find a way forward through issues such as housing, debt, benefits and energy costs. No previous experience is needed as full training is provided and you'll be working as part of a friendly, dedicated team. For more information please see [www.southhamscab.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.southhamscab.org.uk/get-involved/)



**Village Hall Quiz**

**Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> May (8pm)**

A fundraiser for *War Child*, a charity that protects, educates

& defends the rights of children living through conflict. A friendly, fun quiz. £2pp. Max. 6/team. No team? We'll sort that out on the evening. Bar open. Vicki Taylor: [vct.wrns@yahoo.com](mailto:vct.wrns@yahoo.com).

**Quiz**

**Harberton & H/ford History Society** – our AGM is being held on **Tue. 6<sup>th</sup> May (7pm)** in our Village Hall. This will be followed (**7:30 pm**) by a talk from Sue Knox, (who many of you will know). Her topic? Dame Georgiana Buller, a remarkable woman who organised a dozen WW1 hospitals in Exeter (lots of fascinating old photos), raised money for the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, set up Exeter's School of Occupational Medicine and generally supported the cause of the war wounded & disabled. All welcome. Light refreshments. Members free, non-members £3. We really look forward to seeing you there.

Many thanks, [Jill.Powell-Redlion@outlook.com](mailto:Jill.Powell-Redlion@outlook.com)

**Youth cricket** - Harberton Cricket Club (HCC) has outdoor sessions for youngsters soon. They're for all abilities, from beginners upwards - All Stars 5yo-8yo and Dynamos is 8yo-11yo. It's weekly sessions, **every Friday from 9<sup>th</sup> May (5:30pm)**. For more information, email [kidscricket@harbertoncc.com](mailto:kidscricket@harbertoncc.com)

**Senior cricket** – HCC's winter nets finish soon. Totnes Leisure Centre (**12:30-2pm**) on **Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> Mar. & 6<sup>th</sup> Apr.** HCC's midweek & Sunday sides have a full list of friendly fixtures. The first home games are on **Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> May & Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> May.** Info: Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876). [www.harbertoncc.com](http://www.harbertoncc.com)

**Save The Date!!** – the H/ford Show is on **Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.** This year we hope to have the schedule out earlier, ready for you to plan your entries. So get out the seed packets, the tubers and flower pots. Let's start sowing and growing! The schedule will be available at the Village PO & Store.

**We had an afternoon session of Community Speedwatch** at the church bus stop last month. Five cars were logged speeding, virtually over the zebra crossing, one at 46, another at 42mph. It beggars belief!! We'll have another session ASAP. Thanks, Phil [laurence.phil.dixon@btinternet.com](mailto:laurence.phil.dixon@btinternet.com)

**French Days, French Voices by Wendy Lee** - if you have ever wondered what it's like to live on a coastal community in the French-Midi, when the summer people have gone back to wherever they came from, then this book by Wendy Lee ("Pilgrims", Hernafor Rd.) is for you. Drawing on 25 years' experience as a French resident, using anecdotes & illustrations, and in conversation with French neighbours, Wendy describes long, lazy summer days when the dusty streets are hot & blinding to the cold winters when the icy wind blows and everyone hunkers down behind closed shutters. You can find the book on all the Amazon websites. It is written in English!!

For various reasons we have decided that the next **FORDFIESTA** will be in **2026**.



We desperately need more people to help with the advance planning, so if you would like to get involved in this fabulous community event, we would love to hear from you (see our website).

*We are specifically looking for help with social media, website and admin.*

[www.hfordfiesta.co.uk](http://www.hfordfiesta.co.uk)



**County Cup finalists!!**

The Fords Sunday side beat Woodside FC in the semi-finals of the Devon County

Supplementary Cup. In the final they play Cherry Tree FC (Plymouth), on **Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> Apr. (2pm)** at Coach Rd., Newton Abbot. Mixed results for the Saturday side lately & their record now reads: W7:D3:L6. For results, fixtures & news: [www.bit.ly/hf-fc](http://www.bit.ly/hf-fc)  
Info: John Mills ([j.mills@nhs.net](mailto:j.mills@nhs.net)), Mike Bishop (07813-120390).

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

Ben Davies/Stuart Maller/Mike Bishop/Marie Southcott/  
Matt Ghillyer/Alan Hamlet (March's draw not yet done).

**Village contacts**

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

**Year Planner 2025:**

**20 Apr.,** Easter Sunday service

**3 Apr.,** School Easter service

**24 Apr.,** Shop/PO AGM

**13 May,** Parochial church meeting

**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](mailto:g1clayton78@outlook.com)). The copy deadline for the May newsletter is 20<sup>th</sup> April.