

# Village Life

Harbertonford's newsletter

This month's edition is  
sponsored by  
Aziz Khan

Issue 291, May 2025

**W**elcome to the May 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)

**Sponsorship** – many thanks to Aziz for sponsoring this edition. His generosity has enabled us to print & distribute 400 free copies of the newsletter.



## St Peter's Church

**Holy Communion – Sun. 18th May @ 9:30am**

Everyone very welcome. Refreshments afterwards. 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). Apr. winners:

1. Maggie Sercombe, Broadhempston
2. Kathy Lewis, Washbourne
3. Piers Whiting, Woodland Rd.

**Easter** - thanks to all who keep the church running, the flowers for Easter looked lovely, simple & good. Thanks also to all who helped over the Easter time, we are very grateful to you.

**A**nyone interested in helping with the church garden please contact Frances (732297)

**A**nnual Parochial Church meeting – **Thu. 15th May (2.15pm)** – **NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!!** - 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.



## Village Hall Quiz

**Fri. 2nd May (8pm)**

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

& defends the rights of children living through conflict.

<https://www.warchild.org.uk/>

**SUPPORT THIS FANTASTIC CHARITY!!**

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](mailto:vct.wrns@yahoo.com)

# Quiz

## 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).



## Recycling and waste collection

Collection dates for the two May Bank Holidays (as per the SHDC website):

There will be a **one-day delay in both weeks**, so:

- **Mon. 5th to Fri 9th** w/be collected **Tue. 6th to Sat. 10th May**
- **Mon. 26th to Fri 30th** w/be collected **Tue. 27th to Sat. 31st May**

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

**H**arberton & H/ford History Society – our AGM is being held on **Tue. 6th 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 is 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)

**A**nnual Parish Meeting (APM) - all are very welcome to join the APM of Harberton parish on **Thu. 8th May (7pm)** at H/ford Village Hall. This is not a council (PC) meeting, but a meeting of the electorate of our parish. Community groups connected to the PC or have received grants this year are asked to give updates on their activities, and the PC is keen to hear community views on the following discussion topics:

- A Community Composting Scheme in the parish. Yes?/No?
  - Volunteers needed for a new 'Emergency Shed' in H/ford
  - What support can we give to our parish parks?
  - Update on investigating a footway at Brockhills
- Come along a little before 7pm to mingle & enjoy refreshments. Please direct any questions to the Parish Clerk:

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

**S**ustainable Harbourne Valley (SHV) AGM - we invite everyone to SHV's AGM in the Village Hall. It's on **Sat. 10th May (2pm)**. The official business will be covered at the beginning of the afternoon to include election of new trustees. From 2:30- 4:30pm we will have a wide range of displays and activities for all ages linked to our many projects over the past year to include wildlife homes, food growing and water monitoring. There will also be an opportunity for you to make homes for wildlife to take away with you. Come and discover what you can be doing to benefit the environment in your community and beyond. We are also fortunate to have a visit from the Totnes Rare Breeds Farm owls, which we hope will inspire you to attend an owl talk and owl nest box making session later in the year. Tea & cakes will be available to complete the afternoon so we hope to see as many of you as possible there! We are always keen to meet anyone interested in supporting our activities either as a trustee (evening meeting once every two months) or those of you with ideas for projects or activities. We can offer funding, insurance and support so do come along and have a chat if you think this is something you might be interested in.

**T**he Energy Wise & Eco Homes Show - this free & inspiring event will happen at the Totnes Civic Hall and in the market square on **Sun. 11th May (11-4pm)**. There's advice & information about: reducing energy waste & bills, home insulation, retrofitting, grants, eco-building, low-carbon & renewable energy technology, electric vehicles. <https://energy-wise.uk/energy-wise-shows/>

**H**arberton Parish Council's (PC) next ordinary meeting is at Harberton Parish Hall on **Tue. 13th May (7:30pm)**.  
[clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org)

**The Flower Arranging group** normally meets fortnightly in the Village Hall. This month's meetings (**Weds. @ 10am**) are on **14th & 28th May**. Anyone is welcome to join, either making an arrangement or just watching. Tuition is available. And there's coffee as well!! More 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 dates: 15th May, 5th & 26th Jun.

Info: deekelly.traye@gmail.com



**Coffee morning - Tue. 20th May (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).

**Come and slap some paint** on the outside of the Village Hall on **Sat. 31st May &/or Sun. 1st Jun**. Now we've got the inside looking pretty good, we need to clean down and repaint the outside walls. Weather permitting, we'll set to work at **09:30hrs on Sat. 31st May**. Please bring along any step-ladders, brushes, rollers etc. you may have. Info: Rob Summers

0781-617-0005 & [robert.summers13@btinternet.com](mailto:robert.summers13@btinternet.com)

**The Tamar Valley Choir** will be singing at Moreleigh Village Hall on **Sat. 31st May (7:00 for-7:30pm)**. In aid of Children's Hospice South West and H/ford, Halwell & Moreleigh churches. Light refreshments available.

**Village brunch** – the next brunch is booked for **Sun. 15th Jun**. It will be in the Village Hall (**10:15 to noon**).

**Harbertonford Primary School** celebrated Easter in St Peter's Church with the children retelling the Easter story through songs, drama and readings. We are looking forward to the summer term and would again encourage anyone who can spare a few hours to support us in and around the school, reading with the children or improving our school environment, to get in touch. Jack Pemberton, Academy Head

**Fledglings 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!

**Weather watch** – has it been a dry start to 2025? Many thanks to David Groom for this data (in inches) for H/ford:

	2025	2024	2023	Av.1984-2022
Jan	8.7	4.9	7.9	5.7
Feb	4.7	10.7	0.6	4.2
Mar	0.2	9.1	8.7	3.6
Total	13.6	24.7	17.2	13.5

Total rain for Jan-Mar '25 is very similar to the long-term average and 2025 is much drier than the past two years. Jan. '25 was very wet, but then we had the lowest March figure since at least 1984.

**Can you help people in your area** overcome their problems? Citizens Advice South Hams is looking for volunteers for six hours a week to help members of the community overcome their issues. You don't need any previous experience as full training is provided and you work as a part of a team. Our existing volunteers tell us it's one of the most rewarding experiences out there. Interested? See our website for full details: [southhamscab.org.uk/get-involved/](http://southhamscab.org.uk/get-involved/)

**Save The Date!!** – the H/ford Show is on **Sat. 2nd 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.

**Many thanks to John McKay** for repairing the noticeboard on the village green. It's an important source of village news and it's great to see it back in use. Thanks again, John.

**Our shop & PO - what it's like to be a volunteer** – “We're immensely lucky to have a village shop & PO. We've been volunteering there for about six months, doing a couple of three-hour shifts/month, and we really enjoy the conviviality of it – all of life comes through the door at some point. Community-owned now, the shop has value far beyond mere convenience: it brings people out on foot, multiplies chance meetings, prompts conversation. The PO is enormously useful for local businesses as well as individuals, with cars able to draw up outside & minimal queueing. Volunteering starts with a couple of shadowing sessions and an introduction to the till – which is simple to use and essentially does all the work for you. There is always a member of staff present to guide & advise if one is uncertain about anything. It's an extremely friendly environment & you are supporting something of real importance. The shop could do with a couple more volunteers. If you'd like a better idea of what's involved contact Belinda Burt, the Volunteer Coordinator, [belindaburt@outlook.com](mailto:belindaburt@outlook.com)”

*Many thanks, Gill Gairdner & Sally Wilson*

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

**Senior cricket** – HCC's first home games are on **Wed. 7th May & Sun. 18th May**. Info: Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876).

[www.harbertoncc.com](http://www.harbertoncc.com)

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 winners!!**

The Fords Sunday side beat Cherry Tree FC 4-1 in the final of the Devon County Supplementary Cup. They are also in the semi-finals of two other cups. And, they've been promoted! A good month for the Saturday side as well & their SDL record now reads: W9:D4:L7. 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. **Mar. winners** (£80/£40/£10/£10/£10/£10):

Chris Hatch/Brenda Monaghan/Stuart Maller/Jordan Baggott/Phil Osgathorpe/Dave Hammond (April's draw not yet done).

**Year Planner 2025:**

**15 Jun.**, Village brunch

**15 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 June newsletter is 20th May.