

# Village Life

Harbertonford's newsletter

This month's edition  
celebrates  
Rona Farr's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

Issue 294, August 2025

**W**elcome to the August 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** – *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** – Rona Farr, Harberton resident, celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Rona moved to the village from Cornwall during WW2 and has lived in her house for 65 years. Many thanks to Rona's friends for sponsoring this edition. Their generosity has enabled us to print & distribute 400 free copies of the newsletter. Happy Birthday, Rona!!

**Celebrating the life of Ray Shinner** – there was a tremendous turnout at Ray's wake last month. Ray was known to, and liked by, so many people in this area. Very much a local, he was born, the youngest of three brothers, in H/ford and lived here for almost all of his life. Apprenticed as a mason with Staverton Builders, Ray became a skilled general builder. Those skills and his warm, cheerful character meant that he was never short of work. He was an important part of H/ford history - a fount of local knowledge and he had a tremendous recall of village stories (most of them true!) and families. So his passing is an enormous sorrow to us all. Ray was a kind, wise man with a dry & amusing take on life. He was a dearly loved husband, father & grandfather. Our thoughts are with Liz, David, Tracey and family.

Rest In Peace, Ray

**In Loving Memory of Victoria** - a life that touched so many with compassion and generosity. Victoria Conway has died aged 73. She lived for many years in H/ford where she was known and respected for her involvement in the community. She was an active participant in St Peter's church activities and was training to lead services before suffering a severe illness. She also drove the Harbourne Shuttle. Victoria and husband Hugh moved here to run a yacht brokerage in Dartmouth. After selling the business she joined Disability Focus in Totnes where she helped very many disabled people manage their financial affairs. Latterly she moved to France and died peacefully at home. Victoria will be missed by all who were touched by her compassionate nature.

**David Wragg** died at home on June 28<sup>th</sup>, aged 76. He had lived in the village for almost twenty years. David will be very much missed by his friends.

**Barbara Martin** of Bow Road sadly lost her three-year battle with cancer on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Fred, her husband of 57 years, devoted himself to caring for her. They moved to H/ford in 2014 and shared eleven wonderful years here.



## St Peter's Church

**Holy Communion – Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> Aug. @ 9:30am**  
Everyone very welcome. Refreshments afterwards. The church is open to all every day (9am-5pm). [3rivers.org.uk](http://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).

July winners: 1. Val Pearse, North Huish

2. Sheila Janes, Totnes. 3. Chris Caunter, Stonehills

**Harvest lunch** – a date for your diary: **Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> Oct.** It will be in the Village Hall.

**More info/offers of help (e.g. strimming?!)** for the church – please contact Frances (732297).



## H/ford Village Show

(The 55<sup>th</sup>!!)

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug.

Doors open at 2:30pm



Schedule & entry forms: in the village shop.

Classes for everyone (all ages). Display your:

- Flowers, • Vegetables, • Fruit, • Preserves, • Pot plants,
- Cookery, • Handicrafts, • Artwork, • Photography or just a
- Special part of your Garden or Patio.

All entries must be registered by **Thu. 31<sup>st</sup> Jul.** and taken to the Village Hall by **10:30 on Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

We cannot accept any late entries on the day

All on display when doors open (2:30pm). Plus teas & cakes!

Key contact: Helen - [helenrphillips@icloud.com](mailto:helenrphillips@icloud.com)

**The Summer Skittles Final** is on **Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> Aug. (7:30pm).**

All welcome to support the best skittlers in the area.

**The TRAYE Project youth club sessions** are now closed until early September. From **21<sup>st</sup> Jul. - 14<sup>th</sup> Aug.** we'll be running a variety of trips and activities for young people. After that, our team will be taking a well-earned break to recharge, and we'll return in early Sept. Info: [deekelly.traye@gmail.com](mailto:deekelly.traye@gmail.com)



**??? Coffee morning - Tue. 19<sup>th</sup> Aug. (10:30am)**

In the Village Hall. Only £1.50 for coffee & biscuits.

Raffle and most times there are jams etc. for sale.

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



## Recycling and waste collection

Collection dates for the August Bank Holiday (as per the SHDC website):

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

- **Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> to Fri 29<sup>th</sup> w/be collected Tue. 26<sup>th</sup> to Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Aug.**

**Harberton Parish Council (PC)** – there is no 'ordinary' PC meeting in August. clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org

**The Flower Arranging group** – we start again in Sept.

Info: Pauline 01803-732393.

**Village Hall events - *Swamphogs*** - a lively blues/rock band, (ZZ Top, The Doors, AC/DC etc.) Male & female vocals. Free admission & donations accepted. It's on **Fri. 5<sup>th</sup> Sep. (8:15pm)**

**Open Mic** - play/sing/recite/listen. It's on **Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> Sep.**

**Village Hall exterior painting weekend (13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Sep.)** announced last month, has been postponed again.

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

**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).

**Open Mic @ the Village Hall** is taking a holiday, but will be back with a bang on **Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> Sep.**, so plenty of time to figure out what you would like to perform! More details next month.

**Harberton & H/ford History Society** – thanks to all who joined the visit to The Italian Garden @ Great Ambrook. It was a wonderful experience and a beautiful garden in the process of being rediscovered. Our next talk is on **Tue. 16<sup>th</sup> Sep. (7:30pm)** @ Harberton Parish Hall. It's Bill Horner (County Archaeologist): "Down to Earth in South Devon; Archaeological Aerial Survey & Excavation". Followed by refreshments. All welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. Members: free, Non-members: £3

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

**Calling All Local Makers!** We're planning a Christmas Fair at the Village Hall on **Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.** & are looking for local creatives to join us. If you make something special, we'd love to hear from you! We're aiming for a good mix of stalls & will do our best not to double up on similar crafts; we want each stallholder to bring something unique. If you're interested, please send us a few details about what you make, along with some photos of your work. Spaces are limited so get in touch soon. Email us at [harbertonfordvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:harbertonfordvillagehall@gmail.com) to apply or ask questions.



grateful if you could complete a short survey about your experiences in the shop/PO as this will enable us to make some changes to the goods sold, improve the layout etc.



**Please complete our survey!!**

We are trying to ensure that the shop/PO best serves the local community. We would be very

To access the survey, you can do so online using this QR code or via <https://survey.mars.com/q/yDmV4P4yu>. Alternatively, paper copies will be available in the shop and at other village events. Responses by **Tue. 30<sup>th</sup> Sep.**, please. Thank you.

**Shop celebration** – July saw the second birthday of our wonderful community shop! In celebration of this, there will be a chance for customer, volunteers and staff to get together on the green outside the shop/PO on **Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> Aug. (3pm)**. Live music to entertain and refreshments for all, with the shop open for beer & wine, ice creams, snacks and other goods. This has been a fun and popular event in the past so do come and join us!

**Volunteers** - our community shop is more than a retail space; it is a vibrant hub where neighbours meet, exchange stories and support one another. It's a cheery place to shop. Hopefully you will have experienced the positive developments we have made as a community resource. None of this would be possible without the hardworking team of staff and volunteers and our Management Committee, who all give of their time, energy and enthusiasm to keep the business going. However, we need at least two staff/volunteers in the shop at any one time. So we are particularly looking for people who can commit to a regular 2 or 3 hours slot, at the same time each week. By volunteering, you have the opportunity to contribute to day-to-day tasks and to the future of our shop. On the 'shop floor', you will see first-hand how much the store's continued presence is valued by local people.

**Harbertonford FC** – in recognition of his contribution to grassroots football as a volunteer, club secretary John Mills has won the Devon FA Bobby Moore Award. Very well deserved. Many congratulations, John. For 25/26, currently no Saturday side. The Sunday side have been promoted into Division 1 of their league. 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.  
**June winners** (£80/£40/£10/£10/£10/£10):

Callum Payne/John Mills/Nigel Holmes/Matt Monaghan/  
Paul Turner/Stuart Maller (July's draw not yet done).

**Harberton Cricket Club (HCC)** - a reminder that HCC now has a monthly lottery. In the first draw (July) the two winners were Jacob Day (£114) & Ollie Tregelles (£49). Thanks to all who signed up. If anyone else wants to join you can do so at <https://draw.ourclublotto.co.uk/harbertoncc> All support gratefully received – monies raised go towards developing our youth cricket and maintaining the space for cricketers & villagers alike.  
Info: Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876). [www.harbertoncc.com](http://www.harbertoncc.com)

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

**Women's fitness sessions** - interested in joining a fitness session right here in the village? We're looking for women keen to take part in an early morning fitness session to sign up here. Register your interest by emailing [janie.moor@outlook.com](mailto:janie.moor@outlook.com)

**Sustainable Harbourne Valley (SHV)** are busy planning an autumn of exciting activities encouraging everyone to support their local environment. There will be evening talks, workshops and our ever-popular Apple Pressing event, so please look out for more info. nearer the time. If you have something you would like to find out more about, or an event/project you wish to be involved in, please do get in touch. We have funding, insurance and support for anyone with an idea which supports a more sustainable future. [hello@sustainableharbournevalley.org.uk](mailto:hello@sustainableharbournevalley.org.uk)

**Children's playground** – we've been asked to remind villagers that dogs are not allowed in the children's playground adjacent to the school. Many thanks

**Citizens Advice South Hams** - come and join the team! We are opening recruitment for new volunteers to cope with increasing demand for help with debt, benefits applications, energy bills, housing & relationship breakdowns. Our volunteers help in numerous roles, including reception, triage, advisers, research and campaigns & administration. No experience is necessary as we provide full training. For more info. visit our website: [southhamscab.org.uk/get-involved/](http://southhamscab.org.uk/get-involved/) or email us: [recruitment@southhamscab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@southhamscab.org.uk). We'd love to hear from you.

For various reasons we have decided that the next **FORD FIESTA** 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)

**Year Planner 2025:**

**30 Aug.**, Shop celebration  
**17 Oct.**, Open Mic

**2 Aug.**, Village Show

**12 Sep.**, Open Mic

**19 Oct.**, Harvest lunch



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 September newsletter is 20<sup>th</sup> August.