

Village Life

**This month's edition
is sponsored by
David & Sue Groom**

Harbertonford's newsletter

Issue 297, November 2025

Welcome to the November 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 here: www.harbertondevon.co.uk/villagelife.htm

Colin Finch died on 3rd September, aged 73. Colin was born into a H/ford farming family and he & Janice's married life started here in 1972. Colin trained as an agricultural engineer and subsequently he ran Island Farm in Moreleigh for 35 years. His later years were spent back in H/ford at Blacklands Farm. For much of that time Colin was developing his building firm with sons Nathan & Howard. Also he carried on the family tradition (4th generation) of delivering milk & produce to local homes. Also, Colin & Jan were prime movers in setting up the village allotments, which continue to be a great success. Colin loved sport, playing football for the Fords in his younger days, then, latterly, golf and snooker. Colin's was a good life, lived to the full, with simple pleasures enjoyed with family and friends. Our thoughts are with Jan, Nathan, Howard and families.

Sponsorship – many thanks to David & Sue for sponsoring this edition. Their sponsorship celebrates fifty years since they made H/ford their home. David & Sue's generosity has enabled us to print & distribute 400 free copies of the newsletter.



St Peter's Church

Service of Remembrance

Sun. 9th Nov. @ 10:50am

Holy Communion

Sun. 16th Nov. @ 9:30am

Everyone very welcome. Refreshments afterwards. The church is open to all every day (9am-5pm). 3rivers.org.uk

The Reverend Caroline Luff died on Sun. 26th October.

Caroline was our house-for-duty priest in the Three Rivers benefice, living in the Harberton Vicarage for several years until nine years ago. An obituary for her will be published next month.

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).

Sept. winners: 1. Chris Caunter, Stonehills

2. Alan Thorpe, Mill Meadow 3. James Willis, Moreleigh Rd.

Oct. winners: 1. Kathy Dixon, Mill Meadow

2. Sue Lethbridge, Brook Villas 3. Chris Thorpe, Mill Meadow

The harvest lunch was much enjoyed by all who came (55).

A huge thank you to everyone who helped/donated/came, we had a lovely team, thank you so much. St Peter's PCC

Craft Fair – apologies if this is a late/too late reminder. Don't forget the craft fair in the Village Hall on **Sat. 1st Nov. (10am-4pm)**. Info: Vicki (07855-422359), Fiona (07789-376602)

Bus shelter decoration – H/ford's shelter needs some TLC and the PC is seeking new volunteers to give it a lick of paint and to see if anything else needs fixing. If you're willing to help, please contact the clerk: clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org

Contact your local MP, Caroline Voaden, for help with an issue 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.



??? Last month's very successful **McMillan Coffee Morning** raised over £500. Many thanks to all who came and supported such a worthwhile cause. Pauline

Flower Arranging – at the Village Hall. This month's dates are **Wed. 5th & 19th (10am)** and then the last one for 2025 is on **Wed. 3rd Dec**. All are welcome to join, either making an arrangement or just watching. Tuition is available, as is coffee!!

Info: Pauline 01803-732393



**Jazz Evening with
The Totnes Jazz Workshop**
Fri. 7th Nov. (7:30 - 10pm)
At the Village Hall. Entry £5



Harberton Parish Council's (PC) next ordinary meeting is at Harberton Parish Hall on **Tue. 11th Nov. (7:30pm)**.

clerk@harbertonparishcouncil.org

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

2025/26 dates

Info: deekelly.traye@gmail.com

Nov. 13th & 27th

Dec. 11th

Jan. 8th & 22nd

It's Open Mic Night!! At the Village Hall!!

Fri. 14th Nov. (7:30pm)

October's Open Mic was the biggest yet with three full hours of acts, a jam-packed hall and a buzzing dancefloor at the end of the night! Many thanks to our regular performers and a special shout out to our first time performers: James & Sarah. Greg & Zoe, Simply Tim and of course Ashanty! A great audience too - let's make November another cracker! Contact me to guarantee a slot: middlewoodart@gmail.com Cheers, Gavin



??? Coffee morning - Tue. 18th Nov. (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).

VAUGHANTIQUES

Antiques valuation -

courtesy of Vaughan Antiques

If you have any antiques that you'd like valued, why not pop along to the Village Hall on **Wed. 26th Nov. (09:30-12 noon)?**

Banking services at our Post Office – with the news that, from early 2026, Totnes will have no banks, don't forget that our village PO can provide these services for all major UK banks: ●Cash withdrawals ●Cash/cheque deposits ●Balance enquiries You can pay energy, council tax, water, housing, rent and other bills, including the major utilities. You can also top up your mobile phone and buy SIM cards.....

..... and, of course the PO is a pick-up & drop-off point for Amazon deliveries

Our PO is open: **Mon-Fri. 08:00-18:00 & Sat. 08:00-15:30**



Volunteers desperately needed at the shop!! Without more support from the village we're worried that shop opening hours might have to be reduced. If you can offer even two hours/week that would make a massive difference.

Many thanks

Support your local shop!!



The Fish & Chip van (c/o K&S Catering) visits H/ford **every Monday** evening. Opposite the (ex)pub from **4:30-7:00pm**. Last orders taken at **6:50pm**.

Harberton & H/ford History Society - please join us for this festive event: "A Tudor Christmas with The Lady Katherine Raleigh and her peasant". Rosemary Griggs with her peasant, in full Tudor dress will bring to life how Christmas was celebrated in the 16th C, including music, sampling Tudor sweet meats and Hippocras (mulled wine!). It's on **Tue. 2nd Dec. (7:30pm)** at Harberton Parish Hall We look forward to celebrating with you. <https://h3s-history.org/> Members: free, Non-members: £3

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

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).

Quiz

Village Hall Christmas Quiz Fri. 12th Dec. (8pm)

Quiz

A fundraiser for the **school PTFA**

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 YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL!!

Village Hall committee - please consider whether you would like to join the small group which manages the Village Hall.

We aim to maintain and develop the fabric of the building, to provide a useful, welcoming facility for all sorts of events and to ensure easy, affordable access to all corners. The committee has ten meetings p.a. in the Village Hall each for about 90 minutes.

Contact: Rob Summers (0781-617-0005) or at robert.summers13@btinternet.com

Our village allotments will soon celebrate their fifteenth birthday. Their establishment was due in no small measure to the efforts and generosity of Colin Finch, who died in September. The Allotment Society would like to put on record its gratitude to Colin and family for enabling the development of this important, popular part of H/ford life.



Allotments' Feline Residents

We now have two feral cats living on the H/ford allotments - Hessey and Chutney – living out their best lives



with shelter & regular meals and helping to keep down the vole population. They have both produced kittens, all of which will be found new homes by Hector's House cat rescue. The two adults were also caught by the charity, spayed, checked over by the vet and then returned to us to look after. Without that option they would have been put down, being too wild to adapt to a domestic life. **Do you have any cat food going spare?** It might be that your cat only likes two of the flavours in a multi-pack and not the rest? All donations most welcome and can be dropped to Bow Cottage, Bow Rd or to Box Cottage, Moreleigh Rd.

With thanks from Hessey & Chutney



Village Christmas tree - our tree always looks great and is a super advert for the village. It's less than eight weeks until Christmas(!) and help is needed for setting up this year's tree. If you can help in any way – funding, sourcing,

installation, decoration – please contact Frances on 732297.

Harbertonford Primary School has made a successful grant application which will allow us to build our School Garden, teaching the children about sustainable food production techniques. If you feel like you could help with garden or fencing supplies or if you have the skills and/or time to lend a hand, please do get in touch with the school.

Many thanks, Jack Pemberton, Academy Head

The school PTFA would like to say a huge thank you to Andy and The Mooncoin Band and everyone who came to October's Barn Dance. Over £600 was raised for H/ford pupils.

Energy RESET is a new project run by Citizens Advice South Hams to provide in-depth help and advice for people struggling with their energy bills. RESET's fully qualified energy advisers will help the most vulnerable households, check if they are paying too much for their gas and electricity, help people understand their bills, find ways of saving energy around the home and make sure they have all the available support they need. To find out more visit the website at:

resetenergyadvice.org.uk/ or phone free on 0800-995-6890.

Bob The Bus (BTB) needs more volunteer drivers for its 16-seat minibuses. It's a highly respected charity and BTB volunteering is a great way to help your community. We require a 'D1' category on your driving licence, (automatic if you passed your test pre-1997). If you're >70 and didn't renew your D1 licence, we can help reinstate your qualification. Contact us for an informal chat.

Many thanks, Steve Grove (07780-553942)

totnescommunitytransport@gmail.com

The Church House Inn in Harberton is where the Harberton cricketers go for their post-match warm-downs and social events. The club is delighted to learn that the pub has just been placed 16th in the Good Food Guide's 100 Best UK Pubs list. Many congratulations from HCC to Tim & his team.

Harberton Cricket Club will be running winter nets for adults and also youngsters at Totnes Leisure Centre in the New Year. More details soon.

Info: Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876). www.harbertoncc.com

Harbertonford FC – mixed results for HFC's Saturday side to date: P7, W3, L4. The Sunday side are having a great season and sit atop the Plymouth & West Devon FL (Premier): P7, W5, D1, L1. 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. Sept. winners (£80/£40/£10/£10/£10/£10):

Brenda Monaghan/Donna Jane/Chris Harvey/Nigel Holmes

John Mills/Tyler Stavrou

(Oct's draw not yet done).

Year Planner 2025/26:

14 Nov., Open Mic

12 Dec., VH Quiz

7 Nov., Totnes Jazz Group

5 Dec., Open Mic

1 Aug., Village Show 2026



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 December newsletter is 20th November.