

TRIO

HARBY, THORNEY & WIGSLEY NEWSLETTER



HARBY VILLAGE HALL



All proceeds towards Harby Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Quiz Night

Sat. 7th May

Doors open 7pm for 7:30pm start

Includes Pie & Peas Supper

Bring your own drinks



Tickets from Jayne Rose ☎ 07976 732234 (Maximum of 6 in a team)



Issue No. 235

April 2022

Editor: Ann Williams - Owl Cottage, Wigsley Road, Harby, Newark NG23 7EF T: 703766 E: ann.owl@btinternet.com

LAST DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEXT ISSUE 14th JUNE 2022

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DATES & NEWS from St Helen's Church for PARISH OF THORNEY with WIGSLEY

St Helen's Church is open every Sunday from 11am to 4pm for quiet reflection. Candles are available to light, near the altar. You may wish to spend time thinking about friends or family in need, as well as people throughout the world facing difficult issues.

- Sunday 3rd April – Holy Communion 10.30am
- Wednesday 6th April – 11am -12noon – Books & Banter + Mobile Library 11.15 - 11.45am
- Friday 15th April – 10.30-12noon – Activities for children on GOOD FRIDAY
Come along & get messy!
- Sunday 17th April – EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion at 10.30am PLUS
Easter Community event – 2.30 for 3pm near Play Park
- Wednesday 4th May – 11am -12noon – Books & Banter + Mobile Library 11.15 - 11.45am
- Friday 6th May – 7.30pm – GARETH DAVIES-JONES in CONCERT
- Sunday 15th May – Morning Worship starting at 10.30am
- Wednesday 1st June – 11am-12noon – Books & Banter + Mobile Library 11.15-11.45am
- Sunday 5th June – Holy Communion at 10.30am

Thorney residents - watch out for more detailed information via your letterbox especially re: plans for the QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE celebrations from June 2nd to 5th inclusive.

THORNEY – advance notice of more events:

GOOD FRIDAY - Messy activities for children of Primary School age. Join us at St Helen's Church on Friday, April 15th, 10.30am to 12noon for lots of fun Easter activities including: modelling, baking, sticking, colouring, drama, singing & story time. Children must come with an adult. We usually find the adults enjoy the activities, conversation, hot cross buns & drinks as much as the children! No charge, but a donation to cover costs is welcomed.

A Community Celebration for Easter – Sunday, April 17th from 2.30-4pm.

Join us for a march up West Rd & Main St towards the Play Park. Wear a bright, colourful "Spring themed outfit....think lambs, eggs, chicks, flowers etc" & perhaps top it off with a fancy hat! Prizes for Best Adult & Child Spring themed outfit +consolation mini eggs for all who join in. Clap along or bang a saucepan lid as we walk up the road & who knows we may sing something seasonal too! Meet at the Play Park at 3pm (or in church if wet) for a short while, to chat & share refreshments & nibbles. Join in the Easter Egg Hunt-will you be lucky? Prize winner announcements at 3.30pm for "MEGGA SPRING HAMPER" raffle draw plus prizes for "Spring Outfit" competition for Best Adult & child + consolation sweets for all.



GARETH DAVIES-JONES IN CONCERT – Friday, May 6th in St Helen's Church at 7.30pm.

(Doors open from 7pm) We are excited to announce an evening of live music featuring Gareth Davies-Jones. Gareth has eighteen years of experience as a professional musician - writing recording & playing his way around the UK & Ireland. He has earned a well respected reputation in the British roots/acoustic music scene.

Reviews include the following comments: *"very beautiful music. I can thoroughly recommend this"* -Bob Harris, BBC Radio 2. and *"rich soulful vocals, a fine ear for melody & masterful acoustic guitar playing"* - R2

Magazine. Check out Gareth's biography: www.garethdavies-jones.com or listen to him on You Tube.

Tickets in advance are £12.50pp & please bring your own choice of drink/s on the night.

Contact: Clare on 07957-997-334 or E: cwelfare@polkerris.plus.com for tickets/info. We are looking forward to a fantastic musical evening so hope you'll join us!

Sunday May 8th from 10.30am to 1pm – WH&T Going Green Thorney Village Spring Clean. Meet at the PLAY PARK at 10.30am. Bring your own gloves + litter picker if you have one.

June 2nd to 5th inc – Village Celebrations for QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE (Watch out for more information on flyers/posters/Thorney FB group shortly.)

Sunday June 26th, 2.30pm to 4pm – Plant Swop/ Exchange by the Play Park

Sat/Sun, July 9th/10th – QUIRKY PLANTERS....yes, it's back in Thorney for another year!

Harby Playing Fields Update - March 2022

Spring has arrived on the playing field and activity has continued to grow with a number of new initiatives bursting into life.

The Pavilion community bar has been open for its first two weekends and has proved very popular. The community bar area has been furnished with 'new' tables and chairs to complement the very professional bar. Also we send a big thank-you to Milly and Will Turner for donating a display fridge to the playing field. Phil Haywood and his team from Foxtrot & Oscar have provided a fantastic friendly service to all visitors. Their offer includes beers, lagers, wines, cocktails and snacks (including doggy treats). Phil has also provided darts, music and the screening of the rugby internationals. We have also added hot pie, sausage rolls and mushy peas to the menu. Don't forget the Happy Hour specials on a Sunday!

Attendance has been excellent from villagers and those from further afield and helped everyone to get to know each other a little better. If you have any feedback, good or bad, please tell us your thoughts. We intend to continue with these events throughout the year, opening dates and times will be advertised on flyers, websites and other media so please watch out for the dates and come down and enjoy time with new and old friends.

A new football team has been selected to become Harby FC and will play in the Lincolnshire Sunday League from September 2022. This is the first time that Harby has entered a team for many years and revives one of the fundamental uses of the field. Friendly games will commence in August, with training nights throughout the preseason period. We hope that some villagers will turn out for training and even play for the team, if you can't quite manage that these days, then do come and offer your support on Sunday mornings.

The play equipment area has been well used throughout the past months, particularly in the after-school hours. Thanks to the parents who have braved the weather and who have also kept the area clean and tidy. We are exploring a grant to plant more trees in the Play area and around the perimeter of the main field along with hedges infill. This will enhance the environment and give a pleasing autumn display. If we are successful there will be a community planting day to involve the whole village. We seem to have the moles a little more under control with the help of our new contractor, this will allow safer use of the football pitch and the play area.

The Multi Use Games Area is a target for improvement this year, quotations have been obtained for various levels of maintenance and resurfacing. We are investigating grant opportunities before we take action. The Bowls club is low on members and has withdrawn from the leagues this year. The Playing Field is working with the members to review the situation. The club has been in existence for over 70 years so let's work hard to help it evolve and flourish.

Car boots will start from 10th April, please support these as all proceeds are reinvested in the village through the many groups who help to run the events. This year we hope to provide the food and drinks ourselves so if you can help, let us know.

We are working with the village groups to provide a special day to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee with music and food on the Playing field on 4th June. A new Harby Food and Craft show is planned for 30th July which we hope will develop into a regular event to showcase local produce and skills. Bonfire night planning has already started for the 5th of November and we will once again need your help and support.

Other plans include: More car shows after the success last year - Caravan clubs - Music events - Children's games.

A spring clear up event is planned for the weekend of 2nd and 3rd of April, there's lots to do to prepare your village playing fields for the summer, please volunteer or just turn up on the day.

Don't forget that the Pavilion is available for hire through Pat Mackenzie on 01522 702906. Thanks to all those who help us and those who use these village facilities.

John Howard, Chairman

Car Boot Group Allocation

10th April - Playing Field

24th April -
Jubilee Working Party

8th May - Playing Field

22nd May -
Jubilee Working Party

5th June - Playing Field

19th June -
WH&T Going Green Group

3rd July - Playing Field

17th July - Village Hall

31st July - Playing Field

14th August - Church

28th August - FOQE

11th September - Playing Field

25th September -
TWH Voluntary Car Scheme

9th October - Playing Field



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THE WOUNDED** | **RFEA**

Project Nova supports those who have served in HM Armed Forces who may be vulnerable, socially isolated or need support to live a law-abiding life. We also support Merchant Navy personnel who served in operational theatres alongside HM Forces.

Our team understands life in the Armed Forces and the challenges that veterans face when their military service ends. We work with a large network of organisations providing veterans with specialist support, including health, housing and employment.

After leaving the Army I found it difficult to adjust to civilian life. Project Nova has been superb, liaising with the court and the NHS. I can't thank them enough.

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WALKING WITH THE WOUNDED IS A REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND & WALES - CHARITY NO. 1153497.

Have you
served in
HM Forces?



DID YOU KNOW?

Great news from N&SDC - plastic drinks bottle tops, sauce bottle tops, toiletry bottle tops & cleaning fluid bottle tops including flip tops are **ALL** now accepted in your Silver Bin fortnightly kerbside collection.

Please just **WASH & SQUASH** your bottle, **SCREWING** the **TOP BACK ON** before popping it in the recycling bin.

NB trigger spray or pump action bottle tops (eg liquid soap or cleaning spray) are still not acceptable for recycling & must be put in your Green Bin which goes to landfill.

Find out more:
www.whtgoinggreen.org
 or Facebook:
WH&T Going Green



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info@thebottleandglass.pub

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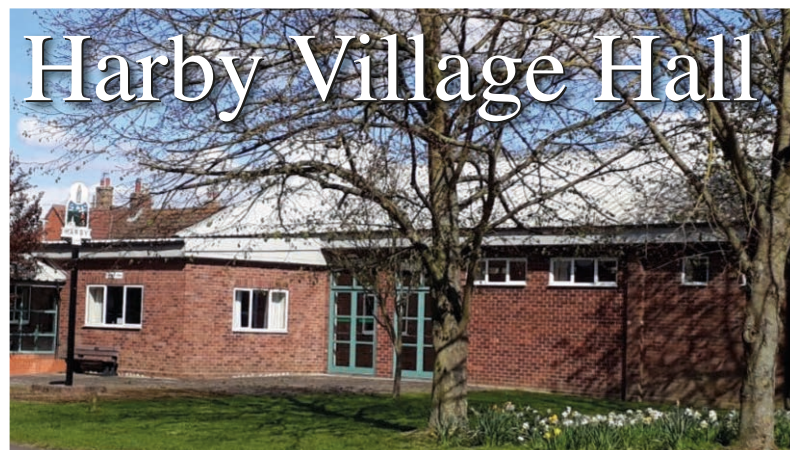
Sally Smith
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Chiropodist

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01522 704294 or 07974 580 262



It is good to see the Hall being used now by most of our regular groups, as well as a growing number of children's parties. Unfortunately, the Toddler Group is not meeting at the moment. We are looking for an enthusiastic and flexible person or persons willing to organise the group on a regular basis. **Can you help?**

If you are hoping to hold an event for your group or have a family celebration, please ring **Janet Medley 07733 273524** who will be able to help you.

Letting charges, per hour or part hour

	Harby & Swinethorpe	Outside village
Hall	£10	£20
Lounge	£5	£10
Whole building	£15	£30

Preparation time £5 per hour.

Where alcohol is to be distributed in moderation e.g. for a toast, an extra £1 per hour to be added to the above charges.

All functions where alcohol is to be consumed:-

	Harby & Swinethorpe	Outside village
Hall	£20	£30
Whole building	£25	£35

Parents of children who attend Queen Eleanor Primary School, Harby can hire the Hall for private children's parties at the same rate as Harby residents.

Bookings of at least 4 hours for money-raising events for Harby groups, are entitled to a discount of 1 free hour.



Harby Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Provisional Programme

Further details & times to be confirmed

Lunchtime Street Party, High Street – bring your own food & drink
Celebration cake

Afternoon Playing Fields – bouncy castles, fun races, village games

Evening Playing fields – live music, hog roast

Please support our fundraising events:

Mon. 25th April - Tea, Coffee, Cake & Bingo, Village Hall 2.00pm - 4.30pm
Sat. 7th May – Quiz Night, 7.00pm Village Hall, see separate poster for details
Mon. 30th May - Tea, Coffee, Cake & Tombola, Village Hall 2.00pm - 4.30pm



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Monday - Friday 8.00am-6.15pm

Telephone number: 01636 892156

Appointments and General Enquiries line open 8.00am – 6.15pm

Prescriptions line open 10.00am – 12.00pm

During the Pandemic and lockdowns, the Medical Centre remains open for our core NHS services, sadly non-NHS services and non-essential, i.e. Health Checks, Minor Ops and Travel Advice are suspended. We are currently operating a telephone appointment service where we ask a clinician to call you. Please do not attend the surgery unless you are invited by a clinician to do so, as we are staggering appointments throughout the day and different zones of the building to work in a COVID safe way. Please post Repeat slips and mail in our external letter box. Thank you.

Collingham Medical Centre has agreed to help support COVID booster vaccinations alongside the mass vaccination sites and pharmacies in Nottinghamshire for the Newark PCN and communities. We aim to deliver a large part of this campaign at weekends in order not to disrupt your general practice services during the working week.

Our communication with patients relies on current information. If your personal details change, including telephone numbers, please let the practice know. Thank you.

Out of Hours Service is provided from 111 when the surgery is closed.

Website: www.collinghammedicalcentre.co.uk

**High Street
Collingham**

Newark NG23 7LB

General Enquiries/Emergencies: 01636 892156

Email: collingham.medicalcentre@nhs.net

Harby Parish Council Update

Clerk

Easter is just round the corner and spring is coming – hope you enjoy the better weather and don't eat too many Easter Eggs.

Precept

The Parish Council has started planning for the next financial year and the precept request has been submitted to Newark and Sherwood District Council and will be included in your Council Tax bill in the very near future. The Council have been careful to ensure that the precept has not been increased too much, whilst trying to maintain the services it provides and also properly maintain the assets for which it is responsible. Historically the Parish Council had relied on its reserves to provide services, but these reserves had dwindled in recent years and the Parish Council had been forced to increase the precept to ensure that it could continue to operate for the last couple of years. The Parish Council has again increased the precept this year, but it is hoped that as the pandemic is now easing the Council will be able to undertake some of the projects which had been on hold.

Dog Poo

This is a matter which is raised regularly with the Parish Council and whilst we have no powers with regard to this issue, we do try to be as helpful as we can be and provide solutions where possible. It should be noted that the majority of dog owners are also very concerned about the current problems as it only takes one dog owner to be inconsiderate and all dog owners are blamed for the issue. When anyone owns a dog, it is part of their ownership responsibilities to clear up, in public places after their pet – this is not currently happening for all dog owners despite big red bins being provided by the Parish Council for this purpose – here is a photo of the new bin at the junction of High Street and Station Road – you have paid for it, so why not use it? The Parish Council continues to work with the District Council Community Protection Team to try and catch those dog owners who are being inconsiderate so that fines can be imposed on them. This request is also made on behalf of the school where regular deposits are left for the children to walk into and the playing fields where users can often find deposits – this really is unacceptable as there are serious health issues for children in relation to dog poo.



County & District Councillor Elections

Elections were held on the 17th February and the Councillors elected are as follows:
Newark & Sherwood District Council, Emma Davis, who will join District Councillor Dales
Nottinghamshire County Council, Debbie Darby.

Parish Website/Social Media

Please keep your eyes on the website <http://www.harby-notts.org.uk> and Facebook www.facebook.com/Harby-Parish-Council-529209784087559 for information between TRIO publications. Of particular note is the diary section which will be updated regularly as new events are arranged.

The next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be on the 5th May at approximately 7:30pm, following the Annual Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall Committee Room. Please see the notice board or the website nearer the time for the full agendas.

Caron Ballantyne, Harby Parish Clerk

 ParishClerk@Harby-Notts.org.uk

 01636 893342

 www.harby-notts.org.uk

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VW Audi Group Specialist

HARBY BOWLS CLUB 2022

Carol Dallamore

Sadly after after 70 years of representing Harby our Bowls Club is to fold. Down to 8 members and no groundsman it was felt the most sensible decision. Over the years we have lost more members than have joined leaving it difficult to keep the Club viable.

Flat Lawn Bowls has seen many clubs close or amalgamate with others due to the decline in interest and support. Bowling is a sociable, relaxing and challenging sport depending on the level you want to play at. Good recreation it does however suffer the vagaries of the British climate at times. The Bowls season is mainly May through to August then many move to Indoor Bowling having the advantage of carpeting and radiators for the colder months.

With the need to keep Lawn Bowls alive some of our members will join other clubs and continue to play and support those.

Locally we have Saxilby, Skellingthorpe, Eagle, Thorpe on the Hill and North Scarle Bowls Clubs. Both Eagle and Thorpe on the Hill are also struggling so if you would like to try Lawn Bowls please give them a call.

The history of Bowling goes back before Henry the 8th when it is said that during a game his brother-in-law Charles split his wood, then round, and sawing off the top of a newel post found that the bias gave him more control in targeting the jack. The Egyptians have had a sets of woods accompanying them in their tombs!

We really need younger members getting involved and thus opens the option of actual families joining in - school children,

parents and grandparents, even great grandparents?! I have met 2 young lads who bowl with their parents in competition, they play very well taking the game quite seriously. Junior bowls easily obtained, are smaller and lighter than the senior and can also suit small or arthritic hands. All bowls are weighted and sized and we play with those that fit comfortably in the hand and weighted to our skills.

No Club expects more than you can offer but support is the key. Have a go, you will lose nothing and possibly learn a new and enjoyable skill and keep Flat lawn Bowls alive for the future.



Harby Platinum Jubilee Coffee Afternoon 28th February 2022

The Jubilee Working Party held their first fundraising event for the Harby Jubilee celebrations, which will be held on the 4th of June, 2022.

We were blown away by the amount of people who came and supported the event and cannot thank you enough. A fantastic £266.10 was raised. AMAZING!

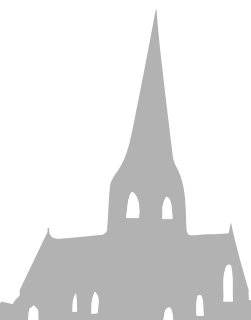


The next events will be on
Mon. 25th April & Mon. 30th May
2.00pm – 4.30pm

TRIO

**Don't forget to send in your contributions
for the next edition by 14th June 2022**

E-mail: ann.owl@btinternet.com





Wigsley, Harby & Thorney GREAT Spring Community Clear Up Sunday 8th May | 10:30am - 1:00pm



Come along and help your village get cleaner, greener and safer for everyone!
Equipment will be provided but please bring your own gloves.
Families are welcome!



meeting points
Wigsley village noticeboard,
Harby village hall car park,
Thorney play park nr St Helen's church

WH&T Going Green



contact
W Katerina Pickup H Jayne Rose T Clare Welfare

www.whtgoinggreen.org



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QEP Summer Fayre



Saturday 11th June 11am- 3pm

Queen Eleanor Primary School

BBQ ★ BAR ★ STALLS
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All proceeds to The Friends of Queen Eleanor Primary School

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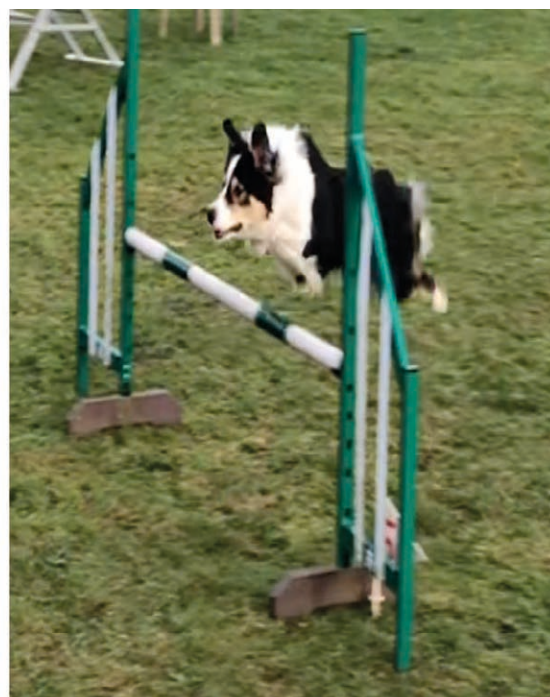
Monday to Friday

10:00 am - 4:00pm

Groups or one to ones

Karen Laker

Tel 07803 814627


The background image shows a farrier working on a horse's hoof in a stable setting. A white horse is standing on the right, and a farrier is on the left, focused on the task. The JDH Farriery logo is overlaid in the center. The logo features a horseshoe shape with 'JDH' in large blue letters and 'FARRIERY' in black letters below it. Above the horseshoe, it says 'EST 2020'. Below the logo, the text 'TAKING ON NEW CLIENTS IN ALL ASPECTS OF HORSE SHOEING' is written in blue, followed by 'T: 07393 470352 E: jack.hyde32@hotmail.co.uk' in black.

EST 2020

JDH

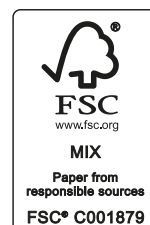
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This means your latest edition is the most environmentally friendly and sustainable it has ever been. Enjoy reading and if you decide not to keep it, please recycle it.





Queen Eleanor Primary School, Harby

01522 703428 office@queeneleanor.notts.sch.uk

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Spring 22



Queen Eleanor Primary is a Good School!

We have recently been inspected by OFSTED and the school has been judged as being a GOOD school.

Ofsted quotes: Teachers have high expectations of all pupils and what they can achieve. Pupils can get straight on with their learning. This makes pupils feel both safe and happy.

Parent quotes: The school offers interesting experiences, following the curriculum in a varied way, allowing children to learn in different ways. The happiness of the child is equally important as academic progress.

NURSERY PLACES

for 3 & 4 Year-Olds

Places are still available for 3 & 4 year olds. If you would like to apply for a Nursery place or know of anyone who would be interested, please contact the school office on: 01522 703428

or email: office@queeneleanor.notts.sch.uk

and Mrs Lister will provide you with further details.

We also have a few places available in:

Years 1,2,3,4 & 5.



Meet our new school Pets!

Our resident guinea pigs have settled in well, all the children are enjoying spending time with them and having the responsibility of looking after them.



Jubilee Celebrations

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we will be hosting an community afternoon tea party at school on Wednesday 25th May 2022.



If you would like to attend, please contact the school office.

01522 703428

Forthcoming Events

APRIL 2022

- Sun. 3rd – St Helen's Church, Thorney, Holy Communion, 10.30am
- Wed. 6th – **Mobile Library: Harby** Station Road 9.50-10.00, Queen Eleanor Primary School 10.00-10.40, Millfield Close 10.45-11.00. **Wigsley** – Post Box 11.05-11.15. **Thorney** - Church Books & Banter 11.15-11.45
- Sun. 10th – Car Boot Sale, Harby Playing Fields
- Thurs. 14th – Craft Circle, Harby Village Hall Lounge, 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Fri. 15th – St Helen's Church, Thorney, Activities for children on Good Friday.
Come along and get messy
- All Saints Church, Harby, First Hour of the Cross, 12.00 noon
- Sun. 17th – St Helen's Church, Thorney, Easter Sunday Holy Communion, 10.30am
– Thorney Easter Community event, 2.30pm for 3.00 near Play Park
- Sun. 24th – Car Boot Sale, Harby Playing Fields (Harby Jubilee Group)
– All Saints Church, Harby, Morning Worship 10.30am
- Mon. 25th – Tea, Coffee, Cake & Bingo, 2.00pm – 4.30pm, Village Hall
- Wed. 27th – Harby History Group, Harby Village Hall Lounge, 7.30pm
- Thurs. 28th – Craft Circle, Harby Village Hall Lounge, 1.30pm – 3.30pm

MAY 2022

- Sun. 1st – All Saints Church, Harby, Holy Communion 10.30am
- Wed. 4th – **Mobile Library: Harby** Station Road 9.50-10.00, Queen Eleanor Primary School 10.00-10.40, Millfield Close 10.45-11.00. **Wigsley** – Post Box 11.05-11.15. **Thorney** - Church Books & Banter 11.15-11.45
- Thurs. 5th – Harby Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting, Harby Village Hall, 7.00pm
- Fri. 6th – Gareth Davies-Jones concert, 7.30pm, St Helen's Church, Thorney
- Sat. 7th – Quiz Night, Harby Village Hall, 7.00pm
- Sun. 8th – Car Boot Sale, Harby Playing Fields
– WH&T Going Green - Great Spring Community Clear Up, 10.30am (see poster for village details)
- Thurs. 12th – Craft Circle, Harby Village Hall Lounge, 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Sun. 15th – St Helen's Church, Thorney, Morning Worship 10.30am
- Sun. 22nd – Car Boot Sale, Harby Playing Fields (Harby Jubilee Group)
– All Saints Church, Harby, Morning Worship 10.30am
- Wed. 25th – Harby History Group, Historic Walking Tour of Retford
- Thurs. 26th – Craft Circle, Harby Village Hall Lounge, 1.30pm – 3.30pm
- Fri. 27th – Fashion Show, Harby Village Hall, 6.30pm (see poster for details)
- Sun. 29th – All Saints Church, Harby, Holy Communion 9.00am
- Mon. 30th – Tea, Coffee, Cake & Tombola, Village Hall, 2.00pm – 4.30pm

JUNE 2022

- 2nd - 5th – Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – check locally for your village events
- Sun. 5th – Car Boot Sale, Harby Playing Fields
– St Helen's Church, Thorney, Holy Communion 10.30am
– All Saints Church, Harby, Songs of Praise for Queen's Platinum Jubilee pm – check Church noticeboard
- Sat. 11th – Queen Eleanor Primary School, Harby, Summer Fayre 11.00am – 3.00pm

Harby Art Group, Harby Village Hall, every Wednesday 1.00pm-3.00pm

Please contact Jayne Rose if you would like your future events to be included
Tel. 01522 703510 or e-mail: jayne@oldcobblers.co.uk

Village Clubs & Organisations Contact List

HARBY

Parish Council	Caron Ballantyne	01636 893342
Playing Field	Pat Mackenzie	702906
Village Hall	Janet Medley	07733 273524
	Jayne Rose	703510
Queen Eleanor School	Mrs J Woolnough/Lisa Lister	703428
Newsletter	Ann Williams	703766
Bellringers	Jayne Rose	703510
History Group	Louise Herrick	703662
Heating Oil Syndicate	David Rose	703510
Nottinghamshire Police	PC Gareth Nicholls	07525 226394
	Non-Emergencies	101

CLP	Janet Medley	703304
Craft Circle	Sue Paine	702518
C of E East Trent Admin	Christine Hasman	01636 679105
T H & W Car Scheme	Clare Welfare	07717 178800
HARBY CLP	Jayne Rose	703510

WIGSLEY

CLP	Clive Thompson	702014
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THORNEY

CLP	Anna Dennison	702748
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Harby History Group

– Louise Herrick 703662 - email: harbyhistory@outlook.com

In January, returning speaker Richard Pullen presented an engaging account of the war in East Africa 1914-18 through the memoirs of Sergeant Harold Downs DCM. who served with the Royal Garrison Artillery. Unlike the static war of attrition on The Western Front, the forgotten front war in Africa was mobile and like a game of “cat & mouse” with a much smaller German army. Some of the first casualties of the Great War were at Tsingato in August 1914 and the war in Africa ended on 24 November 1918, 13 days after the Armistice on the Western Front. A little-known naval battle took place on Lake Tanganyika between a larger German vessel and two British motorboats HMS Mimi and HMS Toutou in 1916. British troops not only faced the German Army, but also natural enemies of disease, wild animals and communication limitations, making the forgotten front a harsh environment to survive. (Thanks to Richard Croft for this report.)

In February, member speaker Harold Paine gave a presentation with some great slides on “The English Civil War”. He started with the royal family background showing that Charles I was a descendent of Henry VII and his own opinion was that if Richard III had managed not to be usurped by him then the civil war may never have happened. Charles I was a believer of the Divine Right of Kings but was also indecisive and went back on his word which made the parliamentarians feel that he was untrustworthy. Harold told us about the most significant battles at Edgehill and Marston Moor though there were others. Mostly, they resulted in a stalemate but Oliver Cromwell had been observing and could see where the parliamentarians had been going wrong in battle. He took charge and with new tactics the throne was lost and Charles was beheaded. Harold finished his presentation by showing us a picture of a gold medal presented to the parliamentarians who fought which commemorated their victory over the royalists. It had a picture of Cromwell on it and was the first medal awarded for participation in a war.

Then at the start of March, Richard Croft threw in a “surprise extra” meeting for us. Richard gave us a tour of Harby All Saint’s Church and the Manor House site. We started outside the church where Richard told us about the churches that have stood on this site. We know that there was a church here when Queen Eleanor died in 1290. Richard showed us a carved face that was found in Jowett’s Wood that is most certainly from this building. A Norman doorway has been reused in the current church, along with the font dating from the 16th century. A new chapel was built in 1824 and then replaced in 1877 by the current one. Richard showed us photographs to illustrate where the older church would have been by comparison. We looked outside at the statue of Queen Eleanor and the coats of arms that surrounded her on the bell tower. These were replicated in colour inside on the floor by the altar. The bell from the 1824 church is also kept inside the current church and Colin Wells kindly rang it for us. We also had a look at the Queen Eleanor window and pictures of the original design for it. We followed this by a walk around the site of where Harby Manor once stood. This is where Queen Eleanor died. Although there is nothing left of the building, part of the moat can still be seen.

Coming up:- 27 April – RAF Wigsley. Guest speaker David Potter.

25 May – Historic Tour of Retford. Trip.

Guided by previous guest speaker & guide, Sam Millard 7pm start.

Meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month in the village hall lounge and unless specified start at 7:30 pm. £2 entry. Everyone is welcome. Please phone me if you want more information or even just a bit of encouragement to attend. New members welcome on a regular or casual basis.