

Village Life

Harbertonford's newsletter

This month's edition is
sponsored by
Toby's Sheds

Issue 306, August 2026

Welcome to the August edition of *Village Life (VL)*, in which we hope to keep you informed of local news & events. It's delivered to your door each month by volunteers.

HSSG – VL 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 VL is available here:

www.harbertonfordvillagehall.co.uk

www.harbertondevon.co.uk/villagelife.htm

Sponsorship – many thanks to villager Ed Palmer and his team at Toby's Sheds for sponsoring this edition. Their generosity has enabled us to print & distribute 400 free copies of the newsletter. Toby's Sheds (nr. Abbotskerswell) have been supplying the best quality Sheds, Summerhouses, Cabins and Garden Rooms for over 40 years in and around Devon.

<https://www.tobyssheds.co.uk>



St Peter's Church

Holy Communion – Sun. 16th Aug. @ 9:30am

Everyone very welcome. Refreshments afterwards. The church is open to all every day (9am-5pm). 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. Susan Gauntlett, Somerset

2. Muriel Wakeham, Stoke F. 3. Graham Clayton, Woodc't Rd.

The PCC of St Peter's Church would like to inform the community of H/ford that the Reverend David Sayle, after 12 years of serving the parish, has taken a new calling in North Devon. He will take his last service on **Sun. 20th Sep.** and all are welcome to join us to wish him and his family well on his next step in the mission. The PCC would like to ask for your support for the next 12 months whilst waiting for a new rector to be appointed. Services are held at St Peter's every 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:30am. You are always welcomed to join us.

Thanks to everyone who supported July's Village Hall quiz. £164 was raised for church funds. Frances



H/ford Village Show

(The 56th!!)

Sat. 1st Aug.

Doors open at 2:30pm

Schedule & entry forms: in the village shop.

Classes for everyone to enter: ●homegrown vegetables ●fruits ●flowers ●baking & preserves ●artwork or handicrafts. The schedules are in the village shop with extra Entry Forms if needed. Completed forms should be returned to the shop + entry fee before the show. Doors open: **2:30pm** with tea & cakes served until the prize giving at **4:30pm**. Please come everyone!!

Key contact: Helen - helenrphillips@icloud.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).



Follow us on the Harbertonford Community Post Office Facebook page.

Thanks to our manager Fee's efforts, we now have 300 followers.

Let's make it more each month!

We are creating a social space within the shop. We have received grants from SHDC, the Parish Council's Community Benefit Fund and several private donations, to fund this work. The work was started recently and will include a new hot water supply for a larger kitchen sink. To be done: ● swap the chillers with the large table at the back of the shop ● move shelving around to create an open space in front of the window. **Note:** ■ we are not losing any shelf space ■ the wall where the chillers are now will have a display board, for, say, children's artwork from the school ■ once this area is completed we will install a self-service hot drinks machine. Care of the drinks machine will be Fee's responsibility but volunteers very welcome. ■ Ken Streat is i/c of carpentry work ■ there will be quite a bit of moving things around, loading and unloading shelves and generally making good of the walls revealed. If you do wish to be involved, please contact Ken via *WhatsApp*. Social space was in the original shop business plan. The Plunkett Foundation sees it as a valuable way to diversify, provide another income stream, as well as serve the community. We are hopeful that this change will be positive, that it will help deepen the connection between the shop, its shareholders and the local community. As well as, of course, a place where friends can meet up for a coffee, a chat and a pastry. *Fee Jardine & Ken Streat, on behalf of the MC*

Taunton Flower Show – the oldest flower show in the country, set in Vivary Park, Taunton. Dates: **Fri. 7th & Sat. 8th Aug.**

Wine Tasting – join us on **Fri. 14th Aug. (8pm)** for an evening led by a highly experienced local sommelier, formerly of The Dorchester and Alain Ducasse in London. Tickets: £25, inc. at least four 125ml wines & nibbles. A friendly, informative evening for all. To book, email: info@harbertonfordvillagehall.co.uk

Advance Notice: Essential sewer connection works in Old Rd (17th Aug. – 14th Sep. [latest]) - to enable an essential new mains sewer connection serving Maryland House, Badgers Sett, The Coach House and Tapestries, a temporary road closure will be in place between the school and the top entrance to Maryland Ho. Every effort has been made to minimise inconvenience. These works have already been delayed twice and cannot now start until 17/8. The contractor will work closely with the school and its contractors to maintain essential access whenever it is safe to do so and will strive to minimise disruption especially during term time. We are grateful to the school & the village shop committee for their helpful cooperation. As a small gesture of thanks to the community, we are making donations to the school's outdoor project and the shop's new social space. Thank you for your patience & understanding. Gerry Ward

Whist drive – the **fourth Monday** of each month (**7:30pm**). At Halwell & Moreleigh Village Hall.

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



Coffee morning - Tue. 18th Aug. (10:30am)

In the Village Hall. Only £1.50 for coffee & biscuits. Raffle, jams etc. (often), lots of chat (always!)

Do come along – you are very welcome. To ensure that the coffee mornings can continue extra helpers are needed. Could that be you? If so, please let Frances (732297) know.



Recycling and waste collection

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

For the week **Mon. 31st Aug to Fri 4th Sep.** collections will be **one day late** i.e. on **Tue. 1st Sep. to Sat. 5th Sep.**

The Flower Club - we meet again on **Wed. 9th Sep.** You will be able to see some of our creations in the Village Show on **Sat 1st Aug.** Perhaps you'll be inspired to join us in the Autumn!

Many thanks, Pauline 01803-732393

Harbertonford Youth Project (Thurs., 6-7:30pm) – our Youth Club. Usually every fortnight, at the Village Hall. Sessions restart from **17th Sep.** Info: deekelly.trave@gmail.com

The Big Wide Open Mic was fantastic! The sun came out (as promised), the PTFA delivered a brilliant event site, the Village Hall ran a much-appreciated non-stop bar service and Open Mic welcomed over 100 performers on to its outdoor stage. Too many thank you's to list here, but if you came to watch or support us then a big 'Thank You!' We look forward to seeing you all at our next regular indoor event on **Fri. 18th Sep.** What a talented village this is!

Cheers, Gavin & Guy

A huge thank you from the PTFA to everyone who helped make the Big Wide Open Mic such a fantastic success. Special thanks to Robert Harvey & Pete Beamish for the hay bales, Jan Finch for the parking field, Terence for bringing so much excitement, encouragement and support to all of the young performers, Nigel Holmes and the football club for the use of the field, the Village Hall for the bar, and Gav & Guy for putting together such an incredible day and night of music and performance. Finally, thank you to all the parents, friends and grandparents who gave their time to help on the BBQ, stalls and behind the scenes. Events like this simply couldn't happen without the amazing support of our community. Thank you all for helping create such a special day for everyone involved. ❤️

Primary School Fundraising Night - tickets available for our adults-only fundraising event on **Sat. 26th Sep!** Join us at Harberton Parish Hall for an evening of live 80s music from The Riviera Dogs, dancing, fun & community spirit. Free welcome drink inc. Bar available. All proceeds will help improve the outdoor area and equipment at our school. Tickets are limited, so book soon! Tickets: <https://gwhl.com/2YVPY> Bring friends, family & dancing shoes; help us make a real difference for our children.

Harberton & Hford History Society – we had a fascinating tour of Higher Uppacott (Dartmoor), the 600-year-old medieval longhouse - highly recommended and beautifully cool! Our next live talk is on **Tue. 29th Sep.** at St Andrew's Church, Harberton. Speaker: retired archaeologist, Pru Manning. Subject: "The Devon Historic Graffiti Survey, and what we found at St Andrew's Harberton." Light refreshments. All welcome. Members free, non-members £4. Details: <https://h3s-history.org/#nexttalk>

The Summer Skittles Tournament had eight teams taking part in a knockout competition. The Sunday Nighters (H/ford) beat The Cherries (Totnes) [454 v 429] in the final. Trophies for the individual competition: • Men: Jordan Hodge (Cherries) – 66 • Ladies: Sally Slack (Sunday Nighters) – 56. Congratulations to all participants. Get your team ready for next year! John

Women's singing group (weekly) - it's proved very popular!! We will resume in September.

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

Harberton Cricket Club (HCC) 2026 - for children & adults

• To join our lottery (£5/month), please use the link below. Help HCC to grow & continue to provide cricket for all the community.

<https://draw.ourclublotto.co.uk/harbertoncc>

• It's fantastic to see some of our youngsters progressing into the adult XI and doing well.

• Adult cricket (friendlies): full schedule - matches most Weds. & Suns. Also, Sept. tour (Cotswolds). Contact me for more info:

Jamie Fitzpatrick (07798-631876) or jamie_fitz@hotmail.com

www.harbertoncc.com

Citizens Advice (CA) South Hams - around 14 complaints a day are made to the CA Consumer Service about package holidays inc. issues like unexpected hotel changes, denied refunds & poor customer service. One third of complaints related to substandard services, where the quality of the holiday fell short of what was agreed - like hotels being misdescribed, bad food or unavailable facilities. If you're still unhappy after complaining to your package holiday provider, you might be able to complain to a trade association like the Association of British Travel Agents, if your provider is a member. Call the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline on 0808-223-1133 if you need more support - a trained adviser can give you advice over the phone.



Local tech help, right on your doorstep - need

help with your broadband, computer, or phone line? Tech-Nes is your local IT & telecoms service, based in Diptford. From home repairs to

business broadband, no job is too small. Give Ollie a call for friendly, honest help from someone who knows the area:

• 01803-309007 • www.tech-nes.com • support@tech-nes.com

Harbertonford FC – sadly, through lack of numbers, the club is not able to run a Saturday side this season. The Sunday side (Devon County Sunday Senior Cup champions!!) will have a full fixture list for 26/27. 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. July winners (£80/£40/£10/£10/£10/£10):

Pauline Overton/Mike Bishop/Chris Hatch/Linda Allen
Nigel Holmes/Carl Southcott

Year planner 2026

14 Aug., Wine tasting

1 Aug., Village Show

26 Sep., School Bop



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 September newsletter is 20th August.