

Your Harvington Village Parish Council Newsletter

September 2025

New Headteacher for HFS

From September, Harvington First School will have a new headteacher: Tom Holdstock (pictured right). After the sad passing of much-loved Mrs Fishbourne, and able interim headteacher Mrs Enstone, Mr Holdstock has big shoes to fill. We spoke to him to find out more.



How long you have been teaching?

"I've been working in primary education for just shy of 20 years. During that time I have worked as a teaching assistant, a teacher and a headteacher in Primary and First Schools across Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire."

What attracted you to the role at HFS?

"I was invited to support the school for two weeks in November last year. I was warmly welcomed by staff and pupils and enjoyed my short time there. When I saw the position advertised, I was compelled to apply."

What is your vision for HFS?

"I intend to learn more about the school and the community that it serves. To look for opportunities for improvement and to work with the pupils, the staff, the governors, the parents and the community to keep offering exceptional education opportunities."

All at Harvington Parish Council wish Mr Holdstock and HFS every success for the future.

Harvington Parish Council Members: Steve Salter (Chairman), Beverly Allison, John Colebrook, Richard Baugh, Gillian Smith, Christine Ball, Colin Jones, Cliff Powell and Dave Barker (co-opted onto the Parish Council).

All correspondence and enquiries to the Clerk: clerk@harvington-pc.gov.uk

For full minutes of Parish Council meetings visit:

www.harvington-pc.org.uk/the-parish-council/agendas-and-minutes

Thank you Nicky!



The Clerk of Harvington Parish Council for 16 years, Nicola Holland (pictured above, with Chairman Steve Salter) has retired. The Parish Council and the whole of Harvington thank Nicky for all the hard work she has carried out on our behalf. She has always listened and acted on reports whether at the council meetings or from local residents.

Although some residents may not recognise her, most know her name and have always been comfortable contacting her with queries. Councillors made a private collection and presented Nicky with a bouquet of flowers and a voucher for the Arrow Mill. We thank Nicky and wish her every happiness for the future and in her well-earned retirement. New clerk Jenny White is now in post and can be reached on the email address below.





Movie time



On Friday 12th September, Harvington Films will be showing "The Penguin Lessons" (cert 12) at the Village Hall.

Starring Oscar nominee Steve Coogan, and based on a true story, this poignant dramedy from director Peter Cattaneo (Military Wives, TIFF '19) follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

Doors open 7.15pm. Buy a raffle ticket at the door for £3 and see the film for free! Provide your own glasses, drinks and nibbles, and please take away all rubbish. ★

This will be the last of Harvington Films. All connected with Harvington Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to Andy and Christine Tooth for putting on the Harvington Film nights for the village, for their community spirit and care, and for sharing so many nights of fun and joy. If anyone is interested in running the film club contact harvingtonvillagehall@gmail.com ★



Coffee morning on the cards



Harvington Baptist Chapel is considering starting a coffee morning/warm hub in the chapel on Wednesdays starting in October.

Initially the plan is to run it from 10.30am to 12pm; but if there is enough support, they will offer a free soup and roll lunch as well and possibly extend the opening time.

The chapel would be glad to hear from anyone in the village willing to volunteer to serve teas/coffees; also to help with making/serving the soup. The intention is to fund it themselves, so nobody who volunteers would need to contribute financially. Please email Paul Wingert at paul.wingert1953@gmail.com for more.

Spotlight on:

Phoenix Ladies



Phoenix Ladies group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall, Harvington at 7.45pm. All ladies are welcome and details of membership will be available on arrival. A £5 charge will be made for non-members attending. The group organises a variety of interesting talks, activities and trips. Some recent events have included a Pickleball evening, a garden party with a cream tea included for members and the last talk at the meeting in August was given by Ruth Lowe on the topic of 1960s fashion.

On Wednesday 3rd September, the group is opening the meeting up to any men from the village who would like to come along and listen to the talk being given by Robin Hill on the Rural Past of the West Midlands.

On Wednesday 17th September, the group is holding a lunch at Hillers Farm Shop and Restaurant. This is a social event for anyone who wants to come along and enjoy people's company and the good food that Hillers have available. There is no charge other than what you decide to eat or drink!

Mirren Brodie of Phoenix Ladies says: "We look forward to meeting new friends from the village and surrounding areas and hope you will come along and meet both new friends and old. Our group aim is to encourage social activity between local women and in doing so, raise money for local charities through our monthly raffles and events. Charities currently being supported are Shelter Box and the Dementia Cafe in Bidford."

Thank you for donations

Thank you to everyone in the village who donated toward Rev Richard & Gill Thorniley's collection.

Rev Richard formally retired at a very well attended service held at St James, Harvington on the 6th July. This was followed by a celebration lunch at Langton House where they were further presented with many more gifts from the four churches in the Benefice.

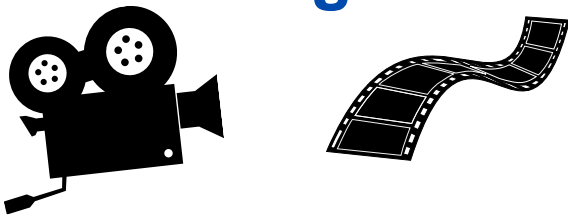
Nearly £2,000 was donated and given to help Richard and Gill start their new lives on the south coast.

Graham Pearson said: "A massive thank you to everyone who contributed."

Graham added: "We wish them all every success and happiness in the future."

The new Rector has recently been appointed and will be the Rev Glenn Reading who with his wife Helen and their five children will be moving from their present position in Redditch into the Rectory to take up their duties on 23 November.

Host your own movie nights!



Ever wanted to share your silver screen favourites with friends and family but don't have a big enough space to host them? You could rent out the village hall for a private showing, using the big screen and projector, and enjoy the kitchen facilities for your own catering. This is for a limited time only as the Village Hall screening licence expires next summer. If you'd like to use the Village Hall to show a film of your choosing, please email

harvingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Protect your pooch



Harvington's many dog owners can take advantage of a free microchipping session coming up this month in Evesham. Worcestershire Regulatory Services Dog Warden Team are hosting a free dog microchipping events. It is a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped, but many don't for a variety of reasons.

Worcestershire Regulatory Services' Senior Dog Warden, Pip Singleton, said: "Reuniting lost dogs with their owners is always a joy, and having up to date microchips makes it so much easier to do. An opportunity to have your dog microchipped for free is certainly something to make use of."

The session will take place on **Wednesday 10th September, 11.30-1.30pm at Crown Meadow, Evesham**. If you can't make that one, there's another session a bit further afield on Thursday 18th September, 11.30am-1.30pm at Priory Park, Malvern. There is no need to prebook.

Bikers service



Harvington Baptist Chapel is holding a special 'Bikers Service' on **Sunday 14th September at 10am**.

Members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association will be leading the service.

All bikers are welcome - with or without their bike - so they and their rides can be blessed.

What's on in Harvington?

- **Wednesday 3rd September, 7.45pm**, Phoenix Ladies, Village Hall - Talk by Robin Hill on the Rural Past of the West Midlands (open to men)
- **Thursday 4th September, 7.30pm-9.30pm**, Evesham Community Choir meets at The De Montfort School. Email eveshamchoirmembership@gmail.com
- **Wednesday 10th September, 7.45pm**, Harvington Parish Council meeting, at Village Hall
- **Wednesday 10th September, 3pm** CAMEO Teas meet at St James Church
- **Wednesday 10th September, 11.30am-1.30pm**, Crown Meadow, Evesham - free dog micro-chipping at Crown Meadow, Evesham
- **Friday 12th September, 7.15pm** (for 7.45pm illumination) - Harvington Films presents The Penguin Lessons at the Village Hall
- **Saturday 13th September**, Last game of the cricket season for the 1st XI team at Harvington Cricket Club, Anchor Lane
- **Sunday 14th September, 10am**, bikers service at Harvington Baptist Chapel
- **Wednesday 17th September**, Phoenix Ladies social event at Hillers Farm Shop
- **Monday 22nd September**, Autumn Equinox
- **Wednesday 24th September, 2-4pm** - Stitch and Chat Group at The Coach and Horses
- **Monday Night Football** is held each Monday 8-9pm at Chipping Campden High School with a group of gents from the village. All abilities welcome. Contact Alex Reynolds for more info alexreynolds85@gmail.com

New Newsletter Editor needed

Message from Kate Reynolds, current editor of Harvington Parish Council newsletter:

"I took on the role of newsletter editor earlier this year while I was between jobs. I've recently secured a new role based in London and sadly won't be able to commit to editing the newsletter going forward. It's been a sweet - if short - experience! I'd be very happy to handover to the next editor. Any volunteers for the role, which takes about seven to ten hours spread out over a month, should contact clerk@harvington-pc.gov.uk.

It might suit a young person who wants to build up work experience, an older person who has time to spare or just someone who loves serving their community!"

Newsletters will be paused until a new Editor comes forward.

Come along to the next HPC meeting

Residents of Harvington are welcome and encouraged to attend the next Harvington Parish Council meeting which is:

Wednesday 10th September at 7.45pm,

at The Village Hall. Agenda available on www.harvington-pc.gov.uk