

Parish Council News

December 2011

The meeting in December was mainly to finalise the precept for 2012-13, the Vale WHDC having brought forward the long-standing deadline of the end of January for its submission. The Council held a Finance Committee meeting the previous week to discuss the budget and propose a precept. The Council agreed a precept of £54,100; the Chairman, David Marsh, gives details of this on page 3; the full minutes, including those of the Committee meeting, may be found on the Parish website.

In addition, it was agreed that the Chairman or vice-Chair may sign a Contract with WREN or any other funding body relating to the Play Area grants (see p7).

January 2012

In the Open Forum at the meeting on 17th January, it was reported that our County Councillor Mr Lilly had secured £6,500 from the Area Stewardship Fund for a Vehicle Activated Sign for the Reading Road (A417). Highways engineers have indicated that the sign will be installed on the north side of the A417, approximately 100m from the track which leads to Nightingales offices & Princes Manor Farm. Further items from Mr Lilly's report, and that of our District Councillors, are given on pages 3 and 4. Further to the Vale Councillors' report, Mrs Beswick reported that she had recently used the Vale WHDC fly-tipping reporting service and it had worked well; the site, in Harwell, was attended the next day, and a prosecution is pending.

Under Financial Matters, there were three requests donations. Little Pippins Pre-school asked for £269 to make up the shortfall in the £3000 to be devoted to staff training, the group having raised the rest of the amount. This was approved unanimously.

A request from Wantage Independent Advice Centre was declined as not in line with the Council's donations policy.

The third was a request from the Vale & Downland Museum for funds for a building project, towards which the Museum has already raised £217k of a target of £500k. It was agreed that many Harwell residents visit the Museum. Mrs Boughton-Waite proposed that funding of £100 be granted; seconded by Mrs Gaspar and carried by 6 votes to 1 against with 3 abstentions.

Under Council-Lands matters, Mrs Beswick reported that Our Street Corner youth project would like to attend the February Council meeting to present a cheque towards the play area project. Funding received so far for the play area refurbishment held by OSC amounts to £2600. Confirmation of both the WREN grant and VWHDC 3rd Party totalling £55,500 has been received by Mrs Greatbanks on behalf of the Project – see her note and plan of the proposal on page 7. The Clerk has contacted VWHDC for advice on whether planning permission will be required for any equipment outside the perimeter fence of the existing playground.

Mrs Beswick reported that she had met representatives from Oxfordshire County Council on site to discuss the bus-stop proposals. The OCC intends to replace the shelters at Rowstock, install a new shelter for those westbound at the Tyrells Close/Wantage Road junction, put in hard-standing at the stops along Didcot Road where necessary, and install RTI (Real-Time Information system) at the High Street shelter. They will also erect new flags and poles at every stop unless they have already been upgraded, and lower kerbs where necessary to accommodate low-rider buses. As previously discussed, the Council will maintain any new shelters once ownership is transferred from OCC. Design drawings had been provided for the new shelters. The Council's only concern was that shelters containing glass or Perspex have been vandalised in the past.

Under Lands Matters, the Council discussed two recommendations from the Lands Committee. The first was that permission be granted for a summer football tournament on the Recreation Ground on 7th & 8th July 2012, and this was approved.

The second was regarding a request from The Harwell Rugby Club for alterations to accommodate two more changing rooms in the Pavilion. After amendment, it was agreed that "the Council continues to allow use of the facilities at the recreation ground by football teams rather than try and accommodate the rugby club in the near future, but that any plans for improvements to the pavilion should include consultation with all local sports teams".

The next item was a resolution on the Sports Development Project. The Chairman, David Marsh reported that he had had no responses to his emails on this subject to members of the project, apart from the letter already received from the Rugby Club, and a new email from the Bowls Club which does not mention the SDP. Although it was disappointing that the effort put into the project was unavailing, Mr Marsh proposed that the Council approve the resolution: "Recognising that the funding climate has changed, and the support for the project from the Harwell Sports community has reduced, the Council will stop supporting the Sports Development project and will focus resources and funds into renovating the recreation ground pavilion". This was seconded by Ms Greenfield & carried unanimously.

Under AOB Mr Marsh gave a reminder that Councillor Matthew Barber of VWHDC and Anna Robinson (SODC Officer) had agreed to meet Councillors the following week to discuss items such as the Harwell Link Road & the Vale's Core Strategy, the coming replacement for the District Plan. Also on the agenda were items such as community structuring within Great Western Park, boundary changes, affordable housing, and whether the Harwell section of Great Western Park & Valley Park will be seen as part of Didcot.

Full minutes of Parish Council meetings are available on the web. The next meetings of the Parish Council are on Tuesdays 14th February and 13th March. Items for

the agenda need to be with the Clerk, Mrs. S. Taylor one week before the meeting. Contact her on 01235 820006 where messages can be left, email clerk@harwellparish.co.uk, or by post to P.O. Box 223 Wantage OX12 2DH. Office hours, in the Pavilion, are 9am to 5pm Mondays. To contact Councillors, see the appropriate page at www.harwellparish.co.uk

Road works - Gaveston Road & The Croft

A temporary road closure has been arranged to apply to Gaveston Road & The Croft whilst carriageway maintenance works are carried out and will operate from 7 March 2012. The estimated duration of the works is 2 days. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles, the works and those residents within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works.

If you require further information or have any queries please contact Stephen Hughes at Oxfordshire County Council on 01865 815347 or

HighwayEnquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Ed Vaizey local surgery dates

March 2nd King Alfred Community Centre, Didcot

March 16th Wallingford Town Hall

All Surgeries are held between 5:30 and 7pm

There is no need to make an appointment. Or you can contact him by email – vaizeye@parliament.uk

Police Surgeries – Have Your Say meetings - are held monthly in the Village Hall. The next are:

Sunday 26th February 4 – 5pm

Sunday 25th March 1 – 2pm

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Planning Matters

Permissions:

11/02479/LBC Demolition of existing flat roof extension & insertion of new French doors. Proposed insertion of new bi-fold doors at Pollards, Townsend.

11/02466/FUL & 11/02481/CON Demolition of existing garden wall, erection of new wall & close board fence at 2 Brookside.

11/02402/RENWAL & 11/02404/LBC Application to extend time limit of planning permission 08/01143/FUL for extension & alteration of existing dwelling at Leigh House, High Street.

11/01903/FUL & 11/01904/LBC Demolish remainder of partially collapsed listed building & store. Reconstruct as detailed on drawings. Erect 2-storey extensions at rear at Thatched Cottage, Reading Road

11/02094/FUL 1st floor extension (Re-submission of application 11/01223/FUL) at Talbots Way, Grove Rd

11/02598/FUL Single storey extensions & alterations to bungalow at 18 Tyrells Close.

11/02666/FUL Extensive alterations, single storey rear extension infill & new 1st floor within existing – proposed roof profile at Droke, Wantage Road.

11/02603/FUL & 11/02604/LBC Various ground & 1st floor extensions to improve accommodation at Leigh House, High Street

Applications

11/02925/FUL & 11/02926/LBC Proposed structural repairs, alterations & change of use of existing listed outbuilding at The Homestead, High Street

11/02541/FUL Conversion of existing garage/workshop to an annexe & loft conversion to existing bungalow at The Hudsons, Barrow Road

Planning Committee members had asked that Planners take neighbours' comments into consideration in all the above applications.

The Council had no objections to this application, which includes land in Chilton parish.

Appeal

11/01517/FUL Dropped kerb to serve new dwelling at Droke, Wantage Road

The Council had no further comments, as Highways concerns were at issue.

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Parish Precept for 2012

Last year the precept, the money collected as part of your council tax which is allocated to the Parish Council, was unchanged at £49,100, which is about £50 for an average Band D house.

The year before, 2010, we increased the precept to pay for work in the cemetery. That project is now finished. We also increased the precept in 2009 to help with the Sports Development Project. However, the Village Hall has decided to remain where it is, and it is looking almost impossible to raise the money that would be needed for the planned changing rooms next to the British Legion.

The Parish Council has decided that it really ought to do something about the pavilion, and to build up a fund to enable that to happen. It will use money not spent on the Sports Development Project (about £10,000), and we will increase the precept by £5,000 to £54,100 so as to help build up the reserves for the pavilion. This increase represents about £5 per household, and by the end of the year it should have a pavilion reserve of about £20,000, which may not go very far, although without any kind of reserve it would be unable to do anything about the pavilion.

In the first instance the Parish Council will welcome input from any professional people in the village who could advise on the structural soundness of the pavilion and give it some idea of any essential work that needs to be done. The Parish Council will then be consulting with the various users (and potential users) to see what's needed, and what can be done to refurbish and upgrade the pavilion so it can carry on as a valuable village facility. We hope to discuss it at the next Annual Parish Meeting, so make a note of the date – Thursday April 26th.

Village Organisations

If you are involved with a village based organisation, please take a look at the list of organisations on our website and check that the details are correct, especially the contact names and numbers, and any link to your web pages. Please also let the clerk know the email address of the contact person. Often there is information about the village which we would like to email to all village organisations, so the email address will help. Please let the clerk know if you are happy to have the email address used on the webpage listing the village organisations.

harwellparish.co.uk/village/local-village-organisations.html

David Marsh, Chairman, Harwell Parish Council

County Councillor's Report January 2012

Local Bus Services

New timetables commenced in December and the majority of contracts in South Oxfordshire were awarded to Thames Travel, which is now part of the Go Ahead Group which also owns the Oxford City Bus Company. There is an emerging inter-ticketing system between the Companies, so that one will be able to travel with both but only pay one fare. Visit their website - www.oxfordbus.co.uk and there is a link to the south Oxfordshire routes.

OCC Trading Standards

Recent publicity has reported that our Trading Standards Dept has had successful prosecutions and prison sentences issued to various rogue traders. This department are doing very well and are receiving lots of national media publicity. See the separate item.

Vandalism

Harwell specifically, has been affected by vandalism and damage to broadband and cable TV junction boxes. I have now established contact with Wantage Police who are looking into the matter.

Budgets

Budgets for 2012 / 2013 were informally approved prior to Christmas following detailed scrutiny. They will be confirmed at full County Council on Feb 7th.

Libraries

The County Council is not closing any public libraries in the County but the additional cost to maintain their opening, following tremendous pressure by public petition, will see slight reductions in the budgets from the Adult Care and Youth Facilities. However, these will be from 'back office' resources and will not impact on the front line services.

Council Tax

It is confirmed there will be no increase in the County Council's Council Tax for 2012 /2013.

Councillor Stewart Lilly, Oxfordshire County Council

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Vale News from VWHDC Councillors Reg Waite & Mrs Margaret Turner

The Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, Harwell:

Following granting of Planning Applications with various stringent conditions, the Vale is still awaiting a response from owner, Mr Dawson, who is being chased. This cottage collapsed almost 7 years ago on Sunday, 13th February 2005.

1 Loder Road, Harwell: This dwelling remains uninhabited with the owner tracked down to living in Torquay. At Cllr Waite's request the Vale wrote to him but no response received nor has any work on the property and its gardens commenced. Subsequently a further letter was sent to Mr Puddleford on 4th January 2012 giving him 14 days to sort out the property, failing which the Vale will commence formal action.

The Park, Harwell: Some of the pathways owned by Oxfordshire County Council have been adversely affected by the ongoing car parking by owners/tenants on the grounds owned by Sovereign & Vale Housing Association during the recent inclement weather. Parts of the grassed areas have deteriorated significantly and become quagmires of water and mud. Several complaints regarding the muddy and swamped pavements have been received with appropriate action sought from the authorities, including Biffa who have been requested by the Vale to sweep and cleanse some of the paths

Car parking off street parking order 2011: The council is pleased to confirm 2 hours free parking in Vale car parks commenced on Friday, 9th December 2011 as planned, with positive comment being received from retailers and residents.

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Harwell Village Archives

The Harwell Village Video Archives can now be accessed from harwellparish.co.uk > Archives > Village Archives, and archives.harwellvillage.com/

The latest interview is with Amy Smith who was the last doctors' receptionist when Harwell had a surgery. Betty Pyke has kindly lent some pictures of Old Harwell. We are interested in interviewing people who have memories of life in Harwell. Please contact Keith Beswick 835338 if you can help.

Harwell Village Hall

The Trustees are in the process of examining proposals for demolition of the Freeman Hall and replacing it with a new hall. The planners have been consulted. The next stage will be fundraising a large sum of money for the work. Anybody who can help should contact Keith Beswick on 835338. We would like to thank Simon Merrifield and Andrew Snowdon for their invaluable continuing support.

The entrance hall has been decorated. The switch room cleared and decorated. The audio equipment has been moved to the main hall to make it more accessible. During the Christmas New Year lull in hall use the floor was sanded and sealed leaving it with a wonderful dark red brown colour.

Keith Beswick. Chair to the Trustees

Harwell Senior Citizens Fund

A very Happy New Year to you all, we hope you all enjoyed your Christmas Gift and again, thank you to everybody involved with this village charity over the years. You might be interested to know that Jenny Anderson of Barrow Park, Harwell won the last Full House, Mrs Betty McNiven of The Park won the Middle Line and D.M. Hullah of Cherry Tree Court, Harwell won the Bottom Line. After we have finalised our years Balance Sheet, we will donate any monies left over in the Bank to a Village Charity.
Yvonne Hinchliffe – Secretary

Mobile Library

The **Mobile Library** will be in the Village Hall car park between 9.15 and 9.40am on the following Wednesdays: 8, 22 February, 7, 21 March

Harwell Gardeners' Club

Meetings are at 7.30 p.m. in Harwell Village Hall
Monday February 6th:

Talk - *Dales & Downs* by Adrian Thornton

The competition is Hellibores - floating in a bowl.

Monday March 5th:

Talk *Climbers & Wall Shrubs* by Janet Cropley

The competition is Spring Bulbs.

Visitors always welcome, as is anyone wishing to join the Harwell Gardeners' Club.



babes and toddlers at harwell  Find us on Facebook

Are you a parent or carer for a baby or toddler, or even a mum-to-be? Come along to Harwell Fun Club and you can make new friends.

We meet each Tuesday in term time at the Harwell Village Hall between 9.30am and 11.30am.

We have a wide range of toys for all ages and a weekly craft activity. There is a dedicated baby area and we often finish the session with some singing.

The cost is £1.50 per family and includes a snack and a drink for the children and adults. Your first session is free.

Help wanted: if you would like to play a more active role in Fun Club, join our committee or let us know what time you can spare. Our AGM is on Tuesday 7th February so come along and find out how you can help.

The next Nearly New Sale is on 19th May.

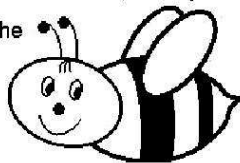
For more information please contact Alison Fautley on 01235 221052

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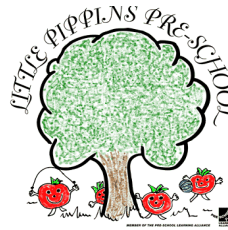


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Little Pippins

We would like to thank all in the village that supported the fundraising activities over the Christmas period, especially the Christmas Tree Festival and Santa's sleigh ride. Thank you also to the Harwell Art & Craft Club for their very generous donation. We are very grateful for the continued support of the village.

Following the Ofsted inspection of the Pre-school in November, we have now received their report and we are pleased to have achieved a 'Good' standard in every area of the inspection and the overall judgement of 'Good' which is an improvement on our previous inspection. The report is now available to view on our website under 'Downloads'.

Little Pippins Pre-School is set in an idyllic orchard within the village. The qualified, caring and enthusiastic staff provide a stimulating and varied programme of play for children from the age of 2 ½

Our new building is more than double the size of our old one, with new facilities throughout. The large open play area has doors onto a covered veranda which then leads seamlessly into a significantly larger outdoor play area which has a musical arch and a numeracy area and many other features.

Our aim is to provide a safe and happy environment for every child in which they can learn to extend their skills, knowledge and understanding. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to prepare the children for school. The activities are planned by staff taking into consideration requests from the children and ideas formed from the children's play and interests. We aim to play outdoors in the garden or on the veranda every day and often enjoy short walks around the village.

We offer the following sessions:

Breakfast Club – 8am till 9:15am

Morning Session – 9:15am till 11:45am

Lunch – 11:45am till 12:30pm

Afternoon Session – 12:30pm till 3pm

After School Club – 3pm till 6pm - (in association with Harwell Afterschool Club)

If you would like more information please contact, Sally Begley, on 01235 821741, email littlepippins@btinternet.com or visit our website www.littlepippins.org.uk

Upcoming events – Look out for more information

11th February 2012 – Winter Ball

30th March 2012 - Quiz night

GREAT NEWS!! The Harwell Feast 2012 is ON

A new chairman Gareth Buxton has been elected and many thanks to Janice Markey for her great efforts over many years. Due to the Government's rearrangement of the Bank Holiday the Feast Committee has opted for Saturday 26th May to celebrate The Feast.

The parade of floats, vintage bicycles, cars, tractors, bands and marchers will pass through the High Street to the recreation ground where there will be many shows, stalls, car boot sale and other activities as well as spit roast pig, cream teas, ice creams and culminating in Songs of Praise in the marquee.

All are welcome and in these austere times we have kept the entry fee the same as two years ago. Your participation in this village event will be very much appreciated and monies raised will be used to promote and support clubs, societies and projects within the Harwell community.

Please visit The Feast website
<http://www.harwellfeast.com/>

Gareth Buxton on behalf of
 The Harwell Feast Committee

**HARWELL WI
 HARWELL WI**

The weather has been so mild that it is more like Spring than Winter, long may it continue. Christmas is now far behind us and the new WI year and Programme is about to be revealed.

At the end of November the club collected enough merchandise from members' donations to fill 22 Shoe Boxes for Rumanian Orphans together with another three filled by individual members.

The Christmas Songs at Oxford Town Hall took place on 5th December and were enjoyed by those who attended.

The Club entered the Little Pippins Christmas Tree Decorating competition in December at the School with the theme 'Jam & Jerusalem' and we won!

Our Christmas Party on 14th December got us in the swing with mulled wine, mince pies, quizzes and a Magician.

The New Year, and January started with Harwell resident and WI member, Kate Beswick, talking about her work with the Health Service at Huntercombe Young Offenders Institute. This was really interesting and I don't think many people had previously had any idea what her job entailed.

The 8th February is going to be very exciting with a subject close to all our hearts – the 'Bad Hair Day'! Mark Creed has some practical ideas about the 'Philosophy of Hair'.

Our AGM is on 14th March and ends the WI year. The new committee and programme will be ready to go for another year. After the business session Jill Kaley will talk about Hedgehogs.

To give you a hint of what is to come, we have the RNLI, The Grand Canal of China, Punch & Judy, a Mouth & Foot Artist and Chinese Medicine just to get us started for the next WI year.

Come and see for yourself. Find out at first hand the many interesting speakers, visits and outings we have to offer. Visitors are always welcome. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. For more information about joining us or about any of the above activities, contact our Secretary, Penny Marsh, on 01235 835430. email: penny@digitalsafaris.com.

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Playground Refurbishment

Following on from our successful grant from WREN our project to refurbish the playground is now viable. The Vale of the White Horse has agreed to act as third party funders, contributing £5500 towards our project. Added to the smaller grants and donations from the Feast and the Youth Club we now have over £58000 in our fund. The Parish Council is also supporting the project. A plan is shown on the right.

We have written a plan of action so that you as residents can follow our progress.

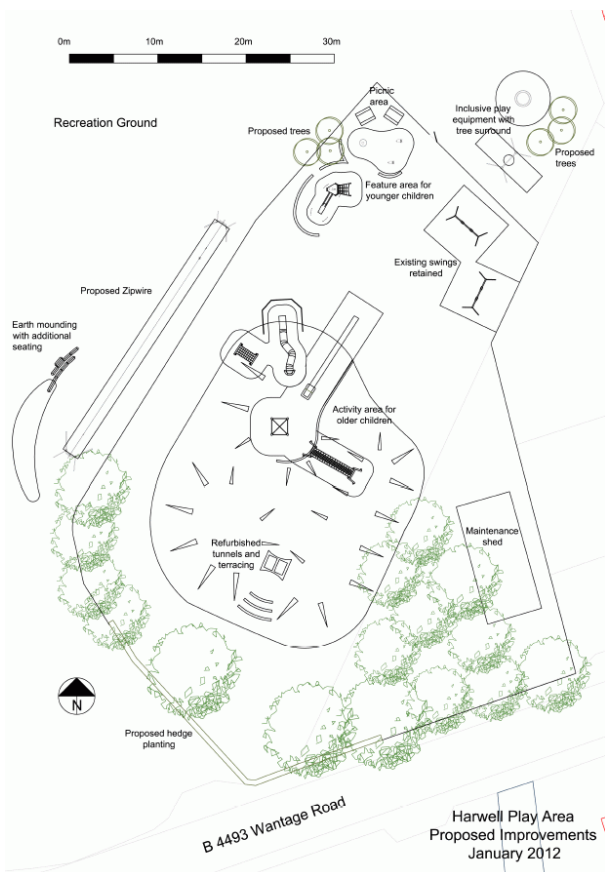
- Design finished and sent out for tender March
- Tenders received April
- Parish Council approval of tenders May
- Construction June/ July
- Grand opening ceremony September
- Tree and Hedge planting November

This project will benefit everyone in the Parish and we value your ideas and comments as well as offers of practical help. Our current proposals are shown on the right. We are still fundraising, but have had grants covering the bulk of the project, so if you have suggestions of smaller grants that we could apply for do let us know.

Our Street Corner has a website which will take donations for the playground or the youth club. It can be found at: localgiving.com/ourstreetcorner

We try to keep the site updated and the youngsters are keen to raise more money for the playground.

Our next project is a village 'litter pick' during the week beginning February 13th. Sovereign Housing is helping with black sacks and high visibility jackets so do look out for us!



HARWELL SCOUT GROUP

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Editorial Notes: Other than where stated and in reports of Parish Council matters any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Items for the April issue should be supplied by March 24th, and are preferred as plain doc, not docx or pub. Please put your organisation's name in the file title! email news@harwellparish.co.uk Distribution is organised by Mrs. Pat Staples, tel. 01235 833660, advertising queries to the Clerk - see page 2, Martin Ricketts, editor.



the charity for
your community

Advice from the CAB

My pensioner father recently had someone knock on his door saying they'd been doing work in the area and had spotted his roof needed repairing. This got Dad worried as he can't afford any major work, but I'm suspicious about the whole thing. What would you advise?

You're right to be wary. The approach you describe is a classic con. Rogue traders often call unannounced offering help with roofing, paving, or general building work they say needs doing, or offering to do insulation or install burglar alarms. They often end up running off with your money without ever doing the work, doing a very poor job, or doing work that never actually needed doing.

Follow these top tips to avoid getting involved with a dodgy trader:

- **Don't ever agree to work or sign anything on the spot** – take their full details and say you'll get back to them
- **Check their details** – they should give you their business name and address and not just a mobile phone number. Check these to see if they are genuine
- **Check if they are a member of a professional trade body**, belong to a local authority assured trader scheme, or to the TrustMark scheme, which can help you find trustworthy tradesmen in your area. For more details about these schemes, go to www.direct.gov.uk
- **Ask them for details of other customers** they did work for and contact them to check this out
- **Don't get taken in by their sales banter** – they might claim there is a special offer on only for that day, or that they'll get sacked if you don't employ them. This kind of talk is likely to be a sales pitch and you shouldn't take it seriously
- **Always get more than one quote** before employing someone – it's usually best to contact other traders your friends or family have recommended
- **Don't ever make a cash payment upfront** – a reliable trader won't ask for money before doing the job – not even if they need materials. If they run a business, they should have enough money to cover these costs themselves and only ask for payment once they've completed the job, or done a reasonable amount of work
- **If you think a trader is trying to con you** – speak to Consumer Direct on 08454 040506. They can report anything suspicious to your local Trading Standards Department

- **If the trader becomes aggressive or threatens you**, this is criminal behaviour and you should call the police straight away.

Q I work in a low paid job and with the price of energy going up, I am really struggling to pay my fuel bills. What can I do?

There are different tariffs and payment methods available so the first thing to do is speak to your energy supplier to check you are on the best deal for you and whether there is a cheaper way to pay your bill.

It's also really important that you check you are receiving all of the benefits and tax credits you are entitled to. It's easy to think that because you go out to work and earn a wage you wouldn't get any financial help from the Government – that's not true. £20 billion of benefits goes unclaimed every year – and some of these are 'in work benefits' for those who don't earn a lot. So you could be missing out on money that could help you cope with rising costs – like energy bills. Your local Citizens Advice Bureaux can help you figure out whether you are entitled to any benefits.

If you think that you are not going to be able to pay your bill – which leaves you in debt to your energy company, then you need to tell your energy supplier as soon as possible. They have a duty to help you and make sure that you are repaying what you can afford.

Further information available on www.adviceguide.org.uk or from Didcot CAB at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ or 08444 111 444

Faulty electrical equipment causes half of UK fires

It's been revealed that half of all accidental house fires in 2010 and 2011 were caused by faulty or misused electrical equipment.

How to help avoid a house fire:

Do not overload plug sockets.

Regularly check for worn or frayed wires.

Unplug appliances when not in use.

Keep appliances clean and in good working order.

Never leave appliances on at night, unless they are designed to be left on, like fridges or freezers.

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Summary Care Records The way our health records are managed is changing.

From mid-February 2012 NHS Oxfordshire will be telling everyone in the county about Summary Care Records (electronic health records). These will be created for everyone in Oxfordshire from late Spring 2012 as part of the national scheme.

The NHS in England is introducing the NHS Care Records Service to improve the safety and quality of patient care. It will give healthcare staff faster, easier access to reliable information about you to help with your care.

With NHS Care Records there will be ways to get important, accurate information to the NHS staff treating you, including in an emergency and when you use out-of-hours services whilst your GP practice is closed.

Anyone aged 15 ¾ yrs. and over will have to decide whether they want a Summary Care Record in April 2012, and will receive a freepost mailing that enables them to opt-out of this if they prefer. NHS Oxfordshire will be providing more information in the coming months.

More information will be available at www.oxfordshirepct.nhs.uk from mid-February

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Neighbourhood Public Survey continued

Please state any further concerns you have in your area that affect your quality of life:

Thank-you for your time and co-operation

Please post your completed form into the collection boxes at Bob's Family Butchers High Street, Head First Hair Saloon High Street, The Royal British Legion Westfield's Harwell, Harwell Primary School or reply by e- mail to the address overleaf

Cut here

700 Years ago ... Not the Parish Archives!

The event took place on 19th June 1312, but June is usually a full newsletter, and we have space now.

In the April '09 issue we gave some history of Piers Gaveston – you can still read it on the Parish website.

On 19 May 1312, having been pursued by the barons sent by Lancaster, Gaveston surrendered at Scarborough castle. The terms were that he would be taken to York, where the barons would negotiate with the king, but if an agreement could not be reached by August, Gaveston would be allowed to return to Scarborough. The three barons swore an oath to guarantee his safety.

After an initial meeting with the king in York, Gaveston was left in the custody of Pembroke, who escorted him south for safekeeping. On 9th June, Pembroke left Gaveston at the rectory at Deddington in Oxfordshire.

When Warwick found out where Gaveston was, he immediately rode out there, took him captive and brought him back to his castle at Warwick. Pembroke, whose honour had been affronted, appealed for justice both to Gaveston's brother-in-law Gloucester and to the University of Oxford, but to no effect.

Gaveston was condemned to death for violating the terms of the Ordinances before an assembly of barons, including Warwick, Lancaster, Hereford and Arundel.

On 19 June, he was taken out on the road towards Kenilworth as far as Blacklow Hill, which was on the Earl of Lancaster's land. Here, two Welshmen ran him through with a sword, before beheading him.

There is a monument on the spot, now close to the A46, erected in 1821 by Bertie Greatheed, the owner of Guys Cliffe. On it are these words:

In the hollow of this rock was beheaded, on the first day of July, 1312, by Barons as lawless as himself, Piers Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, the minion of a pitiful King, in life and death, a memorable instance of misrule



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From the Archives – 100 years ago

The meeting of the Parish Council before the March 1912 one was on December 4th. Present were Doctor Rice, W J Bosley, H Tyrrell, A R Bosley.

The main agenda item was The Churchyard path. The Parish Council did not mince words stating its opinion:

"A letter from the Vicar calling attention to the condition of the path opposite the South Church door and the banks on either side of it and asking that the Council take steps to remedy the present condition was duly Considered.

"It was recognised that the banks needed attention but if children are allowed, as in the past two or three years, to make a playground of the churchyard expense would be incurred for little results. Contrasting this with churchyards in some parishes where the Vicar takes keen interest in its upkeep it was the opinion that if the Vicar of this Parish took the matter up actively he with willing assistance might keep the Churchyard in a considerably improved Condition. It was decided to place notices on the notice Board etc forbidding children playing in the Churchyard & a warning concerning fowl being allowed to wander thither".

The next meeting was not until March 5th 1912, and the report begins "With regard to the minutes of the last meeting it was stated a reply had been received from the Vicar concerning the Churchyard. It was hoped the work could be done by private enterprise."

Then "A communication from Mr C F Day London (?) asking that permission be granted to close the footpath between his Farmyard and orchard with an offer of £5 and a small corner of land near the Cleve for allowing the closure was considered.

The Council decided that the footpath ought not to be closed but as they are not the Highway Authority they instructed the Clerk to inform Mr Day to whom he should apply when information was sent to him giving this Council's opinion upon the matter.

1912 March 27th "This Annual Parish Meeting duly convened by a fortnight's notice was held this evening and commenced at 7.30 pm". There were present, as well as 2 Councillors 11 members of the public, names given. "It was stated that approximately there would be the following balances in hand at the end of the current year which ends on the 31st inst. viz General account £2; Burial £13; Lighting £12.

"It was stated that probably no precept would be levied during the ensuing year for General and Burial purposes but that a sum would be required for Lighting purposes.

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Mr Pryor proposed, Mr S Wright seconded and it was carried nem con - That £17-10s be asked for from the Overseers in order to Light the Street Lamps of this village during the ensuing year.

Mr Pryor asked if during an evening or period when the street lamps are not lighted by order of the Council he could at his discretion provide and light the Parish Lamp affixed to his wall as since he held the post office it might provide a general convenience. This was unanimously agreed to.

Mr Hazell brought forward the matter of providing a meadow for children to play in. He had no desire to press any occupier at the same time he thought if the Council could pay a certain sum for a meadow for such a purpose it would prove most beneficial. The Chairman promised that the subject should be looked into and discussed at the next Council meeting.

50 years ago:

"A Parish Meeting was held at the School on Wednesday 9th January to draw up a scheme for the disposal of the Harwell portion of money raised from the sale of Nurses Bungalow to the County Council. Mr K W Woodall took the Chair, & explained to the meeting the terms of the Trust Deed whereby the Parish Council became Trustees of the property upon the dissolution of Harwell & Chilton Nursing Association.

Under the Trust the Parish Council had sold the property for the sum of £650 of which two thirds was to be spent for the benefit of Harwell Parish & one third for Chilton Parish. He pointed out that any scheme drawn up by the two parishes would have to be approved by the Charity Commissioners. The meeting was then opened for discussion & questions".

Five proposals were put forward in turn. Number 5 was proposed by Mr Warrick, seconded by Mr E Bosley: "That £300 be invested & the interest paid to retired Nurses of H & C Nursing Assoc. who were unable to join in a pension scheme during their service, and a lump sum of £50 be paid and shared between them. A sum of £50 to be spent on provision of additional chairs for the Technical Institute, & £33 spent on providing a wheeled chair and payment of incidental expenses.

Amendment No 5 was carried by a vote of 26 in favour to 5 against, there being five abstainers. The meeting was then declared closed, the Chairman saying that the Resolution would be put to the Charity Commissioners for approval".

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Adults £5 per day, Children £2 per day.
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Pooh Sticks Championships

The 2012 World Pooh Sticks Championships will also take place on Sunday 25th March on the River Thames at Days Lock, Little Wittenham. Why not make a day trip of it and come to see the new born lambs at Earth Trust, then walk down to the lock for Pooh Sticks?

Easter Clumps Club

The Earth Trust's Easter holiday club is packed full of outdoor adventures and play every day for 8 - 12 year olds. Shelter building and bushcraft fun, wild art, drama and games!

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