

The Harwell News www.harwellparish.co.uk

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Parish Council Meetings

February 2009: Under matters related to Council lands, it was reported that the application for outline planning permission for the proposed pavilion was now ready for submission. It was agreed that a second Councillor would attend the Pavilion Consortium meetings; representatives are now Mr. Fisher and Mr. Taylor. The Feast Committee has asked that their use of the pavilion for Feast Day should be borne in mind in the plans.

Following the footpaths walk, the Council's Rights of Way (RoW) document had been updated. There are a number of problems, some relating to the definitive description of the RoWs, and some to the routes on the ground. It was agreed that these should be taken up with the Oxfordshire County Council, and Mr. Ricketts will meet one of their RoW officers. The document is available on the PCs website.

The Council discussed a document prepared by Mr Ricketts proposing a re-introduction of the 40mph limit between Harwell and Didcot, as well as changes near the A34 bridge to improve safety. The Council agreed to submit the proposal to the OCC Highways for their consideration.

It was reported that OCC had been asked to inspect the Cleave footpath with a view to re-surfacing. The Council has since heard that the work will be done at the end of April, which will necessitate a closure of the path for a few days from 28th April.

March 2009: Our local PCSOs attended at the start of the meeting, and reported that a company whose lorries had been going through the village had been made aware of the penalties for violating the width restriction, and were keen to comply. Speed checks can now be done with the addition of number-plate recognition, enabling other check to be carried out.

The last month had seen 2 shed break-ins reported, and 2 instances of criminal damage. One vehicle had been seized because of driving offences. This follows a month when a local man was imprisoned for committing more than 50 local burglaries.

Affordable Housing was on the agenda, as the Chairman sought to proceed from the position reached in January, when the Council voted against the proposal that Sovereign Housing submit their plans for the Orchard Way site to the planning authorities for approval. The first resolution, that the Council endorses the need for affordable housing in the Parish, was carried by 8 to 0 with 1 abstention. But on the second proposal, that "Following the review of all alternative sites in the village, the Council supports and endorses the proposal for affordable housing on the Orchard Way site", the Council voted by 5 votes to 3 against with 1 abstention. This means that there is no prospect of any affordable housing in the village in the foreseeable future. Please see the minutes on the website for the

reasons behind this and the history of the proposals for affordable housing in the village over the last few years.

The Council's response to the VWHDC's Local Development Framework Preferred Options Report was discussed. The exhibition had yet to be held then and the final version would be prepared after that – see below. The Council agreed with the Keep Harwell Rural suggestion of a northern bypass to the village.

The Children's Centre had requested permission to park a Playbus and Toy Library in the Recreation Ground car park on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from May. The Council agreed to the request.

The Parish Council's Risk Assessment was discussed. The Council does not need a written Assessment as it has fewer than 5 employees, but it was felt to be good practice to have one in place. Mrs. Beswick had prepared a draft document, and intended to make additions in a couple of headings. The Council thanked Mrs. Beswick for drawing up the document and agreed to adopt it when completed.

The full minutes of both meetings are available on the PC's website www.harwellparish.co.uk. Note that the council publishes the draft minutes from the most recent meeting as soon as they are available; these may be amended before approval at the next Council meeting.

The next meetings of the Parish Council are on Tuesdays 14th April and 12th May. Items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk, Mrs. S. Taylor one week before this. Contact clerk@harwellparish.co.uk, on 01235 820006 where messages can be left, or in writing to 1, Wantage Road, OX11 0LJ. Office hours are 9 to 11am Monday to Wednesday.

Local Development Framework Preferred Options

The Council would like to thank all those, about 120, who came to the rescheduled exhibition on Friday March 13, and the 36 who came to the evening workshop, for their comments on the Vale WHDC's proposals. The Council's submission was amended in the light of the comments made; the final version is available on the PC's website. We would also like to congratulate the 60 or so people who battled through the snow to the village hall on Feb 6th, when the exhibition was first planned.

The Council will be responding this month to the Oxford County Council traffic studies (SCOTS report) and also to the South Oxford District Council (SODC) LDF core strategy document – the equivalent to the Vale document just mentioned. All interested are urged to make their own comments. The Council's draft responses will be on the website later, and they will welcome your feedback on these.

Annual Parish Meeting

This is to be on Thursday 21st May in the Freeman Hall. Suggestions for items to be discussed or presented should be sent to the Clerk.

Planning Matters

Permissions:

HAR/14881/2 Single storey rear extension and front porch, 22 The Park.

New Applications:

HAR/16599/1 Single and 2-storey extension at Kelbrooke, Townsend.

HAR/2738/14-LB Conversion of garage outbuildings to studio at Locktons Farmhouse, Church Lane.

As well as neighbours comments the Council asked the Vale WHDC to ensure there were no restrictions on such a conversion, and that adequate parking remained.

HAR/7980/3 Construction of garage, storage & single-storey extension, Blenheim House, Blenheim Hill.

HAR/1514/2 Change of use from open space to residential, 52 Westfield.

Appeal Refusal:

HAR/1123/10 Retrospective application for decking across stream and close-boarded fence, Bumble Barn, Church Lane. The view from the decking over neighbouring gardens would be intrusive, the structure would have a harmful impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area contrary to VWHDC Local Plan Policies H24 and HE1, and the development would have an adverse effect on the maintenance of the stream.

Harwell Recreation Ground Closure

The Parish Council intends to close the Recreation Ground on Monday May 25th for the Harwell Feast.

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For further details please contact Natalie Tappin at The Vale Housing Association on 01235 536001

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Harwell Village Hall

A very successful Safari Supper was held on Saturday 21st March. It raised £800 for Village Hall funds, which will help us to provide new facilities. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank Debbie Greenfield for organising the event and also thank all those who kindly acted as hosts and provided puddings. Thanks are also due to the WI for providing some fund-raising entertainment and to everybody else who helped, in particular Gwyneth Lee. In addition we thank the White Hart, the Old Farm Shop and Q Gardens who generously donated a food voucher, a vegetable box and apple juice respectively. These donations helped the raffle to raise £145.

The Booking Secretary is standing down at the AGM in June next year after five years and we are still looking for someone to replace her.. I would welcome enquiries on 832866 from anyone interested in taking over this position. The job of Booking Secretary carries with it an honorarium of £400 per year plus expenses

I am sorry that the mobile fish & chip van only appeared on one occasion before the proprietor unfortunately went out of business. Many people said that they welcomed the facility and enquiries are being made to see whether there is another trader who would like to take up the opportunity.

Colin Lamont, Chairman

Looking for a local Tradesman?

Did you know that Oxfordshire Trading Standards can provide you with details of reliable local tradesmen and women to carry out work around your home and garden? The Buy with Confidence Scheme brings together a list of gardeners, plumbers, builders and many other types of business from all over Oxfordshire, which have been individually checked for trustworthiness and compliance with consumer protection laws. For details of firms you can trust, visit the website at buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call 0845 051 0845 to talk with Trading Standards.

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Contact details District Councillors:

Mrs. M. Turner 15 Tyrrells Close, 821248
margaret.turner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Reg Waite reg@regwaite.co.uk 7 Hengest Gate 861779

& County Councillor:

Colin Lamont colin.lamont@oxfordshire.gov.uk
2 The Old School, School Lane. 832866

LITTLE PIPPINS PRE-SCHOOL

We welcome Ami Madge, Samuel Hawthorne, Sammy Walker, Spike Poyton, Kirsty Roberts, Harley Brown, Catherine Dunphy, James Holding and William Walker who have joined us over the last couple of terms. I'm sure they will have a great time and make lots of friends.

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.....

On Friday 3rd April we are holding our Easter Bonnet Parade so we look forward to seeing the wonderful creations. I will let you know who the winners are next time!!

The annual teddy bears picnic will take place on the recreation ground in June so get those teddy bears at the ready! Date to be confirmed

We are having an open day on Saturday 13th June 10am until 2pm. This is a marvellous opportunity for current and prospective parents to come along, meet the staff and to see the setting which offers an excellent variety of activities for children from age 2 ½. We look forward to seeing you.

We are already getting ideas for our float for the Harwell Feast; let's hope the weather is going to be kind to us this year!

Term 4 ends on Friday 3rd April and we are back for the start of term 5 on Monday 20th April.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter

The Breakfast Club is run from Little Pippins to provide extra care for those families who need an early start. Places are available to book and also at short notice if needed. We have a walking bus for the children going to Harwell Primary.

We have a few spaces left at Little Pippins for this term. If you would like your child to come to our setting please ring the pre-school on 01235 821741 or just call in any day from 8.15am until 3pm and have a look around to see what we have to offer the children.

Children can start at Little Pippins from the age of 2 ½ initially with their parent/carer. By the time they are 3 years old they should be ready to stay unaccompanied. From the term after their 3rd birthday your child will be entitled to 5 free sessions with us and this continues until they start school. You can choose from any of the 10 sessions available and increase the total number of sessions your child attends depending upon need and availability.

If you would like to know more about Little Pippins Pre-School or are interested in supporting us please call 01235 821741, email littlepippins@btinternet.com or visit our website www.littlepippins.org.uk

Nicky Mercer, Supervisor



Harwell Fun Club – Baby and Toddler Group News

Are you a parent or carer for a toddler or a baby or even a mum-to-be? Come along to Harwell Fun Club and you can make new friends. We meet each Tuesday of term time at the village hall between 9:30 and 11:30 am.

Craft activities are provided for the toddlers and children (up to 5 yrs). We have a wide range of toys for all ages and at the end of the session we sing some songs.

The cost per session is just £1 per family and includes a snack and drink for all children and adults. Your first visit is free.

Harwell Fun Club's Baby and Toddler Nearly New Sale is on **Saturday 9th May 2009** at Harwell Village Hall, 10am - 12 noon. Items on sale include toys, equipment, clothes, books plus lots, lots more. Entry by donation. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information please contact Penny Curtis on 01235 831558

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Harwell Women's Institute

The February meeting was a talk and slides given by one of our Members, Sue Greatbanks. The talk was entitled *Pink in Peru* and was based on the walk she and her daughter undertook in Peru last year in aid of the local charity *Against Breast Cancer*. This was a really inspiring evening, not only because it was quite arduous for the two of them and the group of people with whom they walked, but also because of the really good cause.

The meeting in March was the AGM followed by an energetic Beetle Drive!

April's meeting is going to be fascinating. It is on **Wednesday 8th** and the speaker is Chrissie Harper talking about 'Owls – their history and behaviour'. She is also bringing some Owls for all of us to see 'up close and personal'

May's meeting on the 13th is entitled 'Talking Pictures' by Mrs Bennie Pierce. It is an evening packed with slides, poetry and prose for all tastes.

In June on the 10th we have a Wine and Cheese 'tasting' evening arranged for us by Waitrose. Should be yummy!

Apart from the regular monthly evening meetings, there are outings planned to see the Bluebells in Nuneham Courtenay Arboretum; to visit the Botanical Gardens in Oxford; the River and Rowing Museum in Henley and the ISIS project.

The rest of the year will see an exciting programme including Smugglers and Customs; Old Films; Hands-on Instruments; Handbell Ringing; Talking Hats; Thornton's Chocolates and more.

Come and join us this year and enjoy the events. Visitors are always welcome. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. For more information, contact our Secretary, Penny Marsh, on 01235 835430.

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HARWELL VILLAGE TENNIS CLUB

Fancy playing tennis? Join Harwell Tennis Club. All ages and standards welcome. Membership (subject to approval at the AGM) costs £40 for Family, £20 Adult £10 Juniors and students. Key for the court is £3.00, free if last year's key is returned.

Open Evening / Club Nights: We are running an open evening on the 23rd April to start the season off with a knock around, encourage new members to join, and to have a drink in the Legion for those who are interested after.

Tennis club nights resume on Thursday 30th April - just turn up at from 7 pm onwards at the courts behind the British Legion at the recreation ground - continuing in the British Legion with the AGM at approx 8 pm. Please make an effort to attend the AGM and offer support in running this important community facility.

Contact Clare Coombs on 01235 821035 / harwelltennis@hotmail.com for further information.

Tennis Coaching: We have managed to build up both junior and adult coaching over the past couple of years, and are hoping to expand further this year. The following tennis coaching sessions are available, subject to interest. Coaching runs in the summer term and there will be approximately 10 sessions. The children's sessions, from 4-6 pm, are run by a school sports teacher the evening sessions by a full-time tennis coach:

4-5 pm Children - beginners

5-6 pm Children/Teenagers - improvers

6-9 pm Opportunity for 2 or 3 sessions, potential for a more advanced teenage session, and probably two adult sessions depending on interest.

Spaces are limited so please contact Clare Coombs on 01235 821035 / harwelltennis@hotmail.com for further information and prices.



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News from Harwell Scout Group

The Harwell Scouting community would like to thank everyone who came along and contributed to the success of our Quiz Nite which was held on 7th February.

We are also very grateful to everyone who supported the group in their 100 Club for 2008-09, the last draw for which was in February. The winners over the 10 draws of the year were

Penny Barwell, Gill Birch, Andy Bowman, Debbie Greenfield, Mr & Mrs R Greenfield, Hilary Hartley, Tony Hughes, Celia Lockwood, Betty McNiven, Brian Mortimer, Fraser Old, Eileen Roberts, Liz Roberts, Suzanne Simcox, Fiona Tankard, Hilary Telford, Tony Wheat, Jane Woolley.

If you are wondering how the 100 Club works, you buy a number 1-100 for £10. The first number drawn out each month wins its purchaser £25, the second £15 and the third £10. It's a vital fundraiser for the Group which, apart from keeping equipment in tip-top condition and funding activities, also has to pay a considerable annual sum to the Scout Association in capitation, which in part insures the young people and their leaders for all the fun things they do. We try to keep the subscription* for each member as low as possible, which is why fundraising is so important. Thank you again for your support!

*PS If you would like to explore Scouting in Harwell, please don't let subscription put you off. We will always help where we can. We currently run five units - Beavers (6-18), Cubs (8-11), Scouts (11-14 - two troops on two different nights) and Explorers (14+). >>>

For more details about Harwell Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts or Explorers in the first instance contact Sharon Palmer on 07774 676793.

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News from Harwell School Association

The way is now clear for the parent-teacher association of our local primary school, the HSA, to proceed with becoming a charity. Thank you to all those who took an interest in these efforts over the years and who came to the meeting held at school in mid-March.

The HSA has three functions: to raise money for the school to enhance existing facilities; to subsidise outings and events which might otherwise not be able to go ahead (or from which some pupils might be excluded through cost) and to provide a social life for parents and friends of the school. If you would like to keep up to date with our public events, why not contact Liz Roberts on 834295 to be put on an e-mail (or conventional) mailing list for newsletters and other items of interest?

In the meantime, this is what we've got coming up: May 20th. School sponsored walk. If you know a pupil at Harwell, they may soon be asking you to sponsor them to do laps of the School grounds and beyond!

June 5th: bingo evening

June 19th: evening family rounders tournament

June 27th: Summer Fair - afternoon. A Good Ole' Country Fair with crafts, sideshows and attractions. Tickets for the Grand Raffle on sale from mid-May.

Join us at any or all of these - for more details, call Liz as above or the School Office on 835337.

Scouts - Forthcoming events:

Harwell Scouts AGM will be held on Thursday 4th June 2009. This year we are encouraging our young people to participate in the AGM by giving us a 5-8 minutes news update about their exploits in the past year.

Sponsored Walk On Saturday 20th June 2009
 Further detail in the next The Harwell News.

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Harwell Gardeners' Club

Monday 6th April 7.30 p.m. Village Hall
Gardens Fit For Kings by Barty Phillips
 Competition: A Vase of Regal Flowers

Monday 11th May 7.30 p.m. *Astride The Tropic Of Capricorn* a talk by Gwen Barton

Monday 1st June A garden visit to 'Potash' the home of Mr Mooney of Bradfield.
 Cost = Members £5, Non members £6
 Further details on our posters nearer the time.
 Any enquiries about Gardeners' Club can be made to Wendy Sinclair on 221008 or Janice Markey on 832802. New members welcome any time. Just come along.

Is your shed secure?

We have recently seen a number of reports of break ins and burglaries from sheds, outbuildings and garages. Please make sure you don't give thieves the opportunity to get into your shed. Put all tools and equipment away and keep your shed locked when its not being used. Fit a strong padd-bar or hasp and staple with a close-shackled padlock to your shed door. Consider a shed alarm - battery operated alarms cost around £10.00. This could ensure you do not loose any of the valuable tools etc. that you may have kept in your shed. If you require further crime reduction advice, please collect a 'Secure your Sheds, garages and outbuildings booklet from your local Police Station front desk.

**Garages available in Harwell for rent now!
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For further details please contact Natalie Tappin at The Vale Housing Association on 01235 536001

The **Mobile Library** will be in Harwell, at V Hall 9.15 to 9.40 on Wednesdays April 15th and 29th, May 13th and 27th.

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Third Time Lucky for the Harwell Feast

(we hope!)

We are hoping to beat the weather this year and planning to bring you all the fun of the Feast once more on

Spring Bank Holiday Monday May 25th

10.30 Bellringing by St Matthew's Ringers

11.00 High Street Parade with May Queen & Attendants, Village Floats, Bagg's Tree Buskers, Vintage Cars & Tractors, Wantage Silver Band, & Organ Grinder.

Children's Fancy Dress are invited to walk in the parade

On The Recreation Ground, 11.00 - 4.00 p.m.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Car Boot Sale(£10) | Farmer's Market |
| Stalls & Sideshows | West's Fairground |
| Bouncy Castles, | Face Painting |
| Fun Dog Show | Dog Agility |
| Ferret Racing | Owls Galore |
| Island Farm Donkeys | Punch & Judy |
| Bonny Baby Competition | |
| Children's Fancy Dress 0-5 & 6-11 years | |
| Children's Races | Model Boats & Planes |
| Wood Turners | Morris Men |
| 3 Roast Pigs | Barbecue |
| Teas | Ice Creams |

Live Coverage from Heart FM

Should the weather play it's nasty tricks on us again as much of the entertainment as possible will be moved to the Village Hall and Freeman Hall.

Up to the minute information on the day regarding any change in circumstances will be available on our website harwellfeast.com Let's be positive though and the committee looks forward to welcoming you to the usual fun of the Harwell Feast.

www.harwellfeast.com

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Ecuador Challenge for Harwell Student

I am a student at Didcot Sixth Forms College. A group of about 20 students and I will be going on a challenging and charity based trip to Ecuador this summer (July 2009), run by World Challenge. These trips are designed to give students like myself an insight into other cultures. The intention is to undergo challenging treks through the Andes as well as participating in charity work. We will be working in the community around the area of Tena south-east of Quito, helping in a school to teach the pupils lifelong skills such as English and sports. Also we will take part in construction work, in the school, to improve its facilities long term.

We each individually have to raise £3565+. I have been working hard to raise money independently, by taking up a part time job at Waitrose; helping to pack customers bags, in local supermarkets, during the Christmas rush; organising various sponsored events, such as a sponsored cycle from Harwell to Bath (about a distance of 78 miles) and doing small jobs for friends and family. So far I have raised over £2500.

The group are in the process of planning some pub style quizzes in Harwell and in the local villages to raise money for the trip. Any support or financial assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Margery Pepper, contactable on 01235 835559 or margy.p@hotmail.co.uk



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For more information please call Carole on 01235 863057. (CRB checked).

Charity Golf Day

My daughter suffered from meningitis soon after she was born, we received superb support from the Meningitis Trust during this difficult time, thankfully she has made a full recovery.

As a thank you for the support I received I am organising a charity golf day on Friday 3rd July 2009 on behalf of Meningitis Trust at Sandford Spring Golf Club.

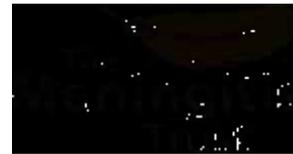
I would be grateful if you could do any of the following:-

- i) donate a prize for the auction at the end of the event to help raise additional funds,
- ii) sponsor a golf hole (£120) this would include your logo on a banner on the tee and on the score cards).
- iii) enter a team

Please visit the web site:

www.meningitistrustcharitygolfdays.co.uk

or contact me stuarduncanmorris@googlemail.com
thank-you Stuart Morris



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Piers Gaveston, Villain or just unfortunate?

We have Gaveston Road and the Gaveston coat of arms in the Church. But what was his connection with the village, and how close was his relationship with Edward II?

The Victoria County History suggests Upper Manor only came to Margaret, his widow, in 1216. But the Harwell book quotes one P.S. Stokes as writing that he 'was created Earl of Cornwall in 1307 and Lord of the Upper Manor from 1308 – 12', and Piers received extensive lands in Berkshire and Oxfordshire along with the castle at Wallingford.



The Gaveston Coat-of-Arms, six eagles

Piers came to England with his father, Arnaud de Gabaston, who was serving the King, about 1296. He was with Edward I's army in Flanders in 1297, earning 12d a day as a man-at-arms.

In 1300 he was serving in Scotland, and by late that year he was with the young Edward, Prince of Wales, being selected as one of his squires because being from "the region of fine manners he was courteous".

He was in Scotland again, and then in June 1305 the young Edward fell out of favour with his father; although they were reconciled by August, the Prince was required to reduce his household and Piers was excluded for some months.

In 1306 Scotland was causing trouble again and a new campaign was scheduled for July. Edward I decided the Prince should be knighted before setting off, along with all men of suitable rank who were bound in succession to their fathers. At Pentecost 267 men came to be knighted and kitted out, including Piers Gaveston.

By the autumn however, Piers was one of the knights named as deserting, and whose lands were ordered to be seized. They had "crossed to foreign parts (France) for a tournament ... without licence, while the King is engaged in the war of Scotland."

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The Prince and Piers had apparently sworn to be brothers-in-arms, sharing everything. To the King this was unthinkable, but he mainly blamed the Prince. When the Prince asked his father to grant to Piers the County of Ponthieu, the king is supposed to have got so angry he took hold of the Prince, by his hair, tearing out handfuls, and accusing him of giving away lands although he hadn't gained any. The result of this was Gaveston's banishment, although the King provided a pension for him.

Edward I died soon after, in July 1307, and Gaveston was brought back by Edward II and made Earl of Cornwall. He married Margaret de Clare and one of the celebrations was a tournament at Wallingford Castle, which Edward had given Gaveston.

When Edward went to France to marry Isabella he left the inexperienced Gaveston as Regent, which upset the Lords, both because it was against precedent, and Piers acted in an arrogant manner towards them. Edward's coronation then gave the Lords further cause for grievance; Gaveston organised it, and wore purple, which only the King was allowed. Edward spent more time with Gaveston than the bride, and gave him some of the wedding gifts. It is recorded "now for the first time nearly all the earls and barons of England rose against Piers Gaveston". The Lent Parliament of 1308 accused him of treason, the Archbishop threatened excommunication if he didn't leave the kingdom.

Edward made him Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Gaveston apparently did a reasonable job here, and Edward contrived to bring him back in 1309. The Pope in Avignon had revoked the excommunication, but only on procedural grounds. But Gaveston soon made more enemies, including the Earl of Lancaster, who commanded the support of most of the Lords.

After another Scottish campaign in 1310-11 the Earls forced Edward to banish him again. Gaveston had been accused, among other things, of getting officials removed so he could install one of his own followers. He was required to leave the kingdom via Dover by 1st November 1311. The king took steps to smooth his passage through France to Brabant, but it's not clear when he left or how much time he spent abroad.

Gaveston's wife Margaret gave birth to a daughter, Joan in January 1312, and on 18th Edward II issued a writ saying the exile had been decreed in defiance of the laws and customs of the realm. The king was in the north-east at this time, and soon took steps to re-instate Gaveston into positions he had lost.

Meanwhile a group of Earls met in London to form a plan to deal with Gaveston. In early April Edward and Gaveston left York for Newcastle. But on May 4th when Lancaster arrived with a force there and took the city, Gaveston had gone. He surrendered at Scarborough on May 19th to the Earl of Pembroke, given a promise of protection. Pembroke was bringing him south when he left him under guard at Deddington; the Earl of Warwick captured him and took him to Warwick castle. There was a brief trial; Warwick didn't want him executed on his land, so Gaveston was taken to Blacklow Hill, a mile away, which was Lancaster's land, and there he was

beheaded by two Welshmen.

There has long been a suggestion that there was a homosexual relationship between Edward and Gaveston. The Prince had declared that he loved Gaveston 'like a brother' and went to extraordinary lengths on his behalf. It is recorded that the king loved Gaveston 'beyond measure'. The fact that Gaveston was a foreigner and a commoner may have been enough to incur the initial resentment of the Lords, Gaveston's arrogance ensured it continued.

After Gaveston's death Edward continued to incur the wrath of most of the barons by favouring the Despenser family. Eventually Queen Isabella had had enough of Edward and his behaviour, and left him to live with Roger Mortimer in France, and plot Edward's downfall, but that is another story!

Further Reading: Isabella, she-wolf of France, Queen of England, by Alison Weir, is in the Didcot Library.

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Abingdon Air & Country Show Sunday May 3

The show, this year celebrating its 10th anniversary, is a wholly volunteer-run event that raises funds for the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance.

The three hour flying display will include an iconic C-47 Dakota transport aircraft that actually fought on D-Day in June 1944. Other recently-announced air displays lined up for the show include a Pembroke, Vampire jet, Yak-52 aerobatics and the Army's Tigers Parachute Team.

Other attractions will include arena displays, trade stalls, classic cars, a craft marquee, tank rides, static aircraft, an aircraft fly-in, childrens' amusements, Dr Who Daleks and Tardis and a BMW Williams Formula 1 show car. Dalton Barracks itself will be providing a ground display of army equipment.

Tickets are now on sale from the show's website and from various local outlets in Abingdon, Wallingford and Didcot. For further information call 01235 529142 or visit www.abingdonfayre.com.



Events at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham:

Easter Sunday 12th April, 10am - 4pm:

Northmoor Trust Easter Chicken and Egg Fest.

Find out which came first; meet our brood of rescue battery hens, see a peep of chicks and bring your own flock to join in the fun of all our eggy games and activities.

Activities from £1. No booking.

Sunday 19th April, 10am - 12.30pm:

Northmoor Trust Newts, Frogs and Toads Guided Walk.

Find out about these fascinating amphibians living on the Northmoor Trust estate. Adults £4, Friends and under 16s free.

Sunday 26th April, 10am - 12noon:

Northmoor Trust Takes To The Air.

Look to the natural world for inspiration and make your own kite to fly on Round Hill.

Children £7, Adults Free.

Sunday 26th April, 10am - 12noon:

Summer Migrants Bird Walk.

A guided walk to see which summer migrants have arrived on the Northmoor Trust Estate.

Adults £4, Friends and under 16s free.

Friday 1st May, 4.30am - 6am:

Northmoor Trust Dawn Chorus Walk.

It's worth the early start! Learn more about the birds on the Northmoor Trust estate for our dawn chorus walk to celebrate May Day.

Breakfast for sale afterwards. Adults £4, Friends and under 16s free.

Booking essential for the above three.

Sunday 3rd May, 4.30am - 6am:

Northmoor Trust Dawn Chorus Walk at Wallingford Castle Meadows.

Learn about the birds that live in the centre of Wallingford and how to identify them-it is well worth the early start! Binoculars recommended. Free. No booking.

Saturday 16th - Monday 25th May:

Northmoor Trust Art Week Exhibition.

Local artists, schools and community groups, exhibit work inspired by the theme Art in the Natural World. No Booking. Free.

For bookings or more information, please call 01865 407792 or www.northmoortrust.co.uk

The Seasonal Gardener:

Has Spring finally Sprung? Maybe we'll get 4 seasons this year instead of one long dreary rainy season! Well as I write it feels more like summer! I personally will not be missing the long murky grey days and cold weather of winter. I'm reveling in the sunshine, the longer evenings of light that mean we can be out in our gardens more often and for longer. The spring bulbs are doing their job of cheering us up and helping us look forward to the next delights of our gardens. My flowering cherry tree is in full bloom and the fluffy catkins of my weeping willow bring a smile to my face.

However, while walking around enjoying this beautiful time, I see much is to be done if we're going to get the best out of the garden this year. April is a busy time of year. The planning and thinking about what to do is over and now we can actually start to do constructive things. It's the last chance to plant bare root hedges and plants before they burst into growth. All the established shrubs and trees need feeding and mulching for the summer. Last minute tidying up of dead growth and pruning of overgrown plants can be done now. Very important is to get the supports in for all the perennial plants that have a tendency to flop in the summer. Done now, the plants grow through and over the supports and hide them. And it's much easier than feeding long fragile growth through the little holes of the supports! The veg plot is deweeded, manured and fertilized ready for the planting of seedlings. The soil covered to warm quicker as I'm on heavy clay! The seeds in the greenhouse for both vegetables and pretty annuals are coming on a treat. I'm staggering the sowing of my seeds in the hope that I won't have to prick out all the seeds in one go like I did last year! My garlic and onion sets are in the ground now with more in pots waiting to go out when they're a bit bigger. My potatoes are chitting nicely, although I can't say it made a huge difference when I planted out unchitted seed potatoes last year! This weekend I went over my lawn with a dethatcher to remove the moss and will be aerating it this week before giving it a spring treat of feed and weed killer. Hopefully it will be better placed to stand up to the wear and tear of the kids.

Ah, so much to do and I can't wait to get stuck in. So I'll leave you with this thought. The soothsayers believe that after a hard cold winter there will be a long hot summer. Fingers crossed, I say and get those water butts cleaned and ready for the hosepipe ban!

Sara Southey Southey Gardening Solutions 07773 333972

'AGAINST BREAST CANCER' - HARWELL ACTION GROUP

The Harwell Action Group for ABC – Against Breast Cancer, is holding another fund raising evening for this charity. It is a

Pamper Yourself Evening

which is being held at Harwell School on Thursday 30 April 2009 from 7.30pm.

The cost is £5.00 per person and this includes a glass of wine and a yummy dessert. During the evening there will be practitioners offering various treatments, talks about health, skincare, nails and hair, and sales tables offering beauty products, jewellery and clothing. This is going to be a great night-out for the girls! Come along and take part or just learn something new.

There is also a Tombola and Raffle. Tickets are available from Bob the Butcher or Barbara on 835698.

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Editorial Notes: Harwell News is published at the beginning of alternate months. Other than in reports of Parish Council matters any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Items for the June issue should be with the editor by May 26th. Email news@harwellparish.co.uk or send to M Ricketts, 16 The Park. Distribution is organised by Mrs. Pat Staples, tel. 01235 833660. Advertising queries to the Clerk, see page 1.



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