

# The Harwell News

Published by Harwell Parish Council    Number 133 – August 2005

## Parish Council

### Parish Council's consultation about a bypass for Harwell.

This is an interim report of the results of the first part of our consultation exercise - how many people would like to have a bypass and where should it go?

We have received 34 responses from about 60 people who came to the Parish Annual Meeting. 25 favoured a bypass and 9 were against. From the article with a form attached in the last issue of The Harwell News we have so far had a further 58 replies. Of these 54 favoured a bypass and 4 were against.

Taking the two sets of replies together 50 supported route B2 - from the B4493 east of Zulu farm to the A417 near the Kingswell Hotel, and 43 supported route B linking these roads but closer to the A34. Respondents could choose to support more than one route. 19 people supported route A, the northern one running up to and across Cow Lane and joining Grove Road before the junction with the A4130 running down to Rowstock Corner.

To achieve a complete bypass of Harwell using route B or B2 a further section beyond the A417 Reading road is necessary. Route E, continuing south from the Kingswell next to the A34, had 37 supporters. Route F, continuing from route B2 on the line of the Hagbourne Hill road to Chilton, had 42. The other routes had little support.

There is no "closing date" for responses, and we would like to get more. So please return them to Pear Tree Barn, next to the village hall. If you need another copy of the questionnaire, please contact Jane Woolley on Tel 221030

Meanwhile the survey of shoppers took place in the week of the 4th July. This is designed to help get an up-to-date picture of how much trade the two main village shops and Post Office get from non-residents. The results may influence thinking about a bypass if the shops would suffer too much. We'd like to thank the shopkeepers for their help and over 50 villagers for undertaking the interviewing - some starting at 6 am and others finishing at 8pm. We will publish summary results from this survey in the next edition of The Harwell News.

### Other Parish Council Matters

The Council have appointed Mrs Stephanie Taylor as the new Clerk, who took up her new role on 1<sup>st</sup> July. From 1<sup>st</sup> September the Parish Office will be manned on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 – 11 am.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act allows Councils to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences together with Dog Control Orders. For the time being the Parish Council will rely on VWHDC's Warden (David Coates Tel No.01235 597641) to deal with such matters.

Despite the fact that the judges acknowledged that "Harwell appears to have a strong community spirit maintained through the many local organisations, the Harwell News, their notice boards etc" Harwell did not feature in the first four in the 2005 large village Best Kept Village Competition.

**A Vacancy exists for a  
"Co-opted" Councillor.**

Enquiries to the Harwell Parish Clerk

Tel No.01235 828006

e-mail: [accounts@harwellparish.co.uk](mailto:accounts@harwellparish.co.uk)

**Applications by 12<sup>th</sup> September  
2005**

## Planning Matters

### Applications

#### Formal notice of permission has been received in respect of:

HAR/19057 - Erection of single storey extension at 24 The Croft.

HAR/12464/3 – Proposed linked garage and garden room extension at Willowbrook, Church Lane.

#### New applications have been received as follows:

HAR 17849/4-LB – insert two conservation roof lights in north slope. Roof lights on south slope to be moved (Barn 2) at Adnams Farmhouse, High Street.

HAR 17849/5 – retrospective application for erection of 1m high garden wall and boundary fence at Adnams Farmhouse, High Street.

HAR/14745/6 - Demolition of rear extension and outbuilding. Erection of two-storey extension at Cherry Trees, High Street.

HAR/5456/1 – Extension and alterations at Yewsley, Didcot Road.

The Council asked that neighbours comments should be borne in mind on the above 4 applications.

HAR/19151 – Internal remodelling to bathroom and kitchen. Insertion of roof lights and bulls eye window at Abbey Timbers, Broadway.

HAR/19160 & HAR/18160/1-LB – Demolish cob walls. Rebuild with two cottages plus rear extensions at Thatched Cottage, Reading Road.

Two letters of objection have been received, each expressing concerns regarding a) over development of the plot, b) safety of vehicular access onto Reading Road and c) maintaining the appearance of the original dwelling as far as possible. The Council has the same concerns and strongly objects to the application.

#### Planning Enquiries

HAR/17102/4 – Upper West Field, Reading Road. The Enforcement Officer has visited the site and is to pursue various concerns with the owner.

HAR/17849/1-LB – Adnams Farm Barns, High Street. New roof tiles have been used on part of this development, which are not in keeping with the area. Subsequently it was confirmed that the tiles were acceptable.

## Keep Harwell Rural Campaign

The Joint Inspectors' Report from the Public Inquiry into the Didcot sections of the SODC and VWHDC Local Plans appeared in June. The recommendations are disappointing in that the Inspectors uphold the plans to develop Didcot West with its 3,200 houses. Whilst they acknowledge the concerns over the decision made by the County Council in 2001 to overturn the recommendation for the north east made by the 2000 Examination in Public, they found no grounds that *"this decision was not correctly and legitimately made"*. Furthermore, in their opinion none of the changes that have occurred since then are of sufficient weight to persuade them to conclude other than that the decision *"remains sound"*. Whilst we may disagree, we cannot change the Inspectors' conclusion.

We have now almost run out of options to try to get this plan rescinded in favour of developing to the north east of Didcot. The only further avenue is to ask the Secretary of State to call in the plans before they are adopted. The target date for adoption of the SODC Local Plan 2011 is January 2006 – the VWHDC Local Plan will be later since their Public Inquiry is still going on.

The only part of the report that is sympathetic to arguments that we made is the section dealing with transport, where the Inspectors say "*We found it both disappointing and frustrating that very little in the way of firm, tested, evaluated and approved transport proposals were put to the Joint Inquiry.*" This reflects the criticism that we and others made of the inadequacy of the transport plans. Despite this, the Inspectors seem confident that solutions will be found, and reflect their concerns only in some changes in wording to parts of the policies covering Didcot West. The changed wording does though include the specific mention of the option of a Harwell by-pass, for which we had argued.

There is just one other, and rather minor, concession in our favour. The Inspectors recommend 40 dwellings per hectare as in the VWHDC Plan rather than 38 as in the SODC Plan, with a corresponding adoption of the VWHDC version of the western boundary, which bulges out a bit less towards Harwell.

It is doubtful if there is any more that we could have done at the Public Inquiry last December to argue the case. Now we have to ensure that Harwell gets the best outcome it can, given that Didcot West will go ahead. One issue clearly is the possibility of a by-pass – see elsewhere in *Harwell News*.

The Public Inquiry into the Planning Application for Didcot West/Great Western Park has been postponed from next January because the developers now say that they have agreed a timetable for approval with the Councils. Watch this space.

The Keep Harwell Rural Committee

Contacts: Tony Hughes tel 835301; Carol Quarini tel: 835419; Jane Woolley tel: 221030

### ROAD CLOSURE

**The part of the High Street from Kings Lane to Townsend, including the corner into Burr Street, will be closed to all traffic, except emergency vehicles and access to adjacent premises, for 5 days from 15<sup>th</sup> August.**

### GARDENING CLUB

At the start of our summer garden visits, the **June** outing was to Stockcroft House, near Newbury which is the home of Mr and Mrs Van Dyke. Their beautiful garden was a mass of colour co-ordinated plants and shrubs, the highlight being a magnificent white wisteria covered archway. There were also many roses and hydrangeas with clematis clambering amongst them. There was a very good vegetable plot and members could also buy plants.

The clubs' garden visit in **July** went to East Hendred to see the garden at the Manor House and also another pretty cottage garden in the village. Members then had an interesting tour of the Vineyard and sampled some of the white and sparkling wines made there, some of which they were able to buy.

Shirley Walker

## HARWELL YOUNG SINGERS

### Summer concert to celebrate another successful year

Harwell Young Singers, the village choir founded in 1998 by The Zimmerman Family, celebrate another successful year with a summer concert.

The choir, composed of 25 seven to 17 year olds has been passed down from Zoë now 22, to Zara 20 and finally to the current director and conductor Heidi, 18. The choir based in Harwell village, was conducted by the youngest member of the Zimmerman family in a concert on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July at Harwell St Matthews Church.

The musical achievements of the Zimmerman daughters are plentiful. All three have pursued their passion for Musical Theatre throughout their studies and careers. Zoë Zimmerman studied Music at Exeter University, and is now working for an artist management company for opera singers. She plays the Clarinet and Saxophone at a professional level, often appearing in shows and concerts.

Zara Zimmerman is currently at Chichester University studying Performing Arts. She is rarely far from the stage, having performed with Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre for many years. She also thoroughly enjoys playing the flute.

Heidi Zimmerman has also performed with Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre as well as Musical Youth Company of Oxford; she plays the Cello to a high standard as a member of Sinfonia orchestra at Central Music School in Oxford and in September Heidi is off to start a Drama and Theatre Degree at University.

Heidi Zimmerman says, "Harwell Young Singers brings a great sense of community to the village allowing children of all ages to learn together and to perform at a high standard - we seem to be very popular with villagers but also with supporters from the surrounding area."

Their success includes performances at The New Theatre, Oxford as well as many village events such as the annual Harwell Feast, numerous weddings and concerts at St Matthews (the village church). Harwell Young Singers have also committed many of their concerts to CD and video.

The choir has been accompanied for all of its history by local resident Marilyn Thomas, who attends every practice and whose commitment is a great asset to the choir.

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION –**  
Harwell Branch Westfields, Harwell  
01235 221126

**New members always welcome – including ex-service people.**  
**Call in during opening hours.**

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday night events start at 8.30pm**

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Aug - Concert Party followed by Dancing – Entrance £2 - food extra  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Aug - Birthday Party Disco – all welcome  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Aug - Car Boot Sale – 12-4pm (set up 11am) £7 per car – to book ring Rosemary 01235 210179  
Dance – music by Paul Lamming  
Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Sep - Dance – music by Kevin Read  
Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Sept - Charlie Greaver Snooker Comp  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept - Race Night  
Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sept - Birthday Party – all welcome  
Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Bill Connolly Darts Comp

### ROOMS FOR HIRE

**Weddings, Christenings, Funerals, Parties etc. For further information please contact Sybil Frost, 30 The Park, Harwell.**

Further RBL information, visit our website – [www.rblharwell.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.rblharwell.freeserve.co.uk)



## talking science – Einstein Year summer lectures

The CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory carries out world leading research ranging from the vastness of space to the invisibly small world of nanotechnology.

To celebrate Einstein Year we have put together a short series of summer lectures and invite you to come along and be inspired by science and scientists. All the lectures are free and many are suitable for families – age guidelines are shown for each lecture.

**Friday 9 September 7pm Age: 10+**

### **From Marconi to Mars: a selected history of radio research in the UK - Dr Chris Davis and John Bradford, CCLRC Space Science and Technology**

Pioneering radio research carried out at the Radio Research Station (RRS) at Ditton Park near Slough at the beginning of the last century led to the development of RADAR and continues to have a profound impact on our understanding of the world around us. This talk will follow the development of radio technology using photos and early experiments and look at scientific progress from the very earliest experiments in radio at the RRS through to current radio and space-based research which continues at the CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. There will also be the chance to try out some of the early experiments for yourself.

**Friday 14 October 7pm Age: 16+**

### **Superstrings: lecture and recital - Brian Foster and Jack Liebeck (solo violin)**

Superstrings links Einstein's favourite instrument, the violin, with many of the concepts of modern physics. The performance will begin with an introduction to Einstein's life and involvement with music and how his ideas have shaped our concepts of space, time and the evolution of the Universe. Selections from J S Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin performed by critically acclaimed violinist Jack Liebeck, will accompany the images shown. The lecture will continue with a discussion of the Standard Model of particle physics in which the evolution of the Universe after the Big Bang can be understood. Solo violin music specially written by two outstanding young UK composers, Emily Hall and Anna Meredith, will illustrate several of the ideas discussed in the lecture.

## How to book

Admission is free but booking is essential as places are limited. *Reservations must be made in advance from four weeks before the date of each lecture.*

To book your ticket:

Email: [talkingscience@rl.ac.uk](mailto:talkingscience@rl.ac.uk) or

Phone: 01235 445959 (24hr answerphone)

Please include the following information

- the title of the lecture
- your name, full postal address and contact telephone number
- the number of places you require



### FUN CLUB NEWS

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings in term time between 9.30 and 11.30. All parents and carers of babies and toddlers, as well as mums-to-be, are welcome. Just to make it clear, we do also welcome men – some dads do come and one is even on the committee!

Each week we provide a variety of toys and puzzles, a craft table, juice and biscuits for the children and tea and coffee for the adults – all for only £1 per family (first visit free).

Our next **Nearly New Sale** of baby/toddler/pre-school clothes, books, toys and equipment is on **Saturday 12 November**. All the sellers' tables have already been allocated for November, and I have people on a reserve list too. But we can sell for you on commission still. The sale after that will be on **Saturday 13 May**. So if you'd like to reserve a table to sell then, do contact me now.

We had a splendid day out on our **annual summer trip** to the children's farm Farmer Gow's, which is near Millets Farm in the Abingdon direction. We also celebrated the end of term with a summer "seaside picnic" themed session at the recreation ground, including 2 bouncy castles, a sandpit and a visit by the ice-cream van.

We are shut for the summer now, but re-open on **Tuesday 6 September**.

We always welcome more volunteers for the committee, or anyone who would just like to come along to see how Fun Club is managed.

Contact: Jane Woolley Tel 22 10 30.

### A note from the Crime Reduction Advisor – Wantage Police Station

As you may be aware, Harwell is now covered by Wantage Police Station, aligning the police resources with the council boundaries. Your Beat Officer is PC Kevin Taylor and he is stationed at Wantage, and can be contacted on 01235 776048.

I am the crime reduction advisor for the area, and I hope to keep you all updated in the Parish newsletter about local crime, crime reduction information and relevant updates.

Your village seems to be experiencing a large number of burglaries, both to houses and sheds/garages, this is an area I hope to target with your help. So far this year there have already been 10 reported burglaries in Harwell, more than double that of comparable villages. There are a few simple steps that you can take to reduce your chance of becoming a victim of burglary.

Firstly regardless of the weather or the amount of time you will be out for, **ALL** windows should be closed and **ALL** doors should be locked. Many burglaries are opportunists taking advantage of insecure doors and windows, especially during the nice weather.

Secondly, using lights on timers when you are out or away can be an effective way of deterring would-be criminals.

Another important step is not leaving valuable items on show near windows and doors; this should include keys, handbags, wallets, cameras, laptops, mobile phones etc. These can be the initial attraction for them to break into your home.

Take a step back and look at your house and garden from the perspective of a burglar, how would you get into your home if you were locked out? If you can get in, a burglar could get in far quicker and with greater ease. I would be happy to assist you with a Free home security survey by appointment, and this will help you to identify areas of weakness or vulnerability.

Property marking is also very important, and property-marking packs are available from Wantage Police Station for £1 each, or by telephoning me. Microchips and microdot kits are also available for marking individual items. For further information about these and the other products we sell, please give me a call on 01235 776007.

You should be vigilant and aware of people in your village, and report any suspicious incidents or people to the Police on 0845 8 505 505. Being part of an active NHW scheme can help you to be more aware of local suspicious incidents and crimes.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is very fragmented across the village with large areas not covered. We need you to take on responsibility for covering these areas so we can make you aware of local information, crimes and suspicious incidents. There is strong evidence linking NHW schemes with a reduction in criminal activity and reported crimes. It is completely free to join NHW and takes up very little time to get a scheme up and running. Establishing such a scheme means that you have access to important information and may also enable you to get a sizeable discount on your home insurance. For further information on setting up a scheme, or to find out if one already exists on your road, please contact Anne Barber in the Watch Office on 01235 556938.

## **HARWELL BUS SERVICES – UPDATE**

**FROM:** Councillor Stewart Lilly.

The two Bus Companies that Councillor Stewart Lilly has been having further discussions with, namely Stagecoach and the Oxford Bus Company, have not come up trumps.

Stagecoach who run the Route 32 service are still claiming that passenger numbers are too low for them to consider any form of increase to the existing timetable or to implement Sunday or late evening services. The only way they would consider increasing the service would be to look to the County Council for extra funding, which as reported in earlier editions of Harwell News, was unobtainable from the County Councillor responsible for Transport and Highways – Councillor Robertson (of Cornmarket Street fame!)

Stewart has now had a meeting with our new County Councillor, Colin Lamont, who has offered to take the matter forward once more. If enough noise is made then hopefully some reaction will take place.

Stewart has asked the Bus Company to justify their claims regarding passenger figures by letting him have the details and these will be made available.

“I’m still determined to keep this fight moving forwards,” said Stewart. “ We cannot let our bus services decline, increased services are appearing in West Oxfordshire (Councillor Robertson’s area of direct control) and South Oxfordshire is losing its former frequent services”.

Stewart has also learned that Stagecoach receives a heavy subsidy for Route 32 from the Harwell Laboratory who require bus services to service the new Business Park that is evolving there, together with the recently approved planning application for 275 new houses on the former **pre-fab area**.

**The fight continues!**

## Memorial Flower Beds

A Working Party required on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 9.am to remove covers, weed and plant crocus. Bring a Hoe and Trowel. If you can come please let Adele Harris know on 835238.

## Silver Jubilee – Produce Show

Don't forget your schedules available from the shops or Adele Harris, 18 Tyrrells Close. Tel 835238

Please try and get your entries in early so Adele can judge whether we need a Marquee.

## Harwell Feast Committee

We are pleased to announce final proceeds of £5,001.81 from Harwell Feast 2005.

We now invite applications for funding from village groups and organisations.

Closing date for applications is 20<sup>th</sup> August for consideration at our September meeting.

Harwell Feast Committee AGM will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 8.0 pm in the Royal British Legion. All welcome

The Feast is getting bigger each year and we are actively looking for extra committee members to help run the event. If you can join us please contact Janice Markey on 832902 or Patricia Cooke on 932702.

## Harwell School Summer Play Scheme

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August. Mornings 10.00 – 12.30**

For all children of Harwell School.

Register on your child's first day

Want to try before you buy?

Come for a guided tour on

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 11.30 am

**Any Questions?** Ring Janice Markey 832802 or Sid & Alison Gale

## Date for your Diary

**The Village Quiz - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Get your team of 6 together**

### Wallingford splashes out!

The Olympics may still be seven years away, but it's never too early to get in training! Find out if you have what it takes to be the next Steve Redgrave at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Wallingford Pub Regatta, taking place on Saturday September 10 at the Riverside Meadows in Wallingford.

Open only to those with no formal rowing credentials, the Pub Regatta is a fantastic opportunity to have a go at one of the UK's favourite water sports. Teams of four will receive basic training in the run up to the event, then compete over a three hundred metre course to be crowned top of their class.

Money raised will go towards supporting Wallingford Rowing Club, as well as this year's nominated charity, the Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary.

Along with the racing, there will be a host of activities for all the family, as well as a barbecue and bar. Visit [www.pub.regatta.org.uk](http://www.pub.regatta.org.uk) to find more information and download entry packs. Numbers are limited, so make sure your crew books its place on the starting line now!

**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 or the editorial team. Items for the next Newsletter should be with the editors **before the 28<sup>th</sup> September**. Items received after this date may not appear in the October issue. Articles to 12A Kings Lane, ☎221073 or e-mail [d.levy@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.levy@ntlworld.com)

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