

# The Harwell News

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## HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL

At the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March Mr Lamont, Oxfordshire County Councillor reported that the County Council are to set up a Children and Young People's Plan. Mrs Turner, Vale District Councillor, reported that Harwell had been granted a cleaning grant of £1121, which will help to pay for litter picking in the Village. The Council has also received a grant of £5,000 towards work planned for the play area.

The Parish Council has been notified that the opening hours of Wantage Police Station are to be reduced from 53.5 hours to 52 hours a week. Also, Harwell is to be included in the Milton Park neighbourhood for community policing purposes. Milton Park will have 9 Police Community Support Officers, who will work closely with local communities.

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. The agenda will include the Great Western Park development, details of which will be on display. Those attending should be aware that use of the microphone is required for addressing the meeting.

### The Annual Village Footpaths Walks

The Annual Village Footpaths walks will take place on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**. Meet at the Village Hall at 2pm. Maps will be provided. Last year's footpaths walk was very poorly attended. If you want to keep the footpaths open it is important that they are regularly used and any problems reported. It would be excellent if there was a good turnout this year!

### The Recreation Ground

A number of residents have expressed concern about teenagers riding motorbikes on the Recreation Ground. In addition to the damage this causes there are also safety concerns. Please report any incidents to the Authorities.

### Planning Matters

New applications have been received in respect of:

HAR/19427 – change of use from newsagents to professional and financial services at Dillons Newsagents Ltd., Curie Avenue.

HAR/19430 – Erection of a rear conservatory at 49 Loder Road.

HAR/816/1– Erection of a single storey extension to enlarge kitchen and dining room at 6 The Cleave.

HAR/19437 – Erection of a single storey extension to provide a breakfast room and granny annex at Kinwood, Blenheim Hill.

Permissions have been received in respect of:-

HAR/19385 – replacement conservatory and veranda at 14 Tyrells Close.

HAR/4612/3-LB – Proposed modifications to link building previously approved under application HAR/4612/1 at Princes Manor Farm, Church Lane.

## **STAGECOACH BUS SERVICES**

### **ROUTES 32, 33 & N32 OXFORD LINK REINSTATED**

#### **LATE NIGHT & WEEKEND SERVICES REINSTATED**

Parish Councillor Stewart Lilly is pleased to confirm that following further discussions with Stagecoach and the imminent demise of their X4 Express Bus Route between Abingdon and the City of Oxford, Route 32 and 33 are to be starting a brand new timetable with effect from:

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006.**

**You will find enclosed with your Harwell Newsletter a copy of the new timetable, which we trust you will keep in a safe place.**

Please note that there are now **two routes**, namely No. 32 and the new No. 33. Both routes will operate a circular route from Oxford to Oxford via our village and the IBC.

**ROUTE 32** – will take a clockwise direction from:

Oxford, Abingdon, Sutton Courtenay, Didcot Station, Didcot Town, Harwell Village, Harwell IBC, Wantage, Grove, East Hanney, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxford.

**ROUTE 33** – will be in reverse of the above, from:

**Oxford, Abingdon, Marcham, East Hanney, Grove, Wantage, Harwell IBC, Harwell Village, Didcot Town, Didcot Station, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxford.**

For those of you immediately observant you will notice that Route 33 will be the quickest run to Oxford (50 minutes). Route 32 will get you there, but it will take the longer scenic route (97 minutes). **BUT** – the reverse will be true to get you back more quickly i.e. Route 32 is quicker.

**ROUTE N32** - We also see the reinstatement of a late night bus service from Oxford City, which will come to Harwell Village via Abingdon and Didcot. It will leave Oxford City at: **23.45** and reach Harwell Village at: **00.48**.

The **first bus service in the mornings** will leave Harwell Village at **6.06am**, starting on Monday 27 March.

**Stewart reports that sadly he was unable to negotiate the reinstatement of a Sunday and Bank Holiday Service, but to have the link back to Oxford on 6 days a week has to be a benefit for the villagers of Harwell.**

Stewart goes on to say that a great deal of time, effort and discussion has gone into this, and it has taken more than eighteen months to achieve. The important thing now is that the service is properly used since he is sure that if it is not used enough the opportunities for further reinstatement will be minimal.

In other words:

**USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

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**BUS PASSES** are now available for all Senior Citizens from the Vale of White Horse, which include the Oxford City Park & Ride Services, and details are printed on the following page about this further benefit.

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## **Residents Free Bus Passes**

From April 2006 residents from the Vale who are over 60 or have certain disabilities will be entitled to free off-peak local bus journeys. Residents can use the full-fare bus pass for the following journeys:

- Abingdon, Wantage, Faringdon and the surrounding areas in the Vale;
- Designated towns outside the Vale area including Didcot, Witney and Swindon as long as the journey starts within the Vale area;
- Pass holders may also travel free within Oxford City boundaries (including the Park & Ride Service) and to hospitals in Oxford and Swindon.

Off-peak times are between 9am and 11pm Monday to Friday and at anytime on weekends and English public holidays.

**Residents already in possession of a bus pass will not need to apply, an insert will be sent automatically to update their existing bus passes.**

For residents not in possession of a bus pass application forms are available from the Village Post Office, the Vale Offices in Abingdon or the One-Stop-Shop in Wantage. A recent passport size photograph is required together with a photocopy of any document that confirms your name and date of birth eg. Passport or Driving Licence. Applications on grounds of disability are required to present proof of eligibility.

### Harwell Mothers' Support Network

Are you pregnant? Expecting a baby? Or new to the village and would like to meet other Mums? Harwell Mothers Support Network is a very informal group of women who offer friendship and support to other mothers. We currently have several **New Mums Groups** meeting regularly in the evenings or daytime (depending on what's convenient for people). If you would like to join one of these groups and meet other women with children the same age as yours, please contact Sarah on 835 652 for full details.

**Breastfeeding** is very rewarding, but it's common for people have hiccups of one kind or another with it at some point. The good news is that almost invariably these can be sorted with the right kind of help. Do you think you would like some support breast-feeding your baby? If so, please contact the Harwell Breastfeeding Friends group through Fiona on 861 593.

A new baby can throw domestic routines out of the window. Would you appreciate some **meals** being cooked for you and your family in the early days of your baby's life? There is an army of willing volunteers in the village who know how hard it is sometimes to juggle babies and normal existence and who will pop round with a casserole, lasagne, etc eg every day for a week or two (or whatever frequency or length of time suits you). Nancy is waiting to hear from you on 835 752.

We are all fairly recent mothers and our aim is to stop new mothers feeling isolated and help them join our lively, friendly village community. Please don't worry that you will be overwhelmed, told what to do, pressurised, visited unexpectedly or force-fed home-cooked meals. We try to pitch the level of support and contact to suit you, so please do get in touch even if you only want five minutes' chat on the phone and then to be left in peace. If the thought of phoning is too much, please ask your Health Visitor to contact us for you.

**From our MP – Mr Ed Vaizey:** March has already proved to be a busy month for me. Harwell hosted what will be a series of surgeries in venues away from the traditional village hall setting. The idea of holding a surgery at the Business Centre was to make it easier for working parents to come and see their MP. The event was a great success with many people attending who had not previously been to a MP's surgery.

I have long been a strong advocate of nuclear power and so I have recently made representations to my party's energy review. I believe that the best way for Britain to deal with its long-term energy needs is by harnessing the full potential of nuclear energy. A clean and safe source of energy that has the potential to solve many of the energy challenges we face. The team are keen to hear from the many energy experts we have in our part of the world and can be contacted through [www.energyreview.co.uk](http://www.energyreview.co.uk)

The other campaign I have been running this month is to try and save early morning and evening train services from Didcot to London. Last week I met commuters as they waited for the 0545 service at Didcot Parkway station to hear how service cuts would affect them. So far First Great Western is blaming the government and the Department for Transport are blaming First Great Western. As usual service users are stuck in the middle. Please be assured I will continue to lobby hard on this issue and would like to hear from anyone affected by the proposed cuts.

We have all read about water shortages in the south east, and the need to save water. Our part of the world is threatened by a huge reservoir precisely for that reason. So I have decided to do my bit. I recently called in Thames Water to give me some pointers. They discovered I had been wasting up to 300 litres of water a day! That amounts to 100,000 litres a year – enough to provide water for 500 homes for a day. Rapid action has now been taken to stem the flow.

Following the survey I have already fixed a dripping bathroom tap, saving 252 litres of water a day. Lesson: don't ignore a dripping tap! And I have installed water-displacement devices in the cisterns of my two loos – meaning I use less water when I flush, saving 30 litres a day.

I have recently conducted a survey of local businesses. I was surprised by the gloomy mood of local firms. Top of the list of problems was recruitment and transport difficulties. I would like to see the government doing more to help small businesses. Especially those that invest in new technology. The full results of the survey are on the website or I would be delighted to send anyone interested a copy in the post.

Please contact me at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 0207 219 6350 or [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk). The Website is [www.vaizey.com](http://www.vaizey.com) and has up to date news of my local and parliamentary activities.

**Up coming surgery dates are 20<sup>th</sup> April – Didcot Station (Thurs 5.30 – 7pm); 21<sup>st</sup> April – Wallingford Town Hall; 5<sup>th</sup> May Milton Park Business Park, Parkside Café, 12.30 – 2pm; 12<sup>th</sup> May - Wantage, Civic Hall, Waylands Room; 9<sup>th</sup> June – Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre. (all are Fridays, 5.30 – 7pm, unless stated otherwise)**

## Harwell Village Tennis Club

The Harwell Village Tennis Club runs the two courts on the recreation ground. For the extremely good value annual subscriptions of £30 Family, £15 Adult, £10 Senior Citizens and Students, £7.50 Junior (plus £2.50 for key if required) members have unlimited use of the courts, will be welcome to join our Club Nights on Thursday evenings and will be even more welcome to play in our regular friendly matches with other local clubs in the area. The club holds two fun tournaments in the summer.

Thurs 20 April	Start of Club Nights: 6.00-7.00pm Juniors, 7.00 Adults Followed by AGM in the Legion
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Lock changes
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Friendly Tournament for Adults and 12+ Juniors: 2.00 pm
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Tournament for Juniors (12-15 years); 2.00pm

We are hoping to run some coaching sessions. For membership or coaching, please contact Jane Cumming on 01235 221048, or come along to one of the Club Nights.

### W.I. News

It could seem that the name David is synonymous with wildlife (apologies to all the millions of Davids that don't fall into this category!) but we do have David Attenborough and David Bellamy. The W.I. discovered Harwell's own wildlife expert - David Marsh who took us 'On Safari' with his original talk and photographs at our last monthly meeting. It was as good as any BBC presentation.

We now look forward to a new and exciting programme of speakers starting with Fabulous Flowers - Exotic arrangements which you will have the chance to take home as we shall auction them. This is on Wednesday 12th April in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Our May meeting is the annual W.I. Resolutions. At this we will be discussing topics of national interest, which will be put before the Government. This year the subjects are 'Renewable Energy' and 'Sport for a Healthy Population'. There is always plenty of information and facts and figures to get us thinking so it can be a stimulating evening. Afterwards we will have a Beetle Drive just for a bit of fun.

Harwell W.I. meets every second Wednesday in the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

*Joyce Doughty*

### **GARDENING CLUB**

At our **February** meeting Brian Laney gave an enthusiastic talk, with slides, on rare and endangered wild plants. He travels the British Isles from the Shetland Isles to the Channel Isles tracking down and then registering new and re-discovered wild plants in their natural habitat. Members also produced a good selection of snowdrops for the monthly competition.

At the **March** meeting we welcomed members from the East Hanney Gardeners Club. The speaker Mr Bob Brown gave an informative and very amusing talk on "Variegated Plants and Shrubs". He is the chairman of the Variegated Plant Society and therefore was extremely knowledgeable on the subject. He gave members advice on propagation and which variegated plants were the best to grow for their colour all year round. He also brought along lots of his own plants for sale.

### **SNOWDROPS! SNOWDROPS! SNOWDROPS!**

We urgently need some snowdrop plants to put into the flower beds by the war memorial and if you have some to spare in your garden could you please give them to any Gardening Club member or alternatively contact Wendy Sinclair on 221008. These plants should preferably be dug up 'in the green'. Thank you.

*Shirley Walker*

### **GARDENER'S CLUB QUIZ**

We are having a quiz evening in the Village Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 for 8.00pm

Bring your team of up to 6 people and entry will be £3.50 p p

including Cheese and Biscuit Supper.

Licensed Bar.& Raffle

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Proceeds toward the annual Produce Show**

**‘Under Milk Wood’  
O.T.T.C.  
Harwell Village Hall on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm**

All tickets £7 and £5 concessions  
Available from Bob’s

If you have never seen any of the visiting theatre companies do consider coming to one – the quality is always excellent and there are no travel expenses!

**HARWELL FEAST**

**Bank Holiday Monday -  
29<sup>th</sup> May**

**11 am High Street Parade  
11 - 4pm Recreation Ground Events**

Craft Fair; Car Boot Sale (£10)  
Wantage Silver Band;  
Bagg’s Tree Buskers; Fun Dog Show  
Bonny Baby Comp  
Children’s Fancy Dress Comps  
(0 - 5 yrs) + 6 - 11 yrs);  
Uncle Brian; Ferret Racing;  
Dog Agility; Bouncy Castles;  
West’s Fairground,  
Children’s Races with Mr. Cansell;  
Country Dancing; Belly Dancing;  
Farmer’s Market; Vintage Bicycles;  
Cars & Tractors; Model Makers Tent;  
Morris Men; Pig Roast & Barbecue.

**Entry by Programme  
£1.50 in advance from Village Shops  
£2.00 on the day.  
Children Free**

**Come and Join the Celebration!**  
St Matthew’s Harwell with All Saints’ Chilton are holding a  
**Songs of Praise**  
**SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 6PM**  
**In the CRAFT MARQUEE on Harwell Recreation Ground.**  
**All ages welcome**

**HARWELL SCHOOL SUMMER PLAYScheme**

for all children of Harwell School

Dates 2006:

August 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

Judged OUTSTANDING BY OFSTED 2005

**Come and see us, kids!****Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards Service  
Rogue Trader Unit**

Nationwide there has been an increase in the number of reports of consumers having difficulties with rogue traders selling building and home improvement work door to door. Such traders often target elderly and vulnerable consumers offering quick solutions to building and gardening 'problems'. While the price agreed at the start of the job may appear quite reasonable all too often the work, if carried out at all, is unnecessary and of poor quality, and the price charged at the end is far higher than that agreed.

As well as the traditional law enforcement and advice functions, the Unit is intended to support vulnerable consumers on their doorstep if they find themselves dealing with rogue traders.

If you think you have been the victim of a rogue trader, or you know of somebody who may have been a victim, please contact the Rogue Trader Unit on 0845 051 0845.

**Dog Fouling**

A reminder that free dog bags are available at the Newsagents. The Council have had complaints of dog fouling in the Village particularly in Jennings Lane!

**Anchor Staying Put** - a not for profit home improvement agency run by Anchor Trust provides a Small Repairs Service to older and disabled residents to undertake small jobs in the house. For more details contact the Service c/o SODC, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8BF. Tel: 01491 823 895

**Activity & Information Fairs**  
**(Age Concern)**  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May (10am – 3pm)**  
**Regal Centre Wallingford**

If you missed the Activity & Information Fair in Didcot – here is another chance to attend. An informative and fun day for the over 50's and their friends

A one stop shop for information and advice  
An opportunity to feed your mind, body and soul.

**Some of the stands available**

Exercise and dance classes; Ageless beauty makeovers; Fire safety planning and free smoke detector; Day Passes to Soll Leisure Centre; Age Concern Information & Advice; Citizens Advice Bureau; Community Services; Computer; Explore Your Potential; Healthcare; Pension Service; Rural Community Transport; South and Vale Carer Centre.

**Little Pippins Pre-school**

We welcome Toby Baker to Pippins, Jodie and Emma Cameron to Pippins and to the village, and we hope they will enjoy their time with us.

We had a fundraising afternoon on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate pancake day. There were pancakes to buy and games to play, but best of all there were pancake races for both the children and of course the mums and dads!!! This event was well attended and we look forward to next time.

Our AGM was held at Pippins on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we had a very interesting talk by Vince Connolley about Synthetic Phonics. It was well attended.

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, we are holding our Easter Bonnet Parade, so we look forward to seeing the wonderful creations, I will let know who the winners are next time!!

Our next major fundraising events are the Harwell Feast on 29<sup>th</sup> May, and our Summer Ball on 8<sup>th</sup> July; details of both to follow so watch this space!!

Term 4 ends on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March**, we hope you all have a lovely Easter.

Term 5 starts on **TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> April**, we hope you will be refreshed and ready to have lots of fun!!

*Nicky Mercer*  
*Pre-school Supervisor*

Children can start with us from the age of 2.5 years initially with their parent/carer and by the time they are 3 years old, they should be ready and able to stay unaccompanied. The term after their third birthday, your child will be entitled to 5 free sessions with us and this carries on until children start school. You can choose from any of the 10 sessions available and increase the total number of sessions your child attends depending on need.

If you would like to know more about Little Pippins Pre-school or are interested in supporting the pre-school please call **01235 821741**. Alternatively contact **Lorraine Moore on 832713** e-mail [littlepippins2004@yahoo.com](mailto:littlepippins2004@yahoo.com) or visit our website <http://home.btconnect.com/harwell>

**IN AID OF LITTLE PIPPINS BUILDING FUND - A SUMMER BALL**

**SATURDAY JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> AT HARWELL VILLAGE HALL**

**DRINKS FROM 6.30**

**DINNER AT 7.30**

**CARRIAGES AT 11.45**

**Dancing to The John Wheeler Band**

**Bar, raffle**

**Tickets priced at £25.00**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM SUE PEARMAN TEL: 835979**

**You can either get a group of friends together and have a table for 8 or we can plan your seating. Tickets are £25 each and include a fabulous meal, entertainment and band**



**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 actually come.

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 & equipment will be in the village hall on **Saturday 13 May** 10am-12pm. Great bargains to be had. For those wishing to sell at this event, please note that all the tables for this sale have already been reserved (plus there is a waiting list) but we can still sell a small number of items on 1/3<sup>rd</sup> commission for you.

The date of the November Nearly New Sale is **Saturday 11 November**. Again, all the tables for this sale have already been reserved.

We have even started taking bookings for our May 2007 sale, and the date for this will be 12 May 2007, so if anyone else can think that far ahead, let us know if you would like a table for then!

A **photographer** will be coming to our **2 May** session. This is a convenient opportunity to get professionally taken photos of your little darlings for a very reasonable price (a pack of several copies of various sizes is about £20; less if you just have part of a pack). There is no obligation to buy – if you don't like the photo when it's processed, you just don't buy it!

An **Usbourne Books** rep will also be coming to our **2 May** session. Usbourne publish beautiful children's books at very reasonable prices. This is handy if you find it difficult to get to/browse at the shops! The rep will have some books at her stall and there will also be others in her catalogues for ordering.

The **health visitor** will be visiting us during our **9 May and 27 June** sessions. This is a convenient way of accessing a health visitor without having to go into Didcot. Please bring your child's red book. You don't need to pay the £1 entry fee if you just want to come to see the health visitor.

*Contact: Jane Woolley Tel 22 10 30*

## Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will be outside the Harwell Village Hall between 2.45 – 3.20 on alternative Wednesdays 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May

## GREEN BOX, BROWN BIN & WASTE COLLECTIONS 2006 Bank Holiday Arrangements

Easter	Fri 14 April	Tue 18 April
	Mon 17 April	Wed 19 April
	Tue 18 April	Thurs 20 April
	Wed 19 April	Fri 21 April
	Thurs 20 April	Sat 22 April
	Fri 21 April	Mon 24 April
	Mon 24 April	Tue 25 April
	Tue 25 April	Wed 26 April
	Wed 26 April	Thurs 27 April
	Thurs 27 April	Fri 28 April
	Fri 28 April	Sat 29 April
May Day		
	Mon 1 May	Tue 2 May
	Tue 2 May	Wed 3 May
	Wed 3 May	Thurs 4 May
	Thurs 4 May	Fri 5 May
	Fri 5 May	Sat 6 May

## Pamper Yourself Evening

Many thanks to all those who came to the Pamper Evening on 16 March and to all those who helped to make it such a success. A total of £2,450 was raised to support the work of Against Breast Cancer (ABC). The next big fundraiser for ABC is the Classic Oxfordshire Cycle Ride on 14 May. If you want to cycle or help on the day, contact Diane on 0870 774 4288.

### HARWELL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Who play their home matches at Harwell Village Hall finished the winter season in the Oxfordshire County Short Mt Bowls League with mixed fortunes. Their established Hares team suffered relegation from Division 1 whilst their new team The Harriers, a mixture of new bowlers and established players won promotion to Division 1. New Bowlers are always welcome – call in any Monday Evening.

## Tabby Cat

**If anyone in the village has lost a tabby cat please ring 834384**

***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> May 2006**. Items received after this date may not appear in the April issue. Articles to 12A Kings Lane, ☎221073 or e-mail [d.levy@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.levy@ntlworld.com)  
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