

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

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HARWELL WINS ‘BEST KEPT VILLAGE’ COMPETITION

The Parish Council are delighted to announce to all Parishioners that Harwell has won the 2006 Best Kept Village Competition sponsored by Calor.

Harwell won the best ‘Large Village’ category. Other winners were: Steventon (Overall Winner) Great Tew (best Small Village), and Clanfield (best Medium-sized Village).

The judges considered Harwell to be a most attractive village with many well established buildings in the centre matched by newer houses elsewhere. The judges ended their report with the following “ we were conscious of a village with a sense of unity and would have liked to have been there at the time of the Feast”.

The Parish Council wish to express great thanks to their hard-working groundsmen who do their utmost to keep the village free of litter, as well as tending the verges etc, and to all volunteers who help to keep the village neat and tidy..

Harwell Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 13th June and 11th July. Mr. Lamont (County Councillor) reported that he had undertaken a Scrutiny Review of water supplies in the area and was about to undertake another Review of car boot sales, to assess the number of stolen and pirated goods, which are offered for sale. In connection with an OCC assessment of the disposal of waste in the country, Mr Lamont visited a Waste Incinerator Plant; several megawatts were being produced at the plant, with no visible smoke pollution. Both Mr Lamont and Mrs Turner (Councillor, VOWHDC) reported that a Harwell By-pass was still a feature of the Great Western Park development, although money from the developers was limited. (See also Mrs Turner’s report below).

Winnaway Kennels

VOWHDC Environmental Department has informed the Council that it is planned that noise insulation will be installed at the kennels by mid-July. The insulation will include an acoustic barrier and changes to the roof.

Traffic Speed on the Reading Road

Following a letter from a resident of the Reading Road expressing concerns about traffic speed and requesting speed watch signs or a camera, the Council are hoping to obtain a temporary loan of a “Speed Watch” sign from OCC. It appears that partial funding might be available towards the installation of a permanent vehicle-activated sign, but this would need an electricity supply. It was also suggested that “Concealed Entrance” signs be erected.

Great Western Park Approved

The outline Planning Application for Great Western Park – now for 3,300 houses to the west of Didcot – has been given the go-ahead by both SODC and VWHDC. The application was first submitted in 2002 and has been modified several times since, most recently in a version that was out for consultation last January.

SODC's Planning Committee voted in favour by 8 votes to 6 on 19 July, followed by a 9 to 6 majority in favour at VWHDC Development Control Committee on 26 July. The resolution was actually to agree to delegate the final decision to grant planning permission to planning officers, subject to over 70 conditions on which detail is still being refined or negotiated.

Some of the key issues debated were centred around the failure of the proposal to deliver the figure of 40% affordable housing in the Local Plan policies, the many concerns about traffic impacts, and the large number of loose ends remaining to be sorted out. The development has been concluded not to be viable unless the percentage of affordable homes is reduced to 30%.

The concerns of the many objectors, including KHR and Harwell Parish Council, have been 'noted' along the way, but the development will now go ahead. There will be detailed issues that our local Councillors will have some opportunity to influence under the delegations agreed. Some of the conditions will delay the start of building work until they have been satisfied, so it is not clear yet exactly when the bulldozers will start to roll in. When they do it will be fairly obvious, and work will go on for many years.

There is now little if anything more that KHR can do about Didcot West. We have given it our best shots for over eight years, and produced hundreds of pages of argument, but it is now set to happen. We may have helped, amongst other things, to get the Harwell by-pass higher on the agenda since it became clear that development was going to be to the west, and the developers have agreed to put some money towards it, but GWP alone is not rated as justifying a by-pass on its own. Whether it ever materialises means watching many spaces over the next many years – don't hold your breath.

There are of course still other fronts on which to keep at it, such as the further expansion of Didcot proposed for 2016 to 2026, but that's another story.

Tony Hughes, KHR

HOUSING GROWTH IN SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

Your District Councillor, Margaret Turner, is carefully monitoring and attending all relevant meetings to ensure Harwell's best interests are maintained as a result of recent publicity, that you will probably all have read, in the local press.

It appears that South Oxfordshire District Council are seriously considering allowing even more development at Didcot. 3,200 units are already proposed for Great Western Park, a further 4,000 units are proposed between 2016 and 2026, and now a further 1,500 is suggested. S.O.D.C. are offering these additional 1,500 units on the understanding that Government support local infrastructure, including the Harwell by-pass.

It is the Parish Council's position that we have been advised that a by-pass would be created as a result of Great Western Park, and to now read in the newspapers that it could be as far away as 20 years hence or more, is unacceptable.

Your Parish Council has started serious dialogue with the County Council and in particular with Councillor David Robertson (the Councillor responsible for transportation).

KEEPING PATHWAYS AND HEDGEROWS CLEAR

The month of June saw a lot of hedges and tress grow at an alarming rate following the rain during May. Some footpaths and pavements around the village now have obstructions where healthy plants and bushes from within private gardens have overgrown into these public rights of way.

In order to remain friendly with your neighbours and parishioners, the Parish Council do hope that conscientious residents will respect their responsibilities and keep these plants trimmed back. Thank you.

From our MP – Mr Ed Vaizey

By the time you read this, Parliament will have risen for its long summer recess. Parliament broke up on July 25th and will not sit again until October 9th. During the summer recess, I intend to work as normal in my office in the House of Commons and in the constituency. It's a chance to get to grips with some of my more difficult constituency cases, to review all my files to see what more needs to be done on a variety of issues, and to get out and about in the constituency. I will also have the opportunity to read many of the reports that have piled up on my desk. In particular, I will be doing a lot of work on global poverty, which is the policy area that I have been asked to work on by David Cameron.

Most recently in the Commons, I have participated in two debates on the future of the BBC. I canvassed the opinion of my constituents via an excellent website called hearfromyourmp.com, which allows constituents to sign up and see what I am doing in the House of Commons. Everyone I heard from was a huge fan of the BBC, and many said they would be happy to pay more for their licence fee! The debate on the BBC is a very important one. The licence fee is set to rise to £180, and many people now watch a huge range of channels because of the advent of digital television. My particular concern with the BBC is the huge range of activities it now undertakes. There are a number of local employers, such as RM, Harcourt Education and OUP, who now have to compete, on unfair terms, with the BBC in the area of educational software, and this affects many of my constituents. I am hoping to meet the Director General of the BBC to discuss this in the near future.

Local residents will be concerned as the development in Great Western Park draws ever nearer. The council has done well to get a lot of money out of the developers, far more than was expected. But this does not necessarily help Harwell residents, and I will continue to press the Government and the council on the issue of the Harwell by-pass, which is essential to ensure that Harwell does not become used as a rat run. On a lighter note, I had a wonderful lunch at the home of Reg and Dee Waite, who put on a lovely spread for local Harwell Conservatives.

The main issue that has dominated local headlines has been the future of local health services. Representatives from all the three main parties have been campaigning on this issue. In particular, we all want to keep our community hospitals, but we also want to prevent cuts to other services. The case is pretty unarguable. Oxfordshire receives the lowest funding per head in the country, and the John Radcliffe is the most efficient hospital for its size in the country. I have been reassured that the cuts will not effect the quality of service, but it will certainly lead to delays in operations, which is a matter of great concern. The mayors of all our towns have collected petitions, as have most of the MPs in the County. By the time you read this, we will have presented petitions to the local Primary Care Trust, the Prime Minister and Parliament.

A lack of an effective transport system is an issue that could have a huge impact on the future of our local economy. I receive many letters from businesses who are concerned about the huge pressure they face from a creaking road network. I also attended a public meeting to look at ways of re-opening Wantage Road station, which faces some pretty difficult obstacles. I managed to speak in the final debate before the Commons rose from the Whitsun recess to draw these problems to the Government's attention. The point I wanted to get across was that, as we are one of the most economically important areas of the country, the Government cannot simply leave us on our own to sort these issues out. It must have a strategy and buy in to it.

I will be taking my holidays early this year, as my wife is expecting our first child. Surgeries resume in September, starting on 1st September at Didcot. All surgery dates can be found on my website, vaizey.com, or on parish notice boards

I can also be contacted at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, vaizeye@parliament.uk or 0107 219 6350

Planning Applications

New Applications have been received as follows:

HAR/10567/3 – Erection of single storey front & rear extensions at Brookside, School Lane.

HAR/9501/1 – Erection of a side elevation to form a bay window, erection of a car port at 32 Westfield.

HAR/11191/1 - Erection of a 2 storey side extension at 1 Brook Farm Cottages, The Cleave

HAR/9868/9-LB &

HAR/9868/8 - New raised roof over ground floor kitchen & 1st floor bathroom. Remove ceiling in the tower stair to give headroom, replicate handrails & balusters to staircase at Wellshead House, Wellshead Lane.

HAR/16094/1 - Proposed 1st floor extension & front porch at Razmak, Abingdon Road, Rowstock.

HAR/11483/4 - Erection of a detached bungalow with parking & access via Barrow Lane at The Cottage, Townsend.

HAR/3542/2 - Single storey extension & new pitched roof over existing flat roof at 25 Orchard Way.

HAR/5236/5 - Replace existing window with French doors connecting to kitchen to patio at Close Barn, Townsend.

HAR/4515/4 - Conversion of single garage into a reception room. Erection of new single garage at rear at 9 Tyrrells Close.

HAR/4402/1 - Erection of 2 storey side extension integrated with front entrance porch at 18 Orchard Way.

The Council had no objections to these applications, and asked that neighbours' comments be taken into consideration by the Planning Department. Since the Council meeting on 11th July one letter of objection has been received in respect of HAR/4402/1 – Erection of 2 storey side extension at 18 Orchard Way/

Permissions have been received as follows:

HAR/19538 – Single storey rear kitchen extension at Amberley, Wantage Road.

HAR/19529 – Demolition of extension & removal of existing roof. Erection of single storey rear extension with 2 bedrooms in roof space at 1 Orchard Way.

HAR/1045/7 – Renewal of application HAR/1045/6 for conversion of garage to granny annexe, erection of single garage at The Old Chequers, Wantage Road.

HAR/6563/3 – Erection of single storey front extension at 36 The Croft.

HAR/18997/1 – Pitched roof to garage approved under application HAR/18997 at Cheslyn Haye. The Winnaway.

HAR/5841/13-LB – Replacement of windows and external doors, internal alterations, at The Old Brewery, High Street.

HAR/11190/1 – Erection of a 2 storey side extension at 1 Brook Farm Cottages, The Cleave.

One application has been withdrawn, as follows:

HAR/10567/2 – Raising roof pitch of annexe roof to match extension. Erection of front single storey extension and conversion of 1st floor extension for accommodation at Brookside, School Lane.

A further letter has been received from English Heritage, regarding the Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, indicating that English Heritage are prepared to defer to the VOWHDC Planning Department in this matter.

Village Hall Fundraising Shows

Friday 27th October

3.00pm (Half Term)

Hell and High Water –

presented by

Strangeface Theatre Co.

For Ages 8 – 108!

_____o000_____

Saturday 23rd December – 4pm

The Fire Bird

presented by

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Co.

For a family audience 6+

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February 2007

½ term – to be confirmed

Theatre of Widdershins

(Puppet Show for children)

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Saturday 24th March 2007 – 3.00pm

The Happy Prince

presented by

Cornelius & Jones

For a family audience 5+

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Saturday 14th April 2007 – 7.30pm

The Falling Sky

presented by

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Co.

Suitable for adults and young people 12+

Harwell Village Hall **Safari Supper**

In order to raise funds we are proposing to hold a Safari Supper on Saturday 7th October. The form of these events, for those of you who are not already familiar with them, is that groups of 8 people have their starter course at one house and their main dish at another. Then everybody goes to the Village hall for their pudding and coffee. You don't have to be a host or provide a pudding to take part, but of course we shall be hoping to hear from some people who are willing to do so. In particular we welcome offers from regular participants who have not hosted on previous occasions.

Scarcely a day goes by without someone in the village needing the use of either the Village Hall or the Freeman Hall. This year we have experienced unprecedented levels of vandalism and our need for funds to keep the hall maintained and viable is consequently greater than ever. By taking part in the Safari Supper you can support us and have a thoroughly enjoyable evening into the bargain.

Please put the date in your diary now. You can book a place by calling Ann or myself on 832866 or e-mailing <colin.lamont@oxfordshire.gov.uk>.

Colin Lamont (Chairman)

GARDENING CLUB

Our first summer evening garden visit in **June** was a trip to Folly Farm at Sulhampstead between Reading and Newbury. Approximately fifty members were shown around the large gardens which were originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll and are now beautifully maintained by Desmond and Lady Pitcher, who live in the house, designed by Lutyens.

All the formal pools are gravity fed from the Kennet and Avon Canal which flows through Sulhampstead. Members enjoyed a lovely evening walk through the sunken rose garden, laburnum walk, vegetable gardens and saw many old specimen trees. The evening was rounded off with a tour of the tropical greenhouses

The destination of the July garden visit was to Chieveley Manor which is the home of Mr and Mrs. C J Spence. It is situated near the church at Chieveley and overlooks a paddock with horses. It was a delightful evening and members were made very welcome with a glass of wine. There were some unusual perennials in the borders with some lovely clematis climbing through trees, a specimen tulip tree and many other old trees.

Harwell Primary School

The school is delighted that they have raised the money to completely enclose their swimming pool, which will now make it useable for most of the year and also open up possibilities for other groups from the community to make use of it at reasonable rates. Bookings will be taken in September for organised groups who would like to hire the pool for sessions during the day or out of school time. A lifesaver must be available for every swimming activity and the school is able to provide a list if your group does not have anyone qualified. Life saving courses can also be arranged.

The pool is a very gentle one with quite easy access and is only 1 metre deep at its deepest. It is obviously suitable for children but could also appeal to a group of more mature swimmers who don't enjoy wave machines and lots of noise. It is also a very good pool for those who have not yet learned to swim and the school also holds a list of swimming teachers, who might be available for private lessons.

Please contact the school on 835337 if you would like to see the pool or make a booking.

Harwell School Summer Playscheme

For all children of Harwell School

Monday 7th August – Friday 18th August

Weekday mornings 10.00 – 12.30 am

If you have not yet registered your child you can do so on the first day that they attend.

Further details from the Playscheme Supervisor Janice Markey Tel 832802.

Harwell Feast Committee

Following a successful Harwell Feast Day in May the Committee now invite applications for funding which should be sent in writing to the Chairman, Janice Markey, 17 Didcot Road, Harwell.

Deadline for applications 31st August, for consideration at our September meeting.

Little Pippins Pre-school

We come to the end of another school year. These are a few of the things that we have been up this term.

- We had a wonderful time at the Harwell Feast as I'm sure you all did as well. Pippins float came joint third which we were very proud of.
- On Saturday 24th June we had an open day which was very successful, lots of people popped in for a visit and a look around, we had photos out, activities to play with and the weather was very hot!!!
- A few days later on Thursday 29th June we went on our annual summer outing, this year we went to Buckleberry Farm near Newbury. There was a coach load of us and we had a super time. Well worth a visit!
- We would like to thank Harwell School for letting us use their swimming pool this term. The children have enjoyed swimming and this has increased their confidence in the water.
- On Tuesday 11th July we took our teddy bears up to the recreation ground and had a wonderful picnic, I think the teddies enjoyed themselves, I know the children did!!!
- Unfortunately due to lack of interest Pippins will not be running a Summer Playscheme this year, as mentioned in May's Harwell News. Lets hope we get more interest next year.
- We are crossing our fingers that the weather will hold out for our Annual Sports Day which this year is on Friday 21st July (last day of term). This is both a happy day and a sad day, happy because everyone is enjoying themselves, sad because this is the day we say farewell to all our children who are off to 'big school' or other settings in September. We wish them all the best in their next step.
- We are very sad to be losing a member of staff at the end of this term, Laura Andrews is leaving us as she is expecting her baby end of August/beginning September, we send Laura, Georgia and her partner Ian our best wishes.

- Well that's all the news for this term. All our staff would like to wish you all a very happy summer holidays and to remind you that **Term 1 starts on Tuesday 5th September.**

We have some spaces available from September this year so please do come and see us.

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 or visit our website <http://home.btconnect.com/harwell>

Regards Nicky Mercer Pre-school Supervisor

We would like to thank everyone in the village who has supported our fundraising efforts:

- At the Harwell Feast where we had a raffle, tombola and children's games.
- To those who bought cakes from our stall outside Bob's the Butchers or who had their car washed at the village hall.
- To all who enjoyed our Summer Ball.

Many, many thanks

Jane Moreton, Chair

Do you have a spare computer?

The children at Little Pippins need a computer on which to play educational games, write their names etc. If you have a computer in good working condition (less than 5 years old) that you would be willing to donate to the pre-school children at Little Pippins, we would be really grateful.

Please e-mail tony@dmoretton.fsnet.co.uk or mention to any mum who you know is connected with Little Pippins and we will arrange to collect it from you.



**Little Pippins Pre-School
New Building Fund**

Half-Term Treasure Hunt: Results

A very big thank you to all the house-holders who displayed a letter for us in the May half-term. Well done to all those who braved the elements to work out that the correct answer to the anagram was 'The Cherry Orchards'. First out of the hat were the Pickles family, who won a book token. Well done to Peter and Zoe Killingback, Joe, Laura, Oli, Rosie and Clare Passau and Adam and Gemma Tankard, who all also worked out the correct answer. Plus an honourable mention to Cameron and Rosie Fishburn, who made an excellent guess based on the letters they collected. Altogether we raised £50 for Little Pippins Pre-School's New Building Fund.

Village Quiz

Saturday 25th November

More details later

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Sunday 17th September – 7.30pm
Canterbury Tales

Following the success of our Talking Heads tour, the Abingdon Touring Theatre Company is delighted to be returning to Harwell Village Hall on Sunday 17th September with our next production, Canterbury Tales. This modern, distinctly non-academic adaptation will appeal to Chaucer experts and novices alike and will be a lively and entertaining evening. Tickets cost £7.50/£6.50, and are now available from Bobs or The Oxford Playhouse (01865 305305). The performance will begin at 8pm (doors open at 7.15pm).

Please note that this production is unsuitable for young children or the easily offended.

Mobile Library

**The Mobile Library will be outside the Harwell Village Hall between 9.15 – 9.45am on alternative Wednesdays 9th and 23rd August and 6th and 20th September.
 Harwell Business Park Kids Unlimited 9.55- 10.10am**

“ODD BITS “

A REMINDER THAT

All dogs should be kept on leads when walking on public roads and footpaths

 The Thames Valley Police Museum in Sulhamstead is having a family open day on Saturday 12th August between 10am – 4pm. More information should be available on the website:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk/news_info/info/museum/index.htm

The Uffington Show

Sunday 27th/Monday 28th August.

Admission: Adults £7.50 OAPs and Children £4

Best Kept Village – continued

One of (only two) minor concerns expressed by the judges, was “flyposting”. It would be helpful if those who put up the postings, remove them after the event.



FUN CLUB NEWS

Fun Club is the village baby and toddler group. We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings 9.30-11.30am. 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 regularly.

We will be open throughout the summer holidays this year.

In addition to the usual variety of toys and free play areas, we will be having a very active craft focus each week in the summer:

- 25 July – “handy animals”
- 15 Aug – “Pottering About”
- 1 Aug – “flower pots”
- 22 Aug – “plates of fun”
- 8 Aug – “fish & dough”
- 29 Aug – “octopus” and “fairies”

The summer holiday sessions are restricted to Fun Club-aged children i.e. 0-5 years (i.e. including school reception class children). So, sorry, but no 6+ year olds.

The activity on 15 Aug will be run by Harwell’s new mobile paint-your-own pottery company called “Pottering About”. Katy Gorman and Robyn Margetts will be pottering along with everything the children need to produce their very own hand-painted masterpieces. See www.potteringabout.co.uk or tel 07710 347 920 for more info.

The cost per summer holiday session is just £1 per family. The cost of refreshments and craft activities **is included** e.g. at the Pottering About session, there is no further charge for the pottery items that the children decorate and take home.

Our next **Nearly New Sale** of baby/toddler/pre-school clothes, books, toys & equipment will be in the village hall on **Saturday 11 Nov** 10am-12pm. All the tables for sellers at this sale have already been reserved (plus there is a waiting list) but we can still sell items on 1/3rd commission for you. This year we are also planning to hold a **Really New Sale** at the same time in the Freeman Hall. This will be for commercial stallholders of child-related new products e.g. books, clothes, toys, etc. If you can think of any suitable trader who might be interested in having a stall, please contact Jane on 22 10 30 or at woolleydavid02@hotmail.com.

Our Nearly New sales in 2007 will be on 12 May 07 and 3 November 07, so if anyone else can think that far ahead, let us know if you would like a table for then!

Request for help – The Second World War Experience Centre

Matthew Smaldon, is a volunteer recorder for The Second World War Experience Centre, based in Leeds. He is currently trying to locate people in Oxfordshire who would like to share their recollections of the war, for inclusion in The Centre's archive. The Centre is not looking for dramatic tales of glory – they are looking for stories from all walks of life, including servicemen and women, but also from civilians, children, factory workers, or anyone who has memories from that time.

He meets with people, and tape record their recollections in an informal interview. If the interviewee (or their relations) requests a copy of the tape, this is always made available.

The recording is sent to the Centre for transcribing and inclusion in the archive, which is accessible by authors working on Second World War books, by TV researchers, by Post-Graduate and Undergraduate researchers, and is also used by veterans groups and historical societies. It is currently developing educational modules for use by schools, and has recently provided source material for the Scottish Holocaust Memorial Exhibition in Edinburgh.

The Centre is a registered museum and charity, and exists to document the lives of men and women who lived through the 1939-1945 years. More than seven thousand people have their younger years covered in the Centre by original documents, memorabilia and recorded memories. It's website can be found at <http://www.war-experience.org>.

Anybody interested in sharing their recollections of their wartime experiences should get in touch directly with Matthew Smaldon at the address below.

Matthew Smaldon
4 St Edmunds Lane
Abingdon
OX14 5BU
Tel: 01235 526734 (please leave a message if I am not there)
matthew.smaldon@googlemail.com

KIDNEY RESEARCH COLLECTION IN KINGS LANE RAISED £45 – Many thanks Bob Barnard

Robin Hood Panto

There are 4 DVD's and 2 photo montages left if anyone would like them. All at £5 each.
Contact Janice Markey 832802

Any Old Video?

Does anyone have any video taken at the Harwell Feast in 1997 and 1998? *The Bagg's Tree Buskers* will be 10 next year, and it would be interesting to have some footage of our first performances. Please contact Tony Hughes on 835301 or e-mail Antony.Hughes1@btinternet.com if you have anything to offer.

We could also accommodate another regular clarinet or saxophone player, so if you feel willing and able to play our kind of music get in touch.

NOTE TO ADVERTISERS

The Parish Council has decided that, due to the increase in postage charges to be imposed later this year, a copy of the Harwell News will no longer be sent automatically to advertisers. If a copy is required, advertisers should request one.

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 26th September 2006**. 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

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