

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 142– February 2007

HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL District Councillor's Report

At the Parish Council meeting on 9th January, Mrs Turner (District Councillor, VoWHDC) reported that recent planning meetings had been held by SODC and VoWHDC Councils to discuss future development at Didcot in the period 2016 to 2026, and the response to the Examination in Public (EiP) in February. The Planning Committees decided that the main constraints to development included the proposed use of Grade 1 and 2 land, infilling between villages, flood risks and the poor state of the existing infrastructure. The meetings were very poorly advertised consequently a number of Parish Councils were unaware of them. The Deputy Director of Planning, VoWHDC has been asked to write too Parish Councils explaining the lack of communication. (see also news from KHR page 2)

Budget Review and Precept for 2007/8

Last year the precept raised sufficient income to meet the cost of a new mower and reserve £2,500 towards the cost of pavilion shower replacement. Again this year, in addition to general expenditure covered by the precept, the Council needs to raise funds for specific projects; in particular a further £2500 to cover the balance for shower replacement and a reserve of £1,500 towards a new van.

In the circumstances the precept for 2007/08 has been increased by 5% to £37,360; this includes £4,000 as a one-off payment this year to cover the projects mentioned above. On a Band D property, this will represent an increase from £35 to just less than £37 per annum.

Winnaway Kennels

The noise from the kennels continues to provoke complaints from residents. VoWHDC officials had confirmed it has given the owners until the end of January to make further improvements before legal action may be instigated.

Planning Matters

4 permissions have been received in respect of;

HAR/18254/1 - Erection of 15m high monopole & associated equipment cabinets & compound at Telecom Site, Princes Manor Farm for T-Mobile UK Ltd.

HAR/393/3 - Dismantle existing single storey outbuilding & replace with new pre-fabricated building at Englefield, Broadway.

HAR/19723/2 - 1st floor extension over existing ground floor kitchen to form new bedroom & single storey side extension at 28 The Park.

HAR/10325/1 - Erection of rear conservatory at 4 Chilbrook

6 new Applications have been received as follows;

HAR/11483/5 - Erection of detached bungalow with associated access & parking at The Cottage, Townsend.

HAR/16731/2 - Additional information received in the proposal to demolish 2 houses, squash courts & tennis courts to erect a new hotel and spa at land north & south of Curie Avenue for Four Pillar Hotels / UKAEA.

Although no objection was made to the original application, an objection has now been made to the loss of sports facilities at this site; and a request that the views of the sports clubs be taken into consideration. Objections have been made by the Squash Club and the Tennis Club.

HAR/12835/4-LB - Removal of asbestos. Repairs to plaster finishes & existing timber wall & installation of new timber stud wall at Close Cottage, Townsend.

The Council had no objections to these applications, but asked that neighbours' comments be borne in mind when they are considered.

HAR/19160/2 & HAR/19160/3-LB –

Reinstatement of collapsed cottage with rear extensions to form a single dwelling at Thatched Cottage, Reading Road.

The Council objected to this proposal as not enough consideration has been given to the design of the intended property or to the safety of the adjoining properties and the earth bank at the rear.

Notice has been received of intended work to trees, to which VOWHDC has no objections. Routine pruning to 2 trees at The Studio, High Street.

1 refusal has been received in respect of:

HAR/5721/1 - Erection of new dwelling & garage at The Orchard, Wantage Road.

News from *Keep Harwell Rural*

Last November some of you went to the exhibition about Didcot Housing held in the Village Hall. The question was where around Didcot would the next 3,000 houses planned for Didcot go, if they are built as proposed in the Government's draft South East Plan for 2016 to 2026.

Just before Christmas the outcome of this exercise was put to SODC and just after Christmas to VWHDC. The Executives of both Councils had before them a consultant's report on the issue, but there had been little or no communication of the results, even to Parish Councils, so any representations had to be made very much at the last minute. The object of the exercise was to arrive at a division of the housing numbers between the two Councils, as required for the South East Plan. In the event SODC and VWHDC decided to take 1,500 houses each. VWHDC also agreed to take 750 of the additional 1,500 houses that SODC has proposed in its bid to obtain infrastructure funds under the Government's *Growth Points* Initiative. The '*Growth Points*' houses are to be built by 2016 rather than 2026, so would be on the same timescale as Great Western Park.

The housing numbers accepted by VWHDC would mean more development to the west of Didcot, most of it in Harwell Parish. The consultant's report recognised that the existing road infrastructure could not cope, and put forward extra links including a new road from the A417 to the A4130 (including a by-pass to Harwell) and the now controversial road between Didcot and the Hagbournes. It skated over the crucial need for an alternative to the A34 for traffic going north from the Didcot area.

Will this all happen? Only if the Inspectors at the SE Plan Examination in Public confirm that Didcot should be a location for further development. The relevant session of the EIP is at Reading on 28th February. The Western Villages Alliance – the Parish Councils of Harwell, the Hagbournes, Chilton and Sutton Courtenay, together with KHR - will be making the case that Didcot is not a suitable location and that a more sustainable solution to providing extra housing in Central Oxfordshire would be to do as Oxford Town Council wants and allow development at Oxford. This view is shared by Didcot Town Council. The Inspectors' conclusions will be known later this year. If anyone would like to read the statement submitted by WVA it will be on the website www.eipsoutheast.co.uk or ask by e-mail to antony.hughes1@btinternet.com.

From our MP – Mr Ed Vaizey - As you read this, with any luck I will be shivering cold and sleeping outside. Along with a Labour and Tory MP and two Lib Dems, I am going on a six-day trek across the Arctic, accompanied only by husky dogs. Between us we hope to raise £30,000 for various local and national charities.

For my part, I will be raising money for Crimestoppers and the Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Crimestoppers is a completely independent charity, which plays a crucial role in solving a great many serious crimes. With some of its Government funding under threat, it is more important than ever to raise money for it. It is also vital to keep it independent, as a lot of the people who ring Crimestoppers with information are people who do not want to talk to the Police.

The Oxfordshire Community Foundation is the local charity I have decided to support. With so many deserving causes in the constituency, it seemed sensible to back a charity that gives to other local charities and groups all across the area. I already give an annual sum and have raised some other money.

If you would like to support my trek, you can donate to me at www.justgiving.com/edvaizey, and remember that the Government adds an extra 20 per cent in Gift Aid.

Thanks go to local companies that have sponsored me - Blackwells, Elsevier, Williams Formula One, Milton Park, Grainger Trust, RM and Oxford Instruments.

On local matters, by the far the biggest issue of the new year has been the train chaos the new First Great Western timetable is causing in Didcot. The number of commuter trains has been slashed and the large fast trains have been replaced by slower and smaller models. All at the same time as fares continue to rise. Along with other MPs in the region I have met the train bosses to demand some answers. Yet instead of promising to go back to the old timetable they passed the buck, made excuses and generally offered no crumbs of comfort to suffering commuters. I have now called for an urgent meeting with the Transport Secretary to try and find a solution to this dire situation.

As some of you may know I was appointed Shadow Culture spokesman for the Conservatives towards the end of last year. This means that, in addition to my constituency duties, I speak for the Conservatives on a huge range of issues. These include the BBC, broadcasting in general, digital switchover, museums and galleries, libraries, music, theatre and film.

One of the reasons I love representing Wantage & Didcot is that so much that happens locally is relevant to the national debate, be it science or business or many other issues. The arts are no different. We have a thriving arts scene, and this year, 2007, when we celebrate Oxfordshire's millennium, the arts will be to the fore. Faringdon and Wantage both have hugely successful art festivals; Wantage and Wallingford have great museums; Wallingford has two great music festivals; Didcot will be getting its very own arts centre and cinema shortly. We have many local artists and highly successful brass bands and choirs. I have only scratched the surface here, which just goes to show how much is going on.

It is not all rosy of course – the closure of the Wantage cinema is a reminder that cultural resources are always under threat. I would be very happy to hear from anyone who has something to say about the arts or broadcasting, and how they think Government policy can develop.

I can be contacted at any time at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, 0207 219 6350 or vaizey@parliament.uk. Up to date news can be found at www.vaizey.com from which you can also go to my blog.

For and on behalf of GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development)

GARD is a group set up to oppose the building of the Steventon Reservoir in a logical non political manner employing the use of technically sound reasoning whilst showing that there are less expensive, less damaging and more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Early January has seen Thames Water start Phase 2 of the consultation process even though the objectives for Phase 1 have not been met.

GARD has started its public campaign with a tent just outside Steventon Village hall on the first 2 days of the Thames Water Exhibition. We had many visitors who raised concerns about what Thames Water were saying and indeed were NOT saying.

We understand how people might feel from the style of presentations made by Thames Water to the public why some people might feel the Reservoir is a "Done deal". It is not. We can all make a difference.

GARD would like to remind all that will be affected by the reservoir, should it go ahead, of the meeting at Steventon Village Hall at 7.30pm on 23rd February. At this meeting we would particularly welcome young people to join us in our efforts to persuade the authorities of how inappropriate this proposed reservoir really is. It is this age group that will bear the burden of its consequences into the future.

Carole Hooper

HARWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school is in need of a second hand **ELECTRIC OVEN**. If anyone is thinking of replacing their old cooker the school would be very grateful if it could be donated. Please contact Harwell School - Tel 835337 if you can help.

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 this 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 can find anything.

FOUND IN WELLSHEAD, HARWELL

Found in road in Wellshead on Tuesday 12th December, 2006 a brand new lady's jacket, still has shop label attached. If you lost/dropped this jacket please telephone 01235 835397 to identify.

Bytes Coffee Shop

Home Farm Trust Milton Heights

Now doing Sunday Lunches

First Sunday every month
starting **4th March**

£9.50 2-courses
£12.50 3-courses

All home cooked - Bring Own Wine
Children catered for.

To Book Tel: 01235 827606

Harwell Scout Group & Explorers – over 100 young people from age 6 to 18 together with their leaders – who plan an exciting programme to mark 2007, the Centenary Year of Scouting.

"The Group itself is over 50 years old and enjoys widespread support from Harwell and beyond", says their Group Scout Leader Brian Zimmerman (pictured centre row, extreme left). "Given the anniversary we are celebrating, we are determined our programme throughout this special year will be dynamic for both our members and the wider community".

For more information about the public events planned, including a Barn Dance in May, or to enquire about becoming involved in Harwell Scouts, please call 01235 83 42 95 or lizroberts.wordpower@btinternet.com

Harwell Scouts 100 Club

The last draw in this 100 Club year (not at all the same thing as a calendar year!) is due in February, after which we would be pleased to start selling those numbers all over again. This is how it works – pick any number(s) between 1 and 100, pay us £10 per number and that number is entered into the monthly draw. (This takes place at Committee meetings and is generated by computer.) Numbers are re-entered every month so there is an unlimited opportunity to win the first prize of £25, second £15 or third, £10.

** If you would like to re-book your existing lucky number – or buy for the first time – for the ten draws commencing mid-April 07 please call Nigel Hartley on 82 14 42 or speak to any of the Committee: Chris Warwick, Penny Barwell, Nigel Hartley, Celina Sykes, Debbie Greenfield or Liz Roberts**

In the meantime, we say thank you to everyone who bought for the last 100 Club year and congratulations to the following families who, in the course of helping us with our fundraising by buying tickets, bagged themselves 100 Club prizes during the last 9 draws:

Bowmans, Gaspar, Gledhills, Greenfields, Greatbanks, Hughes, Killingbacks (multiple times!), Lawrences, Roberts, Slaters, Storeys, Sykes, Tankards, Warwicks, Woolleys and Zimmermans.

Liz Roberts Tel: 83 42 95

PARISH ELECTIONS

Parish elections are in May, providing an opportunity for anyone to serve on the PC. Anyone interested can get more information from the Elections Office, Vale of White Horse District Council, Abbey House, Abingdon OX14 3JE, tel 01235 540310.

Hitching 1,600 miles for charity – please help to raise money for children in Africa

Hitchhiking to Morocco may not seem like the most sensible way to spend your Easter, but this year that's exactly what's in store for me, Judith Hartley. Rain or shine, come 2nd April, I, along with a fellow student from Manchester University, will be setting off from Harwell village on a journey which could take anywhere between a couple of days and couple of weeks, all in the name of Link Community Development (registered charity no. 1048007), a charity which is dedicated to improving the education of under-privileged children in Ghana, Malawi, South Africa and Uganda. The Morocco Hitch is LCD's largest fundraising event, and as such it relies on the generosity of people who care in order to continue with its life-changing work in Africa, affecting over 900 schools and half a million children. Your sponsorship really does make a difference. A donation of just £10 can buy a child a proper desk instead of just a stone to lean on; £20 can pay for literacy training for two teachers, whilst £50 can pay for HIV/AIDS education sessions for five teachers. Nearly three million children have been orphaned by AIDS in these four countries alone, so you can imagine how much of an impact your donation has when education remains one of the most powerful ways to fight this disease. Through better education, LCD aims to lift these children out of poverty so that they have a chance to change their future. And closer to home, your sponsorship and support would mean a huge amount to me too, as I face my own personal challenge. So please visit www.justgiving.com/moroccochallenge to sponsor me today, however much or little you feel you can give. Alternatively cheques made payable to Link Community Development (with your full name and address on the back) can be sent to Millennium House, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0ER. If you would like to find out more about Link Community Development, please visit www.lcd.org.uk. Thank you for your support, and look out for oddly-dressed hitchhikers with banners throughout the Easter period – no doubt we could use a lift!

(Judith Hartley has lived in the Village for the last 12 years and is a 2nd year student at Manchester University).

The Geology of Harwell Parish: 1 the solid stuff

You probably know a bit about the local geology - that the Ridgeway is chalk, that in northwest Oxfordshire there is limestone, and Harwell is on greensand, but how did it all come about?

If you were to drill down into the ground you would eventually come to red sandstone. This dates from when Oxfordshire was part of a desert in Pangea, the super-continent, about 500 million years ago (My), and 60° south of the equator! England moved most of the way north to where we are now over the following 100 million years; it adds up to a large distance but was in fact only about 4cm per year.

Nothing of the following periods remains visible in Oxfordshire until one gets to the Jurassic period, starting about 200 My ago. The limestone from the Jurassic is visible in north Oxfordshire, but in Harwell and the rest of the south of the county more recent layers lie on top. This is because later earth movements tilted the layers so they slope down from northwest to southeast at about 1° from the horizontal, and then erosion in more recent times sliced off the top.

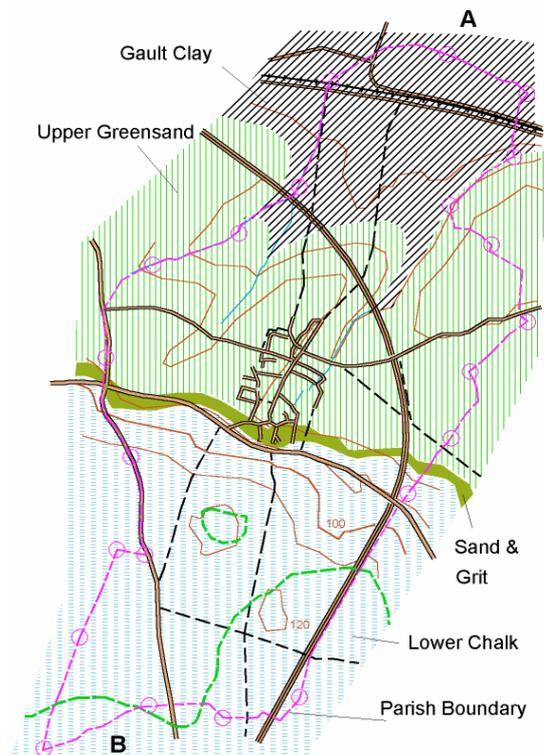
The period when what is visible around Harwell was being formed is known as the Cretaceous, which lasted from 145 My to 65 My ago. The sands and clays were formed in seas of different depths, sands close to the river mouths, and clays further away, reached by only the finer particles.

Somewhere about 110 to 100 My ago southern England was under water apart from Cornwall. For a long time fine particles of Gault Clay settled in a band from Wiltshire to Bedfordshire, including this area. This is the earliest level to be found in Harwell, in the north of the Parish. Mostly it is covered by later drift deposits, which will be dealt with in part 2.

Later, while Gault continued to be deposited east of a line from Dunstable to Eastbourne, the mass of high ground over Cornwall supplied sand to the west of the basin and this became the Upper Greensand on which the village sits. It is the greenish mineral glauconite that gives it its name. This layer is up to 60m thick in places but about 20m in thick Harwell.

A continued sea-level rise in the later Cretaceous 100 My and 65 My ago, meant little sand and clay sediment, but deposition of the skeletons of mainly algae but including other sea creatures. Only the lower chalk is found in Harwell Parish and this has a significant clay content, hence its grey colour. It does not contain flint. In contrast the middle and upper layers of chalk are much whiter, and the upper layer, forming the Ridgeway, contains flint.

At the end of the Cretaceous period, pressures from surrounding areas (Africa colliding with Europe) caused gentle folding over much of southern England. The level dipped to the southeast in Oxfordshire and into what is known as the London basin. Later erosion sliced through the layers, so the chalk forming the Ridgeway extends southwest on the surface into Hampshire and Dorset, but to the southeast dips under London and comes up as the North Downs.



A Section through Harwell

There is a bulge to the north in the eroded layers of chalk in the Hendred to Harwell area altering the general contours. So the steepest slope in Harwell is NE-SW rather than the more general NW-SE.

Let us follow a line roughly from north to south through the Parish on the line of the High Street; from A to B the map, and shown below with North at the right-hand side. Starting at the boundary with Sutton Courtenay the land is about 50 m above sea level; the underlying material is Gault clay, but there is a shallow layer of drifted material on top.

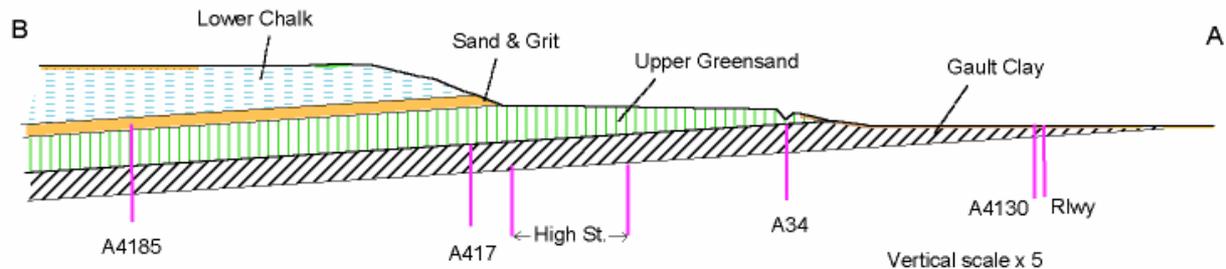
Walking south, we come to a rise just before we reach the A34, where the Upper Greensand starts. The High Street is fairly flat, at a height of 80m, and then the land rises again before the A417 is reached. This is due to a thin layer of sand and grit and then the chalk. By the Reading Road we are onto the Lower Chalk, which extends to the Southern edge of the Parish.

On the 1802 Parish Award map a gravel pit is shown near where the Harwell Site main gate is today. What were they digging? It couldn't have been chalk. And generally one thinks of going **up** when one goes south towards the Ridgeway – but from the top of the Winnaway through Chilton and Compton to the river Pang is downhill all the way!

We hope to have some answers to these questions in part 2 in the April issue; meanwhile further details and suggested reading if you want to know more can be found on the Parish Web site.

Martin Ricketts

Section through Harwell Parish aligned on High Street



Ryder Cheshire Volunteers

Ryder Cheshire Volunteers is a registered charity which finds ways for disabled people to take part in leisure or educational activities. We have a thriving swimming session every Friday from 2-3.30pm at The Wave in Didcot. However, there are more members who would love to swim but are currently unable to do so as they have no allocated volunteer. Could you give 2 hours of your week to help? Members need only minimal supervision in the pool, usually just someone to swim or walk with them, and volunteers are not asked to help with any personal care. All you need is confidence in the water and a friendly personality. We always have a coffee and chat afterwards. All volunteers are included in the social activities calendar too. All expenses are refundable. If you would like to join us, please contact Sam Hall on 07831 486655 or sam.rcv@jdhall.dircon.co.uk for more info.



FUN CLUB NEWS

Fun Club is the village baby and toddler group. We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings in term time 9.30-11.30am. All parents and carers of babies and toddlers (ie 0-5s), as well as mums-to-be, are most welcome. Just to make it clear, we do also welcome men – some dads do actually come regularly. The cost per session is just £1 per family, including refreshments, regardless of the number of children. Your first visit is free.

Our children's **Christmas Party** was a great success and we would like to thank everyone who helped to make it special, especially Father Christmas, who took time out from his hectic schedule to drop by.

We are continuing to do a **craft activity** each week to keep little fingers busy! Coming up are: decorating denim shopping bags, paper plate faces, flag making, "chicken" pictures. If any attendee would like to run a craft activity or has any suggestions for one, please contact Sally on 831 456.

Our **Nearly New Sales** of baby/toddler/pre-school clothes, books, toys & equipment have become an institution and the Nov one was busier than ever (sorry to anyone caught in the traffic jam). We raised such a large sum that we would like to give something back to the community. So we are planning to give a donation to the Little Pippins Help a Village Child scheme and to the new Children's Hospital at the JR.

Our 2007 **Nearly New Sales** will be on Saturday **12 May** and Saturday **3 Nov** 10am-12pm. All the stalls for sellers have been allocated for the May one (and there's a reserve list) but we have 4 stalls left for the Nov one 10am-12pm. We can also sell a small-ish number of items for you on 1/3rd commission. Also, if anyone would like to get in before the public, you can do so by volunteering to help. Contact Jane on 22 10 30 or at woolleydavid02@hotmail.com.

A **health visitor** will be coming to our sessions on Tues **23 Jan** and Tues **13 March**. She is from Didcot Health Centre but you can still speak to her even if you're not registered there (and no need to pay the £1 if you just want to see her).

PRESS RELEASE....8th Abingdon Air & Country Show

Planning is now well underway for the 8th in the series of successful Abingdon Air & Country Shows. Our latest event will take place at Abingdon airfield, Dalton Barracks, Abingdon, Oxfordshire on May 6th 2007. A major feature of the day will be a two and a half hour flying display, hopefully featuring historic aircraft as well participation from the British armed forces. Invitations have also been sent out to overseas air forces in the hope that we can build on previous year's international content.

Ground attractions for all the family are being planned including a wide range of vintage/classic vehicles, live music, static aircraft, a craft marquee and a wide variety of trade and club/society stalls.

Our 2007 event will be officially opened by globe-trotting local aviatrix, Polly Vacher who we hope will also be flying in with her well travelled Piper Dakota aircraft.

Visitors to Abingdon Air & Country Show 2007 will be able to enter the site from 1000hrs.
On the day admission charges will be:-
Adults £8/OAP/Child £5
Under-5s FREE

Discount price tickets will be available in advance from Abingdon Town Council Offices in the Guild Hall, Abingdon, via our web-site www.abingdonfayre.com and by post from 12 Austin Place Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

These tickets will be available from 31st January 2007 at the following rates:-
Adults £7/OAP/Child £3.50
Under-5s FREE

Proceeds from the day will go to the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust...a vital but woefully underfunded asset to the local emergency services.

Little Pippins Pre-school

We welcome Jamie Cockburn, Lucy Holding, Samuel MacQueen, Casey Muldoon, Guy Soane and Chloe Waterfield to our group this term and hope they enjoy their time with us.

We hope you all had a good Christmas and wish you a Happy New year although it seems such a long time ago now!!!

This term has got off to a good start. Term 3 ends on **Friday 9th February**, and we are back for the start of Term 4 on **Monday 19th February**.

Next term we will be having our annual Pancake Races on Shrove Tuesday and our AGM on Monday March 5th. Everyone in the Village who is interested in Little Pippins is invited to attend the AGM. This will be followed by free drinks and nibbles at 8.45 and then at 9pm a half-hour presentation from the Oxford Baby Lab. This promises to be a fascinating talk (see separate details) and we hope as many of you as possible will join us.

Later in the Year we have our major fundraising events - our big raffle at the Harwell Feast (Cake Stall outside Bob the Butcher's) on May 12th and on July 14th our Summer Dance (this year be held jointly with Harwell School). Please put those dates in your diaries. Thank you for your continued support for Little Pippins throughout the village.

The Breakfast club provides before school care for those families who need an early start Monday through to Friday. Places are available to book and also at short notice if needed. Members of staff will escort school-aged children to Harwell Primary if necessary. The cost of each session is £4.

We have a few spaces left for this term in our regular sessions. If you 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 3.00pm and have a look around to see what we have to offer the children.

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 the above number. Alternatively contact **Lorraine Moore on 832713** e-mail littlepippins2004@yahoo.co.uk or visit our website <http://home.btconnect.com/harwell>

Nicky Mercer Pre-school Supervisor

Harwell Church Tower



Our local landmark

**Update on
Harwell Church
Tower**

As readers may remember from the October *Harwell News*, we need to make repairs to the stonework and to replace the lead roof of the church tower – our local landmark that has stood for hundreds of years. From a detailed survey and a tendering exercise we now have a better estimate for the total cost of the project: £60,000 including fees. The Parochial Church Council has already embarked on a number of ways of raising funds and so far the amount raised towards this total is about £12,000. Within this are some early donations, the money raised from the Christmas Bazaar in November (about £1,800) and the sponsored bell-ringing event on Advent Sunday (about £800). Many thanks go to all who have contributed to raising these sums.

By the time you read this we shall have held the Quiz Night on Friday 2nd February in the Village Hall and have launched the main Appeal through a Prayer and Pledges Weekend held on 27th/28th January. Brochures and Pledge forms for the Appeal are available in the church; alternatively, if you wish to make a donation, contact the church book-keeper Elizabeth Gill (tel: 832889). Once we have a better idea of the amount that we are likely to raise locally we shall also start making applications for external grants – grant-awarding bodies will only 'match' what we can contribute ourselves.

Please note future fundraising events and support them if you can:

- The Flower Festival on 21st/22nd April in the church.
- An Operatic Evening on Saturday 7th July on the Rectory lawn.

Tower Appeal mugs and other merchandise will also be available soon.

The church tower is a key part of the heritage of our village. Harwell was officially 1000 years old in 1985, and the church, started in 1190, is a Grade 1 listed building of some antiquity. It is a centrepiece of the whole community as well as being a place of worship, and the tower in particular is literally a beacon when it is lit up with its adorning tree at Christmas.

For more information about Events contact Roz Shipp tel: 863342. For more information about the Tower Appeal in general contact either Tony Hughes tel: 835301 or Tim Roberts tel: 834295.

Tony Hughes

Chairman: St. Matthew's PCC Buildings Committee

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will be outside the Harwell Village Hall between 9.15 – 9.40am on alternative Wednesdays. February 7 and 21; March 7 and 21; April 4 and Harwell Business Park Kids Unlimited 9.50- 10.10am

Village Hall

Saturday 17th February at 3pm

Children's Show

The Theatre of Widdershins

Presents

“The Kings got Donkey Ears”

Tickets £7/£5 concessions
from Bobs

Saturday 24th March – 3pm

Children's Show

“The Happy Prince”

Tickets £7/£5 concessions
From Bobs

Harwell Gardeners' Club

Monday 5th February – 7.30pm Village Hall

A talk by Timothy Walker 'Land of Giants & Volcanoes' (The Pacific States of the USA)
Competition: A Bowl of Hellebores

Monday 5th March

A visit to East Hanney Gardeners' Club
A talk by Janet Cropley
'Plants that should be better known'

Visitors are always welcome to our friendly club
Phone Wendy Sinclair Tel: 835382
Or Janice Markey 832802

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 25th March 2007**. 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

Harwell News website: www.harwellparish.co.uk Webmaster: David Marsh
The Print Unit, Oxfordshire County Council, Osney Lane, Oxford print Harwell News