

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

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Parish Council

Due to there only being five nominations for the eleven seats, there was not an election for the Parish Council in May. Since then the Council has been brought up to 10 members by co-option. The Councillors are:

Keith Beswick	Lime Tree House, High St	835338	Chairman
Dee Boughton-Waite	7, Hengest Gate	861779	
John Fisher	Park Rise, Reading Road	835870	
Don Hayter	Broadway Rise, Broadway	835272	
Stewart Lilly	2, Hengest Gate	832867	
David Marsh	Chapel House, High St.	835430	
Martin Ricketts	16, The Park	835628	
Gary Taylor	1, Wantage Road	07901 677150	
Rod Thomas	4, Westfield	832715	
Frank Treml	3, Drewitts Corner	820429	

The Clerk continues to be Mrs. Stephanie Taylor, who can be contacted on 820006 where messages can be left, in writing to 1, Wantage Road, OX11 0LJ, or by email to accounts@harwellparish.co.uk. Office hours are Monday to Wednesday, 9 to 11am.

Long-serving Councillors retire

Seven Parish Councillors did not seek re-election or co-option. Jim Mulford served a total of 18 years, Anne Fisher and Margaret Turner 16 years, and June Blissett 12 years, the last 4 as Chairman. Mike Sedwards and Pat Staples served just over 4 years, having been co-opted towards the end of the previous term.

Meeting Reports

At the April Meeting, the last of the old Council, Dr Delfosse and Mr. East gave an update on the proposed new changing facilities for the Recreation Ground. Plans are under discussion, and it was proposed that the new building would be run by a legally bound consortium. At present those concerned were looking for start-up funding of about £1500. Later in the meeting, under Financial Matters, it was agreed to donate £500 towards these preliminary expenses. It was expected that a Parish Meeting would be held when the plans have been finalised.

Detailed planning matters considered at Parish Council meetings are listed separately. Mrs. Margaret Turner, in her District Councillor's report, said that the developers of Great Western Park had been granted a delay of 7 months in the Public Enquiry into the Great Western Park scheme, to allow more time for negotiation with the District Councils over the plan.

The Adventure Play Area refurbishment has now been completed at a cost of approximately £19,000. Grants were obtained to the value of £15,500 from UKAEA, Awards for All, and WREN, for which the Council is very grateful.

At the May meeting, the retiring Chairman, Mrs. June

Blissett, opened the meeting as it was her duty to oversee the election of the new Chairman. Dr Keith Beswick was nominated by Mr. Stuart Lilly and seconded by Mr. Don Hayter. He accepted nomination and was elected unanimously. Dr Beswick then took the Chair, thanking Mrs. Blissett for her hard work as previous Chairman. Mr. Lilly was elected Vice-Chairman.

It was decided not to set up the two main Committees, one on Lands & Recreation Ground and the other on Environment and Planning, until the following meeting, by which time it was expected that co-option of further Councillors would have taken place.

During Any Other Business, the Chairman allowed Mr. Treml, who was not then yet a Councillor to express his concern about teenagers congregating at Drewitt's Corner, citing a recent incident when the police had been called. The general view was that more regular visits by the police might help with the problem.

Recycling & Waste Collections

It was noted at the April PC meeting that some people put out their bins days before the rubbish collection. Parishioners are reminded to check the collection date following Bank Holidays. Details have been sent with Council Tax information and will also usually be found in the newsletter and the Vale website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk. Collections are delayed by 1 day for each holiday then recover a day each following Saturday.

New website for Village Organisations

The Parish Council's Webmaster, Mr. David Marsh, has set up Harwellvillage.info to provide web space to organisations, clubs and societies in the village of Harwell. You can now have space for your own web site and an email address, for example club@harwellvillage.info.

For more information please visit www.harwellvillage.info.

District Election Result
Many thanks to all who turned out to Vote
Your votes elected

Margaret Turner and Reg Waite
as **District Councillors** for the Harwell Ward.

The voting was as follows:

Margaret Turner	Cons.	948
Reg Waite	Cons.	872
Nicholas Freestone	Green	226
Jean Kent	Lib Dem	201
Peter Kent	Lib Dem	181
Frank Trembl	Labour	181

The average turnout within the Vale was 41.5% but in the Harwell Ward, which includes Chilton and Milton Villages, you did even better – 46.2%, which was the 7th highest in all 29 wards in the Vale WHDC. Margaret and Reg say “we both have a strong passion to represent the three villages for the benefit of all the residents in this community”.
Contact details:

Mrs M. Turner 15, Tyrrells Close, OX11 0LF 821248.

Mr Reg Waite 7, Hengest Gate OX11 0HH.

And just to complete the list, your County Councillor continues to be:
Colin Lamont 2 The Old School, School Lane, OX11 0ES 832866.

Planning matters

Permissions:

HAR/19950 Proposed extensions to side & rear of bungalow at Margo, Didcot Road.

HAR/5196/6 Erection of rear conservatory at Brook House, Blenheim Hill.

HAR/5721/2 Erection of new dwelling & garage at The Orchard, Wantage Road.

HAR/20004 Construction of new animal shelter at Land rear of Froude Builders, Reading Road.

Refusal:

HAR/19966 Demolition of shed, erection of 2 detached dwellings, alteration of access, provision of additional parking spaces at Land Rear of Blenheim Terrace, Burr Street, for Bellwood Homes Ltd. The Vale WHDC refused this application as they felt it was not in keeping with existing building and would harm the appearance of the conservation area.

New Applications:

HAR/18254/3 Erection of 15m monopole with associated equipment cabinets at Princes Manor Farm, Cow lane, for T-Mobile UK Ltd. (revised May)

HAR/3250/1 Erection of rear conservatory, 6 Brookside.

HAR/20108 Holloway Cottage, Holloway - Erection of extension to form bathroom, bedroom and garage.

HAR/20096 Alteration & extension at Chequers Cottage, Wantage Road.

The Council had no objections to these, but asked that neighbours' comments be considered.

HAR/1123/10 Retrospective application for the construction of timber decking across stream, erection of close board fencing at Bumble Barn, Church Lane.

The Council objected to this application as the decking may restrict the free flowing of the stream during times of high water, thereby creating a risk of flooding, and also asked that the Environment Agency be contacted by Planners to clarify its rules in such instances.

HAR/11514/1 Change of use from single to 2 dwellings of 52, Westfield, erection of new dwelling. The PC had no objection but was concerned about a large tree which is not mentioned in the plans. It also asked that neighbours' comments are taken into consideration.

HAR/20085-LB Thatch Cottage, Reading Road - Proposed repairs to party wall. The PC fully supported this as the repairs are essential if the cottage is to remain weatherproof and inhabitable.

The **Mobile Library** will be outside the Harwell Village Hall between 9.15 – 9.40am on alternate Wednesdays, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25, and Harwell Business Park Kids Unlimited 9.50 - 10.10am.

Little Pippins Pre-school

The children have returned to Pippins for the start of term 6. This term we will be swimming at Harwell school pool every week as well as having our usual PE sessions in the Orchard. The annual teddy bear's picnic will take place on 5th July at the recreation ground, watch the notice board for details and pray the weather stays fine!

We recently held our annual May Day celebrations, dancing round our pillar!! This was very well attended by mums and dads, who were brave enough to have a dance themselves!!!!

The pre-school will be open to all visitors on Saturday 30th June between 10am and 2pm. This **Open Day** is a great opportunity for any parents interested in finding out more about Little Pippins and what the pre-school provides. Registration booklets will be available along with displays of the children's work, activities both inside and outside, refreshments and staff on hand to answer any questions.

Our 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.

Children can start at Little Pippins from the age of 2.5 years initially with their parent/carer and by the time they are 3 years old are welcome to stay unaccompanied. The term after their third birthday, your child will be entitled to 5 free sessions with us and this continues 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 your child to come to our setting please ring the Pre-school on **01235 821741** or call in any day from 8.15am until 3.00pm and have a look around to see what we have to offer the children.

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>

Fund Raising

A big thank you to everyone who has responded so far to our Village Appeal and also to those who helped us raise over £120 from our cake stall on May 12th. Another very big thank you to all those parents and the staff who worked so hard to assemble the float over the bank holiday weekend. We were all so disappointed not to be able to ride on it. Some money was raised from the raffle and we thank all our friends, family and other supporters who stepped in at the last minute to buy up tickets which would normally have been sold at the feast.



**CAR WASH -
MORNING OF
SATURDAY JULY 7TH
AT THE VILLAGE HALL**
Please bring your car along
or volunteer to help with the washing

Lovely Weather for Ducks – But not for the Harwell Feast!



Sadly, rain stopped play for everyone on the Rec on Bank Holiday Monday, and the Harwell Feast was called off for reasons of safety.

The Committee would like to thank you all for your support and understanding despite your disappointment.

We are particularly indebted to Bobs Family Butchers who have generously waived their bill for all the barbecue food and sundries. This is hugely appreciated.

We also want to thank and commiserate with everyone who had prepared floats for the parade. We know that some of you have been able to dismantle and preserve your float decorations for another year.

To add insult to injury, the main marquee was maliciously damaged between Monday evening and early Tuesday, and an additional cost of £400 for repairs has been charged by the hire company. Thames Valley Police are now involved and anyone with any information regarding this incident should advise PC Steve Lynch on 08458 505 505, or any of the Committee members.

As the accounts are being finalised it is apparent we will have depleted our financial reserves, and following the damage to the Marquee a deficit of £400 to £500 will result.

We will be putting on a summer Fête on the Rectory Lawn on the afternoon of Saturday 18th August, to replenish our funds for Feast Day 2008. There will be a Children's Fancy Dress competition, a Bonny Baby Competition, and various stalls and sideshows – Here's hoping for a dry day!

Janice Markey,

Chairman Harwell Feast Committee



Update
on
Harwell
Church
Tower

We now have approval from the Diocese of Oxford for the planned work to replace the lead roof to the tower and to make stonework repairs. Provided we can reach agreement with our chosen contractor we still hope that the work can be done this summer. We are also well on the way to getting the necessary approvals so that a lightning protection system for the church can be installed at the same time.

Fundraising so far now stands at nearly £39,000, making some reasonable assumptions about contributions that are fairly secure. The *Flower Festival* on 21st/22nd April raised a splendid £1,633; many thanks to everyone who worked so hard for this event. We have several applications out for grants and have the agreement of the PCC to start the work in the confidence that we shall be sufficiently successful in our further fundraising efforts. Tower Appeal mugs were ready for sale at the Harwell Feast, which unfortunately had to be cancelled, but will be on sale at other events.

The next and last fundraising event in the present series is the *Opera Evening* on Saturday 7th July on the Rectory lawn (see trailer below). Please support this if you can – it promises to be a special evening with something to suit wide musical tastes.

Brochures and Pledge forms for the Appeal are still available in the church; alternatively, if you wish to make a donation, contact the church book-keeper Elizabeth Gill (tel: 832889) and note that any cheques should be made payable to 'Harwell PCC'.

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



*Light Opera
Gala Evening
Saturday 7th
July 2007
On the
Rectory Lawn
(In Church if*

This very special gala evening is the next fundraising event for our Tower Appeal. We have four professional singers performing for us - Neil Gillespie of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Michael Selby of English National Opera, accompanied by Jane Lambert and Fred Bagley. Bring your own picnic, a rug to sit on, and purchase a bottle of wine from the bar provided and enjoy an interesting, amusing and entertaining event.

Tickets will be available from Roz Shipp, 863342 and Liz Roberts, 834295 from mid June onwards. Book early to avoid disappointment, as space will be limited.

W.I. coffee Morning

Saturday 9th June 10am until 12 noon
Bring & Buy Raffle



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 next **Nearly New Sale** will be on Saturday **3 Nov** 10am-12pm at the village hall. All the stalls for sellers have been allocated (plus there is a reserve list). However, we can also sell a small-ish number of items for you on 1/3rd commission. If anyone would like to get in to the sale before the rest of the public, you can do so by volunteering to help before, during or after the sale. Contact Jane on 22 10 30 or at woolleydavid02@hotmail.com.

We will be holding a **summer party** on the last day of this term, **Tues 17 July** – usual start time of 9.30am and cost of £1 per family.

Like last year, we will also be holding a **summer club** for the 6 weeks of the summer holidays for pre-schoolers, who will need to be accompanied by a parent/carer. This will take place during normal Fun Club session times ie Tues 9.30-11.30 in the Village Hall. This year you'll need to sign up and pay in advance (probably for a minimum of 5 out of the 6 weeks), and pay per child rather than per family. Note that we can only cater for those aged 5 or under and no older children. This is for insurance reasons. For more details, come to a Fun Club session!

Correction to Geology part 2: My thanks to Brian Brinkley, formerly of this Parish – the Bargain Stone and others are Corallian limestone, probably from Abingdon Abbey – more in the next issue.

Harwell Gardeners' Club

We would like to thank everyone who turned out in the rain to walk around the Open Gardens on Sunday 27th May. The proceeds of £340 will be divided between the Church Tower Appeal, Hearing dogs for the Deaf, and the Gardeners' Club.

A big Thank-you goes to Betty Pike for putting on the Historic Harwell exhibition in the Church Hall. Betty has a wonderful collection of old photos and memorabilia which many people enjoyed with nostalgia.

Dates for your Diary:

Summer Visits

July 2nd: Upper Chalford Farm.

August 6th: Garden at 191 South Avenue Abingdon.

Visitors are welcome to all of our visits. Please look at posters in White Horse News for further details or contact Wendy Sinclair on 221008.

Saturday Sept. 1st: Trip to RHS Wisley. Visitors Welcome @ £12. Contact Wendy Sinclair.

Saturday 15th September - Produce Show Schedules will be available from Bob's soon.

Diamond Light Source

General Public Open Day - Saturday 14th July 2007

Diamond Light Source celebrates being the largest scientific facility to be built in the UK for over 40 years by offering access to the synchrotron building that is usually closed to the public. It is a chance to learn about the scientific applications of Diamond, discover how the machine works, the technology behind it, and experience a self-guided tour inside the synchrotron machine. In addition to the tour there will be a range of exciting activities such as films, demonstrations, exhibitions and hands-on activities which bring to life the capabilities and applications of the synchrotron.

Entrance to the open day is by ticket only, and is free of charge; there is a timed entry system but you can stay as long as you like, up to 6pm. We anticipate each visit taking one to two hours. For further information and registration for tickets, please visit the Open Day website at: www.diamond.ac.uk/openday2007/

email: diamondopenday@diamond.ac.uk

or call us on 01235 778639



**What's on
at
Little
Hill Farm
Wittenham**

Children's Food Festival Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th July 10am-6pm. The first Children's Food Festival will be held adjacent to our Neptune Wood in Long Wittenham. Raymond Blanc and Sophie Grigson will lead a line-up of chefs, restaurants and farmers.

Field to Fork themed tents, walkabout theatre, farm animals, medieval feast and a farmers' market.
Free entry.

Damsels and Dragons Sunday 29th July, 2 pm-4 pm

A guided walk for all the family, introducing the damselflies and dragonflies of Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. Meet at Little Wittenham Church. Entry £3 for adults, free to children under 16 and 'Friends'.

Booking Essential. To book your place, or join as a 'Friend', please call 01865 407792

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Simply go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/referenceonline to dip into a wealth of information including Britannica Online, Grove Art and Music Online, NewsUK, The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Times Digital Archive and a wide range of online reference books such as Who's Who.

Please ask at your local library for more information and if you're not a library member yet, now's the time to join - it's free! Reference Online is available in all our libraries and you don't have to be a member to use them there, although we'd like you to join. We also have an extra number of online titles on family history (Ancestry) and business information that are only available in some libraries. Please contact us for details.

Next W.I. Meeting

Wednesday 13th June 7.30pm Harwell Village Hall Raku Pottery: Talk and demonstration, then try your hand at it!

From our MP – Mr Ed Vaizey - It's a bit ironic, but at one of the busiest times in politics, Parliament is quite quiet. As Tony Blair departs, and Gordon Brown prepares to take over, there is not much going on in the House of Commons. Of course, the reason is obvious. There is no point in putting forward new legislation while we are waiting for a new Prime Minister. Also, with the long summer recess looming, most of the business is focused on the final stages of Bills that started going through Parliament last autumn.

We have recently been discussing the Mental Health Bill. I have a strong interest in issues relating to mental health. I became very involved in this difficult and complex subject when campaigning to save the Park Hospital in Oxford, a specialist unit treating children with mental health issues. I have since gone on to found the all-party group for Samaritans, which does so much good work with people suffering with mental health issues. As I have got more involved I have been told time and time again how mental health was viewed as somehow of secondary importance and a lower priority than other areas of healthcare. Therefore I hope that the new mental health bill will be the first step to redressing this imbalance.

The bill is huge but there are two main areas that I think are of particular interest. Firstly, and quite controversially, people who are deemed a risk to others because of their mental health can be detained even if they have not committed a crime. I am very uncomfortable with this. As well as being an encroachment on our civil liberties it will have the knock-on effect of meaning that many people with mental illnesses will be fearful of presenting themselves for treatment. This can only result in a deterioration of their condition.

Secondly, the bill will do nothing to address the difficulties faced by young people with mental illness. Young Minds, the charity that nominated me for a Charity Champion award after my work on the Park Hospital, estimates that around 1,000 children a year are currently admitted to adult mental health wards. This neglect of highly vulnerable children is unacceptable, yet the new act will do nothing to increase provision of children's mental health services. I will continue to campaign for children with mental illnesses; it is time these young people were pushed up the political agenda.

Forthcoming surgery dates at King Alfred Community Centre, Didcot - Friday 8th June and 27th July 2007 from 5:30 to 7pm.

Ed Vaizey MP Shadow Minister for the Arts, MP for Wantage and Didcot House of Commons SW1A 0AA

Office Tel: 0207 219 6350 email: vaizeye@parliament.uk
website: www.vaizey.com

Editorial Notes:

The editorial team that has been producing the Harwell News, David and June Levey, has handed the reigns back to Martin Ricketts. The Parish Council thanks them for producing the newsletter every 2 months for the past 4 years. We hope not too much has been lost in the hand-over; their taking a holiday while this issue was put together (and before the editor checked he had all the ads!) means some ads have had to be scanned again. Apologies for any lost quality.

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 editor. Items for the August issue should be with the editor by July 28th. Send to M Ricketts, 16, The Park or email martinricketts@waitrose.com.
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