

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

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Parish Council

At the July meeting, the Council met PC Steve Lynch, Harwell's Beat Officer, at the July meeting. He will be the area Beat Officer for the next 2½ years, and attended the meeting with PCSO Tim Dean (support Officer). Several issues were discussed, including speeding and the possibility of getting a radar speed display, and anti-social behaviour. PC Lynch asked that anyone with concerns contact him on the non-emergency number 08458 505 505.

Mr Lilly reported that he had written to OCC on behalf of the Council protesting at cuts in funding which could jeopardise bus services through the village. UKAEA's subsidy for routes 32 & 33 will remain, but new EC regulations may mean bus companies have to provide more drivers to cover rest periods. There was to be a further meeting.

At the June meeting, membership of the Council's two committees was agreed:

The Lands & Recreation Committee: John Fisher, Rod Thomas, Gary Taylor, Martin Ricketts, and Don Hayter.

Environment & Planning Committee: Mrs. Dee Boughton-Waite, Dr Keith Beswick, Stuart Lilly, David Marsh and Frank Trembl.

Invited to express particular areas of interest, Stuart Lilly mentioned transport & bus routes, Gary Taylor – sports and recreation, and Martin Ricketts – environmental matters. So if you have a particular concern in one of these areas you may wish to contact them first. David Marsh is still the Council's Webmaster.

It was reported at the June meeting that there were two vacancies for Community Governors at Harwell School; anyone interested should contact the School Clerk.

Affordable Housing: At the June meeting the Parish Council met representatives of Sovereign Housing who reported that they had been unable to contact the owner. They would attempt to make contact through a third party. But at the July meeting it was reported that the owner was unwilling to accept the valuation put on the land as a site for affordable housing. The value is lower than the open market value but the site would not get permission for housing for open sale.

Lands & Recreation: It was reported at the May meeting that work was nearly finished on refurbishing the showers in the Pavilion. The new Council had decided to add re-tiling and repainting to the shower and plumbing replacement. Mr Taylor volunteered to do this with the groundsmen to keep the costs down.

Between the June and July Council meetings, the Lands Committee met representatives of the Football Club to discuss fees and arrangements. The Council had previously agreed fees were too low considering the costs of electricity etc. New fees were approved at the July meeting, after a vote because one Councillor thought the increase too large to be made in one step.

The Council also met the East Hendred Boys FC, which has asked to play some games at Harwell next season and also use the Rec. for training, for its Under-11 and Under-13 teams. Games are played on Sunday morning, and training is on Friday for the Under-11s and Tuesday for the Under-13s. The Council asked that "Harwell" should be in the team name and **Harwell boys should be eligible for the teams**. If you have a boy who wants to be considered, please contact the Harwell Football Club or the Parish Council Clerk or a Councillor for further details. Fees were agreed for the Boys teams.

It was reported at the June meeting that there had been dog fouling in the allotments. After discussion it was decided to ask allotment holders if they had had any problems recently. There is 1 allotment available as soon as anyone wants it – contact the Clerk.

District and County Councillors raised several topics in their reports. At the June meeting Colin Lamont, our County Councillor, reported that Thames Water had put its reservoir plans on hold until 2010, partly because new planning regulations may affect the proposal. In July, Reg Waite reported from the District Council that Concessionary bus fares will only be valid for local routes at off-peak times. On recycling, there had been some opposition to the £29 annual fee for a brown bin, for compost and cardboard. Parishioners are reminded that the Vale Council will still deliver free a green bin for recycling glass, clear plastic bottles and paper – call then on 01235 520202. Mrs Turner, our other District Councillor, mentioned a section 59 ruling that covers anti-social behaviour with vehicles – loud music played in parked cars is covered by this. Repeat offences could result in seizure of the vehicle by police.

There is no Council meeting in August, so the next meeting is on Tuesday 11th September. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Mrs. Stephanie Taylor one week before this. Contact the Clerk by email to accounts@harwellparish.co.uk, on 01235 820006 where messages can be left, or in writing to 1, Wantage Road, OX11 0LJ. Office hours are 9 to 11am Monday to Wednesday.

Harwell Feast Committee

We are holding a

Summer Fete

On

Saturday 18th August 2pm

On the Rectory Lawn



Stalls & Sideshows
Bagg's Tree Buskers
Harwell Young Singers

Bonny Baby Competition, 0 to 12 months
Children's Fancy Dress, 0 to 5 yrs, 6 to 11 yrs
Fun Dog Show

Proceeds to replenish Feast funds

Any contributions for the White Elephant stall, Book stall, Cake stall, Jewellery, Plants, and Toy stalls gratefully received between 10am and noon on the day.

Planning matters

Permissions:

HAR/5371/4 Erection of single storey side extension at Little Dell, Church Lane.

HAR/20085-LB Proposed repairs to party wall at Thatch Cottage, Reading Road.

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

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

HAR/20123-LB Replacement of 2 windows with full height glass panels and reposition of stud walls at 2 Locktons Bams, Church Lane.

HAR/18254/3 Erection of 15m monopole with associated equipment cabin and compound at Princes Manor Farm, Cow Lane, for T-Mobile Ltd.

New Applications:

HAR/7924/1 Change of use from agricultural/grazing land to burial ground at Land adjoining Broad Acres and the cemetery, The Cleave, for Harwell PC.

HAR/18035/1 Demolition of existing dwelling & outbuilding, erection of new dwelling & garage at Trescowe, Didcot Road. The Council had no objections, but asked that neighbours' comments be borne in mind by planners.

HAR/16731/3 Demolition of 2 houses, squash courts & tennis courts, erection of hotel, leisure club, spa & bar (Re-submission) at Land north & south of Curie Avenue, for Four Pillars Hotels & UKAEA. The Council objected to this application, as existing sports facilities will be reduced; there is no provision for squash facilities at all. The Council also asked that 150 family membership places at the leisure club are made available to local people at a favourable rate, should the development take place.

HAR/11514/1 Change of use from single dwelling to 2 dwellings, erection of new dwelling at 52 Westfield. The council asked that neighbours' comments be taken into consideration in this application, and expressed concerns that a large tree in the garden was not mentioned in the plans.

HAR/20108 Erection of extension to form bathroom, bedroom & garage at Holloway Cottage, The Holloway. The Councillors asked that neighbours' comments be taken into consideration in these applications.

Mobile Library

This will be outside the Harwell Village Hall on alternate Wednesdays, between 9.15 and 9.40am August 8th and 22nd, September 5th and 19th, and then at Harwell Business Park Kids Unlimited from 9.50 to 10.10am.

Art for the young at heArt

Bright, energetic & humorous art with an educational element by Sally-Jayne Poyton

Vale & Downland Museum Wantage,

Tuesday 7 to Saturday 18 August 2007

10.00am to 4.30pm

Meet the Artist session - 15th August at 2pm

HARWELL BOWLS CLUB 75th ANNIVERSARY

The Harwell Bowls Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary with three special invitation matches to mark the occasion. On Tuesday 29th May, the English Bowling Association President brought a team of 24 men bowlers and 12-lady guests to Harwell Bowls Club to celebrate this event.

After the game the Harwell Bowls President gave a speech to show the history of the bowling green. Starting with the cherry orchard then moving to its present site, first with a four-rink green being later expanded to its present six rinks. The future of the Bowls club was outlined with the proposed development for the Rugby, Soccer, Tennis and Bowls clubs and the hope for improved membership. The need to carry out fund raising, as a first effort with the others clubs was also pointed out.

Harwell lady members provided lunch and dinners for 60 people.

Thanks were expressed to the British Legion for the use of the club during the day. A cheque was presented, on behalf of the Harwell club to the EBA President Peter Arnold for his nominated charity. Harwell committee members and club members were thanked for making the day such a success.

The weather on the day was very good considering the previous Bank Holiday weather. The result of the match, Harwell lost on 4 rinks and won on 2; the aggregate score was 132 – 96 to the visitors.

The match against the Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association President team on the 3rd June went equally well on another fine day. In a fine spirited match, the visitors won on 4 rinks and lost on 2 and overall aggregate score was 125-119.

In his speech, the President of the Harwell Bowls Club outlined the theme above and thanked the lady members of the club for another excellent meal. Also expressed thanks to the British Legion Club for the use of their facilities.

On August 28th it will be the turn of the Lady Members of the club as host to the Royal County

Harwell Bowls Club Members photo call before the EBA match

From left to right Rex Mitchum, Robin McStay, Jim Ritchie, John Lawson, John Craig, John Pigott, Fred Ritson in front of John Pitson immediately behind, Richard Powell, Robert Connolly, Trevor Fortt (the white cap just behind Tony Fidler), Tony Fidler, Garth Porter, Steve Boddy, Bert Butterfield, John Govans, Clive Keep, Dave Morgan, Phil Penson, Gordon Barrett, Frank Clark, John Ford, Roger Goodchild and Joe Preston.





FUN CLUB NEWS

Somewhere to go over the summer

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

We are also holding some sessions this summer on: **24 July** (this is primarily a meeting about how Fun Club is run, new ideas, etc, but toys will be out as usual for the children), **31 July, 7 Aug, 14 Aug & 21 Aug** for those who have already booked and paid in advance. These sessions are for accompanied 0-5 year olds only and are now full. However, anyone in the village has a **new baby** over the holidays and would like to attend during the summer (for free) they would be most welcome to join us as this will not impact on space at the craft table!

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.

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.

A bit more on the Bargain Stone

As mentioned previously, this is Coral Rag, probably from Abingdon Abbey. If you look from the road you can see it has been worked; maybe it was thought not good enough for barn footings, for example adjacent to Grove Road, where similar stones are to be seen:



The Abbot and monks signed a deed of surrender to the Crown on February 9th 1538, after being assured of decent pensions. John Wellsbourne, the King's man in charge of winding up Abbey affairs – It's estimated it was the 6th wealthiest in England – found the Abbey had been stripped of all its furnishings – the community had made careful preparations for the surrender!

Within weeks the Church was dismantled and all the good quality building stone barged down the Thames. So one can assume the pieces in Harwell came soon after this date. If you look carefully at the stone you can see imprints of fossils. There are better examples however in the wall of Cherry Barn, near the entrance, with remains of the coral as well as the imprints:



Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



Drip little Drop!

Join us on a watery day of discovery to find out more about water in our lives and the natural environment.

Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust Family Open Day
Saturday 15 September 2007, 10am – 3pm
Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Nr. Milton Park

Fun activities for all the family including...

- Watery arts and crafts, badge making
- Orienteering, pond dipping, competitions
- Create a willow sculpture and a wildlife pond
- Hot and cold refreshments available



...and lots more!

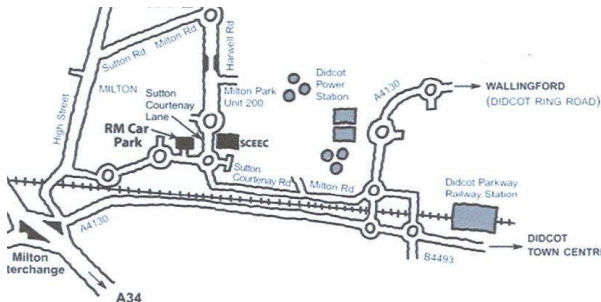
Come along at any time and stay as long as you like.
Admission: £1 adults, 50p children, cyclists free entry!



For more information, please contact us on 01235 862024

www.bbowt.org.uk

How to get there:



By car: From A34 Milton interchange, follow signs into Milton Park (ignore sign for Sutton Courtenay village on left). Go straight across two mini roundabouts and turn left into **Research Machines (RM) car park**. Please **walk** from the car park: turn left out of the car park and left at the roundabout. The entrance to SCEEC is opposite, on the right. Limited disabled parking on request.

By bus: *Oxford* Bus Company/ Stagecoach to Milton Park. **Free entry** to event on production of a valid bus ticket.



DIDCOT TOWN COUNCIL
12th ANNUAL ART
EXHIBITION
CIVIC HALL, DIDCOT

Open: Sat 25th, Sun 26th, & Mon 27th August, 11am – 6pm daily

For the 12th successive year, Didcot Town Council is again to sponsor an Open Art Exhibition to be displayed in the Civic Hall. All items are for sale.



Harwell Village Hall

At the AGM on 28th June the retiring Treasurer Trevor Packer reported that the year to March had seen a modest increase in hire fees but a decline in income from the shows put on in the Hall. However, a number of donations had enabled several improvements over the year. Harwell Feast gave £500 towards the cost of the new fridge and Didcot Rotary Club gave £600 for kitchen redecoration. And a total of £6771 was spent on the new tables and chairs, the latter replacing those that had seen many years of service. Donations from Harwell W.I. of £68 and from the Out and About Club of £425, plus the £500 raised by the Safari Supper and £1500 from last year's pantomime enabled the Hall to get a Lottery grant for the remainder of the amount.

There were also two generous donations from Busy Bees Music Group totaling £250. The Hall Committee thanks all those who contributed in various ways to enable these Hall improvements.

The Chairman Colin Lamont proposed a vote of thanks to the Treasurer Trevor Packer who was standing down, which was endorsed by those present, for all his work for the Hall over the years. The Committee is grateful to Ron Haley for kindly volunteering to take over as Treasurer. The next meeting of the Hall Committee will be held on Thursday 13th September at 7.30 pm.

Gardeners' Club

Saturday August 11th: **Cream Teas** £2.50
18, Tyrrells Close 3 to 5pm All Welcome.

Summer Visits

Monday August 6th: Garden at 191 South Avenue Abingdon. Meet there 7.30pm. Members £2.50, visitors £3.50, includes tea proceeds to Multiple Sclerosis.

Saturday Sept. 1st: Coach Trip to RHS Wisley. 8.30am to 6pm Visitors Welcome - £12.

Visitors are welcome to all of our visits. For further details contact Wendy Sinclair on 221008.

Regular meetings in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Monday September 3rd: Speaker Vic Aspland on *Bulbs for the Open Garden*, Competition – A vase of Herbs.

Monday October 1st: Speaker Donald Everett on *Plants for Dry Gardens* (it seemed a good idea at the time!)
Competition: Autumn Flowers.

New members are welcome at any time of the year. If you would like to ask us any questions please contact Wendy Sinclair on 01235 221008 or Janice Markey on 01235 832802.

Saturday 15th September - Produce Show Schedules are available from Bob's.

Young people of Harwell.

Would you like the opportunity to have regular events in the village to take part in?

Would you like to make more use of the Freeman Hall? Get involved or perform in a Junior Truck Fest/ Band Evening or just meet your mates?

We are getting together on Monday August 13th 7.30 at the Freeman Hall. We need you, your ideas and your help.

Didcot Health Walks

Many people and organisations have voiced the benefit of walking to improve ones health. With the initiative from various Agencies, the Didcot Health Walks, together in other regions, were set up by South Oxon District Council with the aim to improve the well being of people in the community. All the walk leaders are trained and carry this out on a voluntary basis.

There are two walks a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays commencing at 10.00 am.

The Tuesday walk starts at the Willowbrook Leisure Centre on the Ladygrove Estate and it's a pleasing 2-mile walk around the footpaths that criss-cross the area.

The Thursday walk starts in Green Close (next to Berkshire Court) and is a 2.5-mile walk through the countryside via East Hagbourne.

For first time walkers, the walks can be adapted to suite individual needs and can be reduced to 1 to 1.5 miles.

Why not come and join the happy band of walkers and feel the benefit it brings - contact Robin McStay on 01235 835358 or Beryl Hartley on 01235 813669.



Harwell Church Tower



Update on Harwell Church Tower

Work started on the tower and other repairs at the end of June and hopefully will be finished in September. The scaffolding is up, but unfortunately the weather and other factors have delayed further progress so far. A lightning protection system for the church will be installed as part of the programme of work.

Fundraising so far now stands at just over £52,000 towards the target of £60,000. The cancellation of the Harwell Feast due to bad weather removed one fundraising opportunity, but grants and further donations (including £10,000 from the *Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust* and £1,000 from *UKAEA*) have boosted our total.

The last fundraising event in the present series - the *Journey through Opera* evening on Saturday 7th July - was a great success and raised £2,154, thanks to the organizing efforts of Roz Shipp and her team and the four professional performers who gave their services free. Tower Appeal mugs are now available at £3.95 each - if you would like one please contact Gordon Gill tel: 833575.

Letters went out in July to those who had kindly offered pledges earlier this year, so that these could be 'called in'. Brochures and pledge forms for the Appeal are still available in the church and we would be very grateful for any further donations: 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 contact either Tony Hughes tel: 835301 or Tim Roberts tel: 834295.

From our MP – Mr Ed Vaizey - We now have a new prime minister - Gordon Brown. Brown's first announcement to the House of Commons was a number of proposals to change the constitution. I was in the Chamber for the statement, and the place was packed out. It is an exciting time in politics. Changes to our constitution don't necessarily get everyone's juices going, and they don't help pay the mortgage, something which is becoming increasingly difficult as interest rates rise. But they are important in a country where so much power is vested in the prime minister.

I support a lot of what Brown proposed. I like the idea of Parliament having a say in major public appointments. I agree that parliament should vote on whether we send our troops to war. I also think the PM should give up the power to appoint bishops and judges.

But I also think Brown should go further. I would like to see fixed-term parliaments, with a fixed date for the general election, so that we can remove the uncertainty that currently prevails. I also think we need a fully-elected House of Lords. And, with a devolved Scotland, I think Scottish MPs should lose the power to vote on English domestic issues like health and education.

Like many of you, I was caught in the floods that hit Oxfordshire. I had to abandon my car in Longcot and my home was only saved from flooding by a quick-thinking neighbour who dug a trench to drain the area.

I saw Hanney at its worst on Friday, looking much better on Sunday. When I got to Marcham on Sunday, most of the water had drained away, but I know a few houses were badly hit. Lyford was devastated. The Ladygrove in Didcot suffered terrible problems, mainly because of the poor drainage, which I am taking up urgently with Thames Water. Certain parts of Grove were badly hit, particularly Kingfishers, Vale Avenue and the houses by the Barley Mow. Steventon was also hit badly. I never made it to Stanford, or the other villages near Faringdon.

It is perhaps too soon to draw conclusions, but here are three thoughts. Although the rain and the consequent flooding is the worst we have seen for fifty years, we cannot assume it won't happen again for fifty years. Events like this are likely to become more frequent. Secondly, increased housing development must be a factor. It prevents water draining away, and many of the drainage systems themselves are very poor quality. This must cause real doubts about whether developments east of Swindon, in Grove and Didcot, not to mention the reservoir, can go ahead. Thirdly, and related, the local councils and the Environment Agency must sit down and analyse the worst affected areas and ask themselves what we can do to defend ourselves in the future, and whether, in that context, these developments should be allowed. I am pleased the Government has said they will reimburse councils for the flood damage and I will be supporting the councils in their dealings with Government.

Ed Vaizey MP, Shadow Minister for the Arts and MP for Wantage and Didcot. As usual, I can be contacted at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA,
Tel: 020 7219 6350, e-mail: vaizeye@parliament.uk

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 editor. Items for the October issue should be with the editor by September 23rd. Send to M Ricketts, 16, The Park or email martinricketts@waitrose.com.