

# The Harwell News

[www.harwellparish.co.uk](http://www.harwellparish.co.uk)

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## Parish Council

The topic of Affordable Housing continues to occupy the Parish Council. Mr. S Roberts from Sovereign Housing attended the November PC meeting and discussion centred on land in Orchard Way, now that the Reading Road / Winnaway site cannot be purchased. The landowner is still willing to sell. The Council is concerned that there are already too many empty flats in the village; VWHDC has confirmed that there is a shortage of houses. Mr. Roberts explained that a new Housing Needs survey is required if the Council wants to change the type of housing in the project; the deadline for the funding runs out in March, too short a time to carry out a new survey. The Council will discuss it further on Dec 11th before the Finance meeting.

PCSO Brian McCreath told the Council that Milton Park Estates was buying a SID machine (Speed Indicator) for use in the Wantage East area. The Police would be inviting Parishes covered to contribute £30 per year towards maintenance as the device was outside of their budget. The machine may be used on Reading Road and Didcot Road, but would be difficult to use on the High Street as a clear 100 yards is required to take readings. Later, under Environmental matters, Mr Fisher reported that it seems VAS (a fixed speed check device) are least effective on straight roads, where motorists become used to them. In order for the PC to have a greater chance of obtaining any signs, it has to raise the profile of its concerns, for example at District Council level, in the press. He proposed that the Council pay the requested £ 30 per annum for the use of a SID machine; this was seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by majority vote of 8 to 1.

On current concerns, PCSO McCreath reported that some youths had been apprehended last weekend after reports were received of driving cars on the Recreation Ground, and a man has been apprehended with regard to a series of tyre-slashings.

The Audit of the Council's accounts for the year to March has been completed. The Council noted the auditors' comments, and the level of cover will be reviewed at the Finance meeting in December. Mrs Boughton-Waite proposed that the Council approve and accept the Annual Return; seconded by Mr Fisher, carried unanimously.

On buses, Mr Lilly updated the Council on past and current decisions. The tender for running bus services has been awarded to Thames Travel, which intends to implement a Sunday Service between Grove and Didcot; however, the Newbury service and late night Oxford service have been withdrawn - see page 5 for further details and 3 and 4 for the new timetable.

The OCC is changing speed limits along the A4185; the new limit will be 40mph along the length of the road from North Drive all the way to Chilton.

On Rights of Way, Councillors had between them walk them all recently. The OCC has been in touch regarding the suggested closure of footpath 6 near The Holloway; it has also taken responsibility for clearing the footpath to the rear of Manor Green.

East Hendred Boys Football Club has received Lottery funding to hold a Coaching Course, and has asked the Council for permission to hold the course in the pavilion, some time in April 2008. Any spare places will be offered to Harwell people. The Council granted permission.

A play area gate has been in need of a spring for some time. Mr. Hayter reported that he had contacted a firm that will make the spring for the gate; the Clerk was instructed to order it.

At the October meeting, it was reported that some children had been taking used dog-bags from dog-bins and throwing them on the street. The Council asks parishioners to discourage this! Also Parishioners are reminded that the recycling bins at the Rec. car park are for glass only – please don't leave cans in the area for someone else to clear up.

It was also reported that some parishioners has expressed concern about the repainting of the milestones. This had been done by Mr. Ricketts before he was a Parish Councillor; he explained he had merely been returning them to their former state, although it was obviously a very long time since they had been painted. On the High Street one the letters are made in cement, so presumably the original stone had deteriorated. It also seemed not generally known that the milestones are grade 2 'listed buildings'. On the basis that stones can be thus protected, the Council agreed to consider applying for this status for the Bargain Stone.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 8th January; Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Mrs. S. Taylor one week before this. Contact the Clerk at [accounts@harwellparish.co.uk](mailto: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.

### Planning matters

#### Permissions:

HAR/13118 Ground and 1<sup>st</sup> floors extension at Willow Tree Cottage, Barrow Lane.

HAR/20270 Extension and alterations to form chalet-bungalow at Craig View Reading Road.

HAR/13273/1 Erect double garage at 20 Jennings Lane

HAR/20272 Single storey rear extension & loft conversion at Hill View, Church Lane.

HAR/10326/3 Conversion of existing car port into habitable accommodation, Jasmine Cottage, Didcot Rd.

HAR/20311 Erection of single storey side/rear extension at 5 Hengest Gate.

#### New Applications:

HAR/15647/1 1<sup>st</sup> floor dormer extensions forming bedroom, wc & gable end at 10 Barrow Road.

HAR/15729/2-LB Minor internal alterations at 1-2 The Cherry Barn, High Street, for Fellside Estates Ltd.

The Council requested that neighbours' comments be taken into account by Planners.

#### Amended plans:

HAR/19966/1 Demolition of shed, erection of 2 detached dwellings with associated garages, improve access, add parking for Blenheim Terrace & Burr Cott.

Members of the Environment & Planning Committee had discussed these plans in depth. In addition to reiterating former objections, the Committee members felt that approval of this application would set a precedent for further back-fill projects, and had particular concerns about the number of vehicles using the proposed exit onto Burr Street, as well as the narrowness of the proposed drive, which could create difficulties for waste lorries and emergency vehicles.

#### From your District Councillors:

#### Rubbish

You will have observed from the two page article in the latest copy of Vale Views that garden waste green sacks will be withdrawn soon, and that smaller brown bins with a capacity of 140 litres as well as 240 litre ones will be available.

Green sacks will be available in exceptional cases only.

The cost for the smaller and larger bins and the green sacks - where approved - will be £29 per annum.

#### Waste

Michael Mackay, Deputy Director responsible for Contracts and Procurement including Waste, and his team, would like to meet Harwell Parish Councillors in the near future to discuss arrangements for the Village becoming a model for waste. Would welcome dates for the discussion.

#### Street Cleaning

Some villages within the Vale have been concerned with the absence of regular street cleaning. Is Harwell Parish Council satisfied with this service?

**Local Democracy – Is it dead?** 42 local residents attended the Public Meeting held in Harwell's Royal British Legion on Wednesday, 7th November for a discussion on this topic and to hear presentations from Parish Council Chairman Dr Keith Beswick, District Cllrs Margaret Turner and Reg Waite, and County Cllr Colin Lamont, with questions following.

During her presentation Cllr Margaret Turner arranged for those present to complete the brief questionnaire outlined in the Vale Views. The main points of concern in order of priority were – ageing population, forthcoming growth of Didcot, increased traffic, and lack of affordable homes.

#### Contact details:

Reg Waite [reg@regwaite.co.uk](mailto:reg@regwaite.co.uk) 7 Hengest Gate

Colin Lamont [colin.lamont@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:colin.lamont@oxfordshire.gov.uk) 2 The Old School, School Lane.

#### W.I.News

A Very Merry Christmas to all readers from your village W.I.!

What do we have in store for the festive season?

Our December meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> should be fun as we have Betty Page coming along to amuse us with her hilarious monologues. Betty is easily as amusing as Pam Ayres and what is so clever is the way she gets into character and personalises her act for the group.

For the past few years we have enjoyed a fabulous Christmas meal at Home Farm Trust. As this is a busy time of year for everyone we have decided to have it on January 16<sup>th</sup> so we have something to look forward to in the New Year.

Our regular January meeting will be a talk about World Vision, a relief aid organisation, by Ann Wilson.

In February we go *On small game safari* with David Marsh who since our last talk has become an approved W.I. speaker – he's that good! Men are invited to come along to that meeting.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year

Joyce Doughty

**Harwell Feast Committee**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Fashion Show. It was a glamorous and enjoyable evening with models, including our very own Elliott Gasper, Sally Poyton, Debbie Greenfield, and Tony Baker, tripping along the catwalk in clothes from *Walton Clothing Co* and *Fat Face*. With hairstyling by *Curl Up And Dye* and Make-up by *Virgin Vie* they could have come straight from the London Fashion Scene. Rumour has it that Tony has already signed a contract with Going one step further and having a complete makeover was W.I. secretary Penny Marsh. How could she be made any more glamorous you might ask but after a haircut and a complete new set of clothes she stole the show.

We would like to thank all the companies involved who all hail from Wantage. Proceeds of £500 were made on the evening for Harwell Feast Funds.

We would also like to thank all members of The Out And About Club who held a Cheese and Wine evening and gave us the proceeds of £1,000. We are delighted with this amazing donation.

**Village Quiz**

Congratulations to the 2007 winners: Gangreen – Martin Gibson, Madeleine Speed, Steve Barry, Stephanie Haywood, Bob and Colleen Killingbeck.

Thank-you to all ten teams who took part and helped to raise approximately £250 for the Harwell Feast.

**Harwell Feast Auction Of Promises**

To be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. We are looking for promises, large or small to auction for The Harwell Feast funds.

Can you help? What could you do?

Perhaps you could bake a cake for someone or walk a dog, do a spot of gardening or a baby-sit. Maybe you have a particular skill or trade that you could offer.

Alternatively we are looking for items that could be sold at a Silent Auction e.g. a bottle of wine, a box of chocs, an unwanted gift etc.

Please fill in the slip on the right and return to Janice Markey.

It is best to volunteer before she comes looking for you!

**Form for Promise or Auction item**

Catalogue Number.....(committee use)

Details of Promise.....

.....

.....

.....

Donated by.....

Tel No.....

Email/website .....

.....

(if appropriate) or

I can donate.....

.....

for the Silent Auction

Name.....

Tel No.....

Return to Janice Markey at 17, Didcot Road, Harwell, OX11 0DP tel 832802 by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> latest.

## BAD NEWS ON THE VILLAGE BUS SERVICES

In the latest Oxfordshire County Council review of bus subsidies our parish services have been hit extremely hard.

### Routes 6 & 9

At the end of November we see the end of the Newbury bus services, Routes 6 & 9. There has been a constant battle between Berkshire County Council and Oxfordshire County Council regarding these routes, as they cross each other's territory. It was Oxfordshire County Council who was not prepared to assist with any finances whatsoever in order to continue these routes. Hence their imminent demise.

### Routes 32 & 33

These routes both pass through our village and connect with Oxford. As parishioners will recall I fought hard some years' ago to see these routes restored all the way into Oxford. The County Council have now deemed that this connection is unimportant!

In the recent tendering process Stagecoach were unsuccessful in renewing their contract since the circular route that was being taken from Oxford through the villages to Didcot, Wantage and then back to Oxford, was now going to be against new EEC law which states that rural bus routes should not be more than 30 miles in distance. This is in order that drivers should be able to take appropriate rest!

**Route 32** has been maintained but the contract has now been taken forward by Thames Travel of Wallingford.

We have gained a Sunday service known as **Route 32A**, which will run between Didcot and Grove. It is operated by RH Transport Services of Witney.

Getting into Oxford for villagers from Harwell will now require either changing at Abingdon, or changing in Didcot onto the **Route 35A** route.

I am very upset at this outcome as no opportunity for real consultation took place with anyone including the Parish Council. These decisions were taken at County Council level. I will now campaign for the re-instatement of a direct service through to Oxford and will keep you posted through this publication.

Stewart Lilly, Vice-Chairman Harwell P.C.

**Thames Travel's** statement: Local bus operator Thames Travel has been awarded the contract to run the 32 bus route from December 9th 2007. This service connecting Grove, Wantage, Didcot and Abingdon extends the Wallingford-based company's network so passengers will be able to travel with one ticket to even more places.

Using a 13-week or monthly pass, travelling with Thames Travel from Grove, Oxford or Abingdon all the way to Reading or Wokingham can be as cheap as £1.65 per day.

The new vehicles on this service will be fitted with CCTV cameras for the safety of passengers, have low floors for buggies' and wheel chairs' easy access, and air-conditioning for a more comfortable trip.

John Wright, the Managing Director of Thames Travel, says "*We are very pleased that we have been awarded the service 32 and it is the company's intention to grow and expand the service to meet the expectations of our passengers. Thames Travel is striving to provide high quality services to the people of this area. This addition to our network should make local trips easier and give passengers more freedom.*"

For more information visit the Thames Travel website [www.thames-travel.co.uk](http://www.thames-travel.co.uk) or contact us: 01491 837988

The timetable includes the 96 which runs Monday to Saturday from Chilton to Didcot. This is a summary:

### 32 Wantage to Abingdon High Street weekdays

Wantage A	6.25	7.22	8.02	9.02	(96)	10.02	<b>h</b>	15.02	15.57	-	-	17.02	-	18.10
Harwell	6.06	6.52	7.57	8.36	9.30	9.50	<b>r</b>	15.30	16.25	16.41	17.16	17.30	17.56	18.38
Didcot	6.13	7.02	8.08	8.50	9.40	10.00	<b>l</b>	15.40	16.40	16.51	17.28	17.45	18.06	18.48
Abingdon	6.35	7.34	8.43	-	10.09	-	<b>y</b>	16.09	17.09	-	-	18.14	-	19.14

Notes: A: starts Rowstock 96 goes to and from Chilton. Didcot times for Station.

### 32 Abingdon Bridge St to Wantage weekdays

Abingdon	6.41	7.36	8.01	-	(96)	9.11	10.16	(96)	11.16	<b>h</b>	15.16	16.16	17.28	17.28	18.21	19.21
Didcot	7.09	8.10	8.35	8.56	9.15	9.41	10.46	11.30	11.46	<b>r</b>	15.46	16.52	17.59	17.59	18.48	19.46
Harwell	7.18	8.20	8.45	9.05	9.24	9.50	10.55	11.39	11.55	<b>l</b>	15.55	17.01	18.08	18.08	18.56	19.54
Wantage	7.47	8.52	-	9.34	-	10.19	11.24	-	12.24	<b>y</b>	16.26	17.37	18.42			

Notes: most services start about 5 minutes earlier from Stratton Way stop A1.

### 32 Saturday Wantage to Abingdon

Wantage	-	7.45	9.02	(96)	10.02	<b>h</b>	17.02	18.05	09.35	11.35	13.35	15.35	17.35
Harwell	7.42	8.13	9.30	9.50	10.30	<b>r</b>	17.30	18.33	09.56	11.56	13.56	15.56	17.56
Didcot	7.49	8.23	9.40	10.00	10.40	<b>l</b>	17.45	18.43	10.04	12.04	14.04	16.04	18.04
Abingdon	8.10	8.52	10.09	-	11.09	<b>y</b>	18.14	19.10					

### 32A Sunday

### 32 Abingdon Bridge St to Wantage Saturday

Abingdon	-	8.21	9.11	10.16	(96)	11.16	<b>h</b>	17.16	18.21	19.21				
Didcot	8.16	8.56	9.41	10.46	11.30	11.46	<b>r</b>	17.46	18.48	19.46	10.40	12.40	14.40	16.40
Harwell	8.25	9.05	9.50	10.55	11.39	11.55	<b>l</b>	17.55	18.56	19.54	10.49	12.49	14.49	16.49
Wantage	8.54	9.34	10.19	11.24	-	12.24	<b>y</b>	18.24	19.23	20.21	11.10	13.10	15.10	17.10

### 32A Sunday



## 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 dear, 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.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December is the first date for your diaries; we are running a Dad's session (although Mum's are most welcome too). We will have all the usual fun and games but we will also be preparing the Fun Club Christmas Tree for the festival on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Our entry is based on an edible tree, so we will be making biscuits and decorating them to hang on the tree. At the fare, Fun Club will be running a stocking fillers table for the under 5's, as well as helping Santa in his grotto. Doors are open between 2pm and 4.45pm.

Our Christmas party this year is on 18<sup>th</sup> December 10-12. There will be music, dancing and singing, followed by a free play session and a visit to Santa's grotto – come along to Fun Club to pick up your tickets, as they go like hot cakes.

For more information please contact Nickie Dunphy on 832963 or [nickie.dunphy@gmail.com](mailto:nickie.dunphy@gmail.com)

### Looking for a stocking filler?

Why not contribute to Harwell Feast funds and buy a copy of *The Bagg's Tree Buskers* 10th Anniversary DVD, which covers video and music from the Buskers since they were formed in 1997. Copies available at £6 each from Tony Hughes, tel: 835301 or [antony.hughes1@btinternet.com](mailto:antony.hughes1@btinternet.com).

### Cycling Proficiency

Thank you very much to all those drivers on Grove Road and the High Street who slowed down and waited patiently while a rather wobbly (at first) group of cyclists made very good progress through their lessons in October and November. Particular thanks to those who didn't 'flash them across' in front but went past them slowly instead. (They fail their test if they cross in front of you when it's your right of way.) We are pleased to announce that the following children all passed the Oxfordshire cycling proficiency test: Robert Dickens, Alex Downes, Anna Hobin, Sian Howells, Rebekah Pearson, Becky Shrimpton, Emily Skivington, Sophie Talbot, Gemma Tankard, Toby Wilkinson. Congratulations to all of them. We would also like to thank the Community Support Officers, especially Brian McCreath who even came in his own time when he was off duty to help out. And to the rather impatient driver of the blue 4 x 4, we would like to point out that if a child in front of you on a bicycle has their right hand out, that means they are turning right and you are breaking the law by trying to overtake them. The course will run again in March.

Fiona Tankard, Lesley Saunders

### Positive Parenting

Sarah Fishburn and Fiona Brennan-Scott are co-hosting a Positive Parenting 5-15 yr olds course. The course will start in January but we want to hear from all interested parties. Call to 8 Gaveston Rd or phone Fiona on 821 633 to find out more.

### Harwell Senior Citizens' Fund

#### A special plea

We need a couple of new people to join our committee, as we are losing two members at Christmas, Sybil Frost & Wendy Appleby who have served our committee well for many many years are leaving us and we must thank them both for their hard work and commitment to the parishioners of Harwell. If you would like to have a chat with someone from our committee, please either ring me on Ab. 835397, Ursula Moore on Ab. 834238 or Pat Connolly on Ab. 835366.

Thank you all for your support

Yvonne Hinchliffe – Secretary



### News from Harwell Scout Group

#### A sample of our recent and upcoming activities:

**Explorers:** International Night when Explorers were split into 4 teams, each representing a different country. They had to complete tasks about that country before presenting their findings to the others. Camping in the New Forest is scheduled for January.

**Scouts:** Learning the Ka Mate Haka as part of learning more about New Zealand, a night hike and camp out around the Fairmile and seven teams rustling up some dishes for the Chef Badge. Before Christmas Scouts will enjoy bowling, swimming, a winter camp at Goring Heath and the Christmas party. More hiking is lined up for the New Year with the Amersham Quest and Hike Oxon.

**Cubs:** Visits to the Police and Fire Stations and making Christmas puddings. Cubs will also be having a Christmas party and taking part in the Harwell Church picture competition for which they have been challenged to draw a picture of the church showing what it means to have one at the centre of the community.

**Beavers:** Night hike from Chilton to Harwell School, firing chemical rockets for the Experiment badge and making Christmas puddings. Next on the agenda is the District Christmas party.

In addition, all sections will be participating in the Little Pippins Christmas Tree competition.

**Meetings** usually take place in St Matthew's Church Hall, The Park. If your child is interested in joining please talk to one of the leaders at the meetings listed below. Details of these meetings are:

Section	Age	Meeting time	Approx numbers
Beavers	6-8	Mondays 5.15-6.30pm	18
Cub Scouts	8-11	Mondays 6.45-8.15pm	25
Scouts	11- 14½	Tuesdays 7-8.30pm	50, 2 sections
Explorers	14½- 18	Tuesdays 8.30-10pm	35

#### Scout Christmas Post

**The cheaper way to send your local Christmas cards! Only 15p per item.**

Covers Didcot, East & West Hagbourne, Blewbury, Chilton, Harwell, Rowstock and AEA. Collections start 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**Collection boxes at:** Bob's Butchers, White Horse Newsagents, Rowstock Garage & RAL.

**Last collection:** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Harwell Scout Group

#### Quiz night

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**7.30pm**

**Village hall**

**£5 per person includes hot meal  
teams of 6 - licensed bar**

### Gardeners' Club

#### Meetings in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>: AGM and Christmas Party.

January 7<sup>th</sup> \_A talk on *Cotswold Gardens*  
Competition *Photo of a Garden Landscape*

February 4<sup>th</sup> \_A visit to Hanney Gardeners' Club  
A talk on *Spring Pruning*

Anyone is welcome to join our friendly club. We meet once a month on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. Yearly membership, payable in January, is £7.

Any queries please contact Wendy Sinclair (Chair) on 221008 or Janice Markey (Sec.) on 832802.

## ABINGDON TOURING THEATRE COMPANY

presents

## FOR TEECHERS

by

JOHN GODBER

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

Harwell Village Hall

8.00 p.m.

Tickets £7.50 adults, £6.50 concessions

From Bobs or Janice Markey 832802

Set in a modern comprehensive school this comedy is about 3 disillusioned teenagers who are about to leave school and don't know what to do with themselves.

A new drama teacher arrives, treats them as adults and gives them belief in themselves.

This is a feel-good play but it does contain some strong language and adult references.

Aimed at audiences aged 15 and up.

All proceeds to Village Hall funds.

**New RSPCA Rehoming Centre****Willow Farm, Chilton.**

The Oxfordshire Branch of the RSPCA has managed to obtain planning permission to set up a small rehoming unit at Willow Farm, Chilton. It will cater for cats, rabbits and other small animals, together with the occasional horses or farm animals, all brought in by the local inspectorate and in need of tender loving care. There will be no dogs as it is too near to Chilton village.

We would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in helping with this project, either through fundraising, or hands on help with the set up and ongoing running of the centre.

To this end we would like to invite any would-be volunteers to a meeting on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** in the meeting room at **Chilton Village Hall**. Everyone will be very welcome.

For any further information please contact either:

Ingrid Smith on 01235 820420 or Judith Garvey, Administrator, [www.rspca-oxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.rspca-oxfordshire.org.uk)

**Warning – Bogus Charity Collections**

Helpmates Ltd have posted flyers asking residents to leave bags of unwanted items of clothing, towels and cosmetics outside their doors on a specified day, so they can be sent to people in developing countries. Helpmates Ltd are currently targeting Oxfordshire villages with a Tuesday collection date. However, the company is unlicensed to collect for charities and as such there are no controls on where the donations go. This means items can be sold on for profit by the people behind the operation.

Christine Wells, community support and information officer for Wiltshire Trading Standards, said: "If you want to make sure that what you are giving away goes to charity, it is always better to deal with someone you know, such as a charity shop."

**Contact your MP** Ed Vaizey MP, Shadow Minister for the Arts and MP for Wantage and Didcot. Tel: 020 7219 6350, e-mail: [vaizeye@parliament.uk](mailto:vaizeye@parliament.uk) or write House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

From <http://edvaizey.mpblogs.com/> A small company in the constituency, Regenatex, has just won a National Business Award - the Oscars of British business, under the category "Engineering the Future". They make technology for biofuels, and they beat off multinational to win the award, despite operating out of small offices in Milton Park and only having a few employees. Congratulations to Mike Lawton and his team! I asked Blair a question about it at PMQs "why don't you change the fuel duty on biodiesel to make it more competitive". The fact is that although there is a differential in fuel duty, biodiesel is more expensive to make than diesel, so they end up costing the same to the consumer. Even more perversely, because bus operators can claim back duty on diesel, it is actually more expensive for buses to use biodiesel. Let's hope the Government changes this odd situation at some stage.

**From the archives - 100 years ago** the summer seems to have been not much better than this last one. The Berks & Oxon Advertiser reported on June 7<sup>th</sup>:

The first day of June was marked by a severe fall in temperature, followed by violent thunderstorms and torrential rains, so that the weekend was mostly spent indoors with blazing fires to make the June temperatures bearable.

And then a few weeks later: Right up to the last day the month of June maintained its record for uncongeniality. The miserable cold wet weather which will make it an unpleasant memory for many years to come culminated in thunderstorms of great severity on Saturday and Sunday ...

That summer the Parish Council was concerned with buying a Fire Engine. From the minutes of July 9th 1907 we read:

A letter received from Abingdon giving particulars of the Fire Engine they have for disposal was read when Mr Bosley proposed and Dr Rice seconded that Mr J Bosley be asked to inspect the engine and apparatus and report upon the condition of the same to the Council. The Clerk was also asked to write to Mr Humphrey saying this Council was sending a representative to view their old engine with the view of buying it if suitable, and also to the Auditor asking if the Council is right in issuing a precept to be paid out of the Poor Rate for such a purpose.'

The report read at the next meeting on 1st October was obviously satisfactory, and the auditor has replied in the affirmative: 'Mr Greenwood proposed and Mr Bosley seconded that the Clerk arrange with Mr Humphrey for the Engine to be brought to Harwell for a trial and that Mr J Bosley be engaged to fetch it.

Tenders for street lighting were received from Mr G Harris and Mr Chown, the former offering to fulfil the terms for £11-10, the latter for £10-10. Mr Chown's tender on the proposition of Mr Bosley seconded by Mr H Tyrrell was unanimously agreed to. The Clerk was requested to prepare the usual agreement forms and procure a 6d stamp for same; also to acquaint Mr Chown that he must start lighting the lamps on Saturday next (Oct 5th).

On the suggestion of Mr Bosley the Clerk was asked to write to the Cemetery Caretaker asking him to cut the grass and make the Cemetery more tidy.'

At the next meeting on 29th October, Structures in Cemetery was the first item on the agenda: 'The Burial Board Scale of Fees and their rules were gone over and on the proposition of Mr H Tyrrell seconded by Mr Day it was decided to add the words "or other erection" immediately after the word monument in the footnote to the scale of fees. Mr Greenwood proposed and Mr Day seconded that where 'kerbing' alone be erected around a grave space the fee be 5<sup>s</sup>/. This was unanimously adopted. The Clerk was requested to tell Mr Barber that he ought to have obtained permission from the Council to erect the kerbing around his child's grave and to state that if it remains 5<sup>s</sup>/. must be paid.'

After signing some cheques the Parish Council meeting was adjourned and a Parish Meeting, called for 7.30pm, convened with the Agenda 'Shall the second-hand Abingdon Fire-engine be purchased for the Parish'. The minutes record: 'Correspondence concerning the matter was read and a conversational discussion took place. Ultimately Mr Pryor proposed and Mr Clarke seconded and it was unanimously adopted "that the purchase of the Fire Engine be not entertained".'

On reassembling, the Parish Council then directed the Clerk to send to Mr Challenger and Mr Humphrey stating that the Fire Engine would be returned and the reasons for so doing.'

**Free parking for Christmas shoppers:** Charges at car parks in Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon will be lifted for one Saturday in what has become a festive tradition in the Vale. Parking will be free in Wantage on Saturday 8 December and in Abingdon on Saturday 15 Dec. Parking will also be free from 4pm in Wantage for the Dickensian Evening on 7 December.

**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 February issue should be with the editor by January 24. Send to M Ricketts, 16, The Park or email [martinricketts@waitrose.com](mailto:martinricketts@waitrose.com).