

Parish Council Meetings

The February meeting approved the Council's response to the Vale WHDC's further Planning Consultation. You can find a link to it on the Parish website – go to Planning then Local Plans.

The meeting also approved the Funding Agreement between Oxfordshire County Council, Little Pippins, and the Parish Council, which will enable Little Pippins to go ahead with their new premises. The Parish Council is involved as the owner of the Freeman Orchard site. See the separate item from Little Pippins which describes some of the features of the new building.

Dog bins were discussed; several of the existing ones are in need of replacement. It was requested that the design of any new bins should be checked as some cannot be filled to capacity. The Clerk is also to find the cost of emptying larger bins. And following requests for additional bins elsewhere in the village, the Lands Committee is due to discuss possible sites and report to the April meeting.

Our County Councillor Stewart Lilly reported that OCC will be siting new bus stops at Rowstock to enable buses to stop on both going to and coming from the Harwell Campus, which they are unable to do at present.

The Clerk reported she had received complaints about damage to the verges in Wantage Road and Westfield by Southern Gas, and she has contacted them; a reply is awaited.

Terms of Reference for the Harwell News editor were discussed and approved, and are to be included in the Parish Council's published documents, available on the Parish website.

At the March meeting, the first report was from PCSO Baker who reported 2 incidents of theft in the parish, and 1 of criminal damage. Use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition equipment had led to an arrest concerning drug possession, and the SID machine was used in the village for an hour, revealing 15 speeding motorists. There have been 6 operations against hare coursing.

Mr Lilly reported that WRG, which was a candidate for building a waste incinerator at Sutton Courtenay) is seeking planning permission for a Mechanical Biological Treatment plant there – the plant would deal with 200 tonnes of waste per annum, but the plan is dependent on a contract to process waste from London as well as local waste.

Under planning, it was reported that Mr Lilly and Miss Hawthorne had attended a meeting on the Harwell Campus Development. The Masterplan is not quite ready but will focus on re-arranging the current site; there will be investment in commercial development, the police entrance will be moved. There were no plans showing the proposals for North Drive. The plans to build a hotel along Curie Avenue have been dropped.

Under Financial Matters, there was discussion of the Council's Solicitor services, and it was agreed to invite tenders from interested firms to take over from the current Solicitors.

It was agreed that safety surfacing should be installed around the slide in the play area, and that the dip in the entrance to the west field of the Rec. from the A417 should be filled as soon as weather permits. The Harwell Feast Committee was given permission to use the Recreation Ground on 31st May. The Clerk reported that replacement swing seats can be ordered now the supplier has been identified.

The next meetings of the Parish Council are on Tuesdays 13th April and 11th May. Items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk, Mrs. S. Taylor one week before this. Contact clerk@harwellparish.co.uk, on 01235 820006 where messages can be left, or by post to PO Box 223 Wantage OX12 2DH. Note that the Clerk has moved so do not deliver any HPC items to 1, Wantage Road. Office hours are 9am to 5pm Mondays.

Annual Parish Meeting

Friday 16th April, 8pm, in the Village Hall

By law an Annual Parish Meeting must be convened, and is open to members of the Parish, although formally only registered electors are allowed to speak and vote.

In Harwell we have used these meetings as an open forum where activities and plans involving the Parish Council are presented. We also invite service providers to give us updates, where relevant.

This year we will be presenting the plans for the extension to the cemetery, and we have requested representatives from the Vale to talk about the new waste collection service which starts in October.

We'll also report on Parish Council activities over the year, and have an update from the Youth Project which got off the ground again last year.

There is still time for registered electors to request items for the agenda, so contact the Clerk with any topic which you would like discussed at the meeting.

It is also open for electors to place resolutions on the agenda, which can be voted on by those at the meeting. These resolutions are not binding on the Parish Council, but they must be taken into account, especially if they are thought to represent the views of a large part of the community.

We welcome open discussion about what is happening in the Parish, so hope that you will be able to attend the meeting, and we welcome topics for the agenda.

The Minutes of last year's meeting can be found on the Minutes page of the Parish Website.

David Marsh, Chairman, Harwell Parish Council

Contact details - District Councillors:

Mrs. M. Turner 15 Tyrrells Close, 821248
Reg Waite reg@regwaite.co.uk 7 Hengest Gate 861779

County Councillor:

Stewart Lilly stewart.lilly@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Vale WHDC Chairman's Community Awards

Residents from the Vale of White Horse who have made meaningful, but so far unrecognised contributions to life in the district were invited to a lunch in the Guildhall, Abingdon on Saturday March 6th.

The lunch, hosted by the Chair of the Vale of White Horse District Council Alison Rooke, recognised those unsung heroes who give up considerable time and effort to help various groups, clubs and projects in the district.

Vale Chairman, Councillor Alison Rooke, said: "The Chairman's Community Awards Lunch is a fantastic opportunity for the Council to show our appreciation to those who make a significant contribution to life in the Vale, and who help make our community one to be proud of"

The celebration was attended by more than 170 people, including our own Janice Markey.

Those of you who have worked with Janice, be it in the Pantomime, the Feast Committee, the Youth Club and many other village organisations will know that Janice gives her time generously, and does so much to encourage others to get involved. She is always modest about her achievements and no doubt will be embarrassed at this piece being published. But we would like to join Alison Rooke in recognising and thanking Janice for her contribution to the life of the village.

Someone mentioned, "Janice is just like a fairy with a magic wand, and when she waves it, things happen and Harwell comes alive!" Thank you Janice, and congratulations on your award.

David Marsh, Chairman, Harwell Parish Council

Editorial Notes: Harwell News is published at the beginning of alternate months; the editor is Martin Ricketts. Other than where stated and in reports of Parish Council matters any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Items for the April issue should be supplied by May 25th. - email news@harwellparish.co.uk Distribution is organised by Mrs. Pat Staples, tel. 01235 833660. Advertising queries to the Clerk, see page 1.

**Baby and Toddler Group News**

Are you a parent or carer for a baby or toddler, or even a mum-to-be? Come along to Harwell Fun Club and you can make new friends. We meet each Tuesday (term time) at the village hall between 9.30am and 11.30am.

We have a wide range of toys for all ages and often have craft activities. There is a dedicated baby area and we usually finish the session with some singing.

The cost is £1 per family and includes a snack and a drink for the children and adults. Your first session is free. For more information please contact Christina Wood 01235 832 169.

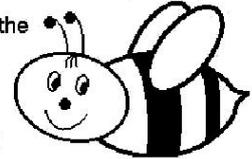
The **Mobile Library** will be in Harwell, at the Village Hall between 9.15 and 9.40 on Wednesdays April 14th, 28th, May 12th, 26th.

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Little Pippins Pre-School

We are delighted to announce that Little Pippins Pre-school has been granted £265,000 by Oxfordshire County Council in order to replace the existing dilapidated building in the Freeman Orchard.

Building works are due to commence at the beginning of April and the new building should be ready for occupation in the autumn of this year.

The building has been designed and specified to take account of the latest issues in early year's education and accommodation. Plans include wet and dry play areas as well as a covered veranda leading out onto an outdoor play area. The building will be constructed mainly from timber grown in managed woodlands. The architects, Inhabit, have also designed solar panels fixed to the roof to generate hot water and will incorporate "super insulation" using recycled newspapers with under floor heating powered by hot water from a ground source heat pump. Harvested, filtered rainwater will be used in the lavatories.

The new building will allow the pre-school to continue to offer all children aged between two and a half and five years the same excellent care and education but will increase the number of places on offer and enable parents to access the early education entitlement more flexibly. It will also ensure the continuation of the thriving Breakfast club and the Summer Play Scheme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Village for their continued support that has enabled us to reach this position. Without that support we would not have been in such a strong position to access this grant money.

Thank you to all those who attended fundraising events, made donations or who were involved in the project in its initial stages. The money accumulated over the past few years will be used in conjunction with the grant to provide the Pre-school with the best facilities and environment possible for future generations of pre-school children from our village.

We would especially like to thank the Parish Council, St Matthews Church, Harwell Primary School, The Royal British Legion, local businesses and our own staff for their support, loyalty and commitment to Little Pippins Pre-school.

Little Pippins A Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status. Registered Charity No. 1105994.

Dick Whittington

The Panto proceeds amounted to £2,000, which will be used for Village Hall improvements - thanks again to all who helped in this. If anyone wants to order a DVD they are £10, available from me, Janice Markey

Skin Cancer

Dr John Reed, Consultant at the Churchill Hospital, is giving a talk on Skin Cancer at the Woodlands Medical Centre, Didcot, at 7pm on Monday 26 April 2010. There is no charge but those interested in attending are requested to reserve a place by telephoning 01235-750524.



**HARWELL
ACTION
GROUP**

The Harwell Action Group for ABC - Against Breast Cancer, is holding another fund raising evening for this charity.

It is a Barn Dance and Ploughman's Supper being held in Harwell Village Hall on Saturday 22 May 2010. Doors open at 7.30pm. The cost is £10.00 per person to include supper. There will be a Bar and Raffle. Tickets are available for advance purchase now from Bob the Butcher in the High Street Harwell, or Sue on 01235 835393.

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Harwell Women's Institute

After a shaky start to the New Year with cancellations owing to the snow, Harwell WI is now 'Springing' forward with the New WI Year.

In **February** Dr Gillian White gave us a superb talk about Elizabeth Cavendish, better known as 'Bess of Hardwick Hall'. It was a truly fantastic evening. Gillian was so enthusiastic about her subject and we were all enthralled by this character in English history made so interesting by her rendition.

There was no open meeting in **March** as it was our AGM. Our President Joyce Doughty was re-elected and a few new faces joined the Committee who work so hard to arrange the year's events. After the business, the members were treated to a talk by Colin from Thornton's Chocolates telling us something of the history of chocolate and bringing with him a huge number of different samples. A very good time was had by all!

On the **14 April** Lynne Taylor is holding a painting workshop and members are going to be able to try painting a small Seascape. Everyone is welcome to try their hand and there will probably be some excellent masterpieces!

On the **12 May** Steve Moll is talking on *The Incredible World of Bees* which will be really interesting as they are now appear to somewhat endangered.

On **09 June** partners are invited to hear John Manlove who is a Forensic Scientist which will be fascinating. Also in **June** on the 16th there is a walking guided tour of Oxford with Rob Purbrick.

On **14 July** we have Tim Hutchinson from the Larkmead Veterinary Practice.

The Committee has now completed the full programme for 2010 which promises to be entertaining and informative and is now available.

Come and join us. Visitors are always welcome. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. For more information, contact our Secretary, Penny Marsh, on 01235 835430.

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Harwell Gardeners' Club

April 12th Tim Miles will give a talk entitled
Gardens of Cotswold Wildlife Park
Competition : Spring Flowers

April 24th Visit to Mrs Todhunter's garden to see the
magnolias. Details from Ruth Alexander 835359

May 10th Dr Roland Fox will give a talk entitled
Mushrooms, Fungi and Other Truffles
Competition : A Single Tulip

Saturday 5th June Day Trip to RHS Hyde Hall
Leaving Bobs at 8.30 a.m. Return approx 7 p.m.
Non members most welcome. Cost is £19
Contact Janice Markey 832802.

Dates for your diaries :-

Harwell Open Gardens Sunday 25th July 2 p.m.
To include St Matthew's Bell Tower & The Green
Road Allotments.

Village Produce Show Saturday 11th September

Visitors are always welcome. Our meetings are held in
the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. If you like gardening at
any level you will enjoy this friendly club.

Plant Sale at Harwell School

We are holding plant sales in Harwell Primary School
on the 18th Tuesday and 19th Wednesday of May at
3.15pm. Mainly bedding plants and herbs at bargain
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The 11th annual Abingdon Air & Country Show takes place
on Sunday 2nd May, at Abingdon Airfield (Dalton
Barracks), to raise money for the Thames Valley & Chiltern
Air Ambulance.

The show starts at 10am, and finishes around 5pm, and
features Air Displays & Static aircraft from both the
Military and Civilian operators.

The afternoon Flying display highlights include the RAF
Battle of Britain Memorial Flight WW2 Spitfire, Hurricane
& Lancaster bomber - the Flight is a unit based at RAF
Coningsby in Lincolnshire as a flying memorial to all the
aircrew who fought during World War Two, RAF Hawk,
Tucano and Tutor making their debuts, C-47 Dakota and
1950s Vampire. Also appearing will be a Royal Netherlands
Air Force F16, capable of speeds in excess of Mach 2.

Advance tickets – Adults £10 compared to £13 on the day,
available from www.abingdonfayre.com & One Stop Shop.

The Seasonal Gardener

Well, as I write, it's the end of March which just so happens to be our wedding anniversary. In celebration, we spent a lovely afternoon over at Moulsoford having a fabulous lunch and watching the wildlife on the river pass by. It was a most magical afternoon. The antics of the ducks in their spring shenanigans was most entertaining and, quite by chance, we bumped into a neighbour having a group lunch and their own shenanigans! This particular club is called the 21 club and consists of 10 individuals who invite 10 friends to honour a particular individual who has been through tremendous physical hardship. The point being to help raise money for specific items of need for Abingdon Hospital. This really set me to thinking. We carry on our lives almost on auto pilot sometimes and rarely think outside our own comfort zone until something happens that affects us or our family and friends.

I was really reminded of this having started the spring cleaning of my clients gardens. One particular client, who has very particular ideas and standards about her garden but finds it more and more difficult to continue to maintain her garden due to the physical limitations of age was taken on a visit to a garden centre by a kind neighbour. So, instead of ordering bedding plants through me, she was able to go out and pick and choose what she would like in her pots. She then spent, what I can only imagine, some lovely time planting out the flowers she had bought. It really struck me that some of the simplest pleasures in life can also be the most tricky for some people. My role as a gardener is to provide a service to keep peoples gardens up together and looking great. I feel my role is to not only provide this service but to encourage people to do even the smallest activity to achieve a beautiful garden. If I can carry out the mundane and sometimes boring jobs of weeding and digging and pruning and leave my clients with the fun stuff such as the pleasure of something as simple as planting some pots with seasonal colour that provide joy every time that they are seen. Something so simple can bring such satisfaction both to them and me.

Instead of offering seasonal advice this month, I would encourage us all to look around and find others who are in love with their gardens but are less able to carry out the necessary work for whatever reason. If we can just assist them to do something as simple as planting their pots then it would make so much difference to their lives and give us such a sense of satisfaction to ours. It really struck me how even the smallest gesture of kindness and help can mean so much. So please indulge me this once and let me encourage you to find an individual who would appreciate a small gesture of help and kindness, whether within their garden or not and see how it can benefit both them and you.

Until next month, Happy Gardening!

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Our Street Corner

With the help of a Youth Opportunity grant and several volunteer adults the Youth club is once more up and running. Named Our Street Corner by the youngsters, they are keen to create a meeting place and to become involved in the community.

Since Gary Hibbins, the youth worker who ran the summer project, returned in February, they have some exciting plans for the future; from painting a graffiti wall, to buying new equipment, from community projects to cookery nights and hopefully a camping weekend too!

'It provides us with a place to come and meet our friends and meet some friendly adults', said Jade, who is planning to help make new curtains for the hall.

A pool table, a TV, a table tennis table and a football table have already been ordered, which will all make Monday evenings more fun, but the youngsters are keen to raise their profile in the community by holding coffee mornings, car washing and an activity day for youngsters.

Volunteer adults have shown the youngsters how to cook; pancakes one week and then Spaghetti Bolognese. 'I really enjoyed cooking with the adults. We got to work as a team and learn new skills', said Jack, who is hoping to prepare the wall ready for the graffiti art.

If you have a skill to share or just an interest in young people come along on a Monday night from 7 -9 pm in the Freeman Hall...



Gary Hibbins wondering whether he should have a portion of Darren's or Stan and Paige's Spaghetti Bolognese. Turns out he didn't know how to make Spag Bol either!



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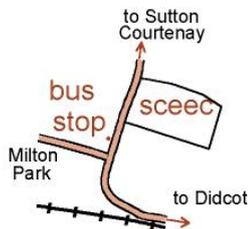
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Owls Galore

Morris Men

Punch & Judy

Funfair

Bouncy Castles

Children's Races

Country Dancing

Children's Fancy Dress 0-5, 6-11 yrs.

Bonny Baby Competition, up to 12 mnths

Wood Turners

Model Making

3 Roast Pigs

Barbecue

Ice Creams

Teas & Homemade Cakes

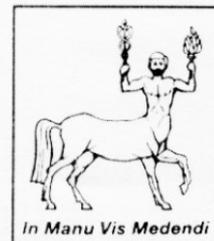
Entry by programme £2 on the day

£1.50 in advance. Children free.

Programmes available from Village

shops from mid May.

Free Parking



Chiropractic,

The McTimoney way -

Is a gentle and effective whole body treatment. It aims to correct the alignment of the spine and other joints of the body, to restore nerve function, to alleviate pain and to promote natural health.

For appointments call:

Lorna Walton - 01235 821858
(Harwell)

General Chiropractic Council Registered.