

## Parish Council Meetings

At the April meeting, planning matters included the application from Taylor Wimpey for implementing of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Great Western Park. This covered details for what already has been given planning permission and there is therefore little the Council can contribute at this stage. The initial spine road and ponds will mostly lie within Harwell parish; some of the landscaping is to be part of the "buffer zone" which was intended to mark the edge of the development, but that area, according to proposals in VWHDC's LDF Preferred Options document, will adjoin another major area of housing development in the future.

Mrs Boughton-Waite reported on a recent Harwell Stakeholders Group Meeting, which covers the former AERE site. Goodmans, brought in to oversee development of the site, has met with VWHDC representatives, but no Minutes had yet been circulated. The site entrance is to be relocated during May, but the pillars at the current entrance may be preserved as being of historical significance; they formed the entrance to the airfield. Funds for the decommissioning of the site are still limited, meaning work will be continuing for some years.

Mr John Fisher reported that adult volunteers are becoming involved with the Youth Project; he expressed gratitude for this. The youth worker, who has been extremely helpful to the group, is leaving shortly, and Mr Fisher is seeking funding so that a replacement youth worker can be engaged.

It was agreed to buy 3 more dog-bins, 2 more for the Recreation Ground and one to be put somewhere near the junction of Wellshead and Church Lane – the exact location yet to be decided, probably in consultation with OCC.

In the children's play area, the area adjacent to the slide was discussed. It is intended to install matting after the ground has been made good. A quote is being obtained.

On the new Cemetery area, it was reported that the Lands Committee had met an independent expert on the site, who recommended that cutting the existing grass would bring it to a reasonable condition, thus saving the expense of reseeding that had been contemplated.

As the Council is responsible for the Churchyard, the Council accepted the lowest of 3 quotes to repair a tombstone in order to make it safe.

The May meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, when the Chairman for the coming year is elected. Mr David Marsh was re-elected Chairman unopposed, as was Mrs Kate Beswick as Vice-chairman. The membership of the two Committees dealing with Lands and Planning, was also agreed. Member's interests and representation of the Council on other bodies was recorded, and can be seen on the Parish Council website, [www.harwellparish.co.uk](http://www.harwellparish.co.uk).

Since the previous meeting the Annual Parish Meeting had taken place. The minutes of this were signed as a true record, and can be found on page 10.

The Council had been recently discussing a draft of the Standing Orders, and this was approved and adopted, as was the Audit Plan.

The progress with the Tennis and Bowls Clubs' leases was reported on. Both Clubs have seen the revised Lease document as drawn up by Mr Lilly. The Tennis Club has asked if the Council is prepared to help fund the resurfacing of the courts. The Council agreed that it supports the Club as a village amenity, and also through the Sports Development Project, but that as the budget for the year has already been set, no funds could be allocated to the Club this year; however, the Council would consider making a donation once quotes for the work have been obtained. The Council would consider decreasing the Clubs' rents if each Club agreed to take responsibility for repairs in future.

It was reported that the newest piece of equipment in the Play Area had been recently badly vandalised; the police have been informed, and the Clerk is obtaining repair / replacement cost.

It was agreed to make the request for consecration of the Cemetery extension, at a cost of £260. It was agreed that there is a sufficient unconsecrated area in the existing Cemetery to not need further provision in the extension. The initial work on removing fencing and tidying the ground between the existing and new areas was approved. Full minutes available on the web.

The next meetings of the Parish Council are on Tuesdays 8<sup>th</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> July. Items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk, Mrs. S. Taylor one week before this. Contact [clerk@harwellparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@harwellparish.co.uk), on 01235 820006 where messages can be left, or by post to P.O. Box 223 Wantage OX12 2DH. Office hours, in the Pavilion, are 9am to 5pm Mondays.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Harwell Parish Council is to carry out repairs to a damaged tomb in St Matthew's churchyard in order to make it safe. The tomb is a memorial to members of the Perry family; relatives should contact the Parish Clerk for details.

## Planning Matters

### Permissions:

HAR/19692/3 Extension etc Greenbanks, Reading Rd.

### New Applications:

HAR/15908/1 Alterations & extensions to ground floor & 1st floor at Jennings Barn, Jennings Lane.

HAR/14934/3 Proposed erection of front extension at Sunny Side Cottage, Didcot Road.

HAR/21173 Demolition of existing bungalow & erection of two 3-bedroom houses with parking at Crossfields, The Cleave. The Council had some concerns about this application, including loss of light and privacy to neighbours, over-development of the site, and that two-storey buildings would be inappropriate for the location.

**Contact details - District Councillors:**

Mrs. M. Turner 15 Tyrrells Close, 821248  
 Reg Waite [RegWwaite@aol.com](mailto:RegWwaite@aol.com) 7 Hengest  
 Gate 861779

**County Councillor:**

Stewart Lilly [stewart.lilly@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.lilly@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Have Your Say - meet Our Local Policeman PCSO  
 Darren Baker in the Freeman Hall**

Saturday 19th June 3 - 4pm

Saturday 24th July 3 - 4pm

Police Non-emergency number 08458 505 505

The Wantage East Neighbourhood Action Group has just completed a consultation in this area and it has been identified that dog fouling is a major issue in this area. Local Police community support officers will be working with Vale of White Horse environment wardens to address this issue. If you have any information you can call us on 08458 505 505.

**Safari Supper**

Harwell Village Hall Management Committee and the Harwell Bell Ringers would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in the very successful Safari Supper Evening in March, especially all the hosts who kindly opened their homes to provide starters and main courses, and those who made the delicious desserts. Particular thanks to the generous donors of raffle prizes, including LOUD group, who gave us a bottle of wine, and Segais of Didcot, who gave a free hair-cut and finish. Thank you also to the WI, who brought along their famously entertaining human fruit machine to raise money over dessert, and the kind volunteers who ran the village hall kitchen on the evening. Finally, the biggest thank you needs to go to Debbie Greenfield, who masterminded the whole event and must have spent many hours planning, emailing, producing maps and signs, setting up the hall and clearing away. Altogether the event made £1240.



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**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 9.30 & 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 June 9th and 23rd, July 7th, 21st.

**Keeping our ancient footpaths open**

On a cold, wet and windy Sunday afternoon, the 16th May, fourteen Parish Councillors and parishioners set out for the annual walk of Harwell's many ancient footpaths, in fact all 19.

The majority of them are still in a reasonable state and indeed walkable but with one or two exceptions, which will be receiving the necessary attention shortly.

Your Parish Council would like to thank the residents who turned out for this annual walk to ensure our ancient footpaths remain open for public use and are maintained in a safe condition for the benefit of ourselves and visitors to the area who enjoy our beautiful and colourful countryside.

If anyone walking the paths in future should notice anything untoward please do not hesitate to inform our Parish Clerk or a member of the Parish Council.

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## Little Pippins Pre-School

We have temporarily relocated to the Church Hall as preparations for the new building take place. We would like to thank Chris Stott for letting us use the Church Hall, the children and staff have settled in very well indeed.

We welcome Martha Vincent who joined us in Term 5 and Liam Lewis who is joining us in Term 6.

We had our annual Easter Bonnet parade in March, and the winners were: Amelia Wall - best girl's bonnet and Spike Poyton - the best boy bonnet, so well done to you both and indeed to all the other wonderful bonnets.

Events to look forward to.....

This year our annual summer outing will take place in June, venue to be confirmed.

We will hopefully be swimming on Friday mornings in Term 6 at Harwell School pool.

Our annual Sports Day will be on the last day of term Friday 16th July. This is when we say goodbye to all the children leaving to start school, or moving onto other settings.

Term 6 starts on Monday 7th June and ends on Friday 16th July We have a few spaces left for this term. If you would like your child to come to our setting please ring the Pre-school on 07514367815 or just call in any day from 9.15am until 3.00pm and have a look around to see what we have to offer the children. Please remember we are in the Church Hall!

Children can start with us from the age of 2.5 years initially with their parent/carer and by the time they are 3 years old, they should be ready and able to stay unaccompanied. The term after their third birthday, your child will be entitled to 5 free sessions with us (increasing to 6 from Sept 2010) and this carries on until children start school. You can choose from any of the 10 sessions available and increase the total number of sessions your child attends depending on need and availability.

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Our Breakfast club is providing extra 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. The Breakfast club has temporarily relocated to Harwell Primary and we have a walking bus for the children going to Pippins in the Church Hall.. We are also able to use the Harwell After School club on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Ask staff for more details.

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, e-mail [littlepippins@btinternet.com](mailto:littlepippins@btinternet.com) or visit our website [www.littlepippins.org.uk](http://www.littlepippins.org.uk)

Nicky Mercer, Supervisor.

**M A D STUDIO**  
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[fiona.brennanscott@googlemail.com](mailto:fiona.brennanscott@googlemail.com)

### Beware bogus trading standards officer

Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Service is warning businesses and consumers in the county to beware of a new scam, following reports of cold calling from a bogus trading standards officer.

The warning follows a number of enquiries to the service in the last few weeks from concerned consumers and one from an Oxfordshire trader. In all cases, the caller has falsely claimed to be from Trading Standards or the Office of Fair Trading.

Also, Oxfordshire Trading Standards has received reports of someone falsely claiming to be from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) alleging to be able to claim back money overcharged by banks on their behalf.

In all reported cases, the caller has told the consumers that they would need to verify address and bank details to make the payment and that the bank charges could then be repaid electronically. Those who have stayed on the line have then been told that the OFT would require payment of £199 to recover the funds.

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## Harwell Women's Institute

On Wednesday 14 April our proposed painting instructor was not able to join us, but our own very talented local artist, Agatha Girard, stepped into the breach and coached the members in painting a small Seascape. It was tremendous fun and over 30 members painted real 'masterpieces'!

Wednesday 12 May saw Steve Moll from Brightwell Bees at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell talking *All about Bees*. It was a brilliant PowerPoint presentation and Steve's enthusiastic information had us all enthralled.

On Wednesday 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 starting at 2pm. On Thursday 10 June members are invited to join a New Members Social Evening at The White Hart.

On Wednesday 14 July at our normal monthly meeting we have Tim Hutchinson from the Larkmead Veterinary Practice talking about his work.

There is an outing also in July. On Tuesday 20th we are visiting The Wallingford Hydrology Unit. The tour starts at 2pm and husbands and partners are also invited.

We do not have a formal meeting in August but we are doing our annual walk on Tuesday 24 August, this year following the path of *Larkrise to Candleford*. All are welcome to join this walk.

Then in September we have Valerie Calderbank giving us a *Visual Tour of The Universe* and October has Auctioneer Simon Jones talking about valuables.

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 about joining us or any of the above activities, contact our Secretary, Penny Marsh, on 01235 835430.

## Harwell Village Tennis Club

The tennis club runs the courts as a village facility on behalf of everyone in Harwell, so all ages and standards are welcome. The courts are behind the British Legion building at the recreation ground.

Annual Membership is £60 Family, £30 Adult, £15 Juniors and students.

These subscriptions are great value compared with other tennis clubs and other forms of exercise such as going to the gym, even if you will only play a few times in a year. We really encourage everyone in Harwell, particularly young people (or parents looking for healthy village based activities for their children to take part in) to join and make use of the courts.

**Club nights:** Members are welcome to come and play on Thursday evenings, from 6-7pm between Easter and the start of the school summer holidays for kids (typically teenagers able to play a game together), and from 7 pm onwards between Easter and September for adults.

Contact Clare Coombs on 01235 821035 / harwelltennis@hotmail.com

### Harwell Village Recipe Book Available Now!

With over 120 recipes donated by local residents.

If you were unable to pick up your copy at the Harwell Feast, they are available from Bob's Family Butchers

or telephone Sarah on 01235 835416.

£8 per copy

All proceeds go to Little Pippins Pre-School, Harwell, Registered Charity No. 1105994

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**Harwell Feast 2010**

A great year for the Harwell Feast. That means there was NO RAIN!

The beautiful May Queen was Georgia Brennan- Scott. She was attended by Annie Vickers and Victoria Walker. They were transported in a divine vintage car kindly driven by Bob Olive.

We had a wonderful parade with 7 floats:

- Little Pippins with 'New Build 2010'
- Beavers - 'Wind in The Harwell Willows'
- Cubs with 'Alice In Wonderland'
- W.I with 'Save Our Honeybees'
- Village Hall Panto Cast with 'Dick Whittington'
- Rainbows with '100 years of Guiding'
- Fun Club/Fledglings with 'Springtime'

**Feast Sponsors 2010:**



*Left, some of the floats - from the top Fun Club & Fledgelings, Panto Cast, Little Pippins, and Rainbows.*



On the left, the Parade was led by the Bagg's Tree Buskers, seen later in the Rec.

And on right, the float judges Colin & Ann Lamont at work:





Results

The results of the floats competition as judged by Colin & Ann Lamont were  
 1<sup>st</sup> Harwell W.I Save Our Honeybees:



2<sup>nd</sup> Harwell Cubs - Alice in Wonderland:



3<sup>rd</sup> Harwell Beavers - Wind in the Willows:



Well Done everybody for all the efforts put into the making of the floats.

**HARWELL FEAST COMMITTEE:**

Chairman Janice Markey, Vice Chair Jayne Newman, Secretary Jackie Askham, Treasurer Jackie Askham plus Patricia Cooke, Reg Waite, Jake Castle, Jose Rostagni, Sid Gale, Susan Lambert, Vanda Hayden, & Philip Roberts.

Children's Fancy Dress 0-5 years

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel & Eve Hawthorne as Buggy Malone & Tallulah:



2<sup>nd</sup> Alice & Isabelle Thorley as The Postbox and The Letter:



3<sup>rd</sup>= Josie Wrigley as Minnie Mouse  
 Lottie Wrigley as A Polar Bear

6-11 yrs

1<sup>st</sup> Maryse Girgis & Hannah Hawthorne as 'Save The Planet', here with judge Kate Beswick:



Thanks to Kate Beswick, the Fancy Dress judge.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING

Applications are now invited from village organisations for a share in the Feast Day proceeds. All applications in writing, emails welcome, to The Chairman, Janice Markey, 17, Didcot Road, Harwell [jvmarkey@googlemail.com](mailto:jvmarkey@googlemail.com) Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 for consideration at our September meeting.



Bonny Baby (up to 1 year)

1<sup>st</sup> Megan Culwick 9 months, here with Mum and the judges:



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Honey Bayliss 11 months
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Maximillian Bailey 3 months
- Special Smile Ella Haines 7 weeks
- Lovely Eyes Theo McNicol 8 months

Thanks to Audrey Poffley & Joy Dougherty the judges. They had a tough time, as all the babies were truly gorgeous.

The May Queen, Georgia Brennan-Scott, attended by Annie Vickers and Victoria Walker, here presents the Float Trophy to Joyce Doughty of the W.I.:



In the children's races, the winner of The Michael Armstrong Trophy for Sports was Annie Vickers. Here's a close finish on one race:



There were a number of new events on the field this year as well as our regular favourites.

The climbing wall was very popular and The Kineton Quackers were most entertaining especially when one duck made a run for it and was later found hiding out under the fairground lorry. Here they are:



The owls, here for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year still had customers queuing up at 5 p.m. to hold the rescue owls and another new attraction this year was The Irish Dancers, who were stunning and worth the price of purchasing a dance floor for them!



Regular favourites included the much loved races with Mr Cansell, country dancing from Harwell School



Morris Dancing, below & The Fun Dog Show - see over



Three roast pigs were eaten in record time so I hope you got some. Thanks to St Matthew's catering team for handling all the hot food sales for us.

Indeed a very big Thankyou to everyone who helped to make this year's Feast such a wonderful event for villagers and visitors alike. Please accept this message of appreciation from The Feast Committee.

**Fun Dog Show Winners**

Handsome Dog - Vinnie owned by Lin Abbott  
 Prettiest Bitch - Faith owned by Ruth  
 Best Rescue - Fluke owned by Julia Edwards  
 Best Behaved Puppy - Chester owned by Tracey  
 Best Veteran - Honey owned by Jose Rostagni  
 The Dog That Will Not Eat A Sausage! - Marmite owned by Paul & Lucy Tappin  
 Best In Show - Faith owned by Ruth, below, with Judge Pam Hancock on the right:



Best Harwell Dog In Show - Tweed owned by Tayla Downes, seen below during judging by Kate Lee:



£60 was raised for Many Tears Dog Rescue - given by the Wallingford Dog Agility Club, and £80 was raised on the Dog Show for the Dog's Trust.

Photos by Sara Lee, David Marsh, Janice Markey & Martin Ricketts

And some of those who helped feed you, inside and outside of the Pavilion:



**LOST PROPERTY**

The following items were handed in to lost property: An ornamental coal bucket, a doll in a box, a pink baby drinking cup, two baby rattles, a red strap (possibly from a baby buggy?), a white polo shirt with a DS logo. All items can be claimed by calling Janice Markey on 832802

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**Harwell Gardeners' Club Summer Garden Visits****5 July - Rycote Park**

3 miles SW of Thame, OX9 2PE

Meet there for 6.30pm

Members £8, non-members £10,

includes talk, chapel tour &amp; refreshments

Former ancestral home of the Earls of Abingdon set in 350-acre restored Capability Brown Parkland with 15th Century English Heritage chapel. Garden includes greenhouses, formal garden, walled garden and vegetable garden.

Directions: From Wallingford take the A4074 to Shillingford where you turn right onto the A329 towards Thame. After passing over the M40 the Park is to be found on the left. Look out for signs to English Heritage Rycote Chapel.

**2 August - Farrier's Cottage & Baggage Chute**

Ashampstead Common, Berks, RG8 8QT

Meet there for 7pm

Members £5, non-members £7, refreshments extra.

Farriers Cottage is an immaculate, petite, cottage garden. There is a

formal front garden set in woodland which leads, at the back, to a colourful mix of shrubs and herbaceous planting.

Baggage Chute has a vegetable and cutting garden, as well as a lower terraced garden with a colourful mix of shrubs and perennials leading to a large informal pond. There are also hillside slopes with prairie style planting of flowers and grasses.

Directions: Go south on the A34, turning off to East Ilsley. At East Ilsley head left to Compton. At Compton take turn on right to Hampstead Norreys where you turn to Yattendon. At Yattendon continue past The Royal Oak Hotel down Yattendon Lane then turn left onto Sucks Lane. After about 0.5 mile you will come to the gardens on the right opposite Ashampstead Common.

For further information or to book / cancel a place on the visit contact Mrs Alexander – 835359.

**George Peagram 1920(?) to 2010**

George Peagram for many years resident at Kilnwood, Blenheim Hill, Harwell, died on May 2nd aged 89 in St Lukes Hospital. Born in Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire he arrived with his family in 1947 to live and work at what became AERE Harwell in its very early days. He was an Electrical Engineer, becoming Group Leader for Engineering Services (Research) and retired in 1981. He moved into Harwell village in 1960 but eventually moved with his wife Pauline in 2005 to be closer to his son at Bletchington Park, north of Oxford.



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**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 August issue should be supplied by July 25th. - email [news@harwellparish.co.uk](mailto:news@harwellparish.co.uk) Distribution is organised by Mrs. Pat Staples, tel. 01235 833660. Advertising queries to the Clerk, see page 1.

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting in Harwell Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 8pm in the Village Hall

The meeting was chaired by Mr David Marsh, Chairman, Harwell Parish Council. Present were the District Councillors Mr R Waite, Mrs M Turner, Parish Councillors Mrs K Beswick OBE, Mr M Ricketts, Mrs D Boughton-Waite, Mr G Taylor, Mr J Fisher, and 10 members of the public.

**Chairman's report:** Mr Marsh thanked all those present for attending. He explained that this year's meeting was earlier than in past years as it was felt more suitable for a current Parish Council Chairman to provide a report than to ask a new one to do so. This will be especially relevant next year when there will be parish elections. Mr Marsh urged all residents to consider standing for election.

Mr Marsh praised the Village Hall Committee for the success it has made of running the hall, and thanked all those in the parish who had contributed to community life in the past year, with particular mentions for Miss J Markey who recently won an award from the District Council Chairman for her services to village life, parish council grounds staff who work hard to keep the parish looking neat, youth project members for cleaning the war memorial, the garden club for its work on the upkeep of the war memorial garden, Mr & Mrs Staples for coordinating delivery of Harwell News, all the volunteers who deliver Harwell News, Keep Harwell Rural for its continuing battle against major development in the parish, Police Community Support Officers who provide a visible presence in the village, and parish councillors – Mr Taylor for liaising with football clubs, Mr Lilly for helping to obtain funding for the building project at Little Pippins Pre-School, Mrs Boughton-Waite for arranging the Annual Footpaths Walk, Mr Ricketts for organising remedial work on footpaths and for putting together Harwell News, and Mr Fisher for his involvement with the Youth Project.

Mr Marsh mentioned a few of the Parish Council's activities during the past year; the Harwell 2008 Committee obtained Outline Planning Permission for a new sports building, and a new Sports Development Committee has been formed to continue with the project; funding of around £40,000 will be required as start-up costs. Particular thanks were expressed to Mr Lilly who along with Dr Delfosse and Mr Fisher has worked hard to bring the project past the initial planning stage.

Invited to report on the Youth project, Mr Fisher mentioned Our Street Corner, thanking all the adult volunteers for their contributions to the running of the Project and everyone who had donated funds, such as Harwell Feast Committee, RSRL, St Matthews Church and Didcot First; the group has successfully applied for grants to enable the continuation of the project and engage a youth worker, who has been most helpful. A drop-in has been set up in Freeman Hall, and workshops on various themes have been held. Members of the public expressed the hope that the project can continue.

The Council is trying to be more communicative as to its activities, via Harwell News and the website, which was recently upgraded. Residents are encouraged to use the website; usage is increasing – the local plans and village history pages are popular. (Mrs Beswick pointed out that Mr Marsh is the volunteer webmaster).

**Waste collection:** Mr Waite introduced himself and Mrs Turner as District Councillors; their main interests on the Council are the Development Control Committee (planning), Youth Forum, Scrutiny Committee and waste – Mr Waite is Shadow Portfolio for Commercial Services (including waste) and a member of the Joint Waste Board covering VWHDC & South Oxfordshire DC areas.

Mr Waite reported on the new waste collection service which is due to start on 4th October 2010, with Verdant as the contractor. 2 large wheelie bins will replace existing black bins and recycling boxes, and there will also be a collection caddy for food waste. Food waste will be collected weekly, the recycling and other waste will be collected fortnightly. Sacks will be provided for some households where there is no outside storage space, and there will be assistance for residents who are unable to manoeuvre wheelie bins. The brown bin scheme will continue alongside other collections. Recycled waste will be taken to a processing centre in the Midlands for sorting and baling; food waste will be processed at Ardley and turned into compost.

It is hoped that the new system will save up to £100,000 in 12 months, with recycling credits adding a further £300,000. Further information will be sent to householders shortly.

Other recent waste issues in Harwell have included large amounts of rubbish left in Orchard Way and Westfield/Gaveston Road; this is being dealt with by VWHDC and Vale Housing Association. Residents are asked to report fly-tipping to VWHDC.

**Local development plans:** Mr Marsh explained that the parish council had responded to VWHDC's Local Development Framework, setting out objections to further planned development in the parish, in the area on the far side of the A34, which it is proposed will adjoin the development known as Great Western Park, and will include a further 2,300 homes.

Work on the first phase of Great Western Park is now nearing a start date. A large part of this development will lie in Harwell parish to the west of Didcot. The first phase includes construction of a spine road, drainage ponds and landscaped areas, but ultimately the development will contain around 3,200 homes, some of which will be 3-storey buildings. Developers will also have to make upgrades to Rowstock roundabout and install traffic calming measures in Harwell, although it is not clear what form these will take. Not all concerns from neighbouring councils and residents have been answered, eg lack of burial space.

**Cemetery project:** Mr Ricketts explained that a new area is required for burials; the parish council already owns land adjoining the cemetery which will need preparation before the land is consecrated later this year. The council also plans to upgrade existing fences, gates and paths as part of the project, which will cost around £7-10,000. The council has already begun budgeting for the work, and re-seeding and tidying of some areas has already taken place. In future, it is hoped that waste disposal options can be looked at, as there is currently no provision for recycling. The council must consider whether to leave any part of the new area unconsecrated; as there is already an area of unconsecrated ground in the existing cemetery in which there is only 1 grave at present, it may be that there is no need for any further unconsecrated area, but residents are invited to submit comments.

**Footpaths Walk:** Mrs Boughton-Waite informed residents that this year's walk will take place on Sunday 16th May, beginning at 2pm at the Village Hall; all residents are invited to take part – there are 17 paths in total. It is a way of ensuring that all footpaths in the parish are kept in use, and is useful for identifying any problems, such as barriers across the paths.

With no further comments or questions, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Minutes prepared by Mrs S Taylor, Parish Clerk



*As related to the British Legion recently ...*

Now I come's up from Harwell  
I've been here since I was a lad  
but I remember how things were  
and the fun that we all had  
Just boys and girls enjoying  
in those summers so full of sun  
No need for mobile phones or I pods  
just days of endless fun

Kicking a football against the Tennis court fence  
Climbing the wrong way up the slide  
Getting told off by old Bungy Blissett  
If we were too slow to hide  
"Get on up the meada " he used to shout  
his arms waving about like a load of fresh eels  
we'd all run so fast to the top of the rec  
with his dog Tiger snapping at our heels

Running through Gordon Bosley's orchards  
Nicking strawberries and cherries off the trees  
being chased by a speeding Land Rover  
then tripping and scraping your knees  
Trying to dam the Harwell Brook  
Having cycle races round Orchard Way  
Building go carts out of old boxes  
and speeding in them down the Holloway

Playing football along the High Street  
waiting for Bob Napper to open his shop  
So we could deliver the papers  
a £1 a week was all I got.

Now Bob didn't have very good eyesight  
and one morning when he was running so late  
he drove right over Michael Dearlove's pushbike  
and crashed his car right into the gate.

No 4 x 4's to take us to school  
we'd all walk together down School Lane  
There was no messing about in the classroom  
or Bill Smith would give you the cane  
Dick Pateman. Ann's Elderfield and Young,  
David Williams and Dennis Lay  
Twins Yvonne and Sue Froud  
who Dennis would marry one day  
Ray Hinchliffe and Yvonne Doyle  
who later would become man and wife  
we were all friends together  
and still remain later in life.

There were three butchers then in the village  
Alan Bosley, Den Dudden were two  
Baden Powell the other who sold out his business  
to Joe Dearlove who took over his queue  
Now there's many a tale about Dearlove's  
And everyone has their own views  
but one thing that was pretty certain, it's where  
you caught up with the latest village news.

Along with the butchers we had two grocery shops  
a CO OP and a garage as well  
a newsagents, a coal yard, an off licence  
and a doctors if you didn't feel very well  
there was no need to go to Didcot  
No need for a Giant Superstore  
You could get it all in the village  
But sadly that's not the case anymore.

There were five pubs as well in the village  
at the Chequers there was Harry Bill and Marge  
they spent most of their time arguing  
I never knew which one was in charge  
In the Crown there Mrs Muriel Mulford  
with customers like Larry and Glad  
Ken King , Sandy Powell and Georgie Mac  
we miss them all ..... so sad.

The White Hart was run by Ken Rodgers  
The Crispin by Mervyn and Jean  
it became popular to the younger brigade  
and the home of the football team  
The Kicking Donkey had Alf Gerring  
a local in the true sense of the name  
and the Legion had its home in a mission hut  
perched on a bank down Kings Lane.

Now there's many a tale about that Legion hut  
the dodgy electrics and the toilets outside  
where the brambles grew through in the summer  
and tickled you up the backside.  
The two Cyrils of Balderstone and Hambridge  
Rob Campbell , Douggie Belcher and Tom Hart  
Jock Cowie, Steve Prior all names from that time  
But they all had the Legion at heart.

But time stands still for no man  
The village has changed no doubt  
but I'm not sure it's all for the better  
some of it we can do without  
It's all in the name of progress  
that's what we always get told  
But I sometimes wish we could all return  
To those happier days of old.

Charlie East, 2010

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**Northmoor Trust June & July Events**

Get outdoors, have fun and learn what you can do to look after our environment. The Northmoor Trust has some great events for all the family. Unless otherwise stated, all events are held at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham. [www.northmoortrust.co.uk](http://www.northmoortrust.co.uk)

**Sunday 13th June: 10am - 4pm**

Open Farm Sunday – Free Entry!

Enjoy family fun day down on the farm! Meet the farmers Camilla and Roly, tractor and trailer rides, sheep racing, hay bale climbing and the Crazy Clumps Challenge! Free entry to Project Timescape and delicious lunches and afternoon teas on sale in the Poem Tree refreshment area.

**Sat. 19th June 2 - 4pm Outstanding Orchids**

**Mowbray Fields Nature Reserve, Didcot**

Enjoy a walk around the reserve to learn more about the wildlife living in the heart of Didcot. Adults £4.50. Please call 01865 407792 to book.

**Thursday 15th July: 7.30pm - 9pm**

Guided Walk – History of Wallingford Castle

Explore the history of Wallingford Castle with local historian Judy Dewey. Adults £4.50, Children £1.50. Please call 01865 407792 to book.

**Tuesday 29th June: 9pm - 10.30pm Bats at**

Riverside Crowmarsh Join a local bat expert to learn how to use a bat detector and recognise different species in flight. Adults £4.50, Children £1.50. Please call 01865 407792 to book.

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