



No.25

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE NOV. 1985

An Historic Year



Oxford & County Newspapers

This year Harwell Village has celebrated its Millenium. One thousand years of continuous village life since the granting of a Royal Charter in 985 AD.

The Millennium Year has been truly memorable. The celebrations have brought villagers together and provided a great deal of happiness, satisfaction and entertainment to people of all ages.

Our picture (many more inside) shows the spirit and enthusiasm of those involved in the Millennium activities.

A high point in the celebrations was the Pageant, with its cast of over 300 villagers and contributions from many more.

It conjured up images of Harwell's rich past from the granting of its original Royal Charter through to the impact of the Second World War.

The Civic Service which was well attended provided the opportunity of thanksgiving for the strength of the community and pleasures of village life.

The richness of Harwell's heritage is described in the history of the village on page 3 and the atmosphere of Harwell in the 1920's is conveyed in Jim Talbot's poem on page 12. Scenes from the past are also described in the Harwell song, which was written and composed for the Millennium and can be found on page 9.

The village of Harwell


 Ancient earthworks in the vicinity provide evidence that the village of Harwell has been inhabited since pre-Roman times. Roman coins have been found at Middle Farm where it is thought that a Roman villa may have existed. In Saxon times the village was known as Hareswell. A burial ground of that period has been partly unearthed in the Holloway. In the Domesday book (1081-1086) it is stated that Bishop Stigand and freemen Ulvic and Achi were holders of lands in the village under King Edward the Confessor but following the Norman Conquest, Roger de Iveri became the principal land holder under King William the Conqueror. King Edward II (1307-1327), gave the Manor of Harwell, together with other great wealth and honours to his favourite, the infamous Piers Gaveston whose coat of arms can be seen in the east window of the village church of St. Matthew. In 1312 Gaveston was seized by the Barons who executed him at Blacklow Hill near Warwick. In the 14th Century, the Black Prince held Princes Manor and later gave it to the College of St. Nicholas at Wallingford. In 1557, Richard Coder bought the Manor and established extensive cherry orchards. In the Civil War (1642-1648), numerous skirmishes and battles were fought in the surrounding district, and following the second battle of Newbury in 1644 Manchester and his soldiers remained in the village for three days. ~ Cromwellian armour has since been found in Middle Farm. In 1688, William of Orange, when on his way from Hungerford to Oxford, before journeying on to London to accept the crown, passed along the ancient road, (then known as the Golden Mile) which skirts the west side of the parish. In 1852 a disastrous fire swept through the village and destroyed 9 farms and 23 cottages. From the 17th Century until recent times "Harwell Cherries" held a nationwide reputation but ultimately disease destroyed many cherry trees. Cherries are still grown in smaller quantities, but apples and other fruits have now been introduced into the local orchards. During World War II, a great airfield was established on the land where the Atomic Energy Research Establishment now stands. It was from this airfield on the night of 5th June 1944, that the aircraft took off with the 6th Airborne Division, who were the first British soldiers to land in Normandy in the main assault for the liberation of Europe.

Over the years the village has been known by various names:-

8 th and 9 th Century	{ Haramwylle.	11 th Century	{ Harowell.
	{ Harewilliam.		{ Harwelle.
10 th Century	{ Harawill.	13 th Century	Arwell.
	{ Haranwell.		Harowell.

Feast of Fun

Torrential rain, cold winds, and waterlogged arena could not spoil the special Millennium Feast.

People did not seem to mind trudging around in wellies and the children had a great time 'paddling' in the mud.

Some events had to be cancelled but the pictures tell the story of a village determined to enjoy itself.





Oxford & County Newspapers



Floral Tribute

The flower festival provided one of the most splendid and colourful Millennium events.

The displays exhibited in St. Matthews Church depicted Biblical themes and religious festivals. The themes included 'The Creation', 'The Baptism', selected psalms, 'Easter' and 'Love'. The arrangements were contributed by 24 members of the village and over 200 people visited the festival during the two day exhibition.

Works of Art

For three days in mid-July the Village Hall was filled to capacity with an amazing variety of art and craft work submitted by local residents. The volume and quality of the exhibits delighted the organising committee.

The centre of the Hall was full with approximately 75 paintings and drawings by adults. These included works in fibre-tip pen, water colours and oils, with subjects ranging from portraits, sea-scapes to flower paintings, and two enormous surrealist canvasses of building interiors. The art exhibits also included 3-dimensional decoupage pictures of birds and flowers, and an excellent display of artwork from Harwell Primary School.

The craftwork, featured pottery, macrame, tapestries, lace, knitting, wooden models, wrought ironwork, sugarcraft flowers, soft toys and designer silk dresses. There was also the showcase of fluorescent rocks and demonstrations of spinning, pottery and sugarcraft.

The exhibition was not initially intended as a fund raising event. However, through door receipts and sales of pictures, crafts and Millennium souvenirs over £600, was raised for the Children's Playground.

The organising committee takes this opportunity to thank everyone who exhibited work and helped in various ways. The success of the event which revealed the wealth of talent in the village, has prompted suggestions that an exhibition could be held on a regular basis. What do you think? Jane Cumming would like to hear your comments. (AB 835289)

Our picture taken at the exhibition shows young Jane Pascoe proudly showing-off her new Millennium T-shirt to Keith Beswick and by the way there are still a few T-shirts left for sale at Wools Etc. in the High Street.



A Stitch in Time

The two wall-hangings in commemoration of the Millennium are nearing completion and will be put in the Church before the end of the year.

The project involves contributions by thirty seven people (thirty six women and one man) and work has been underway for nearly two years. The wall hangings, each measuring 6' x 10' have been designed by Michele Anderson and Jo Roberts. Their central panels depict some of the traditions and important events in the history of the village.

The outer borders are worked in petit-point tapestry, and show a variety of fruit, animals, birds and shields. The inner, arch-shaped panels are divided into four sections by a cross with a cherry design, also worked in tapestry.

The panels are constructed in applique, a method of applying pieces of materials onto a backing piece to build up a picture.

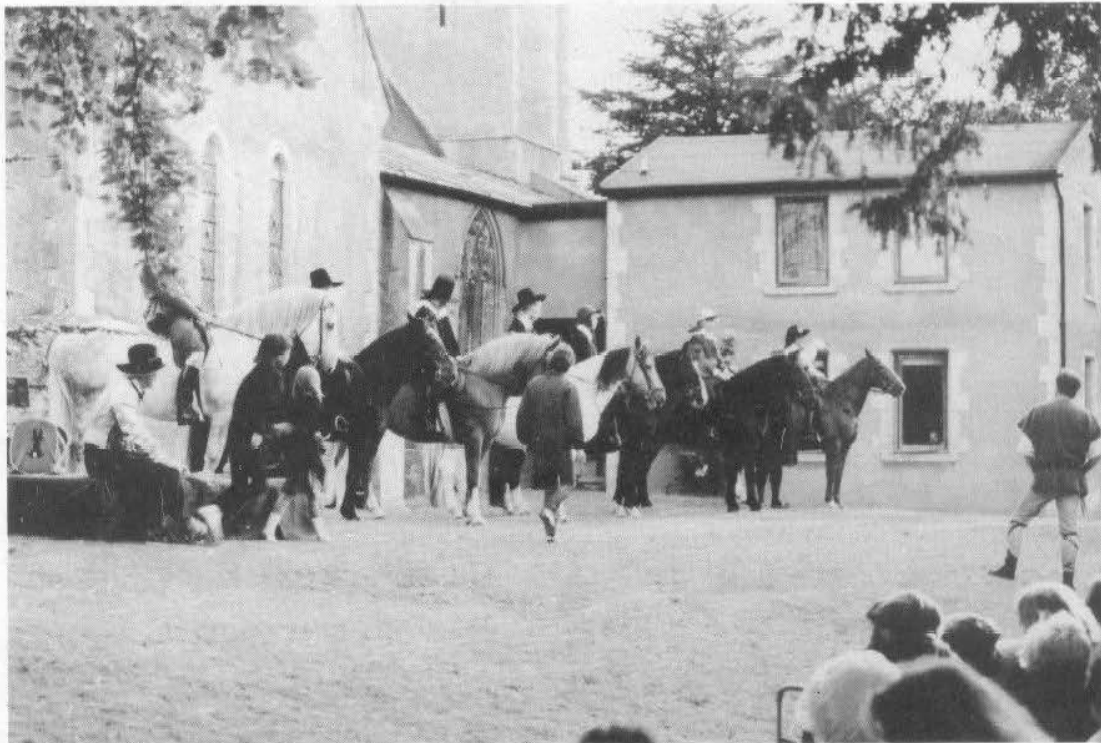


Millennium Pageant

The Harwell Pageant, performed in the Grounds of St. Matthew's Church, on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th July, was a grand success. An enormous amount of energy and a great variety of talents were channelled into the production. It involved the co-operation of many different village groups and individuals who combined to make the Pageant a success, enjoyed by its cast, those backstage and audience alike.

Elizabeth Parry wrote the Script and director John Fisher and co-ordinator Anita Pepper, welded ten separate village groups into a united cast for the eleven act performances.

The narrator, Tom Taylor played the part of The Doctor, a travelling 'Time Lord' and the Pageant started with the Doctor's 'TARDIS' time-ship crashing into modern Harwell's church yard. The 'Doctor', found by four school children, then proceeded to provide a history lesson with a difference, conjuring up images of Harwell's past before the eyes of the audience.



1644 PARLIAMENTARY TROOPS



1310 THE WEDDING GUESTS ARRIVING

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Harwell branch meetings are held in the Club House, Kings Lane, on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.45 p.m. The committee would like to see more members come along to these meetings.

The main fund raising effort of the year is the Poppy Appeal. During the last year a total of £708.00 was raised from this and other events held in the Club. Many thanks must go to all those who spent so much time and effort in helping this great cause. Some of the money raised does come back to the village by means of giving assistance to ex-Service men and women and their dependants. It should be noted that all ex-Service personnel and their dependants are eligible for help in terms of need whether they are members of the Legion or not.

Other events this year included the annual Harvest Home in aid of the Blind which was held in the Club and raised £250.00. Many thanks to all concerned.

Our team won the Royal County of Berks and Vale of the White Horse Bowls Championship (Fours) and we wish them good luck in the Area Finals.

Lastly, like many other organisations in the Village we were proud to take part in the Pageant and really enjoyed ourselves.

HARWELL FOOTBALL CLUB

As the Millennium events come to a close and records will show "Village of a 1000 years" so another auspicious occasion looms forth worthy of celebration. The season of 1985-1986 is one in which the Football Club will have established itself as "club of 100 years", yes, Harwell Football Club is 100 years old this season.

During this life span Harwell has achieved many triumphs and hopes to continue in this way. The club is highly respected throughout several counties and this is an achievement that few clubs can boast. The club tries to produce a high standard of play and to provide first rate entertainment for all.

Plans are well underway to make this season a memorable one. So far a tour to Jersey has been arranged for players and supporters. It is hoped that a match can be arranged with Oxford United sometime during the season.

Players past and present will be invited to attend a grand reunion party towards the end of the season.

Let us hope that this season will not only be remembered as a centenary year but as a triumphant one when many trophies are awarded. I am sure everyone wishes the club every success during this their centenary year.

TENNIS CLUB

Despite the rather dismal summer, the Tennis Club has continued to attract a reasonably large number of members.

This summer we have taken part in the Vale of the White Horse League. Although our record of wins has not been very good, all the players who have taken part have enjoyed the chance to play competitively.

The season is now drawing to a close, but we are always on the look out for new members. If you would like to find out more about the Tennis Club, please contact the Secretary, Mrs. Jane Cumming on AB. 835289.

OUT AND ABOUT CLUB

If you would like a day out with your friends, join the Out and About Club. It gives you the opportunity to GO PLACES without the problem of driving and parking. The places visited are many and varied. This years programme included trips to the Coalport and Crown Staffordshire factory, the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, Sudeley Castle and Gardens, Bristol Docks and SS Great Britain and a boat trip from Westminster Pier to the Thames Barrier and Greenwich.

Visits take place monthly with the exception of peak holiday periods. All new members are welcome. Cost is £1.00 per person per annum. For further details, contact Jean Campbell, "Darnaway", High Street, Harwell. Telephone: AB 835479.

NETBALL CLUB

The Netball Club has made a very encouraging start since 1st September. We are currently meeting on Tuesday evenings at 6.15 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 11.00 a.m. for training and playing and hope to organise some friendly matches in the near future.

Although membership numbers are adequate at present, there will always be room for more ladies. If you are aged 14 and over and would like to join in the fun (some of us haven't played since leaving school years ago), please come along to one of the sessions at the tennis courts on the recreation ground or contact Sally Froud on AB. 832762.

WINTERBROOK YOUTH CLUB

The Millennium year will go down in our records as the year the club spread its wings and ventured forth into the formation of a Junior Club. What a success that has been, long may it continue!

Also a year when Harwell found it did have a male species who could help with the club and not have to rely upon outside help.

Well done those men folk.

With added help, ideas, vitality and interest let us hope the club will continue to be successful.

SENIOR CITIZENS FUND

This year we celebrated our 21st. Anniversary with a Party for Senior Citizens in the Village Hall, we had a sit down tea, drinks and entertainment. Those people who couldn't make it have had a Gift Voucher to spend in the Village Shops.

To raise our Funds we sell Home Bingo tickets every week via our various agents throughout the Village and we then provide a Result Sheet to check these tickets the following week. If you would like to support the Senior Citizens of this Parish and buy a ticket, (they are only 10p each,) then give our Bingo Promoter a ring on 835228 and he will gladly send around the nearest agent to explain how we work.

A big thank you to all the people who buy bingo tickets, our agents and many others who help our Fund throughout the year.

We now have approximately 200 Senior Citizens over the age of 70 years in our Parish and if you would like to have your name included on our list for the Xmas Gift please give Mrs. Harmer a ring on Abingdon 832717 and she will make sure that your name is put down.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

- 4th Gardeners Club — David Sturdy, Oxford's historic gardens.
- 13th W.I. Contemporary stained glass.
- 14th Womens Fellowship — Rev. Stott senior.
- 19th Ladies Group. Mr Devlin — Raising the Mary Rose.
- 28th Womens Fellowship. Drs. Colin and Margeret Bowker.

DECEMBER

- 2nd Gardeners Club. Grand Christmas Gardening Club quiz, with visiting teams from Abingdon, Appleton, Blewbury and Wallingford.
- 6th Harwell School Christmas Bazaar. 3 p.m.
- 6th **Pageant Evening.** Village Hall 7.30 p.m. Film, slides and photographs.
- 8th **Pageant Afternoon.** Village Hall 2.30 p.m.
- 8th **Pageant Evening.** Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
- 11th W.I. Members meeting.
- 12th Womens Fellowship. "Cantate Domine".
- 17th Ladies Group. Christmas Party.

JANUARY

- 6th Gardeners Club. Mr Mulholland — House and Christmas plants.
- 8th W.I. New Year Party, with entertainment by the Drama Group.
- 9th Womens Fellowship. Kate Ulmer.
- 21st Ladies Group. Pauline Mordeu — living with mental handicap.
- 23rd Womens Fellowship. Laurie Chumbley.

FEBRUARY

- 3rd Gardeners Club. Mrs Macdonald — Well illustrated talk on Kew Gardens.
- 12th W.I. Getting the most out of your food mixer and food processor.
- 13th Womens Fellowship. Rosemary Rolls.
- 18th Ladies Group. Kate Ulmer — talk and slides on Gideon.
- 27th Womens Fellowship. Deaconess Impey.

Planning Approvals

- HAR/8282 Mr & Mrs Smalley. The Pollards, Townsend. Extension.
- HAR/393/2-LB Mr T.L. Carter. Englefield Cottage, Broadway. Demolitions and new garage and utility room.
- HAR/8280 Froud Bros. High St. New storage building.
- HAR/5066/4 Rowstock Corner Garage. Paint spray-bake oven.
- MIL/SUT/HAR59/94 Milton Trading Estate. New road system.
- HAR/8387 Mr & Mrs Brown. Tangley, Didcot Road. Extension.
- HAR/5236 (Renewal) Mr R.H. & E. Lay. Adjacent Mulberry Close, Barn conversion.
- HAR/8411 Mr & Mrs Jackson. Wellow House, High St. New Wall.
- HAR/253/1 Messrs. C.F. & G.D. Lay. Broadacres, The Cleave. Garage to bedroom and new garage.

Planning Refusal

- HAR/8409 Mr R.H. Lowe. 36 Westfield. Two storey-extension.

VILLAGE PLAYGROUP

Harwell Playgroup was founded in 1971 and originally held in the Village Hall. We have now moved into the Freeman Hall which is very spacious and has a safe playing area for the children. We are open four mornings a week, from 9.15 to 11.45 a.m. and have, on average, 20 children per morning. There are plenty of toys, books and puzzles and a climbing frame and slide whilst activities include painting, drawing, and singing songs.

Mrs. Gwen Froud has been the Supervisor from the start and is helped by Mrs. Ann Harris, the assistant supervisor, and a Mum-helper every morning to keep things running smoothly.

Our Committee organise various fund raising events throughout the year and we like to take part annually in the Harwell Feast. This Millennium Year we portrayed the "Great Fire of Harwell" and dressed all the children in either Fireman's Uniforms or clothes of that period (1852).

We gained third prize for our efforts and although the weather was awful on the day, the children had great fun which is what Playgroup is all about.

If you would like your child to attend and if he/she is coming up to three years of age, we should be very pleased to see them in Playgroup one morning to have a chat and get acquainted.

R.A.F. GUINEA PIG CLUB

The Club was formed by a group of ex R.A.F. veterans who, after being burnt in World War II skirmishes had been the first to undergo plastic surgery, thus making them "Guinea Pigs".

Their involvement with Harwell dates from 1977, since when annual reunion meetings and lunch have taken place at the White Hart followed by site visits to A.E.R.E. or the Rutherford/Appleton Laboratories, culminating in afternoon tea at the Royal British Legion Club.

All the above premises, plus St. Matthews Church, have on display Guinea Club plaques which have been presented to them. The Harwell Feast Darts Cup also bears the name of the Guinea Pig Club and was presented by the Club to the Village.

1st HARWELL (ST. MATTHEW) SCOUT GROUP

The Cub Scout Pack and Scout Group continue their busy programmes.

The Scout Group has an exciting schedule that includes, amongst many other activities, canoeing, camping, caving and climbing at the appropriate level for their age and experience as well as working towards their standards and badges under the leadership of Andy McNiven with help from two assistant Scout Leaders and Instructors.

The Cub Scout Pack with its Arrow work still finds time for badges, as well as camps, visits, talks, and District Competitions (football, quiz, swimming etc) under the guidance of Akela, Graham Cox, with help from two assistant Cub Scout Leaders and an Instructor.

As Group Scout Leader I am responsible for the Administration of the Group assisted by the Executive of the Group Council.

P.G. McNiven Telephone: Abingdon 835335

DOG FOULING

The Parish Council is continuing to receive complaints about dog fouling. It is timely, therefore, to remind all owners that there now exists a bye-law which enables action to be taken to restrict the fouling of footways and grass verges. The Parish Council has a copy of this bye-law and two passages are worth publishing here.

... No person in charge of a dog shall allow the dog to foul a footway or grass verge ...

... Any person offending against this bye-law shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds ...

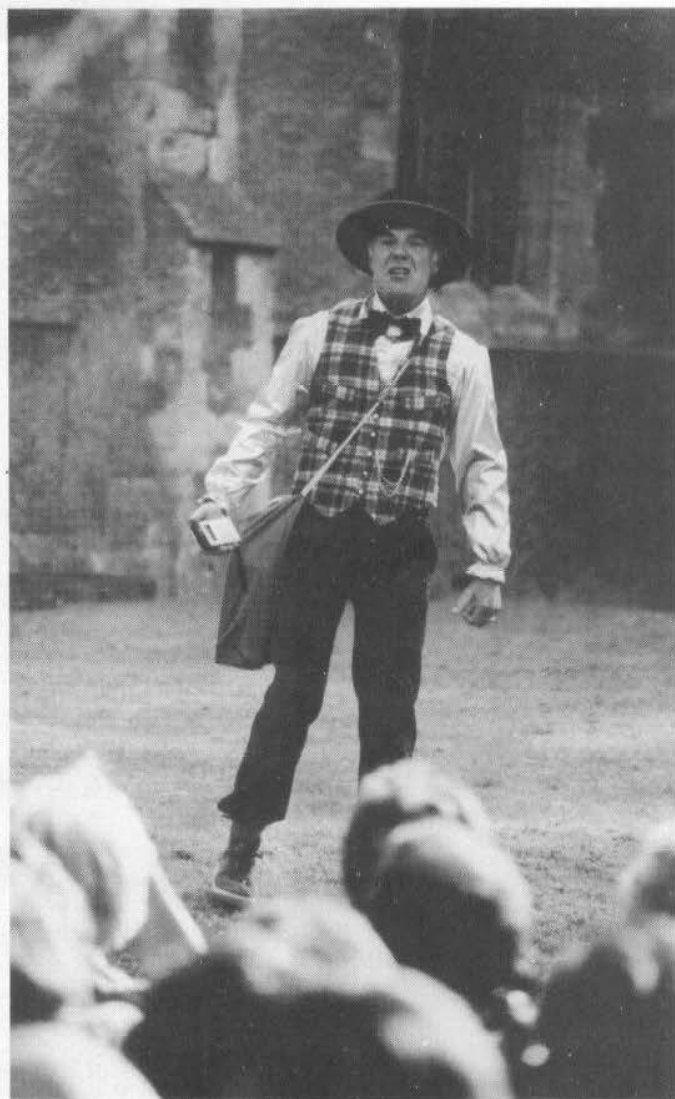
The Pageant scenes were:

1985	Introduction	Harwell Primary School
985	The Granting of the Charter	Harwell Primary School
1200	Ten Villagers acquire land in Harwell	Betty Pykes' Group
1283	Bishop of Winchester feasts villagers at his Harwell Manor	The Crispin Pub
1310	Wedding of John Atte Halle to Margery de Bayllol	The Womans Institute
1362	Pressganging of Villagers for the Black Princes' Army	AERE Group
1560	The Horse Fair of Harwell	Ladies Group
1644	Parliamentary troops bring the Civil War to Harwell	Harwell Riding School
		Ladies Group
1760	The Traditional Cherry Tea	The Girls' Brigade
1852	The Great Fire of Harwell	The British Legion
1900's	Vistas of the Twentieth Century	Sylvia Ashby's Group
		The British Legion
1985	Finale	Assemble

Even the weather was kind. While surrounding villages experienced rain and cloud, the Pageant was staged in cool but dry conditions. Great thanks must go to everyone involved; those who designed and worked on the programme; wrote words and music; organised refreshments and baked cookies; helped set out the seating, sold tickets and programmes; worked behind the scenes on the music and production and, not least, the actors who gave such memorable performances.



VIKING RAIDERS!



TOM, THE TRAVELLING MAN

Friends from America

Harwell welcomed thirty visitors from the USA who attended the pageant and the Civic Service during the Millennium Weekend on the 20/21 July. Many of the visitors bear the Harwell name, and are descended from a 'Harwell' who emigrated to Virginia in the Seventeenth Century. (See John Fletcher and Jon Whittaker's Book 'The Harwell Trail').

Twenty five of the visitors stayed as guests with families in the village, and organised events included a sight-seeing tour of medieval houses, tea at the home of Mr and Mrs Whitehead, and a friendly bowls match in the Recreation Field.

Some enjoyed their stay so much that they extended their holiday for another week. Others said they would like to come and live in the village where they found such tranquility.

Dr John Fletcher and Mrs J Thompson arranged the visit with help from many other members of the community.

A Thousand Thanks

'Following the two fine evenings for the Pageant in the churchyard, a Civic Service was held at St. Matthew's Church on Sunday 21st July to celebrate 1000 years of village life at Harwell and to thank God for his goodness' writes the Rev. Chris Stott.

'The Church was full, we welcomed over 20 Harwell descendants from America and there was truly an atmosphere of celebration and thanksgiving as we listened to trumpet fanfares and to two special choir items. A highlight was the Harwell song written by David Porter with its ringing chorus:—

Harwell Village of a thousand years
Celebrate our history
Harwell village of a thousand years
Praise our God triumphantly!

The lessons were read by Mr John Clarke, County Councillor and Mr Alan Wood, Chairman of the Parish Council, who also presented a Millennium scroll which was a copy of the original Charter granted to Harwell Village in 985.

The Guest preacher was Canon Derek Osborne, Vicar of Emmanuel Church, Northwood, who was both amusing and challenging as he highlighted various things in the history of Harwell, reminded us of the faithfulness of God, and challenged us to a fresh commitment to God in our own day and generation.

Most people came away having felt the presence of the living God and with the thought 'It was good to be there on such an occasion'.



Before you see the film - read the book

The commemorative book 'Harwell - Village for a Thousand Years' has received considerable publicity and has been well received and praised by many experts.

The book was 1½ years in preparation and all the expertise needed to produce this high quality sewn book was found in the village. Only the printing was done outside the village.

Sales are going very well, more than half of the 1400 print run having been sold after only six weeks, copies have been sent to many parts of the world. The book can be obtained from village shops or from members of the Committee.

Although there are no plans to produce a second edition, the editor Mrs Barbara McIlroy will be grateful to receive corrections and any additional material.

Coming Soon

During December there will be a chance for all villagers to see a film of the pageant and slides of the event on three party occasions to be held in the Village Hall.

The Provisional dates are:—

Friday — 6th December at 7.30 p.m.
Sunday — 8th December at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Those attending will be asked to provide some contribution towards the occasion in the form of food or drink and all those who have photographs are asked to bring them along in a display form so that others can see them.

The occasions will also provide village organizations with the opportunity to show their activities. If you would like to attend, please contact Mike and Anita Pepper, 10 Jennings Lane. Telephone: 835559 for tickets.

At the going down of the Sun . . .

A special feature of Millenium year Memorial Day (Saturday 8th June) was a flypast of World War II Veteran aircraft.

The memorial day programme was organised by the British Legion in association with the annual reunion of the 'Guinea Pig Club'. In the early evening, members of the two organisations assembled at the Memorial Stone at AERE Harwell where they joined with the 6th Airborne Army Division for the annual Memorial Service and to watch the flypast.



Extract from a letter from Judith Masfield, daughter of John Masfield who wrote the poem "The Cherries".

"Thank you very much for the book "Harwell, village of a thousand years". My father used to drive over to Harwell Village, where Mr Boseley had the most amazing collection of perfect cherries. My father bought me an enormous basket full of cherries in one bumper year, which I took back to my little Oxford flat . . . I have never had all the cherries I could eat before."

THE HARWELL SONG

The Harwell song was composed and written by David Porter. It was sung with great success at the Civic Service.

Unready was Ethelred to grant a charter
Without nine bishops including Aethelgar
But in nine hundred and eighty five A.D.
The charter was granted immediately.

Chorus:

Harwell village of a thousand years
Celebrate our history,
Harwell village of a thousand years
Praise our God triumphantly.

Now in twelve eighty three in a house
called Lime Tree
The new Bishop John of Winchester his See
The first Harwell feast is ready, grace said,
The village loves its bishop, all are well fed.

Now it is the civil war Harwell is for the King
But folk are praying the war will pass them by
When along comes the Earl of Manchester
This Parliament man stays at Princes Manor.

A tramp to beg some alms as if it was his right
His request refused and he was heard to say
'He wished the whole of Harwell burned'
And at nine that night the village was alight.

When the fire had died down nine farms and
barns had gone
The almshouses of brick and tile did not burn
And praise be to God no one was killed
and the 'Crown' was saved and not a pint spilled

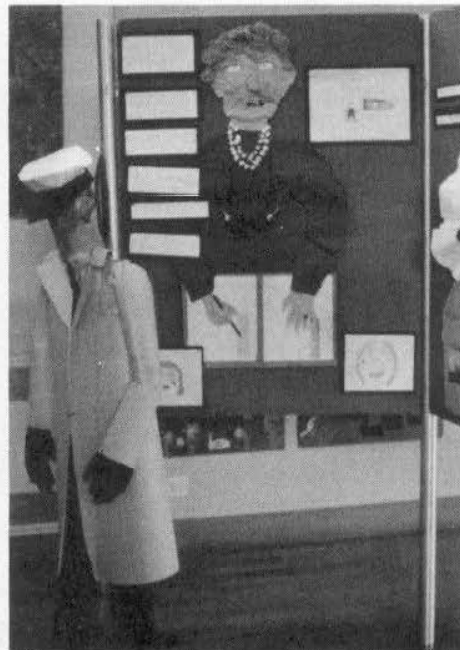
We've been here one thousand years our lifestyle
has changed
The quiet of the horse now the noise of the car
Even the moon does not seem so very far
But you our eternal God are just the same.

HARWELL SCHOOL EXHIBITION, JULY 5th — 7th 1985

On Friday July 5th the parents and friends of Harwell School were invited into the school's four classes, at any time of the day, to watch the children at work and to examine the many and various products of their work that were on display on classroom walls, along corridors, and in the school hall.

It was the start of a weekend exhibition to mark the Harwell Millennium and to display to the village the work of its younger children. Each year the school holds an exhibition of work towards the end of the summer term but this year's display was something special. The walls of the school hall were covered from floor to ceiling with the children's paintings and drawings, while the body of the hall was a mass of screens and tables laid out with a wealth of poems and stories, of mathematical and scientific investigations, of designs, inventions, models and experiments. The centrepiece was an exhibition of Harwell As Seen Through The Eyes Of Its Children. Huge cardboard and paper portraits of the teachers, the cook, the secretary and the crossing patrol warden led into a series of screens displaying the children's views of their environment. There were descriptions of the recreation field and plans of how to improve it. There were drawings and writings of the insides and outsides of the children's homes and of the public buildings of the village. There was a survey of the local shops, a series of graphs of children's tastes, a map showing where all the children lived and where they had been born, a collection of birth certificates and the children's earliest photos together with a set of recollections of their earliest memories. But in a way the entire display within the hall, and continued on the walls and tables of the classrooms, was a picture of village life as lived by its children and of the children themselves as one generation of village life. Anyone looking around the work on display would have had cause for celebration. The energy and imagination, the depth of feeling and intelligence, which stood out so vividly as one wandered around the exhibition showed that Harwell has indeed good reason to be proud of its children.

We hope that the school will mount similar exhibitions in future years and that as many as possible of the residents of our village will take the opportunity to have a look at the achievements of the children.



Memories of an old Schoolboy!

Extract from a letter, written on behalf of Ted Denton, who was born in Harwell in 1894.

"As a schoolboy in Harwell Ted had five first cousins, all girls, living nearby. Every Saturday night these girls came to his father's house to have their hair washed. During the afternoon the girls would go to the general store where they purchased five pennyworth of green, soft soap for the shampoo. Ted's job was to light the copper and see that there was plenty of hot water. Ted says that although it was all that time ago, he still remembers standing behind those girls in church the next day, as the sunlight came into the church making their hair shine with absolute brilliance."



The first sound of the Millennium was that of 'corks popping'. The Celebrations opened with a cheese and wine party. The last sound was that of horses 'clip clopping' as the Gymkhana came to an end.

All the events were well attended and much of this was due to publicity given by the local media. The Millennium caught the imagination of the local press and radio and our montage of cutting shows some of the headlines from the local and regional newspapers and even the Radio Times.

BBC Radio 4's 'Down Your Way' programme gave the Millennium national airtime. Our photograph shows Brian Johnston (right) the presenter of 'Down Your Way' talking to Martin Sheriden (left) and Joe Metheringham about the ancient local pastime of Aunt Sally.



Oxford & County Newspapers



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SPITFIRE FLYPAST

Oxford & County Newspapers

Sights & Sounds

THE HISTORY BOOK OF HARWELL

Mad about their millenium motif

FROM King John to the AERE - history of Harwell came flooding! Nearly 300 villagers played a part in putting on a giant pageant to mark the millennium celebrations. And under the...

Village gets set to celebrate

HARWELL



Harwell - in the news for 1,000 years

by Debbie Partridge

Down Harwell way...

Villagers take long bite at birthday cherry

Play marks 1,000 years

Charter celebrations

A FLYPAST, a feast and flower festival are among events planned by residents of Harwell, to celebrate the 1,000 anniversary since the grant of its Royal Charter.

The celebrations begin with the Harwell Bank Holiday on Spring Bank Holiday when there will be a pageant of the village.

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Harwell - a parade through the past

by Michael Hambleton

From King the Unready to the birth of the Energy Era



OLD FASHIONED GIRLS: From left to right, Karen Mackerness, Sarah Belcher, Becky Sinclair, Anna Lay, and Heather Lister

Pretty maids all in a row

A TIME lord magicked these five delightful schoolgirls back to Good King Charles's days when rehearsals began for Harwell's pageant.

The pageant, on July 19, will celebrate Harwell's 1,000-year history since a charter was granted by Ethelred the Unready in 985.

This poem by Jim Talbot who lived in the Village, captures the atmosphere of Harwell Life, in an Age still remembered by some.

TOWNSEND IN THE TWENTIES

Over there, in the paddock,
Were ricks, four or five,
Neatly thatched by old Arthur,
That yeoman and sage,
Who tho' long departed,
Will ever remain
In my mem'ry on which,
He has written a page.

With a wheel, he would fashion
From wheat straw, a rope,
And therewith to tie bales, at
Three half-crowns a ton;
And I still see him now,
Pipe, waistcoat, and watch,
Feeding calves in the yard,
Helped by Oliver's son.

Somehow, Arthur's tobacco
Was always the same;
Like an incense, that lingered,
Long after he'd made
For the orchard, wherein
The red and white hens,
Searched and scratched in the grass
'Neath the cherry trees' shade.

At the farm, there were stables,
To which, ev'ry eve',
From the plough and the wagon
Released, came the shires;
Massive, dignified, proud
Aristocrats, they
Are part of our hist'ry
And a sight that inspires.

From its source in the village,
Meandered a stream,
With high elms at its margin,
And nettles, waist high,
Where the waterfowl laid;
And willow trees, held
In an ivied embrace,
To the breezes would sigh.

Away down, in the meadows
Where swift ran the stream,
For sticklebacks and gudgeon
We'd bid with our nets,
'neath a buttermilk sky
And a warm summer sun,
In those halycon days,
That one never forgets.

Station to Station

Over the weekend 20-21 July a special radio station was set up in the village and used to communicate with radio amateurs in any parts of the world. The station call sign, GB4HVM (Harwell Village Millennium) had been allocated by the licensing authorities specially for the Millennium celebrations.

Two separate transmitters were set up at the home of Bill Woollen who kindly allowed additional aerials to be erected on his existing mast. The two sets of equipment were operated by members of the Harwell Amateur Radio Society, one station transmitting on VHF (144 MHz) and contacting chiefly stations within the UK, the other using short waves (either 3.5 MHz or 14MHz) to contact amateur radio operators around the world.

A total of 381 stations, in 32 different countries, were contacted over the weekend, and much interest was generated by the brief items of village history which were conveyed to those contacted. All are being sent a special card ('QSL card') bearing the millennium logo, to confirm the contact.

Reflections

Mr Alan Wood, Chairman of the Millennium Committee offers some final thoughts.

'The commemoration of Harwell's Millennium has inevitably involved much reflection upon the events of the past and thoughts on the activities of earlier inhabitants of our village. I believe that we, who in 1985 live in Harwell, should consider ourselves fortunate that it fell to our lot to celebrate an event that took place so long ago.

Thanks are due to those who served on the committee, to all who contributed to the staging of the events, to those who participated in them and to those who supported them by their attendance. We shall remember a very wet Feast day, choral and musical concerts, exhibitions at the school and of arts and crafts, the floral festival and civic service, the horse show, a pram race and a pageant with a cast of hundreds! The book, the tapestry, the mugs, photographs and other souvenirs will serve as more permanent reminders.

When we reflect upon the activities of this year we should again consider ourselves fortunate that we live in a village in which so many people became involved in the celebration and commemoration of the signing of the charter.'

Balance of Success

All the activities for the Millennium Year have shown a profit - some small and some quite large and every little bit has helped.

The balance at present stands at about £3,000, but hopefully there will be a lot more to come from the sales of the Book. Fuller details in the next Newsletter.

A number of people gave interest-free loans to help finance the Millennium, and many others offered loans, should they have been necessary. All loans have now been repaid, and the Millennium Committee expresses its gratitude to everyone concerned for their help.

P. S. . . . Harwell Feast 1986

The 1986 Feast will take place, on the Monday of the late spring Bank Holiday, Monday 26th May.

We need MORE FLOATS, MORE STALLS AND MORE VILLAGE PARTICIPATION.

If you (and your friends) would like to run a stall, join the committee, prepare a float, or simply offer support in some other way - please contact either Pete or Sue Davis on 832279, or Jacky Hutchinson on 835442. No offers of help will be refused!

Normal Service Resumed

This special commemorative issue of the Parish Newsletter has been produced by the Harwell Millennium Publicity Committee, chaired by Keith Beswick, and has been edited by Gill McGurran.

Normal service will now be resumed and the Parish Council will produce future issues of the Newsletter.