

The HARWELL NEWS

Published by Harwell Parish Council

December 91 / January 92



56

Harwell Feast Committee

Following applications for funding the Feast Committee has made the following donations:

	£
Fun Club	80
Youth Club	100
Harwell Day Centre	100
Evergreens	150
Busy Bees	200

The **Village Quiz**, held on October 4th, was won by the *Crispin B* team - congratulations to Rae Chapman, Philip Hinchliffe & Richard Bishop. They were closely followed by the runners-up, *Harwell School* consisting of Michael Armstrong, Nadine Baker & Ian Stott.

Thank-you all eleven teams who took part and made a very enjoyable evening. Brush up your knowledge of Harwell Village for next year!!

The **Christmas Dance** is on Saturday December 21st - our popular Sixties Dance. Tickets are £5 and available from Dearloves and committee members.

There will be a Valentine's Dance on Saturday 15th February - tickets will be available in January.

The Feast Committee would like to thank all the villagers who have supported our events during 1991 and we hope you will continue to enjoy fund-raising for the village with us in 1992.

Harwell Senior Citizens Fund

If you are 70 years of age during 1991, or older, and have been resident in Harwell for at least 3 months, you will qualify for our Christmas gift. If you would like to be included on our list please give Mrs Harmer a ring on Abingdon 832717 and she will be pleased to help you. If you know of any person who was on our list and is no longer resident here please could you also notify Mrs Harmer or one of our committee members.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all our agents who sell bingo tickets every week throughout the year and our committee would like to wish all of our customers *A Very Happy Christmas* and hopefully a *Lucky New Year*

Yvonne Hinchliffe (secretary)

Harwell W.I. Future Meetings

January 8th: Members' Meeting - A Social Evening.

February 12th: Easy Entertaining - Cookery demonstration by Jane Dodds.

Winterbrook Youth Club

The club is open again after 3 months of closure due to lack of leaders.

A big welcome to Paul Taylor of East Ilsley who answered our plea for a male Club Leader and is putting a lot of effort into getting the club up and running again. Also Thanks to Jackie Griffin from Harwell who has joined us as a junior club leader.

SO KIDS - HAVE A LOOK AT WINTERBROOK !

MONDAY EVENINGS - FREEMAN HALL

Juniors 8 - 12 yrs. 6 - 8 pm

Seniors 13 - 18 yrs. 8 - 10 pm

N.B. The entry age for Juniors will be raised to 8 years old from January '92. Any 7 year olds already enrolled may stay.

Newspaper Collection

The Harwell Scouts will be collecting again, commencing January 18th, from 9am. If you have any queries, please ring Richard Lewis on 832562. Remember - newspapers only - Thank-you.

Harwell Gardeners' Club

On 2nd Dec. is the AGM and Christmas party.

On 6th Jan. Alan Edmondson will give a talk on *Auriculas and Primulas*. Refreshments - Raffle - all welcome.

All meetings on Mondays at 7.30 in the Village Hall

Harwell Village Hall

At the meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee on Tuesday 15 October 1991, among the matters considered were the following:-

(a) The Charity Commissioners have revised the Scheme of Management for the Hall so as to let it reflect the current pattern of users.

(b) Consideration is being given to seeking a grant from the Carnegie Trust to improve the stage facilities in the Hall to make it fit for dramatic performances; and to create, within the Hall, an area which will function as a Village Information Centre with provision for the display of objects of historical local interest.

(c) Proposals are being considered to improve the exterior of the Hall and its surroundings, in the light of the criticisms voiced after the last Best Kept Village competition.

(d) Investigations are being undertaken to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the heating system. Current electricity charges are imposing a severe burden on Hall funds, taking a large slice of the income from hiring the Hall.

(e) There is great concern over acts of vandalism which occur regularly. Windows are repeatedly broken, and, as soon as they are replaced, the new putty is stripped off. The Hall is an important resource belonging to everybody in the village and it is very frustrating for the Management Committee to find that its efforts to improve the facilities are continually set back in this way.

The new curtains, bought with the money raised from the Talent Auction and other events, have now been installed.

Mr Michael Neill, presently singing with the English National Opera, has generously offered to give a recital in aid of Village Hall funds in the spring; the date will be published in the next issue.

The next meeting of the Management Committee will take place in the Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 December 1991.

Harwell Cemetery

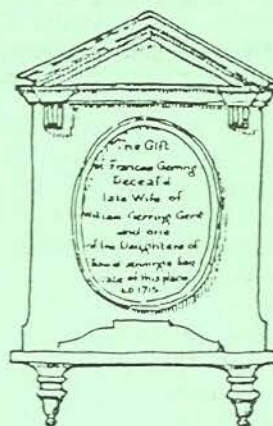
Parishioners will probably have noticed that, over the years, ground in the older sections of the cemetery has in places become very uneven, making it difficult to mow, and consequently untidy. Some memorials and gravestones are leaning.

The Council proposes during the coming year to have some leaning memorials and headstones straightened, and ground around some gravestones levelled. Such maintenance will not only make the work of mowing the older part of the cemetery easier, but the area should present a much better appearance.

Whilst work is being carried out it *may* be necessary to temporarily remove some grave stones and memorials. They will be replaced in exactly the same position from which they were lifted.

The Council is obliged by law to give 6 months notice of its intention in this matter and it is therefore proposed that work should commence in June 1992. If any parishioner would like further information, or wishes to comment, they should write to the Clerk: Miss R. Boshier, Rooftops, The Holloway, Harwell.

The Almshouses



Following a bequest by Frances Geering, made in 1715, the Almshouses were erected about 1732, to house six widows from the village. Their accommodation consisted of one room each. In the early 1960s the number of residents was reduced to four, and an extension was built, to enable each lady to have her own kitchen, but to share a bathroom with her neighbour.

This was not very satisfactory, and as the Almshouses themselves needed a lot of renovation, the Trustees decided to carry out a major improvement scheme; this meant reducing the number to two, each with a bedroom, living-room, kitchen and bathroom.

The work has recently been completed, at a cost of £40,000, and this has been met by grants from the local District Council, various charities and from the Harwell Charities own resources. Also about £6,000 was donated by the Feast Committee, Parish Council and other village organisations.

The Trustees are most grateful for all the interest which has been shown in the project, and for the generosity of the villagers of Harwell. Thanks are also due to the builders, David Herring Homes, of Rowstock, for their speed and efficiency. The work will allow the Almshouses to play a useful part in the life of the village for many years to come.

The Harwell Parochial Charities have been formed, over nearly 300 years, by bequests from local residents, but inflation has greatly reduced their value. Any help, to enable further charity work to be done in the village, would be much appreciated.

A Brocklehurst



TUITION IN

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Harwell Bowls Club

Founded in 1932, the Bowls Club enters its Diamond Jubilee year looking forwards to it's first full season on the new 6-rink green.

At a cost in excess of £40,000, the improvements were only possible with generous grants from Harwell Parish Council, the Vale District Council, Oxfordshire C.C. and donations from National Power, Manulife and Harwell Royal British Legion.

Over half the money was raised by members themselves and the cost was kept down by the unstinting efforts of the members, especially the President, Dave Morris. Unloading turf, shifting tons of sand and concrete to complete the surrounds and sprinkle

system has given the club a Green that is the envy of many clubs and sets a challenge for the members to improve the clubhouse to match the playing surface. Nursed along by green-keepers Steve Boddy and Jim Marsh, only limited bowling has been possible as the turf settled with the assistance of excellent weather.

The Bowls Club is extremely grateful to Esso Bowls Club for allowing us the use of their greens for home functions until play was possible again on ours. The additional two rinks will allow the Club to recruit new members, with special membership rates available to young people, with coaching sessions available, when the new season opens, from qualified coaches.

The opportunity to meet Club members can be taken on Saturday December 7th when the ladies section is holding a coffee-morning at the Clubhouse. A number of events will be organised to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee year, and the green will be officially opened with a match against an English Bowls Association representative side. Details of membership can be obtained from Rex Mitchum of 16, The Croft (835286).

Congratulations are extended to Roger Goodchild who won the Club Individual Championship, and Ken and Elsie Porter who won the County Royal British Legion Pairs.

Whilst taking the opportunity to look forward to our celebration year, it is also an occasion to place on record the sincere appreciation of the Club members for the continued support from the residents and Council members, and also the committee and members of the Royal British Legion.

Didcot Oxfam Shop

We are in urgent need of volunteers to help in the shop. If you are able to give a few hours of your time to help us to help others please contact:

Sheila Mills tel. 0865 742000

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Party Bookings for 5-course Christmas Dinners

£7-50 per head. Buffets £3-50 per head.

Christmas at Harwell School

Christmas is a busy time in primary schools. We really began on November 27th with a magic show for our younger children, presented by Mr Ernest Jones, retired headteacher of Manor School, Didcot, and a member of the magic circle. A week later the older children have their traditional pre-Christmas disco. Then, on Friday afternoon, December 6th, we are holding our Christmas Bazaar. It starts in the school hall at 3 o'clock with a sale of cakes, toys, books, and all sorts of Christmas gifts, and it closes at around 4 o'clock with the Grand Christmas Bazaar Prize Draw, with a £50 first prize and a score of other prizes. Father Christmas, naturally, will be there, and everyone is welcome. Why not drop in for a cup of tea and a chance to do some early, well almost early, Christmas shopping?

The following week we are putting on our Christmas Play. This year its title is *'Twas the Night before Christmas*, and it tells a variety of Christmas stories, ending with the story of the nativity. The different scenes are interspersed with songs and carols and the whole play is narrated by - well that's a secret for now. Every child in the school has a part, which gives us a cast of 127! The play will be presented on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, December 11th and 12th. It starts at 6 o'clock and lasts a little over one hour. We don't sell tickets but there will be a collection in aid of the Blue Peter Golden Age Appeal. Anyone who would like to come, but is not directly connected with the school, is welcome to contact us for a ticket or to come to the dress rehearsal which will take place on Tuesday December 10th at around 1.20pm.

After the play is over, in the final week of term, we hold our Christmas parties and then, on Sunday December 22nd, our choir will be taking part in the Carols by Candlelight service in St Matthews Church.

And then Christmas really begins!

Michael Armstrong

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Editorial Note

Harwell News is published at the beginning of alternate months. Details of your club meetings, reports of events are welcomed for inclusion. Also any other contributions will be considered for publication. Send them to one of the Harwell Parish Council Publicity Committee - Margaret Turner, 15, Tyrrells Close, or Martin Ricketts, 16 The Park, (or phone 835628) by January 19th for the next issue which will be distributed about 1st February.

Parish Council

We have been asked to remind all people who place posters around the village to publicise their events to please ensure these are removed promptly. Although the vast majority are removed, the few that are not become an eyesore and an unwanted and unnecessary source of litter.

The Grove Farms, Milton Hill has written to say that, the new Food Act, and both supermarkets and consumer associations require them to taken much care to ensure the cleanliness of their fruit. As a result they can no longer allow people to walk their dogs in the orchards and new fences will be erected in the near future.

A drinks-can bank will soon be in place by the bottle banks in the recreation ground car-park. This has been sponsored by AEA Harwell, so please, recycle those cans.

Some self-adhesive *Dog Litter* signs have been acquired - contact the Clerk or your nearest Councillor if you think one is needed in your street.

Please remember that a *Village Diary* is now kept at the Post Office - provided organisations enter dates of future events as they are fixed, it can be a useful check of whether anything has already been arranged for your dates.

Harwell's Rights of Way

The state of our rights of way: As reported last summer, the Harwell Rights of Way Group surveyed all the rights of way (ROWs) which fall within the Parish of Harwell and is taking follow-up action. The present position is this

There is supposed to be a signpost wherever a ROW leaves a metalled road. We found over 20 signposts were missing. OCC will provide these and have scheduled the work so the signs should be in place by next Summer. We have made arrangements with some local landowners to place way-marks along the routes of some of our ROWs. Four ROWs were found to be obstructed or very difficult to follow in the field and OCC was told about these. Some anomalies were noted, some of which arose when the new A34 was constructed. These require further investigation including examination of the Parish Records.

Betty Pike has provided the Group with information which she collected some years ago from the older members of the community about a missing ROW from the village to Rowstock. The Group hopes to submit a case to OCC to have this reinstated.

Progress is inevitably slow, but the interest and activity in Harwell is greater than in many parishes and the Group is grateful for the support of the Parish Council.

Mel Veal (ROW Group Coordinator, tel. 835297) (part held over due to lack of space)

Harwell Parish Council

wishes to employ a

GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE WORKER

whose duties will include maintenance of pathways, grass and edge trimming of the Recreation Ground, Cemetery and Freeman Orchard, and general maintenance of the playing field and pavilion. The hours per week are to be 40 during May to October, 35 during November to April.

The salary will be at Grade 4 Local Government Manual rate, currently £145 per week, with 22 days paid holiday (in addition to Public Holidays). The post is not pensionable. Equipment and overalls will be supplied.

For full details of the Job Description and Terms and Conditions, apply to the Clerk to Harwell Parish Council, Miss R Boshier, Rooftops, The Holloway, Harwell. Applications should be made in writing detailing relevant experience and supplying the names of two referees, with preferably one from a previous or current employment. A medical examination may be required. The closing date for applications is 31st December 1991.

Training and Support for Small Businesses

Oxford College Small Business Centre has been contracted by the Heart of England Training and Enterprise Council to run another 12 Enterprise Start-up courses between January 1992 and March 1993.

The Small Business Centre offers training and support for new and established businesses wishing to grow successfully. The Centre has already helped over 600 people wishing to start their own business or considering self-employment.

Further information is available from Sue Brough, Small Business Centre Manager, Cricket Road Centre, Oxford (0865) 716171.

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Old Tyme Music Hall

We are pleased to report that proceeds of £1,150 were raised and have been donated to the Village Hall. A Thankyou is due to all the villagers who took part - didn't they do well! Our picture shows two of the star performers, Johns Edwards and Bainbridge singing *The Bells are Ringing*. And thankyou to all who came - we hope you all enjoyed the show.

Janice Markey

North Drive Playground

The playground, adjacent to the Harwell Laboratory, was opened last month by the Culham / Harwell Director, Dr. Peter Iredale. It has been funded by the laboratory and the Harwell Site Residents' Association, who also did a lot of the work themselves. As you can see in the picture below, it includes lots of things for the youngsters to do, and is a great asset to the area.

As a member of the audience at the Music Hall, I know I am not alone in wishing to congratulate the Feast Committee for giving us such an excellent show. It was great fun and obviously the cast thoroughly enjoyed themselves, but they and their backstage members put in many hours which must have been particularly difficult for all those with young families.

We owe a debt to the Committee which can put on such a good performance and boost village funds so well.

Jill Brocklehurst



Gardening Notes

Regarded by some as a 'quiet time' nevertheless there is always plenty to be done - a time of taking stock & planning for the future. If you have kept a note of how plants, seeds, etc. have performed you will have an easier task in ordering for the coming season. When the weather won't let you on the ground - then is a good time to read through the new catalogues. Do take the trouble to send off for some of the mail-order seed catalogues - they provide much more information than can be printed on the packets and usually offer a much wider choice than either retail shops or even Garden Centres.

Seasonal Work: In the flower borders part prune roses to reduce wind rock, tidy up generally. November is the month for planting new trees and bushes. Bare-rooted plants put in at this time usually do even better than container-grown plants. Where necessary prune established trees, but remember pruning in winter delays fruiting and promotes vegetative growth. There should always be a reason for pruning - to shape the tree, cutting out dead or crossing branches, or to let in the light. Every other year after pruning spray with tar oil winter wash.

Use the quiet time to clean and sharpen those tools, and check electric cables and equipment in readiness for next season.

With Christmas presents in mind, here are a few suggestions: every good gardener should have a good diary, preferably lasting 5 years, so results can be recorded and compared; floating cloches are always handy, and air-plants don't need a garden or even any soil; stainless steel tools, whilst expensive, make life much easier and are well worth while; weather instruments such as a max / min thermometer or a rain gauge... So here's wishing you all a very Happy Christmas, and Good Gardening in 1992 Laurie Chumbley

Queries of general interest may be answered in this column - address any gardening questions to Laurie at Pippins, The Cleave.



Friends of St. John Ambulance

Is there someone, or a group of you, who would consider forming a *Friends of St. John* in Harwell?

The numbers of recruits to St. John Ambulance are not as great as they used to be, yet each year they are asked to perform even more public duties. They need to recruit and they need funds. They are all volunteers with full-time jobs. They have not enough free time to be on duty, recruit new members and raise money. Can you help by organising one fund-raising activity a year in Harwell or by recruiting 50 *Friends of St. John* (or more) at £2 per person per year in your area? If you feel able to help or would like more information please telephone St. John Ambulance County Headquarters (08675 78229) and leave a message for Georgina Stonor or Gillian Ovey. We will give you all the support we can to launch your group. Do come and join us. Thank you.

Christmas Recipes from the W.I. - Before and After

Freezer Mincemeat:

Mix together

6ozs	Suet
1lb	Stewed apple
1lb	Dark brown sugar
3lbs	Chopped mixed dried fruit (including some cherries)
1tsp	mixed spice
1/4 pt	Cider
	Rind and juice of 2 lemons

Stir well; leave in a covered bowl in the fridge for 4 days. It can be stored in cartons in the freezer or put into jars with plastic or screw-top lids. The mincemeat will keep for at least 6 months in the fridge.

Cold Poultry with curried cream sauce:

Mix together

5 fl.oz	Soured cream or low fat Fromage fraise to which has been added the juice of a lemon.
5 fl.oz	Yoghurt
2 rounded tsp	mild / medium curry powder.
2 tabs.	Mango Chutney

After mixing, stir in bite-size pieces of chicken, turkey, etc. Garnish with halved grapes or thin tomato slices.

Neighbourhood Watch



About 3 years ago a Neighbourhood Watch scheme was set up in Harwell. The idea was to have a principal coordinator who would receive messages from the local police regarding crimes and po-

ential unauthorised visitors who might be operating in the village. The village was divided into sections, each with a local coordinator, who would relay any messages to people in their area. Unfortunately this scheme has not worked very well in the past. However, as Tim Elvin of Didcot Police is now prepared to send all relevant information directly to the local coordinators, it has been decided to try and improve the effectiveness of the scheme.

Mrs Sandy Carter, Englefield Cottage, Broadway (835645) has kindly agreed to act as principal coordinator. If you do not know who is your local coordinator, or if you would like further information, please contact Sandy. It is hoped to include a summary of any relevant information received from the Local Constabulary in future editions of Harwell News.

HOME TYPING

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Recycling ...



Mrs P. Wallace would like to thank all those people who have generously donated bottle tops, foil pie cases, ring-pulls, 'silver' paper, used postage stamps, etc. during the past year. All future donations will be gratefully received for re-cycling for the benefit of the **Guide Dogs for the Blind Association**. Donations should be taken to 6, Westfield.

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Didcot and Dist Archaeological & Historical Society

begins the new year with a talk on **Watercolours** by Anthony Lester, of *Antiques Roadshow* fame. Part of the evening will be spent on valuing your pictures - for a small charge of 50 pence per picture.

Do come along to **Didcot Civic Hall** on Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm. (Not forgetting your pictures - they could be worth a fortune!)

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CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

For those aged 12 or under.



Hey kids, put your brains to work on this quiz. There will be prizes for the first 3 correct answers opened, after the closing date, December 31st 1991. Put your entry into the quiz box in **Dearloves**. If Mum and Dad don't want their Harwell News cut up, then list the answers on a piece of paper.

PS a clue - if all the answers are correct you will find the name of a Christmas Carol in the first column down. PPS Don't ask grown-ups to help you - they'll probably get it wrong!

READY - OFF YOU GO !

- 1 A GOOD KING WHO BLESSED THE POOR -----
- 2 IN THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, HOW MANY PIPERS WERE PIPING ? -----
- 3 DO YOU GOBBLE UP YOUR DINNER ON CHRISTMAS DAY? -----
- 4 LISTEN! THE HERALD ANGELS SING -----
- 5 PERHAPS THIS REINDEER HAD A COLD ? -----
- 6 THE BELLS OF ST. MATTHEWS WILL RING ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
HOW MANY BELLS ARE THERE? -----
- 7 THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS -----
- 8 GOOD TIDINGS WE BRING, TO YOU AND YOUR ??? -----
- 9 DOES HOLLY'S PARTNER GROW ON CORONATION STREET ? -----
- 10 SILENT AND HOLY -----
- 11 THIS WILL ADD A SPARKLE TO CHRISTMAS (IT ALMOST
LOOKS LIKE RUBBISH!) -----
- 12 WALKING IN THE AIR IS THE THEME TUNE FOR
THIS CHRISTMAS CHARACTER CREATED BY RAYMOND BRIGGS -----

NAME AGE

ADDRESS

In & Around Harwell

December

- 2 Gardeners' Club AGM, Dinner
- 7 10 - 12 Sale, Church Hall in aid of Children of the Andes
Bowls Club Coffee Morning, clubhouse.
- 13 Mr R. Jackson available for interviews
5.30 - 7pm. Didcot Conservative Club.
- 21 Feast Christmas Dance, Village Hall.

January

- 6 Gardeners' Club *Auriculas & Primulas*
- 8 Watercolours talk, Didcot Civic Hall
- 18 Newspaper Collection, Harwell.

CRISPIN HARWELL

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From the archives ...

75 years ago, on Nov. 2nd 1916, a special meeting was called to consider the suggestion of the War office to close Cow Road to the public. The Parish Council objected, and at the meeting on Dec. 1st a reply had been recieved asking the Council to re-



consider the matter, since it was 'essential for Government purposes'. The Chairman explained that he had had a personal interview with Lieut. Lambert and he was sure that even if the Council withheld its sanction, the road would be compulsorily taken by the W.D. Mr Lay proposed - this Council continues to hold the opinion that an old-established right of way such as the Cow Rd. should not be closed unless some compensating advantage be granted & consequently suggest that in as much as this road is largely used by the W.D.'s employees, who encroach most seriously upon the road on either side the W.D. should make along the said road a proper footpath from the village of Harwell to the railway, in return for the Council's sanction to close the road on the Northern side of the line.

50 years ago, at the meeting on Sep 30th 1941, the Chairman, Mr Cauldwell, informed the meeting that he had had a conversation on the telephone with Mr Shorey (?) regarding sandbags for the village. No bags had yet been delivered, and it was unlikely that any would be. A discussion took place as to whether the 3rd-party insurance on the swimming bath should be allowed to lapse now that the bath was not being used. As the insurance for the current year had been paid it was decided to defer the matter until next year. The Chairman reported that a notice had been published in the local papers to the effect that the railings in each rural district are liable to be taken for scrap unless an appeal be entered within 10 days. The railings affected were those around the Cemetery & at the north end of the recreation ground. After some discussion it was proposed that the Clerk write to Mr Shorey and protest on the grounds that the railings were necessary to keep out cattle. Among the orders drawn were - Inland Revenue, war damage contribution 6/1d. 3 pails and 3 birchbrooms 19/7d.

SURGICAL CHIROPODIST: M.S.S.Ch. M.B.Ch.A.

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