



Parish Council

Vacancy for a Councillor: Due to the resignation of Mrs J Wing there is a vacancy on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option. A decision will be made at the next meeting, to be held on Monday December 14th. Anyone interested in becoming a Councillor should contact the Clerk, Miss Bosher, by Friday 11th December.

Tree Planting at The Cuckoo Pen: Beech trees in the group of nine by the Winnaway are dying and will need to be felled in the foreseeable future. With the co-operation of Harwell Charities Trustees, who own the adjoining paddock, and the present tenant of the paddock, the Council has arranged with Didcot and Wallingford Friends of the Earth the planting of nine new beech trees at the side of the present group. The area is being fenced off and the trees should be planted shortly.

The Cemetery: Some work on leaning headstones has recently been done. Some returfing work will be carried out in the near future in the newer part of the cemetery, which was inadvertently sprayed with weedkiller by a contractor.

Following a request to plant an oak tree to commemorate the Girls Brigade Anniversary, it was agreed that a tree could be planted in the southern corner of the area bounded by the public footpath and the path at the side of the war graves. The oak tree will thus replace old trees recently felled in this area.

Following the note in an earlier issue about work in the cemetery, a parishioner has written to the Council expressing concern that too much 'tidying' could result in increasingly suburban appearance, and believed that the Council should do all it can to preserve the rural character of Harwell. Considerable discussion had taken place before the small works previously announced were agreed, namely straightening leaning headstones and clearing weeds from around older, unkept graves. The Council hopes it is doing its best to balance the necessary work with the maintenance of the rural character.

Unauthorised Signs on the Highway: The County Council has delegated to the Parish Council its powers for the removal of unauthorised signs fixed to street furniture and the like, in accordance with the provisions of section 132 of the Highways Act 1980. The Parish Council will be using these powers where it considers necessary. They cover the removal of posters, hardboard signs etc. attached to lamp posts, road signs, trees and other street furniture within the highway. At present freestanding and pole-mounted signs are not included, but these may be included at a later date, by further delegation.

Vandalism: This continues to cause a nuisance. Sometimes the youth of Harwell appear to have ac-

cess to tools one would not expect them to own, such as bolt cutters. We would like to remind parishioners to please look after tools that can be used maliciously, and to report any incident they see.

Parish Council Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.45pm. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk a week earlier. The next meetings are on 14th December and 18th January.

Harwell R.B.L. Children in Need

Harwell RBL raised over £2000 for the *Children in Need* appeal this year, with many people taking part in different events.

Three members were sponsored to walk from Harwell to Wantage and back, and shared the proceeds between *Cancer Research* and *Children in Need*. Jake Castle, Reg East, and Darren Lister, all in fancy dress, braved the elements on a miserable, cold and wet day to raise over £600. Cyril and Glad Hambridge organised raffles and cake stalls, and together with the proceeds from a coffee evening held by Freda Wickens and her daughter Adrienne raised another £600.

A concert was held at the Club on Saturday 21st November featuring local band *Last Straw* and Felix Bowness, popular comedy actor from *Hi de Hi* and *You Rang m'Lord*. He accepted the cheque from the club on behalf of *Children in Need* presented by Carla Leigh. A packed audience then thrilled to the stunning performances of superstars Jessie Bing and Clint Puffitt, Ted 'the voice' Humphries, The Doyle Girls Yvonne and Pauline, 'Freeman, Hardy and Willis', George Hinchliffe, Norman Philips & Dennis McCarthy and a mind-blowing impersonation of Sonny & Cher by Colin Miles & Doreen Gigg. The singers were ably supported by the backing group of Pete Davis and Roy Gunning. An impromptu auction led by Tom Taylor helped to swell the coffers even more and the latest total we have is £2068 - a magnificent effort by all who took part.

John Fisher

The Royal British Legion

The Harwell Branch AGM will be held in the Club at 8pm on Tuesday 8th December. Would members please make every effort to attend - it should only take an hour or so of your time. Remember that all *Club* members are in the first instance *Branch* members and all are eligible to attend, as you are to Branch meetings held on the last Tuesday of each month in the Club.

My thanks for your response to my request for early payment. Well over 400 members have paid in

only 7 weeks. As subscriptions are due to be paid by the end of the month, could I ask the remaining 170 or so to please pay now and save us the time and expense of sending out reminders.

We are always seeking new members especially ex-service men and women, of all age groups, and of course associate members. If interested please either call in the club or contact me for details on 820298.

Peter Cissell
Hon. Branch Secretary.

Remembrance Day Parade and Service

There was an excellent turn-out for the service of remembrance, including the Church Choir, Cubs, Girls Brigade, Cadets and villagers. It is something to be proud of in the village that this occasion receives such good support.



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Planning Matters

Notices of Permission:

HAR/5841/10-D: Erection of a two bedroom bungalow with access from The Barrow. The Old Brewery, High St. for Mr & Mrs R Howes.

HAR/12649/2: Erection of canopy over fuel pumps, Harwell Car Services, High St.

Harwell W.I.

At the November meeting of the W.I. members were fascinated by an illustrated talk on Tudor and Elizabethan portraiture by Jane Card. Jane had a thorough knowledge of her subject and by her interesting and energetic presentation transferred her enthusiasm to her audience.

Members agreed to participate in the *Shoe Box Appeal for Croatia* - Shoe boxes filled with articles suitable for men, women or children are to be brought to the December meeting instead of the usual presents for members.

Some members attended the Group meeting on 3rd November and were pleased to gain second place in the competition. The following week members attended a County Day which took the form of demonstrations on flower-arranging and cookery by a team from the Constance Spry school.

The 1993 programme has been planned and includes craft, travel, cookery, history and finance. One of our 'scoops' will be Ruth Mott of TV Victorian Kitchen garden fame. The meetings are held every second Wednesday in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. and the annual subscription is £10-50. So if you are not already a member, why not make an early New Year Resolution to join the WI? Join us on January 13th and make new friends and discover new interests.

Do come and join the W.I. and take advantage of not only our monthly meetings and outings but also a wide selection of County events and outings.

S. C. HUART

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New Year's Eve Dance

On Thursday 31st December 8pm to 1am. Tickets cost £5 each and include supper. Enquiries to Gwen Froud on 835491 or Marge Cox (832841). There will be a raffle on the evening and the proceeds will be going to the New Building Fund for the Village Play-group.

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HOW TO
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Harwell School

I wish that the whole village could have packed into Harwell school on the Friday and Saturday evenings a few weeks ago, when the Harwell School Association presented *The Great Western Evening*. This was the Association's second musical production in the past three years and it outshone even the sensational *Cabaret* of 1990. It may have taken the Western several generations to arrive live in Harwell but when the Stagecoach finally reached town it sure made up for lost time! Produced in great style by Janet Spence, with David Horner and Malcolm Birkinshaw, and performed by a large, excitable and talented cast of parents, friends and ex-pupils, the show was nothing short of a sensation. As our own Harwell School News critic reported, 'it was brilliant - the music, the singing, the costumes, the acting, the script, the props, the saloon girls, and the supper'. And indeed it was.

The purpose of the show, apart that is from the pleasure of taking part or watching, was to raise money for the School Swimming Pool Appeal. Our outdoor pool, where a whole generation of Harwell children have learned to swim, is over twenty years old and we have decided to rebuild it, at a cost of several thousand pounds. So far we have a contribution of £1000 from the County Council. Our fundraising target for the year is £7,500 and we intend that the greater part of this sum will be devoted to the new pool. The *Western* evening got us off to a terrific start by raising over £800. With our annual Christmas Bazaar to come, and the host of individual fund-raising activities which are now in progress, we expect this to reach £1,500 by the end of 1992. It may be that some readers of *Harwell News* remember learning to swim in the pool themselves - if any of you would like to make a donation to our appeal we would be very grateful.

Over the page you will find some of the work done for an exhibition of art for the Ploughing Match at Grove Farm - the tractor came to the School for a morning so the children could study it in detail.

Now the school is getting ready for Christmas. On Wednesday and Thursday, December 9th and 10th, we are putting on a musical nativity, *The Christmas Story*, in the School Hall, beginning at 7pm. Everyone in the School will be taking part. After that our choir will be performing in various parts of the village - at the Evergreen Club Christmas Party on Saturday 12th, at the Carols by Candlelight Service in St. Matthew's Church at 4pm on Sunday 13th December, and at Cherry Tree Court and The Crown Nursing Home during the following week.

And now, from everyone here at Harwell School, a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to everyone in Harwell Village.

Michael Armstrong

Boxing Day Rugby: Harwell Village v. the Rest, AERE, afterwards entertainment at the Crispin with John Fisher, megastar.



Seen in the school musical, Janet Spence as Calamity Jane, along with the 'ornery cowboys' Charles Pascoe, Tony Baker and Ben Harris.

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TWENTIES MUSICAL EVENING

Saturday 27th February 7.30pm Village Hall

Wantage Barber Shop Singers
(White Horse Harmony)

Pauline Kowalski - 20's Songs

Supper Cocktails etc.

Tickets from

Gwyneth Lee	Jan Plumb	Mary Allan	Maureen Hunt
835449	835597	832856	835568

PROCEEDS TO VILLAGE HALL RESTORATION FUND

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A view of the Village Hall

How many Harwellians appreciate or even know how many local events are centred on the Village Hall? Most of us use the Village Hall without realizing how much effort by the Village Hall Management Committee goes into making the hall available for so many organizations- both useful and social - for example: the Gardeners Club, the Women's Institute, the Busy Bees, the Alzheimer's Society, jumble sales, dances, Christmas parties, the Annual Produce Show, and other fund-raising events-are just some that help to make up the year's calendar of events.

Many villagers may not be aware of how much work goes on behind the scenes to make all this annual round possible. For example, the Booking Secretary not only has to keep track of all the fixed booking but needs to fit in as many occasional events as possible to make full use of the hall. The Treasurer not only has to ensure there are sufficient funds for heating, electricity, maintenance, cleaning, etc, but also to cover items such as redecoration or improvements of the premises, as well as providing reserve funds for emergencies.

In this regard, the Committee is indebted to the bodies that have made grants to pay for some of the improvements that have been made over the years. In particular we are grateful to the Parish Council, that is the people of Harwell for continued support.

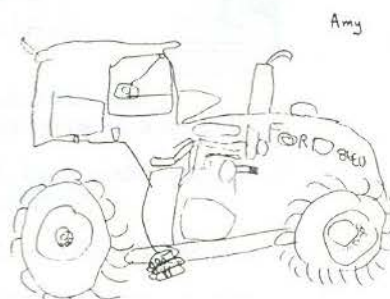
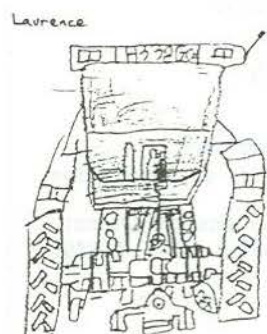
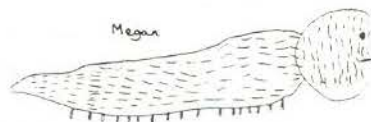
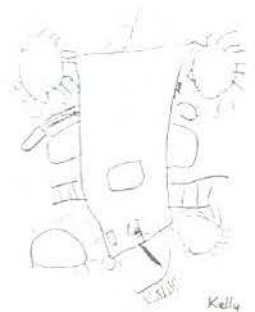
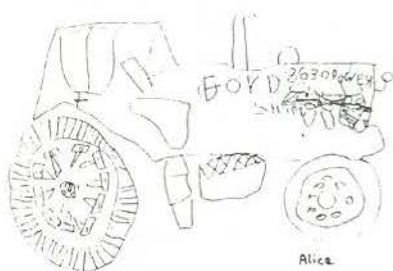
A special thanks must go to the Chairman who puts in many hours of his own time backing up the efforts of the committee which also includes representatives from organisations using the hall - all of whom offer not only their own special expertise but often access to materials and equipment to improve the facilities.

E.P.

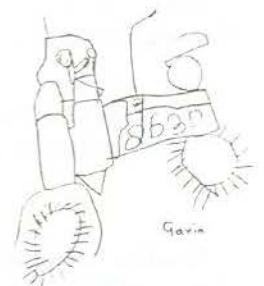


The three Captains of the Harwell Girls Brigade about to cut the Anniversary Cake.

TRACTOR
&
CATERPILLAR



as seen at
five & six
years old



Drawings
from
Harwell School

Girls Brigade

On Saturday 21st November the 40th anniversary reunion party of 1st Harwell Girls' Brigade Company was held in the Village Hall, attended by about 90 guests. The evening was hosted by the company Captain, Mrs Hilary Crossman, helped by the officers and older girls (Brigaders) of the company. The Brigaders had prepared an excellent buffet supper and Lieutenant Wendy Sinclair made a superb cake displaying the present Girls' Brigade badge and the Girls' Life Brigade badge (as it was before 1965).

The guest of honour was Mrs Muriel Wright, who formed the company at the AERE site in 1952 (Mrs Wright was personal secretary to the late Dr Robert Spence when he was Director). When the company moved to premises in Harwell village, a separate 1st Chilton company was formed, and Mrs Wright was Captain of both companies for many years. Also present was Mrs Ann Redding, a former Captain of 1st Harwell, who was herself a member of the company as a girl, and progressed as a Warrant Officer, Lieutenant and Captain. She is now a Reserve Officer as she has a young family. Mrs Hilary Crossman is serving a second term of office as Captain, and also has been until recently the Commandant for the Didcot District.

After supper the three Captains cut the cake, which as you can see in the photograph below, was adorned with 40 candles. Mrs Wright then spoke of her memories of the Company. Letters were read from old friends unable to attend, and Mrs Maisie Shipp (née Razzell) from Southampton expressed thanks to all. Maisie was one of the girls in the original company in 1952. The company Chaplain, Rev. Chris Stott, spoke of the value of the Company's work within the Church, and he thanked the officers and helpers for their commitment over the years.

As can be imagined, the guests really enjoyed meeting old friends again; many had not met since schooldays. A highlight of the evening was a slide show of pictures taken at annual camps from the 1960's onwards. Emotions were very mixed as the years were relived and memories revived. There was a display of photographs, trophies and certificates, including the most recent, of two Queen's Awards to Claire Jackson and Georgina Packer.

The occasion was a great success, and we hope it will not be another 40 years before the next reunion. In 1993 the Girls Brigade organisation celebrates its centenary - so watch this space!

Betty McNiven

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The highlight this month was the Anniversary Meeting at which a video presentation, Fire Precautions in the Home, was given by Fire Station Officer Mr Parfitt. This was followed by a general discussion

including a presentation by Mr Bernard Mead on security of the home. The meeting was attended by over 50 parishioners who expressed their thanks to Mr Parfitt, Mr Mead and especially to Sandy Carter, our Village Co-ordinator who organised the meeting.

The Police report that high-pressure selling techniques are being used to sell burglar alarm systems. They advise that anyone contemplating purchase of such systems should first approach their local Crime Prevention Officer. You are also advised to say 'no' to 'Antique Knockers' who are very persistent and tend to offer low prices.

We are looking into the possibility of arranging for a session of Post-code marking of bicycles in the New Year. Anyone interested is asked to let Sandy know (835645) - if there is sufficient interest we will try to arrange it. Finally we wish you a Happy Christmas, and would like to remind you to secure your Christmas presents both in your cars and at home!

Harwell Neighbourhood Watch

Village History Evening

On Friday 11th December, 7.30 onwards, the Village Hall will be holding a 'History Evening' to launch the reprint of the book, **Harwell - Village for a thousand years**. There will be an exhibition of old photographs and maps, as well as refreshments.

The book is being sold for £6.50 and is a comprehensive account of the Village from Saxon to post-war times. If you cannot attend, the book can also be obtained from Ruth Woollen, Greensward, Townsend (835253) or Betty Pyke, 6 Tyrrells Close (835324).



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1st Harwell (St. Matthew) Cubs

During 1992, Harwell Cubs have been on camp twice, on two day outings, hiking abseiling, swimming and shooting. We have cooked on open fires, learnt map-reading, compass work and First-aid. We have visited the Fire and Police stations. We have played football, cricket, volleyball, tug-o-war and many other games. We have raised funds for diabetic research and taken part in many District competitions.

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Christmas Quiz

For children aged 12 and under.

1. What is the number on the last window
you open on an advent calendar? --
2. On which day of Christmas were there
ladies dancing? -
3. How many ships came sailing in on
Christmas morning? -
4. How many Kings came from the orient? -
5. On which date in December can you go to
'Carols by Candlelight' at St. Matthews? --
6. Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
How many horses pulled the sleigh? -
7. What is the speed limit through Harwell
Village on Christmas Day? --
8. What will the New Year be numbered? ----
9. Which date in December is the shortest day? --
10. What date in December is St. Stephens day? --
11. On which date is the *All new Christmas*
Party Extravaganza? (The answer
is somewhere in this newsletter) --
12. Which number is hidden in the 4th line of
'Silent Night' --

Now add the numbers together to get the final answer.
Either fill in this form or put the details on a piece of
paper, and put your entry in the box in *Dearloves* and see
if you can win a prize. Closing date 31st December 1992.

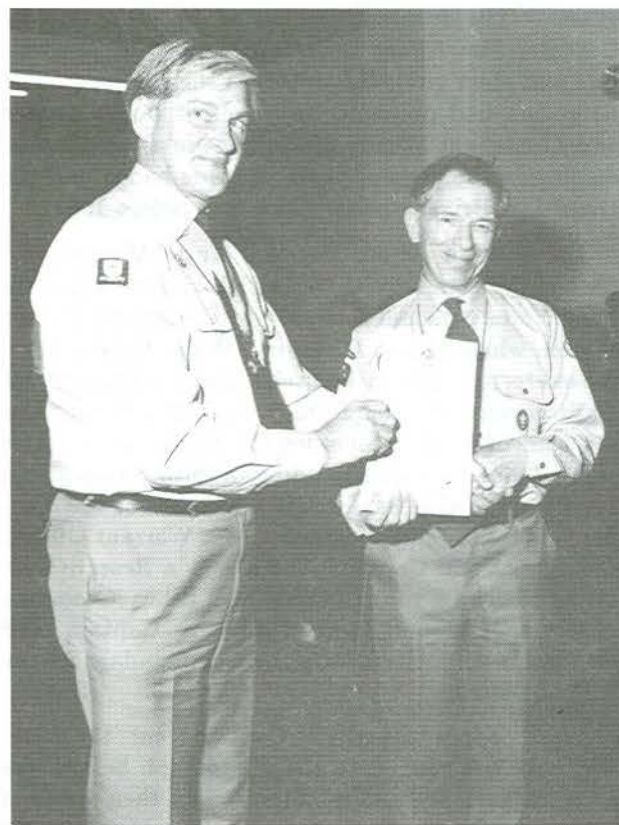
Name:

Age:

Address:

Answer:

We are able to take a few more in the Pack at present, so if you have a boy of 8 to 10 years who may be interested in these sorts of activities please contact Graham Cox (835353) or Dave Baker (832824).



Graham Cox has received the medal of merit from Mr Paul Jacques, County Commissioner for Oxfordshire. Present were many friends from the world of Scouting including Mrs Edna Bonner, Didcot District Commissioner, Rev. Ram and all the Harwell troop's leaders, some of whom were taught as cubs by Graham many years ago. There were also many parents of cubs past and present, as well as Harwell Parish Councillors and the Mayor of Didcot.

Graham has been long overdue in receiving official recognition, although in and around Harwell he has become well known over the last seventeen years as a Scouter and P.R.O. for Didcot District.

Last but not least, many thanks must go to Graham's wife Ann whose help and support over the years has enabled Graham to devote so much time to Scouting - a Scout leader's lot is not an easy one!

Richard Lewis G. S. L.

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Fun Club

Christmas Party: This will take place on Tuesday 15th December, 9.45 - 11.30 am. Cost £1 per family. Come and join in the fun! Party games, songs and carols, raffles, face-painting, a Christmas feast and of course a special visit by Father Christmas. Everyone will be asked to bring a plate of food. There will be a small present for each child. Mulled wine and mince-pies for mums, grans and nannies. Donations for the raffle would be gratefully received and properly acknowledged. To reserve your place call into the fun club or contact Tracey Linnard by 8th December.

Health Visitor: Nicki Farmer will be at the Fun Club on the following Tuesdays - December 15th, January 19th, February 16th - you will be able to have your child weighed and discuss any questions or worries you may have with her.

Dressing-up Clothes: We are trying to build up our chest of dressing-up clothes. Can you donate any of the following items to the fun club - sunglasses, wigs, frilly petticoats, hats, scarves, any glittery / shiny material or clothing, strings of beads, small handbags, capes. We can collect. Contact Tracey Linnard (832578).

Book Library: Do you have any books on pregnancy and childcare which you have finished with and could either sell or donate to the fun club. We would be very grateful, and again can collect.

Help Needed: We are looking for someone who would be willing to come to the fun club on a Tuesday morning, either weekly or monthly, to help run a short singing and/or music or story-telling session. We can provide the instruments, books, and of course the children!

We are a parent / grandparent / nanny / carer & toddler group meeting each Tuesday in the Village Hall between 9.45 and 11.30 am. All children under 5 are welcome with an adult. New members are particularly welcome. Only 70 pence per family included refreshments.

- loads of activities, loads of toys, and loads of fun. Come and join in!

Tracey Linnard

Harwell Village Hall

At the regular meeting of the Management Committee on Monday 23 November the main item of business was the report that the financing of the new gas-fired heating system had progressed to the point where the work can now go ahead. The Committee is indebted to Oxfordshire County Council for a grant of £1600, and to the Parish Council for a similar sum when the Vale D.C. were unable to offer any support at the present time. These two grants cover the cost of the actual installation by British Gas. The necessary ancillary work to accommodate the system will be carried out by a local contractor and paid for by the Hall's own funds.

Forthcoming fund-raising events were discussed and agreed - details are given elsewhere in this issue. Particular attention is directed to the opening of the Information Centre, and the launch of the new printing of **Harwell**, the fascinating history of our village, on Friday 11th December. The Hall Committee hopes that the Information Centre can be open regularly, and also that a grant can be obtained to make some improvements so there can be a permanent exhibition in the room.

On Saturday 30th January there will be a Cream Tea & Trash & Treasure Sale at the Hall 2pm - 4pm, Bring & Buy, Cakes, Produce.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in the Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12th January 1993. All are welcome.

AEA TECHNOLOGY

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Enquires to: Nick Hance
Press & PR Officer, Building 329, Harwell Laboratory,
Oxon, OX11 0RA
or telephone: 0235-821111

Harwell Village Playgroup

It's time for the Hankies again - come and see the very very short Nativity Play the Children are putting on for parents and friends at the Freeman Hall on Wednesday 16th December at 11.00am. Father Christmas will also be turning up with presents and we will be having mince pies and a drink as well as a raffle. Please come along and support your Village Playgroup.

We have about 5 vacancies for the January term and we are now taking names. Please telephone Gwen Froud (835491) or Yvonne Hinchliffe (835397) for details, or call in at the Freeman Hall on a Monday to Thursday, 9.15 - 11.45am.

KEPMINDERS

- going away?
- worried about leaving your home unoccupied?
- your cat prefers home comforts to holidays in the cattery?
- your indoor and outdoor plants need care?
- other tasks needing attention during your absence?
- feeling guilty about asking neighbours and relatives yet again?

YES ?

Then contact us - **KEPMINDERS**
0235-520290

Harwell Feast Committee

Village Quiz

Thank you to all 14 teams who took part, including two teenage teams from The Pathfinders & the Youth Club. There is certainly no shortage of brains in Harwell and the teams made a very enjoyable social evening.

Congratulations to the 1992 quiz champions - The Village Hall Committee - Elizabeth Parry, Desmond Neill and Martin Ricketts, who in the final fought off a strong challenge from The Fun Club - Tracey Linnard, and Jonathan and Mandy Page. We hope to see you all again next year.

Darts Tournament

There is still time to enter the Feast Darts Tournament being run by Ken Chapman of The Crispin. Categories are - Mens Singles, Ladies Singles, Mens Doubles, Ladies Doubles & Five-a-side teams. Please contact Ken to take part.

Christmas Dance

The Feast Committee's *All New Christmas Party Extravaganza* takes place on Sat. 19th December at the Village Hall. Tickets are £6 with all proceeds going to The Village Playgroup. Tickets are selling fast so please get yours soon to avoid disappointment - from Dearloves, Feast Committee and Playgroup leaders.

Valentine Dance

To be held on Saturday 13th February in the Village Hall. Tickets will be available from mid-January. To reserve some please tel Janice Markey - 832802.

The Harwell Feast Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported our events during 1992. We hope you have enjoyed raising funds for the Village with us, and will join us in the new events we are already planning for 1993.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You All.

SPECIAL EVENT - SPECIAL EVENT - SPECIAL EVENT

In conjunction with 'Weekend Warriors'
a Charity day of

Paintballing

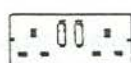
on

Saturday 19th June 1993

Proceeds to Harwell School Swimming Pool Fund

Further details in our the next issue

SPECIAL EVENT - SPECIAL EVENT - SPECIAL EVENT



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The Ten Days of Christmas at the *Crispin*.

Tel (0235) 835212

Alzheimers Day Centre

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the recent Coffee Morning such a success - a total of £236-80 was raised. Thanks again.

The Guinea Pig Club

From 1977 to 1992, sixteen annual visits have been made to Harwell. Many Guinea Pigs, families and Friends have been wonderfully entertained by the Royal British Legion, the White Hart, and the staff of local scientific establishments.

In later years the 'days out' coincided with the Memorial Stone Service at old RAF Harwell, where airborne troops took off for Normandy on the eve of D-day.

Sadly, this year's visit was the last, and all Guinea Pigs join me in saying *Thank You* to our Harwell friends, the Establishments, RAF Abingdon and the ATC (Wantage).

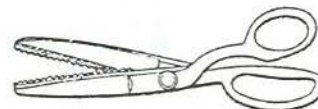
There will always be a warm welcome for Guinea Pigs at the RBL Club, especially if their visit coincides with the Memorial Stone Service and Tea together with the Airborne and RAF Aircrew veterans.

Jack Perry



Quiz update

pinking shears *n pl*: shears with a saw-toothed inner edge on the blades used chiefly for cutting cloth or finishing garments with a non-raveling zigzag edge



pinking shears

turkey *\ 'tʌrki - s often attrib [short for turkey-cock] 1*: a bird of the family Meleagrididae; as **a (1)**: a large American bird (*Meleagris gallopavo*) orig. distributed from southern Mexico throughout much of the eastern and central U. S. and northward into Canada but extinct over much of the northern and western part of its range though reintroduced as a game bird in some regions and successfully reestablished as far north as Pennsylvania, occurring in several subspecies in various parts of its range, and having typically a bronzy lustrous plumage, a naked carunculate head, and a tail that in the male is spread fanlike in display. (2): any of various



domestic turkey-cock

ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT ALWAYS GET OUT INTO THE GARDEN JUST WHEN WE WOULD LIKE TO, THERE IS STILL PLENTY TO BE DONE AND WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WINTER WEATHER PROVIDES.

FOR INSTANCE MANY SEEDS GERMINATE MORE FREELY IF THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO COLDER CONDITIONS. INCIDENTALLY PUTTING PACKETS OF SEED INTO THE REFRIGERATOR FOR A WHILE DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME EFFECT - THE SEEDS NEED TO BE SOWN AND ABSORB MOISTURE WHILST BEING SUBJECTED TO WARMTH, COLD, RAIN, FROST, SNOW ETC. THAT NORMALLY OCCUR IN WINTER. SOME ADVANTAGE MAY BE GAINED IF YOU SOW THE SEED FIRST, PUT THE TRAY OR POT INTO A POLYTHENE BAG AND PLACE THE WHOLE LOT IN A 'FRIDGE FOR A WHILE. THE SORT OF SEEDS WHICH BENEFIT FROM THIS TREATMENT ARE ALPINES, HARDY PRIMULAS (PRIMROSE, COWSLIP, POLYANTHUS, AURICULA ETC.) STRAWBERRY, GENTIAN AND TREES LIKE ACER, MULBERRY, PRUNUS AVIUM. (WHY NOT GROW SOME TREES FOR BONSAI?)

WE ARE OFTEN ADVISED TO REMOVE THE NETS FROM FRUIT CAGES DURING WINTER TO AVOID POSSIBLE SNOW DAMAGE. HOWEVER, IN THIS AREA BULLFINCHES CAN WREAK HAVOC IN WINTER AND IT IS BETTER TO LEAVE THE NETS ON & ONLY REMOVE TEMPORARILY IF SNOW IS FORECAST.

IN SPITE OF BULLFINCHES IT CAN BE A GOOD THING TO ATTRACT OTHER BIRDS LIKE TITS INTO THE GARDEN BY PROVIDING THEM WITH FAT, NUTS, CRUMBS & THE LIKE (NOT FORGETTING SOME WATER KEPT FREE OF ICE). TRY TO PUT THE FOOD IN AREAS WHERE THERE MAY BE SLUGS, SNAILS, APHIDS & OTHER PESTS.

BARE ROOTED TREES & SHRUBS CAN BE PLANTED UP TO MID MARCH WEATHER PERMITTING WHILST MOST EVERGREENS ARE BEST PLANTED IN APRIL. AFTER PLANTING CHECK THAT PLANTS ARE NOT LOOSENED BY GALES OR HEAVY RAIN & FIRM AS NECESSARY.

TREES, SHRUBS & BUSHES CAN NOW BE WINTER PRUNED - BUT REMEMBER THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE A REASON - REMOVING OLD OR DEADWOOD, CUTTING OUT CROSSING OR RUBBING BRANCHES, LETTING LIGHT & AIR, SHAPING THE PLANT. DON'T OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT IN GENERAL WINTER PRUNING PROMOTES GROWTH WHEREAS SUMMER PRUNING CHECKS GROWTH.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERING HYACINTHS AND OTHER BULBS CAN BE BROUGHT INTO A WARMER ENVIRONMENT AS SOON AS THE FLOWER BUDS SHOW COLOUR - NOT TOO WARM - ABOUT 60°F 15°C AND KEPT MOIST BUT NOT WET.

IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT SHOWING, CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME TO SOW SWEET PEAS & ONIONS. SHALLOTS CAN ALSO BE PLANTED AT THIS TIME.

(PLANT ON THE SHORTEST DAY - HARVEST ON THE LONGEST).

IN THE INTERESTS OF CONSERVATION YOU MAY CONSIDER USING COIR IN PLACE OF PEAT, IF SO YOU MUST TREAT IT DIFFERENTLY FROM PEAT - IT'S FINE IF YOU USE IT PROPERLY. IT DRAINS MUCH MORE READILY THAN PEAT AND THE SURFACE SOON DRIES OUT - IMPORTANT IF YOU ARE GROWING SMALL SEEDS OR THOSE SOWN ON THE SURFACE. IT NEEDS REGULAR FEEDING & WATERING SO USE A WEAK FERTILIZER SOLUTION FOR EACH WATERING. COIR CAN ALSO HAVE A LOW pH (4-4.5)

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SO IS VERY ACID AND IF SO YOU WILL HAVE TO ADD LIME TO BRING THE pH UP TO ABOUT 6.5
USE A CHEAP CHEMICAL TEST OUTFIT TO CHECK THIS IS MUCH MORE RELIABLE THAN A CHEAP pH METER. A pH METER WITH AN ANTIMONY ELECTRODE (OR SIMILAR TYPE) IS NECESSARY FOR ACCURATE TESTS.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO CLEAN & TEST ALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT. ON ELECTRICAL ITEMS CHECK ALL CABLES, PLUGS, SWITCHES ETC. AND SEE THAT THE CORRECT VALUE FUSES ARE INSTALLED. CHECK POWER CUT-OUTS WITH THE TEST BUTTON PROVIDED. SHARPEN MOWERS - ALSO SPADES, HOES ETC. IT MAKES LIFE A LOT EASIER. WITH PETROL ENGINES, EMPTY THE PETROL TANK, CHANGE THE OIL, CLEAN PLUGS ETC. & OIL STEEL PARTS BEFORE STORING FOR WINTER.

I TRUST YOU WILL ALL GET THE PRESENTS YOU HOPED FOR (DOUBTLESS YOU DROPPED SUITABLE HINTS FOR ALL THOSE GARDENING REQUISITES).
SO HERE'S WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GOOD GARDENING IN 1993.

Laurie

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Winterbrook Youth Club

Monday evenings - Freeman Hall

Juniors 8 - 12 yrs. 6 - 8 pm

Seniors 13 - 16 yrs. 8 - 10 pm

All children in the Village are welcome to join Youth Club. It costs just 50p a year to join and after that subs are 30p a week.

Events coming up:- Cinema Trip - *Home Alone 2*, Swimming, Fun Hour at Wantage Pool, Ice Skating in Oxford, the A team, Weight-Training, Badge-making, Bowling and Aunt Sally.

Anyone who saw senior club member Alison Britton sitting in the bath of baked beans for 6 hours will have to agree that she is a very brave and sporting young lady. Alison raised almost £200 sponsorship for the Youth Club and we are very proud of her. Well done Alison!



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In & Around Harwell

December

- 7 Gardeners AGM, Christmas Party
- 9,10 School Musical Nativity Play, 7pm.
- 11 Village History evening, V. Hall
- 13 Carols by Candlelight, 4pm and 7.30pm
St Matthews Church
- 16 Playgroup Nativity play 11am
- 19 Feast Christmas Dance, Village Hall.
- 31 New Year's Eve Dance, Playgroup V. Hall

January

- 4th Gardeners - *Americans as Gardeners*
- 30th Trash & Treasure Sale, 2 - 4 pm. V. Hall

Further Ahead

- Feb. 13th Valentine Dance, Village Hall.
- Feb. Twenties Musical Evening, V. Hall

From the archives

75 years ago At the meeting on 29th November 1917, in reply to a communication from M^r E. Osmond concerning Housing for the Working Classes, it was unanimously decided that the answer to the 1st question, that is whether such houses be required in the Parish should be answered in the affirmative. That to the 2nd question, the number of houses so required should be stated as four and the weekly rent that could be obtained as 5/- to 6/-; and with regard to the 3rd query, the possibility of such houses being built after the war by private enterprise a negative reply should be given.

A cheque for £3/18/9d. was drawn to pay the executors of the late M^r J. Lay for the Allotment Ground Rent up to last Michaelmas; and a cheque for 12/6d. to pay the Cemetery Caretaker up to next Christmas.

M^r Lay called the attention of the Council to the overgrown hedge between the Chequers & the Reading Rd. which especially at the junction of the Reading & Wallingford Rd. & the bend almost opposite to the football field entrance so obscures the view as to make it quite dangerous for traffic. The Council agreed that a danger existed, the Clerk to write to M^r Pryor calling his attention thereto and stating the Council will be reluctantly compelled to notify the County Council of the matter if the hedge is allowed to continue as it is at present.

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Editorial Notes

Harwell News is published at the beginning of alternate months. Other than in reports of Parish Council meetings the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Parish Council.

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 - Martin Ricketts, 16 The Park, (phone 835628) or Margaret Turner, 15 Tyrrells Close, by January 18th for the next issue which will be distributed at the beginning of February.

D. C. H. HUGHES

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