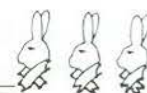


The HARWELL NEWS

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 81

February 1996



Parish Council

There was no main meeting in December, but there were meetings of the two committees. Apart from planning applications, listed elsewhere, the Environment and Planning Committee discussed a request from a resident of Rowstock made some time ago for place-name signs. A reply from the County Engineer's Department indicated that the Parish Council could fund some nameplate signs at £175 each. The Committee agreed the signs would not be given priority in setting this year's budget, but that such provision be kept in mind for future years. It was also agreed to provide a litter bin to replace one that used to stand in front of the Village Hall, and to recommend some provision for further replacements in the next financial year.

The main item on the January meeting agenda was the precept for 1996-97. The Chairman, Brian Mulford, began the discussion by noting that the expenditure for the current year, projected to the end of March, was very close to that estimated this time last year. That estimate was £58k - high because of the land purchase and mower replacement, and most of the addition was funded from reserves. This year, after considerable discussion and tapping on calculators, a budget of £39500 was agreed, with expected income, other than the precept at £14000. A precept of £25500 was agreed: this represents a 4% reduction from last year and the same figure as for the two years before that.

On Environmental Matters, Mrs Rosemary Mulford had discussed with the Vale WHDC Parks Manager the planting of some trees in The Freeman Orchard, which they were willing to undertake. Mr Jim Mulford agreed to liaise with the Vale regarding positions and types of trees.

Vale Councillor Ken Howard reported on progress with the proposed speed limit at the Didcot-Harwell boundary (see Vale News) and also that the Vale WHDC was considering holding meetings at different venues in the Vale. The Council agreed that should Harwell be chosen as an occasional venue the District Council would be most welcome.

The Council agreed to make a donation of £35 towards the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association. A request for support from St Katherine's House, Wantage, was discussed, but, in accordance with Council policy to confine support to organisations which are of direct benefit to parishioners, the Council agreed it couldn't support the appeal. However, details of the appeal are given elsewhere in the newsletter, so parishioners may consider supporting it.

Under any other business it was suggested that an additional street light was required in Westfield at the entrance to the recreation ground car park. The

matter was referred to the Environment and Planning Committee.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.45pm. The next meetings are on 12th February and 11th March. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Miss Rita Bosher ten days before the meeting - contact her on: office 820006, home 835208. The **deadline** for the next newsletter is 23rd March.

Planning Matters

Notices of Permission:

HAR/9836/4 Renewal of permission for siting of caravan and change of use of agricultural building for habitable use; Land adjoining Eastfield, Reading Road. A condition of the consent was that both permissions should cease by 30th November 1996 and land reinstated.

HAR 14243 Ground Floor front and rear extensions and 1st floor accommodation; 16, Tyrrells Close.

Proposal to fell 2 trees on Road Verge; Kings Farm House, Townsend. The District Council had allowed this application. The Parish Council Chairman expressed concern that observation made by the Council had apparently not influenced the District Council's decision.

Notices of Refusal:

HAR 12326/1 Retrospective application for change of use from paddock to residential use; Orchard House, Blenheim Hill. The Vale said the change of use constituted an inappropriate extension of residential development outside the existing fabric of the village onto undeveloped agricultural land. Such development was against the spirit and policies of the Oxfordshire Structure Plan, and also of the Vale WH Local Plan Deposit Draft 1995. Furthermore, should this garden extension be permitted, proposals for similar developments in the area would be encouraged and the Planning Authority would find them progressively more difficult to resist.

Application Withdrawn:

HAR/14234-X Erection of a bungalow with double garage, land off Downs Close, Reading Rd.

New Applications:

HAR/4870/10 Demolition of industrial & commercial buildings; erection of 4 dwellings with garages; Herring Homes Depot, Reading Road. The Council submitted an objection on the grounds that it constituted backland development, any approval would lead to further applications in respect of nearby land, the proposed access did not appear adequate and was also close to Rowstock roundabout and adjacent bus lay-by and visibility of emerging vehicles was restricted.

County Councillor Resigns

Tony Harvey, the County Councillor for Harwell and several adjoining parishes has resigned. In a letter to the Chairman of the Parish Council, he states that due to working away from the area for a lot of the time, he hasn't been able to attend meetings on a regular basis, and since he sees this continuing and preventing him from serving the community to the extent he had intended, he has reluctantly tendered his resignation.

Thames Valley Police Authority Didcot Area Community / Police Consultative Group

Invite you to attend a public meeting and meet your local police.

Are you worried about the rising crime, vandalism, car theft, robbery, assault or drug abuse? Concerned over parking traffic or speeding? If you are, then this is your opportunity to discuss these and any other related policing matters or difficulties which you may wish to identify.

The next meeting of the group will be held on the evening of **Tuesday 5th March** in the **Freeman Hall, Harwell** at 7.30 pm.

There will be a period of **Public Question Time** which will enable you to voice your concerns over the policing of your area. It is hoped that local police officers will be in attendance at this meeting.

Don't miss this chance of meeting your local police. Your views are important.

For further details contact Oxford (01865) 846780.

Elizabeth Parry 1913 - 1995

Harwell villagers will remember Elizabeth as a keen supporter of local activities and an enthusiastic member of HOAC, our "Out & About" club. She attended almost all W.I. functions and latterly represented their members at the Village Hall and other parish meetings.

Left a widow with 2 small children in a country far from her native Canada, she ensured that her offspring had good opportunities, from which they benefitted. Elizabeth held a highly demanding nursing post and, at the same time embarked on a wide-ranging writing career, which rapidly enabled her to become a full-time author.

Her skills with the pen were used in Harwell very soon after she came here to live with her daughter and son-in-law, in 1985. She wrote the script for the Millenium Pageant which so successfully combined many sections of the community.

Elizabeth became a "loyal and knowledgeable" member of the Gardeners Club and always enjoyed their meetings and other organised activities. Her lifelong ambition was fulfilled when, at the age of 74 she achieved an Open University B.A., and she went on to gain an Honours degree just two years later.

Elizabeth was an indefatigable swimmer. She really enjoyed her daily summer swims and competitions with a friend who lived nearby. She latterly had to cope with less than good health, which she did without complaining, but many of us will just remember her as the highly intelligent, courageous, determined, and resourceful lady that she was.

J.M.P.

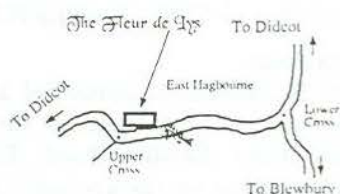
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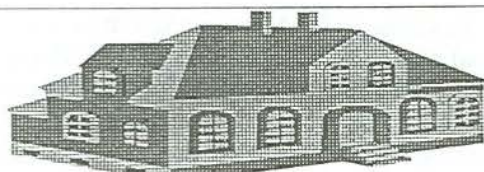
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Harwell Village Hall

The meetings of the Management Committee seem fated to coincide with the worst weather of the winter. The recent meeting, postponed from 12 December 1995 took place in the Freeman Hall on 23 January on a typically inclement night.

The agreement that frequent users of the Village Hall might have their own sets of keys was confirmed; and the imminent purchase of a new cooker for the Hall kitchen was reported. Reference was made by the Chairman to continuing work on the Freeman Hall, and the Treasurer was able to report a continuing healthy situation of the Hall finances, which will, hopefully make it possible to fund repairs to the Freeman Hall roof. Mr Lamont, on behalf of the Planning Working Party, gave an account of the present status of our grant applications and showed the final plans of the proposed changes to the toilet block. Tenders have been invited from builders, to be submitted by 5 February.

Reference was made to the very successful Musical Evening held on 10 December, and reported elsewhere.

Mr Packer submitted a paper defining the new arrangements for the management of the Freeman Hall, and with very minor modifications this was accepted. PC Parsons has agreed to attend a meeting of the Winterbrook Youth Club to discuss vandalism round the halls.

Renewal of the Public Entertainment Licence is being processed.

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 14 March 1996.

Secretaries Mr & Mrs D. Neill

Village Hall - Musical Evening

A most enjoyable Musical Evening was held on Sunday, 10th December which raised a very welcome £311 towards the Restoration Fund. Our thanks are due to Pauline Kowalski and Dennis Osment who were in fine voice and who demonstrated their skill as entertainers by generating enthusiastic audience participation. Thanks also, as ever, to Gwyneth Lee for making all the arrangements and to Pat Goodchild and to John and Mo Hunt for doing the catering.

Those who contribute to Village Hall funds by supporting events such as the Musical Evening should know that there has been a reorganisation, brought about by the Charity Commissioners, such that the Village Hall and the Freeman Hall will in future be treated as one entity rather than being separately managed. Monies raised in the past specifically for the Village Hall will duly be spent on it, but future donations may be spent on either hall unless they are raised towards a particular project.

The main project that we have for this year is to rebuild the toilet block and to make proper provision in it for people with disabilities. That will be an expensive business and its success will depend on persuading the County, the Vale and the Parish Councils to make substantial grants towards the cost. Negotiations are in hand and we are now receiving tenders for the work from local builders. The Committee members hope that everybody will regard this as being a good way to apply the money that your continuing generosity has put at our disposal.

Colin Lamont (Treasurer)

Massage at The Minstrels

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Vale News

I keep on plugging the fact that your two District Councillors, Ken Howard and I, are available to you in the Village Hall on the first Saturday of each even numbered month from 10 o'clock until 11. Nobody took advantage of that for the first few months, but I was delighted that on 2nd December a couple of customers turned up. We are working on the requests that they made.

You can also call me on the telephone at any time. Somebody who did that is a resident at the far out-post of our village on Didcot Road, hard by the Didcot town boundary. The people living there want the 40mph speed limit, coming out of Didcot, to be extended past their row of houses. At present drivers accelerate to 60mph at that point, as they are fully entitled to do, and a host of accidents have resulted.

Speed limits are Oxfordshire County Council's job, but they need to be pushed.

In order to apply pressure to them I raised the matter with your Parish Council, supported by several residents. Armed with the consent of the Parish Council, I was able to put a motion before the Vale Council and its Environmental Services sub-committee where I met with complete support. Oxfordshire County Council will now find their arms well and truly twisted to get something done about the speed limit and I am therefore hopeful that we shall see some action sooner or later.

Are there any other little jobs like this that I can help you with?

Colin Lamont tel 832866

Harwell Feast Committee

Sadly there will be no Harwell Feast this year due to the shortage of people willing to serve on the committee. If you would like to join please contact:

Sue Cooke (Acting Chair) - 833075 or

Janice Markey (Treasurer) - 832802.

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Best Kept Village Award Presentation

A fine Sunday afternoon at the end of November saw a good gathering of villagers at the War Memorial in the High Street to attend a presentation of the new trophy and plaque to the village. The competition is organised by the Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council and sponsored by Calor Gas.

The Chairman of the Oxfordshire County Council, Mr Geoffery Fowler, was present, and the photo above shows him offering us his congratulations. On his left is Brian Mulford, our Parish Council Chairman. Below, another photo shows some more of those gathered, including our Clerk, Miss Rita Bosher, and Donald Pike, who did a lot to earn the award for the village.

The Parish Council invited representatives of Harwell W.I., the Gardeners' Club and the Harwell Parochial Church Council to be present. Refreshments were served afterwards in St Matthews Hall, prepared by Mrs P Connolly.





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W.I. Commemoration for VE & VJ Days 1995

The W.I. Coffee Morning held at Greensward, Townsend raised £105 for a tree or seat. We are discussing with the Parish Council whether it should be a tree as suggested by the W.I., or a seat as preferred by some Councillors. It will be sited in the new part of the cemetery.

Many thanks to all those who helped and to the visitors.

Ruth Woollen

St. Katherine's House, Wantage Nursing Wing Appeal

For almost 150 years, the Anglican Community of St. Mary the Virgin has been caring for people in and around Wantage. St. Katherine's House, run by the Community since 1939 as a house for elderly ladies of all denominations, offers care for its residents from the moment they arrive until the time of their death. Under lay administration for the last 4 years, it is determined to maintain this policy. The current age range of our residents is 70 to 102.

Our promise of lifetime care means that those who become sick, or whose powers fail, must be nursed in what they regard as their own home through the provision of a nursing wing. Our existing accommodation is small - there are only 11 beds - and the standard is not of the highest. As the residents live longer, the demand for nursing beds is increasing.

St. Katherine's House is appealing for funds to build a new nursing wing, estimated to cost £1.5 million. So far one eighth of this has been raised. There are various ways you could help - making a covenant, or through Gift Aid for example. Enquiries and donations should be addressed to Miss Anna Sherrieff, Appeal Office, St. Katherine's House, Ormond Road, Wantage OX12 8EA.

Charity No. 240513/88

Harwell Fun Club

Hello again, and a Happy New Year!

1996 starts off with a full agenda of events. The health discussion groups this term are on Tuesday 13th February, when the topic will be "Ways of Coping With Your Toddler", and on the 12th of March a speaker is coming along from "Homestart".

We're holding another Nearly New Sale, this time of Spring and Summer Childrens' Clothes, Toys and Equipment. This will be on Saturday March 23rd from 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

Many of you will remember our Messy Morning from two years ago - and as this was so popular we have decided to hold another, this time on Saturday February 17th in the Village Hall. So send your 2 to 7-year olds along to do all those disgustingly messy things you hate them doing at home! (See adverts elsewhere for full details of these events).

As well as all this, our regular weekly meetings continue as usual. We meet every Tuesday morning during term time in the Village Hall. We have many new and exciting toys for your pre-school children, so don't sit home alone - come along and have some company and chat!

Debbie Warwick

Little Pippins Playgroup

We have started the new year with a new roof at long last, and we look forward to redecoration, etc. later on in the year, so our fund-raising never ceases. At the recent AGM a new committee was elected and a programme of events for everyone will be decided shortly. This half-term we are looking into all aspects of safety. We will be taking the children out and teaching them "pre-school footsteps" (a training programme for the under-fives) talking about dangers in the home, getting lost, strangers, and generally feeling safe. We have a few spaces available at the playgroup - telephone 821074 (mornings only) for more details.

Yvonne Hinchliffe (Playleader)

Ring-a-Ride Transport

This service, operated by Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action (OCVA) provides a door-to-door service for people who through age or disability cannot use ordinary public transport. To find out what the service can do for you ring the OCVA on 01865 793777.

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The Freeman Hall

The Freeman Hall was opened by Mrs Freeman in October 1972, principally as the home of the Winterbrook Youth Club. As the hall was built on ground belonging to the Village Hall it had to be considered as being owned by the Village Hall Trustees. However the Trustees entrusted the running and upkeep of the Freeman Hall to a Sub-Committee comprising of three representatives of the Village Hall Committee and three from the Winterbrook Youth Club Management Committee. This Committee was also responsible for applying for any grants that were needed for major repairs and improvements.

The Village Hall Trustees have decided, on the advice of the Charity Commissioners (as the official custodians) and of the ORCC, that in future they will be directly responsible for the running and maintenance of the Freeman Hall and it will become part of the Harwell Village Hall Complex.

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to record their thanks to Mr Tony Gibson, Dr Tony Hughes, Mr Norman Ponting, Mrs Jacqui Gibson, Mr Malcolm Birkinshaw, Miss Janice Markey and Mr Trevor Packer, who have given so much of their time and support so that the Winterbrook Youth Club has been able to enjoy the hall over the last 23 years.

The Freeman Hall, which is particularly suitable for young children's parties as it has a partially covered carpet floor, and for small group craft activities, can be booked through the Village Hall Booking Secretary - Mr Roger Wickens, Fanfare Stores, High Street, Harwell.

Pooper Bags

There is a new supply of these bags now in Fanfare Stores. The parish Council is pleased to see the dog-waste bins being used by parishioners as it contributes to a cleaner environment in the village. The siting of a further bin somewhere in Townsend will be considered soon as there appears to be a need for one in that area.

Aladdin & his Wonderful Lamp

Goring Village Hall

Friday, Sat. 23rd, 24th February

Tickets £2 - children, £3.50 adults

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KEEP MINDERS

- 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 -

KEEP MINDERS

0235-520290



Do you realise - in October and November last year there were 11 crimes reported to the Harwell Neighbourhood Watch? This includes 5 crimes involving vehicles, 2 cases of criminal damage, and

4 burglaries including the theft of a bicycle. **Have you seen anything suspicious recently, and if so, did you report it?** Please report anything suspicious either by - Phoning the police if urgent on (01235) 512929 or Contacting your Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator or the Officer for Harwell, Mrs Hilary Green on (01235) 776604.

Please look out for the Latest Neighbourhood Watch Information on the Parish Council Notice Board which is outside the Paper Shop. If you have any information for these notices please contact Mr Jim Mein on (01235) 834384.

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 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 the editor, Martin Ricketts 16, The Park, or Margaret Turner (15 Tyrrells Close) or to the Clerk by 23rd March for the April issue.

Harwell News advertisement rates are £20 per year for a box approximately 80mm wide by 45mm high, £5 for a single issue, and *pro-rata* for larger sizes.

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Winterbrook Youth Club

1946 - 1996

Yes, Winterbrook Youth Club has been around for nearly 50 years and I like to think that its founders Percy Freeman and Bill Smith (once Headmaster of Harwell School) would be pleased that youth work is still going strong in our village. In this celebration year we aim to offer the young people in Harwell as many social activities, both inside and outside the club, as we can fit into the calendar. We hope you will share in some of our events, such as Bingo evenings, Jumble Sales, a production, and a summer fête.

Two dates for your diary so far:

Friday 16th February - Bingo!

Freeman Hall 7.30pm All Welcome

Saturday 2nd March - Jumble Sale

Freeman Hall 2pm.

All jumble gratefully received - Hall open 10am to noon on morning of sale



Pictured above are Hayley Chapman and Carly Lewis, both 12, who were runners-up in the regional finals of the Youth Clubs UK Dance Competition. The theme this year was 'Dance Round The World'. Hayley and Carly devised their own routine to represent America. Well Done girls - we're proud of you!

Were you a member of Winterbrook Youth Club in the last 50 years? Where was it held then? What did you do? Who were the leaders? Who were your mates? Your memories are wanted for a *Winterbrook Past & Present* article to appear here later this year. Please Contact:

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1st Harwell (St. Matthew) Scout Group

Thank you to all those who used the Scout Christmas Post delivery service and also to those who allowed us to site our collection boxes on their premises. We handled approximately 2,100 items this Christmas, 600 of which were destined for Didcot and other villages. The league for the collections was:

Bob's Family Butchers	634
Londis	499
S. Orchard Way	470
From Didcot, elsewhere	349
British Legion	110
Crispin	20
White Hart	16
Total	2098

The scheme has already grown considerably since it was started three Christmases ago and we hope it will continue to grow in the future. There are rumours that, as from next year, Abingdon and Wallingford will join forces with Didcot district.

Jane A. Cumming (SL)

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Harwell Fun Club

are holding a

Nearly New Sale

of Spring and Summer Childrens'
Clothes, Toys and Equipment
on

Saturday March 23rd

from 2.30 to 4pm

in the

Village Hall

If you would like a table at £6, or have anything you would like sold on your behalf on a 75%-25% basis, please contact Rossana Keene (835434) or Debbie Warwick (820449)

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Harwell Fun Club

are holding a

Messy Morning

on

Saturday February 17th

from 10.00 till 12.00

in the

Village Hall

We want to see all you 2 to 7 year olds there for, amongst other things, Bubble Painting, Marble Painting, Pebble Pets, Hand Printing, Pasta Jewelry, Biscuit Decorating, Collage and Potato Printing.

Admission: £1 per child

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Women take up the Business Challenge

Returning to work after a long absence can be a real challenge. At Thames Business Advice Centre we regularly meet women who not only want to return to work but to do so by setting up their own business. Women wishing to meet this double challenge are invited to attend a "Women Returners" course aimed at those who feel they lack the relevant knowledge, skills or confidence to set out on the road to self employment.

The course runs during term time from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm two days a week for three weeks to allow women to meet family commitments. The fees are affordable at £20 plus vat.

Attendees learn to launch commercial concerns from assessing cash flow to writing a business plan and from market research to selling skills. Women on past courses have set up various ventures from reflexology, garden design and management recruitment to book keeping services.

TBAC runs business start-up courses across Oxfordshire but only the Women Returners has sessions on confidence building and assertiveness. These are presented by Joanna Cross from Wantage who attended the course herself in March 1993 and now works as a freelance trainer.

The next course, sponsored by Legal & General starts on February 26th. Women interested in joining should contact Sheila Cox at Thames Business Advice Centre on 01865 249279.

Novimost Appeal

Tim Butler, an ex - Didcot sixth former is working with young people in Bosnia. Both Didcot Girls School and St. Birinus have been collecting toiletries clothes, food, blankets, toys and first-aid supplies to send out with him in the spring. There were a quantity of Harwell Millenium T-shirts still unsold, and these have been donated to the appeal.

Sue Greatbanks

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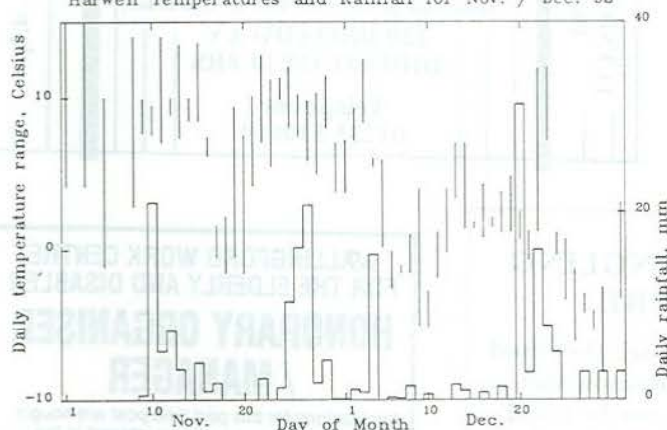
GARDENING NOTES FOR MARCH/APRIL

THE RECENT HARD FROSTS AND SUBSEQUENT THAW HAVE LEFT BEHIND A NUMBER OF PLANTS WHICH HAVE FROST DAMAGED FOLIAGE AND WHICH IF IT IS NOT REMOVED FAIRLY QUICKLY CAN EASILY SPREAD DISEASE TO THE REST OF THE PLANT - SO REMOVE ALL DAMAGED PARTS AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE. IF YOU HAVE NOT CARRIED OUT A TAR OIL WINTER WASH SPRAY ON FRUIT TREES & BUSHES, AND ROSES DO SO AT THE FIRST AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY. REMEMBER TO COVER ANY GREEN PLANTS GROWING UNDER THE BUSHES, ANNUAL WEEDS HOWEVER MAY BE KILLED BY THE SPRAY SO IT IS USEFUL TO LEAVE THEM UNCOVERED.

AUTUMN FRUITING RASPBERRIES SHOULD HAVE ALL CANES CUT BACK TO GROUND LEVEL NOW, WHEREAS WITH SUMMER FRUITING RASPS, ONLY CUT BACK THOSE CANES WHICH HAVE FRUITED, LEAVING THE NEW CANES TO FRUIT THIS SUMMER. ALL RASPBERRIES WILL BENEFIT FROM A GOOD MULCH APPLIED WHEN THE SOIL IS MOIST, AND THEN GIVE THEM A GOOD FEED ONCE GROWTH BEGINS - BOTH BLACK CURRANTS & RASPBERRIES WILL BENEFIT FROM A HIGH NITROGEN FEED AS THEY HAVE TO MAKE GROWTH AS WELL AS FRUIT.

COMPLETE ANY PRUNING THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE THIS INCLUDES ROSES, SHRUBS, FRUIT TREES & BUSHES

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ORNAMENTAL TREES, CLEMATIS (LATE FLOWERING TYPES) ETC. PLUMS, CHERRIES, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PRUNUS FAMILY SHOULD BE PRUNED SOON AFTER GROWTH COMMENCES IN THE SPRING ALTHOUGH YOU CAN TAKE A CHANCE WITH EARLY FLOWERING SORTS AND WAIT TILL THE BLOSSOM IS OVER BEFORE PRUNING. THE RISING SAP HELPS TO PREVENT AN INFECTION OF SILVER LEAF FUNGUS. AND THE SPORES ARE NOT SO ACTIVE IN THE SPRING.

SEEDS OF ITEMS WHICH NEED A LONG GROWING SEASON MAY BE SOWN NOW IN HEAT BUT ONLY IF YOU HAVE THE FACILITY TO KEEP THEM GROWING ON WITHOUT CHECK. MANY FOLK START SEEDS IN A PROPAGATOR AND AS SOON AS THEY ARE READY FOR PRICKING OUT WANT THE PROPAGATOR FOR MORE SEEDS, UNFORTUNATELY THEY DON'T HAVE A WARM WELL LIT PLACE IN WHICH TO GROW ON THE ORIGINAL SEEDLINGS SO THEY BECOME WEAK AND LEGGY.

DON'T BE IMPATIENT - AT THIS TIME OF YEAR SOWING A FORTNIGHT EARLIER MAY ONLY RESULT IN A DAY OR TWO'S EARLIER MATURITY.

IF YOU DO HAVE ADEQUATE FACILITIES GIVE PRIORITY TO THINGS FOR HANGING BASKETS, TROUGHS E WHICH WILL REWARD YOU WITH A SEASON LONG RIOT OF COLOUR.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GRASS I SUPPOSE MOST OF US THINK ABOUT LAWNS, BUT HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE USE OF ORNAMENTAL GRASSES IN THE GARDEN.

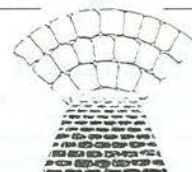
GRASSES COME IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SHAPES COLOURS & SIZES. THEY ARE ALSO ONE OF MANKIND'S MOST USEFUL PLANTS. THEIR ROOTS HOLD TOGETHER THE SAND DUNES, THEY SPREAD ACROSS FIELDS & PRAIRIES. AS REEDS & RUSHES THEY GROW IN MARSHY PLACES & AT THE WATER'S EDGE, THEY FILL GAPS IN ALPINE & ROCKY PLACES. THEY PROVIDE WRITING MATERIAL (PAPYRUS), THEY GIVE US THE STAFF OF LIFE & PROVIDE FODDER FOR OUR CATTLE. PAMPAS GRASS IS POSSIBLY THE BEST KNOWN ORNAMENTAL GRASS AND COMES IN A VARIETY OF SIZES & COLOURS OF PLUMES.

MISCANTHUS (TIGER GRASS) IS STRIPED & CAREX IS A VERY BRIGHT VARIEGATED GREEN WITH LONG ARCHING LEAVES WHILST OPHIOPOGON IS ALMOST BLACK. ALOPECURUS HAS YELLOWISH GREEN PLUMES.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THOSE AVAILABLE HAVE A LOOK IN THE CATALOGUES TO SEE WHAT IS ON OFFER & TREAT YOURSELF
GOOD GARDENING.

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Countryside Events in the Vale

Sun 4th Feb. 2pm Afternoon walk to Stanmore from East Ilsley Duck Pond. Guide Robin McStay Tel 835358.

Sun 18th Feb. 10.30am A walk around the village of Steventon. Suitable for children. Meet at The North Star, Guide Dick Bosley tel 835591.

Sat 24th Feb. 10am A walk from Didcot to Blewbury. Guide Ron terry 812828. Meet Health Centre Britwell Road.

Sat 2nd March 2pm Ridgeway and Downland Walk. Guide Dorothy Woodhouse 831722. Start Chilton Church.

In & Around Harwell

February

- 3 Girls Brigade Jumble Sale 2pm V Hall
- 5 Gardeners Club visit to Hanney Club
- 16 Bingo Freeman Hall 7.30pm.
- 17 Jumble Sale 11am Pathfinders, Freeman Hall, In aid of Bellropes fund
- 17 Messy Morning for 2 - 7 yrs V Hall
- 23,24 *Aladdin*, Goring V Hall - see ad.

March

- 2 Jumble Sale Freeman Hall 2pm.
- 4 Gardeners Club talk *Wild Flowers*
- 5 Meet your local Police 7.30pm Freeman Hall
- 23 Nearly new Sale 2.30pm V Hall

Further Ahead

- April 1 Gardeners Club *50 Favourite Plants*

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