

The HARWELL NEWS

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Parish Council

After the January meeting, where the Parish Precept was set, the results of which have just come through the letterboxes, the Parish Council meeting of February had mainly rather less weighty matters on the agenda. Most of the planning matters were related to AEA and UKAEA, on which the Council made no observations to the Vale.

It was reported that the panel delegated for the purpose had interviewed the two candidates for the post of Clerk and had appointed Mrs D Roberts of Cartref in Townsend. Mrs Roberts will take up her post on 1st May.

An application to the Pollution Inspectorate relating to waste disposal at AEA Harwell was discussed. The application was related to the transfer of AEA to the private sector, and did not constitute any new or increased pollution or waste disposal. But the Council agreed to express its concern that a privatised organisation might wish to expand its waste disposal programme. Also the document stated the actual locations involved were in Chilton and East Hendred, whereas it appeared from the map that some were in Harwell Parish.

It was agreed to provide three new litter bins for the following locations - High St. bus shelter, Wantage Road bus shelter and outside Fanfare stores. It was also agreed to provide a dog waste bin at the end of Townsend at the start of Cow Lane.

Under any other business, the Clerk was requested to enquire of Royal Mail whether it intended to re-instate the post box in Burr Street.

At the March meeting of the Parish Council, a request was discussed from the Village Hall Committee for assistance with the rebuilding of its toilet block so as to accommodate a wheel-chair accessible toilet. The Hall Committee had committed £6000 to the project, and was seeking funds from the Vale and County as well as the Parish Council. The Council agreed to make a grant of £2000.

The condition of the adventure playground fence was discussed; it had again been vandalised, and there were sections which had been repaired so often that replacement was probably required. It was agreed to inspect and report to the next meeting.

The Clerk had received a letter from Procord, the facilities operator at AEA, saying they were planning improvements to the front of the site along the A4185 and part of this was to remove the bus stop and bus shelter near the main entrance. The Clerk was instructed to reply that the Council believed they both still served a useful purpose and should not be removed.

The matter of an additional street light in West-

field, near the recreation ground entrance, was discussed, and it was agreed to accept the proposal for the installation, at a cost to the Council of £640. On another environmental matter, the footpath between orchard Way and The Styles was discussed; the Vale had repaired its part but not the privately owned strip. The Vale's Solicitor, in reply to a query, stated that there wasn't a specific standard to which a public footpath had to be maintained. Further enquiry would be made as to liability in the case of injury.

Under any other business, the problems caused by some security lights were raised. Parishioners are asked to ensure that any such lights they have do not dazzle motorists (or even passers-by) or inconvenience neighbours. The possible advent of cable TV, as reported in local papers, and the consequent effect on pavements was noted, and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries. The removal of the barrier on the High St. / Wellshead junction by the County Council was reported by the Clerk to be because the ends of the barrier were dangerous to pedestrians. The Council agreed that even if true, collisions between vehicles and pedestrians were generally more so, and the Clerk was requested to pursue the matter with the County Engineer's Department.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place in Harwell Village Hall at 8pm on Wednesday 22nd May. Parishioners are invited to attend, and may comment on / ask questions regarding Parish Council activities. It is hoped the District and County Councillors will also be present to answer any questions you have.

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 15th April and 13th May. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, ten days before the meeting - contact her on: office 820006. The **deadline** for the next newsletter is 25th May.

Owners of **motorcycles** are requested to note that road verges are provided to separate traffic from pedestrians and not for their use. Particularly in Orchard Way it would be appreciated by others if they used the Road.

BBC Thames Valley

This new station, which is taking to the airwaves on 9th April, will be taking a new weekly discussion programme out and about, to a different place each week. On **Thursday 18th April** they will be visiting Harwell, and parishioners are invited to attend, at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Nearer the date further information will be put on some posters and in the Parish Council Noticeboards.

Vale News

The Vale Council is going walkabout this year. Meetings will no longer all take place at Abingdon, but will be held in a variety of locations (not including Harwell). I hope that the cost of this change will be justified by greater public interest. Another new departure is that members of the public will in future be allowed to make statements at meetings of the Planning Committee which, no doubt, those making planning applications or objecting to the applications of others may well wish to do. If you want to take advantage of this new liberty make sure that you find out where the meeting is going to be.

Talking of objections, there have been some objections against the Local Plan with regard to restrictions on land use in and around Harwell. If you want to know more call Mrs Jane Graham on 520202 Ext 496.

The rates of Council Tax that you will be paying next year have been announced and people will have

to prepare themselves for a substantial rise. The prices, to the nearest pound, for Bands C, D & E will be £547, £615 and £751 for Harwell residents. For Band D this represents a rise of £92, £62 of which is being charged by Oxfordshire County Council and the rest can be attributed to the Vale increasing their rate from £1 to £31. No doubt most people will approve of that, since they voted for it, but in view of the MORI Poll's finding that 78% of the population regarded the quality of the Vale's services to be good it is difficult to see how those services can be thirty times better next year than they were this.

Colin Lamont tel 832866

Didcot Area Community / Police Consultative Group

At the meeting of this group in Harwell recently, the Council's concern was expressed over the level of community policing. It was stated that the level had been constant for some time, except that in recent weeks police had had to be diverted to the site of the Newbury by-pass. On the Council's concern over hare-coursing, it was said that not only did the police have a very large area to cover, but it was also one of the most difficult cases to prove. The Council also pointed out that on occasions burglaries had taken place soon after hare-coursing had been known to have taken place.

Didcot Community Education

There are a few new courses starting after Easter. Full details may be obtained by phoning 812002 Tuesday to Fridays between 10am and 2pm in term time, but here's a sample. Going to Spain in the summer? there's a Speedy Spanish course for you. Also Tennis, Car maintenance, Calligraphy & Young Peoples Dance. Saturday workshops include Colour Style and confidence, Wines for the Summer Season and there's a Wild Women Weekend!

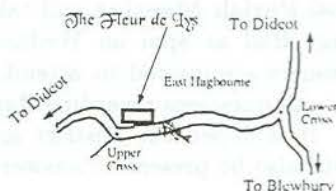
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County Councillor

The result of the recent election for the Wantage Rural Division of the County Council was as follows:

Derek Southern	Liberal Democrat	1156
Colin Lamont	Conservative	1059
C. Lakeland	The Labour Candidate	485

Thus our new County Councillor is Derek Southern, of 2 Tirrold Way Wantage OX12 7DL. He writes:

It may help you to know the kind of areas that are covered by County Council Services. The list is not comprehensive but I hope it will be of some help:
Education - Community education, schools, youth
Environmental Issues

Gypsy Issues

Leisure, Tourism, Arts, inc. Libraries, Museums
Pollution

Public Protection - Police, Fire, Trading Standards

Public Transport

Recycling

Road maintenance and Road Safety

Social Services, Families, the elderly & handicapped.

Street Lights

Waste Disposal (but not collection)

There are areas of overlap with District Council, such as Leisure and Tourism, but the County Council is looking at the policies as they affect the whole County.

Harwell Feast

The Harwell Feast Committee regrets that it is unable to bring you the traditional Feast Day at Whitsun this year. The committee is currently too small to man the event. Anyone wishing to join the Committee for 1997 is asked to contact the Chairman, Sue Cooke on 833075.

Thanks ...

Gwen Froud, Marjorie Cox and Ursula Moore would like to thank everyone who attended the New Year's Eve Party in the Village Hall. Your support was very much appreciated and we have had the pleasure of sending a cheque for £120 to the Cancer Research Unit at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford.

Once again thank you all very much - and we hope to see you all again next New Year's Eve.

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Bank Holiday Fête - 27th May

As the Harwell Feast Committee is unable to organise a Feast this year it is the intention of the Harwell RBL to hold a Fête on the Bank Holiday Monday when the Feast would normally take place. The RBL held a successful Mini-Fête last August which it intended to repeat this year, but after learning that the Feast was off we felt if we used the same day it could be good for us as well as keeping the day open in the hopes that the Harwell Feast Committee can attract more members onto their committee to enable them to get the Feast back on next year, as they have always done such excellent work raising funds to aid Village folk and Organisations.

Having obtained permission from the Parish Council to use this date it was agreed to a request to invite other Village Organisations to participate as in past years, this would determine the size of the Fête which we obviously do not anticipate being as large as the Feast but it really depends on you, any Organisation that wishes to take part in any way may be co-opted onto the organising Committee, would any organisation wishing to have a stall or tent in the Recreation ground or enter a Float (as with sufficient interest we could have a procession or parade) please contact me as below. We will be allocating space for the usual Car Boot Sales and a charge will be made as follows: £7 per pitch if booked before the day or £10 on the day on conditions that we have space, which is to be limited.

For further details and bookings please contact the Club Secretary Peter Cissell 820298
The Royal British Legion Club (Harwell) Ltd

Harwell Village Tennis Club

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 16th April 1996

in the

Village Hall Committee Room

at 7.30 p.m.

All Welcome

For further information about the Club please contact Jane Cumming, tel. 835289. New members are always welcome, whatever your standard

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Harwell Bowls Club

The first fixture of the 1996 Season will be on Sunday 21st April commencing at 3.30 pm., when the Annual President v. Captains Match will take place, weather and Green conditions permitting.

New bowlers, particularly Harwell residents, will receive a warm welcome. If you have not bowled before but feel you would like to try, why not come along to the Green in Westfield and have a go.

Club Nights are on Mondays at 6.30 pm., commencing on 29th April, when training and coaching sessions are arranged.

All we ask, initially, if you wish to bowl, is that you wear flatsoled shoes without a heel, for walking on the Green.

Annual Subscriptions are: £25, (£20 - OAPs); and £10 for Students up to age 16 (18 if in full time Education).

Applications for membership of the Club can be made on an application form obtainable from the Hon. Secretary: Phil. Penson, 46 Lashford Lane, Dry Sandford, Abingdon, Tel. 01865 - 327824, or this year's President: Rex Mitcham, 16 The Croft, Harwell, Tel. 01235 - 835286.

Harwell Tuesday Club

The Harwell Tuesday Club meets every Tuesday at the Royal British Legion Club, from 2 to 4pm. it is open to all residents of Harwell Parish aged 60 and over. We have entertainment of Bingo, Crib, Dominoes, Snooker, and Darts competitions. We also have outings during the year, as well as a Weekend Break.

If anybody over 60 would like to join, for further information please contact either:

Mrs D. Gigg Chairman Tel: 835463 or
Mrs E. Battershill Secretary Tel: 83542

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Harwell Village Hall

The Management Committee met on 14 March 1996 in the Freeman Hall. In addition to the regular business, the following matters of importance were reported:-

(1) Mr Roy Bullock of the Post Office has kindly agreed to take over the duties of Booking Secretary for the Village and Freeman Halls. It has been agreed that regular users will be provided with personal keys in exchange for a £10 returnable deposit when the keys are finally relinquished. A register of keyholders will be kept by Mr Bullock which keyholders must sign. Casual and infrequent users of either hall must obtain keys by arrangement with the Booking Secretary.

(2) The Parish Council has made a generous grant of £2000 towards the cost of the new toilet block in the Village Hall. With £6000 of Hall funds a start has certainly been made with this important enhancement of the Hall facilities. Tenders for the work have been received and one has been selected and approved.

(3) Mr Packer of the Winterbrook Youth Club has drawn attention to the dilapidated state of the Freeman Hall and the need for short-term remedial action. It was agreed that the Secretaries would make suitable arrangements with a local joiner.

Secretaries Mr & Mrs D. Neill

Harwell W.I.

Celebrating our 75th Anniversary

The W.I. meets on the **second** Wednesday in the month in the Village Hall at 7.30 and we have a varied programme of speakers and social events. For the next two months we have:

April - Hanging Baskets and Planters by Susie Bond
May - our own Produce and Craft show - visitors welcome between 7 and 7.30

There will be an outing to Bakewell and Chatsworth House on May 13th - coach fare £10. If you would like to join us please contact Margaret Sims - 819981.



Dialability has a mobile information service, which will be in Wantage Civic Hall on Thursday 11th April and in Abingdon Market Square on Wednesday 17th April, between 10am and 3pm. They will be displaying a range of equipment to assist the disabled, along with information and catalogues. Information is held on:

Caring for someone at home	Elderly
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Sensory Impairment	Employment
Support Groups	Holidays
The Children	

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Little Pippins Pre-school

We have had busy half-term yet again, including a Coffee Morning / Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg hunt for the children in the Orchard. On the last day, 29th March, we held a sponsored walk for the under-fives with their parents, just around the Freeman Orchard which at the moment is full of daffodils which the children planted.

On 20th June we are off to the Cotswold Wildlife Park for our Annual Outing. If you would like to join us please call in one morning or telephone 821741 (mornings) for more details.

We only have a few vacancies left for after Easter so if you would like your child to come to pre-school, please feel free to come along any morning for a visit and see what fun we have. We hold a parent / carer and toddler session on a Wednesday morning for the 2½+ yrs old; again just call in - you will be very welcome.

Yvonne Hinchliffe.



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With the Gardening Season
approaching here are some
seasonal reminders:

Be sure to shut all Windows
and Lock your House before
leaving your house, even for a
short time.

Be sure to Lock your House
even when working in the
Garden.

Do protect your Lawn-mowers and Garden Tools at
all times by Locking your garden shed.

Please look Out for the Latest Neighbourhood
Watch Information in the Parish Council Notice
Board- If you have any information for this notice
please contact mr Jim Mein on 834384.

Reminder to all Co-ordinators: A Joint Co-
ordinators Seminar is being held in the Chilton Vil-
lage Hall on Thursday April 4th at 7.30 p m.

KEO 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 - KEO MINDERS
0235-520290

Winterbrook Youth Club

1946 - 1996

Monday evenings - Freeman Hall

Juniors 6 - 8 pm

Seniors 8 - 10 pm

All young people in Harwell are welcome to come to
Youth Club. We offer a range of social activities and
outings in a friendly atmosphere.

At Easter our senior group is going to the Youth
Club UK's Festival of Fun weekend at Pontins and
in the summer our Junior group is looking forward
to a visit to the Alton Towers, staying overnight in
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Fund-raising - Friday 3rd May Bingo!

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From the archives - 1896

One hundred years ago the year-old Parish Council was faced with finding a new burial ground. It was first mentioned as the business of the meeting of 3rd January 1896 at the Board School, chaired by Mr Joseph Day. the agenda was 'Closing of the Church Yard. To consider the necessity of obtaining additional ground for burial purposes' but no further reason is given. It took just 6 lines to minute the agreement to write to Mr Wm Hazel asking if he was willing to sell one or half an acre adjacent to the Cleve and occupied by Mr F Day. Three weeks later the Council met to to consider his reply, which was that he was prevented from selling any portion of his land (by what is not stated).

Not to be put off, a further 3 weeks later a Parish Meeting was convened to consider the adoption of the Burial acts, and to provide a burial ground under those acts. Such a resolution was adopted and a copy forwarded to the secretary of State. The Parish Council met 3 days later and provisionally accepted an offer of Mr J Lay to sell the Council 1/2 an acre of 'orchard ground situated opposite the National School and east side of the Cleve at a price of ...' - not given. A Parish Meeting was held in March for the Election of Parish Councillors. The Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 1st April, and approved the accounts for the year to the previous day - they were a bit simpler then! An ordinary meeting was held the next week to settle accounts; 5 amounts were paid by cheques varying from £1-10-11d. to £9-3-6d., leaving £5-2-11d. with £2-10-10d due to the Council.

Later in April the Burial Ground was back on the Agenda, although nothing was reported apart from the election of a Chairman and vice-chairman from among the 4 Councillors, and the election of 2 overseers. On 1st June the Clerk was instructed to write to the District Medical Officer asking him to visit the proposed site, written consent from those living within 100 yards was required, and 2 holes had to be dug to check the soil in the proposed ground.

By 23rd June the date fixed for the Churchyard closure - July 12th - was getting close; the Council decided to request of the Home Secretary that he



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postpone the closure of the Churchyard. The letter is transcribed in the minutes and the Clerk's name appears at last - Henry Burnham. The Medical Officer having given his approval for the site, a surveyor was commissioned to draw up a plan - agreed at another meeting on 3rd July.

Whether this was all too much for the Clerk, or he had other reasons, is not stated, but by August the Council was meeting again to consider the Clerk's resignation. Notice was given of the vacancy and 11 days later the Council met again to consider applications. A Mr Fuller was appointed, subject to the ratification by the magistrates and to his entering into a Bond for £500, or finding sureties to the same amount!

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GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL/MAY.

MANY FLOWERS ARE LATE THIS SPRING - EVEN THE COMMERCIAL GROWERS ARE SAYING THAT THERE WERE VERY FEW DAFFODILS READY IN TIME FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY (MAR. 17TH). CERTAINLY THERE ARE FEW DAFFODILS TO BE SEEN IN THE GARDEN, THOUGH SOME OF MY MINIATURE ONES WERE PEEPING ABOVE THE RECENT SNOW AND HAVE NOW FULLY OPENED ON SUNNY DAYS. CROCUSES ARE STILL IN FLOWER AND I NOTICE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD FORECASTERS OF ANY IMMINENT CHANGE IN THE WEATHER SHUTTING UP WELL BEFORE ANY RAIN OR COLD SPELL. ALL THIS REMINDS US THAT WE NEED TO DO OUR GARDENING BY THE SEASON & NOT THE DATE.

I FOUND THAT THE RECENT FROSTY SPELL HAD WEATHERED THE SOIL BEAUTIFULLY AND IT RAKED DOWN TO A VERY FINE TILTH WHICH ENABLED ME TO GET IN SOME EARLY SEEDS.

IT IS VERY MUCH A MATTER OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CONDITIONS WHEN THEY ARE JUST RIGHT - NOT EASILY DONE WHEN YOU ARE OUT AT WORK ALL DAY. HOWEVER IT IS POSSIBLE TO HELP NATURE BY COVERING THE GROUND WITH CLOCHES, POLYTENE OR FLEECE TO WARM IT UP OR DRY IT OUT.

MANY SUMMER FLOWERING BULBS CAN BE PLANTED IN THE SPRING. MOST BULBS CAN BE LEFT TO GIVE A GOOD SHOW YEAR AFTER YEAR WITH VERY LITTLE ATTENTION EXCEPT TO REMEMBER TO FEED THEM OR SPLIT UP CLUMPS WHEN THESE BECOME TOO LARGE. ALL BULBS SHOULD BE FED IMMEDIATELY AFTER FLOWERING OR SPLITTING UP TO HELP THEM BUILD UP NEW BULBS FOR NEXT SEASON. WE ARE CONSTANTLY BEING REMINDED THESE DAYS TO TRANSPLANT OUR SNOWDROPS "IN THE GREEN" AND THIS IS TRUE OF MOST BULBS AS ONCE THE EFFORT OF FLOWERING IS OVER THE PLANT DIRECTS ITS ENERGY TO PRODUCING A NEW BULB FOR THE COMING SEASON AND IF YOU CAN GET IT INTO ITS NEW POSITION BEFORE THIS HAPPENS IT WILL ESTABLISH ITSELF VERY QUICKLY AND WILL BE HELPED BY A GOOD FEED.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO SET UP THOSE HANGING BASKETS & TROUGHS READY FOR PLANTING. I PREFER

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TO USE A SOIL BASED COMPOST WHEREVER POSSIBLE AS THIS RETAINS FERTILIZER & MOISTURE RATHER BETTER THAN PEAT OR COIR AND I FIND IT IS A BIG HELP TO INCORPORATE SOME MOISTURE RETAINING GEL AND SOME SEASON LONG SLOW RELEASE FERTILIZER IN THE MIX - I DO THE SAME WITH PEAT OR COIR BASED COMPOSTS WHERE THE USE OF THESE MAY BE DESIRABLE FOR HANGING BASKETS BECAUSE THEY ARE LIGHTER. IF YOU ARE BUYING PLUG PLANTS FOR YOUR CONTAINERS REMEMBER THESE MAY NOT BE FULLY HARDENED OFF SO KEEP THEM IN A SHELTERED PLACE UNTIL ALL DANGER OF FROST IS PASSED.

PLANT UP YOUR BASKETS & CONTAINERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THEY ARE WELL ESTABLISHED WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR PUTTING THEM OUT.

KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT FOR PESTS & DISEASE & TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION. STEPS TAKEN NOW PREVENT LATER INFESTATIONS. FORTUNATELY THERE SEEM TO BE PLENTY OF LADYBIRDS AROUND.

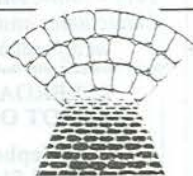
ENJOY YOUR GARDENING.

Laura

Trees ... Shrubs ... Hedges

The Council wishes once again to remind parishioners that overgrown trees, shrubs and hedges on their property boundaries are the responsibility of the owner of the property. This is so even when trees or shrubs have grown outside hedges, fences or walls. Lack of space precludes inclusion of Section 154 of The Highways Act 1980, but the Parish Council requests that parishioners check boundaries with roads, pavements and footpaths and, if necessary, carry out lopping or cutting back.

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Tickets £5 from Didcot Civic Hall & Imperial
Cancer Research Shop
Bar - Raffle

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 25th Mary for the June issue.

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In & Around Harwell

April

- 1 Gardeners Club 50 Favourite Plants
- 18 BBC Thames Valley - V Hall 7pm
- 26 Imperial Cancer Research Concert
Didcot Civic Hall 8 pm.

May

- 3 Bingo 7.30 pm Freeman Hall.
- 13 Gardeners Club - Members Talks
- 27 Fête - Rec. Ground

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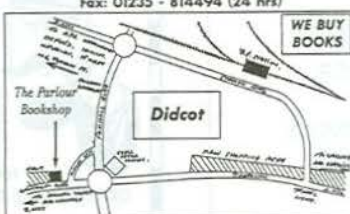
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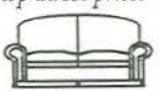
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