

The HARWELL NEWS

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 83

June 1996



Parish Council

Our Clerk Rita Bosher retired last month. For the last nine years she has patiently converted the sometimes not-too-well expressed decisions and wishes of the Council into coherent minutes and letters to the various organisations with which the Council deals. The Clerk's salary is, or more strictly has been, related to the number of parishioners, rather than the hours spent at work, and has not greatly compensated her diligence! The last item of business at the April meeting was to record the Council's thanks for her services, and the Council members gave her a Garden-Centre token in appreciation. In her letter of thanks Rita wrote '...After nine years council work had become a way of life. It will seem strange not to be going into that delightful, attractive and clean pavilion anymore! ...' (where can she mean?)

Our new Clerk is Debbie Roberts, of *Cartref*, Townsend, and the phone numbers on which she may be contacted are given below.

At the April meeting the Clerk reported that, following a query about the installation of cable television, she had ascertained that those carrying out the work had similar powers to the statutory authorities (ie they don't need to ask anyone before they dig up the footpaths). There will be a presentation on the work to be done in the village at the next Parish Council meeting, on 10th June.

The Vale planning Officer had sent details of two objections to the Vale Local Plan, by developers who wished to see areas removed from coverage by policies designed to keep them 'green'. These areas are between the north-east edge of Harwell Village and the A34, and south of the Reading Road. The Council replied that it supported the Vale's policy of no further development south of the A417, and was opposed to the enlargement of the village 'envelope'.

The Parish's recently elected County Councillor was present at the April meeting, and spoke on the County's budget, and how services would be affected if the government capped the County's rate. Both of the Parish's District Councillors were also present: Ken Howard reported on Council members allowances and the concessionary fares scheme, and Colin Lamont on two planning matters.

It was reported that the seat commemorating the VE and VJ 50th Anniversaries had been purchased and would soon be in the Cemetery, with a suitable plaque. A tree donated by the Harwell Branch, RBL will be planted nearby.

The Council agreed to the purchase of the tractor that has been on hire from Harwell Car Services, at a price of £3250. The Council also agreed to assist the Harwell School Summer Playscheme with a grant of £120 to cover insurance and some materials.

Parishioners may know that the edge of the recreation ground by the A417, has been owned by the County Council, which no longer needs it, not having any plans to widen the road. Since owning it will not make a lot of difference to its availability, the Parish Council was not prepared to pay much for it, and has now agreed that it will pay the County £250 plus legal costs for the land. The strip also runs along the newly purchased land, which is not yet available for recreation.

At the May meeting, which was the Annual meeting of the Council, Mr David Levey was elected Chairman and Alan Walker was elected Vice-Chairman. Again both our District Councillors were present: Ken Howard reported that there was likely to be an application submitted soon for Housing on the AEA site in Chilton Parish, and that he was still enquiring into the Vale's responsibility regarding the footpath between Orchard Way and The Styles. Colin Lamont reported on Footpath number 7, where he had had a meeting with an OCC representative and a parishioner.

The Council agreed to the use of the Recreation ground by Harwell Football Club on 15/16th June for their 6-a-side tournament.

The Council concluded the meeting by expressing its appreciation of the retiring Chairman, Brian Mulford, for his work during the past five years.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** took place in Harwell Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd May. Present were eight Councillors, one Vale Councillor, and two other parishioners. After the Chairman, David Levey, had given his report, there was discussion of various minor matters, some of which seem to make regular appearances at these meetings - parking near junctions (please avoid if you can), dog bins (please use if you can), street lights (reports of not working, or not sited where they were supposed to be) and footpaths inaccessible (number 7), all of which kept the meeting occupied for a good 30 minutes.

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 10th June and 8th July. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Debbie Roberts ten days before the meeting - contact her on 820006 (office) or 832727 (home). The **deadline** for the next newsletter is 25th July.

The Best Kept Village competition, sponsored by Calor Gas, will be judged between June 1st and 16th for the preliminary round, and between July 6th and 21st for the final round (gleaned from the Blewbury Bulletin!) Blewbury players are staging *Ring around the Moon* on 17th to 20th July - details from 850366.

Planning Matters

Notices of Permission:

HAR/9136/4 Erection of garage, land adjacent to The Styles for Mr Dewsnap. The Council had no objection provided it was for domestic use only, permission was given on this basis.

New Applications:

HAR/EHE/14221/17-X & 18-X. The UKAEA, as owners of the Harwell Site, has begun to apply for permission for the redevelopment work that it plans. The first of these applications was for the demolition of Ridgeway House and the erection of offices on part of the site. The second was for the development of the open area between Fermi Avenue and the perimeter fence which is to be moved back from the current line at the south-east corner of the site. There was a detailed traffic appraisal, which showed amongst other things, given current forecasts, the Milton A34 junction becoming a bottleneck in a few years. The applications were for access and did not include detailed plans.

The Council asked the Vale and County to consider the following:

- a) the creation of an exit and access to the north at the Chilton A34 junction.
- b) traffic lights at Rowstock roundabout at peak periods.
- c) widening of Curie avenue, with a roundabout at its junction with the A4185.

HAR/14234/1-X Erection of bungalow and garage, land at rear of Lassen, Reading Rd. The Council restated its comments regarding access to the site.

HAR/4515/1 Erection of single storey extension, 9 Tyrrells Close. The Council asked the Vale to give due consideration to the objections of the owners of 8 Tyrrells Close, who believed the extension would have the effect of enclosing and overshadowing their garden.



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Requests

The Council regularly hears from those troubled by bonfires; if you are considering having one please think of others before lighting it. Has your neighbour just put his washing out? Can you hear the sounds of chatter in the garden on a sunny summer evening?

If so, then please refrain from lighting that bonfire - or, if you can, take the stuff to the Drayton tip, particularly if it can be composted (put it in the right skip!) or if it contains materials likely to cause offensive smells (probably toxic as well!). Thank you!

And, if you have a verge outside your house, please consider cutting it when you mow the lawn - at this time of the year Donald Pike is very busy and 'every little helps', to coin a phrase.

Vale News

The meeting of the Vale Planning Committee on 3rd June was the first at which a Harwell resident appeared to speak. The new system is up and running now, more or less, and it can be useful. If you make a planning application and find that objections are raised you can make a three-minute statement before the Committee to plead your case. Please contact me if you wish to do this; I can advise you how to proceed. You can also object to somebody else's application in the same way.

At the same meeting an application by Grove Farms to use redundant fruit stores for a new storage business was rejected. The Committee took the view that the right place for a semi-industrial operation like that was in the Milton estate and not on a farm. It is interesting that the Vale Council has the power to prevent a building being used for any purpose other than its original one, even when the original need has dwindled away. There may be a commercial case for cutting back fruit farming, but there is also a downside, as this decision shows.

Colin Lamont tel 832866

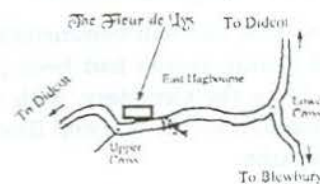
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Steve & Eve Collier



Letters to the Editor

I was dismayed to read Colin Lamont's *Vale News* in our last Harwell newsletter. Referring to the Vale of White Horse District Council element of the council tax increasing from £1 to £31, he says 'it is difficult to see how those services can be thirty times better next year than they were this.'

Either Mr Lamont does not understand how the council tax works, or he is misrepresenting the facts in an attempt to score party-political points.

The information distributed with council tax bills makes it clear that VWHDC spending needs are increasing not by 3000% but by 10.7%, that is from £58 to £65 per head ignoring the parish councils, or £151 to £167 per band D property. Last year, business rates and central government contributed £150 (band D), leaving the Vale to collect just £1 from us (plus about £500 for the parishes and Oxfordshire County Council). This year, £14 (band D) less government support and £16 extra spending requires the £30 increase.

If the Vale's budget really had increased by a factor of 30, our total council tax would be over £5000 per property!

Maybe we should just dismiss Mr Lamont's remark as sour grapes from a member of the party that lost control of the Vale Council last year.

Roger Thetford.

(thanks for the explanation - it's clearer than the Vale WHDC's attempt! - ed.)

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A Fresh Air Day Out in a Good Cause

On the second Saturday in September every year, people take to the roads of Britain by cycle, by foot, on horseback or by car (by canoe, too, some years ago) to raise money for the preservation of historic churches. The aim is to sign in at as many churches as possible, to raise sponsorship money for the Historic Churches Trust.

St Matthew's, Harwell, is a participating church - that is, it both welcomes cyclists (and those who chose other forms of transport, though quite how you'd get down Church Lane in a canoe is a puzzle) from elsewhere, and fields a team of cyclists of its own. Half the money the Harwell cyclists raise goes to St Matthews and half to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. In 1995/96, the Trust allocated over £60,000 to repair projects in churches of all denominations all over Oxfordshire.

If you would like to spend a sunny (?) September Saturday (September 14th) discovering new highways and byways of the locality, seeing some of this country's most spectacular architectural heritage as you go, contact Liz Roberts on 83 42 95 for more details. You don't have to be a churchgoer to take part and whether you clock in at two churches or twenty, travel solo or in a group, are super-fit or just enjoy a few hours outdoors in a good cause, St Matthew's would be delighted to have you along!

Thanks for "Buying a Brick"

A total of £237 was donated by residents of Harwell to the recent "Buying a Brick" campaign, to sponsor houses for families afflicted by leprosy. When added to the /pounds 75 donated by staff at Didcot Girls School and to the donations of other communities in the area, a total of £853.33 was collected. This is enough to build a complete house for one family at the Village of Hope in New Delhi.

Thank you to all those who contributed. Your gifts really do make a difference.

The Nickerson Family

WEST HAGBOURNE VILLAGE OPEN DAY

Sunday 7th July 1996

12 noon - 6 p.m.



Open gardens, Exhibitions, Entertainments, Competitions, Stalls, Live Music, Children's pet corner, Teas and much much more!

Come and join in the fun!



Bill Connolly, Jake Castle, and Ron Thomsett on the British Legion Float

Bank Holiday Fête - 27th May

The Harwell RBL Club, with assistance from many others including The Little Pippins Playgroup and The Harwell Fun Club, on the Spring(!!!) Bank Holiday organised a Fete in place of the usual Harwell Feast. Since the Feast was not to be run this year, the Club was happy to have the opportunity to raise some additional money to help fund an extension to the Club Lounge.

There was concern expressed that the Club event should not be confused with the usual Feast as it is intended that this should resume. At the same time we did not want to disappoint visitors who would be expecting a reasonable event on such a day.

A full programme of events was arranged and the Fete was opened by Wesley Smith, the Central News celebrity. The day started with a downpour of rain and a parade of vintage tractors, vintage cars and decorative floats. A total of more than 20 vehicles took part headed by a marching Piper. A street collection in aid of Leukemia research realised £91. Wesley had a busy morning judging tractors and floats, then on to the Children's Fancy Dress, all the way being mobbed by his fan club and signing autographs. He then moved into the RBL Club, where he kindly presented a cheque to the value of his appearance fee to Jack Perry for the use of The Guinea Pig Club.

Back outsider visitors and stall-holders were having quite a tough time with the cold weather, but most activities received some support. Tea and Cakes went very well in the Pavilion, and the Bar-B-Q was doing a roaring trade. The Bouncy Castle was very popular with the children (large and small), as was the Gladiators Duel. The Ice Cream vendor did show up, but apparently decided the weather was a bit against him. A large disappointment was our attempt to stage The Harwell Fun Run. Whether it was the after effects of The London Marathon, the Hagbourne Fun Run of a week earlier, or the more

important preparations for the Atlanta Olympics is not quite clear. On the day there were only 6 entries, and the event was reluctantly called off.

Given that the organisation was undertaken with little more than a month to spare, the fact that some clumsy newspaper headlines persuaded many people that there was nothing happening in Harwell that day, and to say nothing of the weather, the Club is happy to report that a profit of over £350 was made towards the Club Building Fund. Other organisations such as The Little Pippins Play Group, The Harwell Fun Club and The Bowls Club had their own fund-raising stalls.

The thanks of the RBL Club are extended to the many individuals and organisations that helped to make a difficult day into some sort of success story.

Cyril Balderson Treasurer, RBL Club (Harwell)

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5



ING 50 YEARS OF Y. CLUB

SUMMER FÊTE

TURSDAY 22ND JUNE

10.00 a.m. FREEMAN HALL

9 - HAIR-BRAIDING - FORTUNES -
 BOOKS - WHITE ELEPHANT - CAKES -
 ICE CREAMS - GAMES ETC

10.00-5.00 SALE

FRI 21ST 7-9 p.m. / SAT 22ND 10-12 a.m.

10.00-5.00 SALE ITEMS + JUMBLE

Harwell Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Management Committee was held in the Freeman Hall on the evening of 30 April 1996, when the office-bearers and eight of the trustees were present.

The Charity Commissioners reply to the change in the management scheme involving the trustees taking responsibility for the Village and Freeman Halls signified acceptance of the new arrangement.

The Treasurer reported a considerable increase in lettings of the Village Hall with consequent increase in income, although this was to some extent offset by a marked drop in income from fundraising. With this in mind it is intended to hold a Tabletop Sale on 13 July 1996 when it is hoped the fundraising can resume.

Current office-bearers were re-elected as follows: Chairman - Mr Ricketts; Vice-Chairman - Mr Edwards; Booking Secretary - Mr Bullock; Treasurer - Mr Lamont; Secretaries - Mr and Mrs Neill.

The Management Committee wishes to record its appreciation of the services of Mr Roger Wickens of Fanfare Stores, who took over the duties of Booking Secretary after the resignation of Mrs Allan and performed them with great success.

Secretaries Mr & Mrs D. Neill

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Others, Combinations, you can choose

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Council for the Protection of Rural England

Active but not activist, the CPRE has been around for 70 years in 1996. It's a non-political campaigning organisation, which promotes sensitive and realistically sustainable development of the countryside. In recent times, the Council has been in the news for its opposition to the route of the Newbury by-pass, for its much wider report, just published, on the impact of current proposals for major road-building nationwide, and for its ongoing audit of (what is left of) that vital natural habitat and historic landmark, the hedgerow.

The CPRE enjoys growing support in our area and has a varied diary of events - with something to interest anyone committed to preserving our countryside heritage - to celebrate its anniversary year. For more information, contact the Harwell village representative, Liz Roberts, on 83 42 95.

Harwell Feast Committee

A. G. M.

Tuesday 9th July

8pm. Freeman Hall

If you would like to join the feast Committee & bring *Harwell Feast* back again in 1997 please come along to this meeting or please contact the Chairman Sue Cooke on 833075

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"Shift to the Shade"

The Vale WHDC is taking part in the national campaign to encourage people to take care of their skin - over exposure to the sun leads to premature ageing of the skin and the risk of skin cancer, which is believed to be preventable in 4 out of 5 cases.

Apart from offering trees and other resources to schools, the vale has four "instant shelters" to loan to local groups to provide shade during outdoor events, such as fêtes and sports days. These shelters are simple to erect, and each cover an area of 8' by 8'. Normally two will be available for a booking, for which there is no charge, but organisers must normally collect and return them. Contact Dot Morrison at the Vale WHDC on 520202 ext. 554.

Harwell Village Produce Show

A Coffee morning is being held on Wednesday 3rd July at 10.30am at Blenheim House, Blenheim Hill - the proceeds will go towards the show. Schedules for the Show are now available from Adele Harris at Blenheim House or from local shops.

MINI MARKET



At Harwell Village Hall

SATURDAY 13 JULY 1996
10.00 am - 1.00 pm

COFFEE, REFRESHMENTS

BRING and BUY

RAFFLE

STALLS

IN AID OF HARWELL VILLAGE HALL COMPLEX RESTORATION FUND

Gardeners Club

The club is organising another Gardens Open Day on Sunday 21st July. This was very successful last year - are you willing to open your garden to villagers on that day? We are not particularly looking for large gardens - if you like your garden then so will others. Please give me a ring if you wish to share your garden,

Adele Harris 835238

Vale WHDC Out-of-Abingdon meetings

The Vale WHDC has provided a list of the venues for the meetings to be held in locations other than Abingdon, 'to make it easier for people to attend Council Meetings'. Since these are either about the same distance away in Wantage, or further from Harwell, here is merely the phone number for details - 540305.

The leaflet does give the Vale Leader's numbers, in case you wish to contact her - office 540391, home 523609.

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GARDENING NOTES FOR JUNE/JULY

THE WEATHER IS STILL THE RULING FACTOR CONCERNING WHAT WE CAN DO IN THE GARDEN, BUT WITH THE FORECAST OF WARMER DAYS AHEAD IT SHOULD NOW BE SAFE ALL THOSE TENDER PLANTS THAT HAVE BEEN LANGUISHING UNDER COVER FOR SO LONG, NOW - THIS INCLUDES TOMATOES, RUNNER BEANS, GOURDS, SQUASHES, PUMPKINS, MARROWS, HANGING BASKETS, BEDDING PLANTS LIKE BEGONIAS, BUSY LIZZIES, DAHLIAS, GERANIUMS (PELARGONIUMS), FUCHSIAS ETC. BUT BE PREPARED! WE HAD A SLIGHT GROUND FROST OVERNIGHT ON 1ST/2ND JUNE.

KEEP ALL PLANTS WELL WATERED TO BUILD THEM UP IN CASE OF A DROUGHT & WATER RESTRICTIONS LATER. BUT DO USE WATER CAREFULLY & MAKE THE BEST USE OF IT. TRY TO SAVE AS MUCH RAINWATER AS YOU CAN - IT IS OFTEN BETTER THAN TAP WATER FOR THE PLANTS.

YOU HAVE ONLY TO SEE THE AMOUNT OF LIME THAT COLLECTS ON MY KETTLE FILTER EACH DAY TO DISCOVER HOW LIMY OUR WATER IS ANYWAY. HANGING BASKETS ALWAYS NEED PLenty OF WATER & LAST SUMMER MINE NEEDED WATERING THREE TIMES A DAY DURING THE VERY HOT SPELL. REMEMBER WATER IS EVAPORATED ALL ROUND THE BASKET - NOT JUST ON TOP.

THEY NEED FEEDING TOO - THERE ARE LOTS OF ROOTS IN A SMALL VOLUME OF COMPOST & I LIKE TO USE A DILUTE FEED EVERY TIME I WATER.

I PREFER TO USE A LIQUID FEED - A CAPFUL ADDED TO THE WATER IS MUCH EASIER THAN STIRRING IN SOLID FERTILISER & GETTING IT ALL DISSOLVED. HOWEVER IF YOU WANT TO USE A GRANULAR PRODUCT LIKE CHEMPAK OR PHOSTROGEN, MAKE UP A STOCK SOLUTION & THEN DILUTE THAT.

GROWMORE, LONGLAST, SEASON LONG, OSMOCOTE HOWEVER CANNOT BE USED IN THIS WAY AND MUST BE APPLIED IN THE GRANULAR FORM. LIQUID SEAWEED IS ALWAYS GOOD EITHER ON ITS OWN OR ADDED TO OTHER CHEMICAL FERTILISERS TO ENHANCE THEIR ACTION & IT CAN BE APPLIED AS A FOLIAR FEED.

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NOW IS THE TIME TO POT UP STRAWBERRY RUNNERS TO PROVIDE NEW PLANTS FOR NEXT SEASON. REMOVE ANY EXTENSION GROWTH BEYOND THE FIRST PLANTLET AND REMOVE ALL UNWANTED RUNNERS AS SOON AS THEY APPEAR. CONCENTRATE ALL THE STRENGTH OF THE PLANT INTO FRUITING & ANY WANTED RUNNERS.

AFTER FLOWERING PRIMULAS MAY BE SPLIT UP & THE OFFSHOOTS REPLANTED. THEY MUST BE KEPT WELL WATERED UNTIL THOROUGHLY ESTABLISHED.

BULBS THAT HAVE FINISHED FLOWERING SHOULD BE DEADHEADED & FED (GENERAL FERTILISER) TO BUILD UP THE BULBS & CORNS FOR NEXT YEAR.

THE MOWER BLADES MAY NOW BE LOWERED TO THEIR SUMMER HEIGHT & THE LAWNS CUT REGULARLY. CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF CUT FROM TIME TO TIME.

NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO APPLY LAWN FERTILISER FOLLOWED ABOUT FOUR DAYS LATER WITH AN APPLICATION OF WEED & MOSS KILLER. DO IT BEFORE ANY WEEDS START TO SEED. IF THE WEATHER REMAINS DRY KEEP THE HOE GOING & RAKE OFF ANY HOED WEEDS. YOU MAY HAVE TO HANDWEED OR USE WEEDKILLERS IF THE WEATHER TURNS WET. A MULCH WILL HELP TO SURPRESS WEEDS. WATCH OUT FOR PESTS PARTICULARLY ON THE UNDERSIDES OF LEAVES.

Laurie

Also in Blewbury this month, 10 days of arts and entertainment on the theme of Mystery and Discovery, starting on Friday 21st June. For a complete guide to this year's clues, puzzles and revelations, get a copy of the festival Magazine, available in Blewbury stores.

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The Council agreed to the purchase of the tractor that has been on hire from Harwell Car Services, at a price of £3250. The Council also agreed to assist the Harwell School Summer Playscheme with a grant of £120 to cover insurance and some materials.

Parishioners may know that the edge of the recreation ground by the A417, has been owned by the County Council, which no longer needs it, not having any plans to widen the road. Since owning it will not make a lot of difference to its availability, the Parish Council was not prepared to pay much for it, and has now agreed that it will pay the County £250 plus legal costs for the land. The strip also runs along the newly purchased land, which is not yet available for recreation.

At the May meeting, which was the Annual meeting of the Council, Mr David Levey was elected Chairman and Alan Walker was elected Vice-Chairman. Again both our District Councillors were present; Ken Howard reported that there was likely to be an application submitted soon for Housing on the AEA site in Chilton Parish, and that he was still enquiring into the Vale's responsibility regarding the footpath between Orchard Way and The Styles. Colin Lamont reported on Footpath number 7, where he had had a meeting with an OCC representative and a parishioner.

The Council agreed to the use of the Recreation ground by Harwell Football Club on 15/16th June for their 6-a-side tournament.

The Council concluded the meeting by expressing its appreciation of the retiring Chairman, Brian Mulford, for his work during the past five years.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** took place in Harwell Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd May. Present were eight Councillors, one Vale Councillor, and two other parishioners. After the Chairman, David Levey, had given his report, there was discussion of various minor matters, some of which seem to make regular appearances at these meetings - parking near junctions (please avoid if you can), dog bins (please use if you can), street lights (reports of not working, or not sited where they were supposed to be) and footpaths inaccessible (number 7), all of which kept the meeting occupied for a good 30 minutes.

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 10th June and 8th July. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Debbie Roberts ten days before the meeting - contact her on 820006 (office) or 832727 (home). The **deadline** for the next newsletter is 25th July.

The Best Kept Village competition, sponsored by Calor Gas, will be judged between June 1st and 16th for the preliminary round, and between July 6th and 21st for the final round (gleaned from the Blewbury Bulletin!) Blewbury players are staging *Ring around the Moon* on 17th to 20th July - details from 850366.