

The HARWELL NEWS

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 94

April 1998



Parish Council

At the February meeting, it was reported under matters relating to Council-owned lands, that the British Legion agreed with the topping of the conifers on the southern boundary of the cemetery, which the Parish Council had previously considered. The work will be done in the near future.

The recent damage to the Tennis Courts fence was discussed; the windbreak erected for the Bowls Club was considered the cause, although the fence was supposedly strengthened to cope with it. The Council deferred any decisions until the cost of repair was known.

Concern was expressed that no replacement 'Lollipop Person' had been found to assist schoolchildren crossing the High Street. The Clerk was asked to contact O.C.C. regarding a 'Children Crossing' sign, and also with regard to a 'Caution' sign in Orchard Way where a number of children are picked up or set down.

The Clerk reported that the contents of dog-waste bins had been found scattered around the recreation ground on several occasions recently.

A report was given by Mr Hayter of a meeting he attended on traffic calming. It is unclear yet whether the County plan for 30mph limits in settlements will affect existing 40mph limits. Because of the County's lack of funds, any scheme will probably need some local funding if it is to be implemented in the near future. The Council also reviewed the results of an OCC survey of traffic speeds in the High Street for one week in January, which showed average speeds of about 33mph.

It was reported that a stretch of the Winnaway footpath with very poor drainage which makes walking the path difficult in wet weather. The Clerk agreed to contact the OCC.

At the March meeting, there was some discussion of the future development of Didcot, partly because comments on the County's Structure Plan were due, but also because the examination by the Vale WHDC and SODC of the options, including a traffic study already under way, has now been widened to allow landowners to submit their proposals. These, after consideration by the District Councils, will be the subject of consultation within Didcot and the surrounding parishes.

The Council also agreed to ask for a meeting with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Head of the Planning Department to put forward its views to the Vale on the proposed development west of Didcot.

On less controversial matters, the Council agreed to a donation to the Didcot Volunteer Centre of £50, and, to a request from the Harwell Millenium Com-

mittee, it agreed to commit £500 in to assist with the celebrations.

It was reported that the new fencing of the play area had been complete, and the Clerk had applied to the Vale WHDC for the 60% grant they had promised.

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 be on Tuesday 14th April, due to the Bank Holiday, and 11th May. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Debbie Roberts ten days before the meeting - contact her on 820006 (office, answerphone) or 832727 (home). The deadline for the next newsletter is probably 30th May, but get your item in a week before to be sure.

Bus tokens, which we have been asked about, are obtainable by first getting your name put on the list at White Horse Printing. Names will be forwarded to the Vale WHDC, which will issue the tokens. Those already on the list can collect them from 6th April.

Just a reminder about the **Ring-a-Ride** scheme run by the Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action, and partly funded by the Vale WHDC. The bus used has been specially adapted to help those with disabilities get around the Vale and Oxford City. Fares are £1-50 maximum for a single journey, and Vale travel tokens can be used. For more information call 01865 744 478.

Waste collection changes for bank holidays are given elsewhere, but if you still have a query, contact Biffa directly on 813444. For queries about recycling contact the Vale Waste Management team on 520202.

Annual Parish Walk

This will be held on Sunday 19th April. Please meet at the Village Hall at 3pm. Dogs on leads very welcome, but please bring 'pooper-scoops' which are available free from White Horse Printing. Maps will be provided.

Best Garden Competition

The Gardeners Club, with support from the Parish Council which is putting up the prize money, is reviving this Competition by popular request. This is open to **all** those living in Harwell Parish. There will be two sections with four prizes in each, the first being £20:

- 1) Best overall garden
- 2) Best container or basket.

You may enter either or both sections, judging will be during the week ending 4th July. All entries must be made to Adele Harris (835238) by Saturday 27th June

Presumably those responsible for this criminal damage in the recreation ground will get a thrill out of seeing their handiwork again:



Harwell Tuesday Club

Our Spring Sale on Saturday 28th March was marred by the theft of £40 from two elderly ladies who were doing a good job of work helping to raise funds for the club. This theft not only deprived the club of hard-earned funds, but also caused the ladies a lot of distress and heartache, as they feel responsible, The Committee

Planning Matters

Notices of Permission:

HAR/1206/1 Removal of porch, erection of 2-storey extension at 10, The Cleave.

HAR/4449/19-LB Reinstatement work on Baylols Manor.

Notices of Refusal:

HAR/1954/2 Change of use from orchard / agricultural to domestic, land at rear of Westview, 6 Abingdon Road, Rowstock. The Vale WHDC deems the proposed change of use as sporadic extension of residential development into the countryside.

HAR/15106 2-storey extension at rear and side, garage at 35 Loder Road. Permission was refused as it was considered overdevelopment that would have an adverse impact on the amenities of the neighbouring properties.

HAR/9868/1 & 2-LB Erection of single storey dwelling with garage on land adjacent to The Poplars, Wellshead Lane. Permission was refused because the proposals would damage the architectural and historic interest of the listed wall as well as the character and appearance of this part of the village.

Notification of Appeal:

HAR/9399/3 Change of use from orchard to domestic at Kings Piece, Grove Road

New Applications:

HAR/9399/4 Improved highway access at Kings Piece, Grove Road.

Music in St. Matthews

The next two concerts to be given by professional musicians drawn from leading British orchestras will take place in St. Matthews church in May. Tickets will be available from White Horse Printing or at the door and cost £8 (£5 concessions). For further enquiries contact Tim Payne (832902)

Saturday May 16th at 7.30pm

The Amphion Ensemble

Programme to include:

Mozart-Serenade in Bb for 12 wind instruments and double bass

Friday May 29th at 7.30pm

The Concert Players

Music for strings and wind by Schubert, Beethoven and Mozart

Harwell News is printed by The Print Unit, Oxfordshire County Council, Osney Lane, Oxford.

Advertisement rates are £30 per year for the column width (80mm) by 45mm high (inc. vat), £7 for a single issue, and *pro-rata* for larger sizes.

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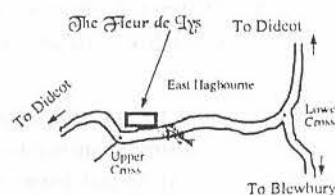
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Harwell Feast

Bank Holiday Monday 25th May
Harwell Recreation Ground
Gates Open 11a.m.

Entry: Adults £1 Children FREE

Parade of Floats, Vintage Vehicles, May Queen,
along the High Street 11am

Car-boot Sale - Craft Tent - Fun Run
Children's Fancy Dress & Races - Bonny Baby
Competition Uncle Brian - Pet Show - Pony Rides
Dog Agility - Country Dancing - Tug-of-War -
West's Roundabouts
Bouncy Castle - Bungee Run - Stalls - Sideshows
Pig Roast - Barbecue

Entry details:

Parade: Decorated floats, Lorries, Cars, Bicycles,
Prams. All Welcome! Enquiries to Trevor Packer -
835436.

Car-boot Sale: £7 per car. Pay on the day; set-
up from 10am.

Fun Run: This will use the same two-lap off-
road course as last year (Winnaway, Icknield Way,
Holloway) but without the road crossing at the end;
5 miles / under-16s 2.5 miles. £2 Adults, £1 under-
16s in advance, £3 and £1.50 on the day. Entry
forms will be in the shops from 1st May. Enquiries
to Roger Thetford - 221139.

Craft tent: Tables £20, spaces £18. Enquiries to
Nora Dearlove - 210620.

Children's Fancy Dress: Classes 0 - 5 years, 6 -
11 years. Entry 50p. All entrants are invited to ride
in the parade on the Fance Dress Float. Assemble at
Townsend by 10.45am.

Bonny Baby Competition: Age - up to 1 year.
Entry 50p.

Pet Show: Entry 50p per pet.
Class 1: Birds.
Class 2: Rabbits & Guinea Pigs
Class 3: Hamsters, Gerbils, Mice, Rats.
Class 4: Exotic Pets - e.g. Reptiles, Spiders.

All proceeds from Harwell Feast will be distributed
amongst village organisations.



There are a number of taster sessions available
during this week, at Didcot Community Education,
preceded by an introduction to Open College Credit
on the morning of Friday 15th May.

Also there are new courses in Didcot for the sum-
mer term, and some continuing courses that you can
join. For more details phone 812002.

Arthritis Concern & Parkinson Support

About 70 people attended and / or donated to the
above causes at a Coffee Morning held in Close Cot-
tage in February. Over £300 was raised by willing
helpers. The Bring & Buy table was well supported
and the Raffle went well. All who took part enjoyed
a pleasing "Get-together" - Very many thanks to all
concerned,

Jan Plumb

Garden Open Day

Harwell Gardens Open Day will be on Sunday July
19th. This has been a very successful event, with,
over the last three years, over £250 being raised for
both Charities and the Gardener's Club.

I would like to hear from anyone willing to open
their garden on this day, particularly anyone who
hasn't done so before, as new ones always make for
a more interesting day,

Adele Harris 835238

Mrs Smalley Celebrates her 100th Birthday

Mrs Winifred Smalley, who for many years lived in
Harwell, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with
family and friends at the Bear Hotel in Hungerford.
Mrs Smalley, who now lives in a residential home in
Poole, was joined by several Harwell families at the
celebration, who report that the event was first class
and very enjoyable.



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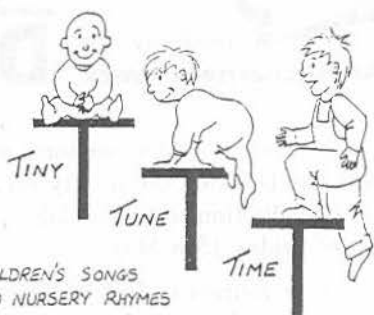
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Tennis Club A.G.M.

This will be held on Tuesday 21st April 1998, in the Freeman Hall at 8pm. All members of the Tennis Club are invited to this meeting, and to keep this thriving club running we need **your** support,

Jenny White

Harwell Bowls Club

The Outdoor Bowls season starts with our annual President's v. Captain's game on Sunday 19th April, weather and Green conditions permitting. New members will be made most welcome.

If you would like to try your hand at this friendly and absorbing sport, why not come along to the green in Westfield on the 19th or to any Club night on Mondays commencing 11th May from 6.30 pm. when coaching and tuition will be given. All we ask, initially is that flat shoes without a heel are worn on the green. For further information contact John Govans, our 1998 President, on 221176 or Rex Mitcham on 221186.

Waste & recycling Collection dates

The changes for forthcoming holidays are as follows:

Easter - April 1998

Friday 10th	Tuesday 14th
Monday 13th	Wednesday 15th
Tuesday 14th	Thursday 16th
Wednesday 15th	Friday 17th
Thursday 16th	Saturday 18th
Friday 17th	Monday 20th
Monday 20th	Tuesday 21st
Tuesday 21st	Wednesday 22nd
Wednesday 22nd	Thursday 23rd
Thursday 23rd	Friday 24th
Friday 24th	Saturday 25th

May Day Holiday 1998

Monday 4th	Tuesday 5th
Tuesday 5th	Wednesday 6th
Wednesday 6th	Thursday 7th
Thursday 7th	Friday 8th
Friday 8th	Saturday 9th

Spring Bank Holiday - May 1998

Monday 25th	Tuesday 26th
Tuesday 26th	Wednesday 27th
Wednesday 27th	Thursday 28th
Thursday 28th	Friday 29th
Friday 29th	Saturday 30th

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Harwell Women's Institute

The Annual General Meeting was held in March and Mrs Crystal Mitcham was elected President, taking over from Mrs Edwina Thompson. Miss Joyce Hardcastle was elected Secretary, and Mrs Joyce Millward Treasurer.

Our speaker in April is Mr George Bartlett on *Having Fun with Fuchsias*. Also in April, a coffee morning will be held on Saturday 18th at Di Baker's and Mary Cavell's - 1 & 2 The Croft, please come along and join us.

We meet on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors are most welcome, please try and join us, we look forward to seeing you,

Audrey Poffley, Press Sec.



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Why stop fishing now?
The spring weather has come and the evenings are longer.
Pick up a free leaflet in the shop listing all year round venues in the local area.

Open:
9am - 6pm
Wed, Sun:
9 - 12 noon
36, Wantage Road,
Didcot, Oxon.
Tel 01235 817005



Fun Club

Are you a mother or carer at home with a pre-school child? Would you like to meet other people with young children in the village? If so, then we would like to invite you to join us at one of our friendly sessions.

Fun Club meets every Tuesday morning during term time (including half-term) from 9.30 - 11.30 in the Village Hall (next term starts 21st April). We have lots of toys for the children to play with and also provide an activity table and a drink and biscuit. You can enjoy all of this for just 80p per family. On the third Tuesday of the month the Health Visitor is available to weigh your baby and answer any questions you may have.

Our recent Nearly New sale raised £200. Together with the grant we received from the Parish Council, this has enabled us to order our new activity tables. We are looking forward to their delivery early next term. Many thanks to all the villagers who supported the Nearly New sale.

Next term will be busy with our annual sponsored obstacle course (5th May), the Harwell Feast and our summer outing to look forward to.

We look forward to welcoming you one Tuesday morning.
Caroline Thetford (221139)
and Karen Muir (835251)

New Homes Wanted

Does anybody know of anywhere that might be able to make use of our old tables? Although they are old and heavy, four of the eight are still serviceable and we would like to offer them to good homes rather than take them to the tip. The tables are about 50cm high and trapezoidal in shape (half a hexagon). If you could offer any of them a new home then please contact Caroline Thetford or Karen Muir (numbers above), before the end of April. Thank you.

Do you have pain?

Back pain, neck pain, sciatica, headache, migraine?

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the under fives

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'buzz-in' for a free trial or phone Rachel Shearer on
01235 521039 for more details.

Little Pippins

We are having a busy Spring term at Little Pippins. Most sessions are full and we have welcomed two new members of staff to help cater for our additional sessions. We also have a member of staff currently studying for a Diploma in Pre-School Practice, in line with our policy of maintaining a high standard of care. The staff certainly needed all their expertise when they took a group of over thirty children to see the lambs at Princes Manor Farm on Wednesday 18th March. We would like to thank Mr & Mrs Dennis Lay for their hospitality, especially as they were only expecting about twelve children!. There were bottles provided for the children to feed the lambs and everyone had a wonderful time.

Afternoon sessions for four-year-olds take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our large group of three year olds attend between 9.15am and 11.45pm, Monday to Friday. There are a limited number of places for most sessions. For further information about places and/or an appointment to come and look around, please contact Yvonne Hinchliffe on 01235 835397.

The next fund raising event at Little Pippins will be an Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday 3rd April. There will also be an Easter egg hunt, a USA hard boiled egg competition, cake stall, raffle, chocolate tombola and a "Guess who" competition. This is a favourite event with the children, particularly if the sun is shining, so do come along and see them in their bonnets. Everyone is welcome.

Survey of Landscape and Nature Projects

The Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum and the County Council are undertaking a survey of parishes and community groups which are working on any landscape or nature projects. Please contact Sian Liwicki, ONCF, telephone 01865 407034 if you would like to contribute.

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HARWELL VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

The Thames Valley Police are currently running a **Special Campaign** to try and **Reduce the Number of Thefts by BOGUS CALLERS**, especially those claiming to be from the Service Companies. Please be especially vigilant during the campaign and be sure to immediately notify the Police if you are approached.

When answering the door always follow the **KNOCK CODE**

- 1 Know your caller
- 2 Never allow entry without identification
- 3 Only open the door when you are satisfied that the caller is genuine
- 4 Call the police if you are suspicious
- 5 Keep an eye on any caller while they are in the house

Door Salesmen

A lady in a Neighbouring Village was recently persuaded to purchase a carpet by a **Door Salesman**, which was later found to be of poor quality. Do think carefully before purchasing unsolicited goods.

Keys

After breaking into a property, Burglars have been reported as stealing vehicles by using the spare car keys that have been conveniently left on the premises. Do hide your keys when you are out and your car is in the garage.

The Local Beat Officer for Harwell is P C John Parsons. You can always leave messages for him by phoning the Wantage Control Room 01235 776000

Please look out for the Latest Neighbourhood Watch Information on the Notice Board outside Whitehorse Printing, which will include Urgent messages received through the Ringmaster network.

The Parish Council Notice Board by the Bus Stop in the High Street also displays useful hints and reminders to help us reduce crime.

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

Rural Action grants

Rural Action in Oxfordshire is interested in hearing of any projects in rural communities which relate to the environment and are encouraging local residents to get involved. Examples include projects such as Parish Maps, Parish Conservation Plans, Village Appraisals, hedgelaying, photographic competitions, etc.... Grants of up to £2000 can be available to cover up to half the cost. For advice and details call Miss Katherine Critchley- Salmonson on 01865 883488.

Gardeners Club

The Gardeners Club meets in the Village Hall on the first Monday of the Month, except when it falls on a Bank Holiday, at 7.30 pm. We have a variety of professional speakers. In April we have a talk on Bulbs, Corms and Tubers, and in May one on Water Gardens. Visits are planned for June and July.

The cost is £3 per year, but for that, your membership card will get you 10% discount at Chilton Garden Centre and Hagbourne Road. So why not come along to the next meeting, Monday 6th April?

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GARDENERS' NOTEBOOK.

APRIL & MAY CAN BE VERY BUSY MONTHS FOR THE GARDENER & EASTER IS OFTEN TAKEN AS THE START OF THE GARDENING YEAR. A TIME WHEN EVERYTHING IS BURSTING INTO LIFE AGAIN.

SEEDS SOWN EARLIER IN TRAYS MAY NEED TO BE PRICKED OUT INTO LARGER CONTAINERS OR INDIVIDUAL POTS OR MODULES, PLANTS THAT ARE TO BE PLANTED IN THE OPEN NEED TO BE HARDENED OFF GRADUALLY, AND SEED OF ANNUALS, BIENNIALS & PERENNIALS PLANTED IN SEED BEDS. SHRUBS & HERBACEOUS PLANTS TIDIED UP, OLD LEAVES & DEBRIS REMOVED & LARGE CLUMPS CAN BE LIFTED & SPLIT UP.

JUST AFTER FLOWERING IS AN IDEAL TIME TO LIFT & SPLIT UP CLUMPS OF BULBS (IN THE GREEN). - NOT ONLY SNOWDROPS, ACONITES AND OTHER SMALL BULBS - MOST BULBS DO BEST IF LIFTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER FLOWERING FOR IT IS THEN THAT THE NEW BULBS ARE FORMED. AND IT IS BETTER THAT THIS TAKES PLACE IN THEIR NEW SITE. SO ONCE MOVED GIVE THEM A GOOD BALANCED FEED TO HELP THEM GET ESTABLISHED. AND DON'T FORGET TO FEED THE THINGS YOU HAVEN'T MOVED. GROWMORE OR BLOOD FISH & BONE WOULD BE SUITABLE.

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT ALREADY, FINISH PRUNING ROSES, AND SHRUBS WHICH HAVE FINISHED FLOWERING SHOULD BE DEAD HEADED AND LATE FLOWERING CLEMATIS PRUNED NOW.

SUMMER FRUITING RASPBERRIES SHOULD HAVE ALL THE OLD FRUITED CANES CUT RIGHT OUT NOW WHILST AUTUMN FRUITING RASPBERRIES SHOULD HAVE ALL CUT DOWN TO GROUND LEVEL NOW.

THERE IS NOW A NEW STRAIN OF RASPBERRY COMING ONTO THE MARKET WHICH WILL FRUIT BOTH SUMMER AND AUTUMN. THE FIRST YEAR CANES WILL PRODUCE AN AUTUMN CROP AT THE TOP OF THE CANES AND IF THESE ARE NOT CUT DOWN IN THE SPRING WILL THEN PRODUCE A SUMMER CROP (SIMILAR TO THE OLD VARIETY 'LLOYD GEORGE' BUT WITH A HEAVIER CROP.)

BUT BY CUTTING OUT THE FRUITED CANES AT THE END OF THE SEASON WILL BE SUMMER FRUITING.

ALTERNATIVELY IF ALL CANES ARE CUT TO GROUND LEVEL IN EARLY SPRING WILL GIVE A CROP IN THE AUTUMN. THE TOTAL CROP IS MUCH THE SAME WHICHEVER WAY YOU CHOOSE. THE FIRST OF THESE VARIETIES TO BECOME AVAILABLE IS CALLED 'TERRI-LOUISE' - THE FRUIT IS VERY LARGE AND OF EXCELLENT QUALITY - SO MUCH SO IN FACT THAT TESCO BOUGHT ALL AVAILABLE FRUIT LAST YEAR.

THERE ARE ALSO NEW STRAWBERRY VARIETIES ON THE MARKET - THESE HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO EXTEND THE FRUITING SEASON & TO IMPROVE FLAVOUR & TEXTURE. THESE INCLUDE :-

'EMILY' (EARLY), 'MARSHMELLOW' (MIDSEASON), 'JULIA' (MIDSEASON), 'FLORENCE' (LATE MIDSEASON), 'LAURA' (LATE) AND EVERBEARERS 'EVITA' AND 'BOLERO'.

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•GARDEN DESIGNS•

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IF YOU WANT STRAWBERRIES FOR JAM THEN 'MELODY' COULD BE A GOOD CHOICE, WITH ITS HEAVY CROP OF SMALLER BERRIES. SMALL BERRIES STAY WHOLE & SET BETTER THAN LARGE BERRIES.

STRAWBERRIES SHOULD BE PLANTED IN JULY OR EARLY AUGUST TO PRODUCE A CROP THE FOLLOWING SEASON AND IF PLANTED LATER SHOULD HAVE ALL BLOSSOMS PINCHED OUT THE FOLLOWING SPRING. THIS ENABLES THE PLANT TO BECOME ESTABLISHED & BUILD UP A STRONG FRUITING CROWN FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHEN THE CROP SHOULD EXCEED THE TOTAL COMBINED CROP HAD YOU NOT DEBLOSSOMED THEM. THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE IS IF YOU CAN OBTAIN POTTED PLANTS (SO THERE IS NO ROOT DISTURBANCE) OR IF YOU CAN GET "COLD STORED RUNNERS" WHICH MAY FRUIT IN SIXTY DAYS FROM PLANTING.

THEN, TOO, THERE ARE TWO NEW MITE RESISTANT BLACKCURRANTS 'FARLEIGH' AND 'FOXENDOWN'. THIS IS A REAL BOON FOR AMATEUR FRUITGROWERS AS THERE IS NO TREATMENT AVAILABLE TO THEM AGAINST THE BIG BUD MITE AND BUSHES WHICH ARE INFECTED SHOULD BE SCRAPPED AS THEY ARE A SOURCE OF INFECTION TO OTHERS AS WELL AS HAVING THEIR OWN CROPPING REDUCED.

NEWLY PLANTED BLACKCURRANTS SHOULD BE PLANTED DEEPLY AND THEN CUT DOWN TO GROUND LEVEL. BLACKCURRANTS FRUIT ON NEW WOOD - AND THIS TREATMENT ENCOURAGES NEW GROWTH FROM THE BASE. (THE PRUNINGS CAN BE USED AS CUTTINGS - TRIM TO ABOUT 30cm. (12") LENGTH, LEAVING ALL BUDS, INSERT INTO A SLIT TRENCH LEAVING 3 OR 4 BUDS ABOVE SOIL LEVEL, FIRM WELL AND HOPE FOR THE BEST).

ONCE THE NEWLY PLANTED BUSHES HAVE SETTLED GIVE THEM A BALANCED FEED.

SHOULD YOU INTEND TO GET ANY OF THE NEWER PLANTS ORDER NOW. AS SOME OF THEM ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY.

I CAN SUPPLY YOU WITH LIST OF SUPPLIERS - JUST GIVE ME A RING ON 835333.

GOOD GARDENING.

Laurie

- ♦ Roofing: slate/stone/tile/felt
- ♦ Chimneys
- ♦ UPVC: guttering/cladding
- ♦ Leadwork/flashing
- ♦ All aspects of property maintenance

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- ♦ Friendly & professional service
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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 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 30th May for the June issue.

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