



The HARWELL NEWS

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December 1998



Parish Council

At the October meeting of the Council it was reported that the petition regarding the direction of Didcot's development would have about 1200 signatures, about two thirds of all those on the electoral register. The intention had been to present it to the Vale WHDC Planning Committee at the meeting where they were due to make their decision. However, Mr Colin Lamont, one of the two District Councillors, reported a revised timetable for Vale WHDC meetings and that they were most likely to endorse the north-east option. It was agreed that it would be better to present it to the Oxfordshire County Council before their meeting, due on 9th December. See elsewhere in the newsletter for more on the 'Keep Harwell Rural' campaign. The Council would like to thank all those who signed the petition, and in particular those who helped collect signatures.

It was reported that whereas the Council had previously asked the OCC for a sign in the High Street to warn drivers to beware of children crossing, in fact a sign indicating the direction of the school has been erected. It was agreed to enquire about the possibility of a pedestrian crossing, and await the outcome of this before taking up the matter of the sign.

The British Legion had decided that the poppy wreath laid each year on behalf of the village, needed replacing this year, and asked the Parish Council at its November meeting if it would pay the £50, to which the Council readily agreed. Other donations made by the Council were: Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association - £35. South and Vale Carers Centre - £25.

The Council also agreed on the expenditure required to bring the recreation ground extension into use by next summer. This includes: preparing the ground, planting with suitable grass seed, removal of the fence to the west of the embankment, making an opening near the centre of the embankment, and planting some trees on the west of the area.

The Council also agreed in principle to the provision of a street light in Chilbrook, at a location on the bend. The Clerk will obtain a quotation for approval.

Following a request for this, the Council has decided that in future, in view of space constraints, it will not be possible to purchase 2 adjacent grave spaces for single burials without the Council's approval.

The Council agreed to the planting of a tree in the Cemetery donated by Mrs M. Langley in memory of her late husband.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion, at 7.30pm. The next meetings will be on

11th January and 8th February.

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 about 24th January with distribution about 29th, but get your item in a week before to be sure.

There is still an **allotment** available to anyone who wants to take it up - free for the first year on account of its condition, ie not used recently.

The Royal British Legion Harwell Branch

May I, on behalf of the Harwell Branch, thank all members of both sections, and all other organisations for the splendid turn-out at the Remembrance Day Parade. It was the best attendance for some years. My thanks to both Standard Bearers and the Bugler (John) who carried out their duties with pride and dignity on both occasions. Finally my thanks to all those who came along to take part in the act of remembrance,

Reg East, Branch President

Harwell Senior Citizens' Fund

If you are 70 years of age or over and are resident in the parish, we would like to give you a Christmas Present! Please phone Mrs Harmer on 832717 if you think your name might not be on our list.

Thank-you all who gave and came to our auction in October; we raised £600 - a grand effort by all concerned,

Yvonne Hinchliffe, Secretary.

Harwell Feast Committee

presents

The Village Quiz

Join us with your team of up to 6 people - Residents of Harwell or representing a Harwell organisation or pub please.

Saturday 5th December

Village Hall 7.30 pm.

**Licenced Bar
Ploughman's Supper included.**

Tickets £3 per adult, £2 under 18.

Tel 832802 to book your team in.

Next Harwell Feast meeting:

Royal British Legion

Wednesday 27th January 8pm

New members always welcome!

Scout Christmas Post

For all your LOCAL Christmas card deliveries to Harwell, Rowstock, AEA, Chilton, Didcot, The Hagbournes and Blewbury. The red collection boxes will be in the village shops, the British Legion Club, 8 Orchard Way and Rowstock Corner garage from 1st December onwards. Main delivery dates will be on Sundays, 13th and 20th December.

This will be our fifth year of operation and the scheme is gradually becoming a very successful way of raising funds for the Scout Group at the same time as providing a useful, and much appreciated, service to the community.

Post your LOCAL cards into the special Scout boxes together with the appropriate amount of money (10p per envelope). The boxes are emptied regularly during the run up to Christmas and the main bulk of mail to Harwell addresses is delivered on the two Sundays before.

Mail for Didcot and the other villages mentioned above is exchanged on Thursdays, 10th and 17th December. Please make sure that ONLY Harwell or Rowstock mail is posted after the 17th, as delivery to Didcot addresses cannot be guaranteed. (Organiser: J. A. Cumming, 8 Orchard Way, Harwell Tel: 221 048)

Planning Matters

Notices of Permission:

HAR/9167/3-X Resubmission of expired permission for erection of house and garage at The Malthouse, Townsend.

New Applications:

HAR/15600 Demolition of existing garage and erection of two-storey side and single-storey rear extensions at 29 Manor Green for Mr and Mrs D. Charles. The Council commented to the Vale WHDC that it objected on the grounds of over-development of the site, making the property out of character with the neighbouring ones.

Harwell Short Mat Bowls Club

Just a note to let you know that our Bowls Club is near maximum membership; we play on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons. New members must not already be members of another Short Mat Club. If you are interested, contacts are:

Chairman - Bob Barnard 832869
Treasurer - Josie Huckle 221209

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with colour T.V. and tea/coffee
making facilities*

Also Holiday Cottage to Let
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For details please ring 01235 832880

School News

As many of you know, Michael Armstrong, headteacher of Harwell School for the past 18 years, will be retiring at the end of July. In keeping with his wish for informality, we would like to invite as many ex-pupils and their families, along with present parents, governors, colleagues and friends to a Barbecue Party and Presentation on Friday, 16th July at school to celebrate Michael's time as headteacher and to say goodbye.

If you are in contact with anyone who has moved away from the village and who would like to attend, then please let them know. A bank account will be opened shortly for any donations towards the presentation. More details will be announced in later issues of Harwell News.

From the Coordinating Committee.

Musical fun for
the under fives

Busy Bees Music Group



Harwell Village Hall
on Friday mornings

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

Harwell Craft Fair

Sunday 13th December 1998

Harwell Village Hall

10am till 5pm

Lots of local crafts for presents including, toys, cards, clocks, mirrors, pictures, cushions, rubber stamps, gift boxes, jewellery, dolls clothes, bags, candles, flowers, fudges and sweets, sewn gifts, home made cakes and many more.

Come along and browse and have coffee, tea and cakes.

All proceeds from the refreshments will be given to Cancer Fund. Anyone wishes to donate cakes etc should contact Audrey Poffley. Any other enquiries to Kath Luker Tel 861057

or Norah Dearlove Tel 210620

Please come along and support this event

Orchard Counselling Services



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Oxfordshire Best Kept Village Competition Report

One BKV poster was displayed. The map was a good size and easy to follow, features were well marked with the exception of the allotments which were marked but the judges could not find them.

The car park by the recreation ground was very tidy with no litter and bottle banks had been provided (a little weed around the edges). The stream running through is mostly in private gardens, but seemed clean, there was a small amount of litter in one area. The recreation ground was excellent, very well mown, the play area was well equipped and mown and fenced off. In general verges and footpaths appeared good.

The church appeared in very good condition as did the churchyard. The church hall was exceedingly good and the village hall was tidy with no litter. The cemetery was well kept especially the new part. The school appeared well maintained with planting around the building and a well equipped play area, the playing field was tidy and litter free and we could not fault it.

Unfortunately, despite being marked on the map, the judges were unable to find the allotments and therefore cannot comment on their maintenance. Bus shelters were clean (one had graffiti on the wall), they were litter free. Several dog waste bins were provided. Litter bins were in good condition and had been emptied. Telephone kiosk was clean and litter free. The notice board was exceedingly well maintained, neat and tidy notices were displayed including the BKV poster.

The residential areas were very good with a -n obvious pride being taken in their overall appearance. The garage was tidy as were the two pubs. The PO/shop was excellently maintained, no litter and very smart. Overall the village seemed well cared for and it felt as though there was a good communal involvement.

The judges were told that a nature reserve was under consideration but at the moment there appears to be no conservation area.

The condition of the **War Memorial** was good and legible. The surrounding rose beds showed a little weed though and there were two or three weeds in the paving around the Memorial.

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John Campbell

2 Orchard Way, Harwell - 835512

Age Concern Helpline

We urgently need more advisers. The Age Concern Helpline has become a victim of its own success!

The number of referrals being received is beginning to outweigh the number of volunteers and Anne Cullinan, the Helpline Co-ordinator, is appealing for more volunteer advisers to help run the service. The work is **rewarding, challenging** and offers the opportunity to meet a variety of people from all walks of life.

The Helpline provides an advice, information and advocacy service to older people in the Vale of the White Horse and recently South Oxfordshire. The kind of problems encountered include housing, neighbour problems, benefits, finance, residential home queries, bereavement, loneliness and transportation queries. The volunteer advisers are trained, where appropriate, to provide a personal advocacy service for any client, where they would be visiting them in their own home and helping them to resolve a particular problem or set of problems which might take anything from a day to a few months.

The Helpline needs people able to work within their own or a chosen area and deal with referrals or travel into Oxford maybe for 2 or 3 hours a week to deal with clients on the telephone.

Advisers are ordinary people living in the local community, who bring their own particular skills to the service. People of all ages and backgrounds volunteer for Age Concern, some already in full time jobs, others work part time, others are retired etc. Your commitment can be tailored to suit the time you have available. **You need only give the time you can spare.**

All out of pocket expenses are paid, and regular and relevant training will be provided on a wide range of subjects, including welfare benefits, confidentiality, community care legislation, interviewing and telephone skills. A full set of materials is provided for each adviser as well as ongoing support from the Co-ordinator and the Age Concern Oxfordshire team at Rivermead.

If you would like to know more ring Anne Cullinan, the Helpline Co-ordinator on 01865 300180 for an informal chat, or Age Concern Oxfordshire on 01865 240619. Registered Charity No. 268017.

McTimoney Chiropractic

Lorna Walton D.C. M.M.C.A.

Highbury, The Winnaway, Harwell OX11 0JG

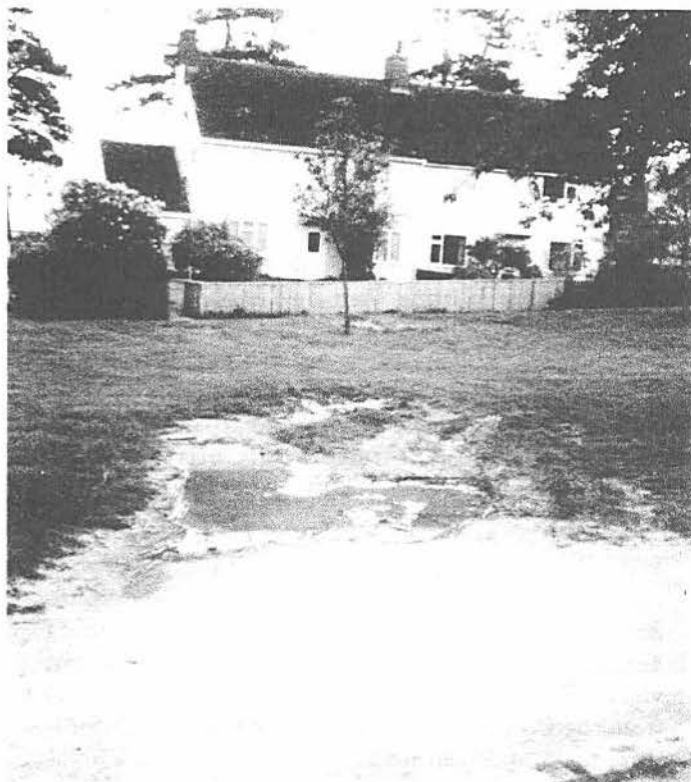
Appointments: 01235 821858

McTimoney Chiropractic is a particularly gentle and effective whole body manipulative technique. It aims to correct the alignment of the bones of the spine and other joints of the body, to restore nerve functions, to alleviate pain and to promote natural health. McTimoney Chiropractors work in cooperation with doctors wherever possible.

Dear Editor,

A few months ago you published a photo of a vandalised seat in the recreation ground. That damage, although expensive, was easily repaired. I enclose a photo of damage to our environment that is rather more insidious - driving on the grassed areas of The Park on a single occasion might not do much damage, but the effect is cumulative. A few thoughtless people have caused this damage. Fortunately they do not appear to be here any more. However, rectifying the damage may take some time, although the Vale Housing Association (owners of 90% of the open area, for some reason best known to the Vale WHDC who handed it over but kept the bit at the top) have promised to look at it. And if the Vale can afford £1.6 million for the Wantage Hall, I would like to think they could provide a few parking places where it would seem not much has been done for about 50 years,

Martin Ricketts, 16 The Park



From the Archives

100 years ago ... At a duly convened Parish Council Meeting on 19th November 1898 a tender was accepted for coating the cemetery fence (amount illegible) and a cheque for 6/- was signed to pay for printing. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Ormond asking the RDC to repair the footpath leading to the Ham. The minutes then continue- "It was resolved that all grave spaces bought before requiring to be used must be paid for on the perpetuity scale. The Clerk was requested to point out that without the Perpetuity fees no grave even if a stone were erected could be claimed for a period longer than 30 years. At the previous meeting it had been decided that non-parishioners should in all cases pay double fees for burial, and that no selected spot could be sold except for immediate use (note in margin 're Mr Bosely 5/- immediate use only')."

There was a discussion of the fee charged when the fire-engine was called out. "Mr Thomas proposed that the Engineer's fee of half-guinea and a half-guinea from the Brigade item be kept for P.C. working expenses of the Fire Engine out of the cheque expected from the insurance companies for attending the Downs Farm fire. This through wanting to be seconded fell through - an impression prevailed that a readjustment and rearrangement of Fire brigade matters were necessary".

"The Clerk explained that the fee charged for Use of Engine was not entertained by companies in as much as the fire attended was within the Parish boundary. He also read a note received from Mr Ormond which seemed to point out that the item could not be obtained." However matters were sorted out at the next meeting on December 5th - "All the Councillors were present at a meeting convened to meet the Captain and Fire Brigade. After claims had been settled the meeting resolved itself into a Ratepayers meeting for the purpose of electing four representative Charity Trustees for this Parish ..."

Merry Christmas



**MANIPULATION
ACUPUNCTURE
HOMEOPATHY
PHYSIOTHERAPY**



Sue Huart

B.Sc., Grad Dip Phys., M.C.S.P., S.R.P.,
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**HARWELL
GARDENERS' CLUB**

**AGM
and Party**

will be held on
Monday 7th December
at 7.30 in the Village Hall

Everyone is always welcome

Plants for buy and sale

Both

Refreshments

Harwell Village Hall

The meeting of the Hall Management Committee on 18th November heard that the Freeman Hall roof is about to be renewed at last. The Vale WHDC has made a grant of £3000, and this, together with donations from Harwell Feast Committee over the last 2 years of £1250, and the Parish Council (£200), plus about £850 of other Hall funds will cover the cost. In addition voluntary effort will be doing some internal refurbishment, in particular to the ceiling. It had been hoped that it would be done before Christmas, but is now scheduled for early January.

It was acknowledged that problems have occurred with party bookings recently, and it is intended in future to rigorously enforce the requirement that a deposit be paid, as it is unfair to other users for repair costs to come out of general income.

There will be a performance by the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company of *Don Quixote* on Tuesday 22nd December at 7.30 pm, supported by the Vale WHDC and other organisations. Tickets £5 and £3, available now from **White Horse Printing** - further details elsewhere. Also, make a note in your diaries, there will be performance during half-term, Thursday February 18th, at 2.30pm of *The Elves and the Shoemaker*.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 20th January at 7.30pm in the Freeman Hall.

Keep Harwell Rural

A campaign is underway to persuade elected representatives of the pressing environmental reasons why they should vote against the imminent possibility of Didcot expanding westwards into Harwell.

The Keep Harwell Rural Campaign is independent of but complementary to the efforts of the Parish Council to make the same point. On 9 December, Oxfordshire County Council decides whose point of view will prevail - Vale of White Horse District Council and Didcot Town Council, which want Didcot to expand to the North-East, or South Oxfordshire District Council, which favours development to the West, i.e. possibly Harwell.

The Campaign urgently needs support - "letter power" to Councillors before 9 December or "people power" on the afternoon of 9 December. Involve yourself as much or as little as you like, but do consider if you can do anything to help in the next few days and call 834295 if you can.



Harwell Fun Club

Are you a Mum, Dad or carer for young children? If so, please come and join us in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings during term time. We meet between 9:30 and 11:30 and there are lots of toys, books and puzzles, a different craft activity every week and a singing session. There is also a weekly cake raffle. All this for only £1 per family, which includes a drink and biscuit. We are always on the lookout for more committee members. You don't have to do much and it's an excellent way to get to know other parents and carers.

Events this term:

December 1st: Christmas Stalls. Between 9-30 and 11-30am. there will be a number of gift, book and craft stalls in the Village Hall. Please come along and buy a few gifts and stocking fillers. Everyone welcome, even if you haven't got children with you!

December 1st. New Mums' Group. Please ring Fiona Tankard if you'd like to know more about this group. We will be meeting in the evening, babies welcome.

December 5th Nearly New Sale. Our sale of nearly new children's toys, clothes and equipment takes place between 2 and 4 pm in the Village Hall. If you'd like us to sell items on your behalf (one third commission) or book your own table, please contact Karen Muir.

Christmas Party. There will be a children's entertainer and a visit from that man in a red suit! Please contact Fiona Tankard (861593) or Karen Muir (835251) for further details.

WINNAWAY KENNELS & CATTERY

The Bield, Winnaway, Harwell.
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New, purpose-built kennels with thermostatically-controlled heated sleeping quarters. Collection and delivery service at small extra charge.

Every need of your cat or dog catered for.

Hours: 10am - 12 noon; 2pm - 5pm Mon. - Sat.,
10am - 12noon Sunday.

Downland Amble

Sunday 6th December 5.5 miles / 4 hours. Meet at 11 am at East Ilsley duck pond, Grid Ref SU 494810 and Gordon Garraway will lead you on this early winter amble along downland tracks with a chance of seeing winter bird visitors.



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341 MEADOW LANE, OXFORD

Turn unwanted children's items into cash ... by selling them in the spring in the Village Hall.

SSNAP (Society for the Sick Newborn and their Parents) will be holding a quality secondhand sale of babies' and children's wear and equipment on Saturday 20th March, from 2 to 4pm. Proceeds will go directly to the Special Care Baby Unit at the JR, where sick and premature babies spend the first weeks or months of life.

Tables are £7.50 - you are responsible for setting up and dismantling your stall, for disposing of any unsold goods and your own float. Choice of site is on a first-come first-served basis.

Refreshments, second-hand books, SSNAP products (stationery, housewares, toys, etc.) and crafts also feature.

To book your table call 834295. SSNAP is a registered Charity, number 285231.

Harwell Women's Institute

9 December Christmas Party

13 January *Breath of Coal Dust* - A talk by Edna Scott

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning in October, and also those who gave raffle prizes, cakes, books, donations. We sent off £382.50 to the Macmillan Nurse Fund, so once again thank you for your help and generosity.

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

We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas

Audrey Poffley' Press Secretary

Do you have pain?
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48 Hanney Road, STEVENTON.
Telephone Abingdon 834093.

Winterbrook Youth Club

Freeman Hall, Monday evenings

Open to all young people, 8 to 18 years.

Drop in and meet us anytime.

We will be carol singing around the village on Monday 21st December. Youth Club re-opens in the New Year on Monday 18th January. This is because the Freeman Hall roof work will not now take place until the week of 11th January.

The Youth Club would like to thank Martin Ricketts for kindly purchasing for us a second-hand Sega Megadrive with 6 games. This will give the members hours of fun over the winter months.

Advance notice

Coffee Morning 7th February

The coffee Morning held last February to raise funds for Arthritis Research and Parkinson's Concern was really well supported by many Harwell folk. The charities concerned are keen for us to repeat the event, and Mrs Rene Pearse has kindly offered to hold a 'Bring and Buy' Coffee Morning at her house in Manor Green on Saturday 7th February, from 10am until 12 noon. Please make a note of the date; we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Please phone 821723 or 835597 if you require any further details about what we hope will be an enjoyable and successful event.

Waste & Green Box Collections over Christmas

Friday	25th December	Tuesday	29th December
Monday	28th December	Wednesday	30th December
Tuesday	29th December	Thursday	31st December
Wednesday	30th December	Saturday	2nd January
Thursday	31st December	Monday	4th January
Friday	1st January	Tuesday	5th January
Monday	4th January	Wednesday	6th January
Tuesday	5th January	Thursday	7th January
Wednesday	6th January	Friday	8th January
Thursday	7th January	Saturday	9th January
Friday	8th January	Monday	11th January
Monday	11th January	Tuesday	12th January
Tuesday	12th January	Wednesday	13th January
Wednesday	13th January	Thursday	14th January
Thursday	14th January	Friday	15th January
Friday	15th January	Saturday	16th January

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



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Little Pippins Pre-School

We have a very busy time ahead, but a very enjoyable one. We are busy practising the Nativity Play, which is to be held in St. Matthews Church Hall on Thursday 10th December at 11am. If you would like to join us, bring your hankie and stay for a mince pie and coffee afterwards.

This year, as we have so many children, we are holding our Christmas Party in the Village Hall; we will be entertained by Uncle Wiggy and Father Christmas will be dropping in for a visit.

If you would like your child to join our group next year, I suggest you put their name on our waiting list, as we have very few places left for January '99.

We have recently had our Ofsted inspection & would like to share some of their comments with you:

The high standard of education at the Little Pippins Pre-School will enable children to achieve the desirable learning outcomes across all six learning areas of the curriculum. Staff have created a stimulating environment in which the children are eager to learn.

The six learning outcomes:

(this has to be an extract from each area as I know space in this Newsletter is scarce)

Personal & Social Development - This has many positive aspects and children are confident at choosing activities and have many opportunities to develop their independence. They are also able to gain understanding of different cultures and beliefs as the children use resources and take part in planned activities.

Language and Literacy - The children have a good opportunity for speaking, listening, reading and writing. They are enthusiastic about taking part in imaginative play, using resources such as dressing up clothes, model animals, cars etc. There are many labelled displays of words, simple sentences and poems within the setting.

Maths - This is well presented with many strengths. The children have opportunities to count and recognise numbers. The adults question the children appropriately to encourage them to think and solve simple problems.

Knowledge and Understanding - This is very good, and the children are given hands-on experiences to learn about their environment. Material and tools which encourage the child to build, fold and stick are easily accessible and enable the children to use their imagination as they play.

Physical Development - This is good with no elements of weakness. There are ample opportunities both indoors and outdoors for the children to progress with their large muscle development. There is a suitable mix of structured activities and recreational play; the children have access to a good range of equipment to challenge their developing skills.

Creative Development - The children take part in many child-led activities in which they have the freedom to develop their ideas. There is good availability of resources to enable them to use different colours and textures. Imaginative play equipment is plentiful and is extended to the garden where there is a fully equipped play-house etc.

Summary - The quality of teaching is of a high standard in the setting. The staff are caring and attentive towards the children. Thought is given in the planning of the curriculum to the range of abilities of the children. The curriculum is planned well and staff work together to provide a good balance of prepared activities across all six areas of learning. The welcoming atmosphere within the setting encourages parents to take part in activities and feel relaxed about talking to staff.

So ... as you can imagine we are delighted with this report; a full copy of which is available

Seasons Greetings

Yvonne Hinchliffe - Playleader

HARWELL GARDENERS' CLUB

7 DECEMBER
AGM and Party

4 JANUARY
Euphorbias
Timothy Walker
Comp: Photograph -
"Winter in The Garden"

1 FEBRUARY
Visit to E. Hanney

Gardeners' Club
Fuchsias
Christie Leary

Visitors always welcome

Monthly meetings are held at Harwell Village Hall at 7.30 pm



Oxfordshire Area

Friends of ARMS Ltd.

If you suffer from Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, or you have recently had a stroke, please come and visit us at the Therapy Centre, Milton Park where we offer drug-free therapies, including hyperbaric oxygen therapy, physiotherapy, massage and reflexology. We are funded solely by voluntary contributions and if you feel you would like to make a donation, we can be contacted at 37E Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4RT, telephone (01235)832023.

Registered Charity No. 900278



HARWELL VILLAGE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH

There have been Two Instances when the THEFT of PURSES containing Bank & Credit Cards has been followed by a TELEPHONE CALL, Supposedly from the Police, Requesting PIN NUMBERS of CARDS so that The CARDS CAN BE CANCELLED.
ON NO OCCASION GIVE YOUR PIN NUMBERS TO ANYBODY, especially over The TELEPHONE.

Seasonal Reminders

Your Car

Always lock your car, ideally using an immobiliser.
Never leave parcels and valuables on view.
Remove all personal belongings.
Never keep log books, spare car keys or your address in your car.

Your Home

Post code your Christmas presents such as bicycles, cd players, computers.
Do Fold Your Empty Gift Christmas Boxes, Blank Side Out, before leaving them out for the Dustman

Stocking Fillers

A Personal Alarm.

Ultra Violet Pen for post coding your Christmas gifts.

Please look out for the Latest Neighbourhood Watch Information on the Parish Council Notice Board, which is by the Bus Stop in the High Street.

If you do see anything SUSPICIOUS Please DO REPORT IT immediately to the Wantage Control Room (Phone 01235 776000). Urgent messages will be sent by Ringmaster to Co-ordinators.

The Local Beat Officer for Harwell is P C John Parsons. You can always leave a less urgent message for him by phoning the Police (01235 776000).



Countryside events

History of Chilton Field

Thursday 7th January 1.30 pm - 5 miles/ 3 hours.
Find out about the King-to-be who stopped here, the lord who had a racing stable just below the Ridgeway, and the aircraft that took off for the D-day landing. Kate Crennell will lead this walk from the south end of the car park for Chilton Garden Centre.

There are other events - see the leaflet available from the library or contact The Countryside Service OCC, 01865810224.

Personal security

Many people travelling alone need the extra confidence which a personal alarm can provide. Dog walkers, people on public transport, students, paper deliverers etc. may all, at one time or another, daytime or night time, feel insecure or vulnerable. Carrying a personal alarm helps to reduce the fear of crime. An activated alarm is most off putting to a potential offender. Personal Electronic Alarms can also easily be fitted to the inside of a shed, with a small hook on the door, to which the cord can be attached. If a prospective burglar forces open the door, the alarm will be activated! He is not going to hang around!.

The Abingdon & District Crime Prevention Panel is offering electronic alarms at a special Christmas offer price of £6.5, two alarms for £12. Also available are gas alarms at £3 and property marking pens at £1. These alarms make practical stocking fillers and are in stock at Abingdon Police Station or by calling Richard Hover on 776627.

Do you have a cat flap in your door? There have been a few instances recently where an intruder has got into a house by reaching through the cat flap and turning the key which has been left in the door.

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THE WEATHER (SHIPPING) FORECASTS FOR NOV. HAVE INCLUDED AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF 'FORCE ELEVEN - SEVERE STORM' WARNINGS - A TERM SELDOM HEARD AND IT CAN BE A WARNING TO 'BATTEH DOWN THE HATCHES' AND FOR GARDENERS TO SECURE ALL GARDEN STRUCTURES & VULNERABLE PLANTS FOR THE WINTER. THE INCREASE IN AVERAGE TEMPERATURES MEANS THAT HIGH WINDS AND SEVERE STORMS BECOME INCREASINGLY LIKELY. SO CHECK GUTTERS AND CLEAR DRAINS MAKING SURE THESE HAVEN'T BECOME BLOCKED WITH FALLEN LEAVES AND KEEP AN EYE THEM AT ALL TIMES WATCHING OUT FOR AN ACCUMULATION OF BLOWN DEBRIS. CHECK PERGOLAS, ARCHES, SUPPORT STRUCTURES AND FENCES, PARTICULARLY POSTS AT GROUND LEVEL WHICH IS WHERE ROT USUALLY SETS IN. ROSES AND OTHER SHRUBS (WHERE SUITABLE) SHOULD BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY PRUNED BACK TO REDUCE WINDROCK. SOME PLANTS HOWEVER SUCH AS HYDRANGEAS SHOULD BE LEFT UNTIL THE SPRING LEAVING THE OLD FOLIAGE TO ACT AS FROST PROTECTION FOR NEWLY FORMED BUDS.

AS DAY LENGTH SHORTENS CUT DOWN THE WATERING OF POT PLANTS - ALWAYS MAKING SURE THAT PLANTS IN HEATED ROOMS DON'T EVER DRY OUT COMPLETELY.

CHECK THAT GREENHOUSE HEATING IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY AND HAVE READY A BAG OF COMPOST FOR THOSE EARLY SOWINGS. I LIKE TO KEEP A BAG IN THE GREENHOUSE SO THE COMPOST IS WARM - BUT AGAIN WATCH THAT IT DOES NOT DRY OUT.

DON'T FORGET THE BULBS EITHER, KEEP THE COMPOST MOIST AND BRING THEM OUT INTO THE LIGHT ONCE THE FLOWER HEADS ARE OUT OF THE LEAVES AND ARE ABOUT 2" (5cm) HIGH.

SOME OF THE THINGS I KEEP HANDY IN THE GREENHOUSE ARE:- A PAIR OF TWEEZERS, A SPRAY BOTTLE FILLED WITH WATER - USEFUL FOR SPRAYING OVER LEAVES OR DAMPING DOWN THE COMPOST IN SMALL POTS WHERE ORDINARY WATERING MIGHT DISTURB SMALL SEEDLINGS. THE TWEEZERS ARE USEFUL FOR REMOVING SMALL WEED SEEDLINGS APPEARING UNDER GROWING PLANTS OR LIFTING SMALL SEEDLINGS WHEN TRANSPLANTING. I ALSO KEEP A 'BUG BOX' HANDY IN CASE I COME ACROSS AN INSECT OR PEST WHICH I CAN'T IDENTIFY, IN WHICH CASE I CAPTURE IT FOR LATER IDENTIFICATION. OTHER THINGS WHICH I KEEP TO HAND INCLUDE A KITCHEN ROLL, WASTEPAPER BIN, A SCRAP BIN, A WIPE-OFF NOTEPAD & PEN, SPARE LABELS WITH THEIR MARKER, A MINI TROWEL AND A DIBBER. FOR ANYONE WITH A GREENHOUSE A MAXIMUM/MINIMUM THERMOMETER IS ALWAYS USEFUL AS IS A SOIL TEST OUTFIT.

ANY OF THE THINGS I HAVE MENTIONED COULD BE USED AS 'STOCKING FILLER' PRESENTS.

ONCE THE LEAVES ARE OFF THE TREES AND YOU CAN SEE THEIR STRUCTURE CLEARLY THEN IS THE TIME TO PRUNE FOR SHAPE AND SIZE. LEAVES CLEARED UP OFF PATHS, LAWNS AND FLOWERBEDS CAN BE ADDED TO THE COMPOST HEAP OR BAGGED UP SEPARATELY TO PRODUCE LEAFMOLD.

IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY GET YOUR SEED ORDERS IN EARLY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE ORDERING PLUG PLANTS AS THERE IS USUALLY A DEADLINE DATE BY WHICH ORDERS MUST BE PLACED.

IF YOU ARE SAVING SOME OF YOUR OWN SEED OR HAVE LEFT OVER SEEDS THE BEST WAY TO STORE THEM IS TO PUT THE PACKETS IN A SCREWTOP WITH SOME SILICA GEL AND PUT THEM IN A REFRIGERATOR.

WHEN IT COMES TO CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS FROM THE GARDEN TO TAKE THE PLACE OF 'BOUGHT-IN' ITEMS. - GLOBE THISTLE HEAD THREADED

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ON COTTON, RED & GREEN PEPPERS HUNG UP MAKE GOOD LANTERNS AS WELL AS CHINESE LANTERNS. (PHYSALIS). BEANS & OTHER LARGE SEEDS CAN BE THREADED ONTO STRINGS. HONESTY SEEDPODS, STRIPPED OF THEIR OUTER SKIN ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE AND ANY OF THEM CAN BE EMBELLISHED WITH A SPRAY OF GOLD OR SILVER PAINT. WREATHS CAN EASILY BE MADE FROM AN OLD WIRE COATHANGER BENT ROUND TO FORM A FRAME AND COVERED WITH VARIOUS GREENERY & BERRIES.

I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Laurie

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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 24th January for the February issue.

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. Normally adverts larger than 90mm high will not be accepted.



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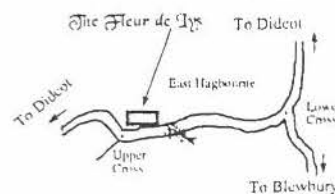
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