

The HARWELL NEWS

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February 1999



Parish Council

There being no meeting of the Council in December, the January one had a full agenda, with the main item being the budget for the coming year and the precept that the Parish asks the Vale to collect on its behalf.

The anticipated income for the forthcoming year is expected to be around £9,300 and likely expenditure £40,300. It was agreed to issue a precept for the same figure as last year, namely £26,750, assuming reserves will be reduced by £4,250. This is accounted for by the fact that some money was put into reserves to pay for work in the recreation ground extension which will be done this year. It is expected that the extension will need the grass cutting this summer, and provision has been made to extend the gang-mowers to reduce the time required per cut.

Among the topics on which there was considerable discussion was a provision for improving the speed-limit signing, as the County is reluctant to spend its own money on this. In the end £600 was budgeted, the main contenders for it being a 30 mph sign on the road surface in Grove Road, and large discs to enhance the speed-limit signs. The Council did not budget to contribute to the County's speed limit project which is due to set up speed limits in all settlements during the coming year.

Earlier in the meeting, under Council-owned lands, the Council considered quotations for fencing the recreation ground extension, and selected one, subject to there being a grant towards the cost from the Vale WHDC, which is being applied for. It was agreed to purchase a leaf-blower, mainly for clearing up after grass-cutting of verges, at a cost of £400.

The Council agreed to a request for a plaque by the recently planted oak to commemorate Mr Langley, in the Cemetery, stipulating it must be close to the tree for ease of mowing.

The Vale WHDC had written regarding the grant for the Millennium. The Council had applied for assistance with the Rest Garden, and the Millennium Committee had separately applied for assistance with several projects. Since the Vale was expecting one application per Parish, the Council was asked to prioritise them. The Council supports the Millennium Committee and agreed to the suggestion of the Chairman, Brian Mulford, that they be given equal priority.

Among the planning matters discussed was a reply from the Vale WHDC about the Herring Homes development. It was thought that the point that was being made regarding possible further development had not got across to the District Council and it was agreed to try again.

A letter from Stanford-in-the-Vale Parish Coun-

cil regarding the 'Winchester Formula' was read out and discussed. This is a formula whereby in small developments of a few houses, developers are asked for a sum of something like £500 for local amenities. The Council agreed to write to the Vale WHDC in support of this.

The Vale WHDC's Local Plan is being circulated to Parish Councils, who have until March 5th to make any comments.

Donations were agreed as follows: to the Citizens Advice Bureau - £200, and to the Gardeners Club for organisation and prizes for a Gardens Competition - £120, with a request that the Gardeners Club try to involve as many people as possible.

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 8th February and 8th March.

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 21st March with distribution about 26th, but get your item in a week before to be sure.

Poppy Appeal

The British Legion would like to thank all the parishioners who contributed to the recent appeal. The final total is not yet available but the total so far is over £2,300. And thank-you to all those who collected or gave their time in other ways.

Didcot Development

For the record, the County Committee decided on 9th December that development should be to the north of Didcot. It is not known yet if the full Council intends to re-open the discussion, as some in villages in SODC would no doubt like.

New Mums' Group

Are you a new Mum? Would you like to join an evening group which meets once a month at different members' houses to offer mutual support and friendship? We will be discussing different topics such as sleeping, feeding and discipline, and we are open to anyone with a baby, whether returning to work or staying at home. Please ring Fiona Tankard on 861593 for further details.

Coffee Morning 6th February

A 'Bring and Buy' sale and Coffee Morning will be held at Westfield House, Manor Green on Saturday 6th February from 10am until 12 noon. All proceeds to Arthritis Research and Parkinson's Concern. Please come along and support these very deserving charities. Any further details phone 821723 or 835597.

A Traffic Survey from Class Five, Harwell School

At the Governors' meeting earlier last term it was suggested that some of the children in Class Five might like to conduct a traffic survey to find out how fast cars were travelling into and out of the school first thing in the morning, or after school in the afternoon. Tom Dixon, Robert Douglas and Jonathan Thomas undertook the investigation and George Laing was roped in to provide the computer graphics. After much discussion as to what constituted fast, medium or slow speeds, the team set to work. This is their report:

The Traffic Survey

by Tom Dixon, Robert Douglas & Jonathan Thomas

Over the last two weeks we have been looking at cars coming to and from school and the speeds at which they were travelling. We put them into three categories slow, medium and fast. We were asked to do this by the Governors as they are concerned about the speed of cars using The Styles before and after school. You can see from our charts that a large number of cars have been travelling too fast in our judgement. We hope that these results will mean that speeds will be reduced.

		BEFORE SCHOOL		
		SLOW	MEDIUM	FAST
MONDAY	To School	7	20	9
	Away from School	4	21	11
TUESDAY	To School	5	21	9
	Away from School	4	16	13
WEDNESDAY	To School	4	18	12
	Away from School	3	13	5
THURSDAY	To School	9	14	16
	Away from School	5	8	11
FRIDAY	To School	4	24	12
	Away from School	4	20	6

		AFTER SCHOOL		
		SLOW	MEDIUM	FAST
MONDAY	To School	4	11	8
	Away from School	2	4	10
TUESDAY	To School	3	10	3
	Away from School	4	10	5
WEDNESDAY	To School	6	12	12
	Away from School	8	10	5
THURSDAY	To School	4	10	15
	Away from School	4	7	4
FRIDAY	To School	1	17	8
	Away from School	7	12	3

Tom's Criteria:

Slow Safe, no danger

Medium danger of collision, break a limb

Fast Likelihood of collision, serious injury or death

Winterbrook Youth Club

Monday evenings, Freeman Hall

Juniors 8 - 14 years 6 - 8 pm

Seniors 15 - 21 years 8 - 10 pm

All young people in Harwell and their friends are welcome to join our friendly Club.

Drop in and meet us any Monday night.

Janice Markey & Paul Taylor - Club Leaders.

Does anyone have a second-hand colour TV they no longer need? The Club is looking for one to go with our recently purchased Sega Megadrive.

Contact Janice Markey on 832802.

Spring Jumble Sale

Saturday 27th March

2pm Freeman Hall

Jumble received 10am until noon

Thank you for your support.

Quality Secondhand Sale

Saturday 20th March 2-4pm.

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 in the Village Hall. 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.

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Tripping the Light Fantastic

A funny & Poignant Love Story

Chilton Village Hall

Saturday 20th Feb. 7.30pm.

Tickets £5, concessions £3. tel. 834285

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. This term we have on February 9th the Buttercup Clothes closing-down Sale.

We won't be having our own sale in March but we will be having a stall at the SSNAP Quality Secondhand Sale on Saturday 20th March at 2pm in the Village Hall. There will be cakes and a chocolate Tombola and we will sell secondhand baby and children's clothes, toys and equipment on behalf of Fun Club members.

Please contact Fiona Tankard (861593) for further details.

Aerobics Class

8pm Wednesdays, Harwell Primary School

*Suitable for all fitness levels
RSA qualified*

Marilyn Cross 835423

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.

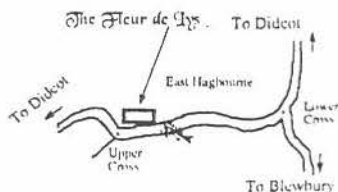
The Fleur de Lys

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Steve & Eve Collier



Harwell Feast Committee

The Village Quiz was held on Saturday 5th December; a sociable evening was enjoyed and for the second year running *The Rugby Widows* pipped *The Rugby Club* and took away the trophy and bottle of Champagne. The *Youth Club* team has another wooden spoon for their collection but their creative answers contributed to the good humour of the evening. Our thanks to all who attended.

Harwell Feast Day

Bank Holiday Monday 31st May

The Committee is currently planning the events for this year's Harwell Feast. We expect to provide all the usual attractions including a Parade, Car Boot Sale, Fun Dog Show, Craft Tent, Pet Show, Children's Events etc. etc. Full details will be published in the next edition of *Harwell News*.

The Committee would welcome any offers of help on the day. Can you spare an hour to put up bunting, sell programmes, serve teas, sell ice-creams? Please contact Janice Markey on 832802.

Also, it is not too soon to be thinking if there is anything you would like to see at Harwell Feast 2000 - if you have any ideas of things you think we could or should be doing please let a Committee member know, as we are hoping to make it something special.

WANTED

All your oddments of fabric
Or
Old cotton sheets

To make bunting for the Millenium
celebrations.

Please contact any member of the
Millenium or Harwell Feast Committee or
Kath Luker Tel: 861057

HARWELL VILLAGE TENNIS CLUB

Are holding Their
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
in the Freeman Hall
on

TUESDAY March 9th.
at 7.30 p.m.

Small Ads

Part-time Cleaner required for good house in centre of village. Good pay. tel 834 150.

Second-hand electric cooker wanted for the Freeman Hall. We will pay for suitable one or would welcome donation to the Hall. Tel 835436 or 835628.

Child Minder opening in Didcot Mother of 2 boys, very flexible, working school holidays, fully trained first-aider, competitive rates. Mrs Kerry Law 8144654.

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Harwell School Association

Forthcoming events at Harwell School:

March 4th at 8pm

Fashion Show & Clothes Sale

Ladies and Childrens Clothes
Tickets - Adults £3 children 50p

13th March at 10am

Jumble Sale

Harwell Gardeners' Club

1st Feb. Visit to E. Hanney Gardeners' Club *Fuchsias* by Christie Leary.

1st March *The Scented Garden* by Mr A. Powell

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10am - 12noon Sunday.

Harwell Village Hall

At the meeting of the Hall Management Committee on 20th January it was noted that the reroofing of the Freeman Hall is under way, and one of the items discussed was refurbishment of the interior. Volunteers from the Committee are reinstating the ceiling boards, and the Hall should be returned to 'normal' soon, although a lot of work remains. The Treasurer, Trevor Packer reported that the Lankelly Foundation has provisionally agreed to fund some of the refurbishment work in the Freeman Hall. Quotes are being obtained for several items of work for submission to the Lankelly Foundation in the near future.

Several of the Hall User organisations are holding events to raise funds for the Hall; the Hall Committee thanks the W.I., Short Mat Bowls, Gardeners Club, as well as the Busy Bees who recently paid for the Fire extinguisher covers.

It was agreed to bring the charge for the main Hall for New Years Eve into line with that for Friday or Saturday, rather than the rate being according to the day of the week.

The performance of 'Don Quixote' in December was well attended, and after paying the Vale WHDC there was £102 to add to the Hall funds. Thanks to those who assisted with refreshments, and also to Roy Bullock for selling the tickets in White Horse Newsagents. The next production will be 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' during half-term - see elsewhere for details.

The next Hall Committee meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd March at 7.30pm in the Freeman Hall.



Didcot and District
Archaeological and Historical Society

Archaeology of the Ridgeway

An Illustrated talk
by

Gary Lock



Didcot Civic Hall 7.30 Wednesday, February 3rd. All Welcome. Visitors £1.80

Didcot Civic Hall Wednesday 3rd Feb.
7.30pm - All Welcome - Visitors £1.80



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A Parish Environmental Group

Inaugural Meeting - Village Hall
Thursday 18th February at 7.30pm

In recent years most Oxfordshire parishes have each formed an environmental group and constructed a Parish Conservation Plan or Parish Appraisal. A starting point might well be a Hedgerow Survey; a few Harwell villagers have already received training from the CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England) on hedgerow surveys, which isn't too arduous. There are (or were a few years ago) more than a hundred hedges in Harwell Parish, so a few people would be needed to carry out the survey.

Whilst the survey is being conducted, note can be made of land-use, woodland, landscape features or habitat interest within the Parish, and from these initial investigations further lines of enquiry might well present themselves. Finally, the information gathered would provide a detailed picture of Harwell Village at is it about 2000AD. And if we don't have any important wildlife habitats then perhaps we should be thinking about creating some - if our flora and fauna are not as diverse as we would like then perhaps we could do something about that too.

There is an opportunity here for people of many different ages and backgrounds to get involved in a worthwhile community activity. There are opportunities for various talents, as scientist, artist, writer, cartographer, public relations expert, bookkeeper, field biologist, and not least for the expertise of those working on the land.

Come along to the Village Hall on Thursday 18th February at 7.30pm and find out what you can do to improve your Village and Parish environment. We have a speaker, Brian Baldwin, leader of the highly successful Goring and Streatley village project, who will tell us how he and his team went about their village plan,

Barrie Turner
15 Tyrrells Close. tel 821248

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AS PART OF THE
FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE WEEK

Saturday 6 February

9.45am - 3.45pm

Workshops include:-

- Tracking and photographing animals
- Creating a minibeast wildlife park
- Encouraging birds to your garden
- Make your own weather station

You can also

meet Dave Endacott, 'bat man'
and listen to Peter Hearn, storyteller



minibeasts



weather



photography

Meet at the Education Centre, Little Wittenham
Nature Reserve



For further details phone 01865 407792
Registered charity No 254740

Little Angel Theatre

presents

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Thursday 18th February

Harwell Village Hall 2.30pm

This witty re-telling of the well-known and popular story by the brothers Grimm is ideal entertainment for children aged 3 to 8 years old and their parents.

The shoemaker, although talented and kind, is poor and cannot afford to pay the rent for the shop. With only just enough money to buy leather for one last pair of shoes the pattern is cut out before bed. Amazingly, a wonderful pair of shoes is made during the night, ...but by whom? Join us as the shoemaker endeavours to find the identity of these generous little helpers and decides what to do in return.

Using glove puppets and music this exiting tale is told using close interaction with the audience, humour and fun.

Tickets from White Horse Newsagents
or at the door

Sponsored by Vale of White Horse D.C.
Organised by The Village Hall Committee

Harwell Primary School

We have a vacancy for a Midday Dinner Controller, which could be a job-share if preferred. Please contact the headteacher, Michael Armstrong for full details - tel. 835337.



HARWELL VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

Theft of Bicycles

There have been several recent cases of the theft of bicycles in the Didcot Area, including Harwell.

Ideally keep them locked, even when they are in the garden shed or garage. Insurance Policies do not normally cover the loss of Bicycles that are not locked to an immovable object.

Winter has Come

Can your house be easily found by the emergency services?

Does your house only have a name?

Please have an accurate description on how to get there available by your telephone at all times.

It could make the difference between saving a life or not!

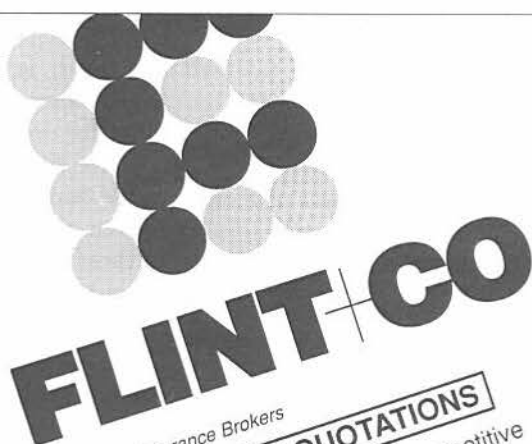
Let Us All Try and Reduce Crime in Harwell.

There were **28 crimes** in the Harwell & Rowstock area reported in the last three months, compared to only **68** for the whole of 1997.

Lets us all make a **New Year Resolution** to be more **Vigilant**, and always **Immediately Report Anything Suspicious**, so that we can try and reduce these figures in 1999.

Telephone the Police Wantage Control Room (01235 776000) You can also leave a message for our beat officer Mr John Parsons on this number.

If you want more information on the Vale of White Horse Neighbourhood Watch Scheme or if you are prepared to be linked up to Ringmaster please contact either Mrs Hilary Green or Mr Richard Hover (telephone 01235 776627)



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Harwell Women's Institute

10 February Member's meeting (This is a surprise meeting organised by two or three members).

10 March Annual General Meeting

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,

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you all

Audrey Poffley' Press Secretary

W.I. Event for Village Hall Fund Raising

Supper with entertainment by

Baggs Tree Buskers

Lasagne and Salad, Dessert and Coffee.
(Vegetarians catered for)

Harwell Village Hall - Friday 26 March at 7.30pm.

Tickets available from the Post Office

Bring your own drink and glasses.

Raffle - offers of prizes gratefully accepted.

Thank you to everyone who attended the New Year's Eve Party in the village hall, a cheque for £202 has been sent to the Cancer Research Institute at the Churchill Hospital.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 31 December 1999 in the Village Hall for another great get together.

Gwen Froud, Marjorie Cox, Ursula Moore

Do you have pain?

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

Dr Duncan Hales

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LOOKING BACK OVER THE PAST YEAR I SUPPOSE THE OUTSTANDING THING FOR GARDENERS HAS BEEN THE WEATHER. - DULL WITH STORMS & FLOODS, HIGH AVERAGE TEMPERATURE, LACK OF FROST, ALL SIGNS OF GLOBAL WARMING.

FREEDOM FROM SPRING FROSTS RESULTED IN GOOD CROPS OF APPLES, PEARS AND SOFT FRUIT PLUMS WHICH FLOWER EARLY SUFFERED FROM A LACK OF POLLINATING INSECTS AT BLOSSOM TIME.

BY WAY OF A CHANGE WE ALSO HAD QUITE A BIT OF RAIN IN SPRING IN CONTRAST TO THE DRY SPELLS OF THE LAST FEW YEARS.

THE ACTUAL RAINFALL FOR 1998 WAS 682% (26.9") OR ABOUT 172% (7") MORE THAN IN 1997. I WONDER WHAT THIS YEAR WILL BRING? SO FAR UP TO JAN 25TH WE HAVE ALREADY HAD 83.4% (3.28") OF RAIN.

THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF MOISTURE IN THE GROUND WHEN IT COMES TO SOWING OUR SEED OR SETTING OUT OUR PLANTS.

IF YOU HAVE A GREENHOUSE OR COLDFRAME YOU CAN PUT LAST YEAR'S OLD GROBAGS TO FURTHER USE FOR GROWING EARLY SALADS OR STRAWBERRIES IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RUNNERS OF YOUR OWN IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GET SOME COLD STORED RUNNERS WHICH SHOULD GIVE A GOOD CROP IN 60 TO 80 DAYS DEPENDING ON THE VARIETY AND THE WEATHER.

LETTUCES, RADISHES, CHIVES, BASIL ETC. CAN BE RAISED FROM SEED IN POTS OR TRAYS AND THEN PLANTED OUT INTO THE ONCE USED BAGS AS SOON AS READY. AN OCCASIONAL LIQUID FEED WILL KEEP THEM GROWING. TRY SOME OF THE MINI YEG NOW AVAILABLE LETTUCE 'BLUSH', 'MINIGREEN', 'LITTLE GEM' OR TOM THUMB CARROTS 'PARMEX', 'PARABEL', 'TIP TOP', BABY BEET 'PRONTO', 'MONACO', 'TARDEL'.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS CAN BE SPLIT UP AND REPLANTED NOW USING THE OUTER (YOUNGER) SECTIONS FOR THE NEW PLANTS & DISCARDING THE OLDER WOODY CENTRE.

ROSES CAN BE HARD PRUNED NOW AND THEN GIVEN A FEED WITH A BALANCED FERTILISER.

THIS HAS BEEN A MILD WINTER SO FAR & PESTS & DISEASE ARE ALREADY SHOWING. SO EXAMINE YOUR PLANTS CAREFULLY & DEAL IMMEDIATELY

R H Fencing & Gates

All types supplied and erected
trees lopped & felled, stumps removed
hedges trimmed, gardens cleared
walls - paths - drives
sand, ballast, shingle supplied
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Blissetts West Hagbourne Oxfordshire OX11 0ND
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WITH ANY PROBLEM. LOOK ON THE UNDERSIDES OF LEAVES FOR APHIDS & IF THERE ARE MANY USE A SPRAY LIKE PIRIMICARB WHICH ONLY AFFECTS APHIDS. PICK OFF ANY CATERpillARS BY HAND (DISPOSABLE GLOVES ARE USEFUL). EARLY TREATMENT NOW CAN SAVE AN EPIDEMIC LATER. PREDATORS ARE NOT SUITABLE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR AS TEMPERATURES ARE TOO LOW.

A CHECK ON pH VALUES AND NUTRIENTS IS ALSO USEFUL AT THIS TIME OF YEAR AS THE HIGH RAINFALL MAY HAVE WASHED MANY NUTRIENTS OUT OF THE SOIL. THE CHEMICAL TEST KITS ARE READILY AVAILABLE AND COULD BE A GOOD INVESTMENT.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD YEAR IN 1999.

Laurie

Volunteers - Where are you?

The Didcot Volunteer Centre is having difficulty in finding drivers, sitters, helpers etc. to satisfy the increasing demand for their services. If you are retired or have some spare time on your hands please call the office (816709) between 10am and midday on a weekday, or the organiser Mrs J. Oldham, on 816602.

We need your help!

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HARWELL CRAFT FAIR

A big thank you to all those people who attended and indeed helped at the Craft Fair on December 13 to make it the success it was. In addition to being successful the event also raised £130 for CANCER RESEARCH which Audrey will see gets to the right place.

This year the event will be held on Sunday, 12 December and in the year 2000 will be on Sunday, 10 December.
Please make a note in your diaries.

The next Craft Fair will be at the Harwell Feast
On
Monday 31 May 1999
Any new Crafters in the village please ring 861057 for information.

Didcot Choral Society

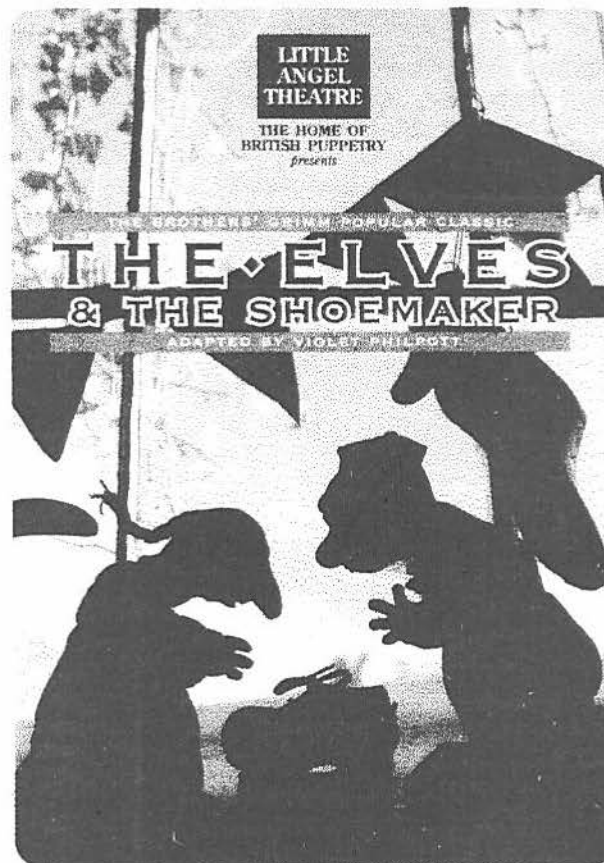
Come and join! For lots of fun. No experience required. Everybody welcome. We sing all kinds of music and get together for social events.

Rehearsals at St. Peters Church, Newlands Avenue, Didcot on Tuesday evenings 7.15 to 9.15. For more details tel 812877 or 813986.

Robert Jackson M.P.

Is available for interviews as follows:
Friday 12th Feb Wantage, Orchard House, Portway (next to Civic Hall) 5.30pm to 7pm.
Saturday 27th March Didcot Conservative Club, Foxhall Road 9.30 to 11am

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



HARWELL VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 18th February 2.30pm
Tickets £4 (£3 concessions)
available from White Horse Printing Tel: 835261
Puppets, music, fun and excitement for ages 3+
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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 21st March for the April 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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