

The HARWELL NEWS

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Parish Council

The Parish Council did not meet in December, but made up for it in January by having to decide the Parish Precept for the coming financial year. As a prelude, the budget for the year to March was considered; for the current year the Council precepted £26750, and has income of about £9000 from other sources, giving a total of about £36,000. In its budget in January 99 the Council anticipated using £4250 of reserves to complete the rec. fencing. It was hoped to proceed with this during the current financial year with the aid of a grant from Vale WHDC, in which case the net amount required from reserves might be as low as £1000. (We have just heard on 1st Feb that the Vale has given the maximum grant of about £3300.)

Turning to the coming year, the Council agreed that, with likely expenditure of £37,750 and other income of about £9,000, it was appropriate that the precept be maintained at the same level as last year, ie £26,750. An allocation of 2000 of reserves has been set aside towards the cost of a youth shelter in the recreation ground. It was possible that a grant towards this could be obtained from the Hanson Trust, and the Clerk was asked to investigate this.

Other financial matters that were considered at the meeting were several requests for donations. It was agreed to give £200 to the Didcot and District Citizens Advice Bureau. The Village Hall had made a request for assistance with electrical improvements to the Hall, and it was agreed to donate £500. And the Gardeners Club had requested assistance with this years Garden Competition, and £150 was allocated for this.

On environment matters, various footpaths were discussed. A parishioner had forwarded a reply from the OCC regarding the state of the Winnoway - it was their view that its overall condition is reasonable for the time of year, considering its rural location. The Parish Council did not agree, and agreed to collect some photographic evidence for the Clerk to present to the OCC. A complaint had been received about the footpath from Reading Road to Broadway, which was very slippery. The Clerk will raise the matter with the OCC. And on footpath no. 7, the Council was expecting some information on the procedures for footpath diversion - Mrs Turner agreed to follow this up.

The problem of visibility at the junction of Church Lane and High Street was discussed again, as a parishioner had asked that the decision not to pursue the possibility of mirrors to assist those leaving Church Lane be reconsidered. The OCC had said it would not foot the bill, and is not in favour anyway, so the Parish Council might not be able to achieve this objective even if it agreed to pay. But the possi-

bility of asking that the road be one-way for vehicles was suggested, and it was agreed to consult Church Lane residents.

Under Council-owned lands, the allotment situation was reviewed, with a view to making the worked area more compact; it was hoped that things might become clearer by the next meeting. As referred to under budget, the Council, agreed to a quote for the completion of the rec. fencing, subject to obtaining a grant from the Vale WHDC. It was also agreed to accept a quote for the Churchyard grass-cutting, for which the Council is responsible.

Some of you may recall mention some time ago (years) of the strip of rec. adjacent to the A417 that belongs to the OCC, and which a previous Council sought to buy, indeed was offered by the OCC. Nothing was heard for a long time, but now the OCC seems to have noticed the new fence, which straddles the strip. In reply, the Clerk was asked to remind the OCC of the 'ongoing' negotiation; it is still hoped that it might be purchased for a fairly nominal sum, although legal fees may add quite considerably.

At the time of the meeting the outcome of the EIP into Didcot development was awaited. See elsewhere for a report on this.

Parish Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion, at 7.30pm. so the next two are 14th February and 13th 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 Saturday 25th March, with distribution likely to be in the first few days of April.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

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Harwell Nursery School

Many of you will have read in the December issue of the *Harwell News* that the Local Education Authority has considered closing our nursery school. We're pleased to report that they have deferred their decision and we are very much open as usual.

We are a state funded nursery school providing top quality free education for three to five year olds, not just for our village but for the whole of the rural community stretching from Wantage to Didcot and almost to Abingdon.

We have places for up to 80 children, split into two sessions, morning and afternoon, with a carefully designed garden, two classrooms, masses of space, lots of light, loads of equipment and surprisingly little noise. We have a team of highly trained, highly experienced teachers and nursery nurses, backed up by separate administrative staff, so the teachers and nursery nurses spend the maximum possible time working with the children.

Why is the nursery school so important to our village?

Not everyone has access to, or can afford private pre-primary care. All our places are free.

We focus on the curriculum set out specifically for three and four year olds. We make it so they can't help finding things out for themselves, developing a lifetime's interest in learning.

We are independent of any primary school, and serve several villages, so you don't have to make decisions on primary schools before you're ready.

We have over 50 years of experience in helping children to learn through play. We know how to tap children's differing abilities, helping each child to develop as an individual. Our children love coming here, and can't wait for their next session.

If you have a two, three or four year old in your family, or know one who would enjoy exploring our garden and discovering the wonders of our world, phone the school on 834227 or phone me on 835274 to arrange a visit and reserve a place.

Alice McIlroy
Parish Representative on the Board of Governors

Planning Matters

New Application:

HAR/15106/2 Demolition of existing garage, erection of new garage with hobby room in loft at 35 Loder Road. The Council decided to object to the plans on grounds similar to the previous application, namely that it would be overdevelopment and out of keeping with the appearance of neighbouring properties (see newsletters Dec 97, April, June 98).

FUN CLUB NEWS FUN CLUB NEWS

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 and 11:30. All parents and carers with babies and toddlers, as well as mums to be, are welcome. Each week we provide a variety of toys and puzzles, an activity table, juice and biscuits for the children and tea & coffee for the adults - all for only £1 per family.

On December 7th we donated all our entrance fees to the NSPCC and raised 30 pounds - thank you to all who contributed.

There will be no Fun Club on Tuesday 22nd February - but we need to sort out and clean the toys so any volunteers would be very welcome. Our next social event is a ladies night out, also on Tuesday 22nd February. We will meet at 8pm at the White Hart.

If you would like any information about Fun Club please ring Annie Hancock on 821254.

Little Pippins Pre-School

Just to remind you that we are now open 5 days a week from 9.15am until 3 pm. We still have a few vacancies for the afternoon places and so if you would like to come along and see what we provide for your pre-school child, you would be made very welcome. Call in anytime or phone Ab. 821741 to arrange a time.
Yvonne Hinchliffe - Playleader

Little Pippins is organising a **Charity Golf Day** on Thursday 30th March at Drayton Park Golf Club (Stapleford Rules Apply). Entry is £120 per team of four players, lunch included. There are prizes for the 1st three places, nearest the pin and longest drive. Further details and entry forms from Annie Hancock on 821254.

Musical fun for
the under fives

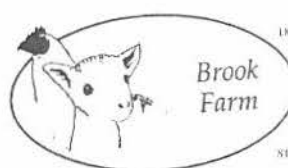
Busy Bees Music Group



Harwell Village Hall
on Friday mornings

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01235 521039 for more details.

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Harwell Village Hall

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Mrs Fiona Tankard is now the Hall's Booking Secretary. She can be contacted on 861593, preferably between 6 and 7pm.

At the Committee meeting on 13th January the Treasurer, Trevor Packer reported that the refurbishment work in the Freeman Hall was essentially complete, at a cost of about £5,750. Some work had been carried out by Committee members; Joan Spratt was thanked for the curtains, and Martin Ricketts for work in the kitchen.

It was agreed to go ahead with electrical improvements in the Hall, since the Parish Council has offered a grant of £500 towards the work. The largest item is the provision of additional power sockets in the Main Hall. The gas heater had failed over Christmas, and had been repaired - a considerable bill was expected.

The Treasurer's proposals for revised charges from 1st April for both Halls were accepted. For the Freeman Hall this means there will now be an **hourly rate** charged, rather than the sessional system previously in use.

There are two performances in the near future as part of the Vale WHDC's Parish Promotions Scheme. For children, on the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd February (half-term) Pendle Productions presents 'Alice in Wonderland'. Tickets priced £4, £3 concessions are **now** available from White Horse Newsagents. And on Friday 10th March the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company will present 'Rehearsing Brief Encounter', a new play by Phil Smith - see elsewhere for details.

Harwell Women's Institute

Our December Party was a big success - a big thank-you to the Bagstree Buskers who came and entertained us, it was fun evening, enjoyed by all.

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall; visitors and new members welcome. At our forthcoming meetings we have: On **9th February** Sylvia Vetta from Didcot Antiques Centre will be giving a talk.

On **8th March** we hold our Annual General Meeting and have a Fish & Chip Supper.

Audrey Poffley, Press Secretary.

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Winterbrook Youth Club

Monday evenings Freeman Hall

7 - 10pm Ages 11 to 18

All young people in Harwell, plus their friends are welcome to join Youth Club for social activities and outings. Any enquiries contact Janice Markey on 832802 or just drop in at the Freeman Hall on a Monday evening.

Spring Jumble Sale 8th April 2pm

Hall open 10 - 12 to receive items. If you're having a spring clearout - please remember us! Jumble can be collected nearer the date - contact Janice Markey.

We are looking for an additional **male Club Leader** to assist the existing team of 3 senior leaders and 2 young adults. Is there anyone who would consider joining us for one or two Monday evenings a month? If so, contact Janice Markey or drop in on a Monday evening.

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10am - 12noon Sunday.

Harwell Environment Group

At our December meeting, one of our own members, Dr Martin Gibson, gave a very interesting, informative and highly interactive talk concerning the use which we all make of energy and materials.

In January, Dave Endacott from Challow, gave a slide show and talk about his work with bats. The evening was packed with information and we all returned home with a much better appreciation of the niche occupied by bats in the ecosystem. Many of us handled a living bat for the first time and our many visitors were very appreciative of the evenings event.

Our next meeting is at 8pm on the third Thursday in February (17th) in the British Legion Meeting Room when we will be thinking about an up-date of our hedgerow surveys and planning for our first A.G.M. in March. New members are always very welcome, so if you are interested in our local environment, please come along.

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M.S.S.Ch. M.B.Ch.A.

For a home visit, please contact
Mrs. HAZEL MOODEY

48 Hanney Road, STEVENTON.
Telephone Abingdon 834093.

Didcot Development EIP

The Panel presented its report to the Oxfordshire County Council in mid-January, as you probably know by now, with the recommendations that the additional housing allocation be added to the South Oxfordshire figure and that a reference be inserted in the County Structure Plan that the additional houses be mainly towards the North-east of the town. The Panel's conclusions from chapter 4 of its report are printed below, so far as space permits.

The report is available in Didcot Library, or possibly can be loaned from Margaret Turner (15 Tyrrells Close). If anyone wants the printed version it's available from OCC Env. Services, County Hall, New Road, OX1 1ND price £5 + £1 p&p. If you want an electronic version email m.ricketts@rl.ac.uk or send a floppy disk to the editor at 16, The Park.

Harwell Parish Council would like to thank all the people who gave great support by sending in letters, not once, but as many times as necessary, by producing the petition, attending various meetings, and helping the cause in so many different ways. We would also like to thank our local Councillors and last but not least the many members of the Keep Harwell Rural Campaign for all their hard work over many months, and their support at the recent EIP. Harwell demonstrated its great community spirit. Thank-you all for the great team effort.

Panel's Conclusions

4.1 The main question posed at the EIP and which we now seek to address in drawing together the conclusions from Chapters 2 and 3 is as follows: "Does the proposed alteration provide the most sustainable means of Meeting the requirements for a major new housing development at Didcot, in the light of national and regional guidance and Structure Plan policies or would development to the west of Didcot be more appropriate?"

4.2 It became evident early in the process of preparing for this EIP that our decision and recommendations were likely to hinge on the weight we attached to one or two of the key factors posed in the matters for discussion. This preliminary view was then reinforced when it came to studying participants' statements and from what we heard during the EIP itself.

4.3 For a number of the factors examined during the EIP - traffic impact, landscape, built environment, energy conservation, the effect of the Power Station and the impact on the living environment - the evidence we heard is so inconclusive and/or the arguments so finely balanced that they cannot be regarded as determining factors for the direction of growth.

4.4 In the case of landfill and groundwater quality these pull in opposite directions but neither are,

in our view, overriding strategic matters. Insofar as the 'precautionary principle' is relevant, the landfill consideration would point towards avoiding development to the north-east if possible, whilst the groundwater protection factor points towards avoiding development to the west. But these are secondary balancing factors to the main argument and, in our view tend to cancel each other out.

4.5 The main factors affecting our decision are therefore on the one hand the sustainability of the respective locations, in terms of their accessibility by sustainable modes of transport and integration with the existing town; and on the other, the weight to be attached to the protection of Best & Most Versatile land.

4.6 We have concluded in Chapter 2 that all three options are capable of providing good accessibility to employment and services and of encouraging more sustainable modes of transport, but that the Didcot West option has an advantage over the North-East site because of its closer proximity to Milton Park and Harwell Campus, the existence of a better bus network and the greater ease of movement into the town. Its configuration around the western edge of the town and its permeability into the neighbouring residential areas would also enable a new development at Didcot West to integrate better with the existing town.

4.7 The alternative site to the west of Didcot, the Milton option, has the greatest advantages in terms of proximity to the jobs in Milton Park and also benefits from access to an important bus corridor along the A4130, but its east-west orientation means that more of the development would be beyond comfortable walking and cycling distance of the town centre facilities and it seems least likely of all the options to integrate well with the rest of Didcot.

4.8 In the case of the North-East option we have concluded that, whilst less advantageous than the Didcot West area in terms of overall accessibility and integration - largely because of the barriers to movement imposed by the Northern Perimeter Road, the railway and the proposed DMH2 road - its problems are not insuperable and the area is capable of being a sustainable location for development. Growth to the north-east would also bring facilities which would benefit the existing Ladygrove estate, including secondary education and better bus services. This, together with improved walking and cycling routes across the railway, might help that area feel less cut off from the rest of Didcot than at present.

4.9 The key question is whether the balance of advantage favouring the west in terms of accessibility and integration outweighs national and structure plan policies which seek to avoid development on the best and most versatile agricultural land.

4.10 Of all the strategic issues examined at the EIP the most clear-cut, in our view, is the difference in agricultural land quality. Whereas the other factors come down to matters of interpretation and judgement, no-one questions that development to the west involves building on Grades 2 and 3a land, less so in the case of the Milton site, but nonetheless significantly more than in the north-east where nearly all the land is of Grade 3b quality. Although proposals for mitigation - in terms of preserving areas of the best agricultural land for open space and transferring topsoil to other parts of the site' might reduce the impact of development in the west, we regard these as factors which are more relevant in cases where the differences in intrinsic quality of land are narrower. This is not the position here.

4.11 As indicated in paragraph 3.49, government policy as set out in PPG7 (and reflected in Structure Plan Policy EN3) makes it clear that the best and most versatile agricultural land should only be developed exceptionally, if there is an overriding need for the proposal, and sufficient land in the lower grades is not available.

4.12 In this instance, whilst the overriding need for development in the Didcot area has been established by the adopted Structure Plan, there is a viable alternative to developing on the best and most versatile agricultural land to the west of the town. Land is clearly available in the lower grades to the north-east and we have already concluded that development here is capable of meeting other sustainability objectives in terms of accessibility, encouraging sustainable modes of transport and providing a satisfactory living environment for existing and future residents.

4.13 Therefore whilst the western options have advantages in terms of accessibility and integration, we conclude that these are outweighed by the need to protect best and most versatile agricultural land and that the most sustainable direction of growth for Didcot is to the north-east.

4.14 The Panel's conclusion on the direction of growth is in line with Oxfordshire County Council's proposed Alteration to the Structure Plan. The Alteration also proposes that all the additional 3,200 houses should be allocated to South Oxfordshire. The Panel has previously accepted (para 3.42) that should growth take place to the north-east, no new development should be allowed to the west of Moor Ditch in order to preserve the gap between the town and Appleford. Since Moor Ditch forms the boundary between South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse districts, it follows that we support the proposal to allocate all the new housing to South Oxfordshire.

4.15 At the EIP the Panel heard representations that the master plan produced by the developers of the North-East option was based on accommodating 2,900 rather than 3,200 new houses. Concern was expressed that this shortfall might force development to the west of Moor Ditch, or on to some of the more attractive land to the east of Appleford Road currently designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. Clarification on this point was provided by the developer of the North-East option, in the form of a revised generalised land use budget which demonstrated that the north-east was capable of accommodating the full housing requirement without breaching Moor Ditch or impinging on the area of landscape to the east of Appleford Road. The precise extent of the development site and the disposition of land uses within it are matters which will be determined in the Local Plan and in the detailed planning application for the area. From a strategic point of view the Panel is satisfied that the full housing requirement can be met by developing to the north-east.

Vale Countryside Events

On Tuesday 21st March, starting at 9.45 at the Recreation Ground Car Park, there will be a walk led by Roy Burton around Ardington and Lockinge - total distance about 13 miles. Contact Roy on 818989 for further details.

If you're feeling less energetic, there is a Ramblers Association walk from East Hendred Church on Sunday 19th March starting at 3pm - this time 4 miles only. This is led by Jo Bird - contact her on 01367 710650



Madam Curie, Dido and Pluto - the cast is also listed there if by any chance you can't recognise them!



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Director	Janet Spence	Music	Millie Packer
Team	Alison Dixon	Sound	Barry Dixon
	Tony Kowalski	Costumes	Paul Longman
	Benny Harris		Elaine Kerswell
Design	Lorraine Moore	Lighting	Patricia Cooke
Choreography	Rossana Keene		Andy Laing
	Janet Spence	Stage manager	George Laing
Pianist	Paul Packer		David Muir
			Barry Westgate

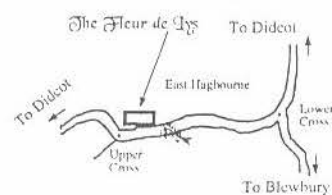
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Millennium Events

A superb production of 'Snow White' kicked off Harwell Village's celebration of the New Millennium. A thoroughly enjoyable performance, skilfully and professionally put together by Janet Spence was a complete sell-out for the three shows.

The Millennium Committee set out to rekindle the spirit of Community in Harwell and this production did just that. From all walks of life, from young to old, they totally enjoyed the experience. We have such talent in this village and, judging by the age of some of the 'young stars', will have for years to come. Thank-you Janet and the whole team for this thoroughly enjoyable occasion, for all the hard work that went into it, and for helping to start the New Millennium with a smile!

Thanks also to the staff at White Horse Newsagents for all their help with ticket sales.

If anyone purchased a programme at the Panto which was missing the middle white page, please accept the Committee's apologies for this error - Janet Spence has some copies still so see her at Winterbrook House if you want a replacement.

The Harwell Millennium Committee has pledged to give every child under 16 a commemorative medallion. Those at the Primary School recieved theirs from the former headmaster, Michael Armstrong on 14th January. On Monday 28th February there will be an opportunity for all young people in the village between 11 and 16 to receive theirs - drop into the Youth Club (Freeman Hall) any time between 7.30 and 9pm. We hope that in the next couple of months the others, particularly the pre-school ages, will receive theirs, e.g. through mother and toddler groups and Little Pippins.

Don't worry if you haven't already registered your name with the Millennium Committee - if you don't think your child is registered contact Terry Doughty on 221600, or Janice Markey on 832802. Examples of the medallion can be seen in the Primary School and in the window of Bob's / Post Office.

The Harwell limited edition mugs have been very popular, including 60 sent to American Harwell's. There are only 35 left as this goes to print, so again contact Terry Doughty soon if you want one.

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

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs - the Cast

Pantomime photos were taken during the Dress Rehearsal, thanks to Stephen Kill for these. Below is the cast list and on the left the production team.

isters	Flo	Hannah Delfosse	Trees &	Emma Haines
	Bow	Lucy Ryan	Dance	Sam Curran
	Glow	Holly Douglas		Natalie Brisland
	Mo	Holly Spence		Alice Buxton
	Clo	Sarah Newey		Elliot Gasper
	Jo	Becky Singleton		Eleanor Gasper
	Slow	Rossana Keene	& Ghost	Jemma Shipman
	Fatty	Tony Baker		
	Scatty	Geoff Richardson	Animals	Jessica Orr
	Nosey	Alex Gasper		Emily Delfosse
	Posey	Mike Kerswell		Ben Kill
	Silly	James Douglas		Andrew Keene
	Scary	Benny Harris		Emily Davies
	Cut-throat	Adele Harris		Hannah Eveleigh
	Bert	Marilyn Cross		Louise Singleton
	Ted	Alison Dixon		Bryony Davies
	Ernie	Helena Kerswell		Elna Wilkinson
	Duggle	Karen Muir		Rebecca Linnard
	Sid	Anita Kill		Emily Dearlove
	Alf	Alan Spence		
er	Graham	Michael Armstrong	Helpers	Liz Ryan
	Notadora	Janice Markey		Caroline Delfosse
	Delilah	Davina Barnes		Sharon Orr
	Tara	Tracey Linnard		Jackie Eveleigh
	Violet	Sue Greatbanks		Gerry Parr
	Rose	Eileen Davies		Ruth Wilkinson
	Doody	Mandy Ponting		Alison Brisland
Curie		Tony Kowalski		Darren Moore
		Jim Sinclair	Cameo	Chris Stott
		Malcolm Birkinshaw		
ack		Alison Dixon		

Fighting crime in the Thames Valley

Crimestoppers is the only charity devoted to the solution of crime. It works in a very simple way. If you have information about a crime, phone the freephone number 0800 555 111. Your call is free, you do not have to give your name & you may receive a reward!

Many people sometimes come across information about crime or see criminals in action but are worried about speaking to the police. What if the person suspected is a family member, a close neighbour or a work colleague? What if they are a notorious, and possibly violent, local villain? What if nobody else could have known the information? In these circumstances it is understandable that ordinary, law-abiding citizens might be afraid and fear reprisals. The last thing they would wish is to become the next victim.

Crimestoppers offers them a way to help which does not involve visits from the police, which will not require interviews, which will not lead to appearances in court as a witness. Above all, it will ensure that they need have no fear. Callers are not asked their names so their anonymity is guaranteed. If the information leads to the arrest and charge of a suspect, the caller may be offered a cash reward. Even then, a secure method of payment ensures that anonymity is maintained. However, the fact that less than 10% do want to help make their communities safer places in which to live.

Crimestoppers is a simple partnership between the community and the police. The police receive the calls and handle the information. The public just ring freephone 0800 'treble 5 treble 1' and give the information. The scheme has been running for 10 years and involves all police forces. It is not a replacement for 999 emergency calls or for normal contacts with the police.

The Thames Valley region covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire in partnership with the Thames Valley Police. Our regional board is comprised of volunteers drawn from across the region with a wide spectrum of experience. Its task is to publicise the freephone number and to mobilise our community to use it in its fight against crime - to make their own localities safer places in which to live and work.

Over all the regions, there is a registered charity, Crimestoppers Trust, which manages the network of regions and has ultimate legal and financial responsibility. However, the cost of publicising Crimestoppers, of funding the rewards and management is met by voluntary donations and other funds raised within the region. The recent Crime and Disorder Act has required local authorities to develop new strategies and plans to fight crime in partnership with the police, voluntary organisations and the community

from April 1999. Crimestoppers provides them with a unique weapon which reaps immediate and proven results. Nationally 13 arrests and charges are now made every day from Crimestoppers information.

Although calls are received about all types of offences, Crimestoppers is also effective in mounting campaigns to tackle particular types of crime. The first of these targeted drugs. SNAP - 'Say No and Phone' is aimed at young people and uses bright trendy graphics and pop music to get the message across.

A second campaign, SMART - 'Stop MotorCrime And Ring Today' - has substantial backing from Vauxhall Motors. This tackles theft of and theft from ALL types of vehicles - crimes which audits recently undertaken by the local authorities of the Thames Valley have shown to be their greatest concern.

If you would like to know how you can support Thames Valley Crimestoppers, please contact the regional board administrator, Mrs Vicki Kendal on 0118 934 3477.

Still Time to apply to Awards for All

What could your community group do with an extra £5,000? Buy some computers? Train your staff and volunteers? organise a special event?

These are just some of the projects funded by the Millennium Festival Awards for All. There is still money available. Priority is given to groups with an income of less than £15,000 per year.

So if you are part of a small group and want between £500 and £5000 for your project then call **0845 600 2040** for an application form. The closing date is the end of June.

"Although the scheme is called Millennium Festival Awards for All you don't have to apply for something exceptional or extraordinary. A small sum of money can make a big difference to an organisation's work - paying for essential equipment or enabling them to help more local people" says Phil Stevens, an awards officer.

The application form is straightforward, and you can call the Awards for All team on 01483 462900 for advice. In just 12 to 14 weeks you will hear whether or not your application has been successful.

Living and Learning Grants

Another source of grants for imaginative projects that encourage communities, young people and their local schools to work together in partnership is this scheme run by the County Council. Grants of up to £1500 are available for projects. For further details contact Gwenllian Davies at County Hall - 01865 810109.

Harwell Senior Citizens Fund

It is with great sadness that we have to tell you of the death of our Bingo Promoter and Vice-Chairman, Bill Connolly. Bill had worked tirelessly for our Fund for many years and we will miss him very much; our thoughts are with Pat, Keith and Kevin and their families at this sad time.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy New Year. In December 1999, we paid 236 Senior Citizens £20 each which amounted to £4,720. As you can see, this is a lot of money to find every year.

We would like to continue to give our residents this amount of money every Christmas but our Bingo Sales have been declining of late. To overcome this problem we either have to sell more tickets every week or **increase the ticket price from the current 10 pence - what do you think????**

I can't ever remember the price going up, not for the last 20 years anyway Maybe you could relay your thoughts on this problem to your agents or to any Committee Member. If you and not a subscriber, and would like to buy a ticket every week, we can possibly arrange for an agent to call or you can purchase them every week from the Paper Shop. Why not have a go, you could win £60 and help boost our Funds into the bargain.

If your name is not on our Senior Citizens Christmas List, please telephone Mrs Harmer on Ab. 832717 and she will be glad to take your call and any comments you might have. You have to be a resident of our Parish and be 70 years of age or over.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting very shortly and it would be nice to have some more volunteers on our Committee. The Agents do the work all the year around; the Committee hold meetings about 3 times a year to make any decisions, so it wouldn't be a massive commitment. Phone Mrs Ursula Moore, our Chair on Ab. 834238 and she will be pleased to put you in the picture.

Yvonne Hinchliffe (Secretary)

New Year Party - Thanks

The Party in the Village Hall on New Year's Eve raised £505.50 for Cancer Research at the Churchill Hospital. Many thanks to all who came, those who donated raffle prizes, for the donations received and for the help we had in many ways during the evening.

We hope to see you all again next New Year's Eve, to celebrate 2001.

Gwen Froud, Ursula Moore, Audrey Poffley, Joy Doherty

Spring Produce Show

Schedules for this Millennium Special Show are available from local shops or Adele Harris at Blenheim House, Blenheim Hill, tel. 835238.

This show is for Harwell Parish Residents only, with special prizes to keep. There is a class for best spring garden, so why not have a go and enter yours? This class is to be judged a few days before so enter in sufficient time - see the schedule.

Harwell Feast Committee Harwell Feast 2000 - 29th May

The Committee is currently planning the events for this year's Harwell Feast. Attractions will include the Reading Scottish Pipe Band, the Wantage Silver Band as well as Harwell Horizons and Baggs Tree Buskers. There will be a Fun Run, a Fun Dog Show, and a lot of Fun generally.

What we would really like to see is more people taking part in the parade - be a street entertainer for a while! Village organisations have already received invites to enter a decorated Float with the theme *An Event in History*. We hope that many of you will rise to the challenge. We are also keen to hear from groups of friends & neighbours who would like to put on a 'walking entry' - after all, a lot of historical events took place without transport for the masses! Let's make the Parade really big and memorable this year - contact Janice Markey on 832802 for more details.

Lambing Open Weekend

On the weekends from 12/13th February to 4/5th March Britchcombe farm near Uffington will be open to visitors for the lambing. The farm is 1/4 mile from White Horse Hill on the B4507. Maybe see a lamb being born and find out what is involved in sheep production (pregnant women are advised not to come in contact with lambing ewes). No dogs. Charge adults £1-75 children £1 - contact Mrs Seymour - 01367 820667 for any more details.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

BOGUS CALLERS ARE STILL IN THE AREA

Two males have recently been reported locally trying to gain access to a house by offering painting and decorating services.

Beware of being distracted when answering the front door to strangers. Others may be trying to gain access through another unlocked door. If possible lock rear door first.

If you are suspicious of being kept talking, politely close the door and telephone the Wantage Police Control Room 01235 776000.

You can always leave messages on this number for the Local Beat Officer for Harwell.

Please look out for the Latest Neighbourhood Watch reminders in the Parish Council Notice Board by the bus stop and for other Information on the Notice Board outside Whitehorse Printing, which will include Urgent messages received through the Ringmaster network.

Beyond the Parish

We often receive notices from organisations outside the Parish which may be of interest. Notices from non-profit-making organisations will be printed in part or full as space permits.

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Gardeners Club

The next meeting is on **February 7th**, when Timothy Walker will talk on *Colour in a Small Garden*, and the competition is **A Seasonal Posy**. Then on **March 6th** Dr. R. Fox will talk on *Honey Fungus - the Tree Killer*, and the competition will be *Hellebores Floating on Water*.

On **3rd April** Mrs Elliott will consider *Style, Shape and Surprise in a Small Garden*, and the comp. *Foliage Arrangement* The Gardeners Club meets in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm, normally on the first Monday of the month. Visitors always welcome.

Rehearsing Brief Encounter

Just when you thought all the great romantic stories had been told ...

An actress and a director meet for the first time. They are to rehearse a play of that classic film 'Brief Encounter'. She has done a soap and known some fame. He is young aspiring and hopeful. The Trevor Howard & Celia Johnson love story lights the blue touch-paper and suddenly the two unsuspecting people are rocketed into the atmosphere of love. But, for the Howard and Johnson doubles, the fireworks are just about to start! They, too, are not free to love ...

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, to Margaret Turner 15, Tyrrells Close, or to the Clerk by **25th March** for the April issue. Items on floppy disk, or by email to m.ricketts@rl.ac.uk are appreciated.

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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Gardening Notes

Well here we in the new Millennium so what are we going to be doing with our gardens? Let see if we can make a really good show this year!

But first things first. We need to tidy up - remembering that the worst of the weather is still to come make sure that all the protective covers are still in place and any heating arrangements are still operating properly - it's amazing how much we take for granted and when we get a sudden cold spell we find it's not working.

If you are growing potatoes this year now is the time to set them up for sprouting and make sure you order any flower or vegetable seeds if you haven't done so already. Prune late flowering clematis now and take cuttings of chrysanthemums. Sow bedding plants and plant up begonias in pots to go out later. Prepare hanging baskets and troughs ready for planting, and if you are having any mini-plugs delivered get them planted into 3" pots as soon as possible. Mini-plugs are an economical way of buying provided you can grow them on. They cost about £12 for 100 plants whilst a pack of 10 ready to plant out averages about £10. The latest time for ordering is about early to mid March.

The effect of global warming is already apparent if only from the things that are still flowering - on 1st December I still had in flower roses, campanula (carpatia), jasmine, ox-eye daisies, red hot pokers, Welsh poppies, iris stylosa, carnations, geraniums, Garria eliptica, periwinkle, primroses, and violets! The average temperature has only risen by about 1c but it has extended the season and the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere affects the plants too, generally meaning bigger plants, but the plants are less nutritious both for animals and ourselves.

I found in Dobie's catalogue a plant which can be used as a substitute for sugar. It is grown in S. America for just that, is 30 times sweeter than sugar and is safe for diabetics. It can be grown in pots in conservatory or on the window-sill, or outside in the summer. Simply crush into your tea or whatever you wish to sweeten and there you have it. The plant is called Stevia rebaudiana. It costs £3-65 a packet. You often find things if you look carefully through a catalogue.

As this is the Millennium Year why not make a feature of some plants from the Bible or even make a Bible Garden. Some suitable plants would be Lily of the Valley, Judas Tree (Cercis siliquastrum) which

makes a small bush or small tree with pink flowers, the crown daisy Chrysanthemum coronarium, the corn marigold C. segetum Camomile anthemis sp. poppies papaver rhoeas.

There is no reason why you should not grow oranges, lemons, olives, grapes and figs if you have a greenhouse, and of these grapes and figs will grow and fruit outside. Then there are herbs Coriander (Coriandrum sativum), cumin (Cuminum cyminum), mint (Mentha longifolia), Rue (Ruta chalepensis) & marjoram (Origanum sp.) Nuts are also mentioned in the Bible and Almond trees are both small and decorative.

Tomatoes are one item grown by most people so I wonder if you've come across the catalogue 'Totally Tomatoes' which lists about 150 varieties of tomato plus various peppers etc. There are tomatoes from pea size to well over a pound in weight. The most popular tomato has been 'Sungold', a golden sweet cherry tomato. There is now a new one called 'Golden Cherry', which it is claimed is even better.

Well I Hope you have a Very Good Year and that all your gardening wishes come true.

Laurie

Addresses: Samuel Dobie & Son, Long Road, Paignton Devon, TQ4 7SX

Totally Tomatoes, PO Box 202, Paignton, Devon, TQ12 6ZH note - credit cards are processed in America and are subject the current exchange rate.

Front Garden Competition

As part of the Garden competition this year all front gardens (as seen from the road) will be judged around July 17th, so lets make Harwell a blaze of colour this summer - more details will follow.

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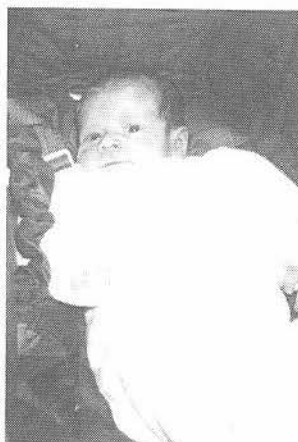
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The last Millennium's last Harwell Baby?

To the left we picture Connor O'Loughlin, born Christmas Day, 1999. Was he the last baby to be born in Harwell Village in the last Century? Congratulations to the family who live in Westfield. And who is the first of this Century?

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