

The HARWELL NEWS

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 107

June 2000



Parish Council

At the **April** meeting, the matter of congestion in the High Street caused by cars, in the vicinity of Cherry Barn was raised. It was agreed to approach the owners to discuss the matter. There was also a problem in The Park, and the Clerk was asked to forward a letter from a resident to the Vale Housing Association.

It was reported that work was under way to complete the new Recreation Ground Fencing, and the Vale had granted an extension of the period of their grant so it could still be claimed.

The **May** meeting was the Annual Council Meeting, at which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected. Brian Mulford was re-elected as Chairman, and Graham White was elected as his deputy. Due to Mrs Turner's District Council commitments, Clive Silver has taken over from her in assisting the Newsletter editor with distribution.

Under matters arising, it was reported that the stile on footpath 7 was about the same height as others in the village; it had been suggested by a parishioner that the height was excessive. No applications had been received for the part-time worker advertised in the last newsletter; the Council referred the matter of assistance for Mr Pike to the Lands Committee.

There was a request for a donation from Harwell Summer Playscheme, and after some discussion, it was agreed to give £200 towards insurance and arts & crafts materials.

The Feast Committee requested permission for the fairground rides to arrive in the Rec. several days before Feast Day, and permission was given subject to several conditions.

At the **Annual Parish Meeting**, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Brian Mulford, gave a summary of the year's activities, and then most of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Didcot development, and the County's process of choosing the direction. Tony Hughes of *Keep Harwell Rural* and our County Councillor, Colin Lamont, explained the recent history. As the County's Environment Committee has since met, their reports elsewhere in the newsletter will tell you of the current situation, and explain the need to write to the County Council's Chief Executive as well as to County Councillors, **before the full meeting of the Council in July.**

Parish Council Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion, at 7.30pm. The next two are 12th June and 10th July. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Debbie Roberts a week before the meeting - contact her on 820006 (office, answerphone) or 832727 (home).

Parishioners are reminded that playing golf in the Recreation Ground is not permitted.

The deadline for the next newsletter is 25th July, with distribution about 3rd August.

Development of Didcot

You may have heard by now that on 31 May the County Council's Environment Committee voted again to reject the recommendation of the Examination in Public (EIP), and passed a resolution supporting the West option. This is the one that 'wraps round' Didcot to the west, from the Didcot - Milton link road at one end towards West Hagbourne at the other. It would encompass the bungalows that are in Harwell Parish, and its western boundary would be the footpath just to the east of Zulu Farm. The recommendation goes to the full County Council on 18 July. This will be a crucial, although not necessarily final, decision.

Considerable interest was shown in the stall run by the Parish Council and Keep Harwell Rural at the Harwell Feast, and both organisations would like to thank the many people who have added their names to the list of people willing to be asked to write letters, or otherwise support the case for the North East option, as was firmly recommended by the EIP. It was clear from listening to the debate at the Environment Committee on 31 May that Councillors are influenced by the number of letters received supporting or objecting to the options. When you write though it is vital that you say clearly which option you support, and that you write to the Chief Executive or the Director of Environmental Services as well as to Councillors. The letters that are logged and reported (by number regardless of detailed content) to the Committees are those received by these officials. This can clearly produce a biased count, but it is the system that is used. With this system there were 58 letters received since 22 March supporting the West and 11 supporting the North East. Draw your own conclusions about the effects!

The outcome of the County Council meeting on 18 July is important, not just to Didcot, Harwell and the other surrounding villages, but to the County as a whole, especially if the decision is to build to the West and hence go against Government policy guidelines on the protection of good quality agricultural land. We are very grateful to those who respond to calls to write letters, and to those who write without being asked. But we clearly cannot rely on just a few communications, however sound the arguments. If you have views, make sure that they are heard and counted!

Harwell Parish Council and Keep Harwell Rural. Contact Margaret Turner (821248), Peter Creasy (221192) or Tony Hughes (835301)

Planning Matters

Notice of Permission:

HAR/15719/2 Erection of new house and garage, Padua, Old A34 subject to the ridge of the new dwelling being no more than 50cm higher than that of the original proposal.

HAR/15600 Conversion of integral garage (to?) playroom at 29 Manor Green.

HAR/15870 Demolition of modern Farm Buildings, conversion of others to 2 dwellings, erection of 1 single-storey dwelling, etc at Bishops Manor Farm, Townsend.

HAR/1399/2 Demolition of existing dwelling and garage, erection of new dwelling and garage at Brook View, The Cleave. The Council considered that this decision by the Vale WHDC was inappropriate, and asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Vale to voice its dissatisfaction.

New Applications:

HAR/14234/3-D Detailed application for erection of detached dwelling and garage on land at rear of Lassen, Reading Road. All but one of the dwellings in the area are bungalows, and the Council considered that the proposed dwelling was far too large for the elevated site.

HAR/16375 Replacement garage at side of Three-ways, Broadway. The Council had no comment to make to the Vale WHDC.

Harwell Gardeners Club

Forthcoming events - on Tuesday 4th July we visit Newington Nurseries (note change of date). On August 1st we have a visit to Kingston Blount. Arrival at each venue is 7pm - if you require transport or would like to go please let Adele Harris know - tel. 835238.

The autumn programme includes talks on 'Planting for autumn colour' on September 4th, and 'Cyclamen' on October 2nd.

County News

Sadly the Environmental Committee decided once again to recommend extension of Didcot to the west at its meeting on 31st May. One of the County officers said to me afterwards "I think that you won the argument but lost the battle."

Some of the members of the Committee are now so entrenched in their views that they simply do not listen to the arguments that are put forward and the result was not a surprise to me. Although this is a setback, it is not the end of the story. The decision is not a final one. That will come at the full Council meeting on 18th July. We must hope that the larger number of councillors who will be there and who have not yet made up their minds will prove more amenable to reason.

We shall all have to get our pens out and redouble our letter writing efforts. It has to be said that Wittenham people have outgunned us in that respect and I believe that some councillors have decided on the basis of the weight of their mail rather than its contents. I still strongly believe that the proper environmental and planning considerations strongly favour our case and we have somehow to get that across.

After the meeting in December 1998 when the Environmental Committee voted to extend Didcot to the north-east our opponents made great play of the fact that that decision went against the officers' recommendation at that time. This time the recommendation was the opposite and the vote was not only contrary to that but also ignored the officers' "strong advice", which is something that they do not give lightly. Now it is our turn to complain about that. Please contact Tony Hughes if you are willing to help in this way.

Colin Lamont

Tel. 832860, colinlamont@compuserve.com

SURGICAL CHIROPODIST

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

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Telephone Abingdon 834093.



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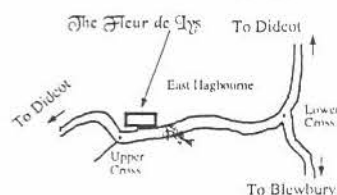
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Steve & Eve Collier



FUN CLUB NEWS FUN CLUB NEWS

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings between 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.

Many thanks to all the Committee for their hard work in preparing our float for the Feast Day Parade. Thanks also to the Mums who helped run our stall, to Mr Lay for providing a tractor and trailer, to the Dad's who drove it, and finally to our sponsors *Do It All* in Didcot, *The Bacofoil Company* and *TVE Hire Centre* in Abingdon.

Thank you also to everyone who supported the Thai Curry Evening, in particular our chef, Marachu, Mrs Allen, Waitrose, and Sainsburys.

Forthcoming Events:

27th June Fun Club's Millennium picnic at Harwell Rec from 9.45am - all welcome. The theme is a day at the seaside.

July 11th - Summer outing to Finckley Down Farm Park, Andover. Also in the evening will be our **AGM** - this will be a bring and share supper - venue to be arranged - all welcome.

July 18th Our last meeting of the term - we have arranged bouncy castles for the children and will be holding a wine raffle. Summer picnics have been arranged for every Tuesday throughout the holidays. Please call me for details.

When Hiring the Village Hall, it is now possible to hire our tables and chairs at a cost of £5 per hire.

Finally and most importantly ...

After this term a number of our present Committee will be standing down. This means we will be desperately short of volunteers. Without a Committee there is no Fun Club! So we are asking - please, if there are any of you who could spare a small amount of your free time to help out? We don't ask that you take on a specific role, just attend the meetings about once every six weeks, share your ideas, and if there is anything you can help with then please volunteer.. The meetings are friendly; we have a chat and a glass of wine and discuss how best to do things for our children.

Fun Club will close without more volunteers
Please call Annie on 821254 for further information.

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Please come along and support

Harwell School Association's Auction

of
Items and Promises

Saturday 24th June

Harwell Village Hall

Viewing from 7pm

Bidding starts at 8pm

Free Admission - Licensed Bar

Children Welcome

Catalogues available

All Donations of Items and Promises
gratefully received

Phone Debbie on 820449 for further details

News from Harwell Tennis Club

The Tennis Club has welcomed several new members this season. Ten members of the club enjoyed a round-robin doubles tournament in May, with Debbie and Matthew Davies finishing the winners. The next tournament is on Sunday 25th June.

We have 28 juniors, aged 6 - 11, attending coaching on Monday evenings; the greatest achievement so far being a 15-stroke rally by a 6yr old - so look out Tim Henman!

Club morning - Mondays, Club night Thursdays, 7pm. Anyone wishing to join the club please come along to one of the above sessions.

Front Gardens Competition Saturday 22nd July

All gardens in the Parish of Harwell will be judged, as seen from footpath or road. The judging criteria are as follows:

1. First Impression
2. Maintenance - lawn, hardstanding, pruning, dead-heading, weeds etc.
3. Contents - variety of plants & shrubs, quality of plants.
4. Layout - imaginative use of available space, including containers and other features.

A points system will be used with equal weight to each section.



Our mobile information unit will be in Didcot on Wednesday 5th July and Wednesday 16th August. We shall be in the Market Square and we look forward to seeing you between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

We can offer all sorts of advice and information on any topic to do with disability. It doesn't matter whether or not you are disabled yourself, a carer, a friendly neighbour or a relative ... or just someone who wants to know what goes on in our van ... we really would like to meet you, so do call in and say "hello".

Harwell Women's Institute

At our forthcoming meetings we have:

On **14th June** David Harsant will talk on "Aromatherapy for Family & Home".

On **12th July** we have May Parker on "Monet's House & Garden" and a competition - A Flower out of the garden.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Please come along and join us,
Gwen Froud, Press Secretary.

Sobell House Coffee Morning at Tyrrells Close, 1st June

A cheque for £185 was sent to Sobell House as a result of the generosity of those friends who came, gave donations, or helped on any way. We are very grateful for your support - Thank You!

Audrey Cumberland & Joyce Millward

Millennium Spring Show Results

Best Spring Garden	Janet Sturdy
Flowers	Brenda Poulter
Vegetables	Mike Pepper
Domestic	Wendy Sinclair
Handicraft	Lyn Nickerson
Floral Art	Wendy Sinclair
Photography	Josie Rostagni
Children under 6	Thomas Carr
Children 6 - 9 yrs	Christian Nickerson
Children 10 - 15 yrs	Naomi Nickerson

John Fisher presents the under-6 Children's prize of a Millennium Mug to Thomas Carr, as organiser Adele Harris looks on.



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The Millennium Committee

presents

A weekend of Entertainment
*in the Millennium Marquee
Harwell Recreation Ground*

Friday 9th June 3.30pm

Millennium Tea Party

For the over 70's in Harwell.

Saturday 10th June 8pm

"Goodnight Sweetheart"

A 1940's themed evening of dance, song, and entertainment. Please come dressed for the era
Tickets £5.

Sunday 11th June 3 - 4pm

Children's Entertainment

for 5 - 11 years old. Free.

Sunday 11th June 6pm

Songs of Praise

with The Harwell Young Singers, Harwell School
Choir, Bagg's Tree Buskers

All Welcome

The following Children have a free Harwell Commemorative medallion awaiting collection! Please contact Terry Doughty, tel. 221600 and arrange a convenient time to collect.

Gemma Clegg	Callum Olearczyk	Catherine Squires
Emily Clegg	Ffion Olearczyk	Robert Squires
Robert McAdam	Joshua Perry	Stacey Stewart
Victoria McAdam	Erin Pratley	Gillian Taylor
Cameron McKay	Frank Preston	Mary Taylor
Jodie Merrifield	Adam Richards	Matthew Woods
	James Samways	

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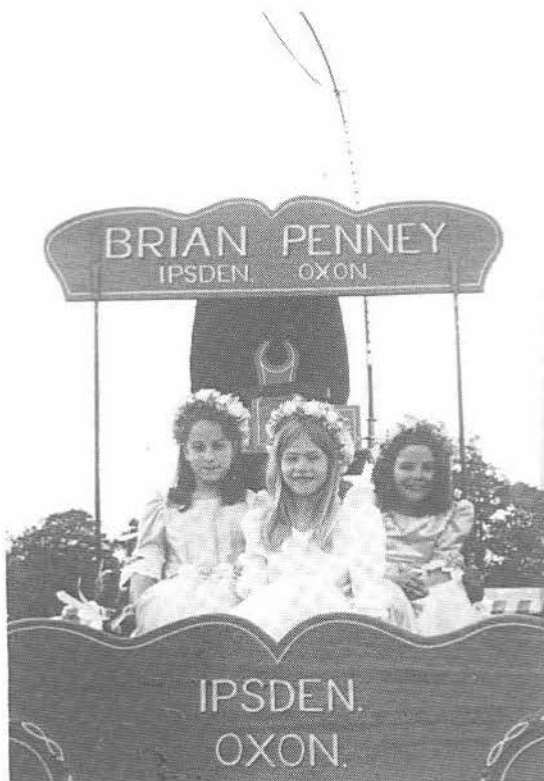
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Harwell Feast 2000

The Feast Committee was delighted to see so many villagers and friends taking part in and enjoying Feast Day. We were all grateful the weather took a turn for the better! We have been flattered to receive lots of good feedback from the village, particularly for the "best parade we've ever seen" (this side of Disneyland anyway!). The Committee now takes a well-earned rest!



The May Queen, Naomi Nickerson, with her attendants Eleanor McDonagh and Hailey Wright



First in the Bonny Baby competition, Ethan Bowers



The Olde Harwellians showing off their trophy for Best Float - Rosemary Mulford, Fred Gee and Betty Pyke

Thanks - Thanks - Thanks

to our many voluntary helpers:

Mick Pryor, Richard & Roy Pateman, Gareth Derbyshire, Ann & Dennis Lynn, Keith Sinclair, Ron Tompsett, Brian Mulford, Arnold Wilkes, Yorkie, Sean Harmer, Brendan O'Neill, Maurice Earl; Caroline, Vivienne and all at Siverdown Riding School, Martin Gibson, Julia Haines, Sue & David Litchfield, Joan Spratt, Tony Cooke, Ann Lamont, Kate Beswick, Kath Luker, Nora Dearlove, Barry & Mick Dearlove, Peter Abbott, Jane Soffe, Barry & Tina Jones, The Rabbit Club, Julie Ball, Sid Cox, Pauline & Michael Lay, Wallingford Dog Agility Club, Mr Cansell, Kath Pearce, The Baggs Tree Buskers, Paddy & Taff, José Rostagni, Josie Huckle, Kath Lay, Don Langford, St Matthews Ringers, The Pantomime Cast, June Winfield, Gerry Parr, Betty Hooker, Ruth Wilkinson, Rosemary Kember & Celia Lockwood.

Did you take your video camera to Harwell Feast?

The Feast Committee would like to produce a video of the day using contributions from anyone who would like to take part in this project. Mr Norman Staples, of Pear Tree Barn High St. (tel 833660) will be pleased to receive any videos of the Feast with a view to producing a combined one within the next few months.



Harwell School's Display of Country Dancing



Parade of Floats

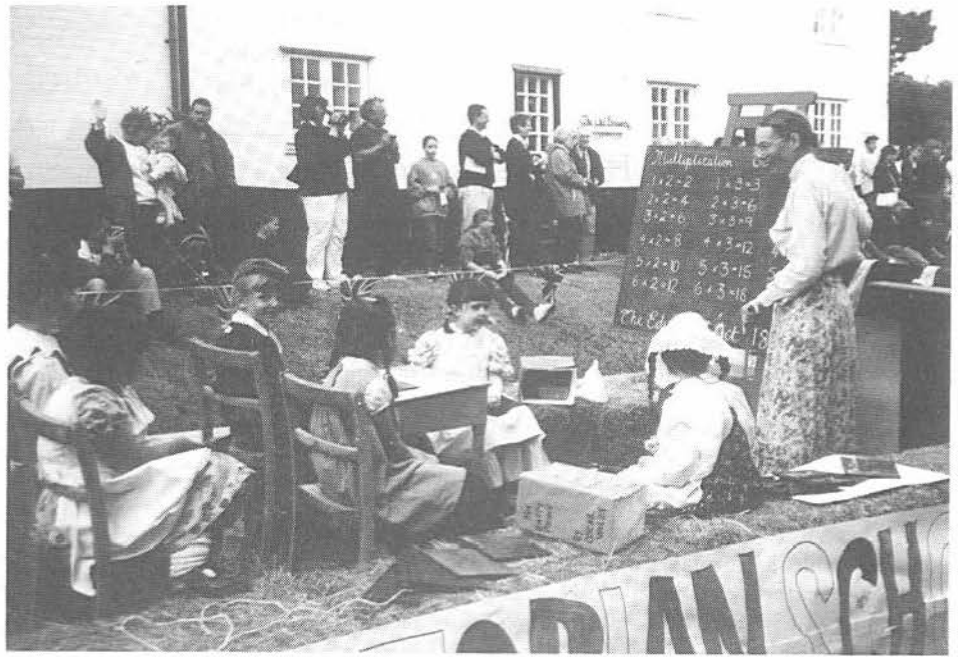
The Harwell Feast Committee would like its thanks to the nine organisations who provided such superb floats for this year's parade. The Fun Club, Little Pippins Pre-School, Busy Bees, The Beavers, Cubs and Scout Harwellians, The Rainbows, and Harwell

The winners were The Olde Harwellian superb display of The Fire of Harwell, they demonstrated was still burning after years!

Thanks are also due to the owners of cars and tractors, especially to Mr Mobb, Mr Langford, and to Mr Hartwright for his magnificent steam engine.

We would also like to thank Mr Ted J Dennis Lay for again supplying the tractors for the floats, and thanks also to the





Our photographs show, clockwise from the top left:

First Man on the Moon - The Fun Club

The Pantomime Cast

Victorian School - The Rainbows

The Great Fire of Harwell - The Olde Harwellians

Marching to War and *The Home Front* and

Evacuees - St. Matthews Scouts, Cubs, Beavers

The Pied Piper of Hamelin - Busy Bees

The Nativity - Little Pippins

Silverdown Riding School in mediaeval costume



Feast 2000 Sponsors:

UKAEA at the Harwell
International Business Centre

Martin Ricketts

Nightingale Associates

Lankelly Foundation

Crabtree & Evelyn

Roy Bullock





Parade of Floats

The Harwell Feast Committee would like to express its thanks to the nine organisations who prepared such superb floats for this year's parade. They were: The Fun Club, Little Pippins Pre-School Group, The Busy Bees, The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, The Olde Harwellians, The Rainbows, and Harwell Church.

The winners were The Olde Harwellians with their superb display of The Fire of Harwell, 1852, which they demonstrated was still burning after all these years!

Thanks are also due to the owners of the vintage cars and tractors, especially to Mr Mobbs, Mr Read, Mr Langford, and to Mr Hartwright for supplying his magnificent steam engine.

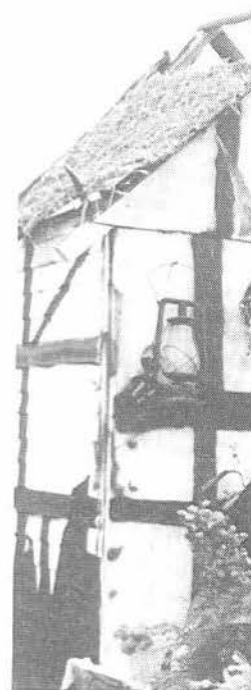
We would also like to thank Mr Ted Lay and Mr Dennis Lay for again supplying the tractors and trailers for the floats, and thanks also to the drivers.

Our photographs show, clockwise from the top left:

First Man on the Moon - The Fun Club
The Pantomime Cast
Victorian School - The Rainbows
The Great Fire of Harwell - The Olde Harwellians
Marching to War and *The Home Front* and
Evacuees - St. Matthews Scouts, Cubs, Beavers
The Pied Piper of Hamelin - Busy Bees
The Nativity - Little Pippins
 Silverdown Riding School in mediaeval costume

Feast 2000 Sponsors:

UKAEA at the Harwell
 International Business Centre
 Martin Ricketts
 Nightingale Associates
 Lankelly Foundation
 Crabtree & Evelyn
 Roy Bullock



Harwell Feast 2000 Committee

Janice Markey, Peter Cissell, Janet Derbyshire, Pat Cooke, Trevor Packer, Jake Castle, Jayne Newman, Chris Kay, Sid Gale, Colin Lamont & Lynne Moores.

Results Results Results Results Results

Fun Run: Despite a muddy course, 37 competitors ran in this year's Fun Run. Senior and veteran contestants ran a five mile course, while juniors competed over 2.5 miles. After organising the race in previous years, Roger Thetford put on his running kit and won the senior mens' race in just under thirty minutes. Lewis King followed up in second place and Leigh Shepard took third. John Oliver was the winning veteran. Alison Bunn won the women's senior race. She was followed by the winner of the veteran's race, Moira McIver. Second place in the seniors race went to Nancy-Lynn Foster, with Samantha Marsden second.

There were fewer juniors than in previous years but they put in creditable performances, with Holly Spence winning the girls' Under-16 category. Daniel Wilkes easily won the boys' under-16 category and went on to complete the seniors race in fourth place - so watch for him in next year's seniors race! Thanks are due to the new organising team who helped to make the race run smoothly.

Lost Property The following items were handed in: A silver watch, A dog-lead, A child's coat, green/blue, age 5-6, A Lamp. Also, if anyone found a purse (black / dark red leather) possibly dropped on the Grove Road, the owner would be very grateful to have it returned. Contact Janice Markey on 832802.

Bonny Baby Competition

1st	Ethan Bowers	11 months
2nd	Joseph Mobbs	10 months
3rd	Rebecca Kelly	12 weeks
4th	Ellis Downes	11 months

Special prizes:

Best Dressed - Jennifer Webb
Biggest Smile - Joe Wooloff

Children's Fancy Dress

0 - 5 years:

1st	Bryony Davies as <i>A Victorian Schoolchild</i>
2nd	Jack Wilkinson as <i>Darth Maul</i>
3rd=	Sarah McIlroy Speed as <i>Little Star</i> Meredith Davies as <i>Little Star</i>

6 - 11 years:

1st	Emily & Megan Dearlove as <i>Big Ben & Little Ben</i>
2nd	Emily Davies as <i>The Millenium Bug</i>
3rd	Elna Wilkinson as <i>The Hare-in-the-Well</i>

Fun Dog Show

Class 1: Naughtiest Puppy

1st	<i>Patch</i>	Barry Jones
2nd	<i>Scamp</i>	John Russell
3rd	<i>Bonnie</i>	Michael Deare

Class 2: Best Long-coated Adult

1st	<i>Holly</i>	Crystal Padbury
2nd	<i>Zac</i>	?
3rd	<i>Bryn</i>	Mick Chambers

Class 3: Best Short-coated Adult

1st	<i>Toby</i>	Mrs Deare
2nd	<i>Lucky</i>	Jamie Flood
3rd	<i>Barney</i>	Jill Lowe

Class 4: Dog most like its owner

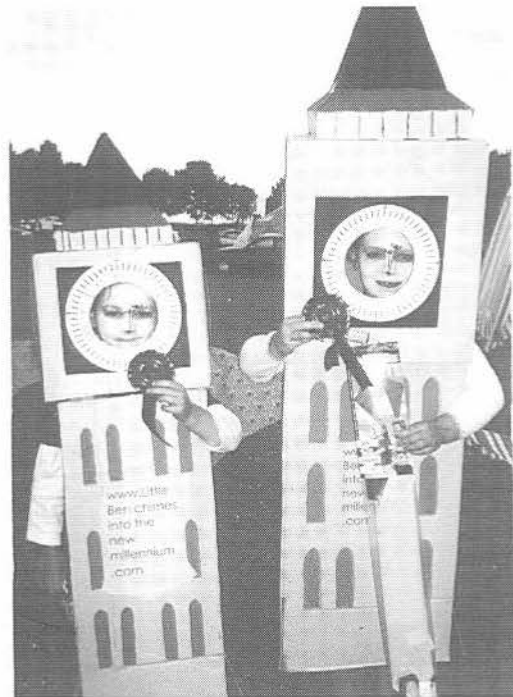
1st	<i>Shandy</i>	Kimberley Berry
2nd	<i>Rocky</i>	Jessica Vaughan

Class 5: Sausage Refusal

1st	<i>Kiki</i>	José Rostagni
2nd	<i>Barney</i>	Annette Lowe
3rd	<i>Bryn</i>	Mick Chambers

Class 6: Fastest Recall

1st	<i>Katie</i>	Annette Lowe
2nd	<i>Bryn</i>	Mick Chambers
3rd	?	Millie Ratcliffe



Fancy Dress Winners Emily & Megan Dearlove as *Big Ben & Little Ben*



Joint Winners of the Michael Armstrong Trophy for Sports - Rachel & Chris Nickerson



Not quite at the end of the Parade, The Harwell Bier was displayed by Chris Stott and St. Matthews' members.

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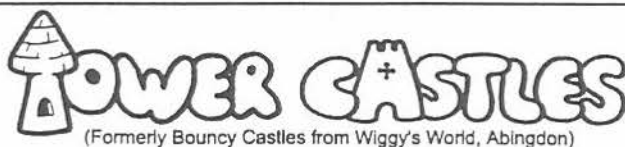
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The Millennium Committee

Would like to invite your under 5 Pre-school child to the Biggest Teddy Bear's Picnic this Village has ever seen

In the Freeman Orchard - Entry Free

Saturday, July 1st. from 3.30p.m.

Bring you favourite Teddy ...

Important Notice - Whatever provision your child attends, i.e. State Nursery, Private Day Care or Little Pippins Pre-School your child is very welcome. This invitation is for all children who live in the Parish of Harwell.

The gate to the Car Park will be closed for safety reasons and we would hope that nearly everybody could walk to the Orchard, we have to respect the residents of Gaveston Road.

Also to come from the Millenium Committee ...

Millenium Variety Show

To be staged on October 20th and 21st. The first meeting for all folks interested will be held on Wednesday 6th September at 8pm in the Freeman Hall. All talents, all ages welcome. This event replaces the Olde Tyme Music Hall advertised in the calendar.

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 VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

Two Messages Have Recently Been Received From Your Local Police Regarding Distraction Burglaries.

The First stated that Two Males had been reported as saying that a Pensioner's Trees were dangerous and offered to attend to them.

The Second concerned Two Males reported as posing as Electricity Meter Readers offering a Rebate and asking for Access in order to Read the Meter.

These are only some of the many ways burglars try to obtain entry into your home.

If You Are Approached By Anyone Offering Similar Services BE ON YOUR GUARD, DO NOT LET THEM INTO YOUR HOUSE and Telephone the Wantage Police Control Room 01235 776000.

MANIPULATION ACUPUNCTURE HOMEOPATHY PHYSIOTHERAPY



Sue Huart

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An environmental disaster is happening in Oxfordshire

Ragwort is the most common cause of poisoning in livestock in Britain. Animal lovers will be horrified to hear that ragwort is deadly poisonous both when it is growing and also when dry in hay. A pony dies after eating as little as 21bs. The toxins affect the liver and the pony dies a horribly painful death. There is no cure. Not only is the plant spreading at an alarming rate across our common and open spaces, it is smothering and killing rare wild flowers such as the green winged orchid and the delicate harebell. Once we lose these wild flowers they will never return.

As ragwort is such an injurious weed, it is specified under the 1959 Weeds Act. The ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Fisheries has powers to serve clearance notices on landowners that allow the plant to grow. Ragwort is easy to recognise, in the spring it produces a rosette of dark green leaves with irregular and ragged edges, it then grows into an upright plant as tall as 3 feet with a woody stem slightly red at the base. In July the plant produces a large head of flowers with daisy-like petals in bright yellow. This prolific plant produces up to 150,000 seeds a year of which 70 will germinate.

The best method of clearing ragwort is to spray the area during late April/early May with a herbicide but this is environmentally unacceptable in most places. However, the plant does pull up very easily once the flower head appears and this proves an equally effective method of clearing it. Clearance must be done before it has a chance to seed. All plants pulled up must be put into bags and ideally incinerated to prevent the seeds germinating again. Always remember to wear gloves when doing this.

What we need is for everyone to work together in the county to clear this toxic weed. Private land, open spaces, nature reserves, roadside verges and gardens all need to be checked thoroughly this summer and cleared of ragwort. This is a project that any one can help with, whether it is advising us of areas you have found or simply pulling up the plants as you find them while out walking. To do that all you will need is a bag to put the plant into, it's as simple as that!

The British Horse Society is organising a major ragwort clearance programme across Oxfordshire this summer. We welcome everyone who has read this article to join us. If you want to safeguard the environment for future generations and care about the welfare of animals please join our campaign and become involved in this project.

For advice, leaflets, or to offer help please contact the BHS welfare officer Miss D M Harris on 01993 702844.

From the Archives

100 years ago ... The only meeting between April and October in 1900 was held on July 12th at 8.15p.m. The only business recorded was Cemetery matters. 'The new board with fees was inspected and the best way to fix it in the Cemetery was considered. It was decided that it be erected with iron supports in a place decided upon by the Chairman and that Mr Beesley, Hendred be asked to do the work. Doctor Rice promised to see about the matter.

The Chairman stated what had been done in the Burial Ground since the last P.C. meeting. The Clerk stated that some pegs belonging to the Cemetery could not be placed in their proper places till the heap of soil was removed. Mr Tyrrell promised to provide a horse and cart to take away this soil if the Council would employ a man. This offer was accepted by the Council.

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 Clive Silver, The Broadway, or to the Clerk by **25th July** for the August issue. Items on floppy disk, or by email to m.ricketts@rl.ac.uk are appreciated.

Gardening Notes, June / July

We are nearly half way through the year and we have had some of the most variable weather already - April was the wettest since records began in 1766 which was followed by 11 days without any measurable rain, during which the ground became crusted so hard that it was impossible to get a trowel in to plant out seedlings, but the job has to be done. So now we have had some rain the job can be got on with. We need to be planting out those half-hardy plants which up till now have had to be kept frost free - plants such as runner beans, sweet corn, tomatoes etc. not forgetting that sweetcorn is best planted in a block to ensure pollination.

Hanging baskets, planters and the like can be put out now with their begonias, fuchsias, petunias, impatiens, geraniums, etc. It is also time to remove dead flower heads from such things as Lilac and to prune back early flowering Clematis, Japanese Quinces and other shrubs that have flowered. Lawns need to be cut and fed and given a dressing of selective weed killer, Primroses and other members of that family may be split up now and planted out. Check Lillies for beetles, you know those red beetles that fall off as soon as you touch the foliage, if you can cover the ground underneath with newspaper or whatever is handy before you touch the foliage you will make sure of most of them.

Ponds need to be kept free of blanket weed either straw pads or chemicals, the water plants may need thinning out. Tadpoles should be watched and when the young frogs hatch care should be taken to see that they are run over by the mower if the grass goes to the edge of the water. Frogs are invaluable because of the number of slugs they get rid of - better than all your slug pellets etc.

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If you have Duckweed or Azola on your pond watch that it doesn't become invasive - a little is useful in that it shades the surface and keeps blanket weed at bay but if they become invasive they may have to be thinned. They can be skimmed off with a net.

Chelsea this year was for the first time in a new 'pavilion' and the largest marquee in the world, having served its purpose for about 50, years has gone. The new structure gives much more light for the exhibits and wider gangways for the public. There were 23 gardens outside the marquee and web sites ran a competition as which was the most popular. It would seem that amongst the most popular was the one constructed by prisoners at Lethal gaol. Although other shows cover different parts of the season in due course Chelsea is the one show that tries to cover the whole season in one go and has so many exhibits from other countries.

I'm having problems with rabbits at the moment, as I write there are two nibbling the grass on the lawn - I don't mind them keeping the grass down for me but I object when they turn their attention to some of the other plants. The only way to protect them is to surround them with a physical barrier, either individually or as a group. Half a large plastic bottle makes a good cloche and fleece covers the rest. Hoping for some better weather,

Laurie

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The Millenium Committee presents ...

Around The World In 80 Days



An Outdoor Spectacular
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Church Grounds

Wednesday 16th August 7pm

Tickets: Adults £4 children/OAPs
£2

Available from White Horse
Newsagents from mid-July. Wet
weather alternative - Village Hall.

Chairs provided for those who would like them but if the weather is dry why not bring a blanket etc for the children?

When Phileas Fogg, the quint-essential English gentleman, and his faithful valet Passepartout touch down in their great race around the globe, every second counts as they recount their adventures and travels. You'll join them aboard steamers across the oceans, on an elephant through the Indian jungle, on a Chinese junk, and finally, on the great steam railway stretching across America.

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company in association with Snap Theatre Company join forces for the second time to present this exciting outdoor venture, which promises a fast-moving, inventive and entertaining journey around the world!

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.

Millennium Street Party

On the August Bank Holiday, Monday 28th, we would very much like to hold a Street Party, a special occasion for the whole village. The Street Party would take place in the High Street, but before we seek permission from the Vale of White Horse District Council to partially close the High Street for a few hours, we need to ask for your help in organising this event, and we have to ensure we have enough support to run the event successfully. If you are interested in joining a Millennium sub-Committee to organise this, or have any comments to raise about this proposal, please contact John Fisher (tel. 221050) asap. There will be a meeting for all people interested in this event on **Wednesday 28th June** in the Freeman Hall at 8pm.

Harwell Millennium Committee.

St Matthews Flower Festival

with the theme

The Life and Teachings of Christ

Saturday 1st July 10am - 5pm

Sunday 2nd July 2pm - 5pm

Church Tower open. Teas 3 - 5pm

Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30am Saturday

Open House & Gardens Afternoon

Saturday 1st July 2pm - 5pm

Adults £3, OAP / child £1.

Please start at the Village Hall

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HARWELL and the YEAR 2000

STREET PARTIES

Are you interested in participating in a party in your street during the millennium celebration or a bigger party in the main street if it can be closed to traffic!

Are you interested in principle ? If the answer is NO you need go no further!

Street name

If YES would you be interested in a party in any of the following ;

1. Your street or road if practicable ? YES ☐ Not Practicable ☐

2. Your immediate practicable street (working with residents of that street)

YES ☐

3. The main street in Harwell IF it can be legally closed to traffic ,something we are investigating !

YES ☐

Any comments?.....

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If you have answered YES or have any comments please place your reply slips in one of the following collection points : 1. Harwell Church 2.Post Office 3. Paper Shop 4. Harwell Royal British Legion..

Thank you for your time! Harwell Millennium Committee

See article in newsletter for further information