

The HARWELL NEWS

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 108

August 2000



Parish Council

At the June meeting there was some discussion of the Council's insurance. Although renewing with the current company, it was decided to seek an alternative quote for comparison to ensure that good value was being obtained.

The Council accepted the recommendations of its Lands Committee as to the Cemetery area to be used in future for burial of ashes. It also agreed to the interment of ashes in urns or caskets and to allow memorial tablets provided they were no more than 12" square and sunk to ground level. The charges for interment of ashes were also revised.

Our District and County Councillor, Colin Lamont, reported that a periodic review of the electoral boundaries was under way, the purpose of which is to seek to equalise the representation, so that each Vale Councillor represents a similar number of electors. The current Harwell and Chilton area is out of line with the average so likely to be affected. At the July meeting Mr Clive Silver agreed to review the figures and any proposal and report to the Council.

The proposal for approaching a local firm for a grant under the Land-fill Tax scheme was discussed; the problem is that bodies that apply for such grants must be enrolled with ENTRUST, which the Parish Council cannot do directly. It was agreed to pursue other sources of funds.

At the July meeting of the Council, a group of youths put forward their proposal that an area of the Recreation Ground be converted to a BMX track. The proposed area would be just beyond the old boundary bank. Because many issues were raised, such as ongoing maintenance and insurance, it was agreed that the proposals would need thorough consideration. Mrs June Blissett and Mr Graham White agreed to take the project forward and the proposers were asked to provide a detailed plan as a starting point.

At the July meeting of the Parish Council the Parish Accounts for the year to March 31st were adopted and signed as satisfactory. The Clerk, Mrs Debbie Roberts was thanked for her continued care and attention to detail in these. A copy of the summary of income and expenditure appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

It was reported that a meeting will be held in early September to decide County Nursery Facilities in the area. It is likely that the existing Harwell Nursery School will either relocate to Chilton School or Nurseries opened at both Harwell and Chilton Primary Schools.

The Council's July meeting was before the County's decision on the direction of Didcot development. It was reported that over 130 letters had been

sent by Parishioners to the County Council, with copies to all Councillors, for which all those involved were thanked. Representatives were to speak at the meeting on 18th July. The result of the County's deliberations is reported elsewhere. The Council had received consultation documents on proposals for the County's Community Health Trusts. Mrs June Blissett agreed to review the document for the Council.

Donations were made at the last two meetings as follows - to Harwell Tennis Club £500 towards the cost of recoating the tennis courts surface, and to Winterbrook Youth Club £125 towards its Hall rental.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion, at 7.30pm. But with no meeting in August the next will be on 11th September. 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). The deadline for the next newsletter is 23rd September, with distribution about a week later.

The Parish Council has just spent about £100 of your money to provide two signs to try to ensure the safety in the Rec. playground by reminding of the ban on dogs and cycles etc. Within a few days these notices were vandalised. The Council would remind parents that they are currently trying to provide more facilities such as a Youth Meeting Place and BMX area and would urge them to remind their children that this vandalism only reduces the amount of money available for other facilities, not to mention the will of those who spend considerable unpaid time trying to improve facilities!

Parishioners may note that the verges have been weed-killed. Where it is feasible and safe to do so, the Council would encourage you to remove the dead vegetation.

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints regarding **Bonfires**. We would ask all parishioners to have regard to such things as wind direction to minimise the interference that their bonfire might cause with their neighbours right to enjoyment of their garden etc. If possible please compost as much waste as possible and never burn items like plastics that might give off toxic fumes. Garden waste may be taken to the Drayton tip, but please empty your bags so only compostable waste goes into those bins.

The judges' report on the village's entry for the County Best Kept Village competition has been received. It is somewhat critical, rather negative and uncomplimentary. The Parish Council has written to the organisers expressing our concerns at the marked contrast in the report this year with the reports in those years in which we were placed first and then

'First among Firsts' since the village is essentially unchanged.

Introduction of Charges for the Collection of Garden Waste

The Vale WHDC is keen to promote composting of garden waste as a better alternative than taking it to landfill along with household waste, as, aside from the cost, it produces significant quantities of the 'greenhouse' gas methane. The Vale has informed us of its plan to cease the free collection of garden waste, and, from September, to only collect garden waste in official green waste sacks. These it intends to sell at 65 pence each in rolls of 10. The Vale WHDC will be publicising this nearer the time.

Planning Matters

Notice of Permission:

HAR/16460 Single storey side ext. 2 Orchard Way.
HAR/16375 Repl. garage, Threeways Broadway.

New Applications:

HAR/2028/5 Two-storey extension at Silverstock, Reading Road.

HAR/16482 Single storey extension at 19 The Croft

HAR/16492 Front extension at Cartref, Townsend

HAR/16506 Front conservatory at 66 North Drive.

The Council had no comments on these other than that neighbours comments be borne in mind.

HAR/5196/4 Change of use from agricultural to paddock with erection of a stable and tack room at read of Brook House, Blenheim Hill. The Council objected to the position of the stable, thinking it should be less of an intrusion into open land. HAR/9676/7 Change of use of photographer's studio into dwelling including replacement of store with single storey extension. New boundaries to form separate curtilage and new access to Winterbrook House. The Council objected because it would constitute backland development.

Resubmission:

HAR/15719/3 Amended plans for Padua, Old A34
HAR/14234/3-D Amended plans for erection of detached dwelling and garage on land at rear of Lassen, Reading Road. The ammended plans appear to provide no significant alterations, so the E & P Committee reiterated its objections to the Vale WHDC, namely that it would be out of character, have a particularly dominating effect due to its elevated position, and the access does not comply with OCC requirements.

Refusal of Permission:

HAR/16248 Demolition of existing 22.5m telecommunications mast and erection of a new 20m mast and associated equipment. Grounds were that the new mast would harm both the setting of the adjacent Kingswell Hotel and the North Wessex Downs AONB.

Other Planning Matters:

HAR/1399/2 Erection of a new 2 storey dwelling at Brook View The Cleave. Four Councillors met the Vale WHDC Officers and Planning Committee members to voice the Parish Council's dissatisfaction at the permission for what it considers to be out of keeping. Clive Silver reports on this below.

County News

Tony Hughes reports the latest sad news about the development of Didcot elsewhere in this paper. I only wish to add that I was deeply disappointed by the fact that of the 34 votes cast for the western option, 20 were Conservative ones. They included all four of the County Councillors who sit for divisions in the Vale of White Horse, where opinion generally favours the north-east.

I have resigned from the Conservative Group and am now an Independent. This will allow me more time to help with the renewed efforts that we shall have to make when it comes to the new public consultation. Several of us will be coming round knocking on your doors and asking you to fill in a form when that happens. It will not be until the autumn, but meanwhile I give my thanks to all the people who took the trouble to write letters to the Council. I hope to write a letter of thanks to all of you, but as there were so many it may take some time.

Colin Lamont

Tel. 832860, colinlamont@compuserve.com

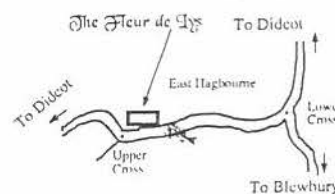
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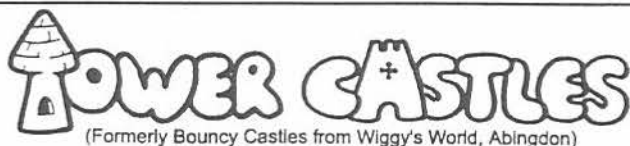
Fun Club News fUn Club News FuN Club

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings during term time 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.

We would like to thank the Millennium Committee, particularly Lorraine Moore, who organised our Seaside Picnic at the Rec on June 27th. Thanks also go to all the committee & non-committee helpers, Island Farm Riding Stables who provided the donkey rides, Jon Ensor who kept the children entertained and Becci Singleton who painted their faces. With sandpits, badge making and ice-creams to enjoy as well, the day was a great success and a lovely way to bring together families from all nearby villages to celebrate the Millennium:



I would like to thank everyone who attended our AGM on July 11th and welcome all our new Committee Members. The evening was very successful, we raised many new issues and discussed new ideas. The committee role is essential; their dedication, reliability and enthusiasm is what makes Fun Club. It must be extremely reassuring for all to know that now with the new members Fun Club can continue providing an essential support service for all of us



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with small children in and around the village. If anyone else is interested in joining please let me know - all are welcome and you don't have to take on a particular role.

We hope you all enjoyed the Bouncy Castles on the last day of term, thank you to everyone who supported the wine raffle, we raised £31.

There is no Fun Club during the summer holidays but we do meet up every Tuesday lunchtime (12 noon) for a picnic at different venues. Everyone is very welcome, including older children. These will be at:

8th August - Abbey Grounds, Abingdon

15th August - Ladygrove Park, Dideot

22nd August - Wantage Park

29th August - Wellplace Zoo

5th September - Harwell Rec.

New term starts on 12th September, any queries please call me
Annie Hancock 821254

Harwell Millenium Committee

invites you to a

Village Street Party

along the High St. 2 - 4pm

Bank Holiday Monday 28th August

Street Entertainment

Bring & Share Picnic

Free

Wet weather alternative - Village Hall

Household Help Wanted

Wanted - A lady to undertake light housework and a little light cooking, 1pm to 5pm, seven days a week.
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Development of Didcot

We shall have to battle on. On 18 July the full County Council showed the same entrenched views as its Environment Committee, and voted to reject the Examination in Public's recommendation that development should be to the North East of Didcot. The Council then voted for the Western wrap-around option. It is worth reflecting that this time last year the Council was consulting publicly on its own draft Structure Plan for 2011, which proposed development to the North East. As a result of this consultation it commissioned the EIP. The EIP agreed with the County Councils 1999 position, and now the Council has rejected that advice! Democracy and logic seem to have taken strange turns in 2000; perhaps the Millennium bug is alive and well after all.

We should like to thank everyone who pulled out the stops and wrote to the Chief Executive, the Director of Environmental Services, and to County Councillors. Altogether the village provided 170 of the 503 letters supporting the North East, compared with 129 letters supporting the West. This time, however, the weight of the postbag seemed to have no visible effect on those Councillors who in May had said that they were influenced by the number of letters that they had received. All those who made the effort have a right to feel aggrieved at this inconsistency. It is perhaps one of the most frustrating aspects of this whole affair that decisions have been made on cherry-picked arguments, and the deliberate attempt to obtain independent advice, through an exhaustive examination of the issues in the EIP, is now being kicked over the grandstand. The Council heard the arguments for the North East put well by Colin Lamont and some other Councillors, and before the debate in public contributions by speakers from Ladygrove, Didcot, Abingdon, West Hagbourne (speaking for all of the villages) and the developers. By contrast, the public contributions from the pro-West groups were mainly parochial, except possibly from a local representative of the CPRE, who for some reason known only to themselves believe that the high quality agricultural land can be built over in this instance.

Where do we go from here? The County Council now has to put its reasons for rejecting the EIP, and for its decision, out for further public comment. This will be for a six week period early in the Autumn. That is the next formal opportunity for those in favour of the North East to express their opposition to the County Councils decision. You can of course also make your views known publicly in any way that you like. The process could go on for some time yet, and could end up with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions next year or even the year after. The Parish Council and Keep Harwell Rural will be working with the other pro-North East groups to try to ensure that the County Councils most recent U-turn is eventually reversed - *Harwell Parish Council and Keep Harwell Rural*.

Contact Margaret Turner (821248), Tony Hughes (835301), or Peter Creasy (221192) if you want further information.

The Next Stage of the Process: Watch the local newspapers!

The first step requires the County Council to:

- prepare a list of proposed modifications to the Structure Plan and the reasons for making them; and
- publish a notice announcing their intention to modify the Plan in at least one local newspaper for two successive weeks. The notice will be published in the Didcot Herald.

The notice must indicate:

- where the public can inspect the EIP Inspector's report, the authority's statement of decisions on the report and the reasoned list of proposed modifications;
- that objections and representations may be made for six weeks from the first publication of the notice;
- the address to which the objectors and those making representations may request notification of the adoption of the Plan.

A copy of a form on which objections can be made, with notes for guidance, will be available at the places where the list of modifications and other documents are deposited. The form asks objectors to state the modification (or lack of modification) to which their objection relates and the grounds on which it is made. The above is extracted from a Guide To Procedures for Local Plans and Unitary Development Plans issued by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. If you have access to the internet you can see the complete document at <http://www.planning.detr.gov.uk/guides/local/>

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Millennium Committee

invites you to

Around the World in 80 Days

An outdoor theatrical production
for both Adults and Children
In the Church Grounds 7pm
(Village Hall if wet).

Chairs provided but if the weather is good why not
bring a family blanket & really relax!

Tickets £4 adults £2 Child / OAP

Available in advance from White Horse Newsagents
or on the evening at the Church gates.

Everyone welcome to this Summer Event!

Harwell Feast Committee

We are pleased to announce that, as well as Harwell Feast Day being a great day of entertainment for the whole village it also made a profit. To celebrate the year 2000 we have £2,000 to give away to village organisations. Applications stating details of your organisation's needs / projects should be sent to Janice Markey at 17 Didcot Road by Friday September 22nd, for consideration at the Feast meeting on the following Wednesday. All Committee members are asked to be present at this meeting.

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Flower Festival: At the beginning of July a special Millennium Flower Festival at St. Matthews delighted us; many people and groups prepared the exhibits; of them only Betty Pyke was in attendance for our camera, with one of her creations:



Harwell Feast Balloon Race Results

The winning balloon travelled to Maarkedal, Belgium, and wins £100 for the Gledhill family of Chilton. The following balloons were also returned:

Toby Wilkinson from: Richmond Park, Surrey
A Hill Deal, Kent

Eleanor Suter Beckenham Kent

Matthew Smith Staines, Middlesex.

Joel Packer Hampton Court

(Found by Catherine Howard!)

Andrew Derbyshire Croydon Surrey

Rob Ponting Windsor

Mr Felstead Windsor Geat Park

Sarah Dodd Old Windsor

Janice Mobbs Henley-on-Thames

R Jephcott West Lothian

Bethany Crocker Henley-on-Thames.

Front Gardens Competition Results

1st 4 Gaveston Road
2nd 33 Caravan Park
3rd Little Meadows, Reading Rd.
Highly : Greenacres, The Cleave
Commended: 1 Broadway Close
: Coach House, High St.

Section winners that also went into final 18: 10 The Cleave, Close Cottage Townsend; 33 Manor Green, 41 Orchard Way, Willowbrook, Little Dell and Belga of Church Lane, 18 Tyrrells Close, Bakers Wellshead, Sans Souci Reading Road, and Maspero Winnaway.

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Variety Show

To be performed 20th & 21st October
Performers wanted. All ages, all
talents!

The first meeting for those interested will be on Wednesday 6th September at 8pm in the Freeman Hall. Come and find out what it's all about then, or contact Janice Markey or John Fisher.

Produce Show

This will be held on Saturday 16th September. Schedules will be available after 11th August from the village shops or Adele Harris at 18 Tyrrells Close.

Parish Personality

This is a new feature. We hope to interview a personality in the village for each issue.



The series starts with Colin Lamont our District and County Councillor. Although grey haired he is slim and dapper in appearance.

Your early years Colin, where and when? I was born in London in 1935. My father was a senior civil servant, after the out-

break of war his department was moved to Blackpool and I spent my early childhood there.

I did reasonably well academically, was interested in rowing and cricket and enjoyed my childhood in the north west. After the war my father moved back to London. I went Latymer Upper school in Hammersmith and, as a member of the Combined Cadet Force was given a flying scholarship. I learned to fly on Tiger Moths and had a pilot's licence before I had a driving licence.

What happened next? I was called up for National Service, joined the RAF. After officer training and further flying training I was commissioned as a pilot. I was taught to fly vampires, then Hunters in Germany, I became a Qualified Flying Instructor. After a spell on Meteors I was given a conversion course on the Vulcan bomber. I remained on these for 17 years, some of the time with 617, the Dambusters Squadron. At that time the V force provided the Quick Reaction Alert and the hours were very long. In 1967 I married Ann who was a Secretarial Officer in the WRAF.

In 1982 I was, appointed as a flying instructor to the London University Air Squadron which was then based at Abingdon but subsequently moved to Benson. It was at this time that I came to live in Harwell. I left the RAF near the end of 1994. I was invited by the local Conservative party to stand as a candidate for the District Council. At the election in May '95 I was returned with a majority of one vote.

This was your launch into local government, how have things gone since? My election to the Vale of the White Horse was for 4 years. In May 99 I was re-elected with a substantial majority. I stood for the County Council at a by-election in February 96. I was not successful. I stood again at the election in May 97 and was elected for a 4 year term. I am now on 40 committees and have as many as three meetings in a day. Of particularly high activity at the moment is the direction of expansion of Didcot. I am pleased that the village has rallied as well as it has to campaign for the north east option.

The Harwell Newsletter is not political; within that constraint can you tell me in what sort of work your

committees are engaged? In general I describe the committee work as hours of boredom interspersed with a few moments of great interest. Answers to questions about the 8% rise in Council Tax this year cannot be answered without politics intruding. I can mention two of the more interesting developments. I am a member of a committee reviewing constitutional changes to local government. We are reviewing a number of options including, like London, to have an elected mayor with financial control or a small 'cabinet' of elected officials to make decisions more quickly than happens at present. These are only two of the options, a decision on this is to be made by 2002. The other development is a review of parish boundaries to ensure that each elected representative represents approximately the same size electoral roll. The decision on this is to be made by 2003. I accept that the present committee system is slow and seems to waste a lot of time. However, it does allow debate on all issues, it is open to the public and accountability for decisions is well documented.

Part of your job as a councillor is to assist your electorate with problems they may meet with the local government bodies. Do you have much of this work and how successful have you been? Most requests are to do with planning permissions - either a change which is wanted, or opposition to a proposed change. I try not to take sides and I am unable to affect the planning decision. What I try to do is to advise people on the best actions they can take.

Your wife lives with you in Harwell. Do you have any other family? Yes, my son is a software analyst specialising in geological survey data. He has just finished two years work in China and is going to another job in Texas. My daughter is the curator of the National Fruit Collection in Kent. Neither is married, there are no grandchildren.

Could you give us a couple of anecdotes, from your service time or from the local government world? While I was in the RAF I was co-pilot on a flight to Australia carrying an atomic warhead. I had no idea what the atomic danger markings meant. When it was my rest time I lay down and slept for three hours on the crate holding the device. Although after my sleep I was given dire warnings it seems to have had no adverse effects on me! In local government, I think the most amusing thing was when Margaret Turner and I were canvassing we arrived at one house; before we could speak we were told, "I don't want to speak to Jehovah's witnesses". I had to explain that we were something worse ie canvassing councillors!

Thank you very much for your time and interest Colin not only for this interview but for all your efforts on our behalf in the councils. C.S.

Councillor Colin Lamont lives at 2, The Old School, School Lane, Harwell. Telephone 835 866

Little Pippins Pre-School

On July 1st, Little Pippins hosted the Millennium Teddy Bears Picnic when all preschool children in the Village were invited along to the Picnic in the Freeman Orchard. Well, what a wonderful afternoon was had by all! We had a Bouncy Castle, a Ball Pond, Mr. Ace the Magician, Paddy and Taff came along and sang a few songs for the children and even the ice-cream man turned up. Every child went home with a balloon and a Teddy Bear and the weather was excellent, so it was a wonderful Village Event especially for this Millennium Year.

Little Pippins has had a very busy last half-term, we visited the Child Beale Park at Pangbourne for our annual trip, we held our own Picnic at the Recreation Ground, we were very lucky and were able to use the outdoor pool at Harwell School for a couple of sessions and on the last day, we held our annual Sport's Afternoon so you can see, we have spent lots of time outside in the fresh air with the children.

We are once again, holding our Summer Club, starting on Monday August, 7th for two weeks, this helps break up the Holidays for the little ones.

We start back on Wednesday, September 6th; nearly all the morning places have now been taken up but now we are open all day from 9.15 until 3.00 p.m. we are able to offer a few more afternoon places. Please phone Yvonne Hinchliffe on Abingdon 835397 and she will be happy to chat to you.

Happy Holidays ! ! !

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

Harwell Gardeners Club

The autumn programme includes talks on 'Planting for Autumn Colour' on September 4th, and 'Cyclamen' on October 2nd. Meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Visitors always welcome.



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Winterbrook Youth Club

Monday evenings, Freeman Hall

7pm - 10pm Ages 11 -18 years

We are pleased to welcome a new club leader - Martin Connolly who, as many of you know, grew up in this village, and has recently moved back with his family.

Youth Club will have its last evening on 7th August and will then take a summer break until Monday 11th September.

Enjoy the summer kids, and don't have too many raves up the rec!
Janice Markey

West Hagbourne Open Day

Sunday 10th September 2pm - 5.30pm.

Parishioners from neighbouring villages are welcome to visit us on this day. *Windsor Hakeborne - The Story of West Hagbourne* is being published by our Village History Group and will be on sale during the Open Day at Silva Felix, York Road.

West Hagbourne was once known as Windsor Hakeborne after Walter de Windsor, the first constable of Windsor Castle, who held the manor at the time of the Domesday Book.

This book, the first to be written about West Hagbourne, traces the history of the village from Bronze Age to the end of the twentieth century. A picture of village life over the centuries is revealed through archival documents, photographs, maps, drawings and the reminiscences of those who have lived in the village.

Harwell Women's Institute

Thank-you Di and Tony Baker for holding a Coffee Morning in July, when £100 was raised for W.I. funds.

We have no meeting in August, but in September we shall have Pauline Beck telling us about beaded jewellery. The competition will be *My Favourite Necklace*.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors very welcome.
Gwen Froud, Press Secretary.

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HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2000

1999	INCOME	2000	1999	EXPENDITURE	2000
		Income		Expenditure	
			<u>Recreation Ground</u>		
26750 <u>Precept</u>	26750.00		187 Dog waste bin mtnc	213.60	
			0 Maintenance	264.01	
			285 Windbreak repairs	0.00	
			4482 Fencing & Sundries	2825.30	
			700 Excavation, trees etc	0.00	
<u>Bank Interest</u>			785 ploughing, topping etc	245.00	
1150 Girobank	348.09		0 Goal back irons & flags	76.22	
268 N.S.B. investment	702.28		<u>Pavilion</u>		
			791 Caretaker & cleaner	804.11	
			625 Electricity	693.71	
			96 Water rates	105.71	
			16 Repairs & redecoration	321.24	
<u>Rents Received</u>			<u>Maintenance in Parish</u>		
2503 British Legion	2575.00		10913 General	11292.76	
155 Bowls Club	165.00		312 Dog waste bin mtnc	312.00	
120 Tennis Club	140.50		0 War Memorial cleaning	340.00	
704 Use of Recreation Ground	653.50		0 Traffic calming	430.00	
113 Allotments	98.00		365 Rowstock signs	0.00	
10 Harwell Playgroup	10.00		<u>Adventure Playground</u>		
<u>Cemetery</u>			455 General maintenance	248.00	
2145 Fees received	2285.00		436 Equipment	0.00	
<u>Churchyard</u>			0 Fencing	2950.24	
595 grass adjustment 1995/96	0.00		2869 <u>Cemetery Maintenance</u>	3119.51	
<u>Grants from V. W. H. D. C.</u>			810 <u>Churchyard Maintenance</u>	1550.00	
2613 Recreation ground fencing	3322.00		625 <u>Freeman Orchard</u>	0.00	
968 Street cleaning	1029.61		189 <u>Allotments</u>	99.03	
958 Grass cutting	1036.00		<u>Bedford van</u>		
0 Play area fencing	0.00		414 garage rent & fuel	405.25	
			340 licence & insurance	326.20	
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<u>Harwell News</u>			644 <u>Tools & spares</u>	177.95	
555 Advertisement revenue	674.85		2500 Gangmowers (5 used)	0.00	
			1669 <u>Harwell News</u>	1560.30	
			1402 <u>Donations & Subs</u>	2647.12	
18 <u>Miscellaneous</u>	85.85		441 <u>Professional Fees</u>	443.02	
			1305 <u>Insurance Premiums</u>	1581.11	
			3000 <u>Clerk's Salary</u>	3300.00	
			856 <u>P.A.Y.E. & N.I.</u>	868.57	
			322 <u>Telephone & stationery</u>	314.67	
			146 <u>Miscellaneous</u>	119.01	
39625		39875.68	38157		37983.95

Cumulative fund balance	
Balance b/f 1st April 1999	14486
Add total income	39875
Less total expenditure	-37984
Less play area reserve	-750
Balance c/f 31st March 2000	<u>15627</u>

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Planning Applications - Can the Parish Council influence the Vale WHDC decisions?

The Vale of White Horse Planning and Engineering Department forwards copies of all planning applications they receive which affect Harwell to the Parish Council. These are either seen by the Council or its Environment and Planning Committee (E & P) which meets between the main meetings because of the 3-week time limit on replies). If the Council has objections, the clerk advises these to the VoWH.

In November 99, a planning application was received with respect to demolition of an existing bungalow, Brook View, in The Cleave and its replacement by a dormer bungalow. Mrs Scarsbrook had written to the VoWH and to the Parish Council with the views of a group of neighbours, objecting to the application. The objections were on the height of the new building, intrusion on the privacy of adjacent houses, blocking sunlight to some buildings and being out of character with the neighbourhood. The Parish Council supported the objections of the householders in The Cleave and advised VoWH of their support for these views and against granting the application as it stood.

A slight amendment to the plans was made, but this did not address any of the neighbourhood concerns. In fact, a further window was added in these plans. The Parish Council re-iterated its objections. The application was referred to the VoWH Planning and Development (P&D) Committee on 3 April 2000. Mrs Scarsbrook exercised her right to appear at the committee and state her objections. The members of the committee had been advised of the views of Harwell P.C. in the agenda for the meeting.

The P&D decided by fourteen votes to nil to permit the application with a condition on the slab height to be confirmed with the VoWH. This is to ensure that the final height of the building does not exceed the 6.8 metres submitted in the plan.

On receipt of the notice of the permit for the application the Harwell E & P were considerably upset. One member suggested that we should not put effort or time into reviewing plans or passing comment. It was agreed that we should ask the VoWH to grant us a meeting with the planning staff to discuss Parish Council comment on planning applications.

The VoWH agreed to a meeting to be held on 8 June. Parish Councillors Rosemary Mulford, Don Hayter, Graham White and Clive Silver attended the meeting. We were surprised to find that we were met by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, they are both elected District Councillors. We also met Mr Rawling the Chief Planning and Engineering Officer and two senior members of his staff. It was explained to us that there are special considerations for conservation areas and listed buildings. However, the general philosophy in planning is to give permission. Permission should be refused only in exceptional cases when material considerations apply.

The material considerations include a number of

Mrs Scarsbrook's objections. However, the planners felt that the proposed building could not be described as out of character with the surroundings. Although it will replace one in a group of three bungalows, The Cleave has two storey house, other dormer houses as well as bungalows. The planners view is that Harwell has such a higgledy piggledy arrangement of houses that there are few applications which could be turned down as 'out of keeping.'

On the lack of privacy, there are quantified standards for this factor. If a house faces onto a street with a public access pavement, there can be no objection on privacy grounds to a house across the street. A measure for non street aspects is 21 metres (perhaps derived from our 22 yard cricket wicket?). The planners say the application did not infringe any of their privacy rules.

The planners, including the elected chairman, had visited the site and felt that the new building would not be visually harmful nor would it cause harmful dominance or overshadowing. As mentioned above the planning permission is subject to agreement of a slab height with the VoWH. An absolute maximum ridge height of 6.8 metres will be imposed.

Where does this leave the Parish Council? The basic answer is older and wiser. We cannot say that the Planning Committee or the planning officers are unconcerned about the views of Parish Councils. If this were the case the committee chairman and his deputy and the three top planners would not have attended a meeting to hear our complaints. We now know which are 'material considerations' and could thus oppose a plan for a multi storey office block in Manor Green or an abattoir in Church Lane. We also know that objections on lack of privacy must be soundly based against quantified standards. (I have asked the VoWH to give us the quantified figures.) We know that the planners do give special consideration to applications where objections have been raised and this is why the elected committee members and the officers had visited and inspected the site in The Cleave before making their judgement. As Councillor Patterson said - if planning decisions had to be taken by neighbours alone very few applications would be successful. The Parish Council is keen to preserve the character and appearance of the village and we will do our best to do so, even though our latest attempt has left us looking rather toothless. Now armed with a knowledge of 'material considerations' we hope to do better in the future!

Clive S Silver



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Local Older People's Panels

A Chance for older people to advise and influence.

Feel nobody listens? Now people over 50 have a chance to be heard through five Local People's Panels around the county. The new scheme aims to feed their opinions into policies as organisations seek their views on services. It's a chance to turn ideas into suggestions by getting a word in edgeways before big decisions are taken. The independent Local Panels are being set up by Age Concern Oxfordshire with support from the Oxfordshire Better Government for Older People (BGOP) project. They will advise local authorities, health services and voluntary services.

Gill Martin of Age Concern Oxfordshire said 'This is definitely not to be missed. The idea has been taken up enthusiastically and those providing public services are waiting to hear what older people say is needed. We are hoping it will appeal to people of all interests and backgrounds, who just feel like having their say, I'm sure they will enjoy it and make a useful contribution too.'

Barbara Jordan who supports BGOP from Oxfordshire County Council's Social Services said- 'we know we need better communication. There's an important job to be done to make sure that in planning and developing services we take account of the views of those they are intended for. We need a genuine dialogue and partnership in reshaping local services. That's the way to a better balance of care provision, easy access and good information and advice.'

Already the Local Panels have started to meet; the Vale Panel will be meeting for the third time on Friday 7th July. More people are needed for the Local Panels and those that do volunteer their time will be offered appropriate training where needed to help them feel at ease in the process. All out of pocket expenses will be paid.

To find out more about joining a Local Panel in your area please contact Gill Martin at Age Concern, The Lodge, Pivermead Centre, Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4XD (Tel: 01865 240619) or Barbara Jordan of Oxfordshire County Council's Social Services at PO Box 118, Thame DO, Oxfordshire OX9 3FT (Tel. 01844 217904)

Harwell Student teaching English Abroad

My name is Jane Ryan, I am 19 years old and have lived in Harwell for 17 years. I have recently completed A-Levels in Spanish, Psychology and Art and Design at the Henley College. I am now taking a gap year before returning to university, during which I shall be participating in a voluntary programme in Mexico organised by 'Projects Abroad'. This will entail teaching English in Guadalajara and working as a journalist for a Mexican newspaper.

I am looking for financial support to help fund the programme. The costs include the programme fee, flights and money for food, travel and essentials in Mexico, totalling just over £4000.

I will gain valuable work experience, an understanding of a developing country and its people and will have the opportunity to improve my spoken Spanish skills. I will assist children and teenagers learn English, an opportunity many in Mexico don't have. Hopefully this will be of great benefit to them.

Any donation, however small, would be greatly appreciated and would not be wasted. I hope you can help. Anyone wishing to know more is welcome to contact me on: 01235 832847

From the Archives

50 years ago ... At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee on August 4th, the Clerk read a letter from the County Surveyor regarding the Winaway Road, from which it was apparent that no help financial or otherwise could be anticipated from the County Council.

The Clerk reported that the allotment rented to Mr Kirk had been cleared of weed but it was not known by whom the work was done. It was agreed that the allotment should not be rented to Mr Kirk in the next year if it could be avoided!

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Imperial War Graves Commission expressing their thanks for the work in connection with the dedication of the Cross of Sacrifice in the Cemetery.

The question of the Youth Club making greater use of the Technical Institute was discussed & it was agreed that the Council should suggest to the secretary of the Hall Committee that the Club should do so in view of the altered circumstances in the Tech. Inst. It was thought that the Charity Trustees would be sympathetic to this proposal.

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WATCH

SUMMER IS HERE !!

There have been numerous reports of theft and attempted theft from Houses and Garden Sheds in the village during the past two months. Ride on mowers, as well as smaller portable ones have been targeted.

It has been suggested that you should chain your mowers, bicycles etc together, ideally to an immovable object, in your shed or garage, so as to make it more difficult for the potential thief.

Do be sure to lock your house, garages and garden sheds, even if you are only going to be absent for a short time, or even in the garden. Keep expensive items out of view from inquisitive eyes.

GARDEN ORNAMENTS

Do you have any valuable Garden Ornaments? If so you should have them Post Coded and take Photographs of them, which increases the chance of them being returned to you if that are recovered by the police.

Do look out for useful reminders as to how you can help to reduce crime, displayed on posters in the Parish Council Notice Board by the bus stop in the High Street. If you have any information for these notices please contact Mr Jim Mein, Telephone Number 01235 834384.

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

Harwell Village Hall

At the AGM held on 27th June, the Treasurer Trevor Packer presented the accounts for the year to March. Although there had been a considerable deficit on the year, this was because significant improvements had been made to both the Village Hall and Freeman Hall. Generous donations had been received from the Lankelly Foundation and Harwell Parish Council.

The triennial electrical survey required for the public performance license has shown several areas where work is required, apparently because of the more stringent requirements that now have to be met.

There was discussion of the possible use of the Freeman Hall by the Harwell After School Club, as a temporary home until the hoped-for space becomes available at the school, and how the one existing afternoon use could then be accommodated.

The existing officers were re-elected as follows: Chairman: Martin Ricketts (tel. 835628), Treasurer: Trevor Packer, Vice-Chairman: Mrs Joan Spratt, Booking Secretary: Mrs Fiona Tankard. The Officers were thanked by the Committee for their efforts over the past year. The next meeting of the Hall Committee will be on Tuesday 19th September at 7.30 in the Freeman Hall.

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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, to Clive Silver, Clonnara, The Broadway, or to the Clerk by 23rd September for the October 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.

Gardening Notes - August & September

The weather is still the most important factor in gardening, and I haven't had any measurable rain for 15 days and even then we only had 27.5 mm in July. It has been cold as well and plants have suffered as a result. Runner beans, Marrows and Tomatoes out of doors have all suffered.

If you are going away you can either give the plants a good feed and then mulch them or get someone else to keep an eye on them for you. With houseplants you can use absorbent matting and a reservoir, or a drip system or give to your neighbour to look after. Wisterias need all those long whippy shoots pruning back to three or four leaves and generally tidy up the plant though if yours is anything like mine it has just started its second flowering so will have to wait a while - the main pruning is done in winter anyway.

Before you go away see that your pond is topped up - it is surprising how it evaporates this weather. August is supposed to be a quiet month any way when you can enjoy your garden and perhaps have a barbeque (weather permitting!). You may have to take precautions against rabbits (there are 5 on my lawn as I write this) and the only way I know is a physical barrier around the affected plants

The other day I read of a fruit farmer who had a field of strawberries which were being eaten by slugs, being organic he couldn't use chemicals and the nematode which does control slugs was too expensive, the only thing he thought of which he knew might help were hedgehogs, but he didn't have any. Then he approached the wildlife hospital at Hartpury Agricultural College in Gloucester that deals with injured animals. They thought it sounded a good idea and gave him all those recovering from road accidents.

He placed these in groups around the strawberries with wooden boxes to give them shelter in the daytime, and after dusk they began to munch their way through the slugs. The farmer says that they are very happy hedgehogs and hopes they will stay. So if you have a hedgehog in the garden - encourage it!

Now is the time to be thinking about which bulbs to order - there are the Christmas flowering ones such as hyacinths and hippeastrums, and then there are the Daffodils and Tulips, and also the various Nar-

cissi which by choice of variety you can have flowering over quite a long period. Do not forget the smaller bulbs - cyclamen, anemones, crocus, the small irises, sparaxis, alliums, muscari, etc.

You can have bulbs in flower all the year round; they will only require lifting and splitting occasionally and will give pleasure for many years. Winter vegetables can also be sown now Turnips, Spring Cabbage, Kale and Sprouting Broccoli etc. Keep on with deadheading and take time to enjoy the garden when the sun shines!

Laurie.

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