



The HARWELL NEWS

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Parish Council

At the October meeting an early item on the agenda was the Telephone kiosk in the High Street. A parishioner had asked the Parish Council to consider requesting BT to move it further north, perhaps near the shops, or just north of the bus shelter near Gaveston Road. Some enquiries were made before the November meeting but it was then decided not to pursue the matter.

Regarding the **Recreation Ground**, a parishioner from Orchard Way had complained about the nuisance of children kicking a football against the fence adjacent to his house. The Council had not previously noted this as a particular problem area, and Councillors agreed to intervene if youths are seen using the fence as a goal.

The Crispin Football Club have asked and permission was given for them to use the top pitch, on terms similar to those agreed previously. The Council gave permission for the Millennium Committee and Youth Club to use the Rec. for a bonfire and fireworks display, subject to adequate safety precautions. The Bowls Club had asked for the fence adjoining the Tennis Courts to be repaired. The matter was passed to the Lands and Recreation Committee to see what was required.

Mrs Margaret Turner reported on a meeting regarding the new **Local Plan**, which the Vale WHDC is just starting work on. One of the matters for discussion was a framework for the Vale's decisions on housing development. This is separate from the consideration of Didcot development and concerns the disposition of the Vale's allocation for new housing. The Council had received from the Vale WHDC an Issues Report on this and Mr Martin Ricketts agreed to review it. This was done and the Clerk submitted comments on the Council's behalf.

The Council was advised of a Community Transport Seminar; although no-one would be able to attend, the Clerk was asked for the information pack for review by Mrs Anne Fisher.

Under **Any Other Business**, it was reported that consultation is in progress on the O.C.C. proposals for Early Years Education in Chilton and Harwell. These include an Early Years unit at the Harwell School. Mrs June Blissett reported that Mrs McIlroy-Speed had worked very hard to save Harwell Nursery School and should be thanked for her efforts. The Council concurred. At the next meeting Mrs Margaret Turner reported that she and Colin Lamont had attended recent meetings to discuss nursery provision in the area.

Following the Council's complaint about the **Best Kept Village Competition** report this year on Harwell, Mr and Mrs D. Lees, Harwell residents and

among the judges for the competition, have agreed that the report was negative and will speak to the organisers.

Also discussed was the dumping of grass cuttings, etc. in the brook, by people in their own gardens - those fortunate enough to have the brook in their gardens have a duty to prevent blockages!

The state of the seat at Drewitts Corner was raised - it was asked if the wood, which appeared to have seen quite a few years service, could be replaced. The Lands and Rec. Com. will consider.

And finally, Mrs Margaret Turner and Mrs Rosemary Mulford had attended a tour of some play areas to look at facilities. They were impressed on the whole but thought the skate-board facilities noisy and not visibly appealing. It was noted that the Vale WHDC has a Fund specifically for works in parks, and the Council may be able to apply for assistance for the proposed BMX track (see below).

At the **November meeting** it was reported that the Vale WHDC had completed its review of wards for local (District) elections. This was in order to make the number of electors per Vale Councillor more equal. There are 51 members of the Council and the average electorate per member is 1767. Under the new scheme Harwell (1850 electors) and Chilton (1180), which had been slightly over-represented, will now join with Milton (village area, 450 electors) giving a total of 3480 electors for two Councillors, very close to the average. Milton Heights will be included with the Hendreds.

Also from the Vale the Council has received its proposed Charter for Local Councils, which is intended to develop communications between Parish Councils and the Vale WHDC. Mr Don Hayter had reviewed it and will liaise with the Clerk to respond to the Vale.

The **Green Box** scheme was raised - new boxes do not have lids - it was put to Mrs Turner that this was a retrograde step - people would be less willing to have an open box in their back gardens - she replied that the change had been made improve efficiency in emptying and save money; the new boxes were also some 40% larger. There was some discussion of the County's new rules regarding disposal of DIY waste. The O.C.C. has drawn up a list of items for which there will be a charge if more than 3 are taken together to the Drayton tip. (See the separate report on this and Vale Green boxes.)

Under Didcot development, it was mentioned that December 13th is the day when the County makes its decision - see Colin Lamont's piece; the petition is going ahead. Under a separate item, C.P.R.E. membership was discussed as it was due for renewal. Apparently against the national policy of the C.P.R.E., the

local branch had taken sides in the direction for development of Didcot in suggesting it should be to the west. The Council decided against renewing membership.

A parishioner had asked if a bus shelter could be provided on the south side of Reading Road in Rowstock just east of the roundabout, as this is the most exposed stop in the area and does not have a shelter. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

A parishioner had written regarding the lack of **Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators** in parts of Harwell. This is a voluntary scheme relying on concerned residents to actively participate; it was mentioned there had recently been a meeting of local Co-ordinators at which local police attended. The Clerk agreed to put Mr Lees in contact with Mr Trevor Packer, who is a NW Co-ordinator.

Our groundsman, Mr Don Pike will soon be retiring and an advertisement for the post recently appeared in the local paper. It was agreed that interviews would be held in mid-December.

Also our Clerk, Debbie Roberts announced that she wished to retire from the post in the Spring. The Council, which recently advertised for an assistant to the Clerk, is now looking for a replacement - see the separate advertisement for the post.

Under matters related to Council-owned lands, it was reported that a block of 4 or 5 **allotments** had not been taken up. If anyone is interested in these, off Green Road, please contact the Clerk (820006).

At the October meeting the state of The Stables in the corner of **Freeman Orchard** was discussed, and the Lands & Recreation Committee was asked to see what work was required, and any possible Community use. It was reported at the November meeting that the building had been cleared by Mr George Gigg, whom the Council thanks for this, and new doors fitted. Mrs Hinchliffe would be asked to obtain quotes for the necessary roof repairs, and the Council would consider applying to the Vale WHDC for a grant.

Also under Council-owned lands, the proposed **BMX track** was discussed. It was now agreed that this should be on the far side of the lower half of the embankment, taking in a strip of land from the centre almost to the northern perimeter fence. Mr Graham White showed a plan that he thought fulfilled most of the requirements - this had 3 tracks of different standards. There were a number of questions, regarding materials, assistance from a local Contractor, whether it should be fenced, insurance, etc. He agreed to take the matter forward with the group involved.

SURGICAL CHIROPODIST **M.S.S.Ch. M.B.Ch.A.**

For a home visit, please contact
Mrs. HAZEL MOODEY

48 Hanney Road, STEVENTON.
Telephone Abingdon 834093.

There were several areas where **fence repairs** were required. Mr Jim Mulford agreed to obtain quotes for the repairs required in the Cemetery and Bowls Club. The Tennis Courts fence had been damaged in the recent storms when the British Legion's Aunt Sally hut was blown into it. There was some discussion as to whether an insurance company might or might not pay for this. Mr Martin Ricketts contended that this was presumptive and not relevant and that the Council should do what it would do in these circumstances regardless of who the other party might be, that is write to the British Legion to state the facts. If this was not done it would not be possible for any claim to be made even if a claim would otherwise succeed. The Council decided that its Chairman, Mr Brian Mulford, should make a verbal approach to the British Legion and report back to the Council. The validity of this decision was questioned by Mr Ricketts, and following some lively discussion the Chairman decided to close the meeting.

At the October meeting a request for a donation from the Didcot & District Citizens Advice Bureau was considered. A donation of £200 was proposed by Mrs Rosemary Mulford and seconded by Mr Alan Walker and passed unanimously. At the November meeting their roles were reversed, when it was agreed to donate £50 to the South & Vale Carers Centre.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion, at 7.30pm. But there is no meeting in December, so the next will be on January 8th 2001, when the Council will set its precept for the coming financial year. 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 27th January, with distribution about a week later. Items should be sent to Martin Ricketts at 16, The Park, or to Clive Silver, Clonnara, The Broadway.

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Planning Matters

Notice of Permission:

HAR/16621 2-storey extension and detached garage, Greensleeves, Reading Rd.

HAR/15014/1 Conservatory, rear Rosebrook, Kings Lane

HAR/4130/10 Conservatory at Kicking Donkey Burr St.

HAR/16596 Single storey front ext. at 28 Westfield.

HAR/16597 Single storey front ext. at 26 Westfield.

New Applications:

HAR/16659 Erection of 15-metre monopole tower with several antennas at Middle Field, The Holloway. A parishioner was present at the November Council meeting to voice her concerns regarding the possible health risks, closeness to houses as well as the visual intrusion. After some discussion the Council voted 8 to 1 with 2 abstentions to object on the grounds of: (a) visual intrusion (b) proximity to village envelope (c) concern about proliferation of such structures - the Council questioned whether sufficient is being done to encourage sharing of existing masts.

HAR/16642 Two-storey front extension at 22 Orchard Way.

HAR/5473/7 Conversion of existing garage to office and store, Beech House, High St. The Council decided to object that the plans showed a kitchen, shower etc. giving suitable facilities to provide separate living accommodation. If to be passed by the Vale WHDC the Council asked that conditions be made prohibiting use for accommodation, and adequate alternative parking.

HAR/16482/1 Single-storey side and rear extension, 19 The Croft.

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Harwell Feast Committee

The inter-village quiz, a joint project by the Milenium Committee and the Feast Committee took place on Saturday 25th November in the School. Six villages took part - Upton, Chilton, Cholsey, The Hagbournes, Blewbury and Harwell who were represented by last year's Village Quiz winners and runners-up - Little Pippins and The Rugby Club.

The questions were put in style by the quizmaster Colin Lamont and the 12 teams were competing for an original sculpted trophy made by Terry Doughty. Despite some fast fingering on the buzzer and some inspired answers, Harwell were just pipped out of the final which was between Blewbury 'Gold' and Chilton 'Chaps'. Congratulations go to Blewbury who triumphed in the final round (I heard they've been practising for months!) Thanks to all teams who took part. Perhaps Blewbury would like to host a re-match next year?

Christmas Scout Post

Still only 10p postage per card!

For all your LOCAL Christmas card deliveries to Harwell, Rowstock, AEA, Chilton, Didcot, The Hagbournes and Blewbury. Look out for our red collection boxes in the village shops, the British Legion Club and 8 Orchard Way from 1st December onwards. Boxes will also be sited in the shops in Chilton, AEA and Rowstock Garage this year.

If you have not used the scheme before, post all your local cards (addressed to the above locations only) into the special Scout boxes, together with a minimum of 10p per envelope. The boxes will be emptied regularly up to Thursday, 21st Dec. and members of the Scout Group will deliver the post over the 3 weekends before Christmas.

Mail for Didcot and villages other than Harwell, Chilton & Rowstock will be exchanged on Thurs. 7th and 14th Dec. DO NOT post any mail for these locations after 5pm on the 14th December as it is unlikely to be delivered. Cards for Harwell, Chilton, AEA, Rowstock can be posted up to 5pm on the 21st.

Organiser: J. A. Cumming
8 Orchard Way, Harwell. Tel: 221 048

Chiropodist

Jane A. Cumming, MSSCh, MBChA,

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Little Pippins Pre-School

We are in the grips of Christmas mania, what more would you expect with 40+ under 5 yr olds. We will be performing our annual Nativity Play, this year it will be in the Village Hall, we were bursting out of St. Matthew's Church Hall last year, We will also be having a Christmas Party and I have written to invite Father Christmas, promising that every child in our Setting will be as good as gold until the Party day (What do you think our chances are?)

We will be having our Ofsted Inspection on the 6th December and are hoping for continued good results, we will let you all know in the next Newsletter. The Staff all work very hard to provide a stimulating environment for all our children as beaming through their play will give them all a good understanding of the world around them.

The children join me in wishing you all a very Happy Christmas. If you would like your child to join us, just either call in any day 9.15 - 3pm School term dates, or phone Ab. 821741.

Yvonne Hinchliffe - Playleader - Ab. 835397

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the under fives

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01235 521039 for more details.

NHS Direct - What is it?

A public meeting will take place on Thursday January 18th 2001 at Didcot Civic Hall at 7.30 for everyone in this neighbourhood to learn more about NHS Direct, the new telephone diagnosis service of the NHS. The meeting will be addressed by some of the NHS Direct doctors and nurses who normally staff the telephone lines and will cover how you get hold of the service and what it can do for you when you do. Questions and discussion encouraged!

To find out more about the meeting, contact your GP's surgery or Didcot Health Centre Patients' Participation Group on 512288.

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County News - Didcot Development

Many thanks to all those of you who signed forms objecting to the County's intention to extend Didcot to the west. This was an official Public Consultation about the Council's proposal to amend its Structure Plan and the verdict that the people have given is very clear. Only 410 people supported the Council while 1037 objections were submitted. Of the 1037 objections 508 came from Harwell, 199 from the Hagbournes and 318 from Didcot itself. These, together with Appleford, are the places that have a real interest in the direction of Didcot's growth. Appleford people, as is to be expected, supported the Council's plan, but only 111 of them did so. They were joined by people from as far away as Wallingford, Dorchester and even London.

It is very much a part of the Government's policy that people should be consulted on local issues. Unfortunately, no duty is placed on councils to listen to them. We must wait to see what the County decides at its Environmental Committee meeting on 13th December, but I believe that we should make a lot of noise if our views are ignored.

Even if we are ignored at that level the efforts that you made may not have been wasted. It is my hope that the issue will finally be decided by the Secretary of State, and our objections will be useful evidence for Mr Prescott if he is minded to reverse the County's decision.

We shall very soon be coming round with a petition to Parliament on the same subject. It has been raised by people in Didcot. Please sign it. It really will be the best thing for the town and for the environment if the houses go to the northeast and we must go on trying to make that happen.

Colin Lamont Tel 832866
colinlamont@compuserve.com

Winterbrook Youth Club

For young people aged 11 - 18 years
Monday evenings, Freeman Hall 7 - 10pm
All young people in Harwell and their friends
are welcome.

Many thanks to all who supported our recent Jumble Sale. We made £215, which will go towards paying our Hall rental and equipment.

Janice Markey

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FUN CLUB NEWS FUN CLUB NEWS FUN CLUB

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30. All parents and carers of 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 and coffee for the adults all for only £1 per family (first visit free).

Many thanks to **Annie Hancock** who has just stood down as Chair of Fun Club due to pressing family and business commitments (another set of village twins on the way!). Luckily for us, Annie remains on the Fun Club committee and we will continue to benefit from her hard work, experience and fun-loving nature! The new Chair is **Jane Woolley**, who we wish best of luck in this role.

Congratulations to **Matthew Davies** who was the winner of our autumn half term treasure hunt. For those of you still racking your brains, the answer to the anagram was harvest mouse Around 40 entrants turned out to find the clues in the appalling weather of the weekend of 27-29 October - well don't! Thanks you to the householders who kindly let clues be displayed on their property, and to **Bob the Butcher's** for helping to process the entry forms. And a big thank you to **The Old Farm Shop** who supplied the fantastic basket of fresh farm produce as the prize.

We held a Nearly New Sale on Saturday 4 November with 16 stallholders. This raised around £200 for Fun Club funds, which will go towards buying some new toys next year for Fun Club sessions. Thank you to all those who supported this event.

Forthcoming events:

5 Dec **NSPCC day** - all entry money and donations to go this Children's Charity, so please support us on this day.

19 Dec **Christmas Party** 10-12.30 including Father Christmas and entertainer Ace. Cost: £2 per child, including present and bring-and-share lunch. Nursery/primary school children from Fun Club families also welcome. Entry by prepayment only. For further information, contact Jane Woolley on 22 10 30.

30 Jan - **The Health Visitor**, Pam Norton, is offering consultations and weighings-in at Fun Club on the last Tuesday of each month (but no session in December). These take place in private in a side

Harwell Senior Citizens Fund

We would like to let everyone know how well we did at our recent Auction, we made approximately £1,200 which was the best ever, a big thank-you to everyone involved, those who donated, those who came along on the evening to bid and those who gave generously. A big thank-you also to our Auctioneer, Mr Tom Taylor, it was his last Auction for our Fund, he's been doing this for many many years, and for this we are very grateful. We wish him well.

A big thank-you also to our plea for money for a new photocopier, we were given the following amounts from various Companies and locals etc.:

The Crispin P.H.	£350
The Harwell Feast	£350
Nightingales Architects	£20
Crabtree & Evelyn	£25
UKAEA (Nick Hance)	£300

Together with the money raised every week from our Home Bingo, this has boosted our Funds to enable us to give approximately 250 over-70's in the Parish a monetary gift this Christmas. As well as having to purchase our new Photocopier and with the gradual fall of sales of our bingo tickets, we were beginning to become despondent but NO we won't give up, it's given us new hope. We would like to publicly thank all the agents who go out in all weathers every week of the year to collect money for our Fund, without these people, we couldn't survive.

If anyone would like to buy bingo tickets, either an agent will call to your home or you can purchase them from the Paper Shop every week. They are only 10p each and you could win £60, better odds than buying a scratch card or a lottery ticket so I'm told! Please phone our Chair Ursula Moore on Ab. 834238 and she will arrange for someone to call and have a chat.

May I take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Yvonne Hinchliffe - Secretary Ab. 835397

→ room. Book your slot on the day. There is no need to attend Fun Club or pay the £1 Fun Club entry fee if you only want to see the Health Visitor.

To join Fun Club, or for further information, or to join the Committee (more volunteers always welcome) contact Jane Woolley on 221030.

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Parish Personality

The December personality is arguably Harwell's most important man - the leader of our Parish Council Brian Mulford. Brian is a tall well built man with a pleasant, friendly face.



Brian, I think you told me you have lived in this area all your life. Is this right and how was your childhood? Yes, I was born in East Hendred and went to school at St Amand's. My father was called up in 1940 and we moved to Slough. There was an outbreak of Polio so we moved back to Hendred and I moved on to St Birinus school. I was doing well academically and enjoying sports a lot. When I was 14 the army stopped paying my mother an allowance for me so I had to leave school and find a job.

What job did you find? My uncle suggested I should try for a boy entrant scheme with the Post Office Telephone Engineering department. I was accepted for this and started work at Abingdon. I had to cycle from Hendred to Abingdon each day. The training was good and I worked hard and did well. I transferred from the boy entrant scheme to become an apprentice. We mixed training with practical work and I was also studying for external examinations. I eventually qualified as a telephones technician. I continued with a correspondence course and did some classes at what is now Oxford Brookes University. It was of great interest for me to visit the Army, RAF and United States Army Air Force bases and see the aircraft and the communications systems that they used.

How did your career develop? I continued to work for external qualifications and progress slowly up the ladder in the GPO. In 1948 I was called up for national service. I joined the army and was drafted into the Royal Signals. I had further good training in the army at Catterick and was posted to the Far East. We flew out to Singapore, and I was put into a group training to go into the Malayan jungle. As we were finishing our training the group was disbanded and I was sent to Ceylon. I looked after communications for the RAF at N'gombo. In my job I got to travel around the island. I found it interesting and quite enjoyable.

What happened when you came back? I continued to live in Hendred, continued with the GPO, including being attached to AERE for 12 years on their communications, taking on more important jobs. In 1965 I was promoted into management. My first job was to change Oxford over to Subscriber Trunk Dialling. Oxford was the second city in the UK, after Bristol, to get STD. In 1955 I married Rosemary and we moved into a bungalow on Didcot Road in Harwell. At work I became responsible for the area repair service. I did this for 6 years and then was given the job of putting Abingdon and Witney on the STD network. The GPO was expanding so quickly that the supply of equipment couldn't keep up and we were also short of trained people. I moved back to Oxford and was made responsible for the trunk networks in

the area. I later took on responsibility for Aylesbury and High Wycombe. I retired from the GPO, by then British Telecomms in 1989 after 46 years. They were the only employer I had apart from my 2 years with the army.

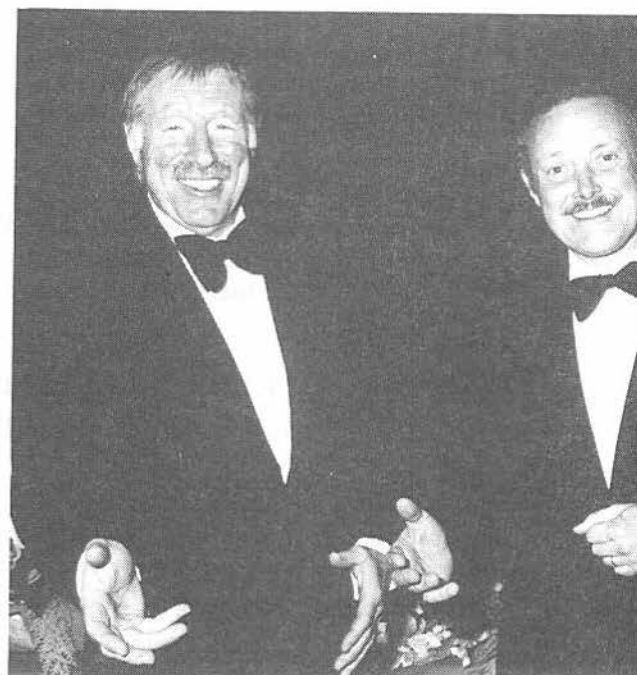
What about hobbies and interests? I used to play ball and represented the county. I also played Hendred. These sports have now given way to. I am interested in bird watching and have helped surveys of bird population. My grandfather who he taught me to admire and enjoy the country. My father returned from his six years in the army to the Wheatsheaf pub in East Hendred. I used to help

You now live on a farm. Do you do any farming? really only a small holding, we keep horses, my wife and I both ride. We breed geese and peacocks but we are not commercial.

You mention your daughter, how big a family? Our son Julian is the transport manager for a firm in Peterborough. Our daughter Deanna is a senior in the eye department in the Radcliffe Infirmary of Oxford. She has recently married and inherited her doctor husband's first marriage.

Now we come to your public service, can you tell me about your activities in the village? I joined the Parish Council in 1981. I have been Chairman for 9 years and Vice Chairman for the rest of my time. Like the rest of the council we have no political parties. We work hard to give best value for money and have not increased our charges for several years. There seems to be more interest in the parish and village affairs. The parish meeting is being better attended, the 1992 election campaign has attracted a lot of support and John Millenium Committee have brought a lot of life to the village last year. I have also been active on the Village Council, the British Legion Branch and the British Legion. I have been treasurer of each of these for over 15 years.

Thank you very much Brian for this interview. I know that you are an excellent parish councillor myself I know that you are an excellent man. I was impressed by your display of courage and common sense. Councillor Mrs Mulford to stop chattering. Serious fund of good common sense steers the Council successfully. Your other contributions to village life are appreciated.



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- Have you put your child's name down for school yet?
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- Please contact us at school to come and have a look round, we'd be delighted to see you.

Didcot on Saturday

Entertainment and Father Christmas in the town centre - come and join in the fun - and shop locally.

Saturday 9th December stilt-walking policeman with fun for everyone. Father Christmas in his grotto at *Clothes for Children* 2 - 4pm.

Saturday 16th December Jazz duo plays a range of jazzy Christmas tunes on the tuba and trumpet. Father Christmas in his grotto at *Clothes for Children* 2 - 4pm.

Saturday 23rd December Didcot Rotary Club will be in town collecting for charity with their Christmas FLoat, Father Christmas, and seasonal music.

Variety Show Video

A video of this will shortly be available at a cost of £10. As there is a limit on the supply first priority will be given to the cast, who should place any orders before the end of December. After that any spare copies will be made available to anyone who would like to be entertained once again by their talented neighbours, but of course you can place your order for one now. To order please contact Janice Markey (832802). Alternatively you will be able to hire a copy for £1.



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*A memento of the Variety Show:
To the far left the Comperes, the
two Johns Fisher and Delfosse,
who, with a cast of too many to
record here, presented such a
wonderful show. Many thanks to
all concerned! And also the
Barbershop Singers - John
Bainbridge, John Edwards,
Graham Cox and Barry
Bridgeman. Photos by Janice
Markey.*

Millennium Committee

This has been a very busy and exciting year and many groups in the village have been involved in the celebrations of the 'New Millennium'. We set out to try to make it a year to remember for all age groups and preferences and hope that it was enjoyed by all those people taking part, as well as those who so generously supported the various events.

The children of the village were presented with a medallion each. It was designed and made by Terry Doughty and will serve as a personal reminder of this special year. Each month we held a different event and hopefully we catered for every age group. There were many memorable occasions, not least of these, the annual Feast, which this year was an extra special event, with a brilliant parade.

The Millennium Committee has been together for nearly three years, during which time, some members have come and some have gone. I would like to thank every single person who has made a contribution, no matter how large or small, to this group. The Parish Council has been tremendously supportive, as has Chris Stott, in allowing us to use the church annexe for our meetings and in being an active member of the committee. There have been some incredibly kind and generous donations to the fund, which have enabled us to put on several events for the whole community, with no charge. Our grateful thanks to these benefactors.

The committee has been a hardworking group, and have shown loyalty and commitment which has made the job of chair remarkably straightforward. My particular thanks to Karen Muir, who has proved to be an excellent secretary, and of course Janice Markey, who as ever seems at the heart of our village community. There have been so many people too outside of this group who have given their time in stewarding events, putting up posters, banners, bunting etc., and taking them all down again after the events. I have tried hard to make sure that every one has been thanked for their contribution and to all of you who have done so much to make it such a successful year - thank you sincerely for your support.

Finally, on Saturday 6th January 2001, there will be a 'Celebration in Pictures' in the Village Hall. Hopefully, we will have a display of photographs, posters and video's of this years' events and all will be welcome to come along. In the evening we will be holding a thank you party for everyone who in any shape or form has been involved in helping to make it such a memorable period in the life of Harwell Village.

John Fisher

Harwell Environment Group

In October, an audience of about thirty enjoyed Mt Nigel Snell's talk on Red Kites. These birds are re-establishing after releases in the Chilterns and Midlands. They have been observed in our area at Sparsholt, Taynton, Radley, Burford, Otmoor and Blenheim. We would be interested to hear of any more local sightings - if you have seen one of these,

8

→ distinguished by the shallow V made by their wings and deeply forked tail, please let me know the approximate place and date.

There is no meeting in December, but here are a few dates of future Thursday meetings for your new diary:

January 18th **The Otter Project** by Julia Gallagher of BBOWT (Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust). A report of progress in re-establishing the otter in this County.

February 15th **Wild Flowers** by Mr Charles Flowers of Carver's Hill Farm, Marlborough. He conducted the ecological audit for the UKAEA site.

March 15th **Badgers** by Mr Colin FOUNTAIN of the Oxfordshire Badger Group.

Visitors are always welcome at these meetings, which take place at 8pm in the British Legion Meeting Room.

Barrie Turner (821248).

Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire Christmas Lectures for Children



*At: The University Museum of Natural History,
Parks Road, Oxford at 2.00 pm*

The Life and Times of Planet Earth

Thursday 21st December Ian Wilkinson

The World Beyond the End of your Nose: What animals say with smells

Tuesday 2nd January Tristram Wyatt

At: University of Oxford Botanic Garden 2.00 pm

The Rainforest Experience

Thursday 4th January Louise Allen

Admission: under 18s 50p, adults £1, family group £2.50
All proceeds to Natural History Charities

Harwell Venture Scouts

Are you aged between 16 and 19.

Harwell Venture scouts has now reopened. We have a varied programme including many outdoor activities.

We meet at the Harwell church hall on Friday evenings from 8:00 until 9:30pm.

If you are interested please come along.

For further information please call

Steve Hale on 01235 831674

Zoë Zimmerman on 01235 221146

Royal British Legion

Thanks to everyone who supported the Remembrance Service and also the Two Minutes Silence on the 11th November. There was a very good turnout at the War Memorial for both events.

Members of the Harwell RBL Branch and Club who have not yet paid their annual subscriptions should be aware that a late payment surcharge of 50 pence is now due. This applies to both Branch (£6.50 + 50p) and Club (£3.00 + 50p) subscriptions.

The main December events in the Club will be:

10th: Disco Diner - £6.00 entry including Supper.

17th: Annual Christmas Draw, supported with the music of Peter Giles.

29th: Children's Christmas Party (Members children and grandchildren) - 50p admission includes an Entertainer

31st: Millennium Dance, featuring the Millennium Two and the Club Millennium Draw (First Prize £1000).

Look out for the Christmas week lunchtimes programme aimed particularly at members' children. The Club plans to open on Christmas Day (11.30am to 1.30pm) and on lunchtimes from Christmas Eve through to January 2nd (approx. 12 noon to 2.30pm, but see any posters (or the web-site on www.rblharwell.freeserve.co.uk) nearer the time for precise details.

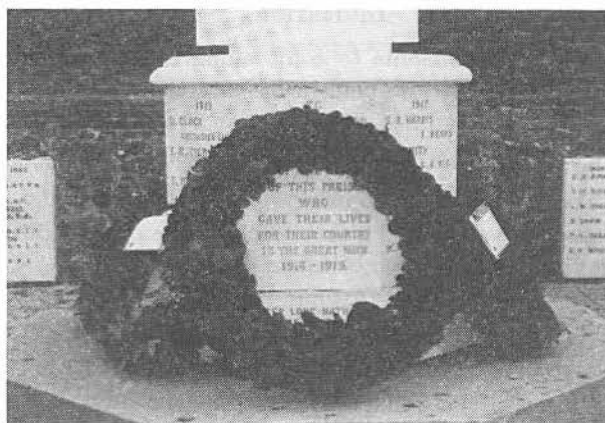
A Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to all members and friends of Harwell Royal British Legion, Cyril Balderson

Gardeners Club

The first meeting of the new year will be on **January 10th**, when there will be a series of member's talks on Orchids, Sweet Peas, Auriculas and Giant Vegetables. Then on **February 7th** Timothy Walker will talk on *Colour in a Small Garden*. The Gardeners Club meets in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm, normally on the first Monday of the month. Visitors always welcome.



Above, the Remembrance Service Parade, and below, the wreaths left at the High Street Memorial. Thanks to Janice Markey for the photographs.

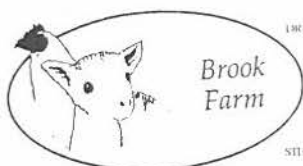


Winterbrook Youth Club

Important Changes in Winterbrook Y.C. - the management committee has decided to bring our Youth Club into line with youth work nationally and target the 11 - 18 age range. Therefore the Junior club that was is now closed, and one club catering for 11 to 18 year-olds is now open from 7 to 10pm on Monday evenings in the Freeman Hall. Subscriptions have been raised to 50 pence per week. The new club has already attracted several new teenagers, and we welcome all young people in Harwell along with their friends. We must say sorry to the younger children who now find that they are not eligible to come along any more, but we will keep in touch with you until you are old enough to come back again,

Janice Markey

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NEW OPENING HOURS



Free Range Eggs and Potatoes available

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Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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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.

Little Pippins

Good News ... Good News ... Good News

Due to the increase of children in our pre-school provision we are now, as from January 2000, opening five days a week from 9.15 until 3.00 p.m. We have made this decision to try and accommodate all the children we have on our register, and so any new children moving into the Village can have a place and not have to go on our Waiting List. The children can also stay for a packed lunch from home. This starts at 12.00, you can let your child stay on a little longer after the morning session, or bring them earlier for the afternoon session. We make a charge of £1 only for a lunch-time session. The fee for a normal morning or afternoon session is at present £3.00.

We now have a few vacancies for the Monday and Friday afternoon sessions and if you would like your child to join us, please ring me on 835397 and I will be happy to chat to you.

We do, however, like to keep the Wednesday afternoon session for the rising 5's where we encourage a little more challenging activities, and on a Thursday afternoon we now have Physical Education activity programme that we plan carefully for the under 5's.

Invitation

You are very welcome to come along to our annual Nativity Play, to be held in St. Matthew's Church Hall, on Friday 10th December at 11am. I'm told it's a tear-jerker, watching them all singing etc!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy Millennium from the Staff and children of Little Pippins,

Yvonne Hinchliffe - Playleader

Harwell Fun Club

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings, from 9.30 to 11.30. All parents and carers of babies and toddlers are welcome, as well as mums-to-be. We provide toys and activities for the children so they can let off steam while the adults enjoy coffee and a grown-up conversation - all for £1 per family!

Our last meeting this term is 7th December, when we will be donating all entrance money to the NSPCC, so please come along and support a very worthy cause. Our final event of the year is the Christmas Party on 14th December, so if anyone would like to book, or needs any other information please call me on 821254,

Annie Hancock

Harwell Village Hall

At the meeting of the Management Committee on 26th October, Mrs Fiona Tankard was thanked for stepping forward to take over as booking secretary from the New Year. The Committee thanks Adele Harris for doing the job over most of this year after being persuaded to take on the task at short notice.

There was discussion of the fees to charge from next April; it was agreed to circulate details of the proposed changes, and make a final decision at the next meeting, on Thursday 13th January.

The recent performance of The Frog Prince had been well attended, but unfortunately part of the ticket receipts were stolen in a robbery. It was hoped the money will be eventually recouped, when the insurance claim is settled. There will be a family show on 21st December, the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre's Hunchback of Notre Dame, sponsored by the Vale WHDC - see elsewhere for details.

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.

St Matthew's Church Ringing for Christmas and Ringing in the New Millennium

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 19th December

Ringing Time

3.00 - 3.30 pm

5.00 - 5.45 pm

Service Time

Family Carols 4.00 pm

Carol Service 6.15 pm

Christmas Eve

7.-7.30 pm

11.00 pm

Holy Communion 11.30 pm

Christmas Day

10.30 am

Family Worship 11.00 am

New Year's Eve 31st December

7.00 - 8.00 pm

11.30 pm - 12.30 am

New Year's Day 1st January 2000

12 noon

When all the bells in the United Kingdom will be ringing.

For further information ask any of the ringers
or phone Doug Jordan on 835310

McTimoney Chiropractic

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

Highbury, The Winnaway, Harwell OX11 0JG

Appointments: 01235 821858

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

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Every need of your cat or dog catered for.

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10am - 12noon Sunday.

Harwell Village Hall

At the recent meeting of the Hall Management Committee, The Chairman, Martin Ricketts, reported that the hall had benefitted from the Milton Hill Social Club's dispersal of equipment. A quantity of cutlery and crockery had been received. Also some chairs from Milton Hill, and some from Drayton, which were surplus due to their receiving Chairs from Milton. The latter are 16 cloth-covered stacking chairs currently in the Freeman Hall. There is a slight storage problem in the Freeman Hall, and space will be made by disposal of old table-tennis tables (available to take away!). Also four folding tables were received to augment the main hall's supply. Our thanks to George Gigg for assisting with transport, and to Bill Barnard for alerting us to the availability of the equipment.

The Treasurer, Trevor Packer reported he had received a request from the Scouts to use both Halls on a Friday night. Normally the booking charge is higher for a Friday evening, as it is usually only booked for parties, etc. The Committee agreed a fee akin to the Monday to Thursday charge would be appropriate, subject to occasional displacement from the Village Hall with due notice.

The Chairman reported on the progress with the risk assessment. Notes were circulated and comments invited. These would be assessed by the working group before the next meeting.

There had been some failure of the system by which the Hall should be checked before and after parties, and it wasn't clear where blame lay for the recent damage to the doors of the toilet cubicles. Repairs still have to be carried out.

The results of the recent electrical inspections were discussed. Although the Hall has its Public Performance License, there is considerable work needing to be done, partly arising through changed standards over the years. It was agreed to proceed with applications to the Vale WHDC and also the Lottery Charities Board.

The Booking secretary, Mrs Fiona Tankard, referred to the Oxford Mail Community Chest programme, and it was agreed to apply to this source for the cost of a baby-changing unit, which has been talked about for some time.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 30th January at 7.30pm in the Freeman Hall. All Welcome!
Martin Ricketts

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- *LOPPING/PRUNING
- *WOODLAND THINNING
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- *FREE ESTIMATES

24 HOUR EMERGENCY
SERVICE

M. HARVEY TREE SURGERY

01235 813619

South and Vale Carers Centre

A great deal is written about Carers, how wonderful they are and what a great job they are doing giving up their own time. At the Carers Centre we know that behind this work there are often Carers who are tired, stressed and occasionally resentful of the situation they find themselves in. Being a Carer can be to the detriment of careers, family life, and health or leisure time. For Young Carers it can affect their education and their future.

We can help!!!! There are services and benefits available to help Carers and we can assist you in getting them. Or if you just want someone to talk to when the going gets tough, we will do that. All of our services are **free** and confidential.

We have workers throughout the whole of South Oxon and the Vale of White Horse, who can visit you at your home. We also have an advocacy worker, if your request for help or benefits becomes difficult he can support you through the tribunal system.

If you are under 18 years you can speak to a young carers worker who will understand. After school or at weekends call our Young Carers Messageline **01235 512198** and leave your name, telephone number and a time when we can call you. E-mail address: young-carers@SVCC.fsnet.co.uk

If you want further information, call us, 01235 510212 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Out of hours answer phone, E-mail carers@svcc.fsnet.co.uk

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City & County

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Our Information & Advice Service is looking for volunteers -:

To help staff the Telephone Helpline at our office in Oxford

And

To visit people in their own homes to help with
form filling and benefits checks

No particular qualifications required. People of all ages welcome.

We offer training, plenty of support and expenses.

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HARWELL VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

There have been several reports of Opportunist thefts from unlocked Garages and Garden Sheds in the village during the daytime in the past month. Do be sure to lock your house, garages and garden sheds at all times.

If you do see anyone, either on foot, or in a vehicle, acting **SUSPICIOUSLY PLEASE DO REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY** to the Wantage Control Room (Phone 01235 776000). Relevant messages will be sent by Ringmaster to Village Co-ordinators.

Alternatively you can contact CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111, who guarantee ANONYMITY for the CALLER.

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.

Harwell Gardeners Club

The programme for the New Year begins on Monday January 8th and that meeting will include a talk by Mrs May Parker on *Wildlife on Your Doorstep*. The competition will be a photograph *Winter in the Garden*. On 5th February There is a visit to Hanney Gardening Club and a talk on *Healing Power of Plants* by Timothy Walker.

The next date to put in your diary is 5th March when Gail Bromley from Kew Gardens will talk on that subject. Meetings, apart from February, are in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Visitors always welcome.



Recycling Collections, Waste etc.

We have received the following advice from the Vale WHDC: The following materials can be recycled through the weekly green-box collections:

- newspapers and magazines
- other paper items, including limited amounts of junk mail, catalogues, brochures and phone directories, but **not** Yellow Pages or envelopes with clear plastic windows etc.
- Glass bottles and jars
- drinks cans and food cans (rinsed please)
- plastic bottles and milk containers, but no other plastic materials
- textiles if kept dry and placed in bags, but not in refuse sacks
- aluminium foil if reasonably clean.

New and replacement green boxes can be ordered from the Council's Waste Management Team (520202). Used engine oil, car batteries, garden waste and cardboard can be taken to the Recycling and Waste Depot at Drayton. Fridges and Freezers can be also be taken there, or can be removed free of charge by Biffa - call them on 813444.

And from the County Council - news of their 'New easy-to-use charging scheme for large-scale DIY waste'. Up to 3 items of 'large-scale waste' will still be accepted free but there is a charge of £1 per item beyond that. The list of such items includes kitchen cabinets, worktops, sinks, washbasins, baths, doors, car tyres, one sack of soil or rubble, etc.

They add that: 'The law defines DIY waste as industrial waste and **not** household waste. Consequently the County Council has no obligation to accept DIY waste free of charge. The new service does **not** apply to trade or business waste. Where home improvements are done by a contractor, this is trade waste. The cost of disposal should be included in the price of the job.'

Ringling in the New Millennium

The Harwell Ringers celebrated in style at the beginning of the Year with a champagne reception after ringing from the second to the third Millennium. The bells were rung by Debbie Davies (treble), Pat Connolly (2), Elizabeth Gill (3), Mike Pepper(4), Clive House(5), Gary White(6), Paul Hartley(7), Anita Pepper(tenor), all conducted by Doug Jordan, far left. No doubt the team will reassemble to ring in 2001, in case you think this year is really the last of the Millennium!



What about hobbies and interests? I used to play a lot of football and represented the county. I also played cricket for East Hendred. These sports have now given way to golf and bowls. I am interested in bird watching and have helped with national surveys of bird population. My grandfather was a farmer and he taught me to admire and enjoy the countryside. When my father returned from his six years in the army he took over the Wheatsheaf pub in East Hendred. I used to help out there.

You now live on a farm. Do you do any farming? No. It is really only a small holding, we keep horses, my wife and daughter both ride. We breed geese and peacocks but we are in no way commercial.

You mention your daughter, how big a family do you have? Our son Julian is the transport manager for a large business in Peterborough. Our daughter Deanna is a senior theatre sister in the eye department in the Radcliffe Infirmary in the middle of Oxford. She has recently married and inherited two lovely daughters from her doctor husband's first marriage.

Now we come to your public service, can you give a list of your activities in the village? I joined the Parish Council in 1979. I have been Chairman for 9 years and Vice Chairman for the rest of my time. Like the rest of the council we are not tied to political parties. We work hard to give best value to the ratepayers and have not increased our charges for several years. There does seem to be more interest in the parish and village. Our annual parish meeting is being better attended, the Keep Harwell Rural campaign has attracted a lot of support and John Fisher and his Millenium Committee have brought a lot of life to the village this last year. I have also been active on the Village Hall committee, the British Legion Branch and the British Legion Club. I was treasurer of each of these for over 15 years.

Thank you very much Brian for this interesting chat. As a parish councillor myself I know that you are an excellent chairman. I was impressed by your display of courage when you asked Councillor Mrs Mulford to stop chattering. Seriously I think your fund of good common sense steers the Council very wisely and successfully. Your other contributions to village life are also much appreciated.

Clive Silver

Harwell School

The Styles

Harwell

01235 835337

Email: office@harwell.oxon.sch

- Have you put your child's name down for...
- You might need to do it sooner than you...
- If your little one was born between 1st Se... 31st August 1997 you need to start maki...
- Please contact us at school to come and we'd be delighted to see you.

Didcot on Saturday

Entertainment and Father Christmas in the town and join in the fun - and shop locally.

Saturday 9th December stilt-walking police everyone. Father Christmas in his grotto at 2 - 4pm.

Saturday 16th December Jazz duo plays Christmas tunes on the tuba and trumpet. Father Christmas in his grotto at *Clothes for Children* 2 - 4pm.

Saturday 23rd December Didcot Rotary Club collecting for charity with their Christmas FLEET, and seasonal music.

Variety Show Video

A video of this will shortly be available at a cost of £1. There is a limit on the supply first priority will be given to those who should place any orders before the end of November. If that any spare copies will be made available to those who like to be entertained once again by their talented performers. Of course you can place your order for one now by contacting Janice Markey (832802). Alternatively you can hire a copy for £1.

