

The HARWELL NEWS

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February 2001



Parish Council

Our Chairman for most of the last decade, Brian Mulford, announced his resignation just before Christmas. His experience will be missed; he has worked hard on the Parish's behalf over the years, and was particularly involved in the Keep Harwell Rural campaign.

The January meeting was chaired by Mr Graham White, the previous deputy, who agreed to act as Chairman until the annual election in May. The main task was setting the budget and precept for the coming year. Because of changes in staff, the need for a part-time groundsman, conditions of employment of the Clerk, expenditure in the coming year is likely to rise by approximately 7%, and it was agreed that the budget for the coming year be set at £39.0k. Allowing for other income of £9.0k, and a reduction of reserves by £2.0k, a precept of £28.0k was proposed by Mr Alan Walker, seconded by Mr Brian Mulford, and passed unanimously. This increase, of 4.7%, is the first to be made to the precept for several years.

It was reported that the County and District Councils are commissioning a local transport study related to the development of Didcot. The Council agreed to submit a comment supporting the study and indicating its belief that the growth in traffic through Harwell need to be minimised.

Due to the retirement of our groundsman, Mr Don Pike, in March, the Council has appointed Mr M. Woods to the post. Mr Pike will continue in a part-time capacity.

Under matters related to Council-owned lands, it was reported that the British Legion is making an insurance claim for the damage caused by the Aunt Sally hut. It is hoped to effect repairs as soon as possible, to avoid further damage.

Mr Jim Mulford reported that he was having great difficulty finding a contractor to carry out much-needed repairs in the Pavilion, but he would keep trying.

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Recreation Ground Pavilion, at 7.30pm. The next meetings will be on February 12th and March 12th. 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 25th March with distribution about a week later. Items should be sent to Martin Ricketts at 16, The Park (preferably on floppy disk, or email m.ricketts@rl.ac.uk), or to Clive Silver, Clonnara, The Broadway.

Over the Christmas period a ladder and two wheelbarrows appeared in the recreation ground. If you have lost one of these, or know to whom they might belong please contact the Clerk.

A reminder of the **Mobile Library**, that is at the Village Hall car park on alternate Wednesdays between 2.40 and 3.10pm. For February and March the dates are 14th and 28th.

Cow Lane seems to be latest place for fly-tipping, along with the track east of the A34; if you see anyone dumping rubbish around the Parish it would be appreciated if you could note the vehicle number and pass details on to the Clerk.

You will find details if the revised **bus timetables** elsewhere in the newsletter.

Concessionary Fares

Grey Bus Tokens - Use them or lose them!

Following the Transport Bill 2000 the concessionary fares Scheme will be extended to offer a choice of either a half-fare bus pass or National Transport tokens to all eligible people in the Vale of White Horse D.C. area. The Half-fare bus pass will be valid for use on bus journeys within the Vale area and to designated towns outside the area. The bus pass may also be used to purchase a further fare from Oxford City centre to the Oxford hospitals. The main restriction is that the pass cannot be used before 9am on weekday mornings (or to be more precise not between 4am and 9am). Existing grey tokens will not be valid after 31st March, and cannot be exchanged either for cash or for the new tokens.

Harwell Women's Institute

Our next meetings are:

February 14th: 'Entertaining Ourselves'.

March 14th: A.G.M. and Fish & Chip supper.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors and new members welcome.

Gwen Froud.

Thank you to everyone who attended the **New Years's Eve Party** in the Village Hall. A cheque for £245 has been sent to the Cancer Institute Research Fund at the Churchill Hospital. Your continuing support is appreciated.

Gwen Froud & Ursula Moore

Harwell Royal British Legion

The R.B.L. at Harwell has a very busy programme of events over the next two months. Alongside the regular club events there are several functions that may interest the community. We are still encouraging people to join this popular and friendly club. You do **not** have to be an ex-service person to become a member. For more details why not call in on the Club or join us one evening when an open event is running.

One of these will be the variety show on Friday & Saturday 16th, 17th February. Tickets will be £3 for what promises to be a fun-packed evening. >>

Here is an early reminder too of Mothering Sunday Lunchtime Special on Sunday March 25th. Finally an early notice of a special event in April on the afternoon of the 14th there will be a children's treasure hunt for Easter Eggs and a small disco in the early evening, followed by a Glenn Miller 40s night for adults. Watch this space for further details.

February Events:

Saturday 10th Valentines Dance - Metaxia
 Friday 16th Variety Show
 Saturday 17th -:-
 Saturday 24th Bobs Game Show

March Events:

Friday 2nd Quiz Night
 Saturday 3rd Club Dance Ian Collins
 Friday 9th Big Bingo
 Saturday 17th Bobs Game Show
 Saturday 24th Club Dance -
 Starlight Road Show Disco
 Sunday 25th Mothering Sunday Lunch.

Scout Post 2000

Many thanks to everyone who used the Scout Post this last Christmas. The number of cards collected and delivered increased considerably over previous years, providing a useful boost of about £260 to Scout funds.

However ... I think a reminder of how the system works is appropriate, due to the late posting of about 50 cards for Didcot. On the first two Thursday evenings in December, representatives of all the Scout groups in Didcot district meet up in a hall for a major post swapping and sorting exercise. (I took down some 700 cards this time and brought back about 400 for delivery in Harwell). Didcot withdraw all their boxes from the various shops on the second Thursday, but some of the villages prefer to keep their boxes out for a few days longer. This means though, that if any items for Didcot are posted after the second Thursday, there is no way of passing them on to be delivered.

Unfortunately, some people either did not see or chose to ignore the clearly displayed notices on the Harwell boxes, indicating that we could not take any more post for Didcot or other villages after the 14th. Although, most of the rogue cards were delivered eventually, it would be appreciated if everyone could make sure that they "POST EARLY FOR D IDCOT" in future. thank-you,

Jane A. Cumming - Scout Post Organiser

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Planning Matters

Notice of Permission:

HAR/16642 Two storey extension, 22 Orchard Way
 HAR/16482/1 One storey extension at 19 The Croft.
 HAR/5473/7 Conversion of existing garage for use ancillary to existing dwelling.
 HAR/9155/2 Single-storey extension at Oak Cottage, The Winnaway.
 HAR/16686-LB Alterations to White Cottage, High St. subject to restrictions.
 HAR/16700 Re-opening access from A4185 to South Drive.

Notice of Refusal:

HAR/16599-X Erection of a 4-bedroom detached house, demolition of garages & wooden sheds at Kelbrooke, Townsend. HAR/16689 Single-storey extension at 28 North Drive.

Result of Appeal:

HAR/16248 Replacement of 22.5m mast by 20m mast at Kingswell Hotel

New Applications:

HAR/7752/2 single-storey extension at Cherrycroft House, Barrow Road
 HAR/10742/3-D Erection of detached house and garage on land north of Mulberry House, Townsend.
 HAR/11643/4-LB Installation of solar water heating collectors The Homestead, High St.

Harwell Gardeners Club

On 5th March when Gail Bromley from Kew Gardens will talk about Kew. And on 2nd April Kevin Hughes will talk about a garden in the New Forest - *Spinners* through the Seasons. Meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Visitors always welcome.

Winterbrook Youth Club

Monday evenings, 7 - 10pm
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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).

We held a very well attended children's Christmas party. The hectic schedule included paper hat making, festive song singing, a show from Mr Ace the magician, a bring-and-share lunch, mulled wine and mince pies for the grown-ups and, of course, a present for each child from Father Christmas. A few of us also managed to fit in a delicious (adult-only!) Christmas meal at The Hare pub near East Hendred.

The grown-ups are still recovering from these festivities so, while we have a whole list of events planned between now and the summer, there are none specifically set for February and March just yet. So look out for announcements during Fun Club sessions themselves.

Around half term (mid Feb) time, though, we will be turning our attention to replacing some of our worn out toys and buying some additional toys which our members have told us they would like to see. Thank you to those Fun Club members who kindly had post-Christmas clearouts and donated their unwanted toys - this means we now have slightly fewer new items we will need to buy with our limited Fun Club funds.

Forthcoming events: **27 Feb and 27 Mar** - The Health Visitor, Pam Norton, is offering consultations and weighings-in at Fun Club on the last Tuesday of each month. These take place in private in a side 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.

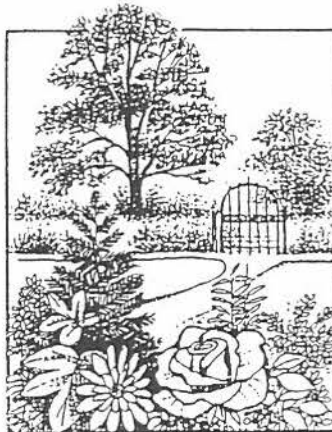
Harwell Environment Group

After Mr Nigel Snell's talk about Red Kites I asked readers if they would kindly report any sightings, past or present, of Red Kites in the Parish. Well, we had one gentleman who reported having seen two near the A34 bridge recently. The Oxford Ornithological Society recorder thought this was quite possible. We also received a report of a nightingale singing in a village garden on 9th December at 11pm and again at 4pm on 10th. Of this the OOS recorder said "we get this every autumn the singing is that of robins near an artificial light, and possibly a song thrush as well. In fact there is not a nightingale in the whole of northern Europe at this time". We do hope that this will not deter others from making reports - please keep them rolling in.

At the November meeting, Dr Michael Keith-Lucas from Reading University gave a wide-ranging and well illustrated account of the alpine plants which he had encountered during his world travels. His account of the ecology of these plants was quite fascinating. At our most recent event Julia Gallagher gave a very informative talk about otters and their re-establishment in Oxfordshire. This talk was particularly well attended.

Looking to the future, we have two bookings of visiting speakers for this season. On **15th February** Charles Flowers, a farmer from Marlborough comes to tell us what is being done to get wild flowers, once common but now rare, back onto farm land. Actually Mr Flowers is more than a farmer - he conducted the ecological audit of the UKAEA site where he found about 200 different plant species, 2 dozen butterflies and moths, and many different species of invertebrates. Then on **March 15th** Colin Fountain, who is a member of the Oxford badger Group, will give an illustrated talk about Badgers. He will probably make it clear that badgers are not the only mammals to carry tuberculosis. It should be an interesting talk, and you are welcome to join us at both of these, in the British Legion meeting room at 8pm.

Barrie Turner



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Parish Personality

The February personality is one of Harwell's best known citizens. A great grandfather, who has rung the church bells since 1935 and was churchwarden for 25 years - **Doug Jordan**. Doug is not too tall, balding (but you deserve to be if you are nearly 80) with a very cheerful, pleasant, friendly face.



Compared with my other personalities, where Colin Lamont was a Londoner, Chris Stott came from East Africa and Brian Mulford from East Hendred, you are a true Harwell man. Yes, although I was born in Minster Lovell, that was only a temporary move of my parents from Harwell which was very much their village. They returned here before I was one year old. My Grandmother used to tell me about the great fire in Harwell in 1853. She had been 4 years old at the time but she remembered it well. Nobody had died or was

hurt and all the livestock, even the chickens, survived. The Prime Minister of the day, the Earl of Aberdeen, gave a Government Grant of £1000 to compensate the villagers who had lost their property.

In my childhood in the 20s and 30s the village was very different from how it is now. The school was the old school in School Lane. Our water came from a well in Wellshead. Electricity arrived at the end of the 1920s. There were 5 grocery shops, one of which sold clothing and shoes as well, 3 bakers and 3 butchers. We walked to the farm, with a can to collect milk. There was a blacksmith in the village but no bank or barber. When we were small my father cut our hair. Later we cycled in to Didcot for a haircut that cost 4 old pennies. At the age of 7 I became a boy chorister, when my voice broke in 1936 I joined the bellringers and have been doing bellringing ever since.

When did you leave school and what did you do? My father was a builder and building maintenance man. When I left school at 14 I joined him. He taught me most of my skills, I particularly enjoyed carpentry. I also went to evening classes in Didcot. My father and I worked well together. Then the war came along; I knew I was going to be called up but joined the Local Defence Volunteers who were the predecessors of the Home Guard immortalised in Dad's Army. I was very much a private Pyke character in the LDV. I remember being on duty at the Rowstock crossroads when the blitz of Coventry took place. The sky seemed to be full of aircraft all night.

Presumably you were called up, what was the war like for you? I was called up in 1941; we were posted to Suffolk to guard a stretch of coastline against a German attack. There were a number of high level alerts but never an actual attack. We then began training as a specialist anti-aircraft unit using light anti aircraft guns. We were moved around a fair amount. I spent time in Scotland and Wales, then moved to Bournemouth and then back to Yarmouth. We were then told that we were to be a specialist mobile unit to support the infantry in the invasion of Europe. I had a short leave in March 1944 and married Enid in Steventon. The first night of our honeymoon, at Dorking in Surrey, was spent sheltering under the dining room table during an air raid.

When I rejoined my unit we went down to the New Forest,

we were virtually imprisoned and were not allowed waited for the invasion at the beginning of June. No there will ever forget it. The sea was rough, there were 4000 ships and a continuous stream of aircraft going. The navy battleships were firing shells over us into the sea. The noise was incredible. Eventually, at 5am, we went out into the very cold sea where five of us pulled out. The whole landing had been very well planned we did what we had to do.

I was transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry and advanced through France in to Belgium and on to the Netherlands. We were too late in arriving at Arnhem to save the city. We went on in to Germany, the last real resistance was from the men. Soon after that it was then VE day in April. I was warned to be ready to go to the Far East but the war ended that year and fortunately, we never had to go. I had a short leave in January 45 and our daughter was born in October. I was now the sergeant in charge of the orderlies. I could not wait to get out. Troops were being demobilised. In January 46, I was released in May of that year.

How did things go when you got home? I returned home and carried on as before with our building and maintenance work. My strong attachment to the church. The village was in a state of the shops closed, the co-operative came and was doing the trade. We moved into Gable Cottage about 1947. I had another daughter. At work we added the extension to the church and extended the old church hall as well as doing lots of work on houses and farm buildings.

I persisted with the bellringing and became the church bellringer; we have a fine team, including ladies. I have never allowed pre-war. Today we couldn't do without it. I was the churchwarden for 25 years from 1960. I still do the maintenance of the church, organise the candles for carol services at Christmas. For the millennium I had the church tower to be floodlit. Also, on re-joining the army I became a founder member of the British Army. We first met in Mr Bint's store in King's Lane. I have been interested in gardening and ran an allotment for a long time.

What about your family? We had two daughters and grandchildren and now 4 great grandchildren. I enjoy being with them. In fact I like all small children and have been Santa Claus a number of places at most Christmases. I am now happy to do down bookings for this.

I know you are still doing work for the village. How do you feel about this? I love Harwell I have a happy life in this village and want the villagers to be happy in the village. I feel it is important that the benches are maintained.

Thank you, Doug, I think you can be proud of the work you have played in the village for as long as you have done. Our discussion very interesting and trust our readers will enjoy it.

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Little Pippins Preschool

As promised in my last column, I now have our Ofsted report and copies are available for parents of any prospective under-5's to read - Just ring me and I will let you have a copy. About it, our Chairman, Karen Muir, writes: Little Pippins has just received yet another outstanding report from the office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). The inspection takes place every two to four years and its purpose is to assure government, parents and the public that funded pre-school education is of an acceptable quality.

Extracts from the report support the fact that Little Pippins can offer what most parents would be looking for in their child's pre-school education. "All aspects of knowledge and understanding of the world are very good ... Excellent use is made of the outdoor areas for both imaginative and physical play and to teach the children about the natural world"

"The pre-school provides a wide range of exciting learning opportunities ... the teaching is very good. The staff are highly motivated, planning stimulating activities which challenge the children and instill in them an enthusiasm for learning ... there is a good partnership with parents who have many, varied opportunities to be involved with their children's learning."

"The whole programme for communication, language and literacy is very good with many children achieving well beyond the early learning goals in some areas ... the classroom is well organised to maximise learning opportunities".

"Physical development is very good. A well planned programme ensures that all areas of development are well covered".

The pre-school is run by a committee of parents who are extremely pleased that the good relationship maintained between themselves and the staff helps create a stable working environment and contributes towards the success of this pre-school.

We currently have a few vacancies for some afternoon sessions - if you would like your child to come and play and have fun with us all, please ring me on 821741 (Little Pippins) or at home on 835397 and I'll be happy to tell you all about us,

Yvonne Hinchliffe - Playleader



The Millennium year ends - Karen Muir assisting in setting up the exhibition "The Year 2000 in pictures"

Date for your diary: Harwell Feast 2001 Bank Holiday Monday May 28th
Any enquiries to Janice Markey - 832802. Further details in the next *Harwell News*



HARWELL VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

STILL MORE CRIME IN HARWELL

There have been several reports of thefts and attempted thefts from Houses, Garages and Garden Sheds in the village during the past two months. Do be sure to lock your house, garages and garden sheds when unattended and your rear gates at night.

BOGUS CALLERS ARE STILL IN THE AREA

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

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.

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Your chance to win a space odyssey in 2001

Budding scientists and writers can win a chance to visit some of the UK's leading space science research facilities, as well as a host of other high-tech prizes, in the annual Oxfordshire Science-writing Competition organised by the University of Oxford and The Oxford Times.

In the year made famous by Stanley Kubrick's film, the competition entitled '2001 -A Space Odyssey' asks entrants to write about space science and technology in the 21st century - from the discovery of black holes, to the possibility of one-day walking on Mars.

Wendy Fuggles, Promotions Officer for the University of Oxford, said: "Perhaps you have views on whether lunar holidays are a good idea, or if antimatter could fuel a starship. The aim of this competition is to stimulate people of all ages and from all walks of life to think about science—even if they are not studying it."

More details and entry forms are available in The Oxford Times, on the web at www.ox.ac.uk/publicrelations/set or from the Public Relations Office on 01865 280533. The closing date for entries is 16 February. This year's prize winners will be announced at the following:

And, without promising the answer to Life, the Universe and everything ...

There will be a lecture on 'Is the Universe infinite?' as part of Science Week, at the Museum of Natural History at 1pm on Friday 23 March by Professor Joe Silk, Savilian Professor of Astronomy. Free tickets are available from the Public Relations Office on 01865 280533.

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Gardening Notes Feb-March 2001

What a winter we've had, the wettest for years (since 1872) leaving the soil absolutely saturated, and then a cold dry spell, when one couldn't get on the ground because it was frozen. I wonder what it will be next? The global warming is obviously having effect. We shall have to garden according to the weather now more than ever. We can plant out bulbs that have flowered over the Christmas period and I would suggest that we put a good handful of drainage material under them (coarse sand or similar) to prevent the bulbs from rotting as we are told to expect yet more rain. Tomatoes may be sown in the greenhouse now for an early crop, as may sweet peas. Plant shallots in 3 inch pots for planting out later when the soil is drier. Give roses their final cut back when the weather permits, fuchsias which have been in the greenhouse cut back by two thirds the woody stems once pink buds (growth buds) appear. Broad beans can be sown now if you can get on the ground, but don't worry if you can't, they can be sown up to you and you will still get a good crop but you will be getting them later.

Snowdrops & early crocuses are already in bloom and bulbs soon will be, clear away any weeds from around them whilst the ground is still soft and they come out easily.

There are some new gladioli out this year particularly the dwarf ones, and there are some nice begonias, lillies, dahlias and chrysanthemums for all of which it not too late to place an order.

Oriental Hellebores are easy to grow and the self-seed very well but it is worthwhile saving the seed from the more colourful of your plants and growing them on to see if you can't get some really outstanding plants either for yourself or for friends. The colours range from a very pale yellow to almost black.

Keep a sharp lookout for pests and diseases; I've already seen signs of greenfly in the greenhouse. The earlier you can deal with them the better but unfortunately most of the predators are not ready yet and so you must rely on chemical means of getting rid of this pest.

I've seen several references to the fact that pesticides and other chemicals for amateurs will be severely cut in the near future. It isn't so much that they are harmful as the fact they are uneconomical to produce in relatively small quantities, so if you are one of the people who relies on chemicals, I should get some while you can.

If you haven't done it already go over your tools and the mower and see that they are all clean and sharp for the coming season, and that you have supplies of fertilisers, potting compost, pots, tying materials, labels and anything else you are likely to need.

Here are some tips:

- Where possible pull wheelbarrows - it's easier

- Use long handled tools to save bending.
- Keep all tools clean and sharp. The effort taken to do this is more than made up by the easier and safer use of the tool.
- Fit a spring in your garden line, it will keep it taught even when knocked or dislodged when in use.

And now for the weather:

	Rainfall	Max Temp C	Min Temp C
Dec.	146mm (5.75")	13.6 (5th)	-6.3 (29th)
Jan	93mm (3.7")	11.1 (2nd)	-4.3 (21st)

Nearly 240mm or 9.5 inches of rain in the last two months, no wonder the ground is saturated! Well I guess that's all for now folks - Good Gardening in spite of everything,

Laurie.

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Bus Times

The **32** runs Oxford to Wantage and back via Abingdon, Sutton Courtenay, Milton Park, Didcot. The **32A** runs Oxford to Wantage and back via Abingdon, Drayton, Steventon, Milton Park, Didcot. The **32B** runs Oxford to Wantage and back via Abingdon Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Milton Park, Didcot.

Approx. journey times Oxford to Harwell - 50min., Didcot to Harwell - 7min., Harwell to Wantage - 25min. The A and B variations are indicated by the letter after time.

Times in Harwell (Jennings Lane) for Wantage, **Monday - Friday**:

06.28 07.01A 07.39 08.15A 08.37 09.00A 09.31 then
on the hour (32A) and 31 minutes past (32) until 15.00A then
15.33 16.00A 16.31 17.02A 17.37A 18.07A 18.37A 18.53 19.10A
19.37B 20.32A 21.32B 22.32A 23.32B 00.30B 02.00B 03.20B

Until 8pm these include a detour to the Harwell Business Centre - Fermi Avenue. Services after midnight are Friday night only.

On **Saturdays** the **32** runs hourly from 08.31 until 18.31 then
19.37B 20.32A 21.32B 22.32A 23.32B 00.30B 02.00B 03.20B

contd.

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Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company
Spring Tour 2001

Wuthering Heights

Friday 9th March 7.30 pm
Harwell Village Hall

*Emily Bronte's powerful drama
adapted by Lynn Robertson Hay*

The passionate and tragic love story of Catherine Earnshaw and the brooding Heathcliff is played out against the wild and hostile landscape of the Yorkshire Moors. The depth and emotional intensity of their passion is so great that their actions reach out even beyond the grave - their two families are bound together forever.

"Wuthering Heights was hewn in a workshop, with simple tools, out of homely materials ... with time and labour, the crag took shape; and there it stands colossal, dark, frowning ... almost beautiful, for its colouring is of mellow grey, and moorland moss clothes it"

Charlotte Bronte

Tickets £5/3 concessions
Available at White Horse Newsagents

Bus Times

Harwell to Wantage continued, on **Sunday & Bank Holidays**:

09.32B 10.32A 11.32B 12.32A 13.32B 14.32A 15.32B 16.32A 17.32B
18.32A 19.32B 20.32A 21.32B 22.32A 23.32B

For **Wantage to Oxford** the times in Harwell (Jennings Lane) for buses to Didcot, Abingdon, Oxford: **Monday - Friday** 06.15, 06.28A 06.45 06.58A 07.23A 07.53A 08.09 08.24A 08.57 09.17A 09.47 then at 17 minutes past (32A) and 47 minutes past (32) until: 15.17A 15.59 16.18A 16.47 17.20 17.48A 18.28B 18.53A 19.30B 20.22A 21.19B 22.19A 23.19B

Until 8pm these include a detour to the Harwell Business Centre - Fermi Avenue. Services after midnight are Friday night only.

On **Saturday** the 32A runs hourly from 07.17 to 17.17 then 18.21 19.30B 20.19A 21.19B 22.19A 23.19B

On **Sunday & Bank Holidays** times are:

09.19B 10.19A 11.19B 12.19A 13.19B 14.19A 15.19B 16.19A 17.19B
18.19A 19.19B 20.19A 21.19B 22.19A 23.19B

The Little Angel Theatre Company

presents

In the Beginning

'In the Beginning...What if?' is a play about beginnings for the new millennium. A child's eye view of the story of creation captivates and introduces the audience to the strangest, most entertaining creation story ever told. Drawing on creation myths from around the world, this original and imaginative new piece from The Little Angel Company is a vibrant mix of puppetry, performance and music



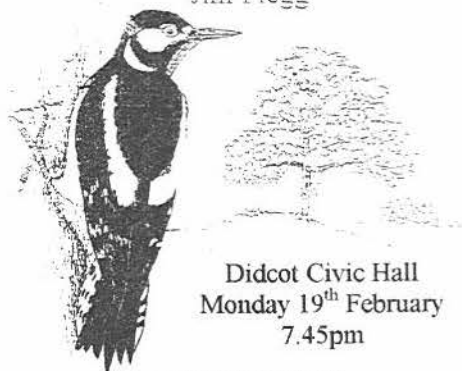
Harwell Village Hall
Wednesday 21st February 10.30 am
Tickets £5/3 concessions
Available at White Horse Newsagents



Vale of White Horse
Members' Group

Familiar Country Less Familiar Ways

With
Jim Flegg



Didcot Civic Hall
Monday 19th February
7.45pm

The Royal Society for the
Protection of Birds

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we were virtually imprisoned and were not allowed letters as we waited for the invasion at the beginning of June. No one who was there will ever forget it. The sea was rough, there were more than 4000 ships and a continuous stream of aircraft going overhead. The navy battleships were firing shells over us into France, the noise was incredible. Eventually, at 5am, we grounded and got out into the very cold sea where five of us pulled our gun ashore. The whole landing had been very well planned we all knew what we had to do.

I was transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry and we advanced through France in to Belgium and on to the Netherlands. We were too late in arriving at Arnhem to save the paratroopers. We went on in to Germany, the last real resistance was near Bremen. Soon after that it was then VE day in April 45. We were warned to be ready to go to the Far East but the atom bombs ended that war and fortunately, we never had to go. I had had a short leave in January 45 and our daughter was born in the October. I was now the sergeant in charge of the orderly room, but could not wait to get out. Troops were being demobilised from January 46, I was released in May of that year.

How did things go when you got home? I returned home and carried on as before with our building and maintenance work and my strong attachment to the church. The village was changing the shops closed, the co-operative came and was doing most of the trade. We moved into Gable Cottage about 1950. We had another daughter. At work we added the extension to the church and extended the old church hall as well as doing lots of private work on houses and farm buildings.

I persisted with the bellringing and became the captain. I love bellringing; we have a fine team, including ladies who were never allowed pre-war. Today we couldn't do without them. I was the churchwarden for 25 years from 1960. I still help with the maintenance of the church, organise the candles for the candlelit carol services at Christmas. For the millennium the bellringers paid for the church tower to be floodlit. Also, on returning from the army I became a founder member of the British Legion Club. We first met in Mr Bint's store in King's Lane. I have always been interested in gardening and ran an allotment for a long time.

What about your family? We had two daughters, we have 4 grandchildren and now 4 great grandchildren. I enjoy the children, in fact I like all small children and have been Santa Claus at a number of places at most Christmases. I am now having to turn down bookings for this.

I know you are still doing work for the village even at your age. How do you feel about this? I love Harwell I have had a very happy life in this village and want the villagers to take pride in the village. I feel it is important that the benches are repaired.

Thank you, Doug, I think you can be proud of the rôle you have played in the village for as long as you have done. I have found our discussion very interesting and trust our readers have as well.

Clive Silver

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Little Pippins Preschool

As promised in my last column, I now have our Ofsted report and copies are available for parents of any prospective under-5's to read - Just ring me and I will let you have a copy. About it, our Chairman, Karen Muir, writes:

Little Pippins has just received yet another outstanding report from the office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). The inspection takes place every two to four years and its purpose is to assure government, parents and the public that funded pre-school education is of an acceptable quality.

Extracts from the report support the fact that Little Pippins can offer what most parents would be looking for in their child's pre-school education. "All aspects of knowledge and understanding of the world are very good ... Excellent use is made of the outdoor areas for both imaginative and physical play and to teach the children about the natural world"

"The pre-school provides a wide range of exciting learning opportunities ... the teaching is very good. The staff are highly motivated, planning stimulating activities which challenge the children and instill in them an enthusiasm for learning ... there is a good partnership with parents who have many, varied opportunities to be involved with the children's learning."

"The whole programme for communication, language and literacy is very good with many children achieving well beyond the early learning goals in some areas ... the classroom is well organised to maximise learning opportunities"

"Physical development is very good. A well planned programme ensures that all areas of development are well covered"

The pre-school is run by a committee of parents who are extremely pleased that the good relationship maintained between themselves and the staff helps create a stable working environment and contributes towards the success of the pre-school.

We currently have a few vacancies for some afternooon sessions - if you would like your child to come and play and have fun with us all, please ring me on 821741 (Little Pippins) or at home on 835397 and I'll be happy to tell you all about us,

Yvonne Hinchliffe - Playleader

Date for your diary: Harwell Feast 2001 Bank Holiday Monday
Any enquiries to Janice Markey - 832802. Further details in the next