

THE HARWELL NEWS

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Harwell Parish Council

At the February meeting of the Parish Council, the review of the registration service, for births etc., was discussed. The proposal to centralise this in Oxford was deplored, and the Council regarded one office in each District as the minimum acceptable.

Traffic-calming in the High Street was discussed, following a parishioner's recent letter. The Council agreed that traffic has an increasingly disruptive effect on village life, but had mixed views on measures to improve the situation. The future direction of Didcot development is a significant factor in the village's requirements. The OCC has advised that funds may be available, and the Council agreed to ask for a survey, stressing the need for a pedestrian crossing near Gaveston Road as a first priority.

It was reported that the Vale WHDC might be able to contribute to the cost of a Youth Shelter. The quoted price is only available until the end of March, and it was agreed to make a request to the Vale to cover about 50% of the £4,200 cost. A location west of the British Legion building was considered to be accessible, well lit, and to cause least disruption to those living adjacent to the Rec.

The Council had received a letter complaining about the state of the footpath from The Cleave to Blenheim Hill. Although the OCC is responsible for footpath maintenance it was agreed to ask the groundsmen to carry out any immediate remedial work that was possible to improve the path. The lights had been the subject of two previous requests for repair, and were soon after repaired, although one is now on permanently!

At the meeting on 12th March the Council was able to talk to the local Beat Officer for the first time for a while. The new officer, P.C. Frame, reported that there had been a number of burglaries from sheds and out-buildings recently. The targets were lawn-mowers and garden equipment etc., and parishioners are asked to make sheds etc. properly secure.

Mrs Turner reported on the planned Council Tax rates for the coming year. The County's component has increased by 7.2%, which is above the level of 5% at which the government could cap it, but it's thought they will not.

The Council ratified the decision made at the previous meeting to donate £500 to the Harwell School's appeal for their new computer suite from the coming year's funds.

On Didcot development, the Parish Council and Keep Harwell Rural Campaign have written to Mr Prescott asking him to call in the application and determine it on the basis that the land-quality constraint should override others.

Under matters related to Council lands, it was reported that the Tennis Court fence was still awaiting repair,

since the British Legion said they had not yet had confirmation from their insurers that they would pay.

Following a request from Harwell Football Club some improvements have been made to the Pavilion and for others quotations are being sought. The Council would like to thank Both Don Pike and Debbie Roberts for assisting in this with the cleaning and painting of the shower room.

This month sees the retirement of our groundsman for the last few years, Don Pike and also of our Clerk, Mrs Debbie Roberts. Both have done an excellent job over the last few years. Don will actually be continuing part-time, assisting our new man Mervyn Woods. I'm sure you will join with the Council in thanking Don for maintaining the Rec. and village paths verges etc. and also Debbie for ensuring the smooth-running of Council activities and meetings.

And the Council also welcomes its new Clerk, Mrs E. Hollister, who can be contacted as detailed below.

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 April 9th and May 14th. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Mrs E. Hollister, one week before the meeting - contact her on 820006 or by post to 8, Jennings Lane OX11 0EP.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 17th May at 8pm in the Village Hall. Items on the agenda are:

- Neighbourhood watch Scheme
- Didcot Development
- Restructuring of District Council area.

The Parish Council asks Parishioners to respect the footpath closures on Farm Land, including that south from the Cemetery to The Park / Church Lane.

The Parish Council is aware of, and has received complaints regarding the amount of dog fouling in both the recreation ground and on footpaths. This may be partly due to the closure of paths outside the village, or a just a higher population of dogs. Could all dog-owners please ensure they clean up behind their dogs, thereby reducing the risk to health?

There are several dog bins around the rec. and village, and pooper bags are available free, courtesy of the Parish Council, to parishioners at the newsagent. If you notice any failed street lights it would help if you could note the number on the lamp-post and call the free-phone number 0800 317802. This is all the Clerk does if you report it to her, so the quickest way to get it repaired is to call this number directly.

The provisional deadline for the next newsletter is 21st May with distribution about a week later. Items should be sent to Martin Ricketts at 16, The Park, preferably on floppy disk or email to m.ricketts@rl.ac.uk

Planning Matters

Notice of Permission:

HAR/16689 Single-storey rear extn, 28 North Drive.
 HAR/7752/2 1-storey-extn. Cherrycroft, Barrow Rd
 HAR/16687 Two-storey extn. to front and rear at 16,
 The Cleave with modifications.
 HAR/11643 Solar water heaters at The Homestead,
 High St.
 HAR/14234/3-D Erection of dwelling on land adjacent
 to Yearlings, Downs Close, subject to the ridge level
 being 1metre below that of Yearlings, etc.

New Applications:

HAR/16789: Erection of new dwelling on land adj.
 Homeleigh. The E&P Committee had received notifica-
 tion of one objection and asked the Vale to take account
 of neighbours comments.
 HAR/10742/4 Erection of garage at Mulberry House,
 Townsend.
 HAR/13789/1 Front extn at 34 Westfield.
 HAR/1045/5 & 6: Conversion of existing granny-
 annexe to separate dwelling, conversion of garage &
 store to granny-annexe, erection of single garage at The
 Old Chequers. The Council objected to the Vale WHDC
 that the proposal was overdevelopment, there was lim-
 ited parking space, etc.
 HAR/16563: Extension and alterations at 5 Manor
 Green. The Council had no observations other than to
 ask that neighbours comments be taken into considera-
 tion.
 HAR/16731: Erection of 100-bed hotel and Leisure
 Club on land currently occupied by tennis courts,
 squash club and houses on South Drive, Curie Avenue.
 (submitted December; should've been in Feb HNews)

Harwell Environment Group

The next meeting is the A.G.M., which will be held on
 Thursday 19th April, in the function room of the British
 Legion Club, Westfield, beginning at 8pm. Copies of
 the agenda will be available at the meeting but if anyone
 would like a copy prior to the meeting ring Barrie
 Turner on 821248. Come bubbling with ideas about
 what we can do for ourselves and our wildlife within
 our Parish environment.

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FUN CLUB NEWS

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings be-
 tween 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).

During February half term we had a **spring clean** of all
 our toys. Thanks to the team of around 10 people who
 came and helped. Following that, we spent around £250
 of hard-earned funds on some **new toys** to replace the
 worn out ones, and on some additional toys which had
 been requested in a survey of members.

Forthcoming events:

Last session of spring term – 3 April

First session of summer term – 24 April

3 April – Chocolate raffle

3 April – **Photographer** – a set of 1 large, 2 medium
 and 6 small professionally-taken colour photos of
 you/your child(ren) for just £13.30. If you don't like
 them, you return them and pay nothing.

3 April – **Committee meeting**, 8pm at Yew Tree Cot-
 tage, High Street. Any Fun Club members (doesn't
 matter how new you are), in addition to committee
 members, always welcome to attend. Contact Jane
 Woolley on 22 10 30.

8 May – **Homemade Cake Sale** – the stall will be open
 to anyone, not just Fun Club members. 0930-1100 in
 the village hall.

24 April and 22 May (not 29 May as that is half term) -
 The **Health Visitor**, Pam Norton, is offering consulta-
 tions 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) con-
 tact **Jane Woolley** on 221030.

Mobile Library

The library is in Harwell on alternate Wednesdays from
 2.40pm until 3.10 pm. The dates for the next two
 months are 11th and 25th April, and 9th and 23rd May.

McTimoney Chiropractic

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 cooperation with doctors wherever possible.

Little Pippins Pre-School

We have recently held our A.G.M. and now have a new Chair, Mrs. Elisa Badger. Our previous Chair was Karen Muir, and her children have now moved on to School. Karen has looked after all our needs very well over the last few years and we thank her very much for that. Without a good Committee we cannot function so it was good to see so many at the meeting and so many parents committed to our Pre-School. We would also like to thank the Reception Teachers from Harwell School who gave the parents a talk on Literacy Skills when the children start School., parents found this most interesting.

After Easter we will have a few spaces to fill on a Friday afternoon, if you would like your child to come and play and have fun with us please feel free to telephone me and have chat or phone the Pre-school on 821741 Mon-Fri 9.15 - 3.00 p.m.

On Friday, 16th March we held our Red Nose Coffee Morning, the Staff dressed up and looked completely ridiculous with T-Shirts and Pants over the top of our normal clothes and lots of the children all wore pants over their clothes. We raised £61.65, which has now gone off to Comic Relief, we were very pleased with our efforts.

Our next event is our very popular Easter Bonnet Parade on April 6th Friday 1.45 p.m. until 3.00 p.m. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt in the garden. Prizes for the best Boy's and Girl's Bonnets, a chocolate tombola and many other things going on I expect. You are very welcome to come along and see the children, or meet the Staff, meet the new Committee etc.

I hope to have some exquisite photographs in the next Issue !!
Yvonne Hinchliffe - Playleader

Musical fun for
the under fives

BUSY BEES MUSIC GROUP



Harwell Village Hall

on Friday mornings

'buzz-in' for a free trial or phone Rachel Shearer on
01235 521039 for more details

Harwell Royal British Legion

On Saturday 14th April there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children at the Royal British Legion starting at 2pm This will be followed by a small disco and the whole afternoon will finish at 5pm

In the evening there will be a 40's dance to the Derek Bruce Showband. Dress for the occasion - in 40's style clothes or uniforms appropriate to the time. Details available from the legion.

We are still looking for new members from the community to join this friendly family Club - why not pay us a visit and view the many and varied facilities on offer.

Harwell Feast Committee

After consultation with the local farmers regarding the current foot-and-moth crisis, the Committee has made the decision not to proceed with this year's Feast Day.

As some consolation perhaps, videos of Harwell Feast 2000 are now available by order at a cost of £5. Please order from Janice Markey - 832802.

Walk more - feel the difference



Did you know that walking is the perfect activity for health? Regular walking can improve your stamina, energy, weight control, confidence and help you sleep better. It can reduce your chances of suffering from anxiety, stress and many medical conditions and thereby extend your life expectancy. 30 minutes brisk walking several times a week is all it takes. Would you take that bit more exercise if there were others to keep you company and encourage you to walk in the village and surrounding countryside?

"Walking the way to health" is an initiative, sponsored by the Countryside Agency to encourage people to set up self-help groups. This agency provides grants to get started, as well as advice, training and insurance. Get started with what? Well, we can choose whether to run regular programmes of short led walks, or just establish, sign and publicize suitable routes for different levels of fitness. You may have seen a piece on television about a pilot scheme at Sonning Common and there have been others around the country. Each group sets its own objectives and seeks support from medical professionals and local organisations.

If you wish to participate in a scheme such as this, or just to know more about it, then please phone Sue Morrison on 01235 835687 or email suemorrison@hotmail.com. If enough people express an interest, we can form a group for the people of Harwell and neighbouring villages.

Winterbrook Youth Club

Monday evenings, 7pm to 10pm

For all young people, 11 - 18 yrs.

Jumble Sale

Saturday 7th April 2pm

Jumble etc. gratefully received 10am - 12 noon

PARISH PERSONALITY



For this issue we have a contrast to the personalities we have had to date. The previous subjects have been people who have risen to some prominence in village life. This month we look at someone at the start of her career - a young lady who is beginning to make a career for herself in the highly competitive world of musical entertainment. She is Tasha Sheridan; coming up to her 19th birthday and already achieving success on the musical stage.

Tasha has lived all her life in this area and most of it in Harwell. She went to school in East Hagbourne and then Didcot Girls' School. Her maternal grandparents and great grandparents were all Harwellians. While in primary school Tasha enjoyed the recorder, the piano, violin and choir. She took part in the school concerts and very much enjoyed being on the stage and the appreciation of the audiences.

While at primary school she took part in Pantomonium and appeared on Blue Peter with other Harwellians. With Harwell Youth Club she was an ugly sister in Cinderella in aid of Roy Castle's Appeal. At the age of thirteen Tasha became a member of South Oxfordshire Youth Music and Drama. Her talent was recognised and she successfully auditioned for the Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre and played leading roles in The Boyfriend, Me and My Girl and Half a Sixpence. She was asked to perform in River People a commissioned work for St Helen's Church and Abingdon's Millennium Celebration.

Tasha feels privileged to have belonged to these youth groups. Through the inspirational directors her talents were nurtured and developed. With the support and encouragement of her family and fellow players she has made the stage her home and loves the 'buzz' of performing in front of a live audience. She thanks the many Harwellians who have made these audiences extra special.

In 1999 she joined the Abingdon Operatic Society and was cast in the part of Peggy, the leading female role in '42nd Street'. I saw her perform this difficult stage part. At the age of eighteen I was amazed that she had the confidence and personality to dominate the stage and fill the Amey hall with clear, beautifully tonal singing. When I met her in person she seemed so modest and unassuming that it was difficult to envisage her as the strong stage personality that she can be. She is now in rehearsal as Jacqui in 'Me and My Girl' for Abingdon Operatic Society and as Polly in 'The Boyfriend' with the Bartholomew Community Theatre at Eynsham. 'Me and My Girl' is on at Abingdon in the Amey Hall from the 2nd to the 7th April and I would recommend it to you.

Tasha has won a place with the National Youth Music Theatre's 2001 production of 'The Dreaming'. This is a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. It has been scored and written by a top composer and a top librettist. It will be performed this summer. The two locations presently confirmed are Exeter and Londonderry.

Over three thousand young people auditioned for NYMT and Tasha was one of the 30 selected for 'The Dreaming'. To be-

come a member of the company Tasha has to raise a £500 course fee and about another £500 for travel and expenses for rehearsals and performances.

Tasha would be very grateful for any support, however small to allow her to follow up this great opportunity. She lives with her parents at 43 Orchard Way; her telephone number is 221168.

I look forward to the day when us Harwellians can hear a recording on the radio or television and say, 'That's our village's Tasha.'

Clive Silver

Sustainable Living - a guide to getting started

The phrases 'Local Agenda 21' and 'Sustainable Development' crop up with increasing regularity these days. But what are they all about and how do they impact on our wildlife?

The local Wildlife Trust has produced a new booklet that introduces the concepts behind sustainable living. It aims to take a wider look at the impacts of our everyday actions on the environment, and to give some ideas for individuals to take action to lessen these impacts.

The booklet includes information on composting, reusing and recycling waste, and on reducing our use of energy, water and transport. Its useful suggestions show how we can strive towards a less wasteful way of living - which will help wildlife, their habitats and us!

The booklet is available free of charge from Jessica Munday, Wildlife Information Officer at the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford, OX4 4XT. Tel: 01865 775476.

Email: wildlife-information@bbowt.cix.co.uk

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From the Archives – 50 years ago.

At a meeting in the spring of 1951, the Chairman said that he was prepared to call a meeting of interested parties to discuss the celebrations for the Festival of Britain. It had been suggested that the Harwell Feast should be revived, & he hoped that the representatives of the various bodies in the parish would meet the Council to discuss the matter.

There was discussion regarding the possible re-opening of the Swimming Baths. It had been suggested that if the Bath were in use, approx 500 children would use it throughout the season, due to lack of facilities elsewhere. It was agreed by the Council to obtain estimates of the cost of putting the Baths in order and of the cost of water throughout the season.

The Chairman raised the question of the payment of travelling expenses of visiting clergy at funerals in the absence of a vicar in the parish & it was agreed that these would be paid on request

At the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st March the Chair was taken by Mr Woodall and 9 members of the public attended. In his resume of the work during the past year he described the development scheme for the Recreation Ground, for which a loan of £850 was being obtained from the County Council to assist in the work. The question of disposal of the Nurses Bungalow was still under discussion with the County Council.

The Chairman also told the meeting that the final estimate for the resurfacing of Winnaway Path had far exceeded the verbal estimate as first received. He said that further estimates were being obtained for the making up of the portion of the path which was to be diverted.

The proposed street lighting scheme had proved on examination to be too costly & no further action had been taken.

Harwell Organisations

British Legion	Peter Cissell	221083
Busy Bees Music Group	Mrs Rachel Shearer	521039
Evergreens	Mrs P. Connolly	835366
Crispin Football Club	Ralph Crabtree	811677
Gardeners Club	Mrs A. Harris	835238
Girls Brigade	Mrs R. Slatter	835668
Harwell Bellringers	Mr D. Jordan	835310
Harwell Bowls Club	Mr P. Penson	01865 327824
Harwell Environment Group	Barrie Turner	821248
Harwell Feast Committee	Miss J. Markey	832802
Harwell Football Club	John Piggott	834408
Harwell Fun Club, Carer & Toddler	Jane Woolley	221030
Harwell History / Info.	Mrs Ruth Woollen	835253
Harwell Philatelic Soc.	Mr J. Child	835576
Harwell Senior Citizens Fund	Mrs Y Hinchliffe	835397
Harwell Parish Council	Clerk: Mrs E. Hollister	820006
Harwell Primary School	The Styles	835337
Harwell Tennis Club	Trevor Packer	835436
	Mrs J. Cumming	835289
Harwell Venture Scouts	Steve Hale	831674
Harwell Village Hall	Martin Ricketts	835628
Bookings	Mrs Fiona Tankard	861593
Harwell Young Singers	Zoe Zimmerman	221146
Little Pippins Pre-School	Mrs Yvonne Hinchliffe	835397
New Mums	Sarah Fishburn	820921
	or Fiona Tankard	861593
Neighbourhood Watch	Mr J Mein	834384
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers	Mr B Zimmerman	833440
Short Mat Bowls Club	Mr & Mrs R. Spratt	813514
St. Matthews Ch. Sec.	Mrs J. Hance	834256
Winterbrook Youth Club	Miss J. Markey, Blaisdon	832802
Womens Institute	Mrs Audrey Poffley	835450



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HARWELL VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

CRIME IN HARWELL

Garden Sheds have been the target of many crimes in the area during the past few months. The police report that this type of crime is currently very common in Harwell and the surrounding villages. Do secure your sheds with stout locks and keep a look out for anyone acting suspiciously, during the daytime, as well as at night.

Have you been offered any Cheap Television Sets Recently?

A White Van has recently been reported trying to sell Television Sets in Pub Car Parks. If you are offered one please contact the Police.

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**.

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Harwell Gardeners Club

On 2nd April Kevin Hughes will be talking on '*Spinners' through the Seasons*, a garden in the New Forest. And on 14th May (note date) there will be a talk by Dr and Mrs Watt on *Mountain Flowers of Greece*.

Meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30pm - visitors always welcome.

OBI Basketball Roadshows

The Outdoor Basketball Initiative Roadshows are a new scheme to the Vale. They provide assistance in basketball coaching at different venues across the district. The sessions are staffed by qualified sports leaders who have experience working with children (and are qualified first-aiders). In Harwell on:

Wednesday 18th April at Freeman Hall

2pm - 4pm cost £3, ages 8 to 16years

Harwell Senior Citizens Fund

If there is anyone out there that would like to purchase our weekly bingo tickets, they are only 10p each and you could win £60 + every week. They are on sale at the Paper Shop every week, or alternatively, we can send around an agent who would call every week and actually bring you the tickets. Please help a very worthy cause.

If you are 70 years of age and you would like to receive our Christmas Gift this year, phone Mrs. Harmer on 832717 and she will put your name down. You have to be a resident of our Parish.

A Fund-raising idea has been put forward by one of our very friendly Village Landladies, Rae Chapman at the Crispin. They hold a Curry + Quiz Night every month where they charge £3.00 per entry (very reasonable) for one of Rae's excellent curries together with a very entertaining evening of wit and general knowledge. She was thinking of increasing the cost of the Night to maybe £5.00 and the extra money would come to our Fund. This is a very popular event and she would really like to raise loads of money for us. Is there anyone out there who would like to represent us? The date of the next Quiz is Saturday April 28th. Come along and have some fun with us. If you need any more details please ring Rae at the Crispin on 835212 or Yvonne Hinchliffe on 835397 and they will be happy to help you.

Winterbrook Youth Club - Help!

Do you want to make a difference to young people in Harwell Village? The Youth Club Committee needs some new members. We meet four times a year and occasionally need help for Jumble Sales etc. No special skills are required - just enthusiasm and an interest in young people. If you are interested please contact Celia Lockwood on 221173 or Janice Markey on 832802.

Editorial Notes

Harwell News is published at the beginning of alternate months. Other than in reports of Parish Council meetings and where stated, the opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Advertisement rates are £33 per year for 1/5th column, i.e. 45mm high by 80mm and £7 for a single issue, pro-rata for larger sizes. Acceptance is at the discretion of the Parish Council.

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Ray Hinchliffe - Polkerris, High St. Harwell

Gardening – April - May

How many of you have wanted a Wisteria but have been put off because it takes such a long time for it to come into flower? Well if you really want a Wisteria that flowers early you can have one – it is a white one with perfume. It comes from America and is called "Larry's White". It is available from Jonathan Nettleton, Ivy Mill Lane, Godstone, RH9 8NF Telephone/fax 01883 742426; one year grafts are available by Mail order, but larger plants can be obtained by visitors to the nursery. There are also about 40 different Wisterias on offer.

This year also sees new varieties of Surfinia petunias including the Plant of the Year "Surfinia Lime". There is also a new variety of petunias called "Cascade" which, in the latest trials, is said to rival Surfinia.

The ground is still soggy after all the rain but the plants seem to be doing alright especially as it's been pretty warm the last few days (as I write this). The state of the ground makes it difficult to do very much except work from the paths – we should finish the pruning of roses, shrubs, and fruit trees & bushes if we have not done so already.

Outside we can sow early carrots, sprouting broccoli, parsnips, chard (leaf beet), and hardy annuals, and if you hurry you can still plant hedges, shrubs, trees, roses, fruit trees & bushes. Houseplants may begin to be fed and any that are pot bound may be re-potted.

Watch out for aphids, white fly, caterpillars and red spider mite in the greenhouse and take immediate action if seen, chemicals – Bio 'Sprayday' will take care of all those I have mentioned and a systemic fungicide such as Miracle 'Spotless' for any sign of fungus or mildew. For Vine weevil there is 'Provado' Alternatively if you prefer organic methods you can use 'Nemasys' for Vine weevil, 'Aphidius' or 'Aphidoletes', Ladybird larvae, or Lacewing larvae for Aphids, Encarsia for

Whitefly, and Phytoseiulus for Redspider. You may have to wait however for the weather to get warmer before the organic pest controls can be sent.

Slugs are a nuisance especially since we have had such a wet winter. They can be dealt with by methiocarb or metaldehyde or organically 'Nemaslug', slug traps, slug tape, or a new Slug X trap which can be moved to a new location every night. If you are interested in organic pest control get the 'Green Gardener' from Green Gardener, 41 Strumpshaw Road, Brundall, Norfolk, NR13 5PG. This has many other organic controls beside those above.

At the same time don't forget to encourage birds, hedgehogs, frogs and toads to your garden; between them they eat vast quantities of all the pests.

If you have plants in the greenhouse and you want your plants to be sturdy why not give them a course of thigmomorphogenesis? This simply means that you brush them daily at 9am every morning! Just brushing your hand lightly over the plants is sufficient. About 20 – 40 cycles is adequate. In the open the wind does the same thing. Research has shown that 9 o'clock is the optimum time, and it is carried out commercially in America.

Now for the weather - February was a mixture of wet and dry, it started off wet then we had a dry spell then it was wet again. In all we had 67 mm of rain in February the highest temperature was 15.3C on 4th and the lowest 4.9C on 13th. The soil didn't really have time to dry out before it was flooded again, the wettest winter for 250 years. Let us hope that by the time we have the next one we shall have learnt to cope with it! Anyway good gardening!

Laurie.

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Age Concern is pleased to announce the launch of an Advocacy Service for residents and other users of County Council residential homes in Oxfordshire.

The County Council will shortly be entering a partnership with an outside contractor who will take over providing 800 care places across the county.

Many residents will have concerns about the changes and will need support to speak up about decisions which may affect their lives. The Advocacy Service will offer independent support to residents through the period of change and beyond.

We are looking for volunteers willing to become Advocates for people living in residential homes. No particular experience is necessary we offer training and plenty of support. For more details about this rewarding voluntary work, telephone 01865 717615.

Saturday 31st March 7.30p.m.
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News from Harwell School

After only three months of very wet and very cold conditions County Construction have completed work on our new computer room. We now await the computers so that we can start using it. The money has been raised through massive efforts by the parents as well as much appreciated donations by local sponsors. We are still raising our half of the £68,600, but to date we have received large sums from the Local Authority, our After School Club and The School Association, with substantial donations from UKAEA, The Rotary Club, AEA Technology and the Harwell Feast Committee. There is still some way to go but many thanks to all who have given. Our sports teams have been active this year with the Netball team recently tying for first place in a tournament

at Manor School in Didcot, only failing to retain the trophy on overall goals scored. The football team meanwhile have had an excellent year. They are area and county six-a-side champions, narrowly missing a place in the national finals at White Hart Lane, losing 1-0 in the South West Regional Final at Swindon.

The cultural life of the school remains vibrant, with a superb concert in February, featuring talented musicians from the age of 6 upwards playing to a very appreciative audience. We are currently welcoming our newest recruits, who visit this term before starting in the reception class after Easter. I am sure that they will be assets to the school and soon become part of our special team working for the future and loving to learn at Harwell School.

Peter Cansell, Headteacher
