



THE HARWELL NEWS

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Parish Council

Due to the delay in this issue, there have been three Council meetings since the last issue. County Councillor Colin Lamont reported in May that the alteration to the structure plan had been adopted by the OCC. He said that efforts should be concentrated on the Local Planning stage to obtain the option that does least damage to the village as well as benefits from 'planning gain'. At the June meeting it was reported that Persimmon Homes had lodged an appeal in the High Court, but it was thought this would not have much impact other than delay.

At the **June Meeting**, following the election of a new County Councillor, the Clerk was asked to write to Colin Lamont, thanking him for his efforts on behalf of the Parish, in particular with regard to the development of Didcot. Mrs Turner reported that most of the Vale WHDC was in the process of reorganising, and the new structure should be in place by September, but the Planning and Licensing Committee will stay as it was. The Vale WHDC is taking steps to establish Area Forums and Area Committees under the Local Government Act 2000. The former would allow the airing of local opinion, while the latter might have powers delegated to them on various matters.

Under matters related to Council Lands, it was reported that delivery of the teenager seating has been delayed and is now due in mid-June. The Council also discussed the proposal for a BMX track in the field adjacent to the allotments. Change of use permission would be required from the Vale WHDC, and it was agreed the Clerk should apply for this.

It was reported that clover was making mowing difficult in the new Rec. area. It was agreed to have the area sprayed – hence the recent closure following the spraying.

At the **May Meeting**, under matters arising, the water flow from the Winnoway onto the Reading Road after heavy rainfall was raised – the site had been inspected by The Vale WHDC which has forwarded the Council's letter to the OCC.

The Harwell School Summer Playscheme had written to the Council requesting a donation towards the cost of providing horse riding. A grant of £200 was agreed.

The repair of the seats at Drewitts Corner and Townsend has been completed by Mr Doug Jordan, and they are once again both visually attractive and functional!

The Council agreed to pay the bill for the tennis court fence repairs that it had ordered on the basis that nothing had been heard from the British Legion regarding their liability and insurance. The Clerk was asked to forward a copy of the invoice to the British Legion for their consideration.

The North Drive Management Committee had written regarding what it considered inadequate provision for North Drive residents from Council Tax payments. The Council considers that the Precept is quite reasonably spent in the main to maintain Parish facilities such as the Recreation Ground, Cemetery, allotments and Churchyard, which are available for all parishioners. The Council did contribute to the play area facilities adjacent to North Drive, on the last occasion not very long before they were removed by UKAEA. The Clerk was asked to reply that it would welcome greater communication with the Residents Association, and would be pleased to meet its representatives.

Under any other business, it was reported that the OCC had informed the Council of its intention to carry out work in The Park, including Kerbing and resurfacing. The Harwell F.C. had written to the Council thanking them for their prompt response regarding the state of the Pavilion.

Parish Council meetings are normally on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Recreation Ground Pavilion. The next meetings are on 9th July and 10th September. The Clerk, Mrs E Hollister can be contacted on 820006.

The Council has had to contact several parishioners regarding hedges overhanging the highway, following complaints. Would those with hedges etc. adjacent to roads and paths please ensure they are not encroaching, particularly where this might force pedestrians into the road.

Harwell W.I.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in March and Audrey Poffley was re-elected President. Meeting are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors and new members very welcome – come and join us. At our forthcoming meetings we have:-

On 11th July Sheila Hallam will give a talk on "Patchwork through the Ages"

Di Baker, Press Secretary.

Craft Fair

August 27th - Bank Holiday Monday
at

The White Hart

Proceeds to Pendyffryn Children's Trust, Oxford
£5 per pitch – bring own tables
Fox FM's Freddie the fox visiting 12 – 1pm
Live music 3 – 5pm

Harwell News Publication Dates

Apologies for the delay in this issue. As a result the next issue will appear at the beginning of September, which will hopefully suit some groups better than the previous August/October schedule.

Planning Matters

Notice of permission:

- HAR/9399/5 1st floor extension and conservatory, Kings Piece, Grove Road.
HAR/9676/8 Conversion of studio with extension to dwelling, garage etc. at The Studio, High St.
HAR/16789 Erection of dwelling on land adjacent to Homeleigh, School Lane.
HAR/1045/6 Conversion of garage/store to granny annexe, erection of single garage.

Notice of Refusal:

- HAR/1045/5 Subdivision of dwelling at The Old Chequers to provide 2 dwellings.
HAR/16886 Extension and double garage at Cherrydene Reading Road, on grounds of effect on amenity of dwelling in Tyrrells Close

New Applications:

- HAR/16984 Conversion of barn to dwelling at Upperbarn, Townsend. The Council was concerned that the dwelling would extend the village envelope.
HAR/1658/1 Extension to provide dual family / granny annexe at Winnoway Farm.
HAR/11633/1 Roof extension at Old Nurses Cottage. The Council asked the Vale WHDC to take account of any neighbour's comments.

Result of the County Council Election

Results for the Wantage Rural seat were:

Richard Farrell (Lib Dem)	1776
Colin Lamont (Ind)	1457
Francis Kelly (Lab)	569
Matthew Edwards (Green)	207

Mobile Library

The library is in Harwell on alternate Wednesdays in the Village Hall car park from 2.45 to 3.15pm. The dates for the next two months are 18th July then 1st, 15th and 29th August.

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Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 18th May at Harwell Village Hall. Eight members of the Parish Council and five other parishioners attended. The Chairman, Mr Graham White summarized the work of the Council over the previous year, in particular the development of Didcot and changes in staff. In particular he thanked Mr Don Pike for his work as the Parish Council's groundsman for the last few years until his recent (semi-) retirement. He also paid tribute to the Millennium Committee for the events they had organized during the year 2000.

Talking about the Council's role in the planning process, he highlighted the limited powers of the Parish Council – that of offering its advice to the Vale WHDC. In one particular case the PC had met the Vale Planning officers and Councillors, and come away, in the words of one Councillor, 'older but wiser'.

He also paid tribute to the previous Council Chairman – Mr Brian Mulford – from whom he had only officially taken over the previous Monday.

Then Mr Peter Green took to the floor and described the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. There are areas of the village either not covered or where the Scheme may be dormant.

Mr Colin Lamont then gave Mrs Margaret Turner's report as Vale Councillor in her absence. On the campaign against Didcot development to the west he thanked in particular Dr. Tony Hughes for his work in the campaign. In spite of everyone's efforts the Alteration to the Structure Plan had been adopted and we now await the Local Plan stage of the development. He reported on the County Council – he said the OCC's share of Council Tax was up 44% in 4 years, but was thankfully a more modest 7% this year.

Safari Supper

Saturday 13th October

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Little Pippins PreSchool

We had a very successful Easter bonnet parade this year with about 25 entries. They were kindly judged by Mrs M Hinchliffe and the 2 winners were Chloe Winterbourne and Truman Hunt, shown in our picture below:



We had an Easter Egg Hunt in the garden and sung some songs to the mum's. China mugs were presented to the children who left to go to school.

We have few vacancies left on a Friday afternoon, if you would like your child to come along to play with us all phone 821741 (term time) or you can contact me at home 835397.

Did you know that your child will now get Government Funding the term before their 4th Birthday (that's 5 sessions free) or if you are on Income support or Job seekers Allowance you can also apply for funding.

We are now looking forward to our Annual Outing. Due to lots of places being on limited access this year, we have decided to hire a coach and take the children to see 'The Wheels on the Bus' at the Apollo, Oxford and back to the Freeman Orchard for a shared picnic.

Here's looking forward to a lovely summer with lots of outside play in our garden. Yvonne Hinchliffe.

Musical fun for
the under fives

BUSY BEES MUSIC GROUP

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on Friday mornings



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01235 521039 for more details.



FUN CLUB NEWS

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).

During April and May we had some fundraising events. Chocolate raffle raised £46.40 and Homemade Cake Sale raised £32.85. Thanks to all those who supported these events.

Forthcoming events:

Last session in summer term will be Tues 17 July (although that day will be the summer outing, see below, so there will be no session in the village hall itself).

Mon 9 July – Annual General Meeting – 8pm Yew Tree Cottage, High St, Harwell – contact Jane Woolley on 221030. All Fun Club users invited (ie not just Committee members). Exact date and venue may change so contact Jane to confirm if you intend to attend.

Tues 17 July – Summer outing to Cotswold Wildlife Park – free coach transport for up to 49 people provided courtesy of Fun Club. Coach leaves Harwell 0930 returns by 1430. Park entry prices: adults £5.50, children 3+ £3.00, children under 3 go free. Advance payment essential to secure free coach place – contact Liz Roberts Tel 834 295 by 26 June at latest.

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

Harwell Feast Committee

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 5th September at 8pm in the British Legion Meeting Room.
New members are most welcome.

Dates for your diary:

Harwell Village Quiz

Friday 28th September
Teams of up to 6, £3 / head

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10am - 12noon Sunday.

Parish Personality – Mabel Stevens

From young Tasha in the April edition to a much more senior citizen this time. Our personality this month is Mabel Stevens. Mabel is more than ninety years old and is a resident in Cherry Tree Court. She feels that she does not qualify as a parish personality in her own right but only because she is the oldest tenant in Cherry Tree Court and has been a resident almost from the start.

Mabel looks young for her years, a good complexion, sparkling eyes and very smartly dressed. Her eyesight has deteriorated but she has a wonderful memory, her hearing is good and she carries conversation on very well. She regularly attends at St Matthews church. She thought that Harwell News readers would not find her story to be of great interest, but she thought she would like to tell the rest of the village about Cherry Tree Court.

Mabel was born in Cardiff, one of a large family. The family moved to Bridgend. It was a happy family without all the things we now take for granted like television, radio, the telephone, cars. The family were strong in supporting the church. They were also musical. In the evenings they would gather and sing songs and hymns. People seemed to have more time for each other then. Mabel liked the town and enjoyed school where discipline was very strict. She left school at the age of twelve, she would have liked to have trained as a nurse but couldn't do that until she was eighteen. Mabel eventually worked in a chemist's shop.

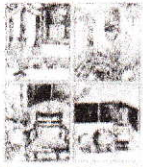
She married in 1927, Her husband, Percy, was a railwayman with the Great Western. In 1929 they moved to Wallingford and six years later to Didcot. Mabel liked Didcot. She was a member of All Saints church and was active in the church with flower arranging, support for activities like the Ladies Group and church sales. Her husband died in 1972 and Mabel was living on her own in Didcot when she found out about Cherry Tree Court while it was being built, she came out to look at it and decided it was the answer to her prayers.



The flats are run by Anchor Trust, a registered charity which has over 600 establishments in Britain. She would have a flat of her own, with her own furniture, ornaments and bits and pieces. It was very close to the church; Mabel could have her own patch of garden, but she has since given this up. The surroundings are lovely, it is built on the site of the old rectory with mature trees and the churchyard just beyond the grounds. What Mabel wanted to stress was that Cherry Tree Court is not a nursing home. The tenants live independently and are free to come and go as they please. They have an alarm system to call for help in an emergency, but their flats are private. The tenants are relieved of a number of worries like the maintenance of the property and of the kitchen appliances. There are twenty one flats, eight of which are for two people.

Although each flat is private, there are some communal activities and generally the tenants live in harmony. Mabel has the highest praise for the scheme manager, Mrs Frances Taylor, Mabel considers that Frances contributes a great deal to the peace and comfort she feels in Cherry Tree Court.

As I left with the sun streaming in, the gardens looking lovely and the birds singing, it was nice to feel that someone who has lived almost a hundred years can find and enjoy the peace and contentment that Mabel Stevens does.



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Ken Plumb & Tony Griffin

Three village organisations have been greatly saddened by the recent deaths of two leading committee members: Ken Plumb and Tony Griffin. They were on the committees of Harwell Gardeners' Club, Harwell Out & About Club and the local branch of the Conservative Association.

Both Tony and Ken were founder members of the Gardeners' Club of which Ken was President at the time of his death.

Both, too, were in at the start of the Out and About Club. Ken was Treasurer until his retirement three years ago and one-time secretary. Tony organised some of the popular outings and was Chairman at the time of his death.

Ken also served as treasurer for the local branch of the Conservative Association on which committee Tony was some-time Chairman and, later, President.

Apart from these three committees Ken was Treasurer of the Village Hall committee in the early 90s.

Both men contributed much to the activities in the village and they will be greatly missed. Sincere sympathy goes out to Jan Plumb and her family and to Tony's family.

and from Jan Plumb:

Jan Plumb wishes to thank everyone who has been so very supportive to both her and Ken during his long illness, and for the support, sympathy and kindness shown to her following his death.

She especially would like to thank the members of Harwell Gardeners' Club, of which Ken was a founder member and president, and the Harwell Out & About Club of which Ken was Treasurer. (He greatly appreciated the presentation of a splendid garden chair when he retired from that post three years ago).

Thank you all so much for your support at this time. It has brought me, Jan, much comfort and is greatly appreciated.

Jan Plumb

Chiropodist

Jane A. Cumming, MSSCh, MBChA,

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Harwell Village Hall

Annual General Meeting
Thursday 12th July, 7.30pm
in the
Freeman Hall

At the last Committee meeting, it was reported that the electrical refurbishment had just been completed. Grants totaling £7,950 were received for the work, including £350 from Harwell Feast Committee – grants such as this are very useful in persuading outside bodies that there is support for the work in the local community.

It was agreed the exterior woodwork was in need of repainting and some renewal. Quotes will be sought before the next meeting.

OTTC would like to premiere their winter production 'Arthur' in the Village Hall on Tuesday 20th November – so parishioners will have the chance of being the first in the County to see this production – put the date in your diaries! Our thanks to those Hall Users who have agreed to changes in their routine to allow OTTC use of the Hall.

Home wanted for Office Desk

The Hall has a large desk that is surplus to requirements. If anyone is interested please contact Martin Ricketts (835628) or Trevor Packer (835436).

Gardener's Club

The August meeting will be a garden visit, to The Filberts. The autumn programme begins on 3rd September with a talk on Westonbirt Arboretum by the Head Forester. Meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. New members and Visitors always welcome.

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swords and sorcery, chivalry and romance.

For a family audience (6+)

Proceeds to Village Hall Funds

Enquiries to Janice Markey 832802

AN APPEAL FOR DOUGLAS HOUSE

(Following on from Helen House ...)

Many of you will have heard of Helen House, the world's first children's hospice which opened in Oxford 18 years ago and which continues to give day-to-day love and care to children who face life-threatening illness as well as offering support and friendship to the whole family.

Advances in medicine and feeding techniques mean that many of these children are now living longer than they might have done a few years ago. For some in their late teens and early twenties the environment of a children's hospice is no longer suitable or appropriate to meet their varied and special needs. Sister Frances Dominica, the founder of Helen House, therefore intends to build Douglas House, a purpose-built hospice/respite care centre (a respite) for young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions who are beyond the age of using a children's hospice, but for whom there is presently no other suitable provision.

Douglas House, like Helen House, will be the first of its kind. Douglas House will seek to add life to days, even when days cannot be added to lives, and to offer the best quality of care to every young person according to his or her needs and wishes. It will be an occasional home-from-home, where young people will not only receive love and care from experienced staff, but also where they can develop social relationships with people their own age outside the family circle. Whilst

they enjoy relatively good health they may wish to take advantage of the opportunity to study, take up new leisure pursuits or just to relax in a warm and friendly atmosphere. There is immense pressure on those who care for young people with life limiting illness and they too deserve a well-earned rest: some may like to stay close-by in the family rooms to be provided within Douglas House, whilst others will prefer to take a short holiday in order to recharge their batteries. However, when the time comes, staff at Douglas House will be there to help young friends to die with peace and dignity and to help families come to terms with the death of their dearly loved young relatives.

Douglas House will be built across the garden from Helen House within the confines of the convent walls. So, we have the land, and we have the planning permission. The task now is to raise the £4 million needed to build and equip Douglas House. Sir Trevor

McDonald, already a supporter of Helen House, has very kindly become Patron of our fund-raising appeal, and over recent months we have received considerable national and local media coverage, all of which is helping daily to bring us closer to our target figure. There is, however, urgency to the situation in which so many young people find themselves. Sadly, for some Douglas House will come too late: for others you could make a significant difference. If you can help in any way, or if you know of an organisation willing to raise funds for Douglas House, please contact Valerie Mather, Douglas House Office, 110 St Mary's Road, Oxford, OX4 1QD, Tel. 01865 794749.

David Baum, President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and loyal friend of Helen House, told this story. Before his sudden death he gave his full support to the concept of Douglas House. The starfish logo is adopted as an affectionate tribute to him.

As the old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up Starfish and slinging them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun.

"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish " countered the other. How can your effort make any difference?

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.



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HARWELL VILLAGE

NEIGHBOURHOOD

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN HARWELL

Mr Green, the Vale of White Horse Neighbourhood Watch Regional Administrator, addressed the Annual Parish Council meeting held on May 17th. He said that there were currently only 16 Co-ordinators in Harwell who receive Ringmaster messages telling them about crime reported in Harwell. Hence many parts of the village are not covered by Neighbourhood Watch, some are in areas where recent crime has been reported.

If anyone is prepared to act as a Co-ordinator for their area and receive Ringmaster messages, that only need be relayed to members in their immediate neighbourhood, would they please contact Mr Richard Hover, Ringmaster Co-ordinator, on 01235 556957, who will be pleased to give them details of the areas not covered in the village.

CRIME IN HARWELL

Garden Sheds are still being targeted in the area. The police report that this type of crime is still 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. Details of alarms that are suitable for garden sheds are available from Mr Green, 01235 556938.

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**.

Gardening Notes for June-July

These are the months when we should begin to enjoy the Garden. The weather should be finer now and there should be some nice sunny weather for us to enjoy. Following the amount of rain we have had things are growing fast. Hanging baskets and other containers can all go outside now but still keep a watch out for frosts – I've known them in June! Runner beans, tomatoes, peppers, and other tender plants may now be planted out in the open garden.

For next year why not try some pink Lily of the Valley or some of the newer forms of Hellebores or a new clematis. There is plenty of choice in this years catalogues.

Keep on with the weeding – there is plenty of that around, especially after all the wet weather, and so too are there plenty of slugs and snails, these may be killed by many methods, but beware of slug pellets they can kill wild life as well.

Pests too are plentiful, there are aphids, whitefly, red spider mite, lily beetle and a host of other pests awaiting around the corner, so take action quickly.

May was a reasonable month although it was rather cold – the highest temperature was 26.6c on the 13th. the lowest 0.7c on the 5th. Total Rainfall amounted to 26.4mm. nearly all in the first quarter of the month.

Enjoy your garden!

Laurie.



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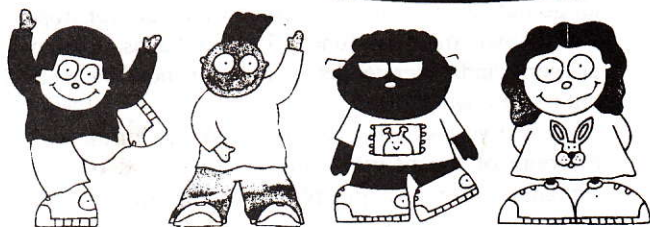
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Saturday 7 July

Paul's Positive Puppets come and meet the Giant Puppets in the town centre between 11am and 4pm

Saturday 14 July

Nutty Norman's Punch and Judy in the Market Place at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.30pm

Saturday 21 July

Wizamazoo the Storyteller will spin his tales in the Market Place at 11am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm and 3.15pm

Friday 27 July

Help Paint a Mural with Joyce Coombs from 9.30am until 3pm in the Market Place

Saturday 28 July

The Market Place is where you can watch **White Faced Mime Artist**, Chris White at 11am, 1pm and 3pm

Tuesday 31 July

Listen to stories told by **Children's Author & Illustrator Sue Heap** at Didcot Library between 11am and 12 noon

Thursday 2 August

The Wild Waste Show in the Market Place from 10am

Friday 3 August

Have a go at **Balloon Modelling** at Mr. Twisters Workshop from 11am until 4pm in the Market Place

Saturday 4 August

Look out for Jay Linn, **Stilt Walking** in the town centre between 11am until 4pm

Tuesday 7 August

Popular children's author **Sarah Hayes** will be story telling at Didcot Library from 11am to 12 noon

Friday 10 August

Craft Workshop in the Market Place - create something with odds and ends between 9.30am and 3pm

Saturday 11 August

Watch out! Martin Jenner the **Stilt Walking Policeman** is in town from 11am until 4pm

Tuesday 14 August

Sarah Hayes, popular children's author, will be at Didcot Library telling stories between 11am and 12 noon

Friday 17 August

Try your hand at some **Maths and Science with Curiosity** from 10am until 4pm in the Market Place

Saturday 18 August

Jigsaw the Juggling Jester will entertain in the town centre from 11am until 4pm

Friday 24 August

Gary Olding's **Puppet Menagerie** comes to Didcot, see these amazing animals in the town centre between 11am and 4pm

Saturday 25 August

Rainbow the Clown, will amuse and entertain with ball walking and much more in the town centre from 11am to 4pm

Friday 31 August

Come and try some **Circus Skills** at Jay Linn's Workshop in the Market Place from 11am to 4pm

Saturday 1 September

Clown Charlie Chaplin, walkabout comedy antics from 11am until 4pm in the town centre

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For more information please contact Jane Cumming (Tel. 01235 221048)

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