

The Harwell News

Published by Harwell Parish Council Number 119 September 2002

Parish Council

At the September Parish Council meeting the first business was to elect a Chairman, since Mr Graham White had recently moved from the Parish. The vice-chairman, Mr Don Hayter was elected, following proposal by Mrs June Blissett & seconding by Mr Jim Mulford.

Three parishioners had asked to be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill some of the vacancies. They were duly co-opted: Mrs P. Staples, Mrs D. Boughton-Waite and Mr M. Sedwards.

PC Frame reported that there had been a number of burglaries in the Parish over the summer, including thefts of tools. The series of post-box break-ins, of which Harwell suffered 2, had extended to Gloucester, but there was hope those responsible would soon be detained for questioning. Mr Jim Mulford was willing to facilitate the repair of the Victorian post-box door if the Royal Mail allowed this and the pieces were all available.

Mrs F. Tankard & Mrs J. Woolley attended the meeting to explain the services offered by the Mothers Support Network. Information on this was circulated with the July newsletter, and they can be contacted on 221030.

District Councillor Colin Lamont reported that the Vale WHDC would soon be inviting comments on its new Local Plan – there will be a 6-week consultation period. He also referred to the exhibition regarding Didcot development to be held **18th - 21st September** at Didcot Baptist Church, Wantage Road. 'Keep Harwell Rural' will be asking for any development of the Vauxhall Barracks to be part of the 'Didcot West' scheme.

It was reported that there is a 'mini-gatso' speed recorder available for which the PC can apply for the loan for a few days. The Council agreed this was a good idea. It is uncalibrated and for manual use only; it is not known when it might be available.

The Parish Council agreed at the September Meeting to move meetings to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, in the Recreation Ground Pavilion at 7.30pm.

The next meetings will be on 8th October and 12th November. Items for the agenda should be with the Clerk, Mrs E. Hollister, a week before the meeting - contact her by post to 8, Jennings Lane.

The next newsletter will be in mid-November. Items to the editor by November 9th please - m.j.ricketts@rl.ac.uk, 16 The Park, tel 835628.

Use of litter bins – Parishioners are asked not to use the litter bins in the streets for disposal of domestic rubbish – apart from preventing their normal use if they are filled, they are emptied by the Council's groundsman and not by Biffa.

Expansion of Didcot

The South Oxfordshire Local Plan: First Draft Deposit duly appeared at the end of June. *Keep Harwell Rural*, along with the Parish Council, sent in responses by the deadline of 2 August, as did many individuals. Thank you to everyone who responded and helped with the publicity. Many people also attended the exhibition held in the Didcot Civic Hall at the beginning of July. The report on the comments made can be seen in full at Didcot Town Council's Offices in the Civic Hall or at Didcot Library, or a copy purchased from Carol Yates (01491 823725) for £25. The exhibition showed that there are considerable concerns about Didcot West, but also many differences of opinion. We shall have to continue to battle if we want the development to minimise problems for Harwell, for example to ensure that green spaces are maintained on the western side of the development. One clear thing to emerge is that a majority of people agree that the new secondary school should be in the Ladygrove area, not in Didcot West. We have always argued this and will continue to press this issue.

SODC must now update their Local Plan and produce a Second Draft, probably early next year. If they cannot satisfy points made by objectors to the First Draft, there will be a Public Inquiry.

Watch out next for the Vale of the White Horse Local Plan, expected soon for consultation, and for the planning application that the developers are said to be submitting soon. You can comment and object to the planning application by following the procedure in the advertisement that the Council must put in the local press. The developers are also holding a public exhibition of their 'options under consideration' at Didcot Baptist Church Centre from **18th to 21st September**. Go along and see what they really have in mind.

You may have seen the *Don't Dump on Didcot* posters and related letters in the Didcot Herald. These come from residents of western Didcot who are rightly appalled at the plans for the expansion of Didcot to the west. We are in touch with them and will collaborate where our interests coincide, as we do with the *Campaign for a Sustainable Didcot*. Didcot West is not yet a settled issue. Keep making your views and concerns known at every opportunity!

If you wish to make contact or comment to *Keep Harwell Rural* please call any of the current Committee Members:

Tony Hughes (Chairman, 835301); Colin Lamont (Secretary, 832866); Jane Woolley (Treasurer, 221030); Mary Allan (832856); Peter Creasy (221192); Mark Fysh (01865 815990); David Levey (221073); Frank Newbold (835250); Rob Thomas (832006).

Planning Matters

Notice of Permission:

HAR/17167 Erection of 2-bedroom bungalow on land to the rear of 17 Kings Lane, subject to conditions regarding site and visibility splays.

HAR/17544 Demolition of bungalow, erection of 2 chalet-style houses at Pippins, The Cleave, subject to conditions.

New Applications:

HAR/5473/8 Increase height of part of boundary wall by 60cm. at Beech House High St.

HARWELL SCHOOL

ASSOCIATION NEWS

First of all, thank you to everyone who supported this year's Summer Fair, which raised over £1000. We were especially pleased that very many pupils took part in dancing and karate displays, running stalls and other attractions, waiting on tables etc. Thank you to all the parents who gave their time so willingly, and particular thanks to the committee and staff who put in hours and hours, as usual.

This year's School Association Annual General Meeting takes place on October 4th. We need new committee members, particularly a new treasurer, so please come along to the school at 8 p.m. to see what goes on and whether you could contribute.

The highlight of the Summer Fair was the Great Balloon Race, ably organised by Graham Beith. The deadline has now been reached and lots of tickets have been returned. The closest one was Shannon O'Loughlin's, which Mr Cansell found in the holidays on the school roof. Sorry, Shannon, no prize for that!

The tickets belonging to William Laing, Mark Tankard, Michael Mulligan, Bryony Davies, Mr Brant, Hannah Brady and Danyelle Paton were all returned from different parts of Hampshire. Luke Ediker and Joan Sutton sent theirs to Berkshire and Tim Cload's touched down in Bognor Regis.

Several tickets made it across the Channel. Kate Beswick's got to St Vigor des Monts, Katie Laing's got to St Florent Le Vieil and Alan Wagner's reached Segre near Angers. Fiona Tankard's ticket was posted back from New Zealand but the fact that it was found by her friend who happened to be in New Zealand at the time raised the judges' suspicions and she was disqualified.

So the clear winner was Jean White, whose balloon flew all the way to Pouillon near Biarritz. Congratulations to Jean, who wins £50. Don't worry that your balloon and ticket are now polluting the environment somewhere between here and the South of France; they are all biodegradable.



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FUN CLUB NEWS

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings in term time 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 had a lovely day in June on our summer coach trip to **Blenheim Palace** gardens – the main attractions being a good quality playground, an exotic butterfly house and a train trip. Our “seaside” picnic in July was relocated to the village hall instead of the recreation ground due to rain (typical!) but the bouncy castle, sandpit and entertainer were enjoyed enormously nevertheless.

Forthcoming events:

8 October – **Photographer** visiting Fun Club. Have professional photos of you/your darling(s) taken and you only pay if you like the result. Amazing value – 1 large, 2 medium and 6 miniature portraits for £13.50 (or thereabouts) the lot.

Sat 2 Nov – **Nearly New Sale** of baby and toddler clothes, toys and equipment. 10-12 in the village hall. Refreshments will also be available, so you can rest half way round! Fantastic bargains to be had. To sell items, you can either hire a table for a flat fee of £8 and all the takings are yours, or you can let Fun Club sell things for you for a commission of a third of the price. To book a table, or to make arrangements for Fun Club to sell items for you, please contact Jane Woolley on Tel 01235 22 10 30. The tables always go fast, so don't delay – first come, first served.

24 Sept, 29 Oct and 26 Nov - The **Health Visitor** is available for consultations and weighings-in. (she comes on the last Tuesday of each month unless this falls outside term time). Consultations 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 general information, please contact **Jane Woolley** on Tel 221 030.

Material Matters
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Little Pippins Pre-School has been running for 29 years. In an idyllic orchard setting, the experienced and qualified staff offer a friendly and caring environment for children from the age of two and a half. Run by a committee of parents, it has close links with Harwell School and is a member of the Oxfordshire Early Years Development Partnership and the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

From the Ofsted report on Little Pippins Pre-School 2000. Inspection No. 1159555:

"Personal, social and emotional development is very good. The children's confidence is carefully built to encourage lively, outgoing individuals."

- Social activities include the Easter Bonnet Parade, May pole dancing, Building and riding on the Harwell Feast Float, Sports Day, Harvest Festival lunch, Christmas Nativity Play and many more.

"The quality of learning is very good. Stimulating beaming opportunities ensure that the children are making very good progress towards the early teaming goals"

"Creative development is very good.... Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered appropriately."

- Each term a topic is chosen and activities are planned around these. A popular recent one was countries of the wood where the children helped cook different foods, created costumes, and learned about different cultures.

"Outstanding use is made of the outdoor area to help the children understand seasonal changes and the natural world. The teaching is very good."

The children are taken on nature walks and make good use of the orchard setting all year round, for instance in Autumn they gather the apples and use them in cooking.

Little Pippins sessions run from 9.15am until 11.45am for the morning, and from 12.30pm to 3pm for the afternoon session. For a small extra charge your child can eat a packed lunch with the other children and staff on site.

Parents can choose morning or afternoon sessions for their child, and which days they will attend. Should you decide to send your child to the Foundation Class at Harwell Primary, his or her first terms may well be mornings only. Little Pippins staff can collect your child from the Foundation Class, in a "Wraparound" service. This will mean your child will be brought to Little Pippins for lunch after the morning session at School, and will stay at Little Pippins for the afternoon session until it ends at 3pm.

Play leader Yvonne Hinchiffe 01235 821741

Little Pippins Pre-School, The Freeman Orchard

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JUDGES' REPORT

HARWELL - Large Village Class

Your map was accurately and well drawn but when you enter next year it would be helpful to put it on a white or cream background as it was not very easy to read on grey-blue, attractive though it looks.

The Recreation Ground makes a very good impression as you enter the village: the children's play area is imaginatively laid out and the tennis courts look most inviting. The British Legion is also in good order as is most of the adjoining area.

Your allotments seem to suffer from a lack of keen gardeners: there are a few which are in good order but the surrounding area seems to indicate a lack of interest. Some of the verges at that end of the village were rather untidy.

The Church and churchyard do you credit: The Church is delightful and the churchyard immaculately tended without being overdone. Unfortunate the Cemetery - apart from the outstanding War Graves section - is a mess, with dead flowers lying around and very untidy grass and graves. Would it not be possible for a working party to bring some order to it - it must be a very

depressing for those who come to visit the graves.

The school and its grounds are of a good standard and we were enormously impressed by the imaginative hand-wrought Millennium Path. Congratulations to all involved in the project. The Community Hall is a pleasant building and judging by your helpful Newsletter is well supported by a large number of local organisations.

You seem to be well catered for in your Village Shop which is truly a general store providing a good range of supplies. Your pub is also very inviting and I hope it is well supported. There seems to be an adequate supply of litter bins as there was little sign of litter around the village. It was also a change to have empty Dog Bins - not always the case.

WAR MEMORIALS

1. Well sited Cross in High Street with rose beds around: in good order.

2. Immaculate graves in cemetery - white stones with flowers along the base - commemorating the RAF personnel who served from Harwell Air Base.

PENDON MUSEUM in Long Wittenham urgently needs the services of a Maintenance Engineer skilled in maintaining and repairing electronic, electrical and light mechanical items in a model railway system of exceptional quality, on the basis of one day per month plus the occasional emergency call. A retired or about-to-retire instrument repairer would be ideal. For further details contact Stewart Hine on 020 8866 0799 or Stewart.Hine@care4free.net

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Towards a Harwell of the Future

from the Harwell Parish Plan group

Our thanks for your Questionnaires

We are a village that loves ideas and we are a village that cares about the air around us.

Harwell is good on teamwork, shared thoughts, common ambitions and its residents have like minded aspirations. These are the visions you have portrayed in your feedback to us.

The Harwell Parish Plan Steering Group and Working Party Groups have been **inspired by your responses** embodied in the Questionnaires recently completed by so many residents of Harwell.

An Abundance of Responses

1,424 questionnaires were returned representing approximately 75% of the total number distributed by 56 volunteers. A superb response in every way, and all down to your personal contributions.

The information provided is comprehensive with 9% of the completed questionnaires coming from the 11 – 18 age group, 23% from the 19 – 39 age groups, 42% from the 40 – 64 year olds and 25% from the over 65's.

The pleasant environment of Harwell is considered to be the main attraction of living in the Parish by 80% of us, whilst 8 out of 10 respondents gave the planned westward expansion of Didcot as the main area of concern. **No fewer than 256 residents would like to become more involved in the village life of Harwell** – please contact the Chairman, Cllr Colin Lamont 01235 832866 or the Hon Secretary, Reg Waite on 01235 861779 **NOW!!**

Combing the Results

Members of the Steering Group, led by Tony Hughes, are now combing through the results of the Questionnaire analysis to identify and suggest proposals that may be included in the Parish Plan. The Steering Group Meeting held on the 2nd September decided to form a Focus Group, comprising a representative cross section of the local community who agree to express their opinions individually. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact the Chairman, Cllr Colin Lamont on 01235 832866 or Reg Waite, Hon Secretary.

The contributions being made by individuals and organisations, both great and small, are enabling us to listen to each other, and to respect the part each plays within this community. The Harwell Parish Plan will aim to **bring all of us together to steer the future of Harwell for the benefit of all residents of all ages.**

West Didcot Expansion

For your information the developers of West Didcot are expected to apply for outline planning permission at the beginning of October and they are staging an exhibition/consultation at the Baptist Church opposite the bookshop in Wantage Road from 18th to 21st September as follows:

Wednesday 18th	2pm – 7pm
Thursday 19th	10am – 8pm
Friday 20th	10am – 8pm
Public Forum	6pm – 8pm
Saturday 21st	10am – 2pm

We hope that you will all go along, because the idea is that they wish to take local residents' views into account.

Reg Waite, Hon Secretary, on behalf of the Chairman and members of the Harwell Parish Plan Steering Group

Tel: 01235 861779 Fax: 01235 863334 e-mail: harwellpp@aol.com

Recreation Ground

Two applications to use parts of the recreation ground were approved by the Parish Council:

September 28th SPD group is having a sponsored toddle.

September 29th Wallingford Dog Training Club

See elsewhere for further details of these events

Harwell News is published in alternate months.

Advertising rates are £7 one issue, £35 / year for standard size. For details contact the Clerk or M Ricketts 835628.

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Solar Heating and other salesmen – it is worth noting that if you invite any salesman to your house after getting a card through the door, you do not get a 7-day 'cooling-off' period – once you have signed you are committed! You should get at least 3 quotes. The Vale WHDC has a freephone number for advice about Solar water-heating and other energy-saving products – **0800 592 865**.

Harwell Village Neighbourhood Watch

DISTRACTION BURGLARIES

There continues to be many distraction burglaries reported to have happened in Harwell and the surrounding villages. As the elderly are the ones most often targeted, if you know of anyone who you think may be vulnerable, please help them to be on their guard against unexpected callers asking to inspect their water supply etc.

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.

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 **CRIMESTOPPER** on 0800 555 111, who guarantee anonymity for the caller.

Mobile Library

The library is in Harwell on alternate Wednesdays from 2.45pm until 3.20 pm. The dates for the next two months are 25th September, 9th and 23rd October, & 6th, 20th November.

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From the archives

100 years ago ... On 11th September 1902 the Council had a reply to an earlier letter to the RDC calling attention to the state of the wall over the stream by the Church and requesting that it be seen to at an early date. "It was agreed that the Clerk was again to write to the RDC saying that the wall complained of could not be regarded as a private one and that the Council had proof that the Culvert, and presumably the wall built upon it were constructed by the surveyor at the time the road was taken into hand.

"The P.M. General's letter was read concerning delivery of letters. It was considered unsatisfactory especially as no improvement had been made & the justness of the Council's complaint was more pronounced when it was remembered that E Hendred had letters delivered almost 2hrs earlier than Harwell yet the two parishes were about equally distant from their centre (Steventon). The Clerk was instructed to write to the PMG to this effect.

50 years ago ... At a meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 25th September 1952, under matters arising it was agreed "the stream thro' the village should be cleaned, & that Mr Bosley would arrange casual labour.

Regarding the Nurses' Bungalow, the reply from the Charity Commissioners approving the proposals of the Parish Meeting of 9/1/02 was read. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Charity Trustees that chairs to the value of £50 could be purchased for the Technical Institute ...

It was agreed to the sale of 0.041 acres of land adjoining the Recn Ground to Wantage RDC on condition the area of the bowling green was not reduced & that any portion exposed was fenced in, & an entrance erected equivalent to the one existing now. £5 was considered a fair and reasonable price for the land."

Gardeners Club

We are organising a holiday to the Eden Project, Heligan plus other gardens 16th – 19th May 2003. For more information contact Adele Harris 835238.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Monday 7th October Hardy Perennials for all Seasons – Mrs Sterndale-Bennett. Comp: Autumn Flowers.

Monday 4th November Gardeners' Question Time

Day at Ascot

Anyone interested in a Day at Ascot, Wednesday 18th June 2003 contact Adele Harris 835238.

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Produce Show 7th September

The Show was better than ever this year – there were 400 entries from 54 entrants. Thank-you to all who helped and entered.

The *David Dewey Memorial Shield*, for the Garden Club member with most points in all classes – Fred Gee.

Harwell Produce Shield, Gardeners Club member or living in Parish – Lynn Wilkinson

The *Harwell Rose Bowl* for most points, horticultural classes – Lynn Wilkinson

The *Chairman's Trophy* for most points in flower classes – Joy Gee

Rowstock Orchard Trophy for most points in fruit classes – Lynn Wilkinson

The *Floral Art Trophy* – Joyce Milward

Novice Trophy – Clive Silver

Vegetable Trophy – Fred Gee

Domestic Cup – tied between Sylvia Bainbridge, Joyce Milward, Wendy Sinclair & Veronica Webster

Young Person's Cup – Naomi Nickerson

Handicraft Trophy – Lynn Nickerson

The *Wine Trophy* – Josie Huckell

Photographic Trophy Wendy Sinclair

Most Entries - Lynn Wilkinson

Children's Classes

Ages 3 - 5:

Colouring a picture – Toby Wilkinson

Animal of fruit & veg. – Toby Wilkinson

Picture of gummed paper – Juliana Gordon

Age 6 - 9:

Model from kitchen waste – Adam Tankard

Handwriting – Michael Gordon

Animal of fruit & veg. – Jack Wilkinson

Age up to 15:

Marzipan Fruits – Naomi Nickerson

Mobile – Naomi Nickerson

A model – Elna Wilkinson & Melissa Warwick

Something you have made – Naomi Nickerson

Marrow with name – Toby & Jack Wilkinson

Miniature garden – Elna Wilkinson & Melissa Warwick

Treasure Hunt – Tied between Toby Wilkinson,

Rachel Nickerson & Naomi Nickerson

Gingerbread men – Eleanor Barry

Plant – Elna Wilkinson & Melissa Warwick

My favourite photo – Naomi Nickerson

Flower Arrangement in a cup – Eleanor Barry

Picture done on a computer – Juliana Gordon

Best-looking Pumpkin – Little Pippins



Lynn Wilkinson holding the Produce Show Shield



Debra Davies, 1st in the Floral Art Class

'A Little of what You Fancy'

(thanks to Janice Markey for photos)



Harwell Feast Committee

The AGM of the Harwell Feast Committee will be held on Thursday 3rd October at 8pm in the Freeman Hall.

New members extremely welcome.

Village Quiz

Saturday 16th November

7.30pm Village Hall

Teams of up to 6 people

Adults £3 Young people £1

No need to book – pay on the door

Licensed Bar and snacks

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Friday - Saturday 0600 - 0100

Exhibition of Village Photos &

Items from Harwell Past

Saturday 21st September 2 – 4 pm

Harwell Church Hall

Donations to Church Missionary Society

Report on Didcot West Consultation Event

The report of the July consultation in Didcot Civic Hall has been published by the SODC. Our District Councillors also attended one of the workshops, one with her 'Parish Council' hat on, where opinions were sounded more thoroughly. The report says that 714 attended the exhibition, and 56 of these attended the workshops, of which there were seven.

The seminars were separately described and the results of votes on the main questions compared and contrasted with those of the whole attendance, and at this point the relative sizes of the groups were not given. e.g. the Executive summary has:

'With respect to green space, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- A small majority of those attending the exhibition felt that the country parks should be to the east of the development, whilst those attending the workshops saw greater merit in locating the parks to the west of the development, or within the development itself.
- There was a balance of consensus amongst the workshops that the community playing fields should be on the western side of the new development, but for those attending the exhibition the eastern side was most popular.'

So, although only a small proportion attended the seminars their existence allowed those writing the report to slant things (some would say!), or at least treat the main results as if they were just a point of view, alongside which there is also the view of the workshops! Now get along to the developers' consultation if you haven't been and it's not past 21st September,

Martin Ricketts

Pelvic Partnership

The Pelvic Partnership is planning a sponsored toddle on 28 September at Harwell Recreation Ground from 10 am. Please come along and support us - all funds raised are for the Pelvic Partnership, which is a support group providing information and support for women with pelvic joint pain related to pregnancy. The idea is that the children toddle around the recreation ground, either with their Mums if they are able, or with their Dads. There will be tea and cakes afterwards, as well as raffle, a bouncy castle and a cake stall.

You are welcome to toddle with us, or just come along and enjoy tea, cakes. Any donations of cakes or raffle prizes would be very welcome.

26 Manor Green, Harwell, Oxon, OX11 0DQ;

Sarah Fishburn: 01235 820921; Anita Whittle: 01235 769081

Harwell Scouts Social Evening

with Paddy and Taff

The Harwell Scout Group will be holding a social evening at 8PM on Saturday 12 October in the Village Hall. An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to join us, to meet old friends and to make new acquaintances. Paddy and Taff will be performing for our entertainment and a light buffet will be provided. There will also be a licensed bar for liquid refreshment.

The evening is intended for adults, this is not an event for the children in the Scout Group. If you would like to join us, tickets are available at £5 each from Alison Brisland on 835218 or John Barnes on 832844. All proceeds will go towards the Harwell Scout Group funds and we are grateful to Paddy and Taff for their support.

John Barnes, Chairman, Harwell Scout Group

Harwell W.I.

Most of us have had our holidays and it's back to 'normal'! We are looking forward to our monthly meeting to be together with our friends at W.I. Maybe you would like to join our village group and make more friends.

We meet on the 2nd. Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm. in our Village Hall.

9th Oct. May Parker is coming to show slides and tell us about 'The National Gardens of Ireland'

13th Nov. Andrew Rowe – one of our local Chiropractors is giving a talk 'Chiropractic – A functional approach to Health'

Hope to see you soon, Di Baker – Press Secretary

CAPOLD – a new scheme needing Volunteers

Can you imagine what it is like to have decisions made for you all the time? Can you imagine having your wishes ignored because people do not think you know what you want? This is what it can be like for many people with learning disabilities.

CAPOLD, Citizen Advocacy for People of Oxfordshire with Learning Disabilities, provides support to people in having their voice heard and in being part of the decisions made about their lives. Volunteer advocates work with their partner, the person at risk of not being heard, getting to know them and their wishes and helping to have those wishes heard by the appropriate people. For some it may just be they want more choice in what they eat, others may want a complete life change! The advocates are there to support them in making an informed choice, and help them get that choice heard by the people who can make a difference, be they parents, carer, friends, social or health services.

CAPOLD is relatively new and needs volunteers, so if you have a few hours to spare, weekly or fortnightly, and would like to make a difference to someone's life, then please contact Helen Bloomfield on 01865 741293 or e-mail capold @ btopenworld.com. Training and ongoing support is provided by the project coordinator.

An open letter to Harwell News.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Brian Mulford who recently 'retired' from his duties as a Parish councillor. The circumstances surrounding his exclusion (and also that of his wife and several other members) are down to heavy handed central government interference in local governance which I greatly object to and regret.

That however is not the central issue here and I wish only to pay tribute to his long service to this Parish. Brian is one of an unfortunately dwindling breed who is prepared to give of his time freely in the best interests of this community. He is a true character with strong principles and a wonderful sense of humour. His memories of the village and the surrounding area have been vividly shared through his ability to story-tell with wit and timing. He has been the chairman of the council for many years and was until recently a major force in the drive to keep our village rural. He will be sadly missed on the committee and I hope that he and Rosemary (who is another community stalwart) will enjoy a little more time with their delightful grandchildren and their busy schedules on their smallholding. It is no more than they deserve after such long service to the village - thank-you both,

John Fisher

To: Chairman & Members, Harwell Parish Council.

After 23 years service, I was disappointed to be excluded by the unconstitutional decision which the new Code of Conduct presented, as a mandatory act, which at least should have been introduced at next year's election, if at all.

In retrospect it appears, to me that the PC, was completely 'conned' by the Vale WHDC over this Act, as I understand that considerable costs were subsequently incurred. I found it amazing that the Chairman then allowed himself to be delegated to do the 'dirty work' in notifying the members who had not signed, a duty which should have come from the Electoral Officer, considering all the arguments which had preceded the events.

According to BBC Newsnight, between 30% and 40% of councillors have been excluded by the new Code, and I ask the question - has the Vale published the figures for this District?

The PC is a properly elected independent body, and should not become subservient to any other, otherwise, (as per Oxford Mail recently) an overriding central

controlling group will take over, and local needs will become dissipated.

Over the years, the P.C. has changed considerably since I was first elected. In the early days it was content generally to keep things ticking over, however, I am glad to say it has gradually become more progressive, with many projects having been completed including the Adventure Playground, New tennis courts, New bowls Green, Pavilion improvements, including the current meeting room and Clerk's Office, R.B.L. Building with greatly increased parking spaces, New bus shelters at A.E.R.E. and Rowstock, rehousing the Victorian Post Box, Millennium Rec. extension complete with all new fencing, Improved and additional street lighting, Employment of full time staff, with tractor and lorry, leading to Best Kept Village Award on two occasions.

The opening of the Didcot Link road allowed the introduction of width restrictions, together with reduced heavy traffic.

All these, and others, have been achieved by the sterling efforts of members and a well controlled annual budget. It is with confidence that I hope the P.C. will continue making progress, as I feel that we still need among other things, a pedestrian crossing in the High St. and a new, improved Pavilion, to cater for increased recreational facilities, and help to fulfil the needs of all Parishioners.

Brian Mulford, Winnoway Farm

Harwell Village Hall

I would like to apologise to the group of lads who seem to have taken to hanging around the Village Hall - if you find there is a lack of adventure-playground facilities in Harwell. Unfortunately the Hall Committee can only do so much, and the Hall and its grounds are not available for this purpose. To young Master Curran and his friends I would like to say that we do not want you on the flat roof or damaging the gutter, gas-heater outlets, ventilators and other projections you seem to think are just there to assist you to get onto the roof, or damaging the pitched roof tiles. Also, the stones on the flat roof have a particular purpose, and are not to be kicked off the roof. I would not wish to single any of you out, so if I am provided with your other names I will publish them.

The next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee is on Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm.

Martin Ricketts

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Fundraising Performances in the Village Hall

Under the Vale Touring Arts Scheme sponsored by the Vale WHDC the Village Hall has booked the following:

Wednesday 27th November 7.30pm

The Little Prince

presented by

Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Co.

Suitable for Family Audiences

— 0000 —

Friday 21st February 2003

2.30pm – 1/2 Term

The Toy Theatre

presented by

Cornelius and Jones

Suitable for children 5+

— 0000 —

Saturday 8th March

Flying Off the Handle

presented by

Opera Anywhere

Suitable for Families with older children

All tickets will be available from White Horse News in due course.

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with Paddy and Taff

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John Barnes, Chairman, Harwell Scout Group

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Did you know?
When you invite a Solar Trader (or any other salesperson) into your home that you forfeit your right to a 'seven day cooling off period'?

Rogue Solar Traders
encourage you to sign on the night by offering fantastic one-off deals knowing that you can't change your mind.

Oxfordshire Trading Standards recommends that you:

- Get at least 3 quotes
- Check that the company is a member of the Solar Trade Association

If, you would like more information about Solar Hot Water Heating then ring the Vale Energy Team on

**0800 592 865** 

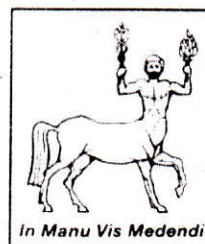
Winterbrook Youth Club

Jumble Sale – Freeman Hall

Saturday 12th October 2pm

Hall open 10 – 12 noon to receive jumble

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111
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crime could earn a cash reward



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(Harwell)

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