

The Harwell News www.harwellparish.co.uk

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 159 – December 2009

Parish Council Meetings

At the October meeting, the first item of business was to fill the vacancy on the Council. Three parishioners had expressed an interest in being co-opted and the Council spent some time in discussion before deciding to co-opt Ms Karon Hawthorne. Ms Hawthorne is the first Councillor resident in the North Drive area since the mid-90s. Her contact details will shortly be on the Parish web pages.

Under financial matters, the Council agreed the payment of its further contribution of £838 to 'Harwell 2008' for the Planning Permission phase of the proposed facilities in the Recreation Ground.

In the Open Forum part of the meeting, Ms Cox from RSRL presented a cheque for £600 to the Council for the Youth Project and wished the project well. On behalf of the Council, Mr Fisher thanked Ms Cox and RSRL for the donation, which could be put towards future running costs of the project (see item on page 10). Further to this, at the November meeting it was reported that the project had received an award of £150 from Didcot First; Mrs Beswick had attended the awards ceremony with some of the youth group.

Our local PCSOs reported 3 incidents that had occurred over the previous month; in an operation against hare-coursing 3 arrests had been made. The operation against hare coursing is ongoing, and residents are asked to report suspicious incidents without approaching the perpetrators.

At the November meeting, a series of resolutions were passed to take forward the development of sports facilities and Council premises on the Recreation Ground. Among these were *'That a new Committee is set up to manage fundraising & planning for the buildings for which Outline Planning Permission has been obtained, aiming to obtain full funding & detailed Planning Permission by mid 2012'*. The membership of the committee will be similar to that of 'Harwell 2008', and including 2 other parishioners not directly involved with any of the sports clubs or British Legion. It was also agreed that the Parish Council should seek advice about the best long-term structure required to manage the project once funding has been obtained. Options for this may include setting up a Management Trust. The full details may be seen in the minutes on the Parish Council website, www.harwellparish.co.uk, where these and previous minutes can be found.

There is no full meeting in December, as the Council meets for a workshop to discuss next years' budget and precept, which are then agreed formally in the January meeting. Key to those discussions will be the initial funding of the Sports Development Project, which you may have learned about at the meeting on 2nd December, the cemetery extension plans, and any impact that these might have on the precept.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 12th January. Items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk, Mrs. S. Taylor one week before this. Contact clerk@harwellparish.co.uk, on 01235 820006 where messages can be left, or by post to PO box 223 Wantage OX12 2DH. Note that the Clerk has moved so **do not deliver any HPC items to 1, Wantage Road**. Office hours are 9am to 5pm Mondays.

The Vale of White Horse District Council is preparing its core strategy and is consulting the public on some additional issues before publishing the draft plan. There is an article inside on page 4, but please note that there will be a consultation event in the Freeman Hall on **Thursday 7th January** between 3:30 and 7:30pm where people will be able to come and have a look at the plans and ask any questions they may have. If you come by car please park in the Westfield car park, to avoid inconveniencing other Hall users – thanks.

Harwell Village Hall

The website is up and working for the Village and Freeman Halls - www.harwellvillagehall.co.uk. The calendars for both halls are displayed so it is possible to check on availability and activities.

The new projector is mounted and can be used if the connection kit is obtained beforehand from Keith Beswick.

Christmas Tree Festival & Fayre

Saturday 12 December

Village Hall, 1 – 4 pm

Little Pippins Pre School invites everybody to warm up to Christmas at the third annual Christmas Tree Festival & Fayre. Come along and vote for the 'best dressed' Christmas tree; decorated by Harwell Organisations. The trophy for the best-dressed tree will be presented at approximately 15.45 by Councillor Rooke, the Chairman of Vale of White Horse DC.

In addition to decorated Christmas Trees there will be Christmas refreshments and live music from Bagg's Tree Buskers and Harwell Young Singers. In the adjacent Freeman Hall there are stalls selling books, jewellery, cards etc, children's craft activities and Santa's grotto, with a visit from the man himself.

Following the Christmas Tree Festival and Fayre, Father Christmas will be riding around the village on his sleigh, to wish all a Merry Christmas – Hope to see you there!



Planning Matters

Permissions:

HAR/12214/2,3-LB replace conservatory with garden room etc. Tudor Cottage, Burr St.
 HAR/12464/9 2-bay carport & pool plant room to replace existing garage & plant room, Willowbrook Church Lane.
 HAR/12464/7 3-bay linked garage at Willowbr'k Ch L.
 HAR/4494/24-LB Alterations to Ballol's Manor Barn.
 HAR/15729/5 Installation of air-conditioning at 1-2 The Cherry Barn, High Street.
 HAR/19931/2 Replacement of storage building, at Meadow View, Didcot Road

New Applications:

HAR/20858/1 Single storey ext. Burr House, Burr St.
 HAR/20948/1 Single storey ext. Hillcrest, Reading Rd.
 HAR/21012 Detached dwelling with garage & new garage for existing dwelling at Droke, Wantage Road.

The Council put in an objection to the Vale WHDC on several grounds, including that the proposal is 2-storey, within an area which is predominantly 1-storey bungalows; it is therefore out of character of the surrounding dwellings and could arguably create a precedent for taller buildings, as well as creating rights of light issues with the existing property Droke.

Also the proposed new driveway layout is unsuitable as passing too close to the existing property Droke. Under Government planning guidance PPG13, this is not an "infill" plot.

District Councillors contact details:

Mrs. M. Turner 15 Tyrrells Close, 821248
 Reg Waite reg@regwaite.co.uk 7 Hengest Gate 861779

See page 8 for some Vale WHDC news.

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Christmas Message from your County Councillor

By the time you read this we will be heading towards that interesting time of the year of celebration that is usually accompanied by a great deal of emotion.

It is always a time to reflect, and for me having become your County Councillor this year, is something that a year ago was but a thought. Since being elected on June 5th I have to say that I am genuinely enjoying the experience.

I've had a 'crash course' on the topic of energy created by waste through the process of incineration. When you read this message I'm not sure what the actual situation may be regarding the site at Sutton Courtenay, but suffice to say, despite my political affiliation, I am very disappointed in the way that the County Council has handled this whole affair. I hope to make some contribution in finding a positive way forward that will be acceptable in achieving a satisfactory solution. I would prefer to contribute to a solution and not prolong the problem.

I swiftly learnt that 'compromise' is an important word that has to be understood. For those of you who have got to know me you will know that I never rush into taking quick decisions, I prefer to wait until I have a proper understanding of the facts of the problem. The South Central Oxfordshire Transport Study is going to be the next challenge as we deal with the implications of the growth of the Didcot area and its impact upon all of the surrounding communities that I represent to the west and south of Didcot.

It is true to say that as population grows, homes are always needed. However, I do wish that planners would look at a more organic growth situation for all settlements, rather than these 'dumping' of large numbers in specific places. All that this does is put tremendous pressure onto local infrastructure (doctors, police, gas, water, etc).

I look forward to serving you all during 2010. May I wish everyone a pleasant and peaceful Christmas. Good luck and success for 2010.

Stewart Lilly stewart.lilly@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Collections which were held between October 24th and November 11th around the villages of both Harwell and Chilton and also the Harwell Campus raised a total of £3606.05 which was an increase of 14% over last year's amount.

On behalf of the Poppy Appeal I would like to thank everyone who kindly donated, the establishments, shops and businesses who agreed to support us and also the volunteers who gave up their valuable time with house to house collections.

We still have certain areas within Harwell Village which are not covered and if you feel you would like to help next year I would be delighted to hear from you.

We would also like to thank the Villagers of Harwell for once again turning out in great numbers to support our Remembrance Day Parade and that all RBL members are welcome to join in the Parade not just ex service personnel.

Charlie East, Poppy Appeal Organiser Harwell RBL

Simon Haycox, a member of Harwell Branch Royal British Legion, carried out a free fall parachute jump in tandem from 13,000 feet at Weston-on-the-Green on Saturday August 8th, 2009 raising £2,000 for the Poppy Appeal. Well done Simon.

D.G. Bowler - Vice Chairman - RBL Branch

And in the Morning we will Remember them



Remembrance Day

May I on behalf of the Royal British Legion thank all those who attended our parade on 8th November, and also those who came along on Wednesday 11th at 11am. My thanks to the Scouts and Guides and members of the public who supported us.

Reg East, Branch President

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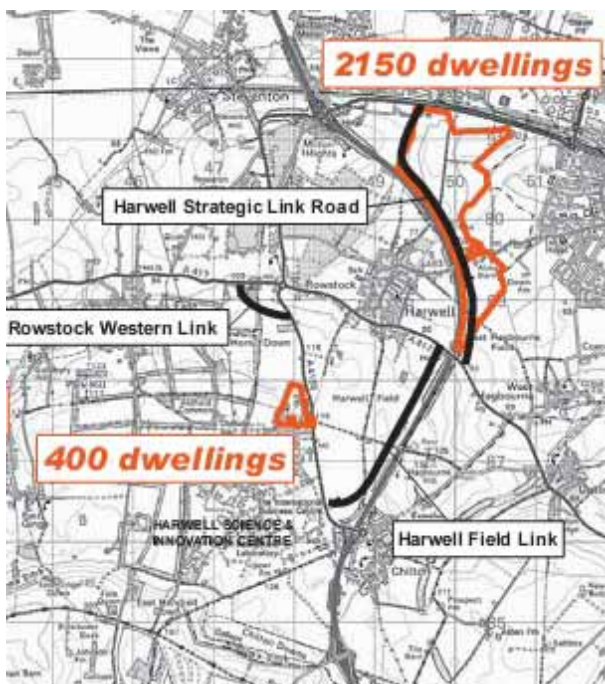
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More Houses and Roads in Harwell Parish

You may remember that at the beginning of this year, 2009, our District Council, The Vale of White Horse, published their planning document for the period to 2026, which included proposals for a large number of additional houses west of Didcot, and a Harwell Link road running from the west of Didcot to the A417. This planning document is called the *Core Strategy*, and was due for publication as a formal draft document in January 2010. Thereafter it goes to the Secretary of State and a public hearing before final adoption in 2011. The Vale has been considering all the feedback from the consultation period, and has probably been under pressure from the government to maintain a supply of new houses, especially because of the recession and the delay to Great Western Park, so now they want to make some changes to the proposed Core Strategy. Details of these changes have just been released and are going to the Vale Executive on 4th December. Assuming that they are approved for consultation, the two main points that will affect Harwell Parish are:

1. A Harwell Field Link Road which extends the Harwell Strategic Link south, along western edge of the A34, directly to the Harwell Campus. This was the preferred option proposed by the Harwell and Chilton Parish Councils in their response to the plans, and helps to avoid an excess of traffic on the A417 Reading Road through the Village.
2. The addition of plans for a major new housing site of 400 houses at northern part of Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, also known as Harwell North Drive.

The map shows these, and, of course, still highlights the major expansion west of Didcot.



The Vale is also agreeing to prepare a Joint Action Plan with South Oxfordshire (SODC) for Didcot extending west to the A34. This might help address some of the

difficulties of planning for the major expansion of the town that crosses the boundaries of the two districts. You can find out more by looking at the documents on the Vale website. These are sometimes hard to find, so we will publish links to them from the planning pages of the Parish Council website. The Vale may also produce a leaflet about the changes, which we will help to make available as widely as possible.

Plus, the Vale will be holding a consultation event in the Freeman Hall (adjacent to the Village Hall) on

Thursday 7th January between 3:30 and 7:30pm where you will be able to come and have a look at the plans and ask any questions you may have.

These proposals are open for consultation until the 29th January 2010, so please make your views known to the Vale and to the Parish Council.

If we accept that new houses are needed somewhere, at first sight the proposal for houses at Harwell North Drive makes some sense. The transport infrastructure is already there, and will be improved with the Harwell Field Link road. There are shops and other support services already in place. Although the site has many mature trees, it's not open countryside that's never been built on. However the proposals will undoubtedly be of great concern to the people living there at the moment. In formulating its own response the Parish Council will welcome as much feedback as possible.

David Marsh

Chairman, Harwell Parish Council

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Harwell Parish Photo Quiz

How well do you know Harwell?

From where was this taken? There were a lot of poppies nearby; if we had colour we'd show those instead!



Answer to the last one was on Montpellier House; I'm afraid we still have no information about the 'grotesques'.

Vale WHDC Community Awards 2010

The theme for this year's awards is 'Unsung Heroes of the Vale' and the Council is asking if you know of anyone that you feel should be recognised for their achievements in the local community.

Nominations can be for anyone who lives within the Vale and you feel is worthy of recognition for their contribution to the Vale's community; either on a personal level or as part of a group. Please feel free to nominate up to three people. It would be great to have as wide a variety of award winners as possible.

Nomination Forms must be submitted by 29th Jan. They can be got by contacting the Vale WHDC, or emailing mark.hewer@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Harwell Senior Citizens Fund

We are very desperate for a couple of additional committee members, we only hold about three meetings a year so it's not too taxing on the brain. We could also do with a couple more agents (someone who would just sell bingo tickets to a few houses, (especially in the Kings Lane/The Cleave area) If you could spare about half an hour a week to do this voluntary job, the Senior Citizens in our Parish who's names are on our list, would be very grateful I'm sure.

If we have missed your name off of our Christmas list by any chance, please let us know, to qualify for our gift, we ask that you have resided in our parish for the last six months and that you are 70 years of age or over. If you need a chat about us please phone Yvonne Hinchliffe on Ab. 835397 and she will explain what we are all about and what we try to achieve every year. May we take this opportunity of thanking the Harwell Feast committee for their very generous donation of £1,000 which will pay for our new photocopier on which we rely every week of the year. If you fancy having a game of bingo in the luxury of your own home please ring me and I will sort out someone to visit you, you could win up to £50.00.

Also, if you are going to be 70 years of age in 2010 and would like to receive our Christmas Gift let us know asap and we will gladly add your name to our list, we have approximately 180 names at the moment.

Good luck to all those people who purchase tickets every week. Yvonne Hinchliffe - Secretary 835397

The **Mobile Library** will be in Harwell, at the Village Hall between 9.15 and 9.40 on Wed. Dec10th and 24th, Jan 6th and 20th.

Harwell Parochial Charities

Honorary Clerk to the Trustees

The Trustees are looking for a someone to take up the duties of the Honorary Clerk when the present incumbent stands down at the end of the year.

Harwell Parochial Charities is responsible for the upkeep and management of the Almshouses on the High Street.

The position of Clerk is a voluntary one, and on average should demand no more than an hour or two of your time each week. There is a need for the Clerk to be fairly flexible about availability, as on occasion s/he will need to attend the almshouses during normal working hours.

The Clerk is responsible for the management of the Charity, and the position will suit someone with experience of managing budgets, maintaining financial records, preparing agendas and minutes, and arranging maintenance of the premises.

If you are interested and would like more information please speak to either: the Clerk, Stuart Davison (01235 833105), or the Rector, Chris Stott (01235 835365)

Free car parking in the Vale for Christmas Shoppers

Christmas shoppers in the Vale will get a festive bonus again this year as parking will be free for one Saturday in December - in Abingdon and Wantage on Saturday 5 December.

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Ray Hinchliffe – Polkerris, High St. Harwell

Harwell Women's Institute

The recent wet spell hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of the Club!!

October's Meeting was called 'Greensleeves & Packington's Pound' by Margaret Rees. Margaret talked about some of the well known old fashioned songs and the instruments on which they were usually played. Members were able to handle the instruments and try [some succeeding] to play them. Members donated a huge amount of 'goodies' which enabled 23 shoe boxes to be filled and sent to Romania for children at Christmas.

November's Meeting saw a change of speaker, owing to illness. Tom Arnold, recently retired Deputy Head of St Birinus School, gave a wonderful insight into the sinking of The Lusitania. The Lusitania was a Cunard cruise liner, sailing the route between Liverpool and New York and was torpedoed by the German Navy, drowning nearing 1200 passengers with around 600 survivors. It was informative but also very humorous. He also has a talk about The Titanic in his repertoire! Obviously very fond of sinking ships!!

In **December** there will be mulled wine and mince pies with very little business! The whole club will be making decorations for a Christmas Tree decorating competition, after which Gay & Alan Cooper are entertaining with festive Hand Bell ringing and a chance to 'have a go'. Members will also be going to the annual Concert of Christmas Songs in Oxford Town Hall and the Christmas Street Market in Winchester.

The rest of the year sees an exciting programme including; The magic of Poetry, Story and Song by Peter Hearn; Bess of Hardwick Hall with Dr Gillian White and Thornton's Chocolates complete with Easter Eggs. The Committee are now working on next year's programme which promises to be entertaining and informative. The annual Christmas Party will be held at The Home Farm Trust on Wednesday **20 January 2010**.

Come and join us and enjoy all these events and many more in 2010. Visitors are always welcome. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. For more information, contact our Secretary, Penny Marsh, on 01235 835430.

Harwell Feast Committee

At the AGM held at the end of October the grant cheques were given out to the 7 organisations and 1 individual who made successful bids in September. (please see Oct/Nov edition of Harwell News for details).

Two officers stood down from their positions at the AGM. Colin Lamont has retired from the Feast Committee after 14 years service including a long spell as secretary. We would all like to thank him for his manyfold contributions to Feast Committee events. Suffice to say that it will take at least 2 people to replace Colin and that's assuming he will carry on being our quizmaster for the annual quiz. You will be very much missed Colin.

Reg Waite stood down from the office of Treasurer, after doing an extra year for us, although he will remain on the committee. Reg has worked hard to keep our accounts managed professionally and we thank him for this.

Our officers for 2009/10 are:-

Chairman	Janice Markey
Vice Chair	Jayne Newman
Secretary	Jackie Askham
Treasurer	Jackie Askham



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Harwell Gardeners' Club

Monday 7th December – AGM & Party
 Monday January 4th - Timothy Walker will talk on *Plant Hunting In Australia*.

Competition Holiday Garden Photo.

Monday 1st February- Members' Night.
 Celebrating 30 years of Gardeners' Club. Fred Gee will talk on Vegetables & Villagers, Martin Ricketts will talk on 'Chinese Gardens', and Wendy Sinclair will lead a 'Gardening Hints' session to which all may contribute.
 Competition 'An Old Garden Friend'.

All meetings are at 7.30 p.m. in Harwell Village Hall. New members welcome any time.

Gardeners' Club is looking for someone willing to take over the show secretary role of running The Annual Village Produce Show. If anyone is interested please contact the secretary Janice Markey 01235 832802.

**HARWELL ACTION GROUP**

The Harwell Action Group for ABC – Against Breast Cancer, is holding another fund raising evening for this charity and linking up with the Male Cancer Charity ORCHID.

It is a Classic Comedy Film Evening showing the wonderful Marilyn Munroe and Tony Curtis film **'SOME LIKE IT HOT'**. It is being held at Harwell Village Hall on Friday 26 February 2010. Doors open at 7.00pm with the film showing at 7.30pm. The cost is £5.00 per person.

There will be a Bar, Tombola and Raffle.

Tickets will be available after 8th January 2010 from Bob the Butcher in the High Street Harwell, Barbara on 01235 835698 or Harwell School.



The Play Bus and Toy Library are Visiting the Recreation Ground in Harwell

It will be there on the
 16th Sept, 21st Oct, 18th Nov, 16th Dec 2009
 20th Jan, 17th Feb & 17th March 2010
 At 1.30-3pm

If you would like any more information please Call
 The Children's Centre
 On 01235 812969

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Sat 23rd January 2.30 & 7.30 p.m.

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QUIZ NIGHT

Q: When is the quiz?
A: Saturday 16th January, 7.30 for 7.45 ☒

Q: Where is the quiz?
A: Harwell School, Harwell, OX11 0HX ☒

Q: How much will it cost?
A: £5, Bar and refreshments available ☒

Q: Why join in?
A: It will be great fun and you will help raise money for the charity ☒
The Pelvic Partnership

(which aims to give support and information about Pelvic Girdle Pain (PGP)/SPD, pregnancy related pelvic joint pain.)

For tickets call Sarah on: 01235 820921

Pelvic Partnership Quiz

This will be a Quiz Night on Saturday 16th January, 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm.

It will be at Harwell School, The Styles, Harwell, OX11 0LH.

The cost will be £5 per person. Each quiz team can comprise six people. There will be a bar and refreshments available.

Please contact Sarah Fishburn or Mad Speed to register your team name (and six team members) via the Pelvic Partnership Helpline phone number: **01235 820921** or email us at contact@pelvicpartnership.org.uk

About the Pelvic Partnership

The Pelvic Partnership is a charity registered in England no 1100373. It's a group of volunteers who have or have had personal experience of Pelvic Girdle Pain (PGP) with varying degrees of pelvic pain and immobility during pregnancy. We are keen to help other women with the condition, to enable them to avoid some of the problems we have faced by giving appropriate information when they need it. We also aim to inform professionals about PGP and its management, so that information is readily available to anyone who needs it and PGP is prevented or minimised where possible.

Scout News

We had a memorable Scout weekend in early November. The Annual Firework Event on the 7th was a huge success, well organised and well attended.

Thank you to Peter Cansell, head teacher for hosting, the Scout group for organising the fireworks and barbecue and to everyone who attended to make it very pleasurable evening!

On Sunday 9th November the Scout group was represented by over 70 members, on Parade and attending the service at the was memorial.

The group continue with many exciting activities, a visit to the ice rink and a night hike being two examples.

The Explorer section has been assisting in the younger section activities which are part of their formal training, which also included a weekend course, to be Young Leaders.

The Scout Group will next be on parade for the Toy Service on Sunday 6th December.

A future date for your diary, there will be a Quiz Night in the Village hall on 6th March 2010.



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Misty appeared in the Goring Gap Players production of Noel Coward's *Star Quality* last month – Jose, Church Lane.

The Seasonal Gardener

Wow! Is anyone else waiting for that hard frost to finish off the annuals that have been flowering all summer? I can't seem to bring myself to tear out plants that are still giving a good show! It certainly delays the autumn/winter clear up that's for sure!

As we go into December and January, there is less and less incentive to go out into the garden to do bits and pieces. So my thoughts turn to jobs that can be done inside in the warmth of the house or the relative shelter of a greenhouse or shed! It's a great time to give your covered growing spaces a good clear up and a clean. It also includes any conservatories or even windowsills where house plants may be growing.

Start with washing all the pots out and stacking them in order for easy use come spring. Also a good wash down of all the windows to increase the amount of light getting in is essential. There's little enough at this time of year, we need all we can get! Wash all surfaces down and rinse well too. This will hopefully eliminate any pests or diseases that have accumulated over summer. Don't forget the floor either. It's amazing (if a bit horrible) the amount of stuff that mounts up underneath staging tables and storage shelves! Once this is done, look to your tools! They may have had hard usage over the summer and autumn and probably need some TLC by now. Clean them off and sharpen any blades. More damage is done to plants by blunt dirty tools, I think, than any thing else! Give any joints a good oiling and store in a dry place. Make sure all your machinery is given a once over too. Lawn mowers, strimmers, hedge cutters etc all benefit from a good clean up too.

Now you have the area nice and spruced up it's time to examine your pot plants. Pick over your plants and remove any dead or diseased leaves and stems, remove spent flowers and give any dusty leaves a good wipe with a damp cloth. This will help them make better use of the low light levels. Make sure, also, that you gently examine the root ball. Most pot plants grow out of the available space without us noticing. If when you ease the plant away from its pot, you see lots of white roots and not a lot of compost then it's time to repot it into the next size up. It's also important, over the winter months, not to overwater your pot plants. It's their dormant season where they don't grow so much, if at all. They therefore need less water and food.

You should by now be thoroughly pleased with yourself and nice and warm from the work you've done. So treat yourself to a cup of tea and a browse through the seed & plant catalogues that cascade through your door at this time of year! My tip would be to order early to get a good choice of varieties and delay the receiving of plug plants for as long as possible as you will have to look after tender bedding until after the risk of frost has past and it's much easier to get the plant companies to do that for you!

Jobs for outside (once the tea and cake has gone!) can either be simple, like feeding the wildlife and making sure there's fresh unfrozen water or harder work like digging over your beds and vegetable plots. Just

remember when digging, if the mud sticks to your boots then it's too wet to walk on let alone dig. You can damage the soil structure by walking on overly wet ground. Just wait for one of those sunny frosty winter days. Much better for the soil and much nicer for you!

Happy Christmas and Happy Gardening!

Sara Southey

07773 333972

www.southey-garden-solutions.co.uk

Harwell Safari Supper 2010

The next Harwell Safari Supper will take place on Saturday 27th March 2010.

Details and booking form will be available in January. For more information or to reserve a place please email

debbie.greenfield@stfc.ac.uk



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Little Pippins Pre-School

Harwell 'As it is' Calendar 2010



£7, 2 for £12. Available from Bobs The Butchers,
Newsagents, Christmas Tree Festival
Reg. Charity No. 1105994

Harwell Parish Council receives donation from RSRL

Harwell Parish Council benefited from a donation from Research Sites Restoration Ltd on the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, to continue with one of its key projects Our Street Corner.

The project which is run by young people in the parish and qualified youth workers aims to encourage young people within the community to take part in events and activities and contribute towards discussion groups. Topics such as relationships and sexual health are covered in the discussion groups, as well as how to build relationships with other adults and remain friends within peer groups.

So far the project has proven successful and the parish would like the project to continue, providing young children with amenities in the village and forging lasting connections between people of all ages within the community.

Commenting on RSRL's support, Councillor John Fisher said 'we are very grateful for the donation which will be of great benefit to the project's future development, and the young people within the village'.



Pictured from left: Mrs Kate Beswick OBE; Harwell Parish Council Vice-Chairman; Lesley Cox, RSRL Communications; Councillor John Fisher, HPC.

Editorial Notes: Harwell News is published at the beginning of alternate months; the editor is Martin Ricketts Other than where stated in reports of Parish Council matters any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Items for the February issue should be supplied by Jan. 21st. - email news@harwellparish.co.uk Distribution is organised by Mrs. Pat Staples, tel. 01235 833660. Advertising queries to the Clerk, see page 1.

Vale notes from District Councillors Reg Waite & Mrs Margaret Turner

One Harwell dog owner given the red card in fouling crackdown: Dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets have been targeted during a five month crackdown on fouling.

Environment wardens at the Vale of White Horse District Council focused on four hotspots. Up to 100 dog walkers were approached during the campaign which ran between June and October.

The areas were Sutton Courtenay, **Harwell**, Grove recreation grounds, and the neighbouring villages of Longworth and Southmoor.

The wardens patrolled at different times of the day speaking to all the dog walkers they came across. They wanted to ensure they were educated in the responsibilities of dog ownership and to check if they were carrying plastic bags to clear up any mess. They were also advised to walk and exercise their dogs away from the football and rugby pitches.

Two people, **one in Harwell** and one in Grove, **received a fixed penalty notice and were fined £50 for failing to clean up after their dogs.**

Colin Marshall, environment warden at the Vale Council, said: "The vast majority of people were very supportive of what we were doing. It is important that we drive the message home that dog fouling is anti-social, not to mention disgusting and that anyone caught will face the consequences. A fixed penalty notices for £50 can be issued and if the case is prosecuted in court, then this may incur a fine of up to £1,000."

Helping people to get on the housing ladder

Help is at hand for those wanting to get on the property ladder but who can't afford to buy a home on the open market. The Vale of White Horse District Council will be holding a **Homebuyers' Day on Wednesday 9 December at the Civic Hall in Wantage.**

The event, being held from 3.00 – 8.00pm, aims to raise awareness of the low cost home ownership schemes that operate in the Vale which are designed to help people who cannot afford to buy a home outright. It follows on from the successful Homebuyers' Days held in Abingdon last year and in Wantage in April which were attended by more than 500 people.

The Homebuyers' Day will give people the opportunity to talk to housing associations about the various options they have in trying to get on the housing ladder, as well as the chance to find out about schemes coming up in the Vale and view plans and designs of developments currently under construction or due to start shortly.

Solicitors and mortgage advisers will be on hand to help people work out how much they might need to save and what is involved in the mortgage and legal processes. Housing officers from the council will also be at the event to offer advice, including on how to save energy - and money - in a new home.

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Baby and Toddler Group News

Are you a parent or carer for a toddler or a baby or even a mum-to-be? Come along to Harwell Fun Club and you can make new friends. We meet each Tuesday of term time at the village hall between 9:30 and 11:30 am.

Craft activities are provided for the toddlers and children (up to 5 yrs). We have a wide range of toys for all ages and at the end of the session we sing some songs.

The cost per session is just £1 per family and includes a snack and drink for all children and adults. Your first visit is free.

For more information please contact Penny Curtis on 01235 831558

Busy Bees Music Group

Musical fun for babies and the under fives.

Friday Mornings
In term time
in the Village Hall, Harwell

Cost £2.50 per family includes coffee

www.busybeesmusic.co.uk 01235 521039





Warm up to Christmas at Harwell's

Christmas Tree Festival

Harwell Village Hall, 1 pm until 3.30 pm
Saturday 12 December

- > Live Christmas Music from Local Bands
- > Stalls, selling Christmas Presents (with a difference)
- > Children's craft activities
- > Decorated Christmas Trees for auction

Christmas Refreshment

Santa's Grotto

"After the event ends, Father Christmas will ride his sleigh around the village wishing all a 'Happy Christmas!'"





CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sat., 12 Dec 2009, 11am-3pm
ABINGDON GUILDHALL (Roissey Room)
Free admission - entrance from Bridge Street

A wonderful opportunity to find something special for Christmas:
exclusive gifts (jewellery, silks, felt-work, original artwork and more),
handmade Christmas cakes and puddings,
special preserves and sweetmeats for the Christmas table.

Tea/coffee available - take time out while you decide what to buy.
Christmas cards will be on sale - in support of


Helen & Douglas House
NO PROFIT CARE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

Northmoor Trust Events

Events take place at Northmoor Trust, Hill Farm, Little Wittenham. Weekend 5-6 December, 10am - 5pm:

Christmas Craft Fayre

Meet Santa, enjoy local crafts and gifts, festive goodies, traditional stories and Christmas trees for sale. Adults £1, Friends free. No booking, just turn up!

Saturday 5 December, 10am - 3pm:

BBC Tree 0 Clock World Tree Planting Record

Come and help set a new world record for the most trees planted in one hour, in multiple locations. World record planting from 11am - 12noon, but help us plant a coppice coupe anytime between 10am - 3pm.

Please call 01865 407 792 or visit our website at

Harwell RFC Presents...

SANTA DASH!

2 Mile Fun Run dressed as SANTA

£3 to Enter

Entry & sponsorship forms available from behind the bar at The Legion or from Harwell entertainment committee members



In conjunction with Harwell British Legion
ALL proceeds will be donated to The Poppy Appeal

WHEN: Sunday 20th December 2009
TIME: 10.30am for 11.00am Start
WHERE: Starting (and ending) at The British Legion Club at Harwell

MUST BE DRESSED AS SANTA TO TAKE PART!

Sue Ryder Care

Sue Ryder Care has been a registered charity since 1953. Lady Sue Ryder of Warsaw set up the charity to 'meet needs where needs weren't being met' and from this the charity has grown and evolved to be an international charity that last year provided 4 million hours of care in the UK and helped over 30,000 people in 13 different countries.

In the UK we provide care in people's own homes, in the community and through our 14 specialist hospices and neurological care centres. Our highly trained doctors, nurses, carers, social workers, therapists and volunteers are dedicated to helping people get the best from life. Working in partnership with health and social care providers we offer person-centred care that meets all of an individual's needs whether they are physical, psychological or spiritual. We also care and support the families, friends and carers of our patients.



The Sue Ryder Care Nettlebed Hospice was originally built in 1904 at the request of Scottish banker Robert Fleming. In 1938 the house was given by deed of gift to St. Mary's Hospital Paddington and used as a convalescent home and in 1979 the home was acquired by Sue Ryder Care.

For 30 years now the Nettlebed Hospice has been caring for adults, mainly people suffering from Cancer, from all over Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. We have 18 beds and last year had around 400 people stay with us. We also run a Day Therapy facility twice a week which last year accommodated over 600 visits. Around 60% of the people that use the facilities here are able to return home and are then supported by our Community Matron.

All our patients come to us via the NHS or GP referral so all care is provided at no cost to them or their families although many choose to support us with a donation. The cost of providing this specialist compassionate care is over £2.5 million every year, because of our link with the NHS we do receive some government funding but still have raise around £1.4 million ourselves. We do this through donations, sales of donated goods, events and the support of the local community. If you would like to make a donation or find out more ways in which you can help us then please contact the Fundraising team by e-mailing fundraising.nettlebed@suerydercare.org or call 01491 641070

We care for people with end of life and long-term conditions:

Cancer, Stroke, Brain Injury, Multiple Sclerosis, Dementia, Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Motor Neurone Disease. For more information visit: www.suerydercare.org call: 0845 050 1953 email: info@suerydercare.org
Sue Ryder Care is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1052076) and in Scotland (no. SC039578)

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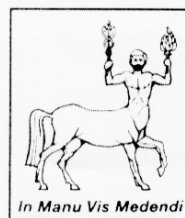
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