

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

Published by Harwell Parish Council

Number 174: June 2012

Harwell Feast 2012

The best floats were judged to be:

Harwell School



- 1st Harwell School - Olympic Dreams
- 2nd Busy Bees - Busy as Bees
- 3rd Rainbows - Jubilee Street party

Happy 90th Birthday to Harwell WI



Busy Bees



Baggs Tree Buskers



Rainbows



Scouts



Little Pippins



Fledgelings & Fun Club



May Queen Josefina Santander and
attendants Emily Barnett & Charlotte
Hathaway



1st Bonnie Baby Jenny Baxter



1st Young Fancy Dress Maddie
McDowell (15 months) -
Great British Punk Rocker



3rd Lottie Wrigley (3yrs) Busy
Bee



Fancy Dress 6 - 11 years
1st Samuel Hawthorne - Battle of
Britain Spitfire & Pilot



2nd Maryse Girgis & Hannah
Hawthorne -Olympic Logos



3rd Leo Goodall - Olympic Boxer



Harwell School collected the trophy
for best float:



Feast Chairman Gareth Buxton, right
with Mark Fysh. More Feast on the
middle pages & photos at the back.





babies and toddlers at harwell



Are you a parent or carer for a baby or toddler, or even a mum-to-be? Come along to Fun Club and you can make new friends.

We meet each Tuesday in term time at the Harwell Village Hall, 9.30am to 11.30am.

We have a wide range of toys for all ages and a weekly craft activity, and there is a dedicated baby area.

The cost is £1.50 per family and includes a snack and a drink for the children and adults. Your first session is free.

Fun Club needs you !! Many thanks to those who have come forward already, but we still have vacancies on our committee and need more people to help us open up in the mornings. Please call Alison Fautley on 01235 221052 if you want to help.

On a lighter note we had a successful Nearly New Sale on Sat 19 May and raised £220! Hopefully we will have a photographer session in June or July and our Summer Picnic is on 17 July – the last session before the holidays.

Harwell Stone Service

On the Saturday nearest to the anniversary of D-Day, a parade and service is held at the RAF Harwell Memorial Stone at the Harwell Science Park. The stone marks the departure point for Servicemen who were amongst the first to land on D-Day. This is supported by the Royal British Legion Harwell Branch.

The 2012 Service will take place on **Saturday 2nd June 2012** at 5.30pm. Legion Standards, Service Standards and Army / Air Cadet Standards are also welcome to attend, please be there for 5.00pm. After the service attendees will be welcome at the Harwell RBL Club in Westfield. If you require further information please contact the Branch, branch@harwellrbl.co.uk

Police Surgeries – Have Your Say meetings - are held monthly in the Village Hall. The next are:

Saturday 16th June 4 – 5pm

Saturday 14th July 12 noon - 1pm

Harwell Village Hall

The Trustees are delighted to announce that they have appointed Richard Potter of RPA Architects based in Upton to develop plans for the Village Hall. Richard will head a team of professionals for this project. Richard is contacting the Users so he can understand their needs. The Trustees would like to hear your views so we can pass them onto the architect.

Once the Trustees and Users have formulated plans with RPA taking into account what the fund raising committee thinks can be realistically achieved, then the Trustees will hold an open evening to present to the plans to the village. The finalised plans will be submitted for planning approval.

The trustees would like to thank all who have supported us through the consultation stages.

Keith Beswick, Chairman

Mobile Library

The **Mobile Library** will be in the Village Hall car park between 9.15 and 9.40am on the following Wednesdays: 6, 20 June, 4, 18 July, 1 Aug.

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Little Pippins

Little Pippins Pre-School is set in an idyllic orchard within the village. The qualified, caring and enthusiastic staff provide a stimulating and varied programme of play for children from the age of 2 ½ to school age.

Coming up this term, we are very grateful to Harwell School for letting us use their swimming pool and we will continue our regular visits to Foundation Class, which helps prepare the older children for the move to school in September. We are also looking forward to our summer outing to Farmer Gows and to sports day at the end of term.

Little Pippins is a charity and is run by a volunteer management committee consisting of parents and ex-parents and ex-staff. Our aim is to provide a safe and happy environment for every child in which they can learn to extend their skills, knowledge and understanding. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to prepare the children for school. The activities are planned by staff taking into consideration requests from the children and ideas formed from the children's play and interests. We aim to play outdoors in the garden or on the veranda every day and often enjoy short walks around the village. We offer the following sessions:
 Breakfast Club – 8am till 9:15am
 Morning Session – 9:15am till 11:45am
 Lunch – 11:45am till 12:30pm
 Afternoon Session – 12:30pm till 3pm
 After School Club – 3pm till 6pm - (in association with Harwell School)

Spaces are starting to fill up for the Autumn term so if you would like to register your child or find out more, please just call in anytime and have a look round. Our contact details are:
 Tel 01235 821741, email littlepippins@btinternet.com
 website www.littlepippins.org.uk

Little Pippins Pre-School, Freeman Orchard,
 Gaveston Road, Harwell, OX11 0HP

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Term Time Only - Harwell Village

A great opportunity exists in Harwell Village for either an NVQ qualified individual, parent or someone wishing to become experienced in childcare. Key to this position is the ability to provide a safe and stimulating environment for young children and to work as part of the pre-school team. Formal training is not essential however the desire to work within the local community and to provide the best possible care is.

If you are interested in learning more about this role please contact:

Lorraine Moore 07901908848 or
littlepippins2004@yahoo.co.uk

Little Pippins Pre-school

Opening of the Outdoor Area

& Cream Tea afternoon

Sunday 24th June from 2.30 to 4 pm

Please join us in celebrating the opening of the outside play areas and gardens and enjoy a Cream Tea. Also raffle, books and bric-a-brac stalls.

Last bus from Abingdon saved

County Councillor Stewart Lilly reports that following its review, the County's Cabinet Member for Transport decided earlier this month that the 19.14 service 32 departure from Abingdon should continue to be subsidised to operate beyond Didcot to Wantage. This journey will therefore continue until 30 May 2015.

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Parish Council News

April Meeting

At the Open Forum, County Councillor Stewart Lilly reported on a number of County matters; among them, the Community Infrastructure Levy will replace Section 106 agreements within the next 24 months (extending the principle of developers providing funds for community facilities to smaller developments). Cycle paths are to be reviewed, and Mr Lilly will be involved in the process. The OCC will take over some aspects of healthcare following reforms in the NHS. The vehicle-activated sign for Reading Road had been delivered but not installed yet. And all but one resident of the Crown Nursing Home in the village had been rehomed (it has since been closed).

PCSO Kirby then reported that he will now be working alongside PCSO Deane in Harwell. They will be monitoring parking on narrow roads in the village, such as Jennings Lane, Kings Lane, Church Lane, and School Lane. Mrs Gaspar commented that this was a long-standing problem. He reported 2 recent crimes; a burglary to a house on the A417 and criminal damage to a vehicle in Gaveston Road. Enquiries are ongoing.

Items from our District Councillors are given in a separate item on page 10.

Under planning matters, aside from particular applications which are given separately, the Council discussed the screening applications for houses in Harwell put forward under the Vale's Interim Housing Supply Policy. Although it recognised that in some circumstance new houses in the village could be a good idea, the Council agreed that its response to the Vale WHDC should be that none of the sites in the Parish were considered suitable; see the April minutes for more details of the discussion and points in favour and against these housing proposals.

There were several recommendations from the Lands Committee. One allowed Mr Gareth Buxton to use his discretion regarding use of the entrance to the Recreation Ground from the Reading Road for Harwell Feast. It was agreed that the land adjacent to allotment plots 1, 2, and 3 can be used for allotments. The Lands Committee is to decide on the size(s).

It was reported that OCC has advised that Bridleway 19 will be closed for several months while plant-decommissioning works take place at Harwell Campus. This is part of Icknield way through the site; an alternative route has been arranged.

May Meeting

This was the meeting where annual elections and reviews of various functions takes place.

Mr Marsh was prepared to stand as Chairman. He was proposed by Mr Davison, seconded by Mrs Boughton-Waite and duly elected. He and the Clerk signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Mrs Beswick was prepared to stand again as Vice-Chairman. She was proposed by Mrs Boughton-Waite, seconded by Mr Fox-Davies and duly elected.

The committees were confirmed as:

Lands Committee - Mrs Beswick, Mr Ricketts, Mrs Gaspar, Mr Buxton, Mrs Turner.

Planning Committee - Mr Marsh, Mrs Beswick, Miss Hawthorne, Mrs Boughton-Waite, Mr Davison, Mr Fox-Davies.

Finance Committee - all Councillors.

Harwell Future Advisory Committee - Mr Marsh, Mr Buxton, Miss Hawthorne, Ms Greenfield.

Under the item to consider if any new Committees were required, Mr Ricketts suggested that a Rights of Way Committee should be set up; he said that several items he was looking at for the Council a year or two previously have yet to be concluded, and more effort is required if anything is to be achieved. A decision was deferred after Mr Ricketts agreed to circulate details of what he considered needed doing.

Under review of insurance arrangements, the Clerk reported that an alternative insurer had given a significantly lower quote. She had yet to compare the policies in detail, and was authorised to insure the Council with the preferred company after doing so.

Under Planning, as well as applications, a letter had been received from a young resident of Didcot Road, with a copy to Ed Vaizey MP, who was concerned at speeding, and the likely increase of traffic from Great Western Park. He had asked for a speed camera to be installed and for an alteration in the 30 mph speed limit. Ed Vaizey had passed it to Mr Lilly. Both Mr Marsh and Mr Lilly had responded to the author.

The updated Council Risk Assessment document had been circulated. There are a few actions for the Clerk to attend to, and any further suggestions will be dealt with as ongoing items. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Beswick for helping to draw up the document. The Risk Assessment was approved by the Council.

Full minutes of Parish Council meetings are available on the web – www.harwellparish.co.uk. The next meetings of the Parish Council are on Tuesdays 12th June and 10th July. Items for the July agenda need to be with the Clerk, Mrs. S. Taylor one week before the meeting. Contact her on 01235 820006 where messages can be left, email clerk@harwellparish.co.uk, or by post to P.O. Box 223 Wantage OX12 2DH. Office hours, in the Pavilion, are 9am to 5pm Mondays. To contact Councillors, see the Council's web pages.

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Annual Parish Meeting

This was held on 26th April and attended by 7 Parish Councillors, our District and County Councillors, some members of *Our Street Corner* Youth Club and about 20 others. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr David Marsh, welcomed people to the meeting, and, after signing last year's minutes as correct, proceeded to give his report.

Mr Marsh began by introducing the Council members who were present, whom, he said, had now completed the first year of their term. For their work over the past year he thanked the Clerk, Mrs Stephanie Taylor, who was unable to be present, and Councillors, in particular Mrs Kate Beswick for Chairing the Lands Committee. There was a new member of the Grounds Staff, Mr Charlie East, who was particularly looking after the Rec.

Mr Marsh reflected that at last year's meeting the Village Hall had been the main item, with the Committee considering asking the Parish Council for space on the Rec. But the Hall Committee had decided against this eventually. This left the Sports Development on its own again and depleted by the resignation of its Chairman Mr John Delfoss, and other stalwart Mr John Fisher; he thanked them and the other Committee members for their work over several years. Due to the financial climate the projected finance available was much reduced, and the Council had decided to close the project and focus on refurbishing the existing Pavilion.

This he said led on to the Council's finances; out of about £70k per year income, after salaries and regular items there was about £5k discretionary spending. Over the last couple of years this had been devoted to refurbishing the Cemetery and incorporating the new area. For this work thanks were due to those involved and in particular Martin Ricketts, who managed the project. The Council's Reserves contained about £10k for the Sports Development. Allocating this now to the Pavilion, and with some money from the general reserve, there would be about £20k available in 2013, but obviously further funds will be needed.

Over the next few years, due to Great Western Park (GWP) and Valley Park, the Parish may grow from 1000 households to 4,500, although the village itself may not change much. The Council has set up the Harwell Future Advisory Committee to consider the changes this will mean, and this has met with Didcot Town Council, in particular to discuss the GWP sports facilities that will straddle the Parishes' boundary.

Our Street Corner Youth Club then gave details of their money-raising activities. For the Play Area, they had applied to the Chill Out fund and the Mid Counties Cooperative Fund, and were successful with both, raising £2000. They had also been fund-raising for the club, and were nominated for the Didcot Business and Community Awards, where they won the Young Enterprise Award. The £100 from this, and other money raised has been used to do some work in the Pavilion, such as making storage space, where they meet. Ms Belcher added that they were also hoping to get an area in Westfield improved into a garden area.

Mrs Sue Greatbanks and Ms Carolyn Place then gave an update on the Play Area work. Sufficient funds had been raised, including £2k by OSC, £500 from the Feast Committee, and £50k from WREN, £5.5k from the Vale WHDC, to cover the £58k cost of the work inside the fence. Rather than have the play area closed during the summer holidays, it had been decided to have the work start in September, which would also give time to seek funds for the remaining £30k of work. The Chairman thanked Sue, Carolyn and others for bringing last year's proposal to what should be reality by the autumn.

Great Western Park: Mr Nick Laister of RPS then gave a summary of the work currently being done and in prospect. There would be 100 properties occupied by May 2012, with 250 expected by December and 500 by September 2013. These levels were triggers for various other activities, such as making the school land available to the County Council, and developing the junction with Didcot Road. In the Area Centre, the supermarket site handover was also due after the 500th occupancy. Of the housing, there would be 30% so-called affordable of which part would be for rent and the rest shared equity. Mr Marsh thanked Mr Laister for his presentation.

Harwell Link Road: Mr Marsh outlined the proposed route for this, saying it was tied up with the development of Valley Park, to the west of Great Western Park. They were asking the Vale WHDC to leave the southern part of the possible area, just north of the Didcot Road and east of the A34, as open space to keep Didcot and Harwell separate. The link road was intended to run from the A4130 at the north, across the Didcot Road just east of the A34 to the A417, then use the A417 to cross the A34 before continuing south by the A34 before joining the A4130 again and the roundabout between the Harwell Site and Chilton. The Council was concerned to see that it doesn't just go as far as the A417 and leave the traffic to still come through Harwell along the Reading Road.

Gareth Buxton, the new Feast Chairman, gave an update on plans for this year's Feast. Dr Keith Beswick gave an update on the Village Hall refurbishment plans. The Trustees were aware of the need for a long-term home for the Youth Club, as well as accommodating a better Committee Room / Small Hall, improved parking and kitchen facilities. In the last few months architects had been approached, and it was hoped that the following week's Trustees meeting would see the selection of one to draw up plans.

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Planning Matters

Permissions:

12/00247/FUL Erection of temporary storage shelter at Land north of Becquerel Avenue.

P12/V0576 Demolition of garage and conservatory; single-storey side and rear extension at 11 Kings Lane.

P12/V0579 Single storey rear extension & front porch, Lamorna, Didcot Road.

Refusal:

P12/V0372 Erection of a single 2 bed dwelling at Land adjacent to 8 Wantage Road.

Applications

P12/V0815 Two storey front extension with double garage on ground floor, add dormer windows to existing roof, Thistledome, Grove Road.

Concerns were expressed about this and M Ricketts agreed to initiate a comment to be made to the Vale WHDC, thereafter Clerk would collate and finalise.

P12/V0755 Erection of single storey rear extension at Ballut, Church Lane.

P12/V0674 Demolition of part of c 1990 extension at rear. Conversion of laundry room to study at Fairlawn, Church Lane.

Planning Committee members had not objected to these applications, but asked that Planners take into account neighbours' comments.

Ed Vaizey MP local surgery dates

June 15th 2012 Grove, Old Mill Hall, OX12 7LB

June 22nd 2012 Wallingford, Town Hall, OX10 0AD

July 6th 2012 Didcot, King Alfred Drive Com. Centre

July 20th 2012 Wantage, Civic Hall, OX12 9BX

All Surgeries are held between 5:30 and 7pm

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Harwell News – editor's 100th issue!

Those of you who went to the Annual Parish meeting, thank you for coming. For those that didn't, you missed a very useful and informative meeting. In my introduction I mentioned and thanked a few of the people that contribute to the life of our community. I highlighted the Harwell News as being a very important means of sharing information about all the activities in the village; even in this age of electronic news, the printed copy is still essential, and we would be the poorer as a community without it. I thanked Pat Staples, who makes up the printed copies into bundles for distribution, and also all of you who help to deliver a copy to every house in the Parish - thank you, you know who you are!

This year I also highlighted the work of our editor, Martin Ricketts. It's mainly due to his effort and dedication that the Harwell News appears. This edition is the 100th that he has edited, and it seems appropriate to mark that occasion with a special vote of thanks to him for his contributions.

He tells me he started twenty-one years ago in 1991, taking over from Betty Pike, and edited it for 69 editions until 2003. After a break, he started again in 2007 and has edited another 30 editions in the last five years, so this is his one hundredth. Given also that this edition is Number 174, that's an amazing record of contribution to the village. Thank you, Martin.

By the way, the first edition of the current series was December 1976, just in time to mark the last Jubilee celebrations. And guess what the headline story was? "Harwell and the traffic" with a picture of a very long articulated lorry trying to round the bend at the White Hart! You can find all but twenty editions of the Harwell News on the Harwell Parish website.

David Marsh Chairman, Harwell Parish Council

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Thanks from the Scouts



The Scouts would like to thank all those who supported their stalls at Harwell Feast – including the Cream Teas.

Earth Trust Pop Up Restaurant

Join us for dinner Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th July. A restaurant will 'pop up' for four days in a glorious wildflower meadow beside the River Thames. See the website for more details, www.earthtrust.org.uk

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Sunday 1st July 2012

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Harwell Open Gardens & Allotments

Sunday 15th July

(St Swithin's Day)

2 to 5pm Entry £4

Tickets outside Bob's the Butchers

Report of the 1952 Feast:

2,000 AT HARWELL DESPITE RAIN

THEY BOWLED FOR A PIG, UNAVOIDABLY ABSENT

Almost continuous rain on Monday afternoon did not damp the spirits of an estimated crowd of over 2,000 people who travelled from miles around to Harwell Feast.

The Feast is a traditional Whitsuntide ceremony, and was revived last year after a short lapse. Its origins are lost in obscurity, and may even go back as far as the pre-Christian era.

Between showers, the crowd saw some close racing organised by the Amateur Athletic Association, greatly improved by the handicapping of the A.A.A. officials.

One of the most popular events was the tug-of-war, in which Thornycroft A.C. beat Aldershot C.C. in the final, which was completed for in pouring rain, before only a handful of spectators.

The day's events began with a fancy dress parade through the village, led by Didcot band, the recreation ground where Sir Henry and Lady Braund, of Upton, judged the costumes and decorated vehicles.

The darts tournament, in a large marquee, drew a big crowd, and was won by the Fleur de Lys (East Hagbourne), who were almost unbeaten last season. The runners-up were the British Railway's team, with Didcot Labour Club providing the most successful women's side.

Sheaf Tossing Contest

The most popular of the side shows was the sheaf tossing contest, in which competitors had to toss a sheaf of corn over a horizontal bar with a pitchfork. The bar was raised higher and higher during the afternoon.

Bowling for a pig drew many competitors, although the prize was not on show owing to foot and mouth disease regulations.

For the younger visitors there was a fun fair, and also an exhibition of handicraft. Owing to the rain the children's sports were postponed until yesterday evening.

Harwell children were provided with their traditional tea in the Technical Institute, arranged by Harwell Women's Institute.

The day's festivities were concluded in the evening with a Carnival dance at the Technical Institute.

SPORTS RESULTS

Results of the A.A.A. sports were:-

100 yards handicap: 1. A. J. Waters (Newbury); 2. B. Brown (Didcot A.C.); 3. J. J. Bond (Swanton A.C.)

One mile handicap: 1. R. V. Morgan (Harwell); 2. N. A. Panton (Swanton A.C.); 3. R. G. Fincham (St. Gregory A.C.)

Local women's 100 yards: 1. Mrs. L. Carter; 2. Mrs. Adams; 3. Mrs. Harrison

440 yards handicap: 1. D. W. Evans (Oxford City A.C.); 2. G. L. Row (Oxford City A.C.); 3. G. R. Oakeson (H.A.C.C. Didcot)

120 yards handicap: 1. E. J. Bond (Swanton A.C.); 2. D. W. Evans (Oxford City A.C.); 3. G. R. Oakeson (H.A.C.C.)

Victorian 145 and over race (200 yards): 1. P. Evans (Oxford City A.C.); 2. C. H. Carter; 3. A. Jeffries

Swanton Youth Club Invitation, 800 yards handicap: 1. G. Rowan; 2. J. Pryor; 3. M. Pearce

Half-mile handicap: 1. G. L. Rowan (Oxford City A.C.); 2. R. B. Rogers (Oxford City A.C.); 3. N. A. Panton (Oxford City A.C.)

Farmer dress competition results:

Children 2 to 5: Brenda Carter, Anna Humphries, Peter Nixon, Victoria Ashby, Rosie Cummings and Quaintan Hilton

Children 5 to 9: Diane Bailey, Julie Swales, Susan Dunham, Michael Carr and Pauline Rice

Children 9 to 11: Geoffrey Bailey, Sandra Chambers, Barbara Jeffries, G. Pryor and Valerie Pryor

Children 12 to 15: N. Capron, J. Bennett, J. Davies, M. Hunt and I.

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Fun Dog Show results**Class 1 - Best Puppy (6-12 months)**

Dog / Owner

- 1st Merlin / Ben Caudle
 2nd Katie / Amanda Pace
 3rd joint Jessie & Bo / Tim Cload

Class 2 - Prettiest Bitch (Dog / Owner)

- 1st Bella / Debbie Lawrence
 2nd Scruffy / Charlotte Hathaway
 3rd Tweed / Tayla Downes

Class 3 - Handsomest Dog

- 1st Gimli / Sue
 2nd George / Joanne & Liam
 3rd Oscar / Kelly Beard
 Special Winki Wuhuhu / Karen Lowe

Class 4 - Best Veteran (8+ years)

- 1st Honey / Jose Rostagni
 2nd Charcoal / Sue
 3rd Oliver / Karon Hawthorne
 Special Laser / Sorrel Gibson

Class 5 - Fancy dress dog and Handler

- 1st Maisie / Maryse Girgis
 2nd Poppy / Jose Rostagni

Class 6 - Best Harwell dog

- 1st Boogie / Richard Leaman
 2nd Misty / Jose Rostagni
 3rd} Lilly / Janice Talbot
 3rd} Maisie / Maryse Girgis

Class 7 - Best in Show

Chosen from the winners of
 the previous classes

Winner Boogie / Richard Leaman
 (High St., Harwell)

Reserve Gimli / Sue

Lost Property:

Some items were left
 on the Rec and in the
 Village Hall – hats,
 sun-glasses, walking
 stick, seat; to claim
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Harwell Feast 2012 Results**Bonnie Baby**

- 1st Jenny Baxter 2nd Alfie Hillier
 3rd Stanley Basey
 Next Olympic Athlete - Amelia Rose Cudden
 Most Contented Baby - Kian Forsyth-Beard

Children's Fancy Dress - up to 5 years

1st Maddie McDowell (15 months) – Great British
 Punk Rocker

- 2nd Eve Hawthorne (3 yrs) – Olympic Torch
 3rd Lottie Wrigley (3yrs) Busy Bee

Fancy Dress 6 – 11 years

- 1st Samuel Hawthorne - Battle of Britain Spitfire Pilot
 2nd Maryse Girgis & Hannah Hawthorne - Olympic Logos
 3rd Leo Goodall – Olympic Boxer

Children's Flower-arranging was won by Maia
 Hawkins, aged 11.

The **Michael Armstrong Trophy for Sport** was
 awarded to Owen Pickles.

Aunt Sally

The British Legion Aunt Sally team ran an Aunt Sally
 competition at the Harwell Feast with two prizes
 presented at the end.

The joint winners of the adult prize were Dean Jones
 and Clifford Hillier who shared the prize of a £50 meal
 voucher kindly donated by the Hart of Harwell, with 3
 dolls knocked off out of 6

The children's prize was won by Olivia Grocutt and was
 a large tin of chocolates, also with 3 dolls out of 6.
 Photos of the winners appear on the back page. The day
 was very successful as over 150 people actually tried
 their hand at the game.

Terry Doughty, Aunt Sally coordinator & Fred Davies,
 Aunt Sally team captain.

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Online payment are also welcome.

Other services include: Conservatory roof cleaning • Fascias cleaning,
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L/Cpl Michael Foley's Cortege

Mark Fysh, Chairman of Harwell Royal British Legion Club and Cllr Reg Waite specially thank all the people who turned out on 19th April at such short notice to pay respects to the late L/Cpl Michael Foley (killed in action in Afghanistan) whose cortege moved from Royal British Legion to the English Martyrs RC Church in Didcot.

Our thanks also go to Peter Cansell, Headteacher, Harwell Primary School and Steve Sutherland, Senior Teacher, who swiftly responded to the late call by arranging for a teacher and some Year 5 and 6 pupils to pay their respects.

The family made favourable comment to Mark, Reg, Ed Vaizey MP and Cllr Mrs Alison Thomson, Chairman of the Vale of White Horse District Council, who attended the funeral, on the numbers turned out through Harwell and they were truly surprised to see so many. Furthermore they felt particularly honoured to see the pupils from the local Harwell Primary School.

The school's response was in words which could not be summed up better than their quite touching comments, **"The children and we thank you for the opportunity to show our gratitude to L/Cpl Foley for the sacrifice that he made and to be there to show to his family that his life was valued"**.

Reg Waite

Keeping our ancient footpaths open

Yes, it's time again for our annual footpath walks. Please join us this year on Sunday, 1st July when we will set off from the Village Hall at 2 p.m.

Your participation will include taking a note of anything that you consider requires attention or rubbish dumped along the way. We need your help to ensure our footpaths remain open for everyone to enjoy year after year. A great opportunity to meet fellow Harwellians and enjoy the afternoon!

Dee Boughton-Waite 01235 861779 e-mail:
deembw@aol.com

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Harwell Parochial Charities

are looking for trustees

With two members of the Trustee Board standing down in June, we need to appoint new trustees for this village charity.

The charity's main objective is to provide accommodation in the Almshouses on the High Street. There are 4 regular meetings of the Trustees per year, plus occasional other duties between meetings.

The Board as a whole needs a wide range of expertise, and at the moment we would be particularly pleased to hear from anyone who has knowledge or experience in the field of Listed Buildings and the Conservation and Planning processes; but do not be put off from applying if that is not your particular strength.

For an informal chat, more information, or to make an application, please contact the Clerk, Mrs Clare Wagner, 835425, clare.wagner@jabrin.co.uk;

or Stuart Davison, 833105, stuart@davison.ndo.co.uk

District Council News

The Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, Harwell: The owner has been contacted on a regular basis, but no response received by the Vale. The neighbour is still awaiting the date of the Bristol court hearing.

1 Loder Road, Harwell: Following formal notice under Section 215 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 on 5th March 2012, to the owner, the front and rear gardens have been cleared, but further materials including toilet, bath, carpet etc still need to be removed.

The Park, Harwell: Still awaiting meeting with senior management from Sovereign & Vale Housing Association although a consultation with all residents in The Park is being organised in the near future.

Reg Waite



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HARWELL WI

On 11th April John Owen from the RNLI talked about 20 years of service with the Institution, training, fundraising and speaking about a lifetime connected with the sea. I think the most amazing information we learned from John was that the RNLI is now actively involved with flood relief countrywide.

On Saturday 5th May a constant stream of members, friends and visitors came to our Coffee Morning and Plant Sale in The Village Hall. There was an impressive selection of plants, vegetables, herbs and bedding plants of all varieties. The scones with jam and cream went down particularly well with the tea and coffee. Thanks to all who supported the event.

On 9th May Liam d'Arcy Brown gave a lively talk on the geography, history and culture of The Grand Canal of China which is 1,170 miles long.

The theme for our Float at the Harwell Feast was 'Happy 90th Birthday to Harwell WI - 90 years of National WI Campaigns'. Each person represented a decade and Amy Smith was the 1930's. See Amy's photo on the back page.

Coming Events: On 13 June Alix Booth will be giving a humorous talk with puppets about the traditions of the 'Punch & Judy' show. And on 11th July Mouth & Foot Artist, Keith Jansz, will talk about his painting.

Re-inventing your wardrobe, Chinese Medicine, Corn Stars and Christmas Cooking whisk us up to Christmas.

There is no regular monthly meeting in August, but there are plenty of activities during the summer months. Outside visits include:-

Saturday 16 June - Filkins Museum and village history trail followed by a cream tea.

Wednesday 11 July - 'Ladies who love to Lunch' can have lunch and then listen to author, Jane Robinson talking about her book 'A Force to be reckoned with'. This is at Benson Parish Hall.

Tuesday 31 July - an evening visit to Manor Farm Herbs at Fringford.

Tuesday 14 August - A walk from Wallingford, via the Castle Grounds, to The Waterside Café at Benson for coffee and cake!

There are also Theatre trips as and when available during the year which are notified to those wishing to be involved. There are also many other outings organised by Oxfordshire Federation of WI and these can be joined by the members via the Club Treasurer.

Come and see for yourself. Find out at first hand the many interesting speakers, visits and outings we have to offer. Visitors are always welcome. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

For more information about joining us or about any of the above activities, contact our Secretary, Penny Marsh, on 01235 835430.

Email: penny@digitalsafaris.com

Harwell Gardeners' Club

Coach Trip

to

Ashwood Nurseries

Staffordshire

Wednesday 25th July

Leaving the village 8.30 a.m

Returning approx 5.00 p.m

Members £24, Visitors £26

This internationally renowned nursery produces a wide range of indoor and outdoor plants.

As well as the impressive sales areas, greenhouses, show garden, gift shop and tea room, we will also enjoy a guided tour of the owner, John Massey's private 3 acre garden.

Our coach has access and places for up to 5 wheelchairs.

To book a place please contact Janice Markey on 01235 832802



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Cornerstone Exhibitions A Brush With the Past

to 10th June

Mike MacGregor captures the life and times of people from a past era in his beautiful and atmospheric pieces. Mike aims to assist the viewer to journey back in time to revisit instances of a vanished life, by creating paintings which maybe funny, sad, beautiful or tragic.

Chernobyl's Zone of Alienation

Darren Nisbett - 14 June to 8 July

Witness the fragility of life and the enduring power of nature, following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. Darren spent four days in the 30km exclusion zone around the infamous nuclear power plant, taking infrared photos of the ghost town, which was once home to 50,000 people.

Faster, Higher, Stronger

13 July – 12 August

This is our annual open exhibition, which this year celebrates the Olympics coming to London. It is artwork by local and regional artists in response to the Olympic motto – faster, higher, stronger.

Our Street Corner Youth Club.

In January, this year we applied to the Positive Activities fund for Project Shed.

This had to be organised and presented by young people to young people and we were pleased to receive £1250 for our project and new equipment. The Parish Council decided they would rather not have a shed which might be less secure and would look unsightly. They agreed to change the use of the walk-in meter cupboard and let us alter the kitchen area in the Pavilion giving us five new cupboards and more space.



Sarah, one of our volunteer adults managed to get support from Sovereign Vale, who have also helped us with a grant of £200 towards the new storage facility. We are still without a youth worker but our small band of adult volunteers is hoping to keep the club operating through the summer. We would welcome any interested adults. Donations can still be made at:

localgiving.com/ourstreetcorner

for either the youth club or the refurbished playground.

For more details contact Celia on 221173.

Didcot Volunteer Centre needs more Drivers

The DVC has existed since 1987 to enable anyone in Didcot and surrounding villages, who is unable to drive, to get to hospitals, surgeries, dentists and chiropodists; to help with shopping, going to the hairdressers, and getting prescriptions etc.. The Centre has been financially supported by a number of County and Parish organisations, including Harwell Parish Council and the Harwell Feast. For more on DVC see www.localgiving/DidcotVolunteerCentre

We are looking for more drivers to help meet increasing demand for DVC services. Our drivers are all volunteers who give their time freely; to cover the cost of petrol there is a mileage charge of 45p a mile to/from the drivers home, for all journeys. If you have any spare time, even just a few hours, each week, why not get in touch with us. There is no need to commit in advance to specific days or times and this makes it easier to combine volunteering for DVC with other activities and with any commitments you may already have. If you are interested in helping, or would like more details. We would love to hear from you, by 'phone on 01235 816709 or by calling in to see us in office hours.

The Office is behind the Methodist Church in Mereland Road, Didcot & is open Mon to Fri. 10am – 12 noon.

Harwell Gardeners' Club Summer Garden visits

18 JUNE.. HEARNS HOUSE

Gallows Tree Common, Oxon. RG4 9DE

Meet there for 7pm

Members £5 non-members £7 (including refreshments)

Directions: Take the A4130 from Didcot to Wallingford. There turn right onto the bypass round the town. At the 4th roundabout take the A4074 to Reading. Continue down this road until you reach Cane End and turn left for Gallows Tree Common. Hearn's House is on the left just after The Reformation Pub on the right.

2 JULY.. HOME CLOSE

South End, Garsington, Oxon. OX44 9DH

Meet there for 7pm

Members £3.50 non-members £5.50

Directions: Go to Long Wittenham then Clifton Hampden. At the junction with the A415 turn right and then immediately left on the B4015. At the cross roads with A4074 go straight across heading for Chislehampton. There turn left on the B480 towards Oxford. The turning for Southend and Garsington is on the right. The garden is opposite Garsington Manor.

6 AUGUST.. GUIDED TOUR OF EARTH TRUST'S ARBORETUM

Project Timescape, Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Oxon. OX14 4QZ Meet there for 6.30pm

Members £2.50 non-members £4.50 (refreshments extra)

Directions: Take the A4130 from Didcot to Wallingford and about 2.5 miles down this road you will come to the turning on the left for Little Wittenham & Long Wittenham. Take this road and shortly afterwards take the road on the right for Little Wittenham. Project Timescape and Hill Farm are located off this road on the left, with parking.

To book or cancel contact Ruth Alexander 835359

Information from Harwell Parish Council:

The Shire Festival

Will be taking place over the weekend of

21st – 22nd July

At Grove Farms, Harwell, entrance on Abingdon Road

Their camp site will be in use from 4pm on Friday 20th to 11am on Monday 23rd.

The arena will be open until 3.30am on Saturday night and 2am on Sunday night

See www.theshirefest.co.uk

Record Breaking Safari Supper 2012

This year's Safari Supper was a record breaker in many respects – there were 15 starter hosts, another 15 main course hosts and a grand total of 122 attendees! It raised a fantastic £2,008 for the Harwell Village Hall refurbishment project. £579 of the total was made on the raffle. Thanks go to the very generous providers of raffle prizes (Bob's Family Butchers, The Old Farm Shop, Phil and Sally Wrigley, Alan Wagner, Adriana Rabinovich. Thanks also to all the hosts and everyone else who helped out in advance and on the night. Once again we were very lucky with dry weather making walking between locations a pleasant experience. This year we experimented with using a simple spreadsheet telling everyone where to go (rather than individual letters) – this was much less work and seemed to work out okay. No-one ended up in the wrong place and there was only a small

misunderstanding which resulted in one host asking their guests which one was the vegetarian only to find that none of them were!

The Village Hall was really buzzing when everyone ended up in there at the end of the evening. With so many people we had to do away with formal tables and chairs but at least that encouraged mingling. Things were still going strong at midnight when we had to kick everyone out and tidy up. Rumour has it that some folks carried on elsewhere for a few more hours!

Talking about rumours – it is not true that I said I wouldn't be doing this again - I very much hope that the success will be repeated next year and that I will be doing much of the organising again. The Village Hall will definitely need the money!! If you would like to take part next year then please send your email address and contact details to debbie.greenfield@stfc.ac.uk and I'll add you to my mailing list.






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Editorial Notes:

Other than where stated and in reports of Parish Council matters any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council.

Items for the August issue should be supplied by July 21st, and please not in pub format, any pictures also sent separately. Please put your organisation's name in the file title! email news@harwellparish.co.uk

Distribution is organised by Mrs. Pat Staples, tel. 01235 833660, advertising queries to the Clerk - see page 5, Martin Ricketts, editor.

Berkshire
Buckinghamshire
Oxfordshire



**Events at Sutton
Courtenay Environmental
Education Centre**

Family Fun Events

Pond Power Wed 6 & Thur 7 June 10am-4pm

Come pond-dipping to find out about the fascinating creatures that live in and around our ponds.

Activities to get the whole family excited about nature. Just drop in there - no need to book.

Activities will take around two hours, no dogs please.

Picnics are welcome. £3/child suggested donation.

Also look out for our Olympic-themed activities in the first week of August

**Adult events - Open Wildlife Garden
Monday 11th June 11am-1pm**

Are you interested in learning more about wildlife gardening? Come and see our established wildlife garden, talk to our experienced volunteer gardening group and discover ways you can help wildlife in your own backyard. Also on Monday 23rd July.

£3 suggested donation. No dogs please.

We're at the east end of Milton Park OX14 4TE

Contact: Katie Fenton 01235 862024
katiefenton@bbowt.org.uk

Another BBOWT event nearby:

**Sat. 7th July 2 – 4.30pm at Letcombe Valley
Community Nature Reserve**

An afternoon of wildlife discovery and activities for all the family. Sensible clothes and shoes recommended. Gentle terrain with some uneven ground and wooden steps. Assistance dogs only please.

For more information, please contact Michael Bailey on 01235 769194 or mikeandsheila@btinternet.com.

Meet on the Reserve inside the gate by the lake,
Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve,

Letcombe Regis, Oxon Grid ref SU 378 866

Our apologies to the authors of the following two letters for omitting them from the April issue >

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Letter from a visitor:

I would like to say a very big thank-you to the lovely lady who assisted me at the Recreation Ground following my fall on 26th January this year. This Good Samaritan turned her car around and took me to my daughter's house in the High Street, where I was staying. This action possibly prevented complications to a fractured ankle. Thank-you also to Shane and his team at the minor injuries Unit, Abingdon for their care and assistance. God bless you all.

Kathleen Ahier (Chulmleigh, Devon)

And one from a resident:

To Harwell residents -it is with deep regret that I feel the need to make the following request. Could ALL dog-walkers please clear up after their dogs from paths around the village and in the Recreation Ground.

I too am a dog owner and regularly walk my dog in the village and around the edge of the Rec. The alley by the Village Hall and the corner of Westfield Road and Wantage Road appear to be particular problem spots. There is even a doggy bin at the Westfield Road end of the alley just yards away from the problem area!

I would like to remind dog walkers that it is an offence to not clear up after dogs in public areas. You can be fined from £50 up to £1000 by the District Council.

The Rec is an invaluable safe place to exercise our furry friends, so we should not abuse this space used by so many other people.

Please make no excuses - always carry some bags with you and if you can't see what your doggy is doing at night take a torch.

Thank-you in anticipation of your action.

High Street resident.



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Among the Feast events were ...

Postman John & family at Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow



Morris Men



Children's Races



Punch & Judy



Parade in the High Street

John Hunt the Organ Grinder



Country Dancing



Rounding up Kineton Quackers



More Feast scenes

Sifa Hughes on the climbing wall

**87 years old and still floating!**

Amy Smith was on the WI float

Aunt Sally winners
Olivia Grocutt**Best Harwell Dog & Best in Show**
Boogie with Richard LeamanCycles, cars and tractors were in the
parade and on the field

Dean Jones and Clifford Hillier



Fancy Dress Dog - Hannah Hawthorne

