

Parish Council News

December Finance Meeting

Instead of a regular meeting in December the Council met as the Finance Committee to discuss the precept for the coming year. The conclusions of that meeting are then put forward at the ordinary January meeting to be ratified and then the Vale District Council will add an appropriate amount to the Council Tax for the coming year so the Parish Council gets what it has precepted.

It was agreed that the Council should for the third year put aside something towards the pavilion refurbishment, and in the coming year it should consider the options and have a survey done of the existing building. There were a number of minor enhancements to Parish Council lands and the village generally that might be considered, and £3k was budgeted. This newsletter was felt to be important as a service to the whole Parish, and its budget was increased to allow for more colour pages on suitable occasions. Full details of the budget proposals can be seen in the January minutes on the Parish website.

With total income from other sources expected to be about £13.1k and expenditure budgeted to be £68.1k, the Committee recommended to the Council that a precept of £55,000 should be set for 2013-14. This represents an increase of less than 2%, which corresponds to around £1 for a Band D property.

January Meeting

In the Open Forum, County Councillor Stewart Lilly reported that the County Council is making a bid to take control of the A34, from the M40 Junction 9 to the M4 Junction 13, to include maintaining the highway and verges, and future plans may include extra slip roads or junctions. Some funding would be available from the Department of Transport towards maintenance if the bid is successful.

He also reported that the Police have not agreed with Parish Council concerns about the siting of the new Tyrrells Close bus stop, so the County Council will proceed as originally planned. He would be attending a meeting with a Cabinet member to discuss the flooding in Grove Road, and Area Stewardship Funds are to be used to reduce the 40mph speed limit on the short section of the A417 between Rowstock & Harwell to 30 mph.

In written notes, District Councillors Reg Waite and Mrs Margaret Turner mentioned Thatched Cottage, Reading Road, where it was hoped there would soon be a Listed Building planning application submitted to the Vale and so enable The Thatched Cottage to be rebuilt. They also mentioned the application regarding land owned by the Housing Association between Kings and Jennings Lanes, which the Council discussed later.

Opening the meeting proper, the Chairman David March reported that Miss Hawthorne had tendered her resignation due to pressure of work. The Council thanks

her for her contribution over the last 2 years; there is a separate item on page 2 regarding the vacancy. Councillors reported on various meetings they had attended, including the Didcot and Harwell Working Group, to discuss various GWP matters.

Under Planning Matters, the item that took most of the time was the application for Change of Use from amenity land to private garden at the rear of Woodland, Cleave House, Amberly House and Firbrook. Ms Greenfield declared a Personal interest as being a friend of an applicant. Mr Marsh & Mr Davison made reports on this matter but did not vote.

Several residents had commented on this application, some with concerns that open space or amenity land would be lost if permission was granted. There is currently a covenant on the land which imposes restrictions on its sale. Following discussion, Mr Davison proposed that the PC respond as follows:

“The Parish Council notes the objections raised by village residents but understands that these are not likely to be valid objections from a planning perspective. The Council therefore does not object to the application but asks that the proposals in the applicants’ letter become binding, and when measurements are mentioned they should be described in absolute rather than approximate terms, especially with regard to fencing.

Bearing in mind the concerns of some residents about loss of amenities, the Council would like to open discussions about the possibility of purchasing the land described in the application with a view to taking on the responsibility for maintenance of the stream & trees on the land.”

The proposal was seconded by Mrs Boughton-Waite, and carried by 8 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions.

Also under Planning, there were several items relating to local developments & plans. It was reported that the Didcot and Harwell Working Group meeting noted that if the County Council bid for additional slip-roads on the A34, as reported by the BBC, succeeds then that the transport study work done for the proposed Valley Park would need to be reviewed.

The Council has been assured that its proposals for naming streets in Great Western Park which are in Harwell parish will be given consideration. The Council agreed that any names put forward should be specific to Harwell; Mr Ricketts agreed to produce a note on possible naming schemes for the Council to consider – see item on page 2.

There was also an item to note concerns of North Drive residents about possible increased traffic if proposals for housing are approved. Concerns had been expressed by residents about the likely increase in traffic if housing proposals for the area go ahead. The PC has no control over Highways matters, but agreed to bear in mind these concerns.

Wellshead was the subject of some discussion as the Royal Mail database gives the name as Wellshead Lane. The Parish Council noted that historically 'Lane' hasn't been appended, and agreed to ask the District Council to maintain the historic usage of just Wellshead.

Full minutes of Parish Council meetings are available on the web, in draft form until approved at the following meeting. The next Meetings will be on Tuesdays 12th February and 12th March. Items for the 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 appropriate page at www.harwellparish.co.uk

Parish Council Vacancy

There is now a Casual Vacancy that the Council is able to fill by co-option, and it is likely to begin the process at its February meeting. There are no specific qualifications for the role, other than enthusiasm and an interest in local affairs, but candidates must have lived or worked in the Parish for the last 12 months.

Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Parish Clerk, by means listed above.

Street Names for Great Western Park

The Parish Council intends to forward a list of names for consideration by the Vale WHDC, the naming authority, for streets in the Parish. If you have any suggestions, which should be relevant to Harwell Parish and not already used within the Didcot postal area, please forward to the Clerk.

District Councillors

Reg Waite reg.waite@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
& Mrs Margaret Turner, tel 01235 821248.

County Councillor

Mr. Stewart Lilly Stewart.Lilly@Oxfordshire.gov.uk,
tel. 832867

Police Surgeries and Advice

Have Your Say meetings are held monthly in the Village Hall. The next are:

Sundays 24th Feb and March 12 noon to 1pm

Planning Matters

Including decisions since the last PC meeting

Permissions:

P12/V2258/HH 40 North Drive Two storey side ext.

P12/V2098/HH Rose Dene Didcot Road Replacement of existing garage and store.

P12/V2435/FUL & P12/V2436/CA Harwell Village Hall. Demolition of existing Freeman Hall, erection of extension to existing village hall, and refurbishment.

Refusal:

P12/V2418/FUL Woodland, Cleave House, Amberly House, Firbrook The Cleave. Change of use from amenity land to private garden at the rear of Woodland, Cleave House, Amberly House and Firbrook.

Applications:

P12/V2532/HH Droke Wantage Road. Addition of first floor to give additional accommodation.

Appeal:

P12/V3120 Elmslea, Didcot Road re P12/V0355

New Application:

An outline planning application for 120 houses at **South Drive** has just been submitted. For more details see the Vale Planning website – application ref. P13/V0129/O, and the developer at <http://www.harwelloxford.com>

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Little Pippins Pre-school & Harwell Kids Camp

Little Pippins Pre-School is a charity with a new purpose-built premises 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 2½ to school age. We also offer a Breakfast Club for 3-11 year olds with a walking bus to Harwell Primary School.

Last term, the children gave a lovely performance of the Nativity in the School Hall attended by many proud parents and grandparents. Thank you to Harwell School for letting us use their hall. A fun time was also had at our Christmas Party with an entertainer and a visit from Father Christmas!. We would also like to thank everyone who came along and supported the Christmas Tree Festival on a cold December evening.

Coming up this term, we will be supporting World Book Day by dressing up as characters from our favourite stories and we will hold our annual Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term.

On the theme of stories, we have a collection of story sacks which the children can borrow to explore and enjoy at home. We would really like to bring the sacks up to date and add a few more contemporary stories such as The Gruffalo and Room on the Broom. If you are able to help with making up a sack or have any books or items to donate, we would be very glad to hear from you.

Harwell Kids Camp is a playscheme for 3-11 year olds that will operate during the school holidays at Little Pippins starting at Easter. We are looking for more parent volunteers to become involved its management so if you are hoping to use the club, please consider helping on the committee. Please email us or check the website for more information.

We currently have very few spaces in some of our pre-school sessions so we do suggest that you register early and get onto the waiting list. We are now accepting registrations for September 2013. Please contact us if you would like to have a look round and pick up a registration form; they are also available on our website.

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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babies and toddlers at harwell



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

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

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

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

If you would like any further information please email

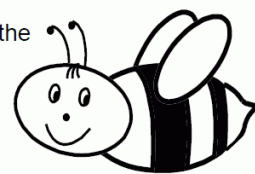
Catherine.gowers@yahoo.co.uk

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HARWELL WI

Well, having had enough rain for several years but not much in the way of very cold temperatures, now we have the real thing – snow!

The Club collected items for the Christmas Romanian Shoebox Appeal. A small team packed 47 festive boxes, which I think is a record for our Institute!

A team of experienced 'decorators' entered a Christmas Tree in the Little Pippins annual competition. It was beautifully embellished with some of the Corn Stars made at our meeting in November with Kate Beswick.

We rounded off the year on 12 December with local Harwell chef, Adriana Rabinovich, who cooked quick and easy canapés. They were really tasty and she made it look so easy. We all enjoyed clearing up the samples with the help of mulled wine.

08 January got us off to a flying start with an illustrated talk by Russell Cherry about 'The Thames from Source to Abingdon'. Russell, his wife and dog actually walked right through to the Thames Barrier so we hope he will return soon and finish off the journey for us.

On 13 February, Paul Ridley's talk, 'Garden History and Design', will trace how gardens have changed through the fashions of history. Partners are invited to this meeting.

We finish the WI year on 13 March with the business of the Club at the AGM, appointing new officers for the year to come. This is followed by a social chatty end to the evening.

On 10 April, I am sure there will be a lot of interest in a talk about Quilting. The new programme, starting in April, has some exciting new topics: The Air Ambulance; Pinewood Studios; The Falklands; Digital Photography; Classic Cars and even Belly Dancing!!

There are also Theatre trips, as and when available, which are notified to those wishing to be involved. Twelfth Night at Stratford and Sleeping Beauty at Sadler's Wells are just two of the recent outings. There are also many other outings organised by Oxfordshire Federation of WIs and these are advertised in our monthly newsletter and can be attended by the members and booked via our 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.

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Notice of Closure of A417 west of Rowstock

Commencing Monday 11th February the A417 will be closed during the day for a maximum of 5 days, 9.30am to 7.30pm, from Rowstock roundabout to Allin's Lane, the western of the two roads into East Hendred.

There are exemptions for police, fire and ambulance services and for access to adjacent premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road. The alternative route is via Steventon and East Hanney.

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. The topic of the February meeting to be held on 19th February is *May Day to Mummers: Oxfordshire Seasonal Customs*. The March meeting, again on 19th, will hear about *The Incredible World of the Honey Bee*.

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Harwell Village Hall

Planning permission granted!

We thought it would never happen. The deadline for a decision on planning consent for the Village Hall project was January 16 but two weeks later we are overjoyed to learn that permission has been granted. Now the hard work to obtain grants, pledges and donations starts. The latest news is on the Village Hall website. Keith Beswick, Chairman.

Dear Villagers,

As we have just heard, plans to renovate and rebuild the Village Hall and the Freeman Hall have just been approved. Grant applications are being made and the Committee would be delighted to receive any letters in support of this redevelopment. The more letters we have, the better it will be for grant applications. If you are a past, present or future user of the Hall it would be really helpful if you could write a short letter indicating how having a modern, more versatile and more environmentally friendly hall might benefit you and/or others in our community.

Letters can be emailed to tankard@btinternet.com or posted to 26 Manor Green, Harwell, OX11 0DQ.

Many thanks, Fiona Tankard

Mobile Library

The **Mobile Library** will be in the Village Hall car park between 9.15 and 9.40am on the following Wednesdays February 13 and 27, March 13 and 27.

Ed Vaizey MP local surgery dates 5.30 to 7pm

1st March - Didcot King Alfred Drive Com. Centre.

15th March - Wallingford Town Hall

22nd March - Grove Old Mill Hall vaizeye@parliament.uk

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The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Open Gardens Scheme 2013

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2012 marked the 10th Anniversary for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance's Open Gardens Scheme and also proved to be the most successful year to date, raising over £48,000!

The fundraising team are asking for volunteers to help them coordinate this fantastic initiative in Oxfordshire.

The current scheme co-ordinators are now looking to mentor new coordinators in Oxfordshire as the Charity looks to develop the scheme further and make Open Gardens even more of a success in the future.

Without the support of our co-ordinators and volunteers, the Charity would not be able to continue with this wonderful and very important scheme.

Please feel free to contact Sarah Williamson on: sarah.williamson@tvacaa.org or phone: 0300 999 0135

Thames Valley Police Commissioner

Police and Crime Plan Consultation.

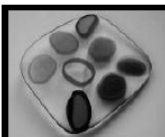
There is currently a Consultation on this, and you have until Friday February 8th to comment. You can view the plans and comment online at

www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk.

From County Councillor Stewart Lilly:

Regarding Grove Road, the flood has now gone. The problem is that the water run-off into Grove Farm's land (to the North) had a blocked ditch. The County Council has unblocked it and are going to invoice Grove Farms for the costs that OCC incurred on their land. However, the engineers do have a more permanent solution if funding could be found.

Didcot Archeological and Historical Society meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 p.m. at The Northbourne Centre, Church Street, Didcot. All are welcome. On 14th February Margaret Appleton gives a talk on *The end of the Raj - Simla*, and on 14th March the topic is *Five Years of Excavations at Wallingford* with Judith Dewey.



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Music in March

Saturday 9 March 2013 at 7.30pm

St Matthew's Church, Harwell

A concert of choral and instrumental music featuring the return of the popular local chamber choir, the Crown Singers. Conducted by Richard Goodall, they will be performing a mix of madrigals, part songs and sacred music, together with The Bagg's Tree Buskers, Harwell's own jazzy band.

Interval refreshments will be available.

Part of the concert proceeds will be donated to the Church.

Tickets £8 available in advance from Bob's Butchers or by phone from Bill Jackson on 01235 835698

or on the door

<http://www.crownsingers.co.uk>



Would your child like to join Harwell Beavers at the age of 6?

Harwell Scouts has a growing colony and is currently at its maximum membership. If you would like your child to join Harwell Beavers after their 6th Birthday, please send your child's name and date of birth plus your postcode to the email address below so they can be added to the waiting list. You will receive an email to confirm they have been added.

The Harwell Beaver Scout Leadership Team
bsl@harwellscouts.org.uk



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Harwell Gardeners' Club

Our February meeting is on Monday 4th, when Malcolm Brownsword will give

An Audio-visual show with a Local Flavour

Competition – An Indoor Plant

At the March meeting, again on 4th, Brian Fisher on
A Round-Britain Cruise visiting gardens in Edinburgh, Dublin, Guernsey, Kent & Cornwall.

Competition –Primula Family

Meetings are at 7.30 p.m. in Harwell Village Hall. Visitors always welcome, as is anyone wishing to join the Harwell Gardeners' Club.

WAR HORSE

A Harwell Village Hall Film Event in aid of
HARWELL VILLAGE HALL REDEVELOPMENT



Friday 1st March

Harwell Village Hall Film showing at 7.30pm

Doors & Bar open from 6pm

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Photos by Janice Markey

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Every member of our community will gain from the knowledge that our Alerts system provides. If you are one of the 2.2% of Thames Valley's population who is already signed up please help spread the word and remember this service is available to everyone. If you would like to join this service please visit:

www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Contact us: If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team, call us on the police non-emergency number 101 but if your call is an emergency then dial 999. You can also email us:

WantageandGroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. If you have information about crime or antisocial behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crime stoppers charity on 0800 555111. You can also visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org for more information. To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

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Harwell Jubilee playground & OSC Youth Club

Progress has come to a slight pause on funding for the playground as we wait for the latest grant applications to be considered. It was disappointing, to say the least, that we didn't get a grant from the Gannett Foundation (Newsquest) or that they failed to notify us, especially as we had included them on our sponsors board! It was only when reading a report in the Didcot Herald, with the names of the three lucky applicants, that we realised we were unsuccessful. Appeals to the Newspaper have been made but to no avail.

There are still two grant applications pending, one with Comic Relief and one with Biffa. If we are successful with these two bids we will be able to finish the final phase of the playground. Thanks to the Parish Council, who have lent us some of the money, the zip wire has been installed. This is part of phase two which includes two more pieces of equipment: a Nest Swing, an Inclusive Revolve (a sort of roundabout!) and some finishing off, in the form of seating and safety matting. Phase two is specifically designed for our older youngsters and we are keen to see the whole project finished, particularly as the young people from Our Street Corner youth club started the scheme in 2011.

Our latest donations from Harwell Scouts, £50 and Research Machines, £100 have been gratefully received. OSC youth club held a Christmas raffle which raised another £100 for the playground. The first prize was an Xbox, kindly donated by Sovereign Vale, which was won by Erin Eyre.



Balloon game, with Josh, at the Christmas Party.

OSC now has a youth worker, Josh Harsant, and we are very pleased to welcome him. He is currently studying Sociology & Education at Brookes University and has brought some excellent ideas with him. We are planning a range of activities for the next few weeks including a session in the village hall on Tuesday 12th February, from 6.30 -8.30, when we will be making pancakes and Valentine cards!

Our normal sessions are on a Monday from 6.30 to 8.30 in the Pavilion. T-shirt designs, Cooking, DVD nights and button signs are just some of the activities on offer. When possible we will make use of the village hall, as it gives us more space and our AGM will be held there on Tuesday 12th March from 8.30 to 9.30pm. All are welcome! The youngsters will be able to use the hall for the first hour, from 7.30. More on our Facebook page.

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Harwell School

On Thursday 10th January Harwell Primary school sent a team of 10 children, aged between 8 and 11 years old, to the First Lego League Regional Championship at Reading University. They faced stiff competition from ten other schools, all of which were Secondary with teams whose ages ranged from 14 to 17. After 3 Robot trials, a technical interrogation, a presentation on how to improve life for the senior members of our society and a final team challenge which involved 6 marshmallows and 30 pieces of spaghetti the Judges decided to award Harwell the Team Challenge and spirit of First Lego League trophy.

In giving the award the judge said "This was for the thoughtful way in which the children had gone about the challenges through the day, showing respect to all other competitors, kindness in helping out other teams by sharing their equipment, completing the team challenge in the best time and finally engendering the spirit and values of the First Lego League."



Some of the Harwell pupils at the competition



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Harwell Online has started.

The first of 9 sessions of the Harwell Online course on Monday 14 January made

history. This was the first time broadband has been used for a course in Harwell Village Hall.

Did you get a laptop or tablet this Christmas, (or even for last Christmas), and have never really used it? Once we have enough people to start a second course, there will be a 9 week Harwell Online Course for Beginners on Tuesdays at 2pm-3:30pm.

If you can search the internet, go online and reply to emails but want to do more, then the Improvers course is for you. We have space for you to start a 5 week Harwell Online course for Improvers on Tuesdays at 12 noon-1:30pm.

IT Tutor Penny Marsh is the WI Digital Champion for Oxfordshire. WI members, non members and men are very welcome. Gain online skills in a small group and in a friendly environment at Harwell Village Hall with many opportunities to ask questions. Bring your laptop or tablet.

If you are interested in any of these contact Penny Marsh on 835430 or email penny@harwellonline.org

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Oxfordshire Autism Alert Card

The Oxfordshire Autism Alert Card is available **free of charge** to anyone in the county with autism. It can be shown if the holder needs:

- Support from their contacts
- Help in difficult/stressful situations
- Help from police officers or other emergency services
- Help on public transport
- To explain about autism

It will also assist people to identify that they are dealing with someone with autism. If presented with a card, please support the cardholder using the advice on the card and contact their named supporters. The scheme provides free autism training for police and other services.

Autistic Spectrum Conditions

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability, caused by differences in the brain, which affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. About 1 in 100 people are autistic, many remain undiagnosed. At the one end of the spectrum, sometimes Asperger's syndrome, people are very able in many ways, having normal or above average intelligence. It is important to realise that this is not always "useful intelligence" when it comes to everyday situations. Difficulties are not visible and are often misunderstood. People are affected differently, but difficulties with the following are common:

- Social interaction
- Verbal and non-verbal communication;
- Understanding body language, tone of voice, facial expressions
- Eye contact may be avoided time needed to process conversation
- Over/under sensitivity to touch, light, colour, sound, smell, temperature, etc.
- Difficulty foreseeing consequences of one's actions
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For more information: www.autismoxford.org.uk

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From the Archives - 100 years ago: A Parish Council meeting on Feb 6th 1913 had on the agenda Housing Accommodation & Postal Arrangements. "In regard to the housing it transpired that the District Council contemplated borrowing £1000 to pay for the four cottages and to let them at 3/9d each per week the balance to be made upon the rates. This there was general objection to and on the proposition of Mr WJ Bosley, seconded by Mr H Tyrrell the following was passed unanimously:- That having heard that the R D Council contemplate letting the suggested cottages at 3s/9d per week and that the remainder of the rent would have to be provided by the Ratepayers this Parish Council are of opinion that they are not justified in asking the R.D. Council to proceed with the building."

So the houses only got started after the war, and complicated decisions about a Recreation Ground. As Number 3 of this Journal reported (available online) the decision to buy the Jubilee Meadow was taken in January 1922. A Parish Meeting in October 1921 produced heated debate and minutes stretching to 5 pages: "Mr Fuller explained what steps had been taken towards the providing of a Recreation Ground ... and also the difficulties that had been encountered. He called for suggestions from parishioners and explained the proportion of money necessary to be raised by voluntary effort before a rate could be made. He pointed out that it was not a Parish Council affair until the Parish had raised half the estimated cost. Mr Fuller said it was his opinion that a recreation ground was needed in the village. Mr Crackle suggested that the Jubilee Meadow was not suitable and that the barbed wire fencing would spoil the footpaths. Mr H Hall said there are more suitable sites in the Parish.

Mr Fuller asked that suggestions should tend more towards construction and less towards destruction. Mr J Pryor stated that a lot of time and trouble has been taken and the Selections Committee had inspected all possible sites and had come to the conclusion that Jubilee Meadow was the most suitable. He explained the possibility of exchanging a portion of housing land. Mr Jeffery said that when selected the Jubilee Meadow was free from houses.

Mr Fuller stated that the Committee still considered the Jubilee Meadow to be the best place. Mr Storr understood that the fencing round the new houses will probably be moved back. Mr Caudwell informed the meeting that the fence would eventually be 3 plain wires.

Mr W J Bosley did not consider the site suitable and suggested it should be near the centre of the village and thought it a poor place if at a high price. He also asked if it were possible to rent instead of buying. Mr Fuller explained the need for urgent action in order to retain the Jubilee Meadow with the fencing put back, also that should another site be decided upon, existing donations may have to be returned.

Messrs Crackle & Storr explained that the Ten pounds from the Ex-Service men's funds was for a Recreation Ground in no specific position. Mr Storr thought that if donors written to they would probably ask for the return of their donations. Mr Storr proposed that the job be got on with.

Mr Caudwell stated that the barbed wire could be protected with cow hurdles and netting. He also said that a conclusion must be arrived at within 14 days. Mr Caudwell explained the ultimate position of the fences round the new houses, but if not got on with and completed within 14 days the fence will

remain where it is. He also asked for Constuctional criticism and not only destructive. Considerable discussion took place.

Mr Storr mentioned that he had been round Mr Geo. Day's land, had found considerable slopes and the position was very bleak, in addition to which it was not fenced which would mean an additional expense. He considered Jubilee Meadow an ideal position and fences could be altered; also he explained the futility of waiting. Mr Bosley did not agree with Mr Storr with regard to the bleakness of Mr Geo Day's meadow and repeated his suggestion re renting instead of buying ... (a page omitted here!)

It was now proposed by Mr Storr and seconded by Dr Rice that an adjourned meeting be held on Saturday next if a suggestion is forthcoming; it was subsequently decided to hold the adjourned meeting at 7pm on Friday next if notified in Mr Pryor's window.

It was put to the meeting as to whether the Committee should proceed or no, with the result that 19 were in favour of the Committee proceeding and 2 against."

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Where would you find 9000 year old Mesolithic flints, a complete 6000 year old Neolithic bowl, a Bronze Age pond barrow, over 50 Iron Age round houses, a Roman dwelling, multiply burials and an ancient boundary?

The answer is in the fields to the west of Didcot - and east of Harwell!

Residents in the area have long been aware of its archaeological significance and it yielded a 'treasure' find of 100s of gold roman coins in 1995. Extensively used for dog walking, the ploughed land has produced flints and other small finds, which residents alerted the local councils to when new housing was considered in the area.

The lead archaeologist, Steve Lawrence from Oxford Archaeology, recently gave a talk in Didcot that revealed that the area could now trace its past back 9000 years, much further than previously recorded. Describing the 180 hectare site as 'crammed packed' full of archaeology, he described finds of a 1000 plus flint implements dating from the Mesolithic (7000bc) and an early and unusually complete Neolithic bowl that had laid undisturbed for 6000 years. From the Bronze Age he showed excavations of a pond barrow, which unusually had no related burial and was surrounded by a settlement. Dating from 2400bc the barrow was accompanied by high quality, beautifully worked flint arrowheads.

He went on to describe the ancient field system and boundary that people in the area are so familiar with on the walk to Harwell, having slipped and slid down its steep sides on their winter walks.

From the Iron Age; pits, quarries and 50 or so round houses were uncovered behind Stephen Freeman School. Cattle and other animal skulls, bones and human skeletons were found carefully placed in a ceremonial way. From Roman times a small villa with wells, corn dryers, up to 400 coins and multiple burials were waiting to be discovered.

Unfortunately the site was closed off whilst the two and a half year dig took place and members of the public have not been able to view this incredible wealth of archaeology first-hand. It seems very sad that even the schoolchildren of Didcot have not been able to see the process of uncovering such incredible finds. And now they never will, as this land is the site for the 3000 new homes of Great Western Park, with just the Roman villa and ancient boundary being preserved in-situ.

We will be left with the archaeologist's drawings and photos and you can see a selection of these at a Cornerstone exhibition *Didcot Dog Mile* between 7 February and 3 March 2013 along with work from Miranda Creswell of Oxford University and local artists. There will be a talk at Cornerstone about the archaeology on **14 February at 6.30pm**, with a chance to view the exhibition from 5.30pm. The full archaeologist report published in approximately three years' time.

Didcot Dog Mile

A celebration of memories of the much loved, highly valued countryside that is now being built upon.

7th Feb to 3rd March 2013 at the Cornerstone Arts Centre.

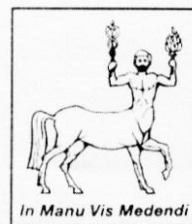
Oxford Archaeologists will also exhibit and talk about their findings on this land. Some of the headings will include:

* Archaeology and history * Weather * Agriculture * Wildlife * Memories

There will be a big paw-print montage of images of dogs/users which can be added to throughout the exhibition. There will be a map of the area so people can add their own memories during the exhibition.

We need photographs, paintings, stories, poems & video. Photos or images can be emailed to Miranda on miranda.creswell@ymail.com or dropped into 134 Brasenose Road, or in the box at K & K Newsagents.

Talk at Cornerstone about the archaeology - 14 February at 6.30pm



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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 April issue should be sent by March 20th.

Email news@harwellparish.co.uk.
Distribution by Mrs. Pat Staples, Talbot's Way, Grove Road. Advertising queries to the Clerk - see p2,
Martin Ricketts, editor.

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<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/whats-on>

Earth Trust Events

Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham

www.earthtrust.org.uk

Lambing Weekends

16th - 17th and 23rd - 24th March

Enjoy a family day out in the spring sunshine. Visitors will be able to see the newborn lambs and perhaps see one or two being born! There'll also be tractor and trailer rides, bale climbing, meet the shepherd talks and children's craft activities and craft stalls. The Earth Trust's Poem Tree Cafe will be open for refreshments.

£6 adults, children £3 or £13 family.

See the website www.earthtrust.org.uk or phone 01865 407792 for more information.

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Exhibition at Cornerstone Gallery, Didcot

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