

Parish Council News

February Meeting

In the Open Forum, PCSO Kirby reported that there had been an incident of damage to a vehicle in The Park. Speed checks continue to be carried out on the A417, as well as patrols in the parish following previous burglaries; residents are encouraged to report anything suspicious. Mr Marsh asked for any available data following speed checks to be forwarded to the Parish Council, which is still keen to have the section of the A417 from Rowstock to Harwell reduced to 30mph.

Mr Meach, representing Masons Fair from Reading, asked the Council to consider permitting the fair to use the recreation ground later in the year. He said the fair contains old-fashioned rides and attractions and care is always taken to minimise damage to the ground surface. The fair would be open between 2 and 9.30 pm on a Saturday and between 2 and 8.30 pm on Sunday, and he would be happy to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

Mr Lilly, our OCC representative, then reported that he is challenging the recommendation that the short section with a 40 mph speed limit remains on the A417. OCC has made a bid for additional funding for improvements to the A34, to include extra slip roads at Chilton. The OCC part of the Council tax is to rise by 2%; some extra spending will go towards youth and social care matters. From May, when the new 60-member Council comes into being, Harwell will be discussed in the Wantage & Didcot Locality Meetings.

Mrs Beswick asked about the schools in Great Western Park. Mr Lilly replied that the secondary school will be run privately with money direct from Government, and the primary schools will be run by OCC.

Our District Councillors Mr Waite & Mrs Turner reported that the large recycling bins in the Rec Car Park are being used for non-recyclable rubbish, meaning that the whole contents have to go to landfill instead of being sorted for recycling. Mr Ricketts suggested they should be removed, at least temporarily, as kerbside collections should be sufficient for most domestic recycling. Mr Waite said he would ask the Vale to consider it.

In the main meeting, there were several matters under Local Plans. The outline application for up to 120 houses at South Drive had been submitted. It was agreed that the Chairman, Mr Marsh, and another Councillor should consider options for a submission to the Section 106 agreement, which provides developer contributions to local infrastructure.

The Council's Harwell Future Advisory Committee reported on the desirability of creating a new Parish from part of the existing Parish given GWP and the proposal for Valley Park. Ms Greenfield reported that several concerns had been set out in the document, including the difficulty of maintaining facilities and

amenities in several distinct areas of the Parish, and dealing with the problem of identity in areas remote from the village centre and close to Didcot. Three main options were outlined in the report – to maintain the whole Parish by increasing staff and precept, to ask Vale WHDC to maintain those parts of the Parish which will lie within Great Western Park and Valley Park, or to ask that the Parish be split, roughly on the line of the A34. The third option would need a Community Governance Review by the District Council.

It was acknowledged that there were problems with each option, not least that existing residents in remoter parts of the Parish might not want the Parish to be split, but following discussion, it was agreed to open discussions with Vale WHDC with a view to finding out more information on each of the options.

Among minor matters, it was reported that a small stock of the *Harwell – village for a thousand years* book had recently been returned to the Parish Council. It was agreed that they be donated to the Village Hall Trustees so they may use them to raise money for the Village Hall Development.

March Meeting

Co-option of a new Councillor was the first item of business. Three Parishioners had expressed an interest, two of them being present. All had submitted some personal details and background. The two candidates present, Mr David Munyemweri and Ms Rebecca Barnett were invited to address the Council, and the Chairman read out the statement from the third, Mr Robert Channer.

On the vote, Ms Barnett was elected. Mr Marsh thanked all candidates for their interest, and said he hoped that the unsuccessful candidates would bear in mind any future vacancies and the next elections in 2015. Ms Barnett signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and was welcomed as a new member of the Council.

In the Open Forum, County Councillor Mr Stewart Lilly reported that following the recent flooding, landowners along Grove Road had been made aware of responsibilities and it was hoped there will be no further flooding problems. Mr Lilly was challenging the decision to keep the limit at 40mph on the A417 towards Rowstock. Funding from the City Deal has been obtained, which will go towards improving access to Science Vale, including the possibility of new →

Diary dates:

Thursday April 4th – Exhibition of Vale Local Plan in the Church Hall, 12 noon to 7pm

Thursday April 25th – Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall 7.30pm – see page 3 for more

Calling North Drive Residents!
Would you be willing to deliver Harwell News to North Drive every 2 months? If so please contact Mrs Pat Staples on 01235 833660.

slip roads on the A34 – the OCC is no longer bidding to take control of the A34. OCC elections take place on 2nd May.

District Councillor Mr Reg Waite said that the Vale WHDC can now take action against the owner of the collapsed cottage on Reading Road; neighbours are still worried about end walls. The recycling bins in the Recreation Ground car park are still being used for non-recyclable items, and the Parish Council confirmed that it would support the removal of these bins.

Under Matters Arising, Mr Stuart Davison reported on the thermal imaging scheme in Blewbury; the camera can be borrowed free of charge from Vale WHDC, and the resulting images can be sent to residents by email. The Council agreed to ascertain interest in the scheme, with a view to it being available next winter.

Under **Planning**, the Council considered a draft list of street names to propose to the Vale for GWP prepared by Mr Ricketts with help from some Parishioners. It was agreed he should finalise it before it being sent.

On the South Drive outline proposal for up to 120 houses, Mrs Beswick was concerned that trees may be cut down in, contrary to comments from the Vale's Tree Officer, but there were no other objections.

Sovereign Housing Association had written asking for the Council's opinions as to taking over the management of the land adjacent to the stream between Kings and Jennings Lanes. The Council agreed that although it was still open to discussion, that option would be a last resort.

On Parish Boundaries, Mr Buxton reported that he had been told of some residents who were worried that they might occur without them being consulted. This would not be the case.

The Council had received requests for letters of support from the Village Hall, for its development, and from St Matthews, for support in its application for a grant for projector system. With a small amendment the Hall support was agreed, and after some discussion so was that for the Church's scheme.

On recommendations from the Lands Committee, it was agreed to look into whether a request should be made for footpath no. 7 to be moved to be adjacent to Grove Road, to provide a safe path to the A4130. It was also agreed to modify the fencing at one of the Reading Road entrances so there is not a straight path through. It was agreed to allow parking on the Rec for the Poppy Walk on 5th May.

An item on the agenda from Mr Ricketts asked for the Council to have a small Committee to do the work necessary for preparing any requests to change the Definitive Rights of Way, as this was needed to progress the cases. There was no enthusiasm for it, and it was suggested that Mr Ricketts put an article in Harwell News asking for assistance from Parishioners.

Ms Greenfield reported that there had been tentative interest in starting a cricket club in the village.

It was reported that the waste bin opposite the Hart on the High Street is regularly being used for large amounts of domestic waste. The Council agreed that if this continues, it would consider removing the bin.

The District Council has agreed that Wellshead doesn't have the word Lane appended, and the Royal Mail database of street names will be updated soon.

Full minutes of Parish Council meetings are available on the web, in draft form until approved at the following meeting. The next Parish Council Meetings will be on Tuesdays 9th April and 14th May. Items for the agenda need to be with the Clerk, Mrs S. Taylor one week before the meeting.

Contact the Clerk by email: clerk@harwellparish.co.uk, or by phone 01235 820 006, 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.



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Local Planning

It's four years since our District Council, the Vale, introduced the threat of over 2000 houses in the north of Harwell parish, called Valley Park. It's three years since they introduced plans for 400 houses in the south of the parish on the campus. Since then the government has introduced new planning rules and the Vale has held back a bit to see what it all meant.

But now they are ready with a new Local Plan, and will be coming to Harwell Church Hall on Thursday afternoon, April 4th, to exhibit details. Please go along and have a look and find out what this means for you and for Harwell Village. Read also what Keep Harwell Rural has to say. Are you happy with all these new houses – if not, what can they do to lessen the impact. Is the Harwell Link Road important? Does the Plan show it to your satisfaction? Let the planners know what you think, both at the exhibition and via the formal follow up process. All comments are due by May 9th. There will also be a chance to talk about the Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 25th.

Grove Road Housing/Alder View

Some Harwell residents were invited to an exhibition of the developer plans for about 60 houses on this site, just west of Manor Green. Copies of the exhibition boards can be found on the Parish Council website. Because not everyone in the village was aware of this, the Parish Council have invited the developers back to the Annual Parish Meeting on April 25th. The boards will be on display before the meeting, from 7pm, and there will be a time on the agenda for discussion. This period is when the developers consult local residents before they submit their formal outline planning application. When it is submitted, immediate residents will be notified by the planning department, and details will be on the Parish Council website. There will then be a short period when the planners invite comment on the application.

David Marsh, Chairman Harwell Parish Council



Ed Vaizey MP local surgery dates 5.30 to 7pm

26th April - Faringdon, Pump Rooms, SN7 7HL

10th May - Didcot, King Alfred Drive Com Centre

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on **Thursday April 25th** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Before the meeting, electors may place resolutions on the agenda, which may be voted on by those at the Meeting. These resolutions are not binding on the Parish Council, but they must be taken into account, especially if they are thought to represent the views of a large part of the community. Agenda items should be with the Clerk by Monday April 15th. Details of the agenda will be on the PC website, and on the Parish noticeboards a week before the event, but here's the provisional agenda:

- Chairman's Report
- Mason's Funfair: presentation by proprietor requesting village consent for funfair on the Recreation Ground
- Planning, Grove Road: Discussion with representatives of the developers.
- Planning, Vale's Local Plan 2029: Update on status, your feedback, and opportunity to help the Parish Council shape its response
- Parish Council proposals for village improvements
- Harwell Feast: Update on plans for 2013
- Football club update on recreation ground usage and tournaments

Planning Matters

Including decisions since the last PC meeting

Permissions:

P13/V0028/HH Thatch Cottage Abingdon Road Rowstock
5 bay garage with attic space above.

P12/V1225/HH Eastfield Reading Road Two storey side and rear extensions.

P12/V2715/DIS Leigh House High Street. Discharge of Condition 4 of Planning Permission P11/V2603.

P12/V2531/DIS The Homestead High Street

Discharge cond 3 of listed building consent P11/V2926/LB

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

P13/V0369/DIS Leigh House High Street Discharge of conditions 2 and 3 of planning application P11/V2603

P13/V0138/HH 30 Westfield New bay window to the front.

P13/V0107/DIS 24 Westfields Discharge condition 2 of planning permission P12/V1365/HH.

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:

P13/V0169/O District Neighbourhood Centre GWP

Outline application for an enlarged supermarket within the District Centre, GWP from 1,000 sq. m to 2,375 sq.m (GIA).

P13/V0129/O Land at South Drive Harwell OX11 0PT

Outline application for demolition of existing 8 dwellings. Erection of up to 120 dwellings with associated infrastructure, access, parking and landscaping.



Little Pippins Pre-school

Little Pippins Pre-School for children from the age of 2 ½ to school age is set in an idyllic orchard in a purpose built building in the centre of the village. The qualified, caring and enthusiastic staff provide a safe and happy environment in which the children can learn to extend their skills, knowledge and understanding and prepare for school.

We also offer a Breakfast Club for 3-11 year olds with a walking bus to Harwell Primary School.

Our term-time sessions are as follows:

Breakfast Club – 8am to 9:15am

Morning Session – 9:15am to 11:45am

Lunch – 11:45am to 12:30pm

Afternoon Session – 12:30pm to 3pm

After School Club – 3pm to 6pm - (in association with Harwell School)

Places for the summer term are very limited but we are now accepting registrations for children wishing to start between September 2013 and July 2014. Early registration is advised. Please contact us if you would like to have a look round. Forms and more information 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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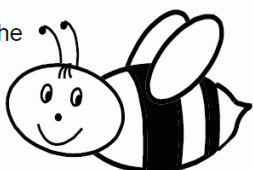
Friday Mornings

in term time

in the Village Hall, Harwell

Cost £3.20 per family includes coffee

www.busybeesmusic.co.uk 01235 521039



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 in 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, first session is free.

If you would like any further information please email

Catherine.gowers@yahoo.co.uk

Harwell Fun Club's Baby and Toddler Nearly New Sale

Saturday 18th May 2013

Harwell Village Hall, 10am - 12 noon.

Items on sale include toys, equipment, clothes,
books ... plus lots, lots more.

Entry by donation.

If you wish to sell at the sale, please contact us
at harwellnns@hotmail.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you there

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www.squibphotography.co.uk

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Saturday pm 27th April or Tuesday am 23rd April
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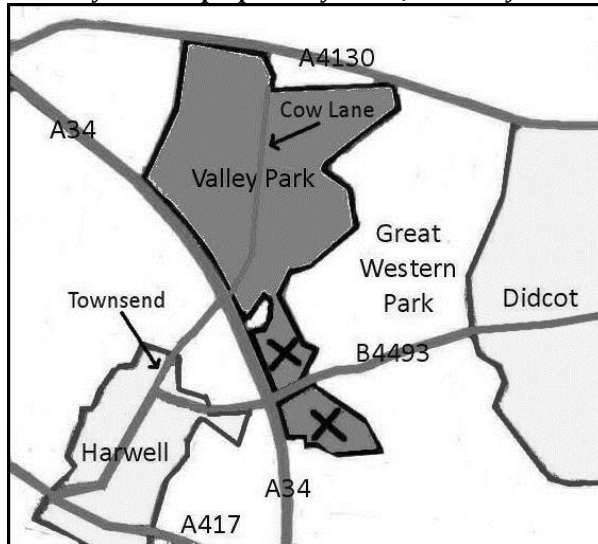
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www.wheelers-electrical.co.uk

***From the Keep Harwell Rural Campaign:
VWH Local Plan would mean a housing
estate up to the A34***

The biggest impact of the VWH Draft Local Plan on Harwell is 'Valley Park': up to 2,150 houses between Great Western Park, Didcot, and Harwell Village. If the plans stay as they are, the estate will start as soon as you cross over the A34, as in the map.

Valley Park as proposed by VWH, February 2013



Despite our past arguments against the expansion, *Keep Harwell Rural* thinks that opposing Valley Park *completely* is now not realistic, because VWH has to provide a large number of houses for the next phase of the expansion of Didcot, and has no other viable options near Didcot. It has to be said too, that the by-pass link roads that Harwell needs to manage the large traffic increases in the village from Didcot's expansion will only materialise with the aid of developer funding from the totality of the housing plans for Didcot.

HOWEVER, VALLEY PARK - AS IT STANDS IN THE PLAN - IS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE RURAL CHARACTER AND IDENTITY OF OUR VILLAGE, which has already been considerably eroded by the expansion of Didcot to the west. Harwell villagers have every right to be concerned about the impact on their environment, and we need to act *now* if we are to protect it. We must demand to VWH that the Local Plan does not go ahead with Valley Park as currently planned, but that instead they should:

- Keep Valley Park off the areas marked **X** on the map, so as to:
 - preserve some semblance of a 'rural gap' between Harwell Village and the expanded Didcot
 - avoid further building on the best quality agricultural land
 - avoid extending the development round to West Hagbourne;
- Reduce the number of houses planned for Valley Park to that which can be accommodated in a

revised area, even if that means using other land at the northern end of the site;

- Give assurance in the Local Plan that building the Harwell Strategic Link Road (A417 at the Kingswell north to the A4130) and the Harwell Field Link Road (A417 south to the A 4185 at the Harwell Campus) are guaranteed.

We urge you to support this position and tell VWH that they MUST change their plans for Valley Park in this way.

Remember... "for bad things to happen, it only takes good people to stand back and do nothing...."

For more information look at

www.KeepHarwellRural.org,

email info@KeepHarwellRural.org

or ring Tony Hughes on 01235 835301

The Keep Harwell Rural Committee



didcot@thomasmerrifield.co.uk

01235 813777

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Harwell Village Club (RBL)

Phone Number: 01235 221126

www.harwellrbl.co.uk

The Club on the Recreation Ground is now under new management since the appointment of a new committee following the A.G.M. in February.

They have much to do, but have committed themselves to putting the club back on a sound financial footing in the short term and to increase the use of the building as a community facility for the future.

The club has several different sized rooms that are available for hire during the day and also some evenings at very competitive prices. If you know of anybody who is looking for a suitable venue for a meeting place, please just contact via the website and you will be very welcome to call in and see what we have to offer.

We also operate as a licensed club, and open 7 days a week to serve drinks at very competitive prices. Our membership is very open and we include full use of our facilities including 2 full sized snooker tables and dart boards.

We are used regularly by several sporting teams including Rugby, Tennis, Bowls in season and Aunt Sally. We have an extensive range of drinks and offer a weekly 'Guest Ale'. We extend a warm invitation to villagers and their families to call in to the club and have a look around. Look out for our posters advertising events that you may like to come along to.

We are arranging to have a Cask Ale Event for the Harwell Feast weekend, just call in and sample some Real Ale

Every Tuesday the Poppy Room is used for Lunches one week and Afternoon Tea the next. We are trying very hard to move this club forward and bring younger people together.

Our Poppy Room is an ideal size for pre-school children's parties; it can be sectioned off from other areas within the Club to suit your needs. We have a wipe-clean floor and a very well stocked kitchen. We can incorporate the carpeted area for you to relax in whilst the party is in full swing. Please contact us for more details via the website. We are now taking bookings for 'grown-up' parties too! →

St. Matthew's Church Hall, Harwell

January 2013

St. Matthew's Church Hall, Harwell is now available for private bookings such as Birthday Parties or for Weekly Activities.

Cost of Hire - £7 per hour

Please contact us for more information

Anne Gill 01235 833575
Roz Shipp 01235 863342

During the 'fair weather' months, we are thinking about holding an Afternoon Tea Dance, and just wondered if we would have any 'dancers' in the village who would like to come along, have a strawberry tea etc. Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, contact the Club if you think it would be good for the Village

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday – March 30th – Cabaret – Martin David – singer/comedian

Saturday April 6th – Race Night

Saturday April 13th Party Disco

Saturday April 20th – Monthly Quiz see calendar/posters

Saturday 27th April – Lainey King (female singer) - £5.00 a ticket - see calendar/posters

Sunday 5th May – Poppy Walk – all welcome – see elsewhere

Saturday May 11th - tba – see calendar

Saturday May 18th – Monthly Quiz with Food

Saturday May 25th – Harwell Feast Weekend – Jeff Denton (cabaret artist) £5 a ticket

EVENTS ARE BEING UPDATED ON THE CALENDAR REGULARLY SO TAKE A LOOK

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

Mobile Library

The **Mobile Library** will be in the Village Hall car park between 9.15 and 9.40am on the following Wednesdays April 10, 24, May 8, 22.

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HARWELL WI

Not more snow! When is it ever going to end? The WI members are not fazed, onwards and upwards!

In February, Paul Ridley's talk, *Garden History and Design*, traced how gardens have changed through the fashions of history. Some of the chaps came to 'See how it is, or was, done'!

In March a number of members attended the Group Meeting in Brightwell, where all the local WI groups got together for an evening of fellowship and food. The excellent speaker was John Ericson whose specialist subject was *The Shakers of North America*. It was an amazing insight into the now more or less extinct religious sect and was enjoyed by all.

The WI's year finished on March 13th with the Club's AGM. Our President of 5 years, Joyce Doughty, retired in a blaze of glory and Lorna Walton was appointed as our new leader. This was followed by a fascinating talk by Jane Moore. Jane lives in Harwell and was a Games Maker at the Olympics last year. I think we were all amazed to learn how things were organised 'behind the scenes'.

Moving forward, on 10th April, Barbara Hatley-Broad is talking about Changi Quilts.

Don't forget our **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** on Saturday 4th May in the Village Hall from 9am to 1pm. This is a great opportunity to get all your bedding plants and vegetables for the summer season. This is not just for WI members, **everyone is welcome**. The proceeds will be split between the Village Hall Renovation Fund and the WI.

On May 8th, we have the Hathor Belly Dancers – I hope we don't ALL have to join in!

The new programme has some exciting new topics including Famous Castaways; The Air Ambulance; Pinewood Studios; Digital Photography; Classic Cars; Midwives and an Author who didn't start writing until she was 60. There will be day visits to Harcourt Arboretum, Highclere Castle, Hughenden Manor and Highgrove House, home of Prince Charles.

There are also Theatre trips, as and when available, which are notified to those wishing to be involved. There are also many other outings organised by Oxfordshire Federation of WIs and these are advertised in our monthly newsletter, News & Views, and can be attended by the members and booked via Andrea, 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.

THE HARWELL POPPY WALK

Sunday 5 May 2013

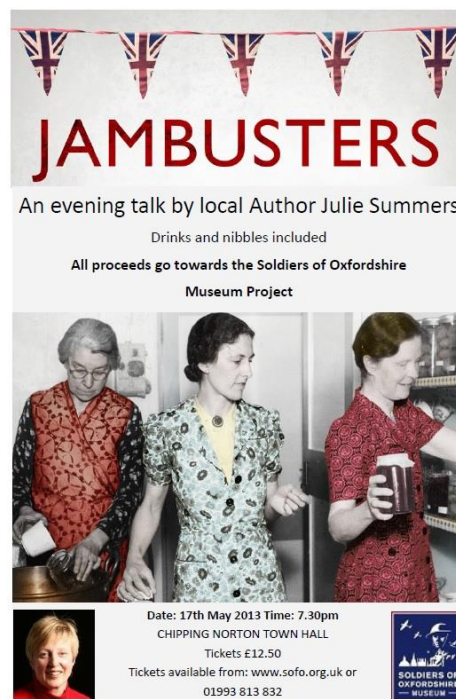
Raise money for your own good cause as well as for the Poppy Appeal
A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at the Harwell Royal British Legion Club.

Distances available: 5, 10 and 15 miles through lovely local countryside

Sponsorship money collected may be donated **either** entirely to the Poppy Appeal **or** to the Poppy Appeal and your own good cause (such as the Village Hall improvements) on a 50/50 basis.

Check in pre-start between 9am and 10am
Maps will be provided and the routes will be sign-posted. If you would like to participate, please contact either Francesca Yates or Lin Jubb on 0118 966 7950 or 0118 976 1255

BBQ and Live Music after the event and drinks available from the RBL Club Bar



JAMBUSTERS
An evening talk by local Author Julie Summers
Drinks and nibbles included
All proceeds go towards the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum Project

Date: 17th May 2013 Time: 7.30pm
CHIPPING NORTON TOWN HALL
Tickets £12.50
Tickets available from: www.sofa.org.uk or 01993 813 832

Police Surgeries and Advice

Have Your Say meetings are held monthly in the Village Hall. The next are:
Sundays 21st April, 19th May 12 noon to 1pm

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**MARY ANN LE MAY
GARDEN DESIGNS**

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Harwell Village Hall Redevelopment Project



Great news! Over £3000 was raised from the War Horse Film Evening and Safari Supper!!

Look out for these forthcoming events and help us reach our target

In addition to fundraising through events, we are also preparing to apply for grants and looking for corporate and individual donations

We *need* your support – please sponsor someone to do the Poppy Walk or walk yourself. Get together with friends and hold an event, small or large, it all helps.

Email a letter of support to Keith Beswick on keith@kbeswick.co.uk or post it to him at Lime Tree House, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EX

Give a donation* – use Just Giving by visiting the website, Text HVHR14 £10 to 70070 to donate or simply send a cheque to Keith at the above address, payable to Harwell Village Hall and marked “Development Fund”.

*Don’t forget, if you’re a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid declaration form and we can reclaim the tax !

Be part of it!

Please check the Village Hall website and the Fundraising and Community facebook pages for more information on these and future events:

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

<http://www.facebook.com/HarwellVillageHall>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/360101054082012/?ref=ts&fref=ts>

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Diary Dates 2013...

Bank Holiday Monday 1st April	Easter Egg Hunt £2pp, £10 family	Staggered starts 2-3pm in the Village Hall. Contact Sue 835393 or Janice 832802.
Friday 5th April	Wine Tasting £12.50 pp in advance	Village Hall, 8pm – 10pm. Contact Alan Wagner to book on 835425.
Tuesday 23 rd April	Formation of the Harwell History Society	Village Hall, 8pm.
Saturday 4th May	Plant Sale & Coffee morning	Village Hall, 10am with the Harwell WI.
Sunday 5th May	Poppy Walk & BBQ with RBL	5, 10 or 15 miles, sponsorship shared with RBL. Francesca Yates 01189 667950 or download form from Village Hall website.
Friday 10 th May	Film Evening – Salmon Fishing in the Yemen starring Ewan McGregor & Emily Blunt	Village Hall, 7.30pm. Usual bar and hopefully fish & chips! Tickets £5, available after Easter from Bob's Butchers.
Monday 27th May	Harwell Feast Entry by programme, £2 in advance, £3 on the day	Look out for the Village Hall Super Stall in the Marquee!
Friday 31 st May	Kids Bread-Making Morning. £10 per child or £15 for two.	Village Hall, 10.30am – 12noon. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Look out for more details after Easter!

ANTIQUES - Wanted

Single items or deceased effects cleared
Jewellery, silver, china, etc.
Furniture Pre 1930
Telephone 01235 221152

Ed Vaizey MP Parish News

Many of you will know that water bills are going up this year. In the constituency, we are all served by Thames Water, and Ofwat, the water regulator, has determined that they will be allowed to increase water bills by 3.5% in April. That's an average increase of £18 per household (although it will vary for individual homes), around £2.60 for improvements to the service and the rest to allow for inflation. Although unwelcome, the bills will help to pay for the largest ever investment programme for both water and sewerage. We often take both a clean water supply and our sewage being taken away very much for granted, so it is helpful to be reminded that it doesn't all happen by accident.

I heard recently that on 30th January, a milestone was reached – the one millionth blood stem cell transplant worldwide. This achievement was unimaginable 39 years ago. But then, 39 years ago, Shirley Nolan had only just created the world's first bone marrow register. Eight years ago, I joined in a drive to get 850 extra donors on the Antony Nolan register, to celebrate the 850th Anniversary of Wallingford being granted its charter. Registering is easy, and as at least 2 former Mayors of Wallingford have found out, if you are chosen to donate, it's a fantastic thing to be able to do. So, if you would like to do something remarkable, why not contact the Antony Nolan Trust at www.anthonynolan.org and join the register too?

The Government has recently announced measures to tackle welfare and irresponsible dog ownership, following consultation last year. Measures will include requirement that dogs are microchipped with details of the owner (which was supported by 96% of respondents to the consultation) and a change in the Dangerous Dogs Act to extend the offence of a dog being dangerously out of control to all places, including private property.

The Dogs Trust are giving very generous support to the measures which means a free microchip will be available for all unchipped dogs throughout England. The Government is working with the Dogs Trust to ensure that free microchips will be offered by the Dogs Trust to local authorities, housing associations and veterinary surgeries. A number of other animal welfare charities are offering free microchipping at their centres including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and Blue Cross. This will mean that the measure can be introduced in 2016 without a cost to dog owners who might struggle to pay for the microchipping.

Finally, this month my mailbox has been dominated by two campaigns. The campaign for an amendment to the Energy Bill, which would outline a clean electricity target and the campaign about competition regulations in the NHS. Between them these campaigns account for almost 300 individual letters and emails. I've also received almost 50 emails from members of the fair fuel campaign who wish to lower fuel duty, 20 or so on the Justice and Security Bill and another 20 from people concerned about the level of duty on alcohol.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or

vaizeye@parliament.uk. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com.

Ed Vaizey MP



Poppy Tea Room

We meet every other week on a Tuesday afternoon from 2 p.m. onwards in the RBL Poppy Room.

Call in, have a chat and a cup of tea or coffee and choose from our range of cakes or homemade cheese scones etc. You can also have a go at our table top quiz if you like, no pressure, it's just nice to get together and chat to other people from the Village. We also have a raffle. The cost is only £2.00 per person for unlimited tea/coffee and a portion of something lovely.

If you have a mobility problem and need a lift to and fro, give me a ring and I will arrange transport for you. Our next Tea Room is Tuesday April 2nd and then fortnightly. For any more details either ring me on my mobile 07862127950, my home number Ab. 835397 or email me YJHinchliffe@aol.com

Hope to see you soon – Yvonne Hinchliffe

Ladies pamper and shopping evening

Friday 26th April at Chilton Primary School from 7pm. Entrance £5 and includes glass of bucks fizz and goodie bag. There will be demonstrations, treatments and lots of fantastic things to buy.

For more information or to buy your ticket contact Amy amypeach@btinternet.com

Community Policing Awards

Have you been impressed with the service given to your community by a member of your neighbourhood policing team?

You can nominate community police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), volunteers, and Special Constables who have had a positive impact on the local community. Visit:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents-events-cpa-nominate> - open until 12 April – or email

communitypolicingawards@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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Harwell Online 2.



After the successful first Harwell Online course, come to this new course to enhance your online skills and ask

questions. By coming on this course you are supporting the Harwell Village Hall Redevelopment Fund.

Do you have a laptop computer and want to widen your skills beyond replying to emails? Do you easily find what you want to when Googling? Join those already enrolled on this course and go online in a friendly environment.

Do you want to:

See your son on Easter Day but he lives in Canada?
See a photo sent by a friend by email but don't know how to open it?

Save money on utility bills and holidays?

Fill out an online application form e.g. job application, make a booking or purchase, access government services?

Find out more about a subject that interests you?

See a TV or Radio programme you missed?

See the Harwell Online Archives?

Be safe online.

WI members, non members and men welcome. Summer Term will be 5 sessions starting 2pm on Monday 29th April 2013. No classes 6 May or 27 May. Cost £38

IT Tutor Penny Marsh is the WI Digital Champion for Oxfordshire. Contact Penny Marsh on 835430 or email penny@harwellonline.org

Peter Oliver

Joyce Oliver and family would like to sincerely thank everyone who made donations in memory of Peter. The amount of £780 was divided between Prostate Cancer Research, Churchill Hospital and Sobell House Hospice.



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 bsl@harwellscouts.org.uk 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

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Harwell Gardeners' Club

Our April meeting is on Monday 8th, when Stefan White will give a talk on

Come into the Garden Maud – The History of Women in Gardening

Competition – Bulbs and Corms

At the May meeting Gwen Barton will tell us about

Galloping in Galapagos

Competition – Flowering Shrub

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

GET ON YOUR BIKE FOR SUE RYDER

Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice is urging people to 'saddle up' a special cycling charity event this year – designed to offer them the ride of their lives.

The charity is holding its annual Ride for Ryder bike ride on 12 May 2013 to raise funds for local care for people with incurable illnesses. There are three routes to choose from; the 10 mile route is great for novice riders wanting to take part and raise money but the 25 mile and the 60 mile routes offer something for the more experienced. The event will start and finish at Nettlebed Hospice and travels through the stunning countryside of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

To find out more or sign up visit www.sueryder.org/rideforrydernettlebed or contact fundraising on 01491 641 070, bbox.fundraising@sueryder.org

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Your Recyclable Waste

May I thank you all once again for your ongoing support and commitment in sorting out the maximum amount of waste for your green bins and your waste food. This is much appreciated.

However, have you observed how the four large bins for recyclable waste in our RBL car park have been mis-used? The recyclable waste deposited in those bins has become contaminated by other waste practically every week – gardening rubbish, parts of cars, car batteries, discarded metal including sharp knives, tins of paint and even dismantled sheds! Additionally numerous black bags containing a wide variety of items including half full tins of beans, tomatoes and goodness knows what!! It's remarkable – my eyes have been opened as never before!!!

As a result this waste has been destined for landfill, the cost of which is being increased by 12% from 1st April to £80 per tonne.

The Vale and Biffa need all your recyclable waste. Once your green bin is full please place any further recyclables by the side of the bin in clear sacks/bags, cardboard boxes or other containers. This will then be taken on your normal day your green bin is collected. This will increase our percentage of recyclable waste and I can't ask for more! Your support is invaluable.

RegWaite

Didcot & District University of the Third Age

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to a meeting as a taster before joining.

The April meeting of D&DU3A is being held at 2pm on Tuesday 16th at Didcot Civic Hall. The topic is *The Berks, Oxon and Bucks Air Ambulance*.

The May meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 21st at Didcot Civic Hall. The meeting will be held in the Ladygrove Room, where seating is restricted. Tickets will be available at the April meeting. The topic is *Opera – not all shrieking ladies and fat tenors*.

U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. A wide range of interest groups has already been set up including walking, bridge, crafts, books, poetry, singing, photography and 5 languages tel: 07804159993

Email: didcotdistrictU3A@virginmedia.com

Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>



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Didcot A Power Station has closed

Did you know part of the site is within Harwell Parish? The southern part, including most of the coal heap (as was) is south of where the stream forming the boundary with Sutton Courtenay ran. Do you have any photos of the cooling towers etc you would like to share with Parishioners? Send them to news@harwellparish.co.uk for our next edition.



FAMILY BARBEQUE & BINGO!

Come along to our Prize Bingo

On the Rec. Ground on Sat. 25th May.

Barbeque available from 6.00pm. Bingo starts at 6.30pm. Entry Adults £4 each Children £2 each or buy a Family ticket for £10.

To book a table contact Sharon Palmer on 07774 676793 or spalmer2002uk@yahoo.co.uk

Harwell Scouts are proud to support the 2013 Harwell Feast

We will be taking part in the Float Parade and your local Scouts Group will run several sideshows and fund stalls including the ever popular Cream Teas
HAND IN this advert and save 50p off one serving of cream tea

One voucher per person, per transaction, Monday 27th May only. Can't be used in conjunction with any other offer. No cash equivalent.

Vale awards for two in Harwell

Two Harwell students received Young People's Awards last week from the Vale of Whitehorse DC.

That to Maia Hawkins recognised her exceptional through her high level of commitment and skill in singing, dancing and acting. In the past 12 months Maia has performed in music festivals, school productions, community events, concerts, weddings, annual shows and she even did a Musical Theatre Exam in her own time (outside of school). What is more, she obtained "Distinction" in all of her dancing, singing and Musical Theatre exams! At age 12, Maia was possibly the youngest recipient of the award too:



Maia receiving her award from the Vale Chairman Cllr Alison Thomson

The second recipient was Ben Goodall who is a 14 year-old student at King Alfred's Academy and he received the award in recognition of his success as both a trampolinist and gymnastics tumbler.

Ben has achieved National C grade standard for trampolining and won a place in the British Championships Under-15 National final in July. He has competed in the British Schools Trampoline finals earlier this month gaining a very creditable 7th place.

For Power Tumbling, Ben won the Bucks open championships last year and is shortly to compete in the qualifying competition for the British Championships.

His commitment to both sports involves travelling to tumbling training in Milton Keynes twice per week and training in various Oxfordshire locations 3 times a week. Ben was delighted to receive the £100 award which will help towards the costs of kit and travel.



Harwell & Hendred Youth Football Club

We will be holding their annual football tournament on the recreation ground on the weekend of 15th & 16th June. We appreciate that this will cause an increased volume of traffic into the village (particularly first thing each morning) and will do our utmost to minimise the disruption and get all the cars on to the rec area and off the roads as quickly as possible. We would like to thank the village in advance for your patience and invite you to come and join us. As well as very good youth football to watch, there will be a BBQ & refreshments.

The Under 9 Harwell and Hendred football team had a great write up in the Oxford Mail recently – they had won 7-0 against Crowmarsh Youth in the White Spring League.

Harwell Village Community Facebook page is going from strength to strength. The page was formed 5 months ago and currently there are 171 members. Villagers contribute ideas and news articles regularly. It is a great community for exchanging information like: Theatre bookings; recommended chimney sweeps; "Is there a B&B still in Harwell?" and the weekly specials from Bob the Butchers! Villagers have even been updated about the Safari Supper, the arrival of the new Post Box and the Harwell Bell Ringers winning a recent competition.

Wantage Musical Evening

The Wantage Branch of the **RNLI** is holding a Musical Night at The Civic Hall Wantage on the **18th May** starting at 7-30pm. The Synergy Variety Group will be performing. Tickets are £8 and can be purchased from Bretts the Chemist, The Museum in Wantage, Snob and Lock in Grove Street Wantage also The Abingdon Arms in Grove Street Wantage or tel;- 01235764847.

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Online payment are also welcome.

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Healthwatch

This is to tell you about Oxfordshire's arrangements for the provision of our local Healthwatch, required under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to be in place from 1st April 2013. Oxfordshire County Council has appointed Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to provide interim Healthwatch arrangements while the procurement process for a permanent provider is completed.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire will be the new independent 'consumer champion' for people and patients of all ages, who wish to raise concerns about health and social care services, carrying forward the strong legacy of the LINK in Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has been chosen to provide this service on an interim basis as they are currently 'hosting' the LINK, ensuring a smooth transition and a strong foundation on which to build the new Healthwatch organisation.

We have decided to extend the procurement phase for Healthwatch as it is important that the right organisation is found to provide the service on a permanent basis. It will have an important role, gathering evidence from the views and experiences of people and providing feedback on the quality of these services to both those funding the services and providing them, including through its statutory seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board. This will help ensure that those who make decisions about health and social care are aware of and respond quickly to concerns raised.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire will also report findings to Healthwatch England, which is the new national body established to collate findings from local Healthwatch organisations and influence policy and legislation at national levels.

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Return to Rounders this April

People have the chance to relive their days on the school playing field this April as Rounders in the Park sessions return to the Vale. GO Active is launching weekly rounders sessions in Abingdon and Wantage for those aged 16+ the opportunity to try their hand at the sport, take part in practice sessions and full games. No experience is necessary and sessions will be taken by a fully qualified coach.

1-hour sessions costing £2 take place as follows:
Tuesdays from 9 April at Wantage Memorial Park, from 6.30pm & Wednesdays from 10 April at Abingdon's Abbey Meadow, from 6.30pm
Anyone wishing to take part can simply turn up and play on the day. For more info contact anna.capel-davies@southandvale.gov.uk.

From the archives ... 100 years ago

At the Annual Parish Meeting on March 17th 1913 the first business was to elect Parish Councillors for the ensuing three years. Following this, with Doctor Rice in the Chair, "the minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read (see Harwell News Feb 2012) and arising therefrom came a question from Mr Wm Hazell asking what had been done toward securing a meadow as a Recreation Ground. The explanation was not satisfactory to him and he again urged that steps be taken to secure land for the children to play upon.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on April 11th Mr Tyrrell brought forward an alleged infringement of a footpath on the north side of the Grove Road. and proposed "That the Parish Council complain to the proper authority that Mr Ellis has encroached on the footpath on the south side of the land in his occupation situate in the Grove". This was seconded by Mr Lay and unanimously adopted.

The next meeting was not until October!

50 years ago ... at a meeting of the Parish Council on 1st March 1963, chaired by R. Campbell, in the Village Hall it was reported that the County Council had agreed to a loan of £2,500 for improvements to the Village Hall at the rate of interest applicable to loans granted to Local Authorities by the Public Works Loan Board.

At the Annual Parish Meeting on March 29th the Clerk reported that he had analysed the growth of housing in the village and reported it to the Director of Education. The immediate post-war number of houses of approximately 275 had increased to approx. 500 by the end of 1961. There were approx. 45 caravans. The large growth which had started in 1956 appeared to be continuing.

At the following Parish Council meeting the draft mortgage for the loan of £2,500 from the County Council had been received ... it was carried that the draft be approved and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman execute the deed on behalf of the P.C.



Earth Trust Events

Discover and Play: 12th April Forest School for pre-school children

Come to The Clumps for a morning of play and discovery in the woods. These sessions are particularly for pre-school children - up to 5 years, younger siblings are welcome. From 10am – 12 noon.

The Forest School model originates in Scandinavia; it is an inspirational way of offering children the opportunity to develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment. The session is led by a trained Forest School leader.

We will meet in the Earth Trust Centre car park, Little Wittenham and walk to Round Hill where we will be based for the morning. Please bring imagination, enthusiasm and probably wellies - sessions will take place whatever the weather! Toilets will be available at the Earth Trust Centre, you may like to bring a drink and snack. The event is free, suggested donation £2 per family. No need to book - just turn up! For more information contact Jenny Cresse: jenny.cresse@earthtrust.org.uk

Oxfordshire Goes Wild 20th April, 11am - 4pm

Discover Oxfordshire's wildlife: animals and insects that live in and on water, air and earth. Nature and wildlife groups from across the county will be sharing their knowledge and passion to get us all closer to nature. Cost Adults £2 Children £1.

Guided Walk: Newts, Frogs & Toads 20th April, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

We'll be searching for newts, frogs and toads with nets and torches. Come along and find out more about amphibians living in Little Wittenham Wood. Please bring a torch and wear your wellies! We have one of Britain's largest populations of great crested newt and now is the best time to see them, when the male develops its splendid jagged crest along the full length of his back. Adults £5, Children £2 Booking essential.

Please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.

Guided Walk: Dawn Chorus Sunday 28th April, 4:30 - 6:30am

Set your alarm clocks and listen to the birds celebrating spring at the Clumps. Learn more about the birds and how to identify them. It will be well worth being an early bird! Adults £5, Children £1 Booking is essential. Please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.

Family Plant Foraging 11th May, 10am – 12noon

Forage for local plants and find out about their varied uses: food, dye, fire lighting and more. Adults £5, Children £2. Booking is essential. Please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.

Guided Walk: Bats at Wallingford Meadows 16th May, 8.30 – 10.30pm

Join local bat expert Dominic Lamb on a walk at dusk to find out more about bats. Learn how to use a bat detector and recognise different species.

Meet at Wallingford Castle Meadows. Cost Adults £5, children £2. Booking is essential. Please call 01865 407792 to reserve your place.



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After 3 months absence the post box was replaced in early March:



Sunday 2 June 2013

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12noon to 4.30pm



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*Brass band *Dog show *Side shows
*Grand raffle *Food and bar

Free entry!

How to Report Potholes – the County has boosted its pothole repair programme as part of a highway 'spring clean' – goto: <http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

New local running group for complete beginners

There is a new jogging group in Harwell. The group will be run by a qualified jog leader with the GO Active (Get Oxfordshire Active) project, aimed at encouraging everyone the chance to take part in some regular exercise.

Everyone will be welcome to join up, whatever their age (16+), size or ability. A fully trained group leader will make sure that you are well looked after and having loads of fun.

If you would be interested in joining this group please get in touch with Anna (GO Active coordinator for the Vale) for more details on 01235 540377 or anna.capel-davies@southandvale.gov.uk.

See also www.communitygames.org.uk

Enjoy a Ridgeway Day

The Ridgeway is an ancient track across England, a 4,000 year-old trade route, and today a National Trail. It links hillforts, barrows and hill figures and passes through spectacular landscapes. It is Britain's oldest road and it's right on our doorstep, on the edge of the Downs, for everyone to enjoy.

On Sunday, 7 April, The Friends of the Ridgeway are holding an Open Day at the Court Hill Centre near Wantage. Why not take a walk on The Ridgeway, and enjoy one of Britain's finest views. Visit nearby Segsbury Castle hillfort, and spot wildlife and spring flowers. Drop in to the Court Hill Centre any time between 10.30am and 3.30pm and find out more about the trail and how you can help to keep it special. Have a snack at the Barn Café. Meet the volunteers who help to preserve the ancient track, and join in a discussion about the future of the National Trails. With exhibitions of art inspired by the Ridgeway landscape and a birds of prey display, there's something for the whole family to enjoy.

To get to the Court Hill Centre, take the A338 south from Wantage for 2 miles. Turn right into The Centre just before the crest of Court Hill.

Help protect the rural Vale – more on the Vale Plan from the CPRE

The Vale of the White Horse District Council published its draft Local Plan in February. It sets out the District's main development plans until 2026, including sites for 1000s of new houses. The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is urging people to have their say and tell the Council how important it is to protect the rural character of the Vale's landscape and villages.

A new map of all the major development applications in the District over the last year can be seen at: <http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/item/2269-map-of-planning-applications-in-the-vale>

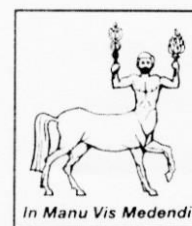
Like most local communities, CPRE supports the right development in the right place. But current pressures mean that large-scale and unsustainable applications are getting through in some places. CPRE is already working with the Small Villages Alliance and the Western Vale Villages Consortium to keep a very close eye on things, but needs the support of local people - your support - to remain vigilant and take action when necessary.

As a charity CPRE relies entirely on support from its members. Please help CPRE to protect the character of the rural Vale by joining them or getting involved. Call on 01865 874780 or find out more at www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Wantage Police Station

Thames Valley Police have moved from the police station in Wantage to a new base in the Grove Technology Park; a front counter has been introduced next to Wantage Library.

Deputy Chief Constable Francis Habgood said: "This station was too large for the needs of the local community, especially since the closure of the court in Wantage. The neighbourhood team will operate as normal and access to officers will continue to be 24-hours a day. Thames Valley Police remains as committed to providing visible frontline policing in the community as ever.



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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 June issue should be sent by May 22nd - except for Feast photos etc.

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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Easter & Half-term Activities

Spring into Spring

Tuesday 2nd until Thursday 4th April

Blow those cobwebs away, get ready for spring with wild activities to get the whole family excited about nature. Exploration, outdoor games and natural art.

Bug Bonanza

Tuesday 9th until Thursday 11th April

Meet the creepy crawly critters that make our nature reserve their home. Pond dipping and bug hunting with tons to see and lots to learn! Wild activities to get the whole family excited about nature.

Just drop in - there is no need to book. Activities take around two hours. All ages welcome. Picnics welcome. Assistance dogs only.

Times: 10-4pm Cost: Donation £3/child

Kids Wildlife Photography

Saturday, 8th June

Time 10-2pm Cost: £10 child/adult

Suitable for children 7+, young adults and parents.

Bring your digital camera and learn all about wildlife photography on our fun and fresh nature reserve. Dress for the weather. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Tea and cake provided! **Booking Essential!**

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

Contact: Christine Donaldson 01235 862024

sceec@bbowt.org.uk

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

Vale WHDC Easter Holiday Programme

Together with leisure operators and local sports clubs, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are running holiday activities between Tuesday 2 and Friday 12 April for young people between the ages of five and 16.

There may be still places available for activities on offer, including Athletics, Badminton, Balloon modelling, Circus skills, Sailing, Squash, & Tennis.

For more information, including dates, times and prices, please go to

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/holidays, or contact our leisure team on 01235 540367.

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Exhibitions at Cornerstone Gallery, Didcot

Joshua Rose: The Art of Ply

11 April – 19 May

Joshua Rose combines his backgrounds in Fine Art and furniture making to create unique and original printed plywood furniture. A range of prints and artworks are also exhibited which have influenced the design of the flat-pack furniture, sometimes being printed directly onto it.

Until April 7th - Seeing is Believing

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