

Parish Council Meetings

In December, as is the custom, the Council met as the Finance Committee, to discuss the budget for the year 2014-15. Because it was acting as a subcommittee, the final decision on the precept was taken at the January meeting. There was also a short Extraordinary Meeting, mainly to deal with planning matters, which are reported in page 2. The Council had also received the resignation of Stuart Davison from the Council; the Council thanks him for his service since May 2011.

January Meeting

The Open Forum session began with a presentation from representatives of Green Energy, a company that wishes to build a large array of solar power panels in fields straddling the parish border with Chilton. Further details on this are given on page 9. No police were present, but a written report had been submitted. There were no major crimes during December, but the British Legion Club was broken into; investigations are ongoing.

County Councillor Stewart Lilly reported that the new bus timetable had reduced reliability and was proving unpopular; there was to be a consultation on buses in Didcot. The County's Council Tax decision was awaiting the Government grant decision.

District Councillor Reg Waite reported that the owner of the collapsed cottage on Reading Road has still not improved the site; VWHDC is to decide on further action shortly. They will be aiming to reduce landfill totals for clothing and material during the year.

In the main meeting, the Clerk reported that there had been no demand for an election to fill the vacancy, so the Council is able to co-opt; see the item on page 3.

On the matter of next year's precept, the December Finance meeting had concluded that the expenditure budget be set at £69.8k, and that with other income of £12.2k, the request to the Vale should be for £57.6k. This represents an increase of 4.7%, but the County Council will be no longer paying for verge-cutting in the village, and the cost to the Parish represents the whole of the increase. The Council unanimously approved the Finance Committee's recommendations regarding the budget. Because of changes in accounting for the reduced Council Tax of some households the actual precept that will appear on the Council Tax demands will be for £55,073, with the remaining £2,527 coming from Vale funds. Further details of the finances can be found on the Parish web pages.

On the outdoor fitness equipment, reported in the last newsletter, it was agreed to go ahead with the proposed 4 pieces of equipment, at a total cost of £6k, of which half is covered by grants. Some concern was expressed about the treatment of the ground around them; the details are yet to be finalised. The Clerk will order the equipment and decide the location with the Village Enhancements Working Party, somewhere near the recently installed zip-wire.

There was discussion of a planning application for an Anaerobic Digester in Milton Hill. The Parish Council wasn't consulted on this by the Vale, but had been requested to support Milton Parish Council in its objection to the Facility. Councillors were agreed that some aspects of the proposed digester were of concern, namely that food waste and green waste for operation of the digester would come from London & elsewhere via lorry, and that local farmland would be used to grow crops for the digester rather than for food. It was agreed with one abstention to support an objection by Milton Parish Council.

The Vale has been consulting over Parish boundaries, as mention in the December newsletter. Following representations, they seem likely to drop proposals for the Harwell Campus and Milton Park to be each within a single Parish, but Harwell will lose the area it currently has north of the railway.

Also, the Parish has been divided between two District wards, Blewbury & Harwell ward and a single-member Hendreds, as part of the new electoral arrangements for Vale of White Horse District Council. In consequence, the Local Boundary Commission for England divided Harwell Parish into two wards, with a separate ward for the housing around Harwell Campus, currently North Drive but due to expand.

It now seems that under the Vale's review, the Parish Council can request to revert to a single parish ward, so it was agreed to ask for this change in the terms of reference for the Community Governance Review.

Regarding the part of the Parish east of the A34, where about 600 dwellings are planned for Great Western Park, and a lot more in Valley Park, the Council agreed to ask the Vale about possible procedures for giving the residents autonomy at some future date.

The Council further considered the proposed installation of a defibrillator in the village. It agreed to accept the offer from the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church of the Automatic External Defibrillator package, subject to a suitable site being found and additional costs of installation not exceeding £1500. The Village Hall was agreed the preferred site. The matter was delegated to Mr Mike Fox-Davies and the Clerk to find a site and make other necessary arrangements.

It was noted that the Curie Avenue Post Office is to be relocated inside McColls newsagents. Also, that following enquiries from Parishioners, footpath 7, off Grove Road, is open on its original route across the first field, rather than the farmer's diversion along the edge by Grove Road. continued →

Some forthcoming events, details inside:

8th Feb Busy Bees Singathon – page 5

17th Feb. Solar Farm Exhibition, Chilton – page 9

18-20th Feb. Half term activity at BBOWT – page 10

29-30th March – Village History Exhibition p 8

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 11th February and 11th March. 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.

Planning Matters

Permissions:

P13/V2093/HH Willow Tree Cottage, Barrow Lane. Add Dormer window and internal alterations.

P13/V2465/FUL Frouds Yard High Street Demolition of non-listed building in conservation area.

Applications:

P13/V2445/FUL Alder View Land South of Grove Road - Erection of 65 dwellings with associated highway works, landscaping and infrastructure improvements.

The Council's response to the Vale WHDC said it supports the application subject to satisfactory resolution of the issues concerning housing mix and public open space.

On the distribution of house sizes, the Council deplored the replacement of the 2-bed houses in the Outline Application by larger ones, saying that there should be smaller properties to help provide "affordable" housing for local people. It also wants to see more variety of houses on the northern edge of the site, adjacent to Grove Road, and felt the design for the corner property near the entrance was not in keeping with the style of the rest of the proposed housing, or the village.



Proposed plan of Alder View

On Open Spaces, the Council had asked for a degree of contouring in response to the Outline Application. It reiterated this and commented that the plan showed the main open space would be surrounded on three sides by roads, and as such would be totally unsuitable for children playing ball games. It suggested the main open space and the adjacent 9 houses (nos. 41 to 49) be re-arranged to provide a better open space adjacent to the line of trees.

In response to the Outline Application the PC had said that safety of pedestrians crossing from The Croft to Manor Green was of concern. It asked that when the junction works takes place they should also allow safe passage of pedestrians across Grove Road. There should be appropriate pavements on both sides of the road, with the place for crossing being at a point where pedestrians can see and be seen by traffic in all directions.

The PC also said that several residents had expressed concern regarding traffic impact from the new development, and asked that these be considered by Planners. The PC accepted that the incremental traffic from this application is not enough to merit changes to Grove Road, and is only prepared to accept this situation because of the greater traffic volumes that will arise from Great Western Park, and the recognition that there is a commitment to provide traffic calming for Harwell.

Finally the Council asked that comments from neighbouring residents be given consideration by planners.

Plans are on the Vale website, ref P13/V2445/FUL

Refusal:

P13/V2460/FUL Frouds Yard High Street Erection of one detached dwelling, access with detached garage

Application since the January Council meeting:

P13/V2676/FUL Land Adjacent to Silverdown Reading Road Erection of 2 detached dwellings.

Late News – The application for an Anaerobic Digester in Milton Parish (see p1) has been withdrawn.



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Little Pippins Pre-School

Little Pippins is set in an idyllic orchard in a purpose built building with a large outdoor area in the centre of the village. We are open during term time providing pre-school care and education for children between the ages of 2½ and 5 years. We also offer a Breakfast Club for 3-11 year olds with a walking bus to Harwell Primary School and a walking bus to After School Club at the end of the day.

You are welcome to come and have a look round and speak to the staff or you can download a registration form from our website where you will also find more information about what we offer.

Our sessions and charges are:

Breakfast Club – 8am to 9:15am - £5.00

Morning Session – 9:15am to 11:45am - £10.00

Lunch – 11:45am to 12:30pm - £2.75

Afternoon Session – 12:30pm to 3pm - £10.00

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

Nursery Education Funding is available from the term after your child's 3rd birthday for up to 15 hours per week and we also offer some funded places for 2½ year olds.

Our contact details are:

Website: www.littlepippins.org.uk Tel: 01235 821741,
Email: littlepippins@btinternet.com

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



**Do you enjoy working with
Young children?**

**Do you have a few hours to
spare on a Tuesday evening?**

The 1st Harwell Beaver Scout leadership team are looking for an adult to join them for their meetings to support a child with additional needs. Safe guarding checks will need to be carried out. No experience necessary, training will be given.

If you are interested or would like more information please email Zara at bsl@harwellscouts.org.uk

Busy Bees Music Group

Musical fun for babies and the
under fives.

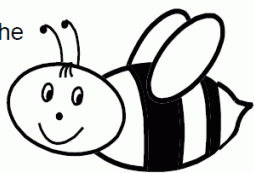
Friday Mornings

in term time

in the Village Hall, Harwell

Cost £3.20 per family includes coffee

www.busybeesmusic.co.uk 01235 521039



babes 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, from 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 £2.00 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 contact: Joanne - joanne.slade1@ntlworld.com

Parish Council Vacancy

To be filled by co-option

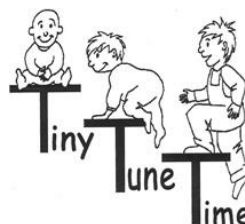
There is now a Casual Vacancy that the Council is able to fill by co-option. There are no specific qualifications for the role, other than enthusiasm and an interest in local affairs, but candidates must have lived or worked in the Parish for the last 12 months. Any of the existing Parish Councillors will be happy to talk to you about what is involved and the challenges faced by the Parish at the moment.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk **by 4pm Monday 10th February 2014** – see page 2 for details.

You will be asked to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 11th February to give an outline of why you are interested, say a couple of minutes maximum. Alternatively if you can't make the meeting, please provide the Clerk with short summary of why you are interested. This will be circulated to all Councillors and read out by the Chairman at the meeting.

Candidates will be asked to leave the room, and the Parish Council will discuss the selection and vote. The successful candidate must have an absolute majority of councillors voting. If there are more than two candidates and no-one gets a majority then the least successful name is removed before a further vote.

The successful candidate joins the Parish Council immediately. Note that there will be elections in May 2015 for the whole Parish Council



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Harwell RBL Club

The village club had an eventful 2013. It started the year in severe financial crisis and a new committee had to bring in some quite stringent and difficult changes to halt the serious situation. It has not been an easy year but there have been some notable successes and some disappointing failures.

Feast day was an amazing event as the weather helped everyone have a wonderful day and the village club played its part in support. Throughout the year a busy and varied programme of events kept the club trading and following its usual pattern of good month poor month the rescue programme to pay back debts got under way. The Aunt Sally team unfortunately failed to operate in the summer and this made quite a big difference to our trade and the change in peoples' lifestyles meant that there are less people using the club in a social sense. Private parties and celebration evenings however were very popular and showed how versatile our building is for holding parties/christenings/birthdays etc.

The committee has been proactive in advertising our building for use during the day to run courses and classes etc and we are beginning to see the benefit of this. Hopefully in 2014 the Village club will be in regular use during the day as it is an excellent building to hold any event in because of the flexibility of its various rooms. Our Poppy Tea room continues to serve a cross-section of the community as does the alternate week lunches. Yvonne Hinchliffe and Caroline Brinkley with their excellent band of volunteers cater for a regular group of supporters and we are really grateful to them all for their time and effort. Our Bar and cellar has been operated for us by Patrick Muldoon since May supported by a regular band of volunteer staff. He is to be congratulated and thanked for his hard work and also to the people who have worked alongside him. Our volunteer team must also be thanked for keeping the club look so clean and tidy throughout the year since April.

By the time this news sheet is published we will have held our AGM and have covered the current financial status with our members. We will also be outlining what the future holds for our club building and what we see as the plans for its future. The focus last year in the community was largely on the redevelopment of the Village Hall (for which we gave whole hearted support) but we feel we also offer accommodation which is available, accessible and quite different. It would be foolish to ignore what the building offers to all sorts of groups and societies and we would welcome some support ourselves this year from the community and Parish Council. It has already agreed to help us brighten our exterior with flower baskets etc in the summer and we hope to continue to play our part in serving the village community in as many ways as possible through the use of our building.

Dates of events at the club:

Saturday Feb 8th Monthly Quiz (Check website)

Saturday Feb 15th Private party

Saturday Feb 22nd Monthly Dance – Mike Nelson – Tickets £5:00 in advance from the club

Sunday February 23rd Sunday roast 12 – 2:00 pm

Phone club to book table (or 835397)

Saturday March 1st Andy Robbins – local talent – Tickets £3:00 from the club

Saturday March 8th Monthly Quiz (Check website)

Saturday March 15th St Patrick's Day Celebration – Traditional Irish Food

Saturday March 22nd Birthday Party Disco

Saturday March 29th Monthly Dance – Undercover Duo – tickets £5:00 from club

Sunday March 30th Sunday roast 12 – 2:00 pm Phone club to book table (or 835397)

Saturday April 5th Monthly Quiz

Check our website for up to date additions and information.

Local Government Contacts: County Councillor

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

District Councillors:

Reg Waite reg.waite@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

& Mrs Margaret Turner, tel 01235 821248.

The **Mobile Library** will be in the Village Hall car park between 9.15 and 9.40am on the following Wednesdays: Feb 12, 26, March 12, 26.

St. Matthew's Church Hall Harwell

Our Hall is available for private bookings such as Birthday Parties or regular Weekly Activities – Book Groups, Yoga, Dancing etc.

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Roz Shipp 01235 863342

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Harwell Village Hall Redevelopment Project



Latest news:

We are still awaiting the VWHDC and the OCC deliberations as to how much section 106 money will become available to us as a result of the Alder View Development, after deducting a contribution to Science Vale UK. Once this is decided we will know how much we still need to raise to cover the refurbishment of the existing hall and will be able to get a start date for the new extension.

Please continue to support our events as we know we will have a significant sum to raise:



Our latest success was the fabulous Burns Night Supper – we are still counting the funds but it's likely to be over £500 - many thanks to all who came! Wantage-based folk group, Pandemonium, gave a stand-up performance with everything from "Donald where's your trousers" to "Auld Lang Syne". Adele Harris, Joyce Doughty, Sue Greatbanks & Viv Smith provided us with mouth-watering food and we all had a great time.

Next up is the Busy Bees Singathon – come along for a music-filled morning aimed at pre-school and primary school children and families. We have another musical extravaganza in March with the Oxford Fiddle Group - a very reasonably priced evening, also featuring dancers from the O'Gara School of Irish Dance!

Look out for the Harwell History Exhibition – see an 1820s wedding dress, learn about key events in our history and get help with family history too.

Keep checking the Harwell Village Hall website for updates and for posters around the village and on display in Bob's Butchers window in the High Street.

Our current fundraising total from events, merchandise sales, raffles, the 100 club, donations, pledges, a small grant and gift aid is:

£175,000!

Don't forget we *still* need your support and there are many ways you can help:

Get together with friends and hold an event, small or large, it all helps – see the HVH website for help.

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* – simply send a cheque to Keith at the above address, payable to Harwell Village Hall and marked "Development Fund".

*NB if you're a UK taxpayer please complete a Gift Aid declaration form so we can reclaim the tax as well!

Diary Dates 2014...

Saturday 8 th February	Busy Bees Singathon – for pre-school and primary children and families	Harwell Village Hall, 10am – 11.30am. Family tickets £10 available at Bob's Butchers and on www.busybeesmusic.co.uk .
Saturday 1 st March	Safari Supper	SOLD OUT FOR 2014!
Sunday 16 th March	Oxford Fiddle Group – supported by the O'Gara School of Irish Dance.	Harwell Village Hall, 7pm – 11.30pm Tickets £8 available from Bob's Butchers or Kath Luker on 861057, kath.luker@tesco.net , Kamarlu, Barrow Road.
29 th and 30 th March	Exhibition of Harwell Village History. Refreshments available. Opening times to follow.	Harwell Village Hall. An exhibition of posters, displays and artefacts covering memorable episodes like the great fire of 1852, pub history & origins, costume and more.
Sunday 20 th April	Easter Egg Hunt	Save the date - more details to follow.
April/May	Wine Tasting	More details to follow.
Saturday 14 th June	Murder Mystery Evening	Harwell Village Hall. BBQ provided by Bob's Butchers, drama by Little Chico Productions, more details to follow....

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>

Harwell Village Hall is registered Charity number 300161.

If you would like to give regularly to the Development Fund, we can send you a Standing Order Mandate to set this up. Please contact Clare Wagner on 835425 or clare.wagner@jabrin.co.uk for more information.

Be part of it

HARWELL WI

In December Mike Amphlett talked about digital photography and improving our Christmas photos. Some members brought their cameras and sought help with problems. After the talk, the Christmas Party was a little different and there were numerous desserts and cheese & biscuits.

The members took part in the Little Pippins decorative Christmas Tree competition at the beginning of December but did not secure a place this year!!

Christmas over and on to the New Year! At our January meeting Eleanor Green, from The Thames Valley Air Ambulance, talked about the incredible and essential work they carry out on a daily basis all around our area, relying solely on public donations.

'The Midwives' with Jan Kipling, are brought right up to date on 12th February. The Group Meeting this year is being hosted by Harwell Club and will be in the Village Hall on Wed 5th March. The speaker is Tristan de-Vere Cole on artist Augustus John. Finally, the AGM on 12th March will be followed by a Cheese & Wine Evening.

The new WI year starts on 9th April with Sylvia Vetta talking about how she castaway 50 famous people! Coming up will be Tai Chi; The Natural History Museum in Oxford, followed by a visit at a later date; and performers from Abingdon Operatic Society, followed by a visit to their October Production. Later in the year there will be 'hands-on' Painting, Craft and a very essential talk about Wills & Powers of Attorney.

Members still meet regularly at The Hart of Harwell on a Wednesday morning for coffee and pastries.

There are Theatre trips, as and when available, which are notified to a mailing list of 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.

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Poppy Tea Room

We meet every other week on a Tuesday afternoon from 2 p.m. onwards in the RBL Poppy Room; forthcoming dates will be Feb 4th, 18th, March 4th, 18th, and April 1st.

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 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. For any more details either ring me on my mobile 07862127950, my home number Ab. 835397 or email me at YJHinchliffe@aol.com.

Also in the Poppy Room, Carolynne is now providing very affordable lunches for our Village and local Community on the alternate Tuesdays. Give her a ring on 07962 249 467 to find out more and to book a table. You are all very welcome, come and support us in our efforts to provide a meeting place for everyone.

Hope to see you soon – Yvonne Hinchliffe

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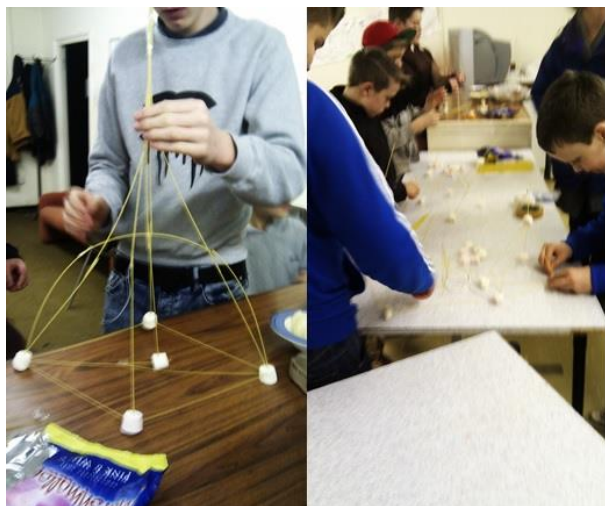
**Phone Vicki or Mike on 01865 390125
or email vicki.jack@virgin.net**

Our Street Corner youth club.

2013 was a busy year for OSC: we gained a youth worker in November 2012 but lost him to university & American summer camp in June 2013! Sarah Belcher, another of our regular volunteers moved away in the spring and then another of our stalwart helpers, Di decided she could no longer spare the time. Our dwindling band of adult volunteers have managed to keep things going. We gained a new volunteer, Gary, who comes when he can but we do need more volunteers, so if you are free on a Monday night between 6.30 and 8.30 pm do come & join us. We try to have a rota of helpers so would appreciate any time that could be offered. Just to clarify the issue a volunteer is unpaid!

One of the first activities with Josh was carving pumpkins for Halloween. During his time with us we have printed t-shirts, held a bike maintenance workshop, cooked pancakes, pasta & toffee apples, made banners, cleaned the War memorial, ready for Remembrance Day & made good use of the new playground equipment- when it is light enough to see! This year at Halloween our pumpkin carving was a resounding hit with 20 or more youngsters having a go. We held our annual Christmas party in the village hall, with games; music, cooking & we made decorations for our Christmas tree, ready for the school Christmas Fair.

We started the New Year with a challenge: who can build the tallest tower using 20 pieces of spaghetti & marshmallows? This was undertaken with great concentration & style!



The challenge was to build the tallest structure using spaghetti & marshmallows!

Our AGM will be on Tuesday 11th March at 8pm, in the village hall, all are welcome. This will be after our youth club session.

Follow us on facebook:

www.facebook.com/oscharwell

We do try to update this page regularly with dates, activities and sometimes photographs!

Sue Greatbanks: 835393

Celia Lockwood: celialockwood@hotmail.com or 221173



HARWELL SCOUT GROUP ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT IN HARWELL VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY MARCH 22ND

7pm for 7.30

£5 per person

6 people maximum to a team

Teams can be formed 'on the night'

BAR - FISH AND CHIP SUPPERS

@ £5 PER PERSON CAN BE ORDERED

PRIOR TO, OR ON THE NIGHT

Please call lesley saunders on 01235

834815 OR email

Lesley_saunders@weylite.co.uk to confirm a place (or pay on the door)

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Harwell Village Hall Redevelopment
Fund
Charity number 100161

AN EVENING CONCERT PERFORMED BY THE

Oxford Fiddle Group

Harwell Village Hall

Harwell, Oxfordshire

Sunday 16 March

Twelve fiddles plus backing - Hear the magical sound of the massed fiddles of the OFG playing tunes and songs from the UK, Ireland and the USA. From foot-tapping jigs and reels to beautiful airs and laments.

Doors and Bar open at 7pm for 7.30pm start

Entry £8 per person, tickets available from:

Bob's Butcher, High Street, Harwell
Or Kath Luker on 01235 861057, kath.luker@tesco.net,
Kamarlu, Barrow Road, Harwell.

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Village History Exhibition

This will be held on 29th & 30th March in the Village Hall. It is the first venture of the Harwell History Group, building on the excellent work of those who organised the celebration of the village's millennium in 1985. Some lovely artefacts will be on show, including a cherry-picker's ladder and a family wedding dress of the 1820s, found to be older than hitherto thought. The subsequent history of George Morrell, the 1852 village arsonist, has been traced, including a copy of his death certificate from Bunbury, Western Australia.

Other displays cover such topics as costume, pub history, the surprisingly modern accounting methods of Rober Loder, family history, building history and more.



Orchard workers of the time of Robert Loder BUT portrayed in their very best clothes!

For those interested in pursuing their own family history, help will be on offer. If you do not know much about the village's history, please come – and if you are already well-informed about the history of the locality and/or your own family – as many Harwellians are – please come and share your expertise with the History Group. JMC

DIDCOT ARCHAEOLOGY CAMPAIGN

Didcot is calling for archaeological sites on Great Western Park to be turned into a 9000 Years of History Trail through the new estate. The dig has been described as one of the largest and most significant archaeological projects in Oxfordshire and the trail proposal has been formally supported by Didcot Town Council.

Visit www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/ddmile to sign the History Trail petition that is fast approaching 1000 names. There is more information about the spectacular archaeology at www.ddmile.org.uk



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Mystery of Didcot's Rich Roman

Archaeologists are attempting to unravel the mystery of a rare type of Roman cremation found at Didcot, with the possibility there could be a link to Roman treasure.

The cremation, found during the recent archaeology dig at Great Western Park (GWP), is called a bustum and was reserved for the wealthy. The body was cremated above a pit and the remains left in-situ, rather than the more common practice of burying them elsewhere. A few years before this discovery, there was another very close by – every metal detectorists dream treasure find of 126 gold coins.

The British Museum, which purchased the rare gold coin hoard, speculates that they were a gift to a senior Roman official from Emperor Marcus Aurelius. The coins owner probably buried them for safekeeping, but died before retrieving them. Which begs the question could the remains in the bustum be a descendent of, or even the unknown owner of, the gold hoard?

Analysis of the cremation could reveal its date, allowing a comparison with the AD160 date of the coins. Other curious aspects are that it's unusual to find these cremations away from Roman frontiers and towns, or close to buildings. This may prove significant as developers identified what they originally thought was a villa, with hypocaust heating, close to the cremation. Further excavation found it was an aisled building, two rooms wide and larger than originally thought, perhaps 26 metres across, with a part thatched, part tiled roof and painted wall plaster showing a degree of luxury.

Archaeologists at GWP, having produced an interim report, are set to spend the next year analysing the results 7000 years' worth of archaeology. Their final report will be sent to English Heritage who will make recommendations on how the sites should be scheduled.

Other finds include Mesolithic flints, a rare Neolithic bowl lain undisturbed for 6000 years, a Bronze Age pond barrow with six post structure, and a settlement and ring barrow. There are more than 50 Iron Age roundhouses, 900 storage pits, numerous burials, complete Iron Age pot and other pottery, as well as several Roman corn dryers, possibly for malting barley for beer, deep wells and a Roman market place where 200 coins were found.

The Didcot gold coin hoard can be seen at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

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Harwell & Hendred YFC News

Under current FA rules, youngsters do not start 11 a side football on full pitches over a full season until U13 age group (different to how many of you will remember youth football). Our U13 are currently 6th in a tough A League whilst our U14 are riding high top of their A League. The girls also play a full season as there are only enough teams to form one league. In their first season, our U12s are enjoying their football and are currently 7th in their League.

U8s play 5 aside on small pitches but are currently playing indoor Futsal (very popular in Brazil and Spain!). U9s play 7 a side and take part in Trophy competitions before and after Christmas. Our U9s had a great time and finished runners-up in the Winter C Trophy. Leagues and published results start at U10 (7 aside with 9 aside for U11 & U12) with Winter and Spring leagues rather than a full season. All 3 teams did fantastically well winning their respective Leagues. Here's a photo of the 3 teams and their Managers at the Presentation Evening at The Kassam Stadium. Magnificent achievement and all 3 have made a winning start to the Spring!



Boys and Girls can start with us from age 3 in a fun environment learning skills and improving confidence. Just bring your child along at 10.30 to our Saturday morning Soccer School at Mill Lane, East Hendred or call Richard Frost on 07882352214 for more details.

Solar Farm Exhibition

Those who missed the exhibition in the Village Hall recently may be interested in a second exhibition for the proposal. This will be held on the 17th February from 2 to 4pm and 5 to 7pm in All Saints Church, Chilton. There is no planning application yet, but this shows the extent of the proposal at the south of the Parish and in Chilton, the thick line shows the Parish boundary:



If your children prefer indoor activities, why not introduce them to Bridge - Sunday afternoon sessions are held at Roke and Berrick Salome Village Hall. Contact promotion @ oxfordshirebridge.co.uk



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BBOWT - Sutton Courtenay**Environmental Education Centre****Half-term activity - Beautiful Birds**

Tuesday to Thursday 18th – 20th February

10am - 4pm, activities take about 2 hours

no need to book, just drop in

Find out more about wildlife here at Sutton Courtenay as the season changes. Birds are preparing for spring; why not give them a helping hand?

Dress up warm as some activities are outside.

Suggested donation £3 per child. No dogs please

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

Contact: Ceri 01235 862024 sceec@bbowt.org.uk

Mr Handel's Water Music

Southern Sinfonia is pleased to announce an idyllic evening that promises to delight its audience. The programme, includes some of Handel's much loved music including a few of his most famous works, 'The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba', Oboe Concerto No 1 in B flat major, Concerto Grosso Op 6 no 12 in B minor and the beloved 'Water Music' Suite No 1 in F major. With the high standard of performance typical of our acclaimed professional orchestra: "I was ably supported by the excellent Newbury based professional orchestra, Southern Sinfonia" said Howard Goodall.

With internationally celebrated music director David Hill and led by the renowned Alexander Hohenenthal, this evening is definitely not one to be missed as spring approaches.

The concert takes place at St Lawrence's Church, Hungerford on 28 March at 7.30pm. The prices of the tickets bought in advance are £12, £10 for concessions, £5 for under 25s, on the door prices are £14, £12 for concessions and can be purchased on our website: store.southernsinfonia.co.uk or tel. 01635 580035.

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Ray Hinchliffe – Polkerris, High St. Harwell

Harwell Gardeners' Club

February 4th *Dig For Victory*, a talk by Russell Bowes.
Competition : Snowdrops

March 3rd *It's A Jungle Out There*, a talk by Chris Day.
Competition: A Succulent or Cacti.

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

Harwell Open Gardens, 2-5pm, Sunday 29 June

The Garden Club is arranging open gardens in June and is seeking volunteers to open their gardens. Proceeds will be shared between the garden club and the Village Hall Redevelopment Project.

If you are willing to show your garden please contact Dave Drummond on 01235 821615 or Dave.Drummond@hotmail.co.uk, preferably before the end of February.

Stamps & Aluminium Foil Collection

Villagers are reminded that used postage stamps, British or foreign, and aluminium foil can be sold to provide funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind and Cats Protection. Any donations of stamps or foil can be delivered to me at Thistledown House, 12 Kings Lane, Thank-you.

Mrs P. Wallace

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Ed Vaizey MP Parish News January 2014

Firstly, a very happy New Year to all readers: I hope it is not too late to say so by the time you see this.

Like many others, I am working on improving my fitness at the moment, so I was very pleased to learn that the Government is making changes to make life easier for our local sports clubs. The taxman had received lots of complaints that the rules for these clubs were unclear and caused confusion, so there will be a new set of simple rules. I very much hope that the changes - which include tax benefits and allowing clubs to generate more income - will make life easier for all our local sports clubs and so help them to encourage all of us not just to take sport up as a new year resolution, but to stick with it all year.

In between visits to the gym, my mailbag for the past month has included issues such as care in the NHS, the forthcoming Scottish independence referendum, and Save the Children's No Child Born to Die campaign, which focuses on reducing newborn mortalities in developing countries. As this shows, my Constituents continue to be concerned about a very wide range of issues, but the largest number of messages I've had by far has been about the planned electrification of the main railway line through the constituency. Although the idea of electrification has been welcomed, there are some very serious concerns about the consequences of doing the work which may occur, because it involves work to a lot of bridges, many of which date back to the time of Brunel. The biggest outcry came with the proposed closure of the A338 at Grove, as well as the continuing impact on the community around Fulscot Bridge. I'll continue to do all that I can to ensure that the needs of Constituents are protected as far as they possibly can be as this process goes on.

I also received a number of emails and letters from members of the farming community about the issue of changes to farm subsidies. Basically, it was about the balance between funding for measures that enhance the environment compared with those which directly support farming - some things do both of course. Having written to the Environment Secretary expressing my constituents' concerns, I was pleased that following an extensive consultation with farmers, environmental groups and others, Ministers listened to these concerns and decided on a less drastic change, with the intention of reviewing this in 2016. This will benefit farmers who take great care of our environment.

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



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Neighbourhood Policing News

During January PCSO Gary Kirby and PCSO Tim Deane have been continuing with *Here's a bright idea* crime prevention campaign, completing foot patrols in the hours of darkness in Harwell. Because of the extreme weather Tim & Gary have been busy with road closures due to flooding, assisting with fallen trees blocking roads and removing bins from the road.

We have also been carrying out reassurance patrols around North Drive Harwell due to an incident last December which you may have heard about on the news.

Gary has started to work with some of the businesses located in the more rural isolated areas offering crime prevention advice and will continue through February. We are hoping that in February we can get out and do some more speed checks on the A417 in Harwell.

The next **Have Your Say** meeting in Harwell is on Sunday 23rd February from 12noon until 1pm. If there is anything you wish to discuss with either Tim or Gary please do come along.

You can receive local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk. You can choose what you receive and how you would like to receive them. A new option includes receiving texts but more traditional landline and email are still available. You can also filter the updates you receive by specifying the priority level of what you receive.

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

WantageandGroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Please note this email address cannot be used to record crimes or for urgent matters. If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

To view information on your Neighbourhood team, visit the force website www.thamesvalley.police.uk

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Didcot & District University of the Third Age

The next meetings will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 18th February, topic being The Mary Rose with Colin Fox, and 2pm on Tuesday 18th March, the topic being Life in Prison with Keith Blois.

The meetings are held at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to a meeting as a taster before joining. Email: didcotdistrictu3a@virginmedia.com. Website: <http://u3asites.org.uk/didcot>

Christmas Photo Quiz

Several groups were seen doing it but only 2 sent in the results. One of the sites had been altered by removal of the yarn-bombing (knitting around a pole to you and me!) so there were only really 29 -

The Winners were : Richard, Helen & Carys Sharp of The Park with 28½ correct!

2nd place: Kate & Sara Lee of The Cleave with 28

Congratulations to them for their diligence. The quiz is still available on the Parish website, and the answers are there too; just don't try to find number 18, as it's changed.

Vale Community Grants

1 month to apply

The Capital Community Grant scheme is now open and organisations can request up to £5,000. All applications must be made by **28 February**. NB Only capital expenditure is being considered - See www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/grants



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Cornerstone Didcot Exhibitions

Janine Philips

To 16th February

Coasts and landscapes inspire this work that explores colour, texture, composition and the ephemeral qualities of light. The paintings have surfaces that differ in quality depending on whether they are viewed up close or from a distance and also change with the light within a given space.

OXFORD PRINT-MAKERS

20 February – 30 March

An exhibition of original prints which illustrates how varied and different printmaking can be. In their second show at Cornerstone, the east Oxford collective will present work demonstrating the variety of printmaking techniques including etching, screen print, linocut and woodcut.

All exhibitions are Free

The Window Wall is currently showing the talent of GCSE and A-Level art students from Wallingford School. The pieces explore the theme of 'paper, books, words' with ceramic work inspired by natural and architectural forms.



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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 is by Mrs Pat Staples, Talbot's Way, Grove Road. Advertising queries to the Clerk - see page 2 Martin Ricketts, editor

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