

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

Festive Friends!



We believe that no-one should feel forgotten this Christmas and so we have launched **Festive Friends**.

Between the **21st and 24th December**, we aim to hand deliver a **two-course roast dinner** and a **golden goody bag** filled with a cracker, homemade Christmas card and other bits and bobs, whilst taking the opportunity to wish someone a Happy Christmas and having time to have a chat on the doorstep too.

We would like to reach **1500** older people but we need **YOUR** help with:

- 🎄 **Raising money** so that we can offer this free of charge to those receiving it
- 🎄 Making **hand made Christmas cards** with a message to the person receiving it...could your child's school help?
- 🎄 **Your time** to join in the fun and help deliver these festive packages

If you can help make homemade **cards** please email kerrytuson@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk.

If you can donate some **time** to help us deliver or to add items in the goody bags, please email ruthswift@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk.

To **donate**, please visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/festivefriends or Text **FESTIVEFRIENDS** to **70085** to donate **£10** (Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS).

If you'd like to give £10 but **do not** wish to receive marketing communications, text **FESTIVEFRIENDSNOINFO** to **70085**.

Help us to make a difference this Christmas.

Age UK Oxfordshire is a local independent charity, working with and for all older people and their carers throughout the county. We are members of Age UK. Age UK Oxfordshire is a Limited Company Registered in England & Wales 4328143 Registered Charity Number 1091529. For more information about us visit our website www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire



Inside this issue

- Able Community Care 18
- Action for Carers 12
- Age UK 1, 15, 16, 19
- Artweeks 18
- Big Ginger Tom Music 8
- CAP 14
- Carolyn Tyrer 2
- County Councillor 2
- David Johnston, MP 3
- Didcot Phoenix Drama 9
- District Councillors 4-5, 11
- Don Hayter 7
- Footpaths 3
- Gardeners' Club 10
- Harwell /Chilton Churches 12
- Harwellian 8
- Harwell Primary School 12
- Harwell WI 10
- Healthwatch 15
- History Group 13
- Little Pippins 14
- Orchard Film Club 9
- OXPIP 20
- Parish Council 6, 7
- Ramblings 17
- Ridgeway Art Competition 18
- Village Hall 9



Local Artist brings Cornwall to Oxfordshire



Carolyn Tyrer is an artist, sailor and teacher and has lived in Harwell for 10 years. She paints in oils and **acrylics on canvas** and loves to capture the sheer beauty, power and mood of the sea around the world. The inspiration for her captivating paintings and drawings comes from a profound love of the countryside and seascapes of the British Isles and each represents a journey through our landscapes and buildings.

When the first UK Lockdown began, Carolyn began to look to social media for inspiration and she came across several groups extolling the beauty of the Devon and Cornish coast, reminiscing about **holidays past** and how much they missed these wild places and how they used to make them feel. She realised that if she could capture the majesty and wilderness of the sea and bring it into people's homes, she

could really lift their **mood** when they felt trapped or isolated, and give them hope that one day they would be able to visit these places again.

The feedback she has had for her work has been phenomenal and she has barely been able to match demand. "It's been **amazing**, I've had such wonderful comments from people saying my work has helped them get through this awful time. **Mental health** awareness is very close to my heart, and I am so pleased that my pictures are having such a **positive** effect on people's states of mind".

If you would like to see more of Carolyn's work, you can contact her on cjtyrer@googlemail.com for a private viewing at her studio in Harwell. She also has limited edition prints of her work for sale. Prices for prints start at £110 (A3) and £140 (A2) and originals start at around £750. You can also see what she's working on **right now** by visiting her [Facebook page](#) - she often posts her paintings at different stages of completion which is fascinating to see!



Carolyn studied art and painting at Great Yarmouth College of Art and Design, then Central St Martins, London (formerly London Central), Sir John Cass, London and the Suffolk College of Art and Design.

Christmas Tree Recycling Recreation Ground Car Park Westfield, Harwell

Return your old tree here by Monday 18 January 2021
(Trees left after this date will not be accepted)
Trees larger than 6 ft must be cut down in size



Working
together

The Flood is addressed!

Following discussion with the senior officer, the gully on **Didcot Road** between the Link road and UTC was opened on 17th November to (hopefully) stop the regular flood outside the 'County' builders yard. This has been a perennial problem whenever there is heavy rain, where the flood has blocked the pavement and forced pedestrians into the road. At my request, the gully has been visited several times over the past years, but the flood always returned.

Now the drain has been opened up properly and a complete investigation and clearance should (hopefully) keep our feet dry throughout the winter! The kerb and pavement was cleared on Thursday from the roundabout past the unblocked drain, in addition to clearance work already done by the parish council grounds staff.

Mike Fox-Davies, County Councillor



MP David Johnston's message for Harwell News

I was pleased to hold my first **adjournment debate**, where a backbench MP can raise any issue and require a minister to respond, in the House of Commons recently. My subject was **safety and littering** on the A420 and the A34 and I laid out in detail the safety problems we know exist on both roads. In the last 6 years there have been **1057 accidents on the** total stretch of the **A420** and **2593 on the A34**; these are just the ones that involved injury to people – it doesn't include the accidents involving vehicle damage alone. I also wanted to raise litter issues as I regularly receive complaints about that, too. I will now sit down with the relevant minister to discuss how to improve both matters on both roads.



I took the opportunity to get in yet another plug for my bid for **Grove Station**, which the ministers at the Department are very used to me raising! I was pleased to hear there should be a decision soon about whether we will get money to explore how it could reopen. You can watch the debate on [my Facebook page](#). In other transport news, the Government has just given the County another £3 million for cycle paths and footpaths.

Like I'm sure most of you, I did not want to be in another lockdown now. As some of you will know, the Oxfordshire Conservative MPs had not supported the request of Council Leaders for us to go into Tier 2 in October as we felt it was premature and would have a detrimental effect on **mental health**, other health conditions and on our local businesses. The cases in Oxfordshire remain much lower than in other parts of the country and I'm hoping this will be the final lockdown and we can re-emerge into Tier 1, rather than Tier 2, but as always it will be the analysis of the Chief Medical Officer and Joint Biosecurity Centre that is crucial here.

The thoughts of all of us are of course on whether we will get to see our families in the way we like to at **Christmas** - the [government rules](#) will allow some **limited and cautious** meeting of families, but we also ask people to make their own personal judgement, mindful of the **risks** to themselves and others, particularly those who are vulnerable. I think this may be my last message before it, so **Merry Christmas** when it arrives.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



Parish footpath walk - call to action!

As this hasn't been held as a group activity this year, it is now **up to you to get out there and walk** one, or more of course, over the holiday. The Parish Council's footpath map available [here](#) should have been updated to include the paths on the edge of GWP by the time you read this.

The link from GWP to Cow Lane has appeared on the County's [definitive map](#) in the last week, but the path is somewhat overgrown at the Cow Lane end. The County Council has said that it has scheduled the work to be done by the end of **March**. When this stretch is cleared, there will be a **circular walk** from the village or GWP taking in the path on the edge of GWP, the newly designated **footpath 243/25**, and Cow Lane.

On the other side of the village is the infamous **footpath 7**. It officially starts at the junction of Grove Road and Fidler's Orchard, but effectively begins at a **stile** at the edge of the houses in Boot Lane. From here the path crosses the field skirting the pond to a track going roughly north. However, the official route cannot be followed even to the track, due to a **spoil heap**, but it is worth a walk across the first field to get a new view of the village, and give the path a bit of use so it becomes visible on the ground.

Icknield Way to the west of the A4185 currently has a diversion because of decontamination work going on, but if you follow it, you will only need a little further diversion to see the interesting **sculpture** that was mentioned with a picture in the February Harwell News – it's marked on the PC's footpath map.

And if you come back by the **Holloway**, and walk the section to the Chilton Parish Boundary, you will see what is probably the only surviving Parish **boundary stone**, although not quite in its original place which was probably in the field to the west.

There may be other Parish paths where there are problems, so if you walk any and find there is a need for clearing or way-marking then please [email the Parish Clerk](#).

Martin Ricketts



23 20

PERSPEKT DESIGN

Architectural Design

Planning & Building Regulations drawings for new build and home extensions. Hard landscape design

peterdmartin.perspekt@gmail.com

07905 697279

www.perspekt.co.uk

REMLOC PLUMBING & HEATING

Trading Standards Approved
Gas Safe & CIPHE registered

- Boiler Servicing
- Central Heating Installations
- General Plumbing
- Free Estimates, No job too small
- Emergency call-outs

Contact: 01235 536345 / 07709 961 655
www.remlocplumbing.co.uk
email: info@remloc.co.uk

Hello from Hayleigh and Sarah - Update from your Local District Councillors, Monday 16th November 2020



Hello! We hope that you and your families are still staying safe and well, whilst staying home as much as possible during this second COVID-19 lockdown. For many reasons, this winter lockdown is extra tough on many residents and businesses, so we would like to remind everyone that the **council's support services are available** for anybody who needs help. More details are provided below, but the key message to anybody who is unsure if they need help, or if they're unsure if the councils can help, is **if in doubt, get in touch**.

Due to the pandemic, **Remembrance Sunday** in Harwell was very different this year. Well done to all involved in ensuring that Harwell parish could still commemorate the day appropriately in these circumstances, with a small socially-distanced service that was

[live-streamed online](#). We visited the War Graves later in the day to lay our wreath on behalf of the district council.

Back in October, before lockdown, we were pleased to be able to get out and about in Harwell. Sarah met with Debbie Greenfield, committee Vice-chair of **The Harwellian** social club, to hear all about their exciting plans to transform this community asset into a welcoming venue for everyone to enjoy. Well done to the committee for all the hard work they have put in this year to plan the development of the Harwellian. A week later, we were back on **the Rec** for our pop-up councillor surgery at the **Hive Market**. Thank you so much to all the residents who came to say hello and discuss your issues with us, it was lovely to chat to you face-to-face (from a safe distance!) for the first time in months! This was a great event supporting small local independent businesses, and there was a wonderful positive community atmosphere throughout the day. Thank you to Sustainable Harwell and Sally from The Hive for organising such a fantastic covid-safe event.

It's great to see that this and other local **Christmas markets** have set up online via Facebook and Zoom, allowing us to continue to shop locally and sustainably for Christmas gifts. At the time of writing, it isn't yet clear what the rules around gathering over Christmas will be. However, as this is the last edition of the Harwell News for 2020, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Harwell Parish a very **happy Christmas**. We sincerely hope that you and your families are able to enjoy the festive season and get some much needed rest and relaxation at the end of a very challenging year.

As we approach a new year, we will continue to keep you updated on council matters and the council's response to COVID-19 through these newsletter articles, as well as on our dedicated councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh Gascoigne & Sarah Medley](#). Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns - our email addresses are hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

COVID-19 Community Support Hub - The councils' Community Hub, which has been up and running since the first lockdown in March, is **on hand to answer calls and emails** from people struggling to access support and essentials during the lockdown and have nobody else to turn to. The Community Hub can put people who need help getting essentials in contact with community groups and volunteers providing doorstep support in their neighbourhoods (such as [Harwell Helpers](#) and the [Great Western Park COVID-19 Community Support Group](#)). The councils also have some practical support available for eligible people facing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic. This helps provide a **vital lifeline** to a way to access basics like food and prescriptions for those who are vulnerable or isolated, as well as a friendly voice at the end of the phone for those who need it. There is lots of other help for anyone struggling as a result of COVID-19 and the Community Hub can also signpost people to a variety of organisations that can help with any ongoing support that might be needed. It can sometimes take a day or two for support to reach people, so anybody who thinks they'll be in need is advised that they should **not wait** until they've run out of supplies before getting in touch.

To contact the Community Support Team: call: **01235 422 600 Monday to Thursday 8.30-5pm and Fridays 8.30-4.30pm**
email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk ; fill in an online form at: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/communityhub

Remember, for the most up-to-date coronavirus information relating to district council support and any changes to services, please take a look at the dedicated Vale webpage for updates: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/covid19

Supermarket vouchers for individuals and families - If you come across someone or a family struggling to afford food or other essential supplies, please put them in touch with **Citizens Advice** or **Wantage Independent Advice Centre**. They will look to provide them with a package of advice and support to help them in the longer term, and for those who meet the eligibility criteria in urgent need, they may be able to provide a supermarket voucher to help in the immediate short term.

Citizens Advice – 0300 3309042 (South and Vale) Wantage Independent Advice Centre – 01235 765348 (Vale)

There's also the [Oxfordshire All In](#) website which has a great interactive map of the food larders & food banks available in the area.

Self-isolation grants available for those who can't work - Support grants of **£500** are available for people on lower incomes who have been told to self-isolate by NHS Track and Trace, and as a result can't work and have lost income. We are managing the application process for the grants. Further information about it is on our website [here](#).

Business Support - the councils also provide a local support service for businesses in the districts worried about the impact the lockdown will have on their operations, providing helpful guidance and pointing them in the direction of the support that is available – see svbs.co.uk.

NHS Test and Trace App - Protect your loved ones with the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app for England and Wales. It's the fastest way of knowing when you're at risk from coronavirus (COVID-19). The quicker you know, the quicker you can alert your loved ones, and your community. The more of us that use it, the better we can control the virus. It has a **venue 'check-in'** feature – where you scan a QR code on display at any places you visit like pubs and restaurants. This provides you with a digital diary and can send you alerts if you have visited a venue where you may have come into contact with coronavirus. Users must be **over 16** to have the app and own a smartphone that has Bluetooth. The app will be used alongside traditional contact tracing, in case your phone is not compatible. Here's a [video explaining more](#) – you can also head over to the [NHS website](#) for more info.

Planners' Fast Tracking of UK's Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre Supercharges Delivery

The Vale of White Horse District Council has granted planning permission for the highly specialist facility that will house the UK's Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC). VMIC, a not for profit organisation based at **Harwell Campus**, will provide the country's first **bespoke** strategic vaccine development and manufacturing capability. In an unusual move, the district council allowed construction of the facility to begin whilst **simultaneously** processing the planning application

because of the critical nature of the facility and the role it will play in manufacturing vaccines for COVID-19 and beyond. For the **full press release** about how this was achieved, follow the link [here to the Vale website](#).

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee met on 7th September and discussed the opportunity to enter into negotiations with the **Low Carbon Hub** and other Oxfordshire Councils, on a potential Power Purchase Agreement, in order to make recommendations to Cabinet. A Power Purchase Agreement, or PPA, could be an element, along with a broad portfolio of projects, to help achieve the council's carbon neutral target. The first priority, from our climate emergency one-year work programme, is that we will **aim to reduce energy use** from our operations, and to **install renewable technologies** on site. These actions alone are unlikely to bring our carbon emissions to zero, so further options need to be considered. The committee agreed with the recommendation that PPA should be explored, with added wording to include parish councils and town councils. [Read the full minutes of the CEAC here](#).

Air Quality Campaign

To mark Clean Air Day (Thursday 8 October), South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have launched a new campaign to encourage people to use less polluting means of transport, such as **walking and cycling**, for local journeys. Since March many of us have changed where we work and how far we travel. This has resulted in fewer miles driven, especially at peak times. With less congestion at peak times there has been **considerably less air pollution** according to the analysis carried out by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' Air Quality team.

The government's requests for people to help control the pandemic by working at home if possible, has reduced numbers of commuters to offices across our districts. According to a recent survey of the councils' staff, respondents saved an average of 110 miles per person per week by no longer commuting. The councils' Air Quality team hope that this change in habit might translate into people looking at alternative, pollution free travel methods (i.e. walking or cycling) for local journeys.

Tree Planting Guide introduced by Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

As suggested by the Vale's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee, the council's Specialist Planning team have created a handy [Tree Planting Guide for Community Groups](#). There is also useful advice on [Tree Protection Orders](#).

Projects moving forward for Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board

Members of the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board met last week to hear about the latest developments for **Didcot Gateway** and other key initiatives around the town. You can watch the meeting in full via [here](#). The board were updated on the district councils' plan to build their new offices at Didcot Gateway, which will be located opposite the railway station. Homes England's proposal and the online community engagement to redevelop the Gateway area, which took place this summer, was discussed. The district councils are pleased to be working with Homes England to ensure the new councils' offices provide an important part of the overall sustainable redevelopment of the site.

Continued on page 11



*For the garden of your dreams -
consulta a professional*

**MARY ANN LE MAY
GARDEN DESIGNS**

Blissets, West Hagbourne, Oxfordshire OX11 0ND
Tel: 01235 850523 Fax: 01235 851153



Harwell Parish Council



The online meeting on 13 October began with the Open Forum where our County Councillor, Mr Mike Fox-Davies, added to his written report by saying he had continued to make the Highways department aware of the **Didcot Road footpath flooding**; and regarding traffic on the A417, he was looking into the possibility of starting a new traffic advisory group so that all parishes can comment.

District Councillor Sarah Medley had also provided a written report; she highlighted that the District Councils currently situated in Milton Park following the Crowmarsh fire, were now considering **moving to new premises** in Didcot, near the station, having reassessed their requirements in the light of Covid-19.

Following the resolution at the Annual Parish Meeting proposed by *Sustainable Harwell* and reported in the last *Harwell News*, Councillors agreed to declare a **climate emergency** as requested and to include this resolution in the Council's Sustainability Policy. The policy will be reviewed in the light of this; you can find it, along with the Parish Council's other policies [here](#).

It was reported that several Councillors had met the chosen contractor for the Council's **new staff building**, on which work is due to start by early January. An area of the car park near the pavilion will be fenced off for their use. It was agreed to set up a committee to deal with day-to-day matters on the project.

On financial matters, it was agreed that the £1875 received from the **OCC Priority Fund** should be split between Harwell Helpers and the GWP Residents Association. It was also agreed to spend up to £1600 from the **CIL Fund** – Community Infrastructure Levy – to purchase equipment for a Community Speedwatch scheme, to be run by residents with the backing of the Council.

On **Lands matters**, the Council agreed to support the request from Sustainable Harwell to hold a monthly **Sustainable market** at the rec, subject to observation of Covid-secure measures. There have been ongoing discussions with The Harwellian over amending the area leased by them, and it was agreed at the meeting that legal costs incurred to amend the lease be split 50/50.

Philippa Spits Counselling

Do you need someone to talk to?

Are you feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed? Or perhaps struggling with grief, or trauma? I offer a warm, friendly, safe and compassionate space to explore the difficulties you may be experiencing at the moment.

Please contact me on 07899 858763

philippa@counsellor.com

www.philippaspitscounselling.com

I work locally in Wantage and Oxford.

There was discussion of OCC's proposed **traffic-calming** within the village; the Council has been asked by OCC about some draft proposals; Councillors' comments will be conveyed to OCC by the Clerk. There will be a public consultation in due course.

At the November meeting, there were just five Councillors present, although three had sent apologies. In the Open Forum, Ms North from the charity **Be Free** was invited to speak and said that the Government lockdown has worsened the situations of many local young carers; Be Free is currently assisting 12 young people in the Parish. There was an item on the agenda to agree a **donation** to Be Free of £100 and this was later approved.

District Councillor Ms Medley summarised her written report, on which there was a brief discussion. County Councillor Mr Mike Fox-Davies did likewise, and there was discussion of Rowstock traffic and possible further **road improvements** in the area. Mr Fearon asked about the **flooding and poor pavement surface** near the UTC – Mr Fox-Davies explained as on previous occasions that he regularly raises the issue with OCC officers who know that drainage work is required. It was stated that the footway urgently needed clearing, and that Parish Council responsibilities delegated by OCC, and for which OCC pays a certain amount, included clearing footpaths.



ARBOCARE LTD.
TREE AND GARDEN SPECIALISTS



NATIONAL TRUST APPROVED ARBORIST

- Established 20 years
- Tree surgery & landscaping
- Tree survey / reports
- Grass & hedge cutting
- Fencing

Cert Arb RFS (Distinction)
Freephone 0808 155 5815
Mobile 07778 811 136
www.arbocare.co.uk

24 HOUR CALL OUT

Shaun Guard
TV & WIFI SERVICES



- Aerials - supplied, repaired and poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installations
- Internet - blackspots cured, data cables to your TVs
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up & tuned
- CCTV & Door Entry - domestic installations

OXFORD AERIALS

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk
Call Didcot 01235 239622

Please get in touch if you want to learn more:
jessicabarr
attip@gmail.com

Or find my group and see more results on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/571966439911068/?ref=share>

BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF YOU.
WITH ALL NATURAL INGREDIENTS,
IT WORKS WITH YOUR BODY TO SHED THOSE UNWANTED LBS,
IN A MATTER OF WEEKS WITHOUT HAVING TO FOLLOW A STRICT DIET, CALORIE COUNT OR EXERCISE EXCESSIVELY.
IF YOUR LOOKING TO BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM, TONE UP, LOOSE WEIGHT,
REDUCE BLOATING, GAIN MORE ENERGY AND IMPROVE YOUR SKIN.
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

dear self:
when you start taking care of yourself,
you start feeling better.
you start looking better.
you start to attract better.
it all starts within you.

Your Ultimate You



4 weeks PP 24 weeks PP

Mr Hunt, a resident of Rowstock, then had some queries about **traffic through Rowstock**. Mr Fox-Davies rued the fact that changes take time but assured Mr Hunt that he and the Parish Council are constantly working towards obtaining improvements for residents.

Under Councillors' external meetings, Mrs Turner & Mr Paterson reported they had attended a meeting with Mr Fox-Davies and OCC traffic officers, and among the items discussed was the **Grove Road**; the works there have not yet been signed off and await a further period of speed checks to see if the required speed reduction has been achieved.

The Council approved the setting up of a Committee to oversee the **Staff Building project**, with some limited spending power. The Council had been advised to base its Standing Orders on the 2018 model for local councils; Mr Ricketts had edited these to include the Council's previous changes from an earlier template and, with the inclusion of the new committee and some other small changes, the new document was approved.

As well as donations of £100 to Be Free and Sustainable Harwell, the Council approved setting aside funds for Parish community organisations from the Harwell News expenditure budget.

On Lands matters, the Council approved a letter of support for the Scout's application to the Vale WHDC for S106 money from local developments towards the **pavilion refurbishment**. The Council also agreed to support the Village Hall Trustees' application for S106 **'work of art'** funding to be put towards new Hall signs on High Street and Westfield.

The Council recorded with regret the resignation of Councillor **Wah Cheng Lee**, who was co-opted in 2019. Wah Cheng did significant work in examining the PC's web pages, updating them and checking their compliance with the new accessibility legislation.

Normally in December Councillors meet as the Finance Committee to consider the budget for the next financial year. There may be a need for a full meeting; otherwise **the next PC meeting will be on 12th January**. If you have an item for the agenda then contact the Clerk **by 5th January**.

Edited by M Ricketts, approved by HPC.



Don Hayter 1926-2020

Not many Councillors have joined **Harwell Parish Council** when in their 70s, but Don's obituaries in [several publications](#) in October showed that before he joined the Parish Council, he had enjoyed a long career in the motor industry. He worked on the design of the MGA and MGB before becoming Chief Engineer at MG Cars from 1973 until his retirement in 1980. You just have to search for his name to see how widely he was regarded.

Don was co-opted onto the Council in September 1997 as one of two applicants for a vacancy that had occurred, and stayed a member until 2011.

Casual Vacancy - Harwell Parish Council

Due to resignation of a councillor, there is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a councillor or learning more about the role, please [contact the clerk](#). The vacancy may be filled by co-option if no election is requested.

Qualifications to be a Councillor:

A person is qualified to be a councillor if they are a British, Commonwealth, Irish or European Union citizen and they are 18 or over. In addition, the person must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) They are on the **electoral register** for the parish, or
- (2) During the whole of the twelve months before the day of an election or co-option they have **owned or tenanted** land or premises in the parish, or
- (3) During the whole of the twelve months before that day their principal or **only place of work** has been in the parish, or
- (4) During the whole of the twelve months before that day they have **resided** in the parish or within three miles of it.

Except for qualification (1), these qualifications then continue for the **full term** of office, until the next ordinary elections. Certain people are disqualified from standing, and these include paid officers (including the clerks) of the council, bankrupts and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment.



Big Ginger Tom Music - Live Music back in Harwell!



On Friday 23rd October we had our second **sell-out** socially distanced show with 40 people in attendance and they were treated to some great music from **Kitty Macfarlane** and **Craig Joiner**.

Here is what one of the audience thought of the show - **Tony Birch** is a familiar face on the Folk scene and can be seen at many events acting as an official photographer. He also writes for FATEA Magazine, so here is his take on how the evening went: *"Live music continues on as best it can, and I certainly saw the best last night thanks to Big Ginger Tom Music who gave a wonderful bill of Kitty Macfarlane more than ably supported by Craig Joiner."*

Harwell Village Hall was very well laid out for the event with plenty of spacing, a one-way system and seat service for drinks. **Kitty** is a highly regarded, award winning, singer songwriter and she brings her love of the outdoors, particularly her native Somerset, to her music in a way that captures the spirit of the landscape. Not many people find salt marshes attractive but Kitty does, and so do I. They have a stark beauty all their own. Not many people write songs about eels either, but Kitty compares their journey across the Atlantic as elvers with our own journey through space and time. This song may also be unique in mentioning Pangea! It was a beautiful performance and the new album **"Namer of Clouds"** was on loop on the way home and will get a lot more plays.



Craig Joiner has had a long career as a songwriter for both other people and films, but his own songs also resonate with an audience being set around home and family. His precise playing style and good voice made for a very good opening set.

Huge thanks to Duncan and Vanessa, along with their team, for continuing to put on live music which is proving very popular with all events selling out. It must be even harder work than usual; as Duncan said he's now got a week of hoping nobody phones in sick, but it's very appreciated.

Do keep an eye on Big Ginger Tom Music's page as they have some great music coming up."



After a month of uncertainty, we have just heard that when National Lockdown 2.0 ends on 2nd December, Oxfordshire will be reopening into the new Tier 2: High Alert status, which means that our much anticipated, sold out show featuring **Katherine Priddy** with support from **The People Versus** WILL be going ahead on Friday 4th December! We'll let you know how it went in the next issue of Harwell News. Here are some more dates with details of how to get tickets. Find out more on our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) where you can also sign up for our newsletter.

Milton Garden Machinery Ltd

Winter servicing collection and delivery service
Please call or email for a quotation

We repair all types of petrol driven machinery

Main dealers for: Alko, Atco, Briggs Stratton, Countax, Cub Cadet, Echo Efc, Hayter, Lawnflite, Mitox, MTD, Murray, Simplicity, Snapper, Toro, Westwood, Wheelhorse.

We repair Stihl and Honda machines too.

Windyridge Farm, Milton Road, Abingdon OX14 4EZ

Tel: 01235 555115

Email: paul@miltongardenmachinery.co.uk

Established for over 30 years

Big Ginger Tom Music

Presenting evenings of Folk, Americana, Roots and Country at The Orchard Hall, Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell, Oxon, OX11 0EX

Friday 4th December 2020

Katherine Priddy

support - The People Versus

Friday 15th January 2021

Double Header with

Roswell and Anna Renae

Sunday 7th February 2021

Jacob & Drinkwater

support - Lizzy Hardingham

Friday 26th March 2021

The Askew Sisters

support - Dom Prag

Friday 16th April 2021

Sam Carter

support - TBC

Friday 25th June 2021

Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage

support - Thom Ashworth

Tickets are limited to 40 for each event until Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. Tickets from Duncan at biggingertommusic@gmail.com or online at www.WeGotTickets.com

biggingertommusic@gmail.com

07999 052720

www.biggingertommusic.co.uk

The Harwellian - Support our new Café



On the **4th December**, the Harwellian started a new venture when it opened its doors as a café. We are open **10am - 12 noon each Friday, Saturday and Sunday** serving fresh coffee, hot chocolate, tea, cakes and snacks to eat-in or takeaway. **Everyone is welcome**, including dogs on leads. The cakes are pre-packed at the moment, not homemade, due to operational reasons, but are very nice and a good selection including **gluten-free**.

The Club is fully **Covid-compliant**, with tables spaced well part. Please

wear a face-covering to enter the building and only **one household per table** while we remain in Tier 2.

We are just at the start of our big **renovation project** so don't expect visible changes just yet - the new windows are a few months away I'm afraid. Please **support us** as we try to survive being temporarily closed as a 'wet pub' and move towards being a valuable village asset serving a wide community.

Debbie Greenfield



HARWELL VILLAGE HALL



CHARITY NUMBER 1157858

Village Hall reopened on 2nd December

With the expected transition from the second Lockdown to the revised Tier system, the halls re-opened on Wednesday 2nd December. Oxfordshire is in Tier 2: High Alert, so we are asking all hirers to re-visit their Risk Assessments to ensure they are able to comply with the new rules, in particular that, for adults, there must be no mixing of households/bubbles indoors.

At the time of writing, we believe all current bookings from 2nd December can remain in place, dependant on the hirer being able to confirm that they are able to operate within the new guidelines and legislation. Regular users are expected to adhere to our [Covid-secure Terms and Conditions](#) which have been updated in light of the new restrictions.

Committee Room Hire

Working from home but need to get some peace and quiet? Consider hiring our Committee Room for the day. From £5.20 per hour or £25 for the day, you can have a bright, light room with table and chairs, WiFi and a hi-definition projector and screen.

To book, please click [here](#) or contact Amy Scott on bookings@harwellvillagehall.co.uk and get ahead with that work assignment now!

Trustee Vacancy

The trustees regret to announce that Wah Cheng Lee decided to step down as a trustee in October. We wish to thank him for all his hard work and commitment, especially during the first lockdown. His contribution was invaluable.

As a result, we are now looking for **energetic volunteers** with a few hours to spare each month who would like to get involved with running the village hall and who might consider becoming a trustee. We are a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) so being a trustee does **not** attract any financial liability. Please contact us at chair@villagehall.co.uk and let us know what you have to offer!



Welcome back to Harwell Village Hall, we hope to see you soon.

The Trustees, December 2020.



The Orchard Film Club - December Update

Many thanks to those who responded to my **online survey**, sent out in our email newsletter and asking if you are ready to come back to film club yet. Based on your response we have decided **not to go ahead** with our planned show in January but to wait until our audience feels more confident of coming back to see us in the Village Hall. We did get some great feedback on the films you would like to see, and I will be sending another newsletter **this month** so if there are more film lovers out there who would like to sign up to receive that, you can do so by visiting our page on the [Harwell Village Hall website](#) or emailing me [here](#).

Have a very Merry Christmas and we'll see you in 2021! With best wishes from Alison, Martin and Janice.

Didcot Phoenix Drama Group Pantomime - Going Online!



Didcot Phoenix Drama Group have been putting on a pantomime for the last **37 years**, and this year will be no exception. The production (expected to be in **early January**) will, however by different this year. Covid has forced the Group off the stage and into cyberspace. This year's production will be online, via **YouTube** and **Facebook**. As usual, there will be plenty of silly costumes, dreadful jokes, and custard pies. The panto will be **Dick Whittington of Didcot** - the traditional Dick Whittington story but starting and ending in Didcot - specially written by group-member and Harwell resident, **Malcolm Thick**. The cast are learning to act in their new environment and will all be 'socially distanced'. As

technical director Karen Cary points out, however, there will be great opportunities to employ special effects in an virtual production, so expect flying fairies, characters appearing and disappearing in puffs of smoke or showers of stars. **Fun for all the family!** The pantomime will be available to watch **free of charge**, but any **donations to the Didcot Foodbank** would be gratefully received. The release date will be announced on social media, including the [Harwell Village Community Facebook page](#), and our website (www.didcotphoenixdrama.co.uk)



Recording is underway for Didcot Phoenix's first virtual pantomime !

Harwell WI

In the run up to Christmas, when better than to hear, at our November Zoom meeting, our two guest speakers from the **NASIO Trust**, based in Abingdon? The Trust began in Western Kenya, when a local woman (Irene) found an abandoned baby and took him in. Her work evolved into a day care centre and has expanded over the years to provide schooling, medical aid and food to children and their families.

The **Abingdon connection** is Irene's daughter who lives in the UK and decided to fundraise here. The relevance to Christmas is that **you can donate £25** to the Trust to provide a Christmas Gift Box for a family in Kenya. There are other gift options, too: and you can sponsor a child (see thenasiotrust.org for more information).

Our October meeting was just as enlightening. Jane Card spoke about the idealised depiction of **women in Victorian art**. By deconstructing paintings and photographs of the time, she contrasted the ideal with the reality. We agreed that we'd rather live in our times than theirs!

Our Programme Committee has put together an equally fascinating and varied series of talks for our **future meetings** – from lives in India to gut health! We are unlikely to be back in the Village Hall before March 2021, so these will be delivered through Zoom.

We mentioned in a previous News that we had planted **Nerine bulbs** at the front and back of the Village Hall, to bloom in 2021, the Centenary year of Harwell WI. Well, some of them have anticipated the celebrations, and have flowered early. You may have noticed them when passing the Hall. We also planted **100 Fritillary bulbs** in the Rec., just inside the fence, along the Wantage Road. The Committee is planning other ways of celebrating next year.

Our November **Walk and Talk** had to be cancelled, but the next one is planned for **11 December**.

Meanwhile, to cheer up our membership, we will be holding a **virtual afternoon tea at 4 p.m. on 9 December**. Plus, in the **same evening**, we will be enjoying a **Zoom Trivial Pursuit Quiz** instead of our usual Christmas get-together.

Visitors have always been welcome at our meetings so, if any women would like to join us by Zoom for one of our meetings, please contact our Secretary, Penny Marsh, on **01235 835430**, or email: harwellwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.

To find out more about us please also look at our website – harwellwi.org



Harwell Gardeners' Club



'Peace'

Harwell Gardeners' Club remains closed due to Covid 19. We keep in touch via a **newsletter** with gardening tips, quizzes and member news and photographs. If you would like a copy of our newsletter please contact Janice Markey on jvmarkey@googlemail.com

In January we shall be having a Zoom lecture from Timothy Walker on the subject of **'My Life In Plants'**.

Luckily we have had our hobby to keep us going during

periods of lockdown and self isolation. What comfort there is to be found from 'pottering in the garden' at any time of the year.

Here is a photo from the garden of Jane Card and Malcolm Thick. The last rose of summer - 'Peace' taken on Nov 13th 2020.

What more could we ask for than peace in these unprecedented and worrying times

Janice Markey, Chairman, Harwell Gardeners' Club jvmarkey@googlemail.com





Fingers & Forks

Catering | Events

Weddings
Canape receptions
Event catering
Special occasions
Christenings

Tel: 07748 987355
Email: info@fingersandforks.co.uk
www.fingersandforks.co.uk

**The Cherborne Gallery
& Pictures Framing Service**

www.thecherbornegallery.co.uk

Artist and Framer with 25 years' experience offers a visiting service in your home.

Approx 10 mile radius of Harwell.

Services include Tapestry Stretching,
Old Canvas Stretching,
Picture Cleaning
And Renovation,
Football Shirts & Memorabilia,
Coins & Trophies

No order paid for unless entirely satisfied

Call CHERRY on 07765 345 992



ULTRA CARPET & UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING



Domestic and Commercial Professional
Carpet Cleaning, Rug Cleaning, Curtain
Cleaning, Upholstery, Mattress and Leather
Cleaning Services throughout Oxfordshire,
Newbury and the surrounding areas.

**Contact us today for a FREE no
obligation quote!**

Wantage 01235 427266
Oxford 01865 951856
Newbury 01635 886278
e: contact@ultracarpetcleaning.co.uk

Hayleigh and Sarah - Local District Councillors *(continued from page 5)*

Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board (contd.)

Members were updated on a range of initiatives, including plans for a new **health centre** in Didcot (on Great Western Park) and a County Council-led project to improve roads and cycle paths for the wider garden town area. The board obtained feedback from councillors who had attended the first meeting of the Parish Council Sounding Board. The virtual session was chaired by Cllr Ian Hudspeth and was attended by 8 parish councillors from the garden town's surrounding villages. Their views on housing quality, maintaining green buffers between town and villages, transport links and infrastructure plans for residents living in more rural areas will be used to inform projects which will benefit the area.

The Didcot Garden Town team will be engaging with local residents and businesses, through resident and business led **Sounding Boards**, which will provide further information on the projects with the opportunity to feedback on the new proposals. If you'd like to hear more about the latest developments in Didcot Garden Town or are interested in joining one of the resident or business sounding boards, you can sign up to [the latest newsletter here](#).

Didcot Gateway – the home of the new South and Vale district council offices

As mentioned, Didcot will be the home of the new offices for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils in a move that will help to secure a more sustainable future for the councils, both economically and environmentally. The councils needed new offices following an arson attack in January 2015 which destroyed their shared headquarters in Crowmarsh Gifford. After a few years in temporary offices at Milton Park, SODC revealed early designs for the new headquarters at Crowmarsh in February this year, shortly before the country went into lockdown. Like many organisations around the world, the lockdown demonstrated to the councils that they could operate successfully with most of their staff working in a more flexible and remote manner. However, the councils have learned over the past six months that there is still a need to have some office space for certain activities and for staff who are unable to work from home for practical, personal or well-being reasons. The councils have therefore reviewed their office requirements and concluded they need smaller offices than previously planned for.

As the plans are very much in the initial stages of development, it's too early to give a firm date for the move to the new offices in Didcot Gateway, but the councils are working towards a date in Spring 2023. Determining the future of the Crowmarsh Gifford site together with the local community remains a priority. For the full press release see the Vale website.

Virtual Full Council Meeting - The full agenda from 7th October can be seen [here](#).

One of the main topics for discussion were the Council's **finances and the interim budget**, due to the situation with COVID, which has placed a lot of pressure on the Local Authority. A motion about the publication by Government of the White Paper, '**Planning for the Future**', was debated and discussed, and the council resolved to:

- Take part in the consultation in the planning proposals, and to make representations against the proposals in the areas outlined in this motion.
- Write to both of its Members of Parliament explaining the position of Council on these proposals, urging them to support the intentions of this motion by objecting, where necessary to those proposals, and for any reply from them to be placed on the council's website.
- Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public and local residents.

Councils raise objections to Government's proposed reforms to the planning system

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have written separate letters to Robert Jenrick objecting to many of the Government's proposed reforms to the current planning system. The Government's proposed changes were outlined in the [Planning for the Future white paper](#).

You can read our full response here: [Vale letter](#)

Council adopts Vale's new Corporate Plan

At a Special Meeting of Council on 22nd October, the Vale's new Corporate Plan was considered and formally adopted. The Corporate Plan sets out the strategy and overarching projects for the Council, so councillors welcomed the incorporation of targets to address the climate emergency and to build healthy communities. The minutes of the meeting, including reports on the Corporate Plan, can be found [here](#).

~ ~ ~



BUILDING & JOINERY

HARWELL

• Extensions •

• Conversions & Renovations •

• Windows & Doors •

Tel: 07980 400163

Web: www.fox-wood.co.uk

Email: info@fox-wood.co.uk



**THOMAS
MERRIFIELD**

SALES LETTINGS

at home in Oxfordshire

For a **FREE** valuation please
call Nick Wilder or James Merrifield.

T (01235) 813777 E didcot@thomasmerfield.co.uk

Harwell Primary School



The school community of children, staff and parents have shown their **resilience and resourcefulness** in coping with the Covid restrictions since our return in September. We are fortunate to have such wonderful facilities that the children still have space to **play outside** at break and lunch times. We were able to reopen our swimming pool so that many of our children were able to have weekly **swimming lessons** in the September to October half term.

We were delighted to hear earlier this year that we were a beneficiary of a grant from the **Magnox Socio Economic Fund**

which went towards the installation of a new **climbing traverse wall**. The children who have had access to this area of the school site have been able to challenge themselves on this.

Although we were unable to welcome prospective new parents to our traditional **Open Morning** and **Open Evening**, we enjoyed meeting many of them at a **virtual** meeting and tour of the school. Our admissions are controlled by Oxfordshire County Council. The application window is now open and closes on the **15th January**.

We are carrying on with as many of our traditions as we can in a Covid-safe way. The children raised **£341** for the **Royal British Legion** by buying poppies and related items as well as all classes observing the traditional silence at 11 am on the 11th November.

Classrooms will be decorated, the Foundation Class are busy practising '**Ralph the Reindeer**', Year 1 '**Christmas with the Aliens**' and Year 2 '**The Midwife Crisis**' - performances will be recorded and shared with parents.

Without our traditional Christmas Fair, Harwell School Association have been creative in their **fundraising efforts** - a virtual raffle, personalised water bottles & hand sanitisers, sponsored events and we hope that many of you will join in 'Hide and Seek with Santa'.

We hope that the wider school community stays safe and well.

With warm regards,

Bryn Gibson, Headteacher, Harwell Primary School



St Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton are busily planning both online and in person (socially distanced) events for Advent and Christmas

To keep up to date with plans, please see our website HCChurches.org, our Facebook page facebook.com/HCChurches, and posters on the main village noticeboards



Support for Unpaid Carers

If you are looking after a loved one or friend who **could not cope without your help** the team at Action for Carers Oxfordshire are here to support you. We have a dedicated team based all around Oxfordshire who are working hard to ensure family carers receive **long term specialised support** and **practical advice** and we are making sure that we stay in contact for a regular chat to reassure carers they are not alone.

And if someone you have been caring for has moved or is moving into **residential care** our team is here to help support you through the challenging and emotional times.

If you would like more information call our **Carersline** on **01235 424715** or email carersreferrals@carersoxfordshire.org.uk.

Sue's Furry Companions



* Dog walking
* Pet boarding
* Day care

* Pet sitting in your home
* Daily comfort visit
* All pets considered



Sue Gaskell

Pet Care / Dog Walking
Mob: 07931 257438
Home: 01235 861686
Email: sue.gaskell@hotmail.com
Harwell, Oxfordshire.



Harwell Osteopathy

www.harwellosteopathy.co.uk

Patricia Sadler

GOsC Registered Osteopath

Qualified sports/remedial massage therapist

For back pain, neck pain, other joint pains and injuries, headaches, muscle pain, sports injuries, arthritic pain, neuralgia, sciatica and more

Tel: 07990 591 973 - info@harwellosteopathy.co.uk

Harwell Parish History Group

The HPHG has given talks to local groups via Zoom and some exciting research is in progress. But our contribution this month in this frightening year looks specifically to **Decembers past**.

Thomas Tusser's Elizabethan Christmas : "Christmas comes but once a year"

We thought spirits might be a little lifted by reading about the man who penned, "Christmas comes but once a year", often continued (inaccurately but in the right spirit) "And when it comes it brings good cheer." His name was Thomas Tusser.

He wrote, originally in 1557 but expanded in 1573, a much-reprinted book called **Five hundred points of good husbandry**. It goes through the farming year month by month, detailing necessary monthly tasks both outdoors and in the household. And it is **entirely** in **doggerel verse**. There are frequent digressions on matters Tusser thought important - one of which was Christmas.

Christmas had a very strong religious significance indeed for Tusser and was also a time for celebration. He disliked the way Puritans tried to ignore or suppress Christmas - he dismissed those who put on grave faces at Christmas and fasted rather than feasting, singing carols, and, most importantly, giving to the poor. He insisted that farmers should be hospitable over Christmas, writing that whatever wealth was got by hard work was merely lent to us by God. He very keenly encouraged help for the poor "oppressed with hunger and cold" at Christmastime:

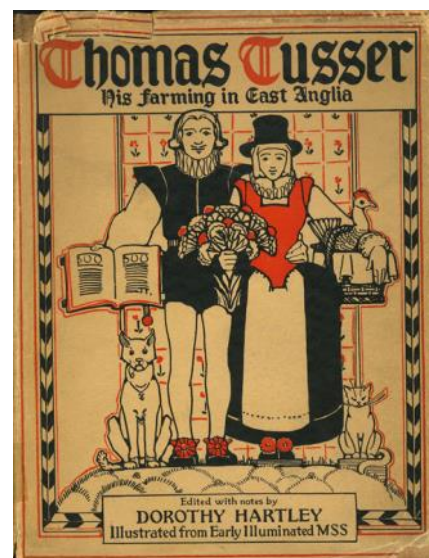


*At Christmas, by labour is little to get,
That wanting, - the poorest in danger are set:
What season then better, of all the whole year
Thy needy, poor neighbour to comfort and cheer.*

He goes into detail on festive food to provide when inviting the neighbours in at Christmas; if it seems a lot, remember that families were large and Christmas was celebrated for its full twelve days:

*Good bread and good drink, a good fire in the hall,
Brawn, pudding and souse (pickles), and good mustard withal.
Beef mutton, and pork, shred pies (mince pies) of the best,
Pig, veal, goose, and capon, and turkey well dressed,
Cheese, apples, and nuts, jolly carols to hear
As then in the country, is counted good cheer.
What cost to good husband (farmer), is any of this?
Good household provision only it is.*

He rounds off Christmas by setting out a new Christmas carol he has composed - he was for a time a full-time chorister - and he sums up the festival with the couplet we probably all know even if most do not know where it comes from:



Dustjacket of Dorothy Hartley's 1931 edition and reprint of Tusser's book

*At Christmas play, and make good cheere,
for Christmas comes but once a yeere.*

Photo MFT

At Christmas play, and make good cheer,/For Christmas comes, but once a year.

Though 2020 will be different, perhaps this is a good message to keep firmly in mind for the future.

Food for Thought : A Christmas cake, made by Sir Kenelm Digby's housekeeper, c.1669

Ingredients: 8 pints of fine flour ; 2½ lbs (*pounds of*) butter; ¾ of a pound of sugar; 4 nutmegs; a little Mace; 1 lb of almonds finely beaten; ½ pint of sack (*sherry*); 1 pint of good ale yeast; 1 pint of boiled cream; 12 yolks and four whites of egg; 4 lbs currants; 2 lbs of raisins.

Method: 'Wrought (*make*) all these into a very fine paste, let it be kept warm by the fire half an hour before you set it in the oven (*to help the ale-yeast rise; this is a hybrid cake*). Let your oven be of a temperate heat and let your cake stand therein two hours and a half before you ice it.'

Icing for the cake: 3 whites of egg; ¾ lb of finely beaten sugar

Method: "Beat these together add if you please little musk or ambergris, and ice your cake." (*Ambergris is a secretion from the intestines of the sperm whale, which, when dried is much used in perfumery.*)

If anyone out there attempts this, please let us know!

Jane M. Card Dec 2020 harwellhistorygroup@gmail.com



Bringing Family Bubbles Together This Christmas

- Door to door specialist transport Service
- Family celebrations & days out
- Specially equipped vehicles
- Trained companion drivers

07308 475 489 | drivingmissdaisydidcot.co.uk

 Driving Miss Daisy®

Little Pippins Pre-School



We were very relieved to have been able to fully re-open the pre-school again from September. Despite the changes the changes that have been put in place for Coronavirus, the children have still had an amazing time embracing a variety of activities. **Christmas** is well under way and the excitement is building as I'm sure you can imagine. Unfortunately, we won't be able to do our usual play in the church this year, but we do have some **festive activities** which will be shared with parents through **Tapestry**, our online learning journal.

Our pre-school for children aged from 2.5 to 5 years old, is set in an old **orchard** in the centre of the village. We have a large play area, **mud kitchen**, construction zone, forest school, **nature area**, a small covered pond and a pirate ship along with a large **sand pit**, water play, and plenty of outdoor **ride on toys**. Even if the weather is inclement, we can provide outdoor wet weather clothing for wet and wild play and we have large covered verandah. Equally, we have indoor play and focused activities on offer every session in our warm and inviting building.

We are now **full**, but from **May 2021** we will be looking at offering places for **September** when a large percentage of this year's cohort will have moved on to school. If you would like your child to come to Pippins from September, please ensure you contact us and submit a registration form **before Easter**.

Unfortunately, we are **unable** to open our Breakfast club at the moment but hope to be able to review this as soon as coronavirus restrictions have been relaxed.

To **contact us** for a registration form or to discuss availability for your child, donations to our charity, helping on the volunteer committee or any other aspects of the running of the pre-school, visit www.littlepippins.org.uk, email office@littlepippins.org.uk or Telephone the office on **01235 821741**

Brenda Pyke, Office Manager

Little Pippins Pre-school, Charity Registration Number 1105994



Preparing for a different kind of Christmas

christians
against
poverty

CAP

This time last year, you were probably looking forward to Christmas and had never heard of COVID-19. This year, however, we are all facing a very different kind of festive season. With guidelines changing so often to keep pace with infection rates in different areas, one thing we have all had to do is be flexible and adaptable.

What does this mean for Christmas though? We have all been affected by the pandemic, but we are not all in the same boat. Some of us may still be able to buy gifts online and have a small family celebration with members of our own household. Others may be bravely facing their first Christmas without loved ones. Wherever we are and whatever situation we are facing, there are steps we can take to prioritise our **mental health and wellbeing**.

Get a move on - Being less active can really affect our health mentally and physically. For those who are able, getting outdoors to enjoy a walk wrapped up in winter woollies can be just the tonic. The NHS has some great ideas for **armchair exercises** and other fitness tips for those who aren't able to get outdoors. See [nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/sitting-exercises](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/sitting-exercises).

Stay connected - We may not be able to socialise in the way we're used to but it's amazing how many different **social groups** you can join from the comfort of your own home, from book clubs and cooking classes to good old family quiz nights. These could be a great way to keep everyone entertained during the Christmas holidays. Why not search online for some **new activities** so that you can socialise and stay safe at the same time? Or, even better, set up your own!

Sing your heart out - Research by the University of East Anglia found that singing **boosts** our mental wellbeing. Sadly, it looks like the restrictions on singing in groups will put a stopper on carol services this year, but why not check out what's happening online in your area through **community Facebook pages**, or do a Google search for your **local church** which are all active on line. Having a good sing-along from your sofa means that you can be as loud and as silly as you like while still enjoying some community spirit.

Help others - For many, this winter may be a very lonely time, so it is important that we find ways to **connect** and help one another out. We may not be allowed to invite friends or neighbours over to the house, but there are other ways to bless them. Perhaps you could do a **food shop** for an elderly neighbour, or **bake biscuits** with the kids to deliver to a friend's door. Helping others is scientifically proven to boost our own mood too.

Give gifts that mean something - Every Christmas, millions of presents in the UK end up being re-gifted or donated to charity. Keep this in mind if you are feeling under pressure to buy gifts for everyone you know. Research into the psychology of gift giving shows that personal, **handmade** presents, an experience, or a specially created **playlist** often say a lot more than a shop-bought present. After a tough year, showing someone that you really know and appreciate them will mean a lot without over stretching your pocket.

Seek help with money worries - Struggling with money can have a severe impact on our mental health, especially at this time of year. Don't let your Christmas be filled with worry – **get help today** by contacting an organisation like CAP for free debt help. You can call CAP on **0800 328 0006** or visit capuk.org to find out more. There are also Money Courses run **locally** to help with budgeting. Enter your **postcode** on the CAP website to find a course in your area.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity with over 580 services across the country delivering debt counselling, money management, job clubs, life skills groups, and support for people breaking life-controlling dependencies. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

Parents in Oxfordshire – are you getting the help and support you need?



Parents in Oxfordshire are being asked if they are getting the help and support they need in a **new research project** by Healthwatch Oxfordshire. The county's independent health and social care watchdog wants to hear from parents about what support services are **working well** and where there might be **gaps**.

Parents and organisations that provide support can have their say by completing this short, anonymous online survey:

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Parentsdoyougetthehelpandsupportyouneed

Healthwatch Oxfordshire will report back what it hears to **The Oxfordshire Children's Trust Board**, which works to improve outcomes for all children and young people in the county.

Executive Director of Healthwatch Oxfordshire Rosalind Pearce said: "We really want to hear from as many parents as possible so we can build an **accurate picture** of what support is working and what could be better. We'd particularly like to know what **concerns** they are facing as parents, what help and support they might have received and how **effective** that was, as well as whether they think there are any gaps in the support currently on offer."

If you'd prefer to talk this through over the **phone**, or to request a **paper copy** or **translated version** of the survey, please call **01865 520520**. To find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk



Volunteers help enable online Zoom exercise classes for older people in Oxfordshire



Pre-Pandemic, **Generation Game** - Age UK Oxfordshire's physical activity service - used to run classes in community settings, and we were lucky enough to have some amazing, dedicated volunteers in many of their classes. With the pandemic taking hold, classes were converted to Zoom classes. In these **live online** sessions, having a volunteer as a second pair of eyes to watch over participants becomes even more crucial, especially for people who live alone. We asked Sheena, who has been volunteering with Generation Games, about her experience:

*"Volunteering has always been important to me as a way of **engaging** with people from different walks of life. I find it immensely **rewarding** to see how other people's lives can be enhanced by me simply giving a small regular amount of my time.*

*My volunteering experience with Generation Games has changed during the current pandemic. Whereas I would assist in practical way during the classes in the past, I now assist by attending virtually on Zoom. The premise is the same, **assisting** the instructor to ensure that the participants are exercising **safely** and **effectively**. I also enjoy listening to the attendees' stories at the group opportunity to **chat** at the end of each class.*



Professional Domestic Cleaning Services throughout Oxfordshire

With over 20 years' experience Ultra Home Services understand that our customers have exacting requirement and high standards and that is why we are able to offer an outstanding range of home services at affordable rates.

Whether you are looking for a Home Cleaning Service, a Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Service or a Dry Cleaning laundry and Ironing Service, we promise to provide complete customer satisfaction.

In fact we are so confident that we offer you our Ultra Guarantee.

We are fully insured and all of our services are carried out by our vetted staff who are fully trained to carry out our services with care, dependability and expertise.

Contact us now for your free of charge no obligation quotation:

Wantage 01235 426258

Oxford 01865 957164

e: contact@ultrahomeservices.co.uk



*I feel **privileged** to be able to assist the fabulous team at Generation Games to continue in their quest to deliver their exercise classes in such difficult times, and to join them in their efforts to ensure that as many people as possible can have the opportunity to attend the classes and benefit from them.*

*I would like to **encourage others** to consider giving up an **hour or two** during the working week to do the same. All you need is access to a desk-top or laptop computer and basic IT skills. With a cup of tea in hand you can **sit down for an hour** while watching the clients to ensure they are safe."*

If you are interested in volunteering with Generation Games, or would simply like to find out more, please **contact**:

annamckay@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk



YOUR MONEY FRIEND

LATER LIFE PLANNING, THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE AND BEYOND.

- Advanced Funeral Planning.
- Wills & Trusts.
- Lasting Powers of Attorney.
- Composite Care Fees Funding.

Talk to Ted
Owner and advisor of
Your Money Friend Ltd

07539 645514
yourmoneyfriend.co.uk/contact
ted.yeates@yourmoneyfriend.co.uk



HomeShare - the Solution to Loneliness



With more people experiencing loneliness as a result of the pandemic, Home-sharing is being [hailed as a brilliant solution for all](#).

Home-sharing, where an older person opens their home to someone looking for **affordable accommodation** in exchange for companionship and help around the house, has been around for **decades**. But HomeShare organisations have seen a significant surge in new interest from both Householders and Sharers because of the **pandemic**.

"People of all ages, many of whom have enjoyed full and busy lives, have found it hard to spend so much time alone during lockdown. Phone calls and video calls can be a lifeline, but of course **loneliness** and **isolation** are still issues when there is no one else around," said Marian Pocock, who runs the HomeShare service in Oxfordshire.

HomeShare Oxford has recently had a steady stream of interest and lots of conversations with older people who would like some company in their home and the reassurance that this can bring.

"I think it's reassuring for people who are considering HomeShare to know that we have **safely** brought people together during the pandemic and for them to hear how our matches are as **strong as ever** during lockdown."

University researcher, 32-year-old Jen, now living in Marston with 83-year-old Mary, said, "I am very grateful to be here during lockdown. I know that I'm in a **safe environment**. It's great to have a quiet space in which to work from home and have the **good company** of Mary. I've been more than happy to be able to help with anything in the house and to get bits of shopping that we need. We've both said how **lucky we are** to be together and are acutely aware of others in much less fortunate positions."

HomeShare Oxford, which matches people across Oxfordshire, is as busy as ever. "We look set to confirm two new matches this week, in Oxford and Abingdon, and three new Householders have come on board in the past couple of weeks," said Marian.

"The HomeShare concept strikes a chord with so many people. The needs of both parties are met in a kind, understanding way. It's **much more** than just a living situation. Very often genuine **friendships** develop which is so heart-warming."

"A lot of careful work goes into the matching process and in finding '**the right person for the right person**'. As a local organisation, we are nearby to support the arrangement once it is in place and we keep in regular touch. We also have contact with family members and friends, who are **reassured** that someone is there with their elderly relative or friend when they can't be."

You can find out about HomeShare Oxford's current accommodation opportunities on [their website](#) where you can read more about how HomeShare works.

"We currently have several Sharers looking for Oxfordshire accommodation and a number of Householders looking forward to welcoming someone into their homes. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in Homesharing in Oxfordshire, and who may feel

Harwell Window Cleaning Service

We provide a friendly reliable service every 4-5 weeks. Free quote - no obligation • Est 1990

Contact Craig Taylor

Tel: 01235 512881 - Mob: 07778 661548

www.elitewindowcleaningservice.com

A bill can be left for postal payment if you are not home.

Online payments are also welcome.

Other services include: Conservatory roof cleaning • Fascias cleaning, Gutters Unblocked & Cleaned out



STRONG SPORTS THERAPY

Injuries Clinic • Sports Massage • Acupuncture • Cupping
Injury Prevention & Rehabilitation • Postural Assessment
Functional Movement Screening

ASSESS • TREAT • REHABILITATE • PREVENT



www.strongsportstherapy.co.uk



Rowstock, Didcot, OX11 0JX



HARWELL VILLAGE HALL - AVAILABLE TO HIRE



The Orchard Hall

We have two large halls, a fully fitted kitchen, committee room and spacious entrance foyer. Hire from one hour to a full weekend at competitive rates for regular classes, clubs, private parties* and weddings*.



The Cherry Hall

Foyer entrance

*booking availability subject to government guidance

Visit our website at www.harwellvillagehall.co.uk to find out what's available or email:

bookings@harwellvillagehall.co.uk.

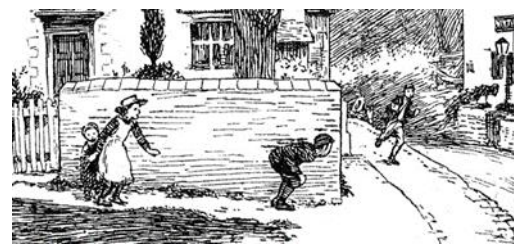


CHARITY NUMBER 1157858

Ramblings...

If you're familiar with the **Harwell – Village for a Thousand Years** book, either printed or [online here](#), you will know the drawings of L. Leslie Brooke, who lived at **Pillar House** for ten years from 1899. He illustrated a lot of children's books, but the drawings in the Harwell book come from *Travels Round Our Village*, by Eleanor Hayden of West Hendred. It tells us a lot about life at the end of the nineteenth century; published in **1901**, most of it may have appeared as articles in magazines such as **Country Life**.

The drawings in the book are often related to incidents in the book, so likely to be West Hendred; but one is of the old post office in **Townsend** (pictured right), in a chapter containing a lot of old recipes for wines from country fruit.



Detail from "AN OLD HOUSE" - the post office in Townsend



Neighbours

The Harwell book calls one drawing it reproduces *Neighbours*;

Miss Hayden has it labelled "Concerning Military Strategy" in a chapter with a lot about how villagers saw the **Boer War**, such as: "They went out to fight one marnin', did our folks, an' the enemies wur all in front of 'urn. Then they gets a-shootin' the one side at the t'other, an' the Major-Colonel, or whatever a calls hisself, was 'ounded - our Major-Colonel, I means - 'cause they black 'uns dwun't ha' sich things by what I can mek out. The men had to car' un away, an' tek 'un home, so arter that a-coorse they give out fightin'."

The opening chapter talks about the position of the village below the Ridgeway, and about **Scutchamer Knob**. You may know this barrow, which isn't a long walk from the Harwell Campus or Chilton Fields, and has been dug into on one side. Miss Hayden writes:

"While some people believed the Knob was due to His Satanic Majesty's **industry**, others possessing more education, maintained it was a genuine tumulus raised above the body of **Cwichelm**, king of the West Saxons; and yet a third party claimed that it was composed of the bodies of this king's soldiers, slain hereabouts in some **great battle**. So prevalent was this last belief that the owner of the land, who was a thrifty soul, cut into the mound and drew off **several hundred loads of soil** under the impression that it contained valuable fertilising qualities.

"The informant to whom I am indebted for the above traditions well remembers seeing the farm carts coming and going on their **foolish errand**, and the sensation created in the neighbourhood by this wanton destruction of the barrow. Its poor remains can still be viewed - a monument no longer of a dead chieftain or his forgotten host, but of man's credulity and ignorance."



The Inn - not shown in the Harwell book

Miss Hayden tries to convey how the villagers spoke then. The rest is her words:

"Here are two anecdotes - I can guarantee their genuineness, which give some idea of the ignorance and simplicity prevalent among the **shepherds** of the Downs. One such was tending his sheep when he was approached by a candidate for the County Council who requested the promise of his vote.

"**Vote?**" inquired the man of flocks, removing his hat in order to **stimulate** the flow of his

ideas "vote? what be that, h'wever?"

"Don't you take any interest in politics, that you don't know what a vote is?" retorted the other. A ray of comprehension **pierced** the shepherd's brain.

"Oh aye, now I knows what 'ee be drivin' after," he exclaimed with interest. "So this be a noo kind of **tick**, be 'un? I knows the or'nary sort, but I ha'n't niver yeard o' these **polly 'uns** afoor! "

The second incident happened to the father of a lady with whom I am well acquainted and who related it to me herself.



A **doctor** well known in the district was riding over a wild stretch of down, when he came across a fold and stopped to exchange a few words with its guardian. A couple of questions elicited the fact that the latter inhabited a **desolate cottage**, far removed from any other dwelling, and the physician further proceeded to inquire how the lonely family managed to obtain medical assistance in time of illness.

" Well, sir," replied the shepherd in all good faith, " we dwun't ha' no doctor : we just dies a **nat'ral** death ! "

A lot of the books that Leslie Brooke illustrated are available second-hand through [abebooks](#) which has listings from a lot of small bookshops, and has copies of "Travels Round our Village". Also, I have a **copy to loan** – reach me via [my email](#).

Martin Ricketts

1st CLASS
TREE SURGEONS

07889 881 525

quotes@firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

www.firstclasstreesurgeons.co.uk

*Tree Thinning *Tree Felling

*Tree Removal *Tree Reduction

*Dead Wood Removal *Hedge Trimming

*Landscaping *Stump Grinding

We are City & Guilds qualified and insured

Free, safety door stickers for older residents

Since 1980 Angela Gifford has been the owner of **Able Community Care**, a Live-in Care provider offering services throughout the UK and the Channel Islands. (www.ablecommunitycare.com)

In February 2019, after having both personal and client experience of **cold callers** worrying and gaining entry into older peoples homes, Angela decided to try and help older people avoid the situation of having to open the door to fraudsters and conmen.



To that end, Able Community Care have printed a **safety door sticker** (shown left), and to date have given out, on request, more than **60,000** for free. If you would like to receive a **free** door sticker, please contact Able Community Care on **01603 764567** or email info@ablecommunitycare.com or write to The Old Parish Rooms, Whitlingham Lane, Norwich NR14 8TZ. Angela Gifford, Managing Director.



Angela Gifford owner of Able Community Care

Artweeks May Festival 2021

To register for ARTWEEKS 2021 visit www.artweeks.org

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS is open to ALL - amateur and professional artists/craft makers alike, galleries, community and charity groups that live or work in Oxfordshire.

Deadline for registering exhibition entries: 31st January 2021

(this is an extended deadline for 2021 only)

- May exhibitions will be required to be COVID-SECURE.
- If circumstances cause last minute wholesale changes as they did this year, venues will then be able to choose to mark themselves as Open/Open by Appointment only (as well as postponed/closed).
- Alongside the physical festival, Oxfordshire Artweeks will host a virtual festival over the same period.
- As it is unlikely the festival guide can be distributed in print in the normal way in 2021, it will be produced in digital versions only.



DATES for the 2021 festival are 1st–23rd May

North Oxfordshire May 1st -9th [3rd Bank Holiday Monday]

Oxford City May 8th - 16th

South Oxfordshire May 15th – 23rd



Friends of the Ridgeway - Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize 2021

The Friends of the Ridgeway were very disappointed to have to cancel the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize in 2020. However, we are delighted to announce that the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize **will be held** next year in April. If practical and possible, there will be a public exhibition in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington (SN7 7RA) on the weekend of 24/25 April 2021; if not possible there will be an online exhibition and prize giving.



The aim of the competition is to bring the Ridgeway to life, not only as a long distance trail but as an artistic inspiration, and to show the Ridgeway, its history and environs, in all their aspects throughout all seasons. The theme of the competition is **'Spirit of the Ridgeway'**. Prizes are offered for works of **painting, sculpture, photography and writing** (poetry or prose), with separate prizes in each category and an overall winner. The prizes will be awarded at the Ridgeway Friends Day on **Sunday 25 April 2021** or online at that date and will include our AGM as well as the arts prize giving.

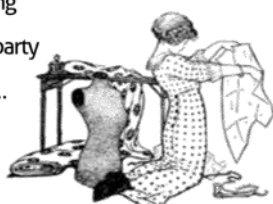
Full details are available on www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk - please contact **Anthony Burdall**, Chairman, Friends of the Ridgeway, on anthony.burdall@burdall.net or **01367 240713 / 07841 352938** if you have any questions.

THE SEWING LADY - Local Seamstress

Tel: 01235 847846 Mob: 07754 265326

Sewing services including... alterations and mending
zippers and hems, invisible mending
dresses, coats, jackets, ball gowns, party
wedding, denim, suede plus more...

Check out my work



www.simplycoralwood.co.uk

simplycoralwood@gmail.com



Click on logo for website

share your warmth



Click on logo for website

Help Tackle Loneliness and Enable Older People to be More Active this Winter

Local charities Age UK Oxfordshire and Active Oxfordshire have come together to bring back the Share your Warmth campaign, at a time when it is needed more than ever before. As we head into winter during an unprecedented pandemic, thousands of older people in Oxfordshire are at great risk of isolation, loneliness and inactivity.

Share your warmth, now in its second year, is a campaign that aims specifically to help older people to be more active as well as enabling them to get connected and feel supported. We are asking older people in Oxfordshire who feel able to spare their winter fuel allowance to donate it to [Share your Warmth](#) and transform the lives of vulnerable older people in our community. We also welcome donations of any amount, so that we can all come together to fight inactivity, loneliness and isolation this winter.

Devastating impact of COVID-19

As a result of being told to shield, remain indoors, not to go out shopping – many older people have become afraid to leave their homes. Most older people have followed the rules and done just that – stayed at home. However, the flipside of doing this has resulted in **high levels of inactivity** (for all ages), however, the effects for older people are far more detrimental. Deconditioning, the loss of **function** and muscle mass, joint pain, as well as **pain** resulting from untreated conditions due to the pandemic has meant that many people are no longer able to do **everyday tasks**.

Since vaccines are not yet widely available and there is no single treatment, tailored physical activity represents the single **most impactful way** in which older people can reduce the risk of developing severe Covid-19, improve recovery, and limit deconditioning and frailty as a result of home confinement. A [recent study](#) by Age UK during lockdown shows that **2.3 million** older people feel **less steady** on their feet and many are **more dependent** on walking aids than before.

Mental health is one of our biggest concerns for older people this winter. The stress, uncertainty, isolation and loneliness, coupled with the anxiety about actually catching the virus and possibly dying is having a huge impact on older people's mental health.

34% (4.2 million people) said they felt **more anxious** since the start of the pandemic.

- In the last 7 days, 37% of people over the age of 70 have not left their home at all or have only left for work, exercise, basic needs, or health reasons.
- 1 in 20 people aged over 70 have not left their home at all. The proportion of over 70s experiencing depression has doubled since the start of the pandemic."

Some people feel that there is **nothing to live for**, no purpose or pleasure and some even had thoughts of **suicide**. Please let this sink in.

How your donations make a difference

Share your warmth aims to combat these very real and very serious challenges that our older people are facing. We want to support people in as much of a practical and emotional way as we possibly can.

For those most isolated and **not connected** to the internet, we will send out **home exercise packs** containing DVDs, exercise booklets and [from January] exercise bands to people at home. We will make **friendly phone calls** to check in on people and gently motivate them to do a little bit of exercise.

For anyone who **does have access** to the internet, we will support them to get **online** to join one of our **Exercise classes by Zoom** that always finish with a group chat and opportunity to socialise. If anyone is hesitant or never tried Zoom we will offer them **one to one support** to get them online to join a class, and of course once they have the skills to Zoom they can use it to connect with friends and family too!

"I'm a lot weaker now than before. I've lost a lot of strength. You've saved me." – Zoom Exercise class participant

If you would like to donate to support this campaign, you can do so via [JustGiving](#). For further information, please contact Anna McKay via annamckay@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk.





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

Items for the February issue should be sent by 15th January to

news@harwellparish.co.uk

Distribution is on hold during the current health crisis, in line with social distancing measures. Harwell News is available online at <https://www.harwellparish.co.uk/harwell-news/>

Advertising queries to the clerk.

Parish Contact Information

All contact information can also be found on the parish website: www.harwellparish.co.uk
Phone: 07749 361957

Post to: Clerk, Harwell PC, Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EX
Core office hours, in the office at the Village Hall, are 9am to 4pm Monday

Parish Councillors

Syed Aly, Dee Boughton-Waite, Ian Fearon, Jeremy Hawthorne (Vice-chair), David Munyemweri, Neil Paterson, Martin Ricketts, David Roberts, Sarah Soames and Debbie Turner (Chair).

District Councillors

Sarah.Medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Hayleigh.Gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Campus Ward:
janet.shelley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Mike.Fox-Davies@Oxfordshire.gov.uk
073939 79510
MP: David Johnston
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk
0207 219 6350
www.david-johnston.org.uk

Harwell News edited by
Alison Fautley



Caring for Families this Christmas

[OXPIP](#) offers intensive therapeutic help to **parents and infants** in and around Oxfordshire, from conception to two years. This short-term parent-infant psychotherapy, a form of **early intervention**, considers the emotional health of the infant as well as that of the parent.



We work with parents and infants together to **boost parental confidence** and help the parents understand the needs of the baby.

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the emotional and mental health of more families and their relationship with their babies and we are now seeing an **80% increase** in referrals over recent months.

On 3rd December we were featured on [BBC South Today](#) and met Mum Lindsay & Baby Eilidh speaking about the effect of Lockdown on them: "You can't go out and you can't meet up, and the rules aren't very clear and all the lovely things you are supposed to do with your baby - baby massage groups and meeting up for coffee, and the mornings with other mums and babies - all of those things you can't do."

Our [Christmas campaign](#) aims to fund support for 12 families with 12 OXPIP sessions this Christmas and we need your help to raise the **£10,800*** needed to do that.

**OXPIP subsidises this cost*

[This link](#) will take you to our **Virgin Money Giving Fundraising Campaign Page**, where you can make a donation.

Any contribution, no matter how small, is very gratefully received and much appreciated by Oxfordshire families in need.

Thank you!



DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the hour

Unbeatable results, removes almost all spots & stains

call

GRIMEBUSTERS

01865 726983 01235 555533

www.grimebusters.co.uk

