

June 2023
Issue 240

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

Harwell Feast 2023, a wonderful day!



Harwell Feast is a much loved **annual event** held on the Recreation Ground in Harwell, with its origins steeped in **history** and with a lovely **traditional** feel.

The main activities take place on the **late Bank Holiday** in May, but the **preparations** and **celebrations** start during the weeks before. The **bunting** in the High Street gives the clue that it's **almost** time for the Feast.

As is usual, the Feast organisers were pleased to be able to offer the **marquee** to local organisations; the Scouting group held a **bingo** evening on the Saturday night and the Harwell & Chilton Churches held **Praise in the Park** to welcome their **new Vicar**, the Revd Jeremy Parsons.

This year's Feast started at **Townsend** and through the village came the **parade** of floats which had been decorated by local groups, led by the **Bagg's Tree Buskers** and with the **May Queen, Ella Reason**, and her attendants, **Emily Paterson** and **Lorelai Jeacock**, travelling in a white **vinatge** open-top **Rolls Royce** kindly provided by David Avery.

The Revd Jeremy Parsons obviously had a difficult task **choosing a winning float**, judging by the time it took to find him after the procession arrived on the Rec! His best 3 were:

- 1st Little Pippins with their Library Bus;
- 2nd Rainbows with The Beach
- 3rd Harwell School's FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup.

The other floats were:

- Fun Club with Coronation Garden Party
- Harwell Beavers with Superheroes in Progress
- Harwell W.I. with Baking for King & Country

All made a wonderful **colourful** community aspect to the parade, and were followed by the **Vikings**, vintage **cycles** and classic **cars**.

We are extremely grateful to all our **helpers** and offer them a huge **thank-you** – the event simply **could not** be held without you. Supporters give anything from an **hour** upwards and are **essential** to the event's success. **Please do consider** supporting us at the **2024 Feast**, and **register** your interest on our website at www.harwellfeast.com.

Continued on p2, plus more photos on p16



L Frost



P Cooke



M. Ricketts
Winners Little Pippins and their trophy



L Frost
The Vikings are coming!

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Harwell Feast (contd. from cover page)

Thanks also to our **village shops** and the **Harwellian** for selling the programmes in advance. We **apologise** for the delay in providing programmes this year, and we will work to ensure a more **timely** delivery next year. Our main sponsors were **Taylor Wimpey**, the **Harwell Campus** and **Milton Park**. We also wish to thank **Collard Environmental** for provision of the skip and **Nuth Bros.** for use of the wheelie bins.

Those who came along to the Feast enjoyed a variety of **craft** stalls, **food** stalls, food vendors, a children's **adventure** area including a travelling **fairground** and inflatables, a **teen** zone plus a living history re-enactment provide by the **Ulfhrafnar Vikings**, steam and traction **engines**, classic **cars**, ferrets, **falcons**, Punch & Judy, live **music** and displays in the main arena, which this year included a **dog show** which was great fun. The fine weather also encouraged a number of people to hold a **car boot sale** to sell unwanted household items.

The cost of staging the event has **risen** recently but, thanks to the **sponsorship**, mentioned above, and a **record numbers** of visitors we will be able to consider **applications** for **funding** from

Harwell organisations and others whose activities **substantially benefit** the residents of Harwell at our meeting in **September**.

With that in mind, the Feast Committee hereby **invites applications for funding**. If you wish to be considered please send us **details** and **costings**, and include information regarding any **other support** you receive and existing resources and accounts (if applicable) to enable the Committee to make an **informed** decision.

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 31st August**. Please send your submission by **email** to theharwellfeast@gmail.com or by **post** to **Harwell Feast Committee, 8 Fiddlers Orchard, Harwell, OX11 0FR**.

Dates for your diary: The annual **Feast Quiz** will be held in the Village Hall on **Friday 24th November**. Further details of how to enter will be in the **October Harwell News**. The **2024 Feast** will be held on **Monday 27th May**.

With very best wishes from The Harwell Feast Organisers: Mick and Jayne Conway, Patricia Cooke, Karen Cruddis, Tim Hart, Susan Lambert, Sharon Palmer, Martin Ricketts, Philip Roberts, Reg Waite and Warren Taylor, with special thanks to Janice Markey.



Ed: Thanks to all who sent in pictures and posted them on the Feast FB page, we have shown some on the cover, here and on p16

Float photos below: P Cooke



Little Pippins "Library Bus"



Rainbows "The Beach"



Harwell School "FIFA Women's World Cup"



Fun Club "Coronation Garden Party"



Harwell Beavers "Superheroes in Progress"



Harwell W.I. "Baking for King and Country"



MPJ 584
P.Cooke



N. Steaman



N. Steaman



Age UK Oxfordshire is a local **independent charity** which helps enable older people in Oxfordshire to live life to the full. We provide free local information, advice, and a wide range of **support services**, from **exercise classes** and digital support to telephone **befriending** and bereavement support – with much more in between.

To find out more visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire, email: contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call **0345 450 1276**.

Harwell Parish Council



The council held its **full meeting** on **11 April**.

Approved matters were bank reconciliation, payments (including a **£100 donation** to Cleanslate), **volunteering awareness day** arrangements, date of **annual Footpaths Walk** which Ms S Medley has kindly volunteered to co-ordinate.

Updates were provided on the **orchard project**, Western Valley, Valley Park, OCC **traffic calming**, apprenticeships and a recent **Campus meeting**. The council's **risk assessment** was reviewed and recommendations from the **Lands Committee** were discussed. The council is hoping to apply for a **Definitive Map Modification Order** to get the short path connecting the two halves of Westfield adopted as a **right of way** – see separate notice.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on **13th April** and was attended by approximately **20 residents**, district and county **councillors** as well as members of the **parish council**. Draft minutes are posted on the [council website](#) but the main points under discussion included **Valley Park** and **Western Valley parish**, traffic, **traffic calming** measures, SID data and Community **Speedwatch** reports, short presentations from the **Tennis Club**, Environmental Advisory Committee and Community **Orchard Group**. The council was asked to arrange a **meeting** with Mr Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and it was suggested that if the council wished to **name** the land adjacent to Footpath 11 it should have a **historical connection** and they should consult documents relating to **former landowners**.

May - An **uncontested** election took place on 4 May but as one councillor **resigned** before the first meeting of the new council on 9 May, the council became **inquorate** and **could not** transact any new business.

UPDATE: the VWHDC have now appointed **2 temporary councillors** to the parish council thereby **avoiding** the need for an election. A report from the **rescheduled Annual Parish Council** meeting (held **1st June**) will be included in the **August** Harwell News.

There are still **4 vacancies** which can be filled by co-option. Please [email the clerk](#) if you are interested.

The council wishes to **thank all outgoing parish and district councillors** for their hard work during their terms of office.

Prepared by Mrs S Taylor, Clerk to Harwell PC

20 mph on Reading Road?

The council would like to seek **residents' views** about a possible scheme to **reduce** the speed limit on the section of the **A417** that runs through the village to **20 mph**. The county council would **consider** this measure at the parish's **request**. Parish councillors felt that residents should be consulted **before** it formally requested a 20mph limit.

Whether you are **for** or **against** the scheme, if you would like to comment please **email** or **write** to the clerk before **the end of June**.



Westfield path

In order to apply to the county council to adopt this path as a **right of way**, the parish council will need as much **evidence of use** as possible. If you have been a long-term or regular user of this path over the years please **let the council know** by **emailing** or **writing** to the clerk with details.

Contact: clerk@harwellparish.co.uk

Address: Harwell PC, Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EX

Harwell Bowls Club – June 2023



We have had a **busy** few months with prospective members coming along to our **Open Day**, when we sold **plants** and **books**, and dropping by on **Monday** evenings between **6 – 7.30pm**.

The Club was very pleased to support **Harwell Feast** on the Westfield / Harwellian entry gate, visitors will have noticed our **new team shirts**.

Two of our members were also involved in the **carnival parade** in their **Morris Minor** and helped boost **awareness** that the club was also offering **refreshments** at the Feast, something we hope to do again **next year** as well as plants, **tombola** and books. A **record number** of visitors, of all ages, were seen on the **green** at Harwell Feast too which has resulted in **new members**.

Harwell Bowls Club is pleased to announce that **Driving Miss Daisy Didcot** (DMDD) will be their proud sponsor for the next **three years**. DMDD offers **companionship** and **transportation** services to individuals who live **alone** or have **accessibility** needs. By partnering with them, we aim to encourage **more players** or **spectators** to enjoy the **benefits** of our sport. These benefits include improved **fitness**, **coordination**, and **skill development**, increased **confidence** and **self-esteem**, better **mental** well-being, and most importantly, **community** support and **connection**. If you want to learn more about DMDD, feel free to ask **any** member of the club, pick up a **leaflet**, or visit their website at www.drivingmissdaisydidcot.co.uk.

If the gate to Harwell Bowls Club is **open**, please feel free to **pop in**, you will be assured of a **friendly** welcome whether you wish to have a go (please be aware that is not possible on **match** days) or you just wish to come and **watch**. We will also have our **plant** and **book** stalls open when we are playing at home, so do not forget to bring some **cash** with you. Don't forget, new members are welcome on **Monday** evenings between **6 - 7.30pm** or contact us at www.harwellbowlsclub.co.uk

Carol Fisher



MP David Johnston's message for Harwell News - May update

I hope you all enjoyed the **Coronation weekend**. Whether I was in Wantage, Didcot, Grove or Wallingford, the mood was **upbeat**, people were having a **good time** and there was plenty of food, **music** and activities. The Coronation itself passed off **perfectly**, despite the weather – and the concert was **great** too. It was another **reminder** of how this country can do events like this **better** than anywhere else.

While we're still crunching the data, I wanted to thank everyone who completed my **health services survey** for doing so. I've had responses from nearly **3,000 people**, which is a really great number to give a picture of what people are **feeling** across the **constituency**.

It's clear that, as I expected and as my inbox reflects, many people feel we **do not** have the health services we need. Nor do I. People particularly struggle to get an **appointment** with a **doctor** or with a **dentist**, but this is not the only thing that people would like to see more of when it comes to health. I will continue to **campaign hard** on this – watch this space.

After I held a successful **crime summit** with Thames Valley Police in **Wantage**, I was asked by local residents to hold one in **Wallingford**. I can confirm this will take place on **15th June, 6.30pm – 8pm** and **Waitrose** have offered their café. **Sign up** on my website: www.david-johnston.org.uk.

Wherever you live, you can also **sign up there** for my **third annual climate summit**, which will be via **Zoom** and will have **Grant Shapps**, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, giving the **keynote speech**.

Sticking with the environment and climate change, I continue to lobby for the **Local Electricity Bill**, which I am the lead sponsor of and which is now backed by **318 MPs**. This would make it easier for small, **community organisations** that generate renewable energy to be able to **sell it** to the community. I am hopeful that with the Government's Energy Bill making its way through

parliament at the moment, we might be able to finally make something happen that enables **community energy** to flourish.

Thanks to everyone who took part in my **Apprenticeship Fair** in Didcot – nearly **400 people** attended and had great conversations with a range of **public** and **private** employers about the range of apprenticeships they offer. I was asked if I will be doing it again and **I will** be doing so.

A couple of other things in brief. I met with the **Chair of Water Resource South East** to again convey the **objections** local people have about the **reservoir proposal**. And I continue to **encourage** people to see if they are eligible for **Pension Credit**, which can provide an average **£3,500 a year** to pensioners. The figures show the uptake **locally** is **increasing**, but there are **more people** who could be getting it. See if you or someone else you know is eligible here:

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility>

As ever, if I can help with anything please email me via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



Summer Solstice Family Picnic and Campfire

It's the longest day of the year! Celebrate with a wild picnic, campfire, toasted marshmallows, stories and songs.

Wednesday 21st June 2023, 5pm-7pm

Suitable for **all ages**, children must be accompanied at all times

£8 per head BOOKING ESSENTIAL

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Considering a career in wildlife conservation or environmental education? Join a small group on a 3 day course for a hands-on chance to find out what a job in a wildlife charity could feel like, including practical conservation work, wildlife ID and surveying, discussing the challenges to working in the sector and meeting the people doing the jobs already.

This course is suitable for young people aged **15-17 years**.

Tuesday 1—Thursday 3 August 2023; 9.30am - 3pm

£60 per head, covers all 3 days. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

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- 01235 862024 or sceec@bbowt.org.uk



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Harwell WI



May was a **hive of activity** for the WI (we hope you caught a good look at the WI float, complete with King Charles) - June and July look to be **just as busy!**

On **Wednesday, June 14 at 7:30 pm** in the Cherry Hall, members and visitors will be treated to a talk by Harwell member **Jane Card**, who will introduce us to one of the most **colourful** and **talented** women of the 17th Century, **Aphra Behn**. Not only was Aphra an influential dramatist, criticised for her **risqué plays**, but she also acted as a **spy** for the court of **Charles II**. A great example of a woman who **multi-tasked!**

Early in **July** we will have our annual members **Prosecco and Cupcake Garden Party** - come rain or shine! At our meeting on the **12 July at 7:30 pm** in the Cherry Hall, our speaker, **Jane Robinson** will tell us about **pioneering women** who forged careers in male dominated fields. Her talk is **ironically** entitled "**Ladies Can't Climb Ladders**".

All women are **welcome** as visitors to the monthly members meetings. It is a great way to meet new people and catch up with old friends as well as hear interesting and inspiring talks. If you would like to know more, contact at harwellwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Barbara Jackson, Harwell WI



Didcot and District U3A

After a three month 'absence' we are pleased to return to **'business as usual'** and bring you the latest diary updates from the Didcot and District u3a, your local National organisation for **retired** and **semi-retired** individuals who wish to continue to keep **active** in body and soul and **'Learn, Laugh, Live'!**

Meeting on the **third Tuesday** of every month in the **Didcot Civic Hall** at **2:30pm**, this very sociable gathering encourages a whole variety of **interest groups** to have regular get-togethers with likeminded individuals in such activities as; art appreciation, gardening, learn a language, photography, walking, medieval manuscript, and many more! In addition, at the **monthly meetings**, where tea, coffee and biscuits are served, a Guest Speaker provides a presentation on diverse topics which in the coming months include;

- **20 June:** Oxfordshire on Canvas - Marie Louisa
- **18 July:** Inside the world of a TV & Film extra - Peter Hague
- **15 August:** Sue Ryder- A Life Lived for Others - Joanna Bogle
- **19 September:** A Brief History of Tattoos and their Meaning - Janine Kilroe

We always look forwards to welcoming **new members** and we hope to be seeing you there ?

Additional information can be found on the u3asites.org.Uk or by contacting chairman@didcotu3a.org or secretary@didcotu3a.org,
Brian & Lynn Burscough- PR Didcot & District u3a



Obituary - Brian Metcalfe

Brian Metcalfe died on **Saturday 1 April 2023 aged 89**. He was Chairman of Harwell **Parish Council** from May 1974 to June 1980 and continued on as councillor until May 1987; Chairman of Harwell Primary School **Governors**, and regularly up to no good **plotting** in the [Kicking Donkey pub](#).

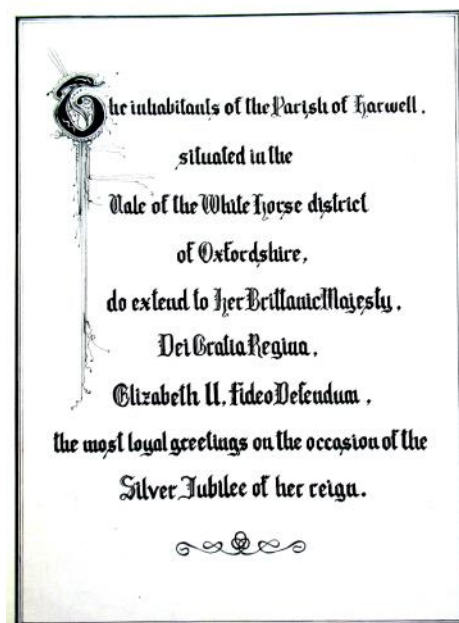
He was part of the team that did numerous things for the village including establishing the '**Harwell**' newsletter (renamed 'The Harwell News' in 1980) and was its **editor** from the first issue in December 1976 until issue 23 in July 1984. He was also responsible for reinstating the **Harwell Feast** on 26th May 1980 after a **20 year gap** and organising major village events such as the Harwell **Silver Jubilee** celebrations. For this he was honoured to walk the last leg of the '**village walk**' to **Windsor Castle** (see excerpt below) where he was **invited** in to sign the **visitor book**.

He also helped re-establish many **parish footpaths**, and kept Didcot in the **distance** for decades.

On Sunday 29th May a team of twenty-five people from the village carried out a relay walk of thirty six and a half miles to Windsor Castle to deliver a Loyal Address to Her Majesty. The address, painted in old English lettering on goatskin vellum was produced by Mr. John Tennison.

Ed: With thanks to
Adrian Metcalfe and
Martin Ricketts

[Extract from 'Harwell' Jubilee Special Issue, June 1977](#)



Loyal Address to Her Majesty

Big Ginger Tom Music - Gig Review



Merry Hell with support by Corrie Shelley - 15th April 2023

Well **what a way** to start our Harwell programme of gigs for 2023, we had a **full house** for Merry Hell and Corrie Shelley, it was a **splendid** evening of music, **audience participation** and in the end **dancing**!

Corrie Shelley had last been in Oxfordshire in 2022, when she opened for Ninebarrow at The Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon, she made such an **impression** that we had to get her back and she was chuffed to be opening for her **favourite** band. She sang a set of beautiful songs about **miners**, dementia and **broken relationships**, but hey, it was a folk evening, so what else would you expect!

Merry Hell delivered two very **entertaining** sets of old favourites and some **new songs** including 'Peace is Louder than War', where the audience were invited to **sing along** as the band want to collect a **1000 voices** to go on the single when it comes out.



They opened with 'We Are Different We Are One' and it only took until the **third** song to get full on audience **participation** when they played 'Bury Me Naked' which was of course introduced with the usual **health and safety** warning from Andrew. The first set closed with the lads trooping off stage and leaving **Virginia** to perform 'Violet', which she did **unplugged** and going up into the audience.

The second set was full of more old **favourites** and by the end of the evening people were up and **dancing**, it was a marvellous evening rounded off with an **encore**, fittingly called 'Let The Music Speak For Itself'. This was a night that will **last** in the **memory** of those that came for many years.

Lady Maisery with support by Amelia Coburn - 19th May 2023

A second **sell-out** audience in a row were treated to **another** splendid evening of music at the Village Hall. It had been **four years** since Lady Maisery had been in Harwell, so this was a much **anticipated** event.

The evening was opened by **Amelia Coburn** who had travelled down from the North West by train, suffering a number of delays on the way and was very **relieved** to arrive on site in time for sound check.

She delivered a **delightful** set of songs with her beautiful voice and varied **instrumentation** (a dulcimer and two ukuleles) and had very **humorous** in-between song banter, she's like the Wirral's answer to Edwina Hayes. She received wonderful **applause** from the audience who then bought **all** but a few of

the CDs she had bought with her.

What followed were two **fabulous** sets from Lady Maisery which included many songs from their new album **Tender**,



including the Bjork cover "Hyperballad", "Bird I Do Not Know", Tracy Chapman's "3000 Miles", "Scientist" and the title track "Tender". There were of course some old **favourites** such as "The Crow on the Cradle" and "Order and Chaos".

Their show is always so **varied** with the switching of instruments (I lost count at 10) and lead vocals, their **harmonies** are glorious and Vincent on sound did a **magnificent** job of making sure every note could be heard.

Of course the evening had to come to an end and they **encored** with another old favourite Katy Cruel. We hope it won't be another **four** years until they come back.

Our next gig in Harwell is **Gilmore & Roberts** on **Friday 29th September** in the Orchard Hall when we will celebrate our **40th** gig at Harwell Village Hall and **6th Birthday** by bringing back (for the **fourth** time) the artist who **started** it all off, the wonderful Gilmore & Roberts. Support will be from someone equally familiar to Harwell audiences, **Anna Renae**.

Tickets are available from wegottickets.com or by contacting Duncan at biggingertommusic@gmail.com

For more information about BGTm events see the village hall website www.harwellvillagehall.co.uk/events or go to the **BGTm**

website at www.biggingertommusic.co.uk/events

Duncan Chappell, Big Ginger Tom Music

Proud to be working with Ranagri, The People Versus, Patrick Griffin, Anna Renae, Plumhall, Craig Joiner, Joe Hicks and Fred's House. Check out my lockdown activity - Folkin' Around on Radio Cherwell -

<https://radiocherwell.com/our-programmes/listen-again>





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HARWELL VILLAGE HALL



CHARITY NUMBER 1157858

Treasurer Vacancy - After more than six years, our Treasurer will **step down** at the end of this financial year (**end March 2024**) and we need a replacement who will **report** to the hall trustees and be responsible for all its **financial affairs**, including managing all outgoing payments and recording all income, which is made up of hire **fees** and occasional **grants** and special payments. You will have some **financial experience**, and be familiar with using spreadsheets and accounting packages to produce regular reports to the trustees, as well as formal annual **accounts** and **external** reports. You will work with the Trustees to provide financial **guidance** for budgeting and planning future developments. Although you can limit your involvement to being "the Treasurer", the role is also open to anyone who would like to be more involved by joining us as a Trustee.

Trustee Vacancy - we are also 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. As a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), 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! We can then provide fuller details about what is involved.

Didcot Phoenix Drama Group

This year, the Phoenix, who include several **Harwell residents**, has entered **three different plays** in **four local drama festivals**! Two of these will be presented on **Saturday 17th June in Harwell**.



"No, Prime Minister!", written by a Phoenix member, uses the **comedic** lens of the classic TV comedy "Yes, Prime Minister!" for a sidelong look at **civil servants** and **politicians**. It won "**Best Original Play**" at Henley.

"Virtual Reality", which mingles **deadpan humour**, **absurdity** and the **surreal**, highlights notable performances by two very **skilled** actors. (It contains some strong language.)

The Phoenix is a very friendly group, which has previously won national and local awards – and we would love to welcome new members!

Working towards Net Zero with the Low Carbon Hub

[The Low Carbon Hub](#) is a **social enterprise** that develops community-owned renewable energy installations across **Oxfordshire**. These initiatives accelerate the transition to the **zero carbon** energy system we need for the future, providing electricity, heat and a clean transport system, all powered by **renewables**.

We were thrilled to award a **large grant** to **Sustainable Harwell** to support the installation of **solar panels** and **batteries** at two important and active **village organisations** – **Harwell Village Hall** and the **Harwellian Sports and Social club**.

Both facilities are **regularly** used by the village community but have been hit hard by the recent rise in **energy** costs. These new solar installations will help to significantly **reduce** these costs and will show how a rural community can begin the transition away from the use of fossil fuels to meet net zero targets in Oxfordshire.

The Harwellian Sports and Social club has recently installed 68 panels producing approximately **27kW peak power** and 2 x 10kWh batteries. During April the panels generated approx. **2.7MWh** of electricity. The monthly electricity consumption has **dropped** from 2.4MWh to **less than 1MWh** and they expect to be able to **reduce** that figure significantly in the future by installing **additional** batteries.



In August, **Harwell Village Hall** will be installing 81 panels on two roofs which will produce a total of **32kW peak power**. It will also be installing a 23kWh battery to store power generated during the day for use **after dark**. The system will significantly **reduce** the amount of grid electricity needed by the hall, helping to **manage costs** and **reduce CO2 emissions**. It is the first stage of moving the hall to **net zero**.



Saturday 17th June 2023

Harwell Village Hall
High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EX
Show starts at 8:00 pm
Doors open at 7:30 pm



No Prime Minister
by Emma Gardner

"In the corridors of power, a new generation of ministers and civil servants battle it out over home working, partygate and the climate crisis. Is it just the same as it was? Or has there been an interesting reversal of fortunes..."



Virtual Reality
by Alan Arkin

"Two men waiting for equipment to do an unspecified job. The one in charge insists on doing a dry run inventory of the contents of the expected crates. The purely hypothetical assumes a wacky, sinister autonomy that transports them to a frozen wilderness."



Tickets
Adults £10
Concessions £8

Pay on the door (cash or debit/credit card)
or email for advance bookings didcotphoenixdrama@hotmail.co.uk

1st Harwell St Matthew's Scout Group



It's been a **busy term**, and we're glad that the weather is **warming up**. The **Scouts** will be **sailing** at Farmoor reservoir for **8 weeks**, to learn some **basic skills**. Our **Explorer Scouts** have been involved in a number of **events**; the **dog show** in Newbury showground, serving cream teas for the **Kings Coronation**, (with a big thank you to the scouts who made the scones), running a **fantastic St**



Coronation Day at the Rec

Georges Day event, supporting the **safari supper** along with scouts and a **weekend training** in the Lake District for Duke of Edinburgh award. We had **8** different scout groups visiting for St Georges Day; Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were **represented** across the district. You may have noticed the large number of **activities** set up at the recreation ground, including a large **inflatable**. Last term the Cubs took part in a **carousel** of activities related to the **Big Bird Watch** including **making bird boxes**. Harwell and the surrounding area now have **45 more bird boxes** in existence as a result and all the Cubs earned their **DIY badge**. Outdoor activities including a visit to the **Driving Range** at Hadden Hill and an evening of **Abseiling** at Youlbury.

This term the focus is **activities** related to the **Gardening badge** and also **Scientist Badge**; including a **Sunflower Growing Competition**, making plastic **woggles** from milk and making and flying **kites**. At the end of May we will have a **two night camp** at a Scout Centre near the coast. We hope to finish the summer term with an evening of **wet games** with some of the other sections.

If you would like to get **involved** with helping our Scout group, please contact **Brian Zimmerman**, our Group Scout Leader at gsl@harwellscouting.org.uk

Rowstock Residents Assoc - refunds available

As you may have heard RRA **won their costs** back from the appeal against the Distribution Centre next to Milton House Hotel. This means RRA has **all the money** needed to pay the **Barrister** and various **Consultants** who worked for us. This in turn means we can **pay back** the donations made by our generous **supporters** should they want the money back. If they do then they need to contact me on carole_hooper_uk@yahoo.co.uk and I will organise a refund.

If they **do not** wish claim a refund then the money will be **held** in RRAs bank account and put towards **professional fees** incurred in **future** fights against plans that **adversely** affect the people of **Rowstock** and **surrounding areas**. For this we would be very **grateful**.

Thank you to everyone who supported RRA and continue to do so.

Carole Hooper, Chair - RRA



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Coronation Parties

The **King's Coronation** on Saturday 6th May was a day of celebration, pomp and ceremony and our Harwell **bellringers** performed their "Ring for the King". It was followed on Sunday 7th by the "**Big Coronation Lunch**" at the Harwellian. Villagers also held smaller **street parties** and created **tributes** to the new King and Queen. Mrs P Cooke sent us her photos of her crown **planters**!



GARD Update

GARD's **Annual General Meeting** took place on Tuesday 2nd May in Steventon Village Hall. There were 43 people present (including the committee and two District Councillors), from seven villages, South Abingdon and Wantage.



Where are we now with the proposals and responses?

There will be news in **June**. We await the **responses** of WRSE and Thames Water to our **opposition** (Thames Water by 13th June). Responses to **RAPID** (Regulator Alliance for Progressing of Infrastructure Development), the third leg of 'triple bill' of responses, are now **in** (11th May). RAPID produced its draft decision on the **Strategic Water Sources** (eg Abingdon Reservoir and Severn Thames Transfer) on 30th March. Responses have been **sent** from Stakeholders (i.e. GARD, OCC, the Vale, Parish Councils, Wantage and Grove Campaign Group).

So far, we see that RAPID wishes both the Reservoir and the competing Severn Thames Transfer to move on to the **next stage** of evaluation. GARD does **not** agree with this position on the Reservoir. GARD believes that the Reservoir should **not** be allowed to proceed for further evaluation UNTIL a proper **public assessment** of the Reservoir's **safety** and **flood risk** potential has been carried out and **published**.

We oppose **wastage** of further public money on the Reservoir in these Ofwat/RAPID studies (your water bills are paying). We are canvassing support from our **MP** on this. RAPID's response will be issued on **28th June**. If they do not listen to our **concerns**, we

will seek a **meeting** with them, local MPs and County Council. Our responses to RAPID and to Thames Water are on our [website](#). Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Twitter for more information.

GARD is considering the next moves and needs to build a **fighting fund**. We will possibly have to consider a **legal challenge**. We shall continue to work on **publicity** and increasing opposition **support**, perhaps via a **petition**. We ask you to continue **lobbying** your MP and Councillors, and we would urge **all** members and supporters to consider a **contribution** to our campaign fund (donations will be matched by our major and organisational donors).

The proposed Reservoir has **no justification** and, as Oxfordshire County Council stated in its January 2023 Press Release, it is "*a destructive scheme, both environmentally and in its impacts on local people*".

www.gard-oxon.org.uk @abingdonreservoir @GARD_OXON

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Volunteer IT Support

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale

citizens
advice

Do you have up to 7 hours a week free to volunteer for a local charity that makes a real difference to local people's lives?

We are looking for IT help in all of our sites:

Abingdon, Didcot, Henley & Thame

Purpose: To act as first point of contact for staff and volunteers with regard to IT technical support for Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice.

Main duties and responsibilities may include:

- Diagnosing and troubleshooting software and hardware issues
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- Responding to service issues and requests
- Attending team meetings and additional training as required.

Personal skills and qualities needed:

- Commitment to the aims and principles of Citizens Advice
- Experience in networking configuration, diagnostics, maintenance
- In-depth knowledge of Windows OS and Google suite
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing
- Practical experience with internet and network security protocols

Please **email** our recruitment team:

recruitment@citizensadviceoxsav.org.uk

State which **location** you would like to volunteer in, and include **your contact details**.

Community Car Sharing Club, a proposal - have your say

Sustainable Harwell is undertaking a project to **understand** the **appetite** and **options** for running a **community car-sharing club** using **electric vehicles** (EVs) in the village.

Imagine this: A central location in Harwell where you can find a **shared electric car** that you can **book** for the **time you need**.

Using a shared EV could:

- **save** up to 50% compared to the cost of owning and running a car
- **save** 60-80% carbon emissions compared to driving a petrol car
- give you **independence** if you don't own a car
- provide **access** to an additional car

As a resident we would **welcome your views** on how a club might work in the village and would very much **appreciate** it if you could spend a few minutes completing a **short survey**. All information is collected **anonymously**.

Please complete the survey at: harcars.uk.

Paper copies of the survey will be available at **The Harwellian**.

Many thanks for your help.

Giles Barwell, Sustainable Harwell



The Great Big Green Week 10th – 18th June

The UK's **biggest ever** celebration of **community action** to tackle **climate change** and **protect nature** is here! It's promising to be the biggest,

greenest week the UK has **ever seen**.

You can get **involved** with the **national** campaign but don't forget to also keep an eye out for activities **closer** to home.

Why not plan a **litter pick**, have a **plastic free picnic** or get out and about on a **nature walk**? Want to go bigger? Try some **upcycling** or host an **eco-friendly treasure hunt**. There's plenty going on across the county – to keep up to date just follow us on social media. **Click on the picture** to find out more!

Harwell Primary School: governor vacancy

There is a current vacancy on the Governing Board for a **co-opted governor** (i.e. appointed **directly** by the Full Governing Body). This is open to people **beyond** the school community **as well** as those **within** it. If you, or anyone you know, would like to **learn more** about what is involved in being a governor, please **contact the Clerk** to governors by email: clerk@harwellprimaryschool.co.uk

The skills they are seeking are:

- HR knowledge
- Ability to interpret data
- Ability to work as part of a team - willingness to build positive, collaborative relationships with the rest of the board of governors
- Willingness to complete training

Harwell Primary School Office
The Styles, Harwell, Oxfordshire, OX11 0HX
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- ✓ PAT testing
- ✓ mechanical problems
- ✓ gardening equipment

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+ Cholsey Repair Cafe on Facebook

News from Harwell Primary School



One of the **highlights** of the Summer term so far has been the annual **Koreen Davies Football Cup** for girls in years 4 & 5. We welcomed **five** other local schools (and parent supporters) to join us for the tournament which saw competitive football played in a wonderful **sporting spirit**. The sun **shone** and it was a fantastic **celebratory** afternoon.

The **Year 6 SATs** are now **completed**. I would like to **thank** all my staff, and in particular the **Year 6 team**, all the **children** and their **parents** who all contributed towards the **positive** atmosphere. I have once again been impressed by the **resourcefulness** and **resilience** of the children.

Earlier in spring, the children very much enjoyed their local visit to watch **lambling**; they are now fascinated by the **tiny chicks** which have hatched in the incubator as part of a project in the Foundation Class.



Preparations began in May for our **Feast Float** as we looked forward to taking part in the **parade** itself.

The rest of the term will be equally **very busy**. This includes our **'Healthy Bodies & Healthy Minds'** week in June which will be a packed week including visits from athlete **mentors** (via the Youth Sports Trust); **sailing** lessons for Year 6 at Dorchester Lakes; freestyle football, **circus** skills and African **drum workshops**; activities based on **kindness** and **healthy eating** as well as our annual sponsored **walk**. It will be a memorable week for the whole school.

Over the course of the year, two of our Year groups have **whole class music lessons** provided by the school via the Oxford County Schools Music Service. We are looking forward to an afternoon **concert** in **July**. This will include **Year 3 (violins)** and **Year 5 (ukulele)** together with **individual** children who have weekly lessons on keyboards, violins, cello and double bass.

We continue to be **grateful** to our parents and the wider community for their **support**. The children enjoyed taking part in the HSA **'Coin Race'** which saw an incredible total length of **305.75 metres** of coins laid out in lines! When counted up, this raised an impressive **£365** which the HSA will use to support the school. As I write, the HSA is organising their **Owl Bookshop** - a fabulous way to encourage a love of reading by children donating **pre-loved books** they have enjoyed and buying others to take home and enjoy. A **disco** and a **family quiz** are being organised and please join us on **Saturday 8th July** for our **Summer Fair**.

Warm regards, Bryn Gibson, Headteacher



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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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The dedicated website explains the steps:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering

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- A welcome payment of **£1,500**
- Generous **fees**, paid in addition to the child's **allowance**.
- **Dedicated** social worker support.
- **Access** to professionals, support groups and specialised training.

If **you** feel you could be a foster carer, please register your details here to find out more:

<https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fosteringenquiry>

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heather.stevens46@btinternet.com



Water safety advice in the hot weather



As warmer weather approaches, **water safety advice** is being issued by **Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service** linked to **concerns** about the number of people getting

into **difficulty** in the county's **waterways** and **lakes**.

Drowning in the UK is amongst the **leading causes** of accidental death. Across the UK, in 2020, over **250** people **drowned** needlessly and **thousands** more suffered **injury**, some **life changing**, through near-drowning experiences. Oxfordshire is **criss-crossed** by rivers, streams, canals. Activities that are known to lead to the highest number of **fatalities** are **walking**, **running**, **swimming**, **jumping** or **diving in**.

In response, fire and rescue officers will be touring local schools and colleges across the county in the coming months delivering a new practical **water safety training course**. They will give practical advice on how to **stay safe** in and around lakes, rivers and reservoirs. Some sessions will take place **next to waterways**, so the risks and dangers can be clearly pointed out in **real world** settings.

Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service **warns** that there are **many dangers** associated with open water.

Be aware:

- Reservoirs, lakes, rivers and other inland water may **look** safe and inviting, particularly on a warm day, but there are **hidden dangers below the surface** that could make people **ill**, cause **injury**, even **kill**.
- Even on a warm day, the temperature of the water in a reservoir, quarry or lake can remain **very cold**. The low water temperature can **numb limbs** and **claim lives**.
- From the surface, it is not always possible to see what is **under** the water. This could be anything from large **rocks** to **machinery**, from shopping **trolleys** to **branches** and even fish **hooks** or broken **fishing line**, all of which could cause injury.
- Moving water, such as rivers, might look calm but there could be **strong currents** below the surface. Even reservoirs have **currents**, caused by working **machinery**. Whether or not someone is a **strong swimmer**, currents can carry them into **danger**.

Deb Forder, Safety Manager for Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service, said "If you **fall in**, remember to **relax**, **lean back** and **float** until you can **control** your **breathing**."

Anyone witnessing someone in trouble in the water should call 999 or 112 and shout for help. They should NOT enter the water themselves; instead throw something in that floats.

The Orchard Film Club

June 2023 Update

Thank you to all of our supporters, it's been great to see so many people coming to see the films. Please tell your friends!.

Our next film is on **Friday 14th July - Mr Malcolm's List**.

Julia is a society lady **jilted** by London's most eligible



bachelor Mr. Malcolm, when she fails to meet one of the items on his '**list of requirements**' for a bride. Humiliated, she enlists the help of her friend Selina to take her **revenge**. Stars Zawe Ashton, Sope Dirisu and Freida Pinto.

Save the date

We will choose our next three films in July to run from September (no film in August!). The next dates are:

- **Friday 8th September**
- **Friday 6th October**
- **Friday 10th November**
- **Friday 8th December**

Once chosen, details of films & trailers can be found on the [Harwell Village Hall Events](#) pages or look out for the **posters** on display around the village and in **Bob's Butchers window**.

Visit our webpage [here](#) and/or [sign-up](#) to our regular newsletter. Please send your suggestions for films to:

orchardfilmclub@gmail.com

Films are shown in the **Orchard Hall at Harwell Village Hall**, doors/bar **open at 7pm** & the film **starts at 7.30pm**. Tickets are **£6** and available in advance from **Bob's Butchers** in the High Street, and on the **door**. See you soon! Alison, Martin and Janice.

Harwell Parish History Group - June 2023

Talks

On 17th May, William Jackson gave well-illustrated, witty account of his walk, over a period of years, over The Monarch's Way. An appreciative audience learned much about **Charles II's adventures** and narrow escapes en route.

Our next talks will be:

- **September 20th** *From Michael Faraday and Ada Lovelace to Tim Berners-Lee: The 200 Year History of the Internet* by Professor Mike Lockwood
- **October 18th** *A Brief History of Long Wittenham* by Janet Haylett (of the Long Wittenham History Society)
- **November 15th** *Leather's Lucky Landscape: medieval and modern manufacture in Abingdon* by Patricia Cooke

The Mini-Magazine

Produced monthly during lockdown, this is now issued to **bridge the gap** between our two sets of talks. We would *enthusiastically welcome* short reminiscences and contributions about family/local/national/history, and any kind of history: art/economic/food, etc. Please email to: Harwellhistorygroup@outlook.com

Displays

There is a **new display** in the glass cases of the Village Hall foyer. Unsurprisingly, it is about past **significant coronations** (e.g. the first service to be completely in English not Latin), some with notable **mishaps**, and on the **regalia**. Most interestingly, Patricia Cooke has provided items on the history and significance of the **colour purple**.

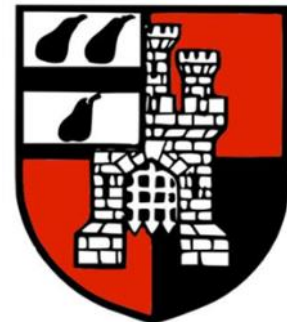
Fruit History: Worcester Pears and Harwell Cherries



Some fruit trees planted in the recreation ground's **community orchard** have long histories. One such is the **Black Worcester Pear**, cultivated in England for centuries. Possibly introduced by the **Romans**, it was certainly grown in **1388** when it was mentioned in the records of the **Cistercian Abbey** of Warden in Bedfordshire. It is a cultivar of the **European pear** (*Pyrus communis*). A large pear, it is characterised by a dull, purple-ish skin which makes it appear black, hence the name. Raw, it is not particularly appetising since the flesh is hard and coarse, but it is an excellent **stewing pear** and can also be used to make **perry**. The fruit will keep for some time - an advantage in former times when it was **difficult** to preserve fruit.



These pears have long been associated with the city and county of **Worcester**. When **Queen Elizabeth 1** visited Worcester in **1575** she was **delighted** by a Black Worcester tree that had been transplanted, with a full crop of fruit on it, to the **Foregate** in the city. She granted the city **permission** to add to its **coat of arms** a Canton (a square in the upper left-hand corner) on which were 'three pears sable' (i.e. black). This privilege is technically an **Augmentation of Honour** - a reward for valuable service. In heraldry, this pear was depicted on the **banner** of Worcestershire **bowmen** at Agincourt in 1415, while a tree laden with Black Pears is central to the arms of **Worcester County Council**, and on the badge of the **County Cricket Club**.



Harwell was long famous for its **cherries** and it is fitting that the new orchard has **several varieties**, including the long-established **May Duke**. This cherry was mentioned by the professional gardener and florist **John Rea** in **1665**, though **John Parkinson** - herbalist, botanist and apothecary - knew of **May cherries** in **1629**.

For a decade from 1610 the farmer and meticulous record-keeper, Robert Loder of Princes Manor, noted the **yield** and **profit** from his Harwell orchards. The orchards were in closes, maybe attached to houses which he rented out: he mentions - *Bartletttes; Sanders; Upper House Close; Fardinges*. In 1618, Loder sold **1,735lb** of cherries besides those eaten by his household AND, alas, his pickers. He noted:

'We hired women, & I think it were a better course to hire men, for they would do twice so much I think; & then there might be perhaps half those eaten by our gatherers saved.'

An interesting theory – that the women pickers ate more cherries than did the men!

His maids spent **23 days** at market selling cherries, and he noted they cost **3d per 20lbs** (pounds) to transport (1 kilo = 2.2 lbs). But he made a **profit** of £11 8/11d – between £1,500 and £3,000 in modern values. In 1620, when he had a glut, Loder sent **26 horse loads** of cherries to market (? in Abingdon?), with 200lbs in each load. (*That is 100lbs in each pannier- surely they must have got crushed, unless they were carefully packed in shallow baskets?*) He gave a good number away; his household ate them [as did his pickers], and he still had **6,402lb** for sale. Loder was what today we might call a **Puritan** and believed that God intervened directly in his affairs, so his comment was *'The Lord be praised for such an Abundance'*

MFT This piece is adapted from a recent HPHG mini-magazine.





Greetings from St Matthew's Harwell and All Saints' Chilton!

A reflection from John and Carol Pigott

The other day, a member of our Home Group asked how **long** we had lived in **Chilton**. Since **1977**. More than half our lives!

I remember trudging through the mud, taking the children to **school**, across the construction site that was to be the new **A34**. Having braved the mud, it was the traffic on the old road (now the track down and under the A34) that had to be **braved**, with lollipop man Charlie Shaw, school caretaker, taking his life in his hands for our **safety**.

Those days, there was no village hall, either. Just an old church hall, made of **wood**, opposite Crafts End, at the foot of Churchill. It was used for Sunday School, Girls' Brigade, and any other **functions** of the church or village. That was "normality" in those days.

Fast forward, and we have just had our "normality" **overturned** drastically by the pandemic; and then again, life has taken another lurch, with the sad **passing** of Queen Elizabeth. What will the new **era** of King Charles bring with it, we wonder?

In church life, we are just coming out of a year's "Interregnum", as well. This is the time "in-between" one Rector and another. We have been blessed to have had a hard-working team (from both parishes) to lead us through it and we will now be moving forward with our new Rector, **Jeremy Parsons**.

Traditionally, Christian's regard Pentecost/Whitsun as the "birthday of the church", when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit, bringing the wind of change into our lives. You may, or may not, normally **join us** in our church services and events (everyone is always welcome) but may we all look forward to the coming changes in all our lives with **courage** and **enthusiasm**.

What's coming up during June and July 2023



Monday mornings 9.30am-11.30am

St Matthew's Church

Wednesday mornings 9.30am-11.30am

Chilton Community Room.

A **free** playtime with **refreshments** for grown-ups and a **snack** for children. Singing songs and a short Christian focused story reminding us of God's amazing love for us and the world.

Both mornings run within term time only.

1st Thursday of the month - Community Café at St Matthew's Harwell - please come along, bring **friends** and family for good free **coffee** and home-made **cake**.

Thursday midweek Communion 11.am

8th June All Saints' Chilton and **22nd** St Matthew's Harwell.

13th July (BCP) All Saints' Chilton and **27th** (BCP) St Mathew's Harwell. Everyone is welcome.

3rd Saturday of the month - 10am to midday Oasis Café at All Saints' Chilton - Everyone is welcome to come along to enjoy free **coffee** and a **chat** (always delicious biscuits and cakes too).

For details of all our Sunday Services please look out for our flyer or consult the [calendar on our website](#).

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

Tuesdays 10.30am - The Hart of Harwell

1st Thursday of the month 10.30am - St Matthew's Church

Fridays 11.00am - The Harwellian

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Harwell Gardeners' Club



We meet on the **1st Monday of the month** (except where this falls on a Bank Holiday), in St Matthew's Church at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome. Your first visit is free.

Forthcoming events as follows:-

- **Monday 3rd July** - Garden visit to Rookwood Farmhouse, Stockcross
- **Monday 7th August** - Garden visit to The Old Rectory, Farnborough

Visitors are welcome on any of these visits. Please contact Kate Hunneman for further details on kate.hunneman@gmail.com or **07770 511495**

- **Monday 4th September** - 'Plot to Plate' A talk by Alan Williams

Competition: A prize winning vegetable



- **Saturday 16th September** - Village Produce Show in Harwell School
Schedules **available now** from Bob's Butchers. Classes range from Fruit, Vegetables & Flowers to Handicrafts, Cookery, Photography & Art. Classes for adults & children. Open to all.

Janice Markey, Chairman, Harwell Gardeners' Club

Harwell Community Orchard Update

The orchard is really taking shape now with several trees in **blossom**, identifying labels tied on, **benches** and a litter bin in place. Many thanks to all those generous **sponsors** who paid for a tree or trees, we do hope you have been to visit them! Sponsorship monies helped us to do **more** with our **National Lottery Community grant** and our next purchase will be **signage** and a **detailed map** of the site, with tree **varieties** and their



identification number. We are also planning a low wire **fence** around the perimeter of the orchard to **protect** the hedge.

We would always welcome **help** with **weeding** and **care**



of the trees and hedging, so do **let us know** if you have any spare time, or just pull a few weeds as you are passing, throw them in the **compost area**! Contact us on sustainable@harwellvillage.uk or penny.kinloch@outlook.com

Sue Greatbanks

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!

The council is **still** getting complaints about dog mess not being picked up. VWHDC Environmental Wardens are **patrolling** in the parish and can issue **penalty fines** for offending owners. Please help to keep this parish tidy and mess-free by **picking up** after your dog and placing the mess in the bins provided.



THE HARES OF HAR(E)WELL

West Hagbourne have their dragons,
East Hendred have their scarecrows
and now Harwell will have its hares.

For the week of
Saturday 22nd July - Sunday 30th July
a hare trail will be created
around our village with
teas and the church tower
open on Sunday 30th July.

For more information,
or to take part with
your homemade hare,
email [janette Roberts](mailto:janette.roberts@sky.com) on
janette.roberts@sky.com
or telephone 01235 861409
alternatively
email Janice Markey on
jvmarkey@googlemail.com
or telephone 07876706043

What will you
make your hare
out of?



Other than where stated and in reports of Parish Council matters, any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Items for the August issue should be sent by **15th July** to

news@harwellparish.co.uk

Printed copies of the Harwell News will be available for collection at the Harwell Newsagents, Bob's Butchers, the Harwellian, St Matthew's church porch and in Harwell Village Hall for users. It is available online at <https://www.harwellparish.co.uk/harwell-news/>

Sign up [HERE](#) if you would like to receive an emailed copy of the latest issue. 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

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