

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

Christmas Gifts for Children in Ukraine 2

Thank you to all of you who chose, wrapped and gave a gift for a child in Ukraine! The presents made it safely to Lyman in the eastern Donetsk region, where "Santa" (aka Ben from Kidlington!) distributed them to children over a number of days over the Christmas period. The children were thrilled to receive their gifts, which brought a

great deal of cheer to families in this war-torn town. We are looking at other ways to support them - watch this space! - and please keep your shoe boxes through the year, as we will try to repeat this next Christmas if the need is still there.

Yvonne Sanderson



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Harwell Bowls Club – January update

Happy New Year from Harwell Bowls Club!

We are in the process of getting our **green ready** for another year of bowls. Thanks to the **Harwell Feast award**, over the next few months we will be adding **new facing** and **ditching** to the green which will stop Bowls getting damaged.

We have purchased a **ramp** to enable people with **mobility issues** to get onto the green easily, with funds from **Harwell Parish Council's** Community Infrastructure Levy receipts of £2525. The **SODC Everyone Active Grant Scheme** awarded us £1000 for the purchase of **training bowls**. The Club can now offer a greater **variety** of weighted bowls for people to try **without** needing to purchase a set and the club was also **gifted** a substantial quantity of second hand bowls which will be for sale.

Bowls is a sport for those **from 7 years of age**, as they need to be able to hold the bowls. Harwell School had a **six week course** from September to October on their **all weather court** for their pupils. There really are some **budding bowlers** there and we hope to **welcome** them, together with **anyone** who would like to play to our **Open Day** in the **Spring**, date to be confirmed nearer the time, as it will be weather dependent. All you will need is **flat shoes** - we have a variety of bowls for you to use.

Again, we will be having our **plant, book and craft sales** throughout the season so if you see the gate open, **come in** and have a browse. **Funds raised** from these sales are ploughed **back** into the Club to ensure Harwell retains its Bowls Club.

We are a **small friendly** club and always pleased to welcome people wishing to play bowls, even if you have fitness issues. Some members can only manage **half** a game, so if this is you, please come and **join us**. Remember bowls is an **all round fitness** sport and also good for your **wellbeing** too. We play mixed friendlies at **weekends**, the Ashley Baker League on **Wednesday evenings** and the Kennet League on **Thursday/Friday afternoons** for men aged 55 and over. On **Monday evenings** we have **club nights** where you are welcome to come along and learn and enjoy the game of bowls.

Our sponsors, **Driving Miss Daisy**, will hopefully be more involved this year with bringing their **clients** to visit the club. More information will be in the next edition of Harwell News. We look forward to welcoming you in 2024.



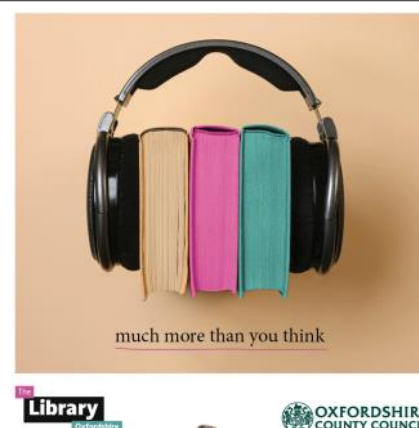
Oxfordshire's libraries are here to help

Need to get online? The [computers in libraries are free](#) for members to use for up to two hours each day. **Stuck with tech? Not sure how to get online or what to do when you do?** Don't worry – volunteer digital helpers are on hand to guide you through.

Applying for a bus pass or need a blue badge application verified? Lots of libraries can help with that too. **Govoríš angleško? Ви розмовляєте англійською? Sprechen Sie Englisch?** Did you know libraries can help you improve your English at [language cafés](#).

There's more they can do, find out how your [local library](#) could support you.

And yes, you can still borrow a book or two, from print and [e-books to audio](#) there's a great selection to view.



Michael (Mike) Oliver Funeral Fees & Hardship Fund



Originally from Wales, long-term Drayton resident Mike Oliver passed away on **3rd February**. Mike served in the **Army** for 10 years and some of the trauma and resultant **PTSD** he suffered meant that when he died, sadly he had no next of kin and no savings to provide for a funeral. **Annie O'Sullivan**, Mike's neighbour since 2017, decided to try to **raise funds** for a basic **cremation** for Mike, to give him a **respectful** send off "*as he was well known within the village, especially to local dog walkers, and also for some **pay back** for when he served his country.*"

Annie set up a [GoFundMe page](#) to raise funds and with the help of friends Claire and Carol Carter, put out the word to raise awareness of Mike's sad situation.

On 14th February Annie posted an **update**: "*What an **appropriate** day to be posting this update. The world certainly has a lot more **love** and **compassion** than I realised. We are just a **hundred** or so pounds under the amount needed to give Mike a basic attended cremation, with possibly a **few extras** such as Order of Service & unexpected small legal fees etc.*". At the time of writing, her **total** so far stands at **£3,525** and with her target of £2500 reached, Annie intends to liaise with local undertakers to set up a 'hardship fund' to help others in Mike's situation in the future.

Annie says that the generosity of both **friends** and **strangers** has restored her faith in humanity. She would like to thank **Tonks Undertakers**, Abingdon for taking on the funeral at significantly reduced costs, and **C S Boswell Funeral Services**, who offered similar; **Paula Burke** (Norfolk), **Diane Jones** (Witney) and **June Chapman** (Oxfordshire), all independent celebrants who offered their services free of charge; an **organist** from the Drayton area (sorry, no name available) who also offered free service; and finally "*to **Claire** and **Carol Carter** who have been anonymously beaver away in the background raising awareness and donations.*"



Harwell Parish Council

There is a further consultation by OCC on the proposed 20 mph limit within the village: The County Council is consulting again on this as the time for implementing their previous decision has run out. You have until **Friday 23rd February** to give your views. The aim is to make our roads **safer** and more attractive places to **walk** and **cycle**, so please take a look at [the proposal](#) and comment. Their plan would be to carry out the necessary work during the year.

Vale WHDC consultation on District Plan: The Vale and SODC are producing the next Local Plan **jointly**, and the public consultation on it runs until **Monday 26th February** – you can view the draft and comment [here](#).

Notice: The Parish Council wishes to keep the **Recreation Ground** as a place of safety and enjoyment by all who visit, and to this end **prohibits kids' electric and petrol motorcycles**, with or without parental supervision. To find places where they can be used we suggest you contact the [North Berks MCC](#). The full regulations for the Rec may be viewed [here](#).

Meetings:

At the meeting on **30th November** revised fees for the various Council services were **agreed**, and these can be seen [here](#); these include cemetery, allotments, Rec pitches and Harwell News ads.

The **Valley Park development** proposal was one of the planning applications being considered. Although Valley Park is no longer within Harwell Parish, the Council is still able to **comment** and agreed to reiterate its **objections**, including that there must be **health-care provision** from the outset. Full details are in the PC minutes, which can be found with other recent minutes [here](#).

The main item on the November agenda was the **budget** for the forthcoming year from April. After discussion it was agreed to set the precept, the PC's main source of income, at **£119,900**. The Vale WHDC has set the tax base at 1,358 times the Band D value, so a Band D property's tax will be **£88.29**. This is an **increase** of about **10%** on last year, but Councillors agreed last year to keep the increase down by taking money from reserves.

The **Tennis Club** had asked permission to replace its shelter with a timber construction central to the side of the court, which would mean **extending** most of their western boundary by 3 metres. To take the area from general recreation use there needs to be a **Parish Consultation**; Councillors **agreed in principle** provided the Tennis Club pays the costs and there are **no objections**.

On **19th December** an additional meeting was held to approve advertising the **Clerk post** and associated matters, the job description, etc., that the Locum Clerk had prepared. These were **agreed**. Some planning and routine matters were dealt with, as well as approving various **revised policies**.

At the meeting on **18th January** Councillors considered a draft revision of the Lands Committee Terms of Reference. The main aim would be to **delegate** a lot of the Council's **powers** to Lands rather than it just make recommendations to the main meeting. There was also a need for the PC to consider commenting to the Vale on **planning applications**. These are usually open for 3 weeks, or just 2 in the case of amendments, although the PC has

sometimes been granted an extension to their meeting date if just beyond the deadline. After discussion it was agreed to **approve** that there be **separate** Lands and Planning committees, to meet usually 2 weeks after the main meeting on the same evening; most Council members would be on one of the committees.

There was also a proposal to create a **Rowstock Committee** to consider issues particularly relevant to Rowstock residents; however, it was felt that with 2 vacancies still on the Parish Council, any **residents** from Rowstock or North Drive could be **co-opted** to the Council and thus ensured a voice.

There were **planning applications** related to 2 residences, to which the Council had **no objections**, and one for tree works on the Campus site. It was felt that mature trees were **not** being sufficiently **safeguarded** so it was agreed to submit an **objection** on the grounds that the plan would be **contrary** to the Vale WHDC's policy to **increase biodiversity**.

The appointment of Ms K Luker as **Parish Council Archivist**, a voluntary role, was **approved** allowing her to access Parish records in County record offices and use them in the Parish Office. She was **thanked** for being willing to undertake this.

An additional **bench** in the Orchard area of the recreation ground was **approved**; this will be in memory of **Mrs L M Lee**.

It was agreed to **extend** the contract of the Locum Clerk from 2nd to **13th February**.

The next meeting of the Parish Council, on 13th February, will be reported in the April issue. Prepared by Martin Ricketts, approved by HPC Chair Ms Tracey Pearson

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th April, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting is independent of the Parish Council and Parish Electors are able to raise **any matter** of local concern, though decisions of the meeting are not binding on the Parish Council.



HARWELL VILLAGE HALL

Do you have skills/expertise in any of the following areas:

- IT/data security and management
- AV systems
- Secretarial skills and document control

If you're interested in supporting our busy Village Hall, we would love to hear from you. We are always happy to welcome new members to our team, if you would like to help in any way, do please **contact** us at chair@villagehall.co.uk,



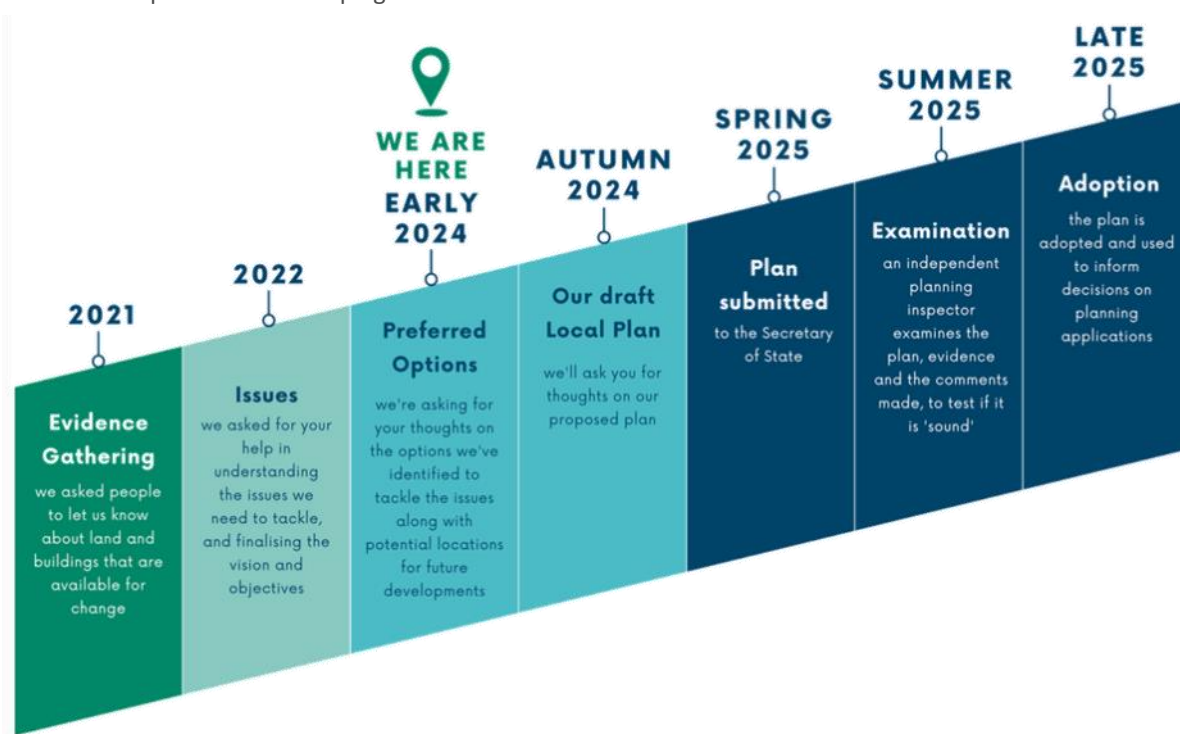
CHARITY NUMBER 1157858

Update from your Local District Councillors, Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and Cllr Debra Dewhurst, January 2024



Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

Happy New Year! January will be a busy month for the district council. You can now comment on the 'preferred options' of the Joint Local Plan (JLP) that the Vale of White Horse District Council have been working on together with South Oxfordshire District Council. The JLP will set out the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go. It will inform planning application decisions for the districts. It will also have policies to help address the climate emergency, restore nature and meet the needs of residents, such as delivering genuinely affordable low-carbon homes with the right infrastructure to go with it. The figure below shows where we are in the process of developing the JLP.



Now we need **your input** again. There are two ways to read the current version of the JLP (the preferred options) and make your comments: for a **detailed look** at the plan go to <https://jlp.southandvale.gov.uk/> or for a **briefer look** go to "JLP in a Nutshell" at <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/>. For Parish Councils we recommend the **first link**.

Council News

In **December's Full Council meeting**, the last one of the year, council debated **significant** points of interest to the district and its future, with a motion **restating** the Vale's **opposition** to the proposed **reservoir, SESRO**. It also considered the upcoming consultation to the council's forthcoming **joint local plan** and its future commitment to **climate action** and **nature recovery**.

Highlights:

Motion opposing Thames Water's Proposed Reservoir: The first motion noted the council's **concerns** around the Southeast Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) set out in the draft regional plan by Thames Water. The council's resolutions included to **request a meeting** with the current Secretary of State alongside a call for the SESRO approval processes to be **paused**.

Proposer Cllr Robert Clegg-; Seconder – Cllr Andy Cooke

Motion affirming the Council's Commitment to Nature Recovery: The second motion focused on **action** on the crisis in nature and our **commitment** to nature recovery. The council acknowledged the importance of **biodiversity** and **nature** and resolved to ensure both were given **equal priority** with **climate change** within **planning policies** and **design guides** and the new corporate plan.

Proposer – Cllr Sarah James; Seconder – Cllr Katherine Foxhall

Have your say on a new political map for Vale of White Horse District Council: The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what **residents** and **organisations** think about their **local area**. The Commission is the **independent** body that **draws** these **boundaries**. It is reviewing Vale of White Horse to make sure councillors **represent** about the **same number** of electors, and that ward arrangements help the council work **effectively**. It wants to be sure that its proposals **reflect** community ties and identities. **Have your say here:** <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/vale-white-horse>

We also post on our councillor Facebook Pages: www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh & www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell Please get in touch with any issues or concerns, either via email: hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

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

One of the most common questions I'm asked is 'what is life like as an MP?'

In general my week is **split** Monday-Thursday in Parliament and Friday-Sunday back home in Didcot.

At the time of writing this, the last week kicked-off with a team meeting at the **Department for Education**, followed by my weekly meeting with the team delivering our huge expansion of **childcare**, with the first 15 hours of free childcare becoming available for working parents from **April**. Alongside various other meetings, **Chilton County Primary School** came for a visit to Westminster, and it was great to meet them and take their questions.

Tuesday included meeting with **GARD** to discuss the next steps following me echoing their call for a **public inquiry** of the reservoir proposal in December; attending a networking event of charities and businesses involved in our **Disability Action Plan**; and responding for the Government in a debate about **nursery provision** in the South West.

Just as **MPs** like myself have regular **surgeries** with **constituents**, so **Ministers** have regular **surgeries** with **MPs** to discuss problems they're having locally in areas the Minister covers and Wednesday kicked off with one of these. After attending **PMQs**, I presented to Parliament my petition to **reopen Grove Station**, which I'm grateful to the 2127 of you for

signing. I met my Parliamentary team before taking another debate - this time on **special educational needs** - and several other meetings.

Last week was **National Apprenticeship Week** and on Thursday I visited **childcare apprentices** and then another nursery. To and from the visits I had calls with **10 local authorities** and did some paperwork.

Then on Friday I began with a **Q&A** at **Didcot Sixth Form** then met with Liane and Mark from **Active Future South Oxfordshire** and visited apprentices at **Williams Racing** in Grove. I had several surgery appointments, including meeting a local **sub-postmaster** who contacted me after seeing the ITV drama about the **Horizon scandal** having recognised that what happened had also happened to her. I am pleased this Government is taking such **decisive action** to right this wrong.

I met with **Niamh Dernie** from Wantage to talk about the next steps in her **campaign against sexual harassment** and then had the pleasure of presenting **Mikayla Beames** from Team Mikayla, which I am a proud patron of, with her **Points of Light award** from the PM. Then I rounded off the day with my weekly visit to **Merv**, as part of my volunteering with the **Didcot Good Neighbours Scheme**.

Weekends are always a combination of door knocking, emails and paperwork for both MP and Minister roles and - when I can manage it - **Liverpool games!**

I love the ability to make a **difference** in the job and the **variety** - as I always say to people, it's better to be very **busy** than bored.

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

Bell Ringing News

Thank you to the visitors that came to the Church on **Boxing day**. It was lovely to see so many joining us for **refreshments** and also in the ringing chamber. We managed to ring for all of the **Christmas** services this year and also covered some at Chilton.

We '**Rang out the old year**' and '**Rang in the new year**'. Again visitors joined us, both ringers and non ringers. We celebrated with a glass of **fizz** and **mince pies** after ringing the bells down.

Our **learners** are now ringing for services and we have had **enquiries** from prospective new ringers, which is great news!

Advance notice of extra ringing on **Wednesday 3rd April 19:30-21:00**. These are visiting ringers for a Branch practice.

Janette Roberts



Hungry Birds Easter Trail

The blue tit chick is hungry - but what is the right food for him to eat? Come help blue tit find discover the right foods for all the birds and their beaks in the different habitats. Complete the birdy challenges as you go to earn your chocolate prize! Make a bird themed craft to take home.

Tuesday 2 ; Wednesday 3; Thursday 4 and Tuesday 9 April 10am-2pm

Suitable for 4-11 years. £8 per child. BOOKING ESSENTIAL



Visit our website to book or for more info:

- bbowt.org.uk/events
- 01235 862024 or sceec@bbowt.org.uk



bbowt.org.uk

More nature everywhere

Registered charity no. 204330



Starting April this year, existing childcare support is being expanded

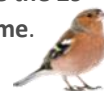


From **1 April 2024**, eligible working parents of **2-year-olds** will be able to access **15 hours a week** of funded childcare support for 38 weeks of the year.

To access this support, parents will need to **apply** for a **code** via the **GOV.UK website**. They will also need to **check** with their childcare provider to see if this is something they're **offering**, as **not all providers are**.

Applications are now **open**, and parents are being encouraged to **apply now**, and **before the 29 February**, as applying beyond that date could result in the code **not** being received **in time**.

Find out more at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/workingfamilies



OCC Vision Zero Draft Strategy Consultation

Road collisions and injuries are on the **increase** across Oxfordshire, and we want to **improve road safety** for all road users across the county. We want to **hear your views** on the **Draft Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy**, a clear, long-term ambition for improving road safety in Oxfordshire.

The Vision Zero safe system approach has a simple premise - **no human being should be killed or seriously injured as the result of a road collision; whichever mode of road transport you are using**.

By adopting a Vision Zero approach we aim to ensure that our need to travel **does not compromise** the well-being of ourselves or others. [Our commitment to Vision Zero was confirmed by the County Council's Cabinet on 21 June 2022](#). At this meeting we outlined Oxfordshire's Vision Zero target of zero road fatalities and serious incidents by 2050.

Road safety is a **collective** responsibility that involves all of us, and our Vision Zero Strategy provides a **framework** by which we can **achieve** our road safety ambitions, as well as involve **residents** and **partners** going forward. **Share your feedback** on our draft Vision Zero strategy.

Have your say - We want to know **what you think** of our Vision Zero Strategy and how we are planning to achieve our Vision Zero Targets. Your feedback will help us to understand if the strategy needs to **change** before it is **finalised** later this year.

[Click here to read the draft document and complete the survey](#). The survey will close at midnight on **Sunday 10 March 2024**.



BIG GINGER TOM MUSIC
PRESENTS EVENINGS OF
FOLK, AMERICANA, ROOTS AND COUNTRY
IN HARWELL & FARINGDON

FRI 16 FEB	KATIE SPENCER/ HENRY PARKER	THE CORN EXCHANGE FARINGDON
FRI 23 FEB	SHOW OF HANDS	THE ORCHARD HALL HARWELL
FRI 15 MAR	NINEBARROW SUPPORT: WEDNESDAY'S WOLVES	THE ORCHARD HALL HARWELL
FRI 19 APR	RANAGRI SUPPORT: NATALIE HOLMES	THE ORCHARD HALL HARWELL
FRI 17 MAY	ELIZABETH & JAMESON/ LIZZY HARDINGHAM SUPPORT: ANNA RENAE	THE CORN EXCHANGE FARINGDON
SAT 21 SEP	HANNAH SCOTT SUPPORT: TBA	THE CORN EXCHANGE FARINGDON
FRI 18 OCT	MAN THE LIFEBOATS SUPPORT: TBA	THE ORCHARD HALL HARWELL
FRI 15 NOV	EDWINA HAYES SPECIAL GUEST: EMILY SLADE	THE CORN EXCHANGE FARINGDON
FRI 06 DEC	MERRY HELL SUPPORT: TBA	THE ORCHARD HALL HARWELL

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BIGGINGERTOMMUSIC.CO.UK @GMAIL.COM

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info.poppymeadows@housing21.org.uk
Poppy Meadows, Didcot OX11 6JX

SCAN ME

Harwell WI

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that 2024 will be a good year for everyone!

HARWELL WI CRAFT SALE - OPEN TO EVERYONE

On **Saturday 23rd March 2024**, WI are holding a **Craft Sale** between **10am - 4pm** at **1A, The Court, High Street, Harwell** (there will be signage on the day). There will be crafts to buy and sell, including craft kits, and a bric-a-brac table. This is open to **everyone**, so all are **welcome**. Members of WI and the general public can **donate** craft kits they have not used or **sell** something they have made and give a **donation** to Harwell WI. You will be sure of a warm welcome. We have been given permission to use the **car park** spaces in the **Oxford Product Design** car park.

Harwell WI welcomes, supports and inspires **all** women. We meet on the **second Wednesday** of each month in **Cherry Hall** at Harwell Village Hall, where we are **entertained** by interesting and informative Speakers, followed by a cup of tea/coffee and cake/biscuits, and a good **chat**. All visitors are made very welcome, and you will **not** be on your own, so come along and see for yourselves what we are all about. You **won't** be disappointed. In addition to the monthly meetings Harwell WI also organize **days out**, walks, **crafts**, Knit & Natter group.

If you would like to know more or have any queries please email: harwellwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

The next meeting is our **Annual Meeting and social evening** on **13th March**, starting at 7.30pm in Cherry Hall.

As well as our normal monthly meetings and organized events, you also have the opportunity to attend various events held by **Oxfordshire Federation WI**. These include crafts, day trips and holidays. These events are advertised in the monthly WI magazine 'Oxfordshire Inspires'.

Lesley Muddiman

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Cholsey Repair Café

Cholsey Repair Café will be back on **Saturday 16th March** at the **Cholsey Pavilion**, hoping to help even more local residents to **repair** their broken items **instead** of buying new. Doors open at **11.00** and the session ends at **13.45**.

There is a **charge** for any **spare parts** needed but repair **help** is given **free** by volunteers — although a **donation** towards running costs is always **appreciated**. The fixing crew can look at **electrical** faults, **PAT testing**, **sharpening**, **bicycle** repairs, small **woodwork** jobs, **needlework**, general **gluing** and even **ultrasonic cleaning** of small items. **Advice** is freely available if a repair isn't possible on the day. More **information** can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com



What's on at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

Berkshire Wildlife Trust

Bird Watching for Beginners (for adults)
Saturday 9 March; 10am-1pm
 Learn to identify the birds in your garden and local area on our friendly nature reserve. £12 per head

Dawn Chorus Walk with Breakfast (for adults)
Saturday 13 April; 5.45am-8am
 Join the birds to greet the morning and learn to identify them from their songs. £12 per head

Want to practice your skills?
 Join Nature, Natter and Nibbles one Friday a month on the nature reserve. Walk, watch, listen, notice, chat, relax. 10.30am-12noon
 £3 per session; dates online – booking required.

Visit our website to book or for more info:

- bbowt.org.uk/events
- 01235 862024 or sceec@bbowt.org.uk

bbowt.org.uk More nature everywhere

Registered charity no. 204330

Photo BBOWT

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2004 - 2024

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Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Oxfordshire military museum celebrates International Women's Day 2024 with a range of events and exhibitions

- A new permanent display at the museum now tells the story of women in the armed forces, from the Great War to more recent conflicts in Bosnia and Afghanistan
- Living historians **Tastes Through Time** will visit the museum with displays that provide insight into the lives of women on the home front and in auxiliary forces during the Second World War
- A talk from **Blenheim Palace's** archivist, **Antonia Keaney**, will tell the stories of the Ladies of Blenheim - often over-looked in favour of the men - on Saturday 9 March 2024
- A talk from **Richard Poad MBE, of the Air Transport Auxiliary Museum**, will tell the stories of the inspiring women of the ATA on Sunday 10 March 2024

This year Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, will be hosting a range of **events** to mark **International Women's Day 2024** on **8th March** and celebrate the often-overlooked stories of **women** in and out of the **armed forces**.

Following on from 2023's temporary exhibition, **Women & War**, the museum now hosts a **permanent display** that offers visitors a look at the evolving roles of **women** in the armed forces. Beginning with the **Women's Land Army** and their critical contribution on the Home Front, it moves on to cover the various **Second World War services** that enlisted thousands of women - such as the **Wrens** (WRNS - Women's Royal Navy Service), **WAAF** (Women's Auxiliary Air Forces), **ATA** (Air Transport Auxiliary) among others.



From 1949 all women serving in the British Army belonged to the **WRAC** (Women's Royal Army Corps) until it was disbanded in 1992, and the full **integration** of women into the Army began. By 2016 women had access to **80%** of the same roles as male soldiers, with all **combat** roles opened up to women in 2018. The new display provides **stories** and **personal accounts** from local women who served in a range of armed forces throughout this journey.

Around International Women's Day itself the new display will be supported by a range of **celebratory events**.

On Saturday 9 March 2024, the museum will host living historians **Tastes Through Time** and a talk by **Antonia Keaney**, archivist at the nearby UNESCO World Heritage site, **Blenheim Palace**.

- **Tastes Through Time** will be on hand from **11am to 4pm** on Saturday 9 March to educate and entertain on the **heroic women** who played a crucial role during World War 2. Showcasing the **diverse** roles women undertook to support the war effort, their display aims to **honour** the extraordinary efforts of these inspiring women. There will be interactive displays, **artefacts**, and personal narratives from **home front** and to **battle zones**. True to its name, **Tastes Through Time** will also offer a taste of wartime **recipes** and **rations**. Sample some recipes of the time, that were prepared with **limited supplies**, highlighting the creativity and **resilience** of these women as they navigated through challenging times.



- Blenheim Palace archivist **Antonia Keaney's** talk, **Lust & Laudanum: The Ladies of Blenheim** will be held **from 2pm** and aims to shed more light on the **lives** and **loves** of the ladies of the **Marlborough** family - usually overlooked in favour of the men. From **Sarah Churchill**, the indomitable First Duchess, and continuing through the centuries with the **adventures** of some of her successors, the talk will **redress the balance** as it looks at the **achievements** of these women and the thwarted talents and potential of **overlooked** members of the Marlboroughs.



Duchess of Marlborough &
Lady Diana Spencer

The museum's second talk celebrating International Women's Day will be held the following day, **Sunday 10 March 2024 from 3pm**.

- **Richard Poad MBE**, from the **ATA Museum** in Maidenhead, will talk on **The Women of the ATA**. Initially women in the Air Transport Auxiliary were **dismissed** as not being up to a job as a pilot, flying **unarmed**, without radios and navigating by **map reading**. But they soon proved the critics **wrong** and achieved just as much as the men. Supported with a wealth of **photographs** and **anecdotes** from veterans Richard has met, his talk is sure to **amaze** and **inspire**.



Tickets for each talk are £10 and available **at the museum** and through their [website](#). The price also **includes admission** to all the museum's galleries (normally £6.50) and **complementary tea and cake** - an **ideal** weekend experience for visitors of **all ages** that

want to **celebrate** both **International Women's Day** and **Mother's Day** this year.



GARD Update - February 2024



Thames Water finally admit that building the Reservoir will cause groundwater levels to **rise by 1 metre** without serious mitigation! After more than 25 years of **denying** any effect of the Reservoir on the local groundwater, Thames Water have now performed preliminary calculations on the actual effect. As local people have long claimed, this shows a **major adverse impact** on the groundwater of the area. They have no proven solution to this effect of raising the water level by 1 metre, which as residents know, will leave large areas of villages like Hanney, Steventon, Drayton, and the surrounding area **underwater** for months every year, even without heavy rain!

At the time of writing (18th February) the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Steve Barclay) has **not** made any decision on Thames Water's reservoir plans, or on GARD's call for a **Public Inquiry** (which we made on 20th December). So, there is still time for you and our MPs to **influence** his decision.

If you sent your complaints to Thames Water in the consultation, and you feel that they have not answered your points, or you want to write against the new, larger, project, then we **urge** you to follow GARD's example and write to the Secretary of State and demand a Public Inquiry. If you email water.resources@defra.gov.uk, label your email 'Public Inquiry into Thames Water's Water Resource Management Plan', and address your comments in the Email to **Rt Hon Steve Barclay**, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, then your comments will get through to Mr Barclay. You will be in good company (See below). Don't forget to **copy** your MP.

The support for a Public Inquiry is growing

David Johnston MP (Wantage), Layla Moran MP (Oxford West and Abingdon), local County and District Councillor, Sally Povolotsky, the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council (Cllr Liz Leffman) and CPRE, the Countryside Charity, have **all** followed GARD's lead and written to Steve Barclay requesting a Public Inquiry into Thames Water's plans. Steventon Parish Council have joined in the call. Oxfordshire Liberal Democrats, representing all LD Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and local councillors, have issued a Press Release calling for a Public Inquiry. All these organisations cite **unresolved issues** from Thames Water's consultation.

Of course, both the County Council and the Vale of White Horse have passed **unanimous** council motions re-affirming opposition to the Reservoir.

Layla Moran MP called a Westminster **debate** on Thames Water's terrible record in Oxfordshire, at which she cited all the problems with Thames Water's dumping of **sewage** into Oxfordshire streams and rivers, and spoke against the Reservoir proposal.

Details for contacting your MP

Contact **David Johnston** on david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

Please copy gard.secretary@gmail.com into any correspondence and see the website for developments <https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

Derek Stork, Chairman GARD



2023 Poppy Appeal Harwell



Harwell
Branch

The collecting boxes in the Harwell shops and businesses, and in the Harwell Campus organisations, the house-to-

house collection in Harwell, and the Remembrance Sunday bucket collection raised **£1740.20**. Special thanks to the **Chilton PAO**, the house-to-house and bucket **collectors**, all **shops** and **organisations** who hosted a collecting box and those who **delivered** and **collected** the boxes.

Peter Cox, Poppy Appeal Organiser Harwell Village and Campus



BBOWT - Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

Events for children this Spring

Home Educators' Day: Sensory Adventure

An immersive day of outdoor learning at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre for our local home educating community.

Tuesday 5 March 2024, 10am-2pm. Suitable for children aged 4-11 years with an accompanying adult. £8 per child.

Family Pond Dipping Workshops

It's a whole new world in the watery depths of the pond! Come grab a net and meet some of the fascinating creatures living just out of sight.

Wednesday 10 April – morning and afternoon sessions available.

Suitable for children aged 4-11 years, no younger siblings please. £8 per child

Young and Teen Rangers

Monthly Saturday clubs for young people aged 8-17 years who love wildlife. **See the website for upcoming dates and details.**

£8 per child.

For more information, more events and to book please head to our website: www.bbowl.org.uk/events

01235 862024 or sceec@bbowl.org.uk

**Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre,
Sutton Courtenay Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX14 4TE**

Harwell Gardeners' Club



In **December** we had our **AGM** and **Christmas Party**. The Club has had a good year with **lots** of interesting **talks** and some very good **garden visits**. The **competition trophy** was won by **Heather Coates**.

In **January** we were visited by the ever popular **Timothy Walker** for a talk on **Shade & Woodland Plants**. The competition - **Ferns** - was won by **Martin Ricketts**.

In **February** we had the speaker **Lara Honnor** with the talk **'Skool Beanz'** How To Inspire A Love Of Gardening In Children. The competition was **'A Garden In A Seed Tray'** and was won by **Heather Coates**. Anyone interested in supporting children with gardening and children were

welcomed to join and there was a raffle. To encourage young people with developing their green fingers there were **free seeds**, plants and **gardening books** to take away.

On **Monday 4th March** our talk will be on **Viticulture** and as always **visitors are most welcome**. This meeting will be **at the school** at our usual time of **7.30 p.m.** The competition is **Daffodils** and there will be a **seed swap**. Bring along your **spares** and take away something **new**.

On **Monday 8th April** we will be having a **Gardeners Quiz Night** led by speaker **Alan Williams**. The competition will be **Tulips**. This meeting will be in the **church** at **7.30 p.m.**

Annual Subscriptions are now due - Thank you to those who have already paid. **Subs are £15 per year**. Your **first visit is free**. After that it will be **£2 per visit or subscribe** for the rest of the year. A **full programme** of talk and garden visits are set for 2024.

Janice Markey, Chairman, [Harwell Gardeners' Club](https://www.harwellgardenersclub.co.uk/)



Are you thinking of volunteering? Would you like to make a difference?



Join us in helping **all girls** know they can do **anything!** ✨
Become a **Girlguiding volunteer** and join a **community** who are **inspiring girls**, and gaining **new skills** and **lifelong friends** along the way.

We have a Guide unit that meets in the **Chilton village** on **Friday nights** - we would love a **volunteer** to join our team.

We also would love to **start** an extra **Rainbow** and **Brownie** unit in the area to help **more girls** with their Girlguiding journey.



Please get in touch with any questions about these opportunities -
contact Rachel Watson on **07766 900190** or email millbrookdistrictcommssioner@gmail.com



Current Opening Hours:

Mon, Tue, Wed 6pm to 11pm Thurs 6pm to 11.30pm
Fri 11am to 11.30pm Sat 11am to 11pm Sun 11am to 9pm

Food

Fri - filled rolls & homemade cakes available from 11am
Beef and Chicken burgers, fries & sides served 6-8.30pm
Sat/Sun - filled rolls available until gone,
bacon baps (with vegan and gf options) 11am - 12.30pm

For the latest News and Updates

visit our website <https://harwellian.club/>
or FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/Harwellian>

Regular Events:

Meat Draw in the Sports Bar every Friday at 21:30
Bingo normally the last Sunday of the month
Burger nights every Friday evening 6-8.30pm,
including GF and veggie options
Warm Space Cafe every Thursday afternoon 1-4pm Free tea,
coffee & cakes
Music for Memories - Memory Café,
First Tuesday of the month.
Bar Food available for most large sports events on Saturdays.
Find us at Westfield, Harwell, OX11 0LG

News from Harwell Primary School

Happy New Year to you all. Time has **flown** by and we find ourselves in 2024!

Last term was as **busy** as always. We held a number of **events** and It was a pleasure to welcome parents and the wider school **community** to come into school and be part of school life.

We thoroughly enjoyed many **festive activities** such as the Reception Class **play**, the Key Stage 1 **Nativity**, Year 4 **carol singing** and **Mummers play** and the Year 6 carol singing and **Lantern Parade**.

Our school choir '**Harwell Harmonies**' visited The Harwellian Club where the children **entertained** those having Christmas Lunch with **singing** of Christmas songs and carols.

They also sang at our very successful **Christmas Fair** (huge **thanks** to Harwell School Association for organising the whole evening and to **Little Pippins** for the ever popular Christmas Tree Festival and Santa's grotto). The Trees looked really **special** around the edge of our sensory garden. Thanks also to the **WI** who ran our cafe and to **Oxford County Construction** who lent us their generator and lights. It was a real **joy** to see so many people enjoying the outdoor **market**.

This term is shaping up to be **equally** busy with many opportunities for curriculum **enrichment**.

We have some **trips** planned for this term - Reception Class (Story Museum), Year 2 (Museum of Natural History), Year 3 (Living Rainforest) and Year 5 (Winchester Planetarium). I will be taking some Year 6 children to Oxford Brookes to take part in the **Lego League challenge**.

The **deadline** for applying for a school place in September has now **passed**. Our year 6 children will learn of their **secondary school** allocated places on **1st March** and on **16th April**, we will be told who will be joining us in September for our **Reception Class**.

CCTV has now been installed at the school and our **Solar Panels** were installed in December - it can be quite addictive looking at the monitoring and we are looking forward to some **sunshine**!

Warm regards,

Bryn Gibson, Headteacher.



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Walk in any time, come when you like

£2 a session, the first week is free

Tea and coffee are provided

Open all year round (except Christmas)

Any craft, learn a new skill from other members and occasional demonstrations.

For further information contact

heather.stevens46@btinternet.com



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A fun and friendly community run group for under 5s

Term time Tuesdays
9:30 – 11:30 am

£3 per family

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Singing

At Harwell Village Hall (Orchard Hall, car park on Westfield)
For more info email funclubharwell@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

The Orchard Film Club

February 2024 Update

Our next film is on **Friday 1st March** and is **The Old Oak**,



directed by Ken Loach and tells the story of the last pub standing in a once thriving mining community that has now fallen on hard times. Landlord TJ Ballantyne (Dave Turner) is barely hanging on to the pub by his fingertips when his predicament is endangered even more following the arrival of Syrian refugees who have been placed in the village without warning and the pub becomes contested territory.

Upcoming films for 2024

- **Friday 12th April** – The Lesson (15)
- **Friday 10th May** – A Haunting in Venice (12A)



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.

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

1st Thursday of the month 10.30am - St Matthew's Church
Fridays 11.00am - The Harwellian
All welcome - just turn up!

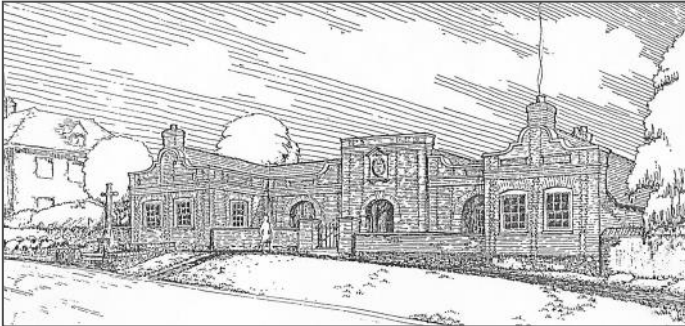
Harwell Parish History Group - October 2023

Spring talks

On **20 March**, Dick Richards will speak on “Commonwealth War Graves”; on **17 April**, Brendan Bailey will give “Adnams Farmhouse Revisited”; on **15 May**, Clare Sargent’s talk is “Capability Brown at Radley - rediscovering a lost landscape.” All talks are in the **Cherry Hall**, Harwell Village Hall, **members of HPHG free, visitors (very welcome) £3.**

The Almshouses and Frances Geering’s (nee Frances Jennings) wealth

It is **290 years** this year since the **Court of Chancery** in London ruled in 1734 that **Frances Geering’s** wealth must be used to found



Harwell’s Almshouses, as she required in her will (1723). Recent research has uncovered the **source** of her wealth.

Frances Geering’s **independent** control of large resources was **unusual** for her time. Until **1882**, anything a married woman owned, earned, inherited or was given **belonged** to her **husband**. So, **before** Frances married c. 1715, at the age of 61 (sic), her male relatives employed the legal device of a **trust** to ensure she **retained** control of her wealth. In 1723, she **willed** this for the foundation and maintenance of Almshouses for **six** childless Harwell **widows**. On

dying in 1731, she left **£1,200** (at least £3,500,000 today). In spite of the trust, her husband and others tried to hold on to her **money** and **land**. Harwell’s Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor **challenged** this in the Court of Chancery which **forced** her husband, William Geering, to **disgorge** her cash, bonds and land (1734). So, the Almshouses were up and running by **1743**.

Why was Frances so wealthy? It was not a period when women could have a professional career. She was the **daughter** of Edward Jennings, a Harwell **landowner** of near-gentry status. In his will (14th December 1704), Frances was the principal **legatee** and sole executrix. Edward left £40 p.a. for life to his second **wife**, Mary, and bequests to the **poor** in Harwell, Hatford and Stanford-in-the-Vale. His three other surviving children (John, Richard and Elizabeth Tyrell) each received **one shilling**. Normally, this was an insult but Edward had already provided **well** for them: John held the **Manor of Hatford**; Elizabeth had **married** the landowner Walter Tyrell Esq, and Richard was a member of an elite City Guild, **the Worshipful Company of Grocers**, trading in valuable goods. Frances, however, was a **spinster** aged 50, not “settled” in life by marriage, and thus **reliant** on family resources. As the elder daughter, she had run the **household** of her father, who lived to be 99. This accounts **both** for her spinster status and his generous bequest.



Tea set, 1760, Horsham Museum

Frances inherited **c.20 acres** of land, in Weston, Berkshire, (which her father had ‘lately purchased’ from one Henry Smallbone), £600 ‘of good and faithful money of England’. After all debts and legacies had been paid, she also received the remainder of his goods and chattels - an extremely lavish quantity of household goods including the especially high-status luxury of ‘A Tea-Table and a Sett [sic] of China’.

After living with her **brother** John at Hatford for 11 years, Frances married **William Geering** of West Hanne, widower and near neighbour. **Why** would she want to marry aged 61? For companionship? To run her own household? But also because married women had a far **higher status** than spinsters, however well-off. Although Geering **renounced** any claim to her resources in 1715, his subsequent behaviour showed how **wise** Frances’s family had been to **guard** her resources in a legally watertight trust, reminiscent of a modern pre-nup!

Frances’ history reflects a clear **contrast** in our Almshouses history: a wealthy and unusually independent woman contrasts with village women with few or no resources. The Almshouses have benefited such women for nearly **two centuries** and are still used today. **The trustees have very limited finances to support these historic buildings and would welcome any proposals which may assist their fundraising.**

JMC



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**.



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

January is often associated with **new beginnings**. **Resolutions** are made, people sign up to do **dry January**, abstaining from alcohol, or **Veganuary** where people commit to being vegan for a month, compelled by the environmental and health benefits. We find ourselves being asked if we've made any **New Year's resolutions**. People's responses are generally divided into two camps – those who make **several**, or those who are quite happy to make **none**. I find myself fitting into the **latter**. However, for me, there are new **beginnings**. Following an exploration period, I'm delighted to be licensed as **Curate at Harwell and Chilton Churches**. This means that I am a **minister** who is **training** to be a **Vicar**.

We had some **wonderful** services over Christmas where together we wondered and discovered afresh the **Good News** of Jesus coming to earth as a baby, by tracing the journey of Mary and Joseph. At Christmas time, there can be a renewed sense of **hope**, even when Christmas might feel difficult for us concerning **bereavement** or other life **circumstances**. For many, **January** can also be a **challenging** month following on from the festivities, as **financial** pressures resurface, as we settle back into **routines** and as the weather remains **dull**. It has been dubbed as **'Janxiety'** (January based anxiety) by counsellors. But hope is not lost. As we start our New Year in January and continue into **February**, we can hold onto that **wonder** and **hope** from Christmas. That reminder that God came to **be with us** and **meet us** where we are. To **ponder** what we ourselves think of faith or the Christmas story, and asking these important questions. What gives us **joy** and **meaning** in our lives and how can we prioritise those for our mental, physical, and spiritual **well-being**? As we ponder these things together, I wish you a **Happy New Year** and am looking forward to **getting to know** many of you.

Revd Sasha Reeves

What's coming up during February and March 2024

1st Thursday of the month - 10.30am to midday - 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 February All Saints' Chilton and **22nd February** St Matthew's Harwell. **14th March** All Saints' Chilton and **28th March (maundy Thursday)** St Matthew's Harwell. All midweek Communion services are now Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Everyone is welcome.



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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).



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.

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

Special Services during March

Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday

Thursday 28th March 7.45pm Maundy Thursday Holy Communion, St Matthews Harwell

Friday 29th March 9.30am Good Friday at the Cross, All Saints' Chilton and 11.00am at St Matthew's Harwell

Saturday 30th March 8.00pm Easter Vigil, All Saints' Chilton

Sunday 31st March 9.30am Easter Sunday Family Communion, All Saints' Chilton and 10.30am at St Matthew's Harwell

Everyone is welcome.

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Didcot and District U3A

If you have retired, soon to retire or semi-retired and wishing to keep **body, mind and soul active** then this could be exactly what you have been looking for?!

The Didcot & District u3a branch of this **national organisation** holds its **monthly meetings** at the

Didcot Civic Hall on the **3rd Tuesday** of the month starting at **2:30 pm**.

All new members will be **warmly welcomed** and refreshments are on hand after the address from the Chair and presentation by a Guest Speaker who will be talking about various topics as follows;

- 20 February: How to be a Gardener in the 21st Century - Timothy Walker
- 19 March: Curiosities in the Cotswolds Part 1 - Alan Copeland more [here](#)
- 16 April: Coaches & Coach horns, their story from the Golden Age to the Present Day - Colin Pawson more [here](#)
- 21 May: AGM. Talk from the Oxfordshire Prostate Cancer Support Group (OPCSG)
- 18 June: Wildlife Wanderings – David Bailey more [here](#)

With over **30 Interest Groups** there is something for everyone, living up to our motto of 'Learn, Laugh, Live!'

For further information **Google** u3asites.org.Uk or for Didcot & District u3a you can contact the following:

Chair: Kath Oldham chair@didcotu3a.org

Secretary: Chris Jones secretary@didcotu3a.org

Brian & Lynn Burscough - PR for Didcot & District u3a



Oxfordshire Libraries

Oxfordshire's [libraries](#) have plenty of great **books** but look closer, there's **loads more** libraries do.

Why not sing-along to **rhymetime** and get **crafty**, and yes, they spend time telling a **story** or two.

Have a natter over **knitting**, or a chat over a **cuppa**. They've got **scrabble**, Lego, and **book clubs** you can join too.

These are just a few of the [events](#) libraries do, so take a look at what's on at a [library near you](#).



The Library

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cost of Living Support

Oxfordshire County Council can offer financial support if you're in a crisis or struggling with daily living expenses in Oxfordshire.

Find out if you're eligible and apply <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs/residents-support-scheme> and please share with loved ones and older relatives.



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Opportunity to train as an ARCh Reading Helper



ARCh volunteers work **one to one** with **selected children** in a **primary school**, **close** to their home or workplace, providing **personalised** support to boost **confidence**, build **self-esteem** and **turn around** negative attitudes to reading.

We are looking for more people **throughout Oxfordshire** to join us in making a **real difference** to children's lives – and enhance their own with a **truly rewarding** experience.

All volunteers are **vett**ed (including enhanced DBS) and receive initial and ongoing **training** and **support** as well as resources **tailored** to each child.

If **you** would like to get involved as a **volunteer** or **supporter**, or if you work in a school and are **interested** in our service, please email info@archoxfordshire.org.uk

Please support us – you can donate via <https://localgiving.org/donation/arch>



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ARCh is committed to Safeguarding and this role is exempt from ROA 1974 and eligible for enhanced DBS certificate/barred list check

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

Items for the April issue should be sent by **15th March** 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

Parish Councillors

Mamta Bajre, Cath Convery, Mike Fox-Davies, Jeremy Hawthorne, Robert Hughes, Paul Luper, Tracey Pearson (Chair), Gavan Raine, Martin Ricketts.

District Councillors

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Paul Gustafson, author and T.V. Presenter



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