

The Harwell News

harwellparish.gov.uk

Creating a wildlife corridor

Sustainable Harwell's latest project is to create a **wildlife corridor** by planting a **hedgerow** along the east side of the



Planting in progress

Holloway to the **parish boundary**, eventually linking up with **Chilton**. We had a very successful first planting session on the weekend

of February 15th when **15 keen volunteers** braved the wet and cold to plant **500 whips** over a distance of **100 metres**. After working out the best system for planting, great **teamwork** ensured that we managed 85 metres on Saturday, finishing off the rest on the Sunday. The soil was quite **heavy clay**, and the roots were bigger than we expected, so it took rather more **hard labour** than we anticipated.

Thanks go to all the willing **volunteers** and **supporters** who helped with the planting, **Wild Oxfordshire** for providing the necessary plants and protection, the adjacent **landowners** and the **Parish Council** and **Oxfordshire County Council** for agreeing to the project. We are very pleased with the outcome, and we are aiming to have another session in the **next planting** season in the **Autumn/Winter**. If you would like to give us a hand, please **contact** sustainable@harwellvillage.uk



Our planting team!



All whips planted

On the **5th of March** we had a very well attended talk given by **Jez Elkin** from South and Vale, telling us all about our **waste**: how and where our **green bin** recycling items are sorted, where our **food waste** goes and what happens to the **black bin** waste. If you're not sure what to do with an item you are getting rid of, **Binzone** (available on **iOS** and **android**) is a really useful app you can download to your phone to help you recycle correctly.



Inside this issue

• Age UK	6
• BBOWT	9
• Bell-ringing News	3
• Big Ginger Tom Music	10, 15
• Bowls Club	2
• Butterfly Emergency	9
• Cholsey Repair Café	15
• Church News	6, 14
• Community Speedwatch Group	15
• CPRE Oxfordshire	11
• Craft Group	12
• Cricket Club	2
• District Councillor	5
• Eggbert	15
• Feast	11
• Fun Club	12
• Gardeners' Club	2
• Hare Trail 2025	15
• Harwell WI	6
• History Group	13
• Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner	4
• Olly Glover, MP	5
• Orchard Film Club	12
• Parish Council	4
• Scouts	3
• Sobell House Hospice	8, 16
• SOFO Museum	7
• Sustainable Harwell	cover
• The White Hart	3
• U3A	14
• Vale Community Impact	7
• Village for 1000 years	3
• Wild Oxfordshire	8

If you would like to receive a PDF copy of the Harwell News by email, please subscribe to our distribution list by clicking [HERE](#)



Harwell Bowls Club – April update

Harwell Bowls Club has been **busy** over the past few months in getting ready for this season. We have now been able to commence the **build of a shed** to house our machinery and equipment, helped in part by a **grant** from **Harwell Feast** and a **sponsorship** from **William Jones**, Estate Agents of Didcot.

We still have a few **places available** (due to cancellations) on our **FREE** four week bowls course starting on **23 April** from 10-11am. Please email harwellbc2@gmail.com to reserve your space or to make enquiries.

We now have **bowling arm** available for those with **mobility** issues, purchased through a **grant** from our very own **Orchard Film Club**, for which we are extremely grateful. We hope to be purchasing **more** in the future through other available grants, as they come in different lengths. We do have a **ramp** available to assist **easy access** onto the green.

Our Open Day is **Saturday 26 April** when **all** are welcome to come and **have-a-go** at bowls from 2-4pm, **plants**, books and **refreshments** will be available.

Then, of course, we come to late Spring Bank Holiday weekend when, on **Sunday 25 May** from 2-4pm, we are pleased to be part of the national **Bowls' Big Weekend** and on **Monday 26 May** as part of **Harwell Feast** we are open from 10am-4pm not only for **bowls** but our **sit-down refreshment café** in our clubhouse. We will also have our **small stall** for refreshments by **The Harwellian**, plus our **tombola** and **plant stalls** nearby.

Throughout the season, from the end of April until the end September, if the gate is open please **pop in**, even just to sit and **watch** play at the weekends or purchase a book or plant.

If you would like to **have-a-go** at bowls, we are a small friendly club, open on **Monday evenings** from **6-7.30pm** for practice, when you will receive a **warm welcome**. All you need is **flat shoes**.

Any enquiries please email harwellbc2@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you.

Carol Fisher



Sponsored by [Driving Miss Daisy](http://DrivingMissDaisy.co.uk)

Local cricket club looking for players

Based at Harwell Campus, **Harwell International Cricket Club** is your local cricket club! We are a growing club, expanding to **2 Saturday league teams** for 2025 and looking for new **adult** members. We offer cricket for **all levels** of players, with a range of **weekly** fixtures including **Saturday** league games in the Cherwell league, **Wednesday** evening T20 fixtures in the local area, and **Sunday** friendlies at home and around clubs in beautiful Oxfordshire. We hold net sessions **every week on Tuesday and Thursday** from **5:30pm** on the field next to DiSH at Harwell Campus. If you are interested, come along to nets, or contact **Tom** at harwell.cricket@gmail.com.



A rare group photo of the Harwell International first team



Harwell Gardeners' Club

Harwell Gardeners' Club meets on the **first Monday** of the month (excluding Bank Holidays) in St Matthew's Church at 7.30pm. Visitors are **welcome** and your first visit is free. Forthcoming events:-

- Monday 7th April - "How Vegetables Saved My Life" a talk by Kathy Slack. Competition is 'Spring Veg'
- Monday 12th May - "Pleasure Gardens" a talk by Anna Steven. Competition is 'The Darling Buds Of May'

In June, July & August we go out to visit gardens:

- June 2nd - Lower Bowden Manor 3.00pm.
- July 7th - Oxford Botanical Gardens 11.00am.
- August 4th - Green & Gorgeous Bailiff's House, Little Stoke 7.00pm.

Visitors are welcome to come to any of our meetings or our trips. Please just drop in on our talks at St. Matthew's or contact Kate Hunneman on kate.hunneman@gmail.com to attend our garden visits.

The Sunflower Club



Starting in **May**, Gardeners' Club will offer a chance for **children** to learn gardening skills. For ages **4-13**. The club will take place on the allotments at **Green Road/The Driftway**. We are looking for donations of no longer needed garden tools. For further details and to register your child, please contact Janice Markey on email

jymarkey@googlemail.com

Harwell Feast

We will be having a plant stall at Harwell Feast on **26th May** selling flowers/veg/herbs & houseplants. Do come and visit us. Schedules for the Produce Show will be available as well as garden advice.

Janice Markey, Chairman, [Harwell Gardeners' Club](http://HarwellGardenersClub.co.uk)



The White Hart - Refurbishment News

Hello from The White Hart! We want to provide an **update** to the village on where we are with the planned **refurbishment** of the pub as well as the **tenancy**.

We have recently signed a **5-year** agreement so you'll have to put up with us for a little bit longer!

As many of you know, we have been given a number of dates for the refurbishment by our Greene King representative, however these have **slipped** owing to the contractors not being advised of the project start.

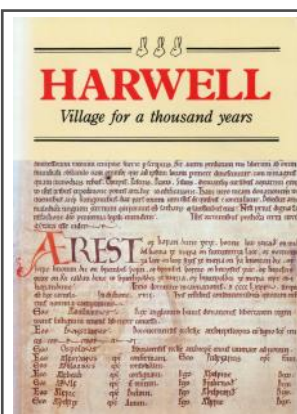
We have all been **frustrated** by this, however following on from a positive meeting which we had on 5th February with the relevant builders, designers and project managers, we are pleased to confirm that the **firm start date is 22nd April**. The anticipated **finish** date of the refurbishment is **14th May**, assuming no curve balls occur during the project.

In terms of what will be done during the refurb, below is a list of some of the items being addressed:

- External signage being updated to The White Hart
- Outside paintwork of building being refreshed
- Potholes in the car park being repaired
- Beer garden to have new fencing installed
- Bench seating to be installed in the bar area
- Bench seating to be installed in the sunroom area
- Bar floor to be sanded and polished
- New carpet to be laid in restaurant area
- Blinds to be put up throughout
- Painting and wallpapering to be done throughout bar and restaurant



We are sure that the residents of Harwell are as equally excited as we are about the refurbishment and can't wait to see a freshened up pub ready to serve the community for years to come.



Harwell Village for a thousand years

The website with the text of the Harwell history book "Village for a thousand years" has moved and can now be found at village4a1000years.uk

If you know of people interested in the history of Harwell, please let them know that the website address now ends in .uk. Thank you.

David Marsh on behalf of Harwell Parish Council

Call out to Harwell Scouting families old and new!

We are holding a surprise event on **Sunday 8th June** to celebrate Brian Zimmerman's **60+ years** of dedication to Scouting. For **anyone** in the **Harwell Scouting community** - old families or new - who'd like to join please **contact** our **Membership Secretary** at

membership@harwellscouts.org.uk



Bell-ringing News

First and foremost a big thank you to the **Orchard Film Club** for awarding Harwell Bell tower a **grant** of **£150**. We had purchased

three new stays to replace two that had been broken whilst ringing and one to maintain having a spare for each bell. The grant covered the cost of **two** of the stays. The stay is attached to the bell frame and is the weakest point thus saving the bell from damage if its overpulled.

There will be additional ringing on:

- **Monday 5th May**, 9:45-10:45 am. Harwell tower is part of the Oxford Guild ringing day.
- **Wednesday 7th May**, 7:30-9pm for a branch practice.

Philip Roberts



A broken stay partly removed



The three new stays and one old, cracked stay



COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Fridays 11.00am at The Harwellian

All welcome - just turn up!



Harwell Parish Council Update

Firstly, we wish to say a big **thank you** for the tireless hard work and dedication of our former Chair, Tracey Pearson and of councillor Paul Luper, both of the Harwell Ward, who have **stepped down** from their roles on the council. We wish you both all the best for the future.

There are now **two casual vacancies** on the Parish Council and we welcome applicants— simply contact the clerk (below) for more details.

New garden waste scheme

Vale of White Horse district council have introduced a new garden waste subscription at a cost to householders of **£70** per year and starting from **1st April 2025**. Residents can sign up for an [online account](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) which should make subsequent renewals of the new permit easier. There will be a grace period in April, after which bins without a valid permit sticker will not be collected. For more information visit [https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/](https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and follow the “garden waste” link.

As ever the best way to **contact the Council** is via **email**:

Clerk@HarwellParish.gov.uk or by phone if email is not available to you **07749 361957**. Both contact methods are being monitored regularly, but please bear with us it may take up to 72 hours us to reply.



Be extraordinary – become a local councillor

“Ordinary people doing an amazing job!”

“Are you passionate about our local area?”

“Do you want to make a difference in our community?”

HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL is seeking new **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

For more details: **07749 361957**
clerk@harwellparish.gov.uk

Police & Crime Commissioner - making sure that crime doesn't pay

I recently spent some time sifting through **grant applications** for my Community Fund. Each year we provide around half a million pounds to **good causes** in Thames Valley by taking money **from** criminals. Some of the money comes through the **courts**, when judges can make orders under the Proceeds of Crime Act; and in cases where stolen goods are recovered by the **cannot** be reunited with their rightful owner, they are **sold** and the money goes into this fund.

Any local group can apply, they don't need to be registered charities, but the money does need to go towards **crime prevention** in some way.

Amongst a wide range of applications received this year we've tried to focus on schemes to tackle **anti-social behaviour** and **vehicle crime**. This has included **CCTV** systems, **knife** crime prevention and **support** for victims of crime.

By law, we cannot put this money straight back into police budgets, so it is great to work with the **community** on crime reduction. Preventing crime in the first place is, after all, **better** than catching criminals afterwards.

Locally some of the organisations that have benefitted included The Sinodun Players in Wallingford, with a project to reduce anti-social behaviour; Didcot Army Cadets; Be Free Young Carers; and Youth Challenge Oxfordshire. Sofea - the fantastic Didcot-based charity working with young people - also received funding for their work across Thames Valley to support **young people** transitioning between primary and secondary school.

As well as the regular funding available to local groups the cash taken from criminals is also used to support other organisations. I have set up ongoing funding arrangements with **Neighbourhood Watch** across Thames Valley to help support their crime prevention work. We support **Street Pastors**, volunteers from local churches who give up their time to make sure that people can get home safely after a night out. Recently Business Crime Reduction Partnerships have started to benefit from this money to help them in the fight against **shoplifting** and retail crime. As well as supporting our counties' High Sheriffs in their charitable work, one of the most important partnerships that this money enables is with our volunteer **search and rescue** teams who do so much to help those missing and in distress.

The next round of funding will open in the **summer**. If you'd like to be find out more and be **notified** when applications are open please visit:

thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/community-fund

Matthew Barber
Your voice in Thames Valley

Matthew Barber is Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, working with the police to help drive down crime locally.

STAY IN TOUCH
matthewbarber.co.uk
[@matthewbarberpcc](https://twitter.com/matthewbarberpcc)
[@matthew_barber](https://www.facebook.com/matthew_barber)

JOIN THE WHATSAPP COMMUNITY

Promoted by Matthew Barber on his own behalf, of Waterloo House, 58-60 High Street, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 6HJ.

MP Olly Glover's message for Harwell News - March update

This month, I met many constituents in surgeries, **out and about**, and online - technology makes it easier to connect. And of course, our constituency is **rich** in technology, engineering and science; it was a privilege to meet some of the **Harwell Space cluster** and visit **Williams Engineering**.



Often, I am meeting constituents who need **support**; flooding has continued to need attention, and many constituents have contacted me about the appalling track record of **Thames Water**. I supported Charlie Maynard, MP, in challenging Thames Water's significant **water bill increases** and ongoing debt-financing and will continue to do so. I am **engaging** with the agencies responsible for flood management, pushing to see **preventative** and **mitigation** work completed as soon as possible.

In Parliament, it was an honour to **speak** in the debate to mark the **third anniversary** of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The tragic situation has also shown the best of our constituency, and I was able to recognise the huge **contribution** of local families and charities.

During a rally at Westminster of those who provide **adult social care**, I was able to show my support, and since then I have been able to voice, including on BBC Radio Oxford, just how important and urgent the **review** of adult social care is.

Whilst I was pleased to see that revised planning was put in place for the **GP surgery** at Great Western Park, there's still a long way to go, and I will continue to **press** those involved so we see GPs and other professionals providing care for residents.

As a **Transport Select Committee member**, I raised concerns about barriers to bus use, especially in villages, which affect many constituents.

With the All-Party Parliamentary Group for **Motor Neurone disease** (MND), it was an honour to visit the Kings MND Care and Research Centre and see their work.

Finally, I was pleased to hear the local elections are going ahead in May. This is your **opportunity** to listen to the candidates and **vote** for who **represents** your needs.

If you have concerns, would like to meet me or would like me to visit you, please contact me at: Olly.glover.MP@parliament.uk

For more regular updates you can follow me on Bluesky: [@ollyglover.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ollyglover.bsky.social) and Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OllyGloverLD/>

Olly.



District Councillor - Cllr Sarah James (Hendreds Ward, covering homes on Harwell Campus)



You are welcome to contact me by **phone** or **WhatsApp** on **07811 085661** or by email at Sarah.James1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk. The District Council looks after **planning**, bin collections, **housing**, leisure centres (including Wantage Leisure Centre), **food hygiene** and some housing-related **benefits**. If you are not sure which council to contact about an issue, get in touch **anyway** and I will point you in the right direction.

Abingdon Reservoir Latest

There is **news** for residents concerned about the **justification** and **detail** of the plans for this **150 million cubic metre reservoir** next to Steventon. The **High Court claim** of SAFERWaterS (GARD's sister company) and CPRE **against** the Minister's decision to deny a Public Inquiry into Thames Water and partners' [Water Resource Management Plan](#) (which includes the reservoir), will be heard in a **2-day hearing** on **25th and 26th June**. The case has been labelled as '**significant**' and '**complex**' by Mr Justice Mould, who made the decision.

Group Against Reservoir Development ([GARD](#)) met with Thames Water in **October** last year to **raise** in detail their technical and safety **concerns** about the reservoir proposals. Thames Water were **not** originally willing to **publish** the minutes of this meeting, despite agreeing them with GARD.

However, I made an **Environmental Information Request** to Thames Water and they have now **published** a version which is intact except it redacts the names of Thames Water staff. I'm happy to **forward** a copy, just ask. This is in the **public domain** now.

One of the concerns raised is about the **lack** of a full scale embankment **trial** to check how the **local clays** that will be used will behave in the Abingdon Reservoir embankment. The **mini trial** that Thames Water have planning permission to carry out currently has actually **not** been able to get underway due to the **wetness** of the site all winter. This is the **clay compaction trial** off the East Hanney to Steventon road. Not encouraging.





Fingers & Forks

Catering | Events

Weddings
Canape receptions
Event catering
Special occasions
Christenings

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

Harwell WI

For the attention of **all** the women of Harwell and the surrounding area. **Spring** has definitely arrived, and what a **joy** to see the spring flowers blooming against all odds.

Harwell WI welcomes, supports and inspires all women. We meet on the **second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm** 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. Please see below for what is in store for the next few meetings:

- 9th April Jane Card will be giving us the history of the Harwell Frances Geering Almshouses
- 14th May Jeff Evans will be giving a fascinating talk on "The Golden Age of Children's TV"
- 11th June Olga Zilberberg talking about Neuro Diverse Women
- 9th July Alison Curtis giving a Crafts Hands On session.

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.

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.

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

Lesley Muddiman



Photo: Kelvin Peach

St Matthew's needs your help - letter from the Treasurer

Dear Harwell resident,

The oldest building in the village, and the activities it provides in the community, **needs you!**

You may have **enjoyed** our Thursday Community Café, the Harwellcome initiative jointly with the Harwellian Club, **concerts** by local musicians, Fledgelings baby and toddler group, children's Christmas activities, the **Saturday Sanctuary** women's chill-outs, had help from the Didcot and Wallingford Area **CAP Debt Centre** which we are part of or attended the marking of a life-event such as a **wedding**, Baptism or funeral. There are any number of activities which support and **enrich** lives in our villages, plus we also offer a full range of church services, something that nearby churches are often no longer able to do.

Our outgoings in 2025 are going to be **more** than our predicted income (as has been the case for a number of years) and it would be wonderful if you could **help**. Our concern now is such that we have decided to halt all but the most **essential** buildings maintenance work until we can be sure how we can **pay** for it.

I hope that you would feel able to **support** us over the coming year. Would you consider **pledging** to contribute a small sum regularly so that we can predict the income available to us for general purposes? Knowing what's likely to come in is vital if we are to **commit** to projects in the coming year. If you can use Gift Aid, £5 (as an example) from you means £6.25 for the church.

Maybe you could help in some **other** way, for example with the work required to maintain the church and its activities, such as building repairs, maintenance or decorating? Tell us your **skills** and we'll deploy them!

Thank you for reading this far. I feel sure that, with Harwell residents' famous sense of **community** we can crack this particularly concerning problem of our finances in the coming year.

Contact me at timharoberts@gmail.com or via the Church Office on **01235 834256** if you'd like to know more, see our latest accounts, or for me to put you in touch with our bookkeeper, Nick Clarke, to explore ways of giving.

Tim Roberts Treasurer, St Matthew's.



Age UK Oxfordshire is a local independent charity supporting older people in Oxfordshire. We have a variety of **services** available to help you to live **independently** and live life to the **full**. Our services range from **support at home** to helping **link** you into your **community**, from **foot care** clinics to **exercise** classes. We offer a **free information** and **advice** helpline, as well as one-to-one support if you have been a victim of a **scam**.

Please visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire email: contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call **0345 450 1276**.

Proud to offer our services to the Harwell community

THE OXFORD SMILE CLINICS

DENTAL, FACE & BODY
200a Broadway, Didcot, OX11 8RN
www.theoxfordsmileclinics.co.uk

- General dentistry
- Cosmetic dentistry
- Teeth whitening
- Invisible braces
- Dental implants
- Botox and fillers
- Callus
- Corns
- Ingrowing toenails
- Verrucae treatment
- Laser hair removal
- 3D body sculpting

01235 813245



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

Victory and liberation in Europe, 1945: SOFO Museum launches new exhibition, *From Conflict to Peace: Celebrating VE & VJ Day*

Marking the **80th anniversaries** of Victory in Europe and Victory of Japan Day, as well as those of many other key events from the final stages of the Second World War, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO) is launching a brand-new **exhibition**. *From Conflict to Peace: Celebrating VE and VJ Day* will go on display from Tuesday, **1 Apr** to Tuesday, **18 Nov** 2025. The exhibition will cover the celebrations across the county itself, but also the **experiences** of Oxfordshire people serving in the armed forces throughout 1945, and for many, **beyond** the end of the war.

VE and VJ Day were both **celebrated** across the country in 1945, including many events in Oxfordshire. Women working for **MI5** at Blenheim Palace recall hearing the **bells** of Woodstock's St Mary Magdalene Church ringing out for the occasion. In Oxford, locals recall **street celebrations**, with 'people dancing in line from St Giles to Carfax'.

With the announcement of the Japanese surrender on 15 August 1945 and the effective **end** of the war, a

two day national holiday was announced and similar celebrations were seen across Oxfordshire, a bonfire was lit in St Clements with an effigy of Hitler, while Christ Church cathedral hosted **thanksgiving** services, also addressing the moral issue of the atomic bomb.

For many Oxfordshire people serving in the armed forces, including the two county regiments, The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light infantry and Oxfordshire Yeomanry, 1945 had seen a series of tough battles before hostilities would come to an end, and the prospect of many **new challenges** in the wake of victory in Europe and over Japan.

The new exhibition focuses on **personal accounts** of the people

who were there, both soldiers and civilians. It will also be supported by a programme of **themed events** at the museum, opening with a free talk by Dr Myfanwy Lloyd on the liberation of **Bergen-Belsen** on Saturday, **12 April**, ahead of the 80th anniversary. Dr Lloyd's research, making contact with the families of a British soldier and a survivor of the camp, resulted in a new **permanent** display at SOFO Museum. Another talk, with local academic Anthony Glee, takes place on **17 April** at

7pm, concerning the occupation of the island of **Alderney** during the war, and the Nazi war crimes perpetrated there that went **unpunished**. Professor Glee's was an advisor to Margaret Thatcher's War Crimes Inquiry, 1989-91.

On Saturday, **10 May**, Woodstock will celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a special event in the town's **Market Square**, featuring live 1940s **music**, living history **displays**, food and drink from local businesses, and **fun** for all ages from 4pm - 8pm.

On the same day, the museum will

host Lt. Col. (Retd) Mike Tickner for his **talk** *Savage Wars of Peace*, from 2pm. The talk provides insight into the situation in **eastern Asia** following VJ Day and the Japanese surrender, as many nations saw an opportunity for **independence**, and Gurkha, Indian and British troops became responsible for restoring **colonial rule** in the region.

The new exhibition and accompanying events programme will offer visitors a chance to **discover** the part Oxfordshire and its people played in achieving **victory** and **liberation** in Europe and in East Asia, 80 years on.

Duncan Parsons, SOFO Museum



Sjt Harry Carr 1st Bucks Battalion T-Force (centre) at liberation of Delft Holland 8 May 1945 (Bucks Military Museum Trust)

Urgent Need for Volunteer Drivers at Vale Community Impact

Do you have a **car** and a desire to **help others**? Join **Vale Community Impact (VCI)** and make a difference in the Vale of White Horse!

Right now we are facing a **shortage** of volunteer drivers, which is impacting our ability to provide **support** to residents needing transportation to **medical** appointments, especially residents from around the **Harwell area**.

Why Volunteer?

- **Flexible Hours:** Drive when it suits you.
- **Fuel Reimbursement:** 45p per mile.
- **Community Impact:** Even one drive a week can help someone reach vital services and improve their quality of life.

Contact Us: 01235 765348 recruitment@vci.org.uk

www.vci.org.uk Join us and make a meaningful contribution to your community!

Anna Mabbett, VCI



The Extra Mile Appeal - for when every minute matters



At Sobell House, we want to go the **extra mile** by providing a **dedicated ambulance service** to help us deliver personalised and specialist care to our patients, in the right place and at the right time.

Ambulance crews play a **vital** role in helping to transport patients to a place of their choice towards the end of their life – whether that's at our **hospice** or in their own **home** – taking many of the logistical issues away from their families, allowing them to focus on spending **precious** time together.

However, the demand on ambulance services means that they are not always able to meet the urgent and specific needs of our patients.

This is why we've launched **The Extra Mile Appeal**, to create a **dedicated** hospice transport fund that we can use to rapidly dispatch dedicated, specialist ambulances to our patients when they are urgently needed.

Crucially, when we assign one of these ambulance journeys to our patients, it will be **entirely** dedicated to reaching them as quickly as possible. It won't be diverted to respond to other emergencies, and will be focused solely on meeting the specific needs of each patient when time is of the essence.

That's why we are urgently seeking your support today - to ensure that our patients can be moved **swiftly** and **expertly** to be cared for in the place of their **choice**, wherever that may be, without the additional stress of how to get there.

To donate visit <https://sobellhouse.org/appeal/extra-mile-appeal/>

A donation today will mean this critical and rapid service will be available to those who urgently need it **24 hours a day, 365 days a year**. It is so much more than simply transporting patients; when someone is dying, we only have **one chance** to get things right for them and their loved ones. With your support, we can ensure that local families under our care can focus on what matters most when time is short.

Mary Walding, Lead Specialist Nurse



April and May News

Curlew

The Curlew's wonderful 'bubbling' call is one of the most **evocative** sounds of springtime in



meadows and pastures across Oxfordshire. Something we cherish, but which is sadly under **threat**. The Curlew is arguably the most **pressing** bird conservation priority in the UK, where nearly **half** the breeding population has been lost over the last 25 years and where range contraction has seen Curlews **disappear** from many traditional sites.

Watch our 'Curlew River' film which explores the work of **farmers** and **volunteers** to help our wonderful Curlews as well as highlighting the fabulous ancient **meadows** and wet **grassland** habitats that they inhabit in our area. <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/projects/curlew>

Wildflowers

Spring has arrived, and with it comes the annual tradition of **No Mow May**: a movement urging people to lock up their lawnmowers throughout May, promoting **biodiversity** and supporting **pollinators**. It's an opportunity to witness the beauty of **wildflowers** and **native** plants, which thrive when lawns are left untouched. But this year, why not take it a step **further** and create a **mini-meadow** or **grassland**?

No-mow is great to show you where the wildflowers are in your lawn, i.e. what is already there naturally - making it the perfect **1st step** of mini-meadow creation. If you want to provide the maximum food source for your pollinators, rather than mowing it all again in June, leave an area of it **untouched** throughout spring and summer and only mow it in **September** once the flowers have finished, removing the cuttings. This is the easiest way to grow a mini-meadow in your garden and means our **native bees** can easily find nectar sources **throughout** their most active months. You can always enhance this area with **bulbs** or by planting wildflowers (e.g., cowslips, ox-eye daisy or foxgloves).

For more information check out <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/lawn-and-mini-meadow-habitats>

World Bee Day!

20th May is annual World Bee Day! Hopefully you're already helping bees get a wide range of diverse nectar sources by partaking in 'No Mow May'. Some other ways to help protect our declining bee populations include purchasing **sustainable local honey**, ditching harmful synthetic **pesticides**, providing a suitable **water source** for thirsty pollinators (can simply be a shallow bowl of water with stones in it for bees to land on), or **hosting an event** to raise awareness in your local area.

(Ed: BBOWT Nature Discovery Centre Thatcham have a World Bee Day event on Saturday 18th May!)

Imogen Parker (Wild Oxfordshire Community Ecologist) <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>



Butterfly Emergency

Newly released data has shown that 2024 was one of the **worst** years on record for butterflies in the UK and, for the first time on record, more than **half** of butterfly species in the UK are now in long-term **decline**.

Nine species had their **worst** year since **counting began**,



Small Tortoiseshell
photo: Iain Leach

including the much-loved Small Tortoiseshell, Chalk Hill Blue and Small Copper.

Worryingly, last year was also the second-worst year on record for 'wider countryside species' – the common butterflies that live in gardens, parks and across the landscape such as Common Blue, Gatekeeper and Large White.

The figures come from the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) which has asked volunteers to count butterflies across the country since 1976 and now monitors more than 3,000 sites. The scheme is led by Butterfly Conservation, the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).



Chalk Hill Blue
photo: Iain Leach

Overall, 2024 was the fifth worst year since records began for UK butterflies. Butterfly numbers always **fluctuate** annually, and last year's low numbers are partly the result of a **wet** spring and relatively **cool** summer, however UKBMS data also show that 31 of the 59 resident UK species are now in **long-term decline**.

Last year, the charity [Butterfly Conservation](https://butterfly-conservation.org) published new research showing that letting **parts** of your garden grow wild with **long grass** can increase butterfly numbers up to **93%** and attract a **wider range** of species.



Peacock - photo: Iain Leach

That's because the butterflies and moths we love, like the Red Admiral, Peacock and Humming-bird Hawk-moth, need long grass all **through** the year to complete their **life cycles**.

Similarly to other charities supporting our pollinators, they are asking people to **sign up** to leaving their lawns uncut between April and September as this is when most caterpillars use the long grass to **feed** and adults shelter, **breed**, lay eggs, and drink the **nectar** from flowers. They also request that when mowing, we leave **20%** uncut to provide a refuge for butterflies and moths **all year** round.

Visit <https://butterfly-conservation.org/make-your-promise> to sign up and receive a **free guide** on how to manage your lawn for butterflies.



BBOWT - Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre

For children and families

Family Trail: Easter Butterfly Hunt

Saturday 12 and Tuesday 15 April; 10am- 2pm

Flutter by and find a rainbow of butterflies (and a chocolate treat!) on our Easter Trail for ages 4-11.

£8 per child.

Day Camp: The World of Butterflies

Wednesday 16 April; 9:30am – 3pm

A day camp for 8-12 year olds, discovering our fluttering friends at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre.

£35 per child.

Workshops: Crafting a Future we'd be Proud to Leave to Future Generations

Saturday 17 May, 1:30-3:30pm

A community crafting session for adults and young people, exploring environmental hopes and concerns, and the actions we can take to help.

Suitable for adults and young people aged 14+, please note under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

£10 per head.

For adults

Willow Obelisks for Beginners

Thursday 24 April, 10am-3:30pm

Join a small group on our beautiful nature reserve to learn some basic weaving techniques while making an attractive and useful garden obelisk to take home. Suitable for adults.

£65 per head

Summer Tree and Shrub Identification

Saturday 10 May, 9:30am-1pm

We are surrounded by so many amazing trees, but how many can most of us actually identify? Learn to identify a wide range of trees in their leafy summer state with expert James Warren.

£35 per head

How to be a Citizen Scientist

Saturday 31 May, 10am-1pm

Learn how to be a citizen scientist using your smart phone to record butterflies and day-flying moths.

£12 per head

Spoon Carving for Beginners

Saturday 31 May; 9:30am-5pm

All tools and materials are provided, just bring enthusiasm! Led by local spoon carver David Knight.

£70 per head

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL SESSIONS!

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

Big Ginger Tom Music - Gig Review



The Sam Kelly Trio with support by Sarah Yeo on 22nd February 2025

Another great night of music at Harwell Village Hall where a **sold out** audience enjoyed a great opening set from Exeter based Sarah Yeo and two great sets from The Sam Kelly Trio.

Sarah opened the evening with a number of songs from her latest album **The Wisdom of the Wind**, she entertained everyone beautifully and certainly fulfilled her self proclaimed role of “warming up the audience” for Sam. She had the audience **singing along** with her on ‘It’s Your Town Now’ and ‘Rainy Night in Glastonbury’. Sarah will be back in the area again when she plays at The Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon in September.

The Sam Kelly Trio had travelled from as far afield as



Edinburgh, Cockermouth and Norfolk to come and play in Harwell, though if they were **tired** from their long drives, you would have never have known.

Their first set opened with

‘The Wishing Tree’, and they soon had us singing along with “Angeline The Baker”, apparently the audience participation level determines the rest of the set & we were marked as 10/10! Another song requiring participation was ‘If I Were a Blackbird’, then other favourites followed such as ‘The Bonny Lass if Fyvie’, ‘Tinker’s Poteen’ and the first song that Jamie and Sam wrote together, ‘Eyes of Men’.

The second set was as enjoyable as the first, including ‘Bluebird’, ‘Gwrelio Glaw’ and Jamie’s ‘Kitchen Girl’, they finished with ‘The Shining Ship’. After a well-deserved standing ovation they came back to play ‘The Greenland Whale’, giving everyone the chance for a final sing-along.

It was a quite magnificent evening and we will certainly be looking to bringing Sam back again in the future.



Ashley Hutchings & Blair Dunlop with support from Painted Sky on 28th March 2025

This was another sold-out show with the audience enjoying a very entertaining evening of **music** and **banter** from the delightful Ashley Hutchings and Blair Dunlop.

The evening opened with a set from brother and sister duo George and Holly Brandon, aka **Painted Sky**. They played songs and tunes from the debut album **From The Blue**, including ‘Dead Man’s Jumper’, ‘Devil is the Sun’ and ‘The Lakes of Colfin’. They went off stage to resounding applause.

Duncan admitted to not previously knowing of Ashley Hutchings, having grown up in the 70s with the likes of Mud, Sweet, Genesis and Supertramp, rather than **Fairport Convention**, Steeleye Span and The Albion Band. The audience showed their disapproval of such an admission of **ignorance**, but were soon brought back on side when **Ashley and Blair** took to the stage.

The two sets were a mixture of **anecdotes** about the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Bob Dylan and **songs** including ‘Farewell, Farewell’, a



Richard Thompson song originally sung by Sandy Denny on the seminal Fairport album **Liege And Lief**. Ash told the story that Richard wrote it in **memory** of his American girlfriend who was killed in the M1 crash. Blair’s cover was very well done.

Ashley also talked about his “magnum opus” which is **By Gloucester Docks I Sat Down And Wept** and the sequel **Paradise And Thorns**. He sang a couple of songs from them including ‘Devil-May-Care In Our Dancing Shoes’.

‘The Song Of Two Bridges’ started the second half and it stems from Ashley’s love of **Florence** and being a **Londoner** - Ash sung about the Ponte Vecchio and Blair, Westminster Bridge.

The final song in the second set was ‘All Are Safely Gathered In’, which involved some great **audience participation**. It was written by Ashley and Becky Mills and is from the **Albion Christmas Band** album of the same name.

Blair sang some of his own work, including ‘Let’s Get Out Of The City’ from his latest album **Out Of The Rain** with Holly and George joining Ash and Blair on stage for this. He also sang ‘Sweet On You’ and ‘Spice’s From The East’ from an earlier album, **Notes From An Island**. Their encore was ‘Bird On The Wire’ from Leonard Cohen, it was a great way to end the evening. *With thanks to Tom Povey for the detailed notes.*

Coming up: Friday 18th April - The Haar, supported by Eleanor Dunsdon & Gregor Black; **Friday 16th May - Sam Carter** supported by Three Idle Women.

Tickets to all our gigs are available from wegottickets.com or by contacting Duncan at biggingertommusic@gmail.com.

For more information about BGTm events go to the **BGTm website** at www.biggingertommusic.co.uk/events

Duncan Chappell, Big Ginger Tom Music

Bootcamp Fitness Instructors Needed

Do you teach an outdoor Bootcamp or circuits class in the south or vale?

Are you available evenings and weekends?

Please get in touch to see how we can support you deliver outdoor bootcamps in your local community



Email: active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk



Together celebrating our past, present and future

HARWELL FEAST

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
26TH MAY 2025**

**EVENTS 11AM TO 4PM
STARTING WITH GRAND HIGH STREET PARADE**

**ENTRY BY PROGRAMME
£2.50 IN ADVANCE FROM LOCAL SHOPS
£4 ON THE DAY CHILDREN FREE**

**ARENA PERFORMANCES,
STALLS, GAMES, REFRESHMENTS, CHILDREN'S EVENTS
AND MUCH MORE**

theharwellfeast@gmail.com
www.harwellfeast.com

instagram@harwellfeast2025
https://www.facebook.com/harwellfeast



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

TREASURER WANTED

CPRE Oxfordshire, The Countryside Charity

Do you have experience in financial management?
Are you passionate about environmental and countryside issues?
Do you have 3-4 hours a week to spare?

Join our team of dedicated trustees and help us to
protect the countryside.

CPRE Oxfordshire is the voice of the countryside in Oxfordshire. We fight for the right development in the right place and work to protect, promote and enhance our amazing local landscapes and rural character.

By volunteering with us you will be joining a friendly and passionate team, helping to find positive solutions for the issues facing the countryside and the environment.

Apply your skills and experience to make a real difference and be a central part of our charity.

To apply, please email a CV and covering letter to our Director, Lisa Warne director@cprexon.org.uk or get in touch to find out more.

Deadline: 30th April 2025
www.cpreoxon.org.uk
T: 01491 612079

Campaigning to protect our rural county

CPRE Oxfordshire is registered as a charity (No. 293836) and company (No. 0460275) in England. Registered Office: First Floor, 20 High Street, Watlington, Oxfordshire OX12 9JY. Website: www.cpreoxon.org.uk



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire



LivingFit 55+

Award winning exercise class for older adults
Everything at your own pace!

STRENGTH FITNESS BALANCE MOBILITY

Harwell Village Hall,
Tuesdays, 12.30 - 1.30

First Session Free
£10 pay as you go
Monthly packages from £7.50 per session

We provide dumbbells, resistance bands, steps and more

01865 920460
support@livinginfitness.co.uk
www.livinginfitness.co.uk



MOSSINATOR®
ROOF CLEANING SYSTEMS

Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning
Patio & Driveway Cleaning
Render & Brickwork Cleaning
Solar Panel & Skylight Cleaning
Installation of Bird Protection
Chimney Cowl Installation



Enhance the appearance of your property with
our quality assured friendly service
info@mossinator.co.uk - 01865 362797



Harwell Arts and Crafts Group

Come and join us

The Harwellian on Thursday mornings
9.30am until 12.00 noon

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



Fun Club

babies and toddlers at harwell

A fun
and friendly
community run
group for
under 5s

Term time Tuesdays
9:30 – 11:30 am

£3 per family

Play
Crafts
Baby area
Healthy snack
Tea and coffee
Chat
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

April 2025 Update

Upcoming film dates 2025

Many thanks to everyone who came to our April film - Paddington in Peru - we hope you all enjoyed it! We decided to introduce a new "Child" ticket for this film at only £3 and we will continue to offer this for all age-appropriate films for children up to 16 years old.

Thanks also to everyone who voted for our next films, I am pleased to announce the first three to the summer break and will confirm further titles soon:



- **Friday 2nd May** - Small Things Like These (12)
- **Friday 6th June** - The Critic (15)
- **Friday 11th July** - Mr Burton (12A)
- **August** - no film, summer break



Details of films & trailers can shortly 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** (adults) & **£3** (children) and available in advance from **Bob's Butchers** in the High Street, and on the door.

See you soon! Alison, Martin and Janice.

Orchard Film Club Grants

Our aim as a Society is to **support** the local community by providing a monthly film and a place for people to meet and **enjoy** an evening together. We also agreed that we would like to use any **surplus** funds for the benefit of **local** causes, so it gave us great pleasure at the start of this year to be able to award the following grants to these deserving groups:

- **Frances Geering Almshouses** - Repairs and renovations works £150
- **Harwell Bowls Club** - Purchase of a bowling aid £150
- **St Matthew's Bellringers** - Maintenance of the bells £150
- **Harwell Primary School** - Pond plants for wildlife £75

We hope to be able to offer more grants to support local causes at the end of 2025. To help us support them, please do consider coming to our film evenings, we'd love to see you!

Alison, Martin and Janice



Harwell Parish History Group - April 2025

Talks

The March talk on the Abingdon Branch of the GWR, given by Ivan Cadge, was **excellent**. Some who remembered the branch and Abingdon Station were in the **audience**, and shared lively memories. We are looking forward to the **two** remaining Spring talks : “**The History of MG Cars**” (by Richard Martin on **April 16th**) and on “**St Matthews – a church in the landscape**” (Adrian Rance-McGregor on **May 21st**). Entry is free to members and £3.00 to non-members. All talks start at 7.30 p.m. in the Cherry Hall.

We look forward in the Autumn to speakers dealing with “The Holmes of Hanney” (David Gahan), “Crime, Medicine and Forensic Science” (Professor Katharine Watson), and “Textile Conservation” (Lois Clitheroe, who has worked at Blickling Hall).

Correction - The February edition stated that Roger, brother of John of Harwell, Bishop of Bath and Wells (1320 – 1386), gained by marriage Wootton Wawen in Worcestershire....in fact this village is in **Warwickshire**. It was his **descendants** who married into Worcestershire families.

How Sir Edmund Harwell (1567 -1620) lost the family fortune



It is widely known that Thomas Fulk Harwell and John Neville Harwell, sons of Edmund Harwell III (1567 – c. 1620), **emigrated** to Virginia because their father had to sell family land.

In the early 1600s, Sir Edmund held **several** manors, including Merton Abbey in Surrey and Besford in Worcestershire. He had been made a **knight** of the Order of the Bath by James I in

1603. He held distinguished offices in Worcestershire including that of High Sheriff (1596) and was much respected. So what went wrong ?

The Worcestershire antiquary and historian Sir Thomas Habington (1560 -1647) was surprised at Sir Edmund “*dashing his ship of fortune on the rocks of ruin*” because “*...his wit was extraordinary, his learning above vulgar scholars, on the Bench a most sufficient Justice, in commissions most expert, every way wise but in guiding his estate.*” So Sir Edmund was, basically, good at everything **except** managing his finances.

Sir Edmund told Sir Thomas that he had undertaken **high status offices** which were expensive to carry out. Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace were **not paid**; to undertake such positions carried a great deal of **prestige** and might attract good marriage alliances for the family - but they were **costly**. Habington commented that “*It may be also that getting a degree above his (Edmund’s) reach he overspended himself.*”

Sir Edmund hoped to improve matters by going to London. We have no evidence as to why he thought this might help. I would guess that he hoped to gain at court the **favourable** notice of King James I, therefore receiving office, or a gift of land (this is pure speculation), but to be a successful courtier required the outlay of **more** money. Whatever his plan, it **failed**. He retired to Besford.



There were extensive alterations and additions to Besford Court in 1912, but the central Elizabethan manor house was preserved.

Legal documents show that in 1606, he owed **£7,500** (£1½ million in modern values) to William Sebright “Town Clerk of London”. To cover this, he **sold** the manor of Besford, which Sebright’s lawyers **seized** in 1607. Harwell received c.£14,000 in modern values for his household furnishings. He had some resources left, and in 1622 tried to restore his fortunes by **investing** in a new way of making soap – which also failed. Therefore in 1635, two of his sons, Thomas Fulk and John Neville, decided to start **afresh** in Virginia. On Tuesday March 11th this

year, some of Thomas Fulk’s **descendants**, led by Bill Harwell of Tennessee and his wife Shelley, came to Harwell in a visit organized by Liz Roberts.

It is **really intriguing** that Sir Edmund knew the Catholic Thomas Habington so well. Habington’s elder brother was **executed** for his part in the Babington Plot (1586) – a plan to kill Elizabeth I and replace her with Mary, Queen of Scots. Thomas himself, suspected of **complicity**, was imprisoned in the Tower of London for six years. After the Gunpowder Plot (1605) , he sheltered several of the plotters at Hindlip Hall, and so was tried and **condemned** to death for treason. He was **pardoned** after the intervention of his brother-in-law, Lord Mounteagle - the man who had revealed the plot to King James. After this, Sir Thomas (wisely) **retired** to a quiet life working on the history of Worcestershire, including his very **helpful** account of the problems of Sir Edmund Harwell.

JMC with thanks to Roger Harvell of Arkansas for the reference to Sir Thomas’s book.



A map of Virginia made in the 1630s.



DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS

Most carpets dry within the hour

Unbeatable results, removes almost all spots & stains

call

GRIMEBUSTERS

01865 726983 01235 555533

www.grimebusters.co.uk

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



I wonder if, like me, you are pleased to experience **lighter** mornings and evenings as the days lengthen? The sight of spring **flowers** such as snowdrops, primroses and daffodils are beautiful to behold. If you walk through the churchyard at All Saints' Chilton you will see plenty of snowdrops nodding their heads in the breeze, as well as other spring flowers.

Listening to **birdsong** is so uplifting too. There's nothing like it for raising my spirits when I feel down. Recently I had the joyous experience of a **robin** landing in a hedge nearby and **singing** his heart out only a few feet away from me. Despite the cold and rather drab day, his song was a great blessing to me. Perhaps you enjoy listening to the birdsong too – and maybe you are better than me at identifying birds from their songs!

It is natural for us to feel **low** at times but I'm reminded of Jesus' promise *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30)

Christians believe that, when we trust in Jesus, he **lifts** our burdens and **accompanies** us every second of every day. This doesn't mean that life becomes easy and that we don't go through difficult times, but we can know that we are not alone. We can also be supported by **friends** through their prayers and practical help.

As we approach, **Holy Week** and **Easter**, I hope you will feel welcome to **join us** at our services (see details below) or that you feel able to ask for a **conversation** with one of our church team. We'd love you to join us in this most special season of the year. With blessings, Pam.

Rev Pam Rolls, Associate Minister, Harwell with Chilton.

Didcot and District U3A



Spring has sprung and what better time for all retired and semi-retired individuals to **start** or **expand** learnings on varied subjects such as: a second language photography, current affairs, ukulele, walking with friendly groups, and 25 other interesting subjects. Look no further than joining the **Didcot & District U3A!** ...'Learn, Laugh, Live'.

New members are **warmly** welcomed (first visit is free), come and chat over tea and biscuits at the **monthly** meetings held on the **third Tuesday** of every month in the **Didcot Civic Hall** starting at **2:30pm**. There is always an interesting presentation by a Guest Speaker. Here's what's coming up:

- **15 April** - Women in the Victorian Army - Dan Allen
- **20 May** - AGM plus Be Free Young Carers by Hannah Waugh - Didcot Charity
- **17 June** - Autosharp and Dulcimer Delight! - David Fenton (Mike & Rachel)

For more detailed information visit:

membership@didcotu3a.org. See you there!

Brian & Lynn Burscough - PR for Didcot & District u3a

What's coming up during April and May 2025



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.

For more information visit the [Fledgelings Group FaceBook page](#)

Both mornings run within term time only.

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 (BCP) 11am

10th April and 8th May All Saints' Chilton and **27th**

24th April St Matthew'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 full details of all our Sunday Services please look out for our flyer or consult the [calendar on our website](#).

Special Services during April

17th April Maundy Thursday Passover Supper

7pm with Communion St Matthew's Harwell

18th April Good Friday 'At the Cross'

9.30am All Saints' Chilton and
11.00am St Matthew's Harwell

19th April Easter Vigil 8.00pm, All Saints' Chilton

20th April Easter Sunday

Family Communion, 9.30am, All Saints' Chilton

Family Communion, 10.30am, St Matthew's Harwell

Evening Worship, 6.00pm, St Matthew's Harwell

29th May Ascension Day, 7.45pm St Matthew's Harwell

Everyone is welcome to come along to any of our services.

DECLUTTER YOUR HOME WITH REVIVE YOUR SPACE

- Free consultation
- Confidential service
- Organise wardrobes, toys, paperwork etc
- Recycle, donate or sell unwanted items

Take the first steps today and book your consultation

revive.your.space@hotmail.com

07729 360579

Cholsey Repair Café - 17th May



Yet another repair session is on offer at Cholsey Repair Café, which takes place on Saturday 17th May at **The Cholsey Pavilion** from 10am to 12.45pm. You can also pause for a good cuppa and cake from Cholsey

Community Café, which is in the Foyer.

Our aim is to help you **repair** all manner of ordinary domestic items, including **electricals**, garden tools, **toys**, bicycles, textiles and **ornaments**, but we sometimes branch out into furniture, ultrasonic cleaning of **watches** and jewellery, and can even help with **spectacles** and new watch batteries, although it's advisable to **get in touch a few days ahead** to check whether the particular repair will be available.

Check our website, www.cholseyrepaircafe.com or email repaircafe@cholsey.com for further information.

Harwell Community Speedwatch



The Harwell Community Speedwatch Group (CSW) has now been active for nearly **4 years** on the A417, checking on speeds within the 30mph limit. The group was first set up in response to **concerns** expressed by residents along this road in a survey in **2020**. Residents reported that as a result of speeding vehicles they often had difficulty **crossing** the road and **coming out** of driveways, pedestrians and cyclists often felt **unsafe**, residents were suffering **stress** and disturbed sleep. As a result **12** people were **trained** and work under the supervision of the **Thames Valley Police** (TVP) to report speeding vehicles to the DVLA and the TVP, who then take appropriate action. Since then the CSW group has worked very loyally and effectively in **all weathers** to provide a reminder to motorists about speed and to monitor and report speeding vehicles.

Our data which is collected from the roadside, analysed and acted on by the police shows that since our start in Sept 2021 we have recorded speeds of up to **64mph**. We have reported **2006 speeding vehicles** to TVP for action and this has also enabled them to track **76 vehicles** without an MOT, in itself a safety risk. We need to remember that while these speeding

vehicles have been reported to the police, the group has been visible and acted as a reminder to **53,772 drivers** who have seen us during our sessions. This potentially **doubles** as we are visible to vehicles on both sides of the road. We continue to promote the message that it is not acceptable to **speed** through our village.

Christine Dunsdon,
Harwell CSW Coordinator



ARBOCARE LTD.
TREE AND
GARDEN
SPECIALISTS

**NATIONAL TRUST
APPROVED ARBORIST**

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

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

24
HOUR
HELP
OUT

Easter with Eggbert

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL 2025 • 10AM TO 6PM

PAUL GUSTAFSON
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
AUTHOR
AND WHSMITH
OXFORD
PRESENT
EASTER WITH
EGGBERT

PAUL WILL
BE READING AND
SIGNING COPIES
OF THE
EGGBERTS
ADVENTURES
BOOKS
THROUGHOUT
THE DAY

FREE COLOUR AND DESIGN
AND EGGBERT CHARACTER

FREE EGGBERT GAMES
AND ACTIVITIES

FREE WORD SEARCHES

BOOK READING

ALL PARENTS AND
CHILDREN WELCOME

HOLD AND GUESS THE WEIGHT
OF THE GIANT OSTRICH EGG

MEET THE GIANT EGGBERT,
THE WORLD'S LARGEST EGG

FREE CROSSWORDS

WH SMITH • 22 CORNMARKE STREET • OXFORD • OX1 3HE
FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE SEE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND WEBSITE
www.instagram.com/whsmithofficial • www.facebook.com/WHSmithuk
www.whsmith.co.uk • or email: 5456.mgr@whsmith.co.uk
www.eggbertsadventures.com

Free Easter Activities

Visit www.eggbertsadventures.com/activities for free activities, games and colouring - download, print & enjoy!

BIG GINGER TOM MUSIC

Present Live Music In Harwell

Friday 18th April at

The Orchard Hall, Harwell Village Hall



The HAAR provide a radically fresh, boundary-pushing take on traditional music, so you can expect a magical evening of stunning, made-in-the-moment renditions of some of the world's most incredible songs.

Support: Eleanor Dunsdon & Gregor Black

Tickets from £18 available at biggingertommusic@gmail.com or on-line at www.WeGotTickets.com

Doors and bar at 7pm - Music at 7:40pm

BIGGINGERTOMMUSIC.CO.UK



Other than where stated and in reports of Parish Council matters, any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Items for the June issue should be sent by **15th May** 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 **new** Parish website:

<https://harwellparish.gov.uk/>

Phone: 07749 361957

Post to: Clerk, Harwell PC, Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EX
For appointments please email Clerk@HarwellParish.gov.uk

Parish notices can be found on the new noticeboard by the office at the Village Hall.

Parish Councillors

Mamta Bajre, Cath Convery, Patrick Davison-Locke, Anthony Dearlove (Vice-Chair), Mike Fox-Davies, Robert Hughes, Vaughn Humphries (Chair), Lucy Lacy, Simon Peacock. (2 vacancies)

District Councillors

Debra.Dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Hayleigh.Gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Campus Ward:

Sarah.James1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Sally.Povolotsky@oxfordshire.gov.uk
07939 912997

MP: Olly Glover

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk

Harwell News edited by Alison Fautley,
print version distributed by Martin Ricketts.



THE HARES OF HAR(E)WELL

Third Annual
Hare Trail
around
Harwell Village

For the week of
Saturday 26th July - Sunday 3rd August
a hare trail will be created
around the village with
teas and the church tower
open on Sunday 3rd August.

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](mailto:jvmarkey@googlemail.com) on
jvmarkey@googlemail.com
or telephone 07549625836

What will you
make your hare
out of?



Palliative care bereavement support service

We are looking to recruit volunteers for our bereavement service to provide support to family and friends who have lost someone close to them.

Are you...

- warm, empathic and a good listener?
- able to support other people's expression of grief and distress?

Do you...

- have 16 hours a month to spare?
- have your own transport?
- want to make a difference?

We provide...

- foundation level training (apx. 60 hrs).
- ongoing training, supervision and support.
- travel and phone expenses.
- online mandatory training (apx. 8 hrs).

We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years.

Training will take place from September to December 2025 and it is essential that all training is attended.

**Closing date
for applications:
30 June 2025**

**If you are interested in finding out more
or applying, please contact us on:**

W: sobellhouse.org/bereavement-volunteer
E: pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk
T: 01865 225944/01865 225868

Registered Charity No. 1118646

