

The Harwell News

harwellparish.gov.uk

Congratulations - Sue Greatbanks!



Harwell Primary School was proud to nominate Sue for a **2026 Oxfordshire High Sheriff's Award**. The judging panel selected Sue as a **winner** noting that *'This is a significant achievement; we received a bumper crop of nominations this year, and Sue has been chosen from an exceptionally strong field'*.

Many **congratulations** to Sue from everyone at the school.

On March 9th, I was privileged to join Sue and her family at the **Awards ceremony** at Pembroke College in Oxford.

The wording in the awards programme for Sue was:

For more than 45 years, Sue has **devoted** herself to the people of Harwell through an exceptional combination of professional **service**, voluntary **leadership** and community **stewardship**. Her service spans education, **governance**, fundraising, safeguarding, environmental projects and **hands-on** voluntary work. Following retirement from teaching, she continued to volunteer by **mentoring** early readers and running the chess club and is currently in her **tenth** year as a school governor specialising in SEND. As Chair of the Jubilee Playground Committee, Sue led the development of a **modern, inclusive** play area. She has been a driving force behind **Sustainable Harwell** and the **Community Orchard Project** and supports the parent and toddler **Fun Club**, a vital lifeline for new parents.

The judges comment: *'Sue represents the very best of village life. Her contribution is sustained (45 years) and incredibly broad, spanning the school, the Church, the village hall and the environment. She is the glue that holds a community together, ensuring that everything from the playground to the orchard is there for future generations'*.

Sue's impact on the school has been **profound** and we remain very grateful to her, her fellow governors and the wider village community for all the support given to the school.

As I write this, the children (and staff) are looking forward to their annual visit to **Prince's Manor Farm** for the lambing and we also look forward to playing our part in the **Feast** in May.

Warm regards,

Bryn Gibson, Headteacher



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Harwell Parish Council Update

Over the past two months the Parish Council has continued its routine work of keeping everyday services running while also progressing **several projects** that will shape the village over the coming years. Below is a short update on some of the main areas of activity.

Neighbourhood Plan – moving to the next stage



Following the community survey introduced in the previous issue of Harwell News, the Parish Council has **reviewed** the responses and agreed to **proceed** with the next stage of exploring a Neighbourhood

Development Plan. Of the **90 people** who responded to the survey, **75% supported** the Council continuing to explore a Neighbourhood Plan, with six respondents opposed.

A Neighbourhood Plan allows local communities to **influence** how development fits the **character** of their area - for example around design, green spaces and local priorities - within the **framework** of national and district planning policy.

A **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** will now be established, bringing together councillors and community representatives to guide the early stages of **evidence gathering** and engagement. The Parish Council will remain responsible for **all** formal decisions.

Further opportunities for residents to contribute will be shared as the work develops.

Recreation Ground projects progressing

The Recreation Ground remains one of the Parish Council's most **important** community spaces, and several improvements continue to move forward.

Work on the **new pump track** is progressing and the Council has received the S106 (developer)



funds and established a dedicated project reserve to manage the project funding. Preparation work also continues on **proposals** for an Artificial Grass Pitch/Multi-Use Games Area (AGP/MUGA), which would expand sports facilities in the village, subject to planning permission and funding approvals.

New community noticeboard installed



A new community noticeboard has recently been installed at the **Village Hall**. The noticeboard, together with a secure lockbox, has been provided by the Parish Council for the Village Hall Trustees to **use and maintain**.

The aim is to provide a simple and accessible place where residents can find **information** about **community events**, local **organisations** and **activities** across the parish and surrounding area. If you have a poster you would like displayed simply pop it into the **letter box** at the high street entrance of the village hall and the hall caretaker will put it up.

Green Road repair works

The Parish Council has continued discussions with the relevant

authorities regarding the condition of Green Road (which provides access to the allotments).

Current indications suggest that improvement works are expected during the **summer period**, likely in June or July. The Council will share further updates as confirmed information becomes available.

Representing Harwell in wider consultations

The Parish Council has recently submitted responses to consultations on the **Harwell Campus Vision 2050** and the proposals for **Local Government Reorganisation** in Oxfordshire.

In both cases the Council's responses aim to ensure that Harwell's interests, infrastructure needs and community character are **properly considered** as wider plans develop.

Residents who wish to read the full responses can find them on the [Parish Council website](http://www.harwellparish.gov.uk).

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, which are held in public.

Email: clerk@harwellparish.gov.uk

Phone: **07749 361957**

Bryan Urbick - Clerk

Louise Edmonds - Deputy Clerk





HARE TRAIL

around
Harwell Village

8th August - 16th August

To enter a homemade hare contact
janette Roberts on
janette.roberts@sky.com
 or
Janice Markey on
jvmarkey@googlemail.com

COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS

Tuesdays 11am at The White Hart

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

Fridays 11am at The Harwellian

All welcome - just turn up!

Bell Ringers News

Ringling has continued with the **refurbished clappers** and **new ropes** on the front 4 bells. Numbers of ringers **vary** sometimes we have 8+ and sometimes less than 6. We are going to organise a **recruitment event** later in the year. If anyone is **interested** in the ancient art of bell ringing **please come along on a Thursday between 7-9 pm** or **contact Philip Roberts 01235 861409**, philip.a.roberts@sky.com.

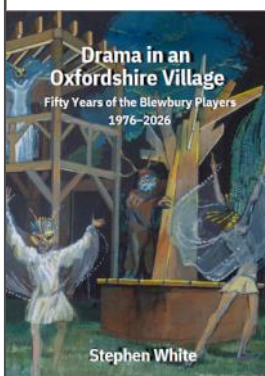
Philip Roberts

*Ed: Bells have been rung in Harwell for almost **400 years**. In 1932 two additional bells were added to the older 6 which are now the **oldest existing ring of 6 in the world**. (See F. Sharpe, *The Church bells of Berkshire* p 127.) Since 1932 there have been **8 bells** and a **Sanctus bell**; the tenor weighs 16-1-26 (cwt-qr-lb) - that's 1,850lbs or 837kg - diameter 47" / 119cm in E.*

Source: <https://fortran.orpheusweb.co.uk/Bells/habell.htm>. To hear them visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxUGaiVjSMw>

The Blewbury Players celebration year!

We are having a wonderfully **busy** year, delighted by and appreciative of the involvement, attendances and **support** of so many with our ongoing **50th celebrations**.



If you missed our entertaining evening preview of Steve's new book [Drama in an Oxfordshire Village Fifty Years of the Blewbury Players](#) do please take a moment at our website for more information and the link to pre-order. We would be very grateful if you would consider **pre-ordering** to help us cover the up-front costs of printing. Every pre-ordered copy will be **signed** by Steve!

Things may appear a little quieter for a while, but be sure that what you can't see is a hive of activity in preparation for **future events**. This week (23rd March) that includes our first gathering and read through for the cast and production team of **The Wind in the Willows**. Always an exciting day watching the world emerge from the page. If anyone is interested in providing **technical support** or joining a non-performing role for this production please do get in touch at blewburyplayers@gmail.com. We can support with **training and mentoring**, etc.

Our next events are...

A Flye on the Wall - An entertainment of Songs, Sketches, Memories and Merriment to celebrate this Venerable Village and the 50th anniversary of the Blewbury Players.

St Michael's Church, 20 June. Box office opens [online](#) on 29th May. £15 (to include a glass of wine). Start 7.30pm.

Catie Flye will be joined by her usual Two Cousins and a Piano team, which have performed so many enjoyable revues in Blewbury over the years.

The Wind in the Willows showing at **Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, 15-18 July**

Fifty Years of Blewbury Players - Exhibition at Orchard Dene Garden, 15-18 July

A Christmas Carol showing at **St Michael's Church, 25-28 November**

More details for all at www.blewburyplayers.co.uk



Trish Brooks, Trustee

Local cricket club looking for players

Based at **Harwell Campus, Harwell International Cricket Club** is your **local** cricket club!

We offer cricket for **all levels** of **adult** 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 beautiful Oxfordshire.

From April we will be holding **practice sessions** every week on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** from **5:30 pm**. These sessions will be on the field **next to DiSH** at Harwell Campus. If you are interested, please come along! Or **contact us** at harwell.cricket@gmail.com.



Picture taken last year at Ardington after the first innings when Harwell's Matthew Davies, on the right, batted for the whole innings and scored a century.



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**.



Delivered in partnership by



White Horse Reservoir - what's happening now

As we move further into spring, our presence on and around the site of the reservoir will increase as we continue our programme of **ecology** and **archaeological surveys**.

These surveys are an essential part of understanding the local environment and helping to shape the **project design**. Together, this work is building a robust



evidence base to guide the next stages of assessment, **mitigation planning**, and the **Environmental Statement** that will support our Development Consent Order application in late 2026.

We intend to submit an application for a **Development Consent Order** (DCO) in 2026, seeking permission to construct and maintain the new reservoir. If granted, **construction** is forecast to begin in **2029** with the reservoir planned to begin operating in **2040**. The planning process will allow people to have their say on the proposed new reservoir before a final decision is made by the Secretary of State. Demonstrating that we have had regard to **local and regional concerns** is an **important** part of the DCO process. Before formally applying for a DCO, Thames Water must carry out a public statutory consultation and consider feedback.

Find out more about the DCO process in our [factsheets](#). More information is also available on the [Planning Inspectorate website](#).

Stay connected and read our latest news or follow us on social media [Discover more](#)

GARD Update on the proposed reservoir at Steventon

JOIN GARD and add your name to those opposing the proposed reservoir. Go to our website at [Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD](#)



Planning permission is not yet applied for: in seven months' time Thames Water submit their planning application for the proposed giant reservoir, now called **The White Horse Reservoir**. They must give in a **detailed application** for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate because the proposed reservoir is a **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project**. Vale of White Horse District Council are **not** the Planning Authority for this. They are **opposing** the plans, as are Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire Council and the three MPs whose constituencies are affected: Olly Glover, Layla Moran and Charlie Maynard.

Thames Water have already spent more than **£543 million** of customer money developing the huge proposed White Horse Reservoir yet there is still no final design, no published construction time-plan and no clear strategy to address major water-quality risks. Given the dramatic **cost escalation**, Ofwat must carry out a **new** independent "best value" reassessment to ensure customers are not locked into the most expensive option without proper scrutiny.

Before any Development Consent Order can **responsibly** proceed, it is imperative that several fundamental issues are resolved:

- a completed detailed structural design published
- a credible construction timetable and accurate cost forecast detailed
- full dam-breach and flood-risk assessments modelled & published
- a proven emergency drawdown mechanism modelled & published
- a fully costed and transparent water-treatment strategy published



GARD is opposing this application all the way. **Join us now** and add **your support** to the MPs and Councils that already oppose the plans.

Send us your ideas for actions over the spring and summer, to show that we refuse to be ignored. Let's also show that democratic institutions cannot be trampled.

Write to the Secretary of State emma.reynolds.mp@parliament.uk **Write** to your MP and Council, approving of their opposition to the proposed reservoir and asking them to continue opposing it. See GARD website, **Take Action** section.

Advance notice: the GARD Annual General Meeting will take place on **May 8th in Steventon Village Hall** Millenium Room at 8pm.

Contact the secretary for information or to give ideas gard.secretary@gmail.com **JOIN GARD**

Lynsey Jones

April 2026 Update from Vale of White Horse District Councillor Andy Cooke

SESRO news a.k.a. "White Elephant Reservoir"

Following an earlier letter to the Minister, we had a standard **dismissive** response, but with one very interesting element within it. In response to our concerns over the **Dam Breach** issues, the Minister stated (in an official letter which we can now cite) that Thames Water **would be** required to produce the Dam Breach Analysis **for the DCO**.

This is a significant shift, as Thames Water had been insisting that they only need to do it prior to **filling** the reservoir (that is – after DCO, after design, after construction, but before first filling it – so far too late to back out).

This was **confirmed** in a presentation by Thames Water to Parish Councils (and very helpfully picked up by GARD as well). This will **NOT** be allowed to go by. Personally, I intend to **insist** that Emergency Drawdown details, Flood Management, and all Emergency Plans should be presented at DCO as well, which could be problematic for Thames Water's designs to get this approved. After all, if the Dam Breach Analysis is needed for it, surely these should be as well?

We've also learned that they **still** haven't got lab results for their Clay Compaction Trial. They also intend to build a **spur** off of the A34 between the Drayton and Abingdon interchange, but have **not** given any reason why.

New Garden Waste Permits

Last reminder for the **reapplication** for the new Garden Waste Permit for the next year (from 1st of April to 31st of March). Those of us with **Brown Bins** for Garden Waste needed to apply for next year's permit **before** the end of March. Details here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/> (or by telephone here: **01235 422422**).

If you miss this, **you can still apply at any point** afterwards, but there's no reduced fee for missing any months, so it makes sense to get it done before the first collection.

Bringing empty homes back into use

Over the past year, we've worked with the owners of **854** empty properties to understand **why** they are empty and offer **support**. This has already helped 232 homes **return** to use across South Oxfordshire and the Vale. Some of these homes are unoccupied for a good reason – such as undergoing major refurbishment or awaiting sale.

There are still around 1,162 homes that could **potentially** become homes again for residents. The councils offer homeowners information, advice and support to bring their empty properties back into use, including:

- Help to make the property more energy efficient
- Refurbishing the property including VAT reduction for renovation and alteration works
- Additional revenue by renting the property to a tenant in housing need, alongside financial assistance if the property requires minor refurbishment works before being let

- Additional revenue by letting privately
- Selling the property privately, through an estate agent or through auction

Property owners can find out more about the help available and how to report an empty property at whitehorsedc.gov.uk/empty-homes

Local Government Reorganisation

The big change to how Councils are allocated and run imposed by the Government has had its consultation **close**. We won't hear the Government's decision until late this year.

As a reminder, the Government has decided to **abolish** the two-tier system of District Councils under County Councils and asked for suggestions as to the best size and disposition of the new **Unitary Councils**.

The three proposals were **One Oxfordshire** (proposed by the County Council, and involving the County Council absorbing all four District Councils and Oxford City Council), **Two Councils**, involving a North/South split with Oxford City, Cherwell, and West Oxfordshire forming "North Oxfordshire and the Shires" while South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire come together with us at Vale to form a "Ridgeway Council," (supported by the four District Councils and West Berkshire), and a **Three Council** option where Oxford City grows to take in the Green Belt around it with absorbing chunks of the Districts, leaving a remnant North Oxfordshire and a remnant Ridgeway Council (proposed by Oxford City Council only).

Each has **issues** (One Oxfordshire looks to be too big and remote for a single Unitary, Two Councils may have to work to ensure smooth service operation across the boundary, and Three Councils are simultaneously too small for Government requirements and would have even more cross-boundary issues). It will be interesting to see what is **decided** for us.

Community Hub – support

Once more, if you need help, do not hesitate to contact the Community Hub for support:

Tel: **01235 422600**

Email: communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/costofliving

Office hours are 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm on Fridays

All the best, Andy



A Message from Olly Glover, MP for Didcot and Wantage

Spring is finally here, and I am pleased to say it has brought some great **progress** in the constituency, as well as hopeful developments in Parliament.

The roads have been a main topic of discussion, particularly the ongoing roadworks near Milton and Culham to improve road **safety** and the stepping up of **pothole repairs** now the weather has improved. There is more work to be done, so please **continue reporting** potholes and other defects on www.fixmystreet.com to make sure they are logged with the County Council.

As a regular cyclist myself, I raised concerns in parliament about the lack of government investment in **active travel**, which in many areas could reduce congestion, improve public health, and lower carbon emissions. In a Transport Committee meeting, we heard **interesting evidence** about the future of **electric vehicles** and the barriers which prevent them from being more widely used.

I asked the Department for Culture Media and Sport minister about the much-loved **Vale and Downland Museum** in Wantage, which, like many others, has **battled** against funding cuts to keep up the valuable work they do for the community. In the Westminster Hall Debate on **Environmental Protection and Biodiversity**, I had the opportunity to raise the outstanding work of many local groups and organisations. Community

action groups including The Letcombe Brooke Project, The Earth Trust, and Sustainable Didcot, need adequate **support** from the government to continue to **protect the countryside** that surrounds our constituency.

My team has received a significant amount of casework on **student loan repayment plans**, and I was able to raise two of these cases in a parliamentary debate. The Treasury Committee have now launched an **inquiry** into **student and graduate finance** to identify ways to make it fairer. If you are over 16 you can respond to their survey via www.parliament.uk/treascom

Back in the constituency, I have had the pleasure of meeting **Carbon-ion Energy**, a tech company developing next-generation energy storage, and **Agratas Innovation Lab**, a cutting-edge research facility on battery manufacturing. At **UTC** in Didcot, I spoke with students and staff, answering questions about local and national political activities, and even shared my own **curry recipe**.

As always, if there is **anything** you feel I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk, or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Olly.



ABINGDON
AIR & COUNTRY SHOW

Sat 13th June 2026 10AM - 4.30PM
Abingdon Airfield / Dalton Barracks

Includes: Flying Displays, Classic Vehicles, Live Music, Allcomers Dog Show, Tank Rides, Crafts, Static Helicopters and much more for all the family.

Advance Tickets available to 23.59 on 12th June, thereafter full price applies.

For Tickets, Information & Enquiries
www.abingdonairandcountry.co.uk

Abingdon Partnership, Hilton Garden Inn ABINGDON, Chancellors, Signus, Masterfloors Wallingford, Stein pilot insurance, Newbury Building Society, Q, and a yellow sports car.

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Cherry Hall

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Wednesday afternoons, Thursday & Friday daytime and the first Monday of the month evenings are all available **now** for regular bookings.

Discounts are also available for regular repeat bookings.

To book visit our website: www.harwellvillagehall.co.uk
or email: bookings@harwellvillagehall.co.uk



CHARITY NUMBER 1157858

Keeping phones out of the classroom



Mobile phones are **ubiquitous**, and bring many benefits in life, but they also create real problems, particularly within schools. Most schools will have some kind of “phone free” policy; but how effectively these are enforced **varies** hugely.

Last month I met with teachers and governors from several schools at Aureus Secondary School to talk about their approach to **banning phones** in school.

They have adopted a particular system, using lockable pouches, but there are lots of those things used by schools, such as lock boxes. For most of us a mobile phone is a useful - sometimes

indispensable - addition to our lives, but during the school day they **distract** pupils, **disrupt** classes, can lead to **poor discipline** and **lower attainment**.

There are a number of perceived barriers to implementing a proper phone free policy in school - phones connected to medical devices, and young carers for example - but the experience of schools that have embraced a proper ban shows that these problems can be **overcome**. The benefits of removing the distraction can hugely outweigh the costs, **reducing** disruption, truancy and bullying.

I’ve already been in touch with other schools and discussing how we can spread best practice to all schools in Thames Valley and will hopefully be launching a new project later this year.

As well as **increasing** the number of neighbourhood police officers locally, as part of my Education Strategy, every secondary school in Thames Valley now has a **named schools police officer** - and primary school also have access to local support. The important role these officers play can be both dealing with incidents involving children - as either victims or perpetrators; but also working with teachers to educate children - and parents - about some of the risks facing them.

Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner



Artweeks 2026: New Work from Catkin Tree Studio & Tanya Hill Ceramics

Visitors to Oxfordshire Artweeks **this May** will find a vibrant celebration of creativity as painter **Ruth Harris** of Catkin Tree Studio joins ceramicist **Tanya Hill** for a joyful and varied exhibition. Together they bring colour, character and **craftsmanship** to Southern Oxfordshire, offering an **uplifting** mix of playful artwork and beautifully formed ceramics.

Ruth Harris – Catkin Tree Studio

Ruth’s 2026 display brings together two new bodies of work: a joyful selection of her cat-themed paintings and a brand-new series of miniature spring flower artworks. She is currently creating around **thirty** tiny floral studies — including snowdrops, her latest completed piece — each painted with fine detail and a gentle sense of calm.

Her cat artworks remain wonderfully **playful**, with hidden felines tucked among William Morris-inspired patterns, riotous characters based on her own cats Pebble, Tiger and Frosty, and new pieces in progress such as a cat in a hot-air balloon and this year’s festive design, Gold, Frankincense and Purr. Ruth continues to work mainly in **acrylics**, transforming finished pieces into prints and homeware to make her art **accessible** and easy to enjoy.

Oxfordshire Artweeks Venue 41

- Popup gallery open 2nd – 4th and 8th – 10th May, 11am – 6pm at Land O, The Winnaway - www.catkintreestudio.co.uk

Tanya Hill – Ceramics

Ceramicist Tanya Hill presents a collection of her latest wheel-thrown stoneware and porcelain pieces, created in her Southern Oxfordshire home studio. Her current work explores beautiful form and surface texture, with recent experiments in **volcanic glazes** and sodium silicate producing striking **crackled** finishes. Walks along the Ridgeway have inspired her sgraffito bottles, decorated with local flora.

Tanya’s palette leans towards **calming** blues, greens, whites and creams, and she continues to expand her glaze knowledge as she develops new techniques. Her focus remains on creating **unique**, functional ceramics that feel good to use and beautiful to display.

Oxfordshire Artweeks Venue 42

- Open Studio 2nd – 4th and 9th& 10th May, 11am – 6pm at Mayfield, Wantage Road - www.tanyahillceramics.co.uk

Find out more about Oxfordshire Artweeks and local venues at www.artweeks.org



April News – Wildlife River Corridors

Wildlife corridors are living tapestries woven together to produce a **natural passage** connecting fragmented habitats. These vital tapestries allow animals to safely **migrate**, find food, reproduce, and adapt

Evenlode river near college farm, Bledington (David Gasca) March 2021

to environmental changes while keeping

our landscape functioning as a single, **connected system** rather than a scatter of isolated fragments. Thus, migration is the **key** behavioural adaptation that allows nature to **thrive**.

But with increased **development** of land, through housing, road building, and agricultural activity, the mobility of wildlife has become **restricted**, areas isolated, and the genetic diversity of our ecosystems reduced.

And this extends to our **rivers and waterways**. These waterways, which are so key to providing vital habitat for freshwater wildlife, now find themselves confined and carved apart by human pressures. Strengthening both land and river corridors restores the **weave** of the landscape. It rebuilds the very connections that allow ecosystems to function, species to thrive, and nature to adapt in an ever-changing environment.

The call for wilder river corridors

The [Evenlode Catchment Partnership](#) is a collaboration of over 20 organisations and many individuals, committed to improving the water environments within the Evenlode catchment (an area of 430km² to the NW of Oxford) and hosted by Wild Oxfordshire. We **value** the role of these river corridors as lifelines that connect segregated habitats, while also **championing** the benefit to communities when local green and blue spaces are cared for.

We have developed **innovative** approaches to river restoration, such as the creation of wetlands, ponds, and fish passages, alongside natural flood management efforts like the installation of leaky woody dams and storage bunds. These interventions not only **restore** natural habitats but also **reduce** flood risks, benefiting local communities.

Additionally, intensive farming practices rely heavily on fertilisers and pesticides, and that dependence comes at a **financial cost** to farmers, poorer water quality, and shrinking space for wildlife. When fields are pushed to produce more, the landscape loses the complexity and breathing room that rivers, insects, birds, mammals, and soil organisms need to function well.

Sustainable farming offers a different path. Across Oxfordshire and the Evenlode catchment, farmers are being **supported** to adopt approaches that work with natural processes rather than against them.

What's possible?

Even **occasional** involvement helps build bigger, better-connected habitats. Here are some examples to get you started:

Join a local Friends of the River group, hedgerow planting days, Riverfly surveying and monitoring, pond creation, or organise litter picks along local streams and rivers.

Report pollution or blockages using:

- The Environment Agency incident hotline or visit [Report an environmental problem - GOV.UK](#)
- [Thames Water's pollution reporting page](#)
- The Canal & River Trust for fly-tipping using their contact form.

Gardening tips for April

Spring has officially **sprung**; dandelions, primroses, and crocuses have all shot up from the once frosty soil! And you'll be pleased to hear that April marks the start of the **sowing** season - this is where the **fun** begins!!

Here are some top tips on how to bring more wildlife (and a splash of colour while you're at it) into your garden, community green space, or any outdoor patch you can get your hands on –



Honeysuckle provides nectar for insects, prey for bats, nesting for birds and food for small mammals - Canva

big and small, there's **always** a job to be done!

Head Fritillary, Forget-Me-Not, or a climber like Honeysuckle, which will also attract **moths** and hence **bats** in the summer.

2. Provide water sources

Don't just feed the birds, give them something to **drink**! Water features are a **must-have** for any wildlife-friendly space. From birdbaths to ponds, water sources provide essential habitats, hydration or even a bath for your feathery (and not so feathery) guests.

3. Sow what? Sow everything.

There is an abundance of fruit and vegetables that can start to be sown

Wild 
Oxfordshire



Dorn river restoration – Wild Oxfordshire



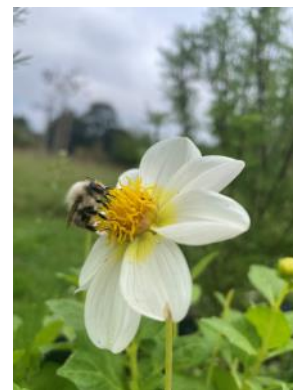
big and small, there's **always** a job to be done!

1. Plant for pollinators

Now is your time to start planting **native plants**, flowers, and more.

Planting **nectar-rich** flowers attracts these winged beauties, such as butterflies and bees, and provides a vital food source later in the year.

Try plants such as Snake's



A bee enjoying a flower in Kidlington, Rhiannon Young

continued on p.9

Wild Oxfordshire *(continued)*

in April, from salads leaves to potatoes. Help nature out and give yourself a tasty snack whilst doing so.

4. Add a compost pile

Composting really is a benefit to all- turning leftover vegetable scraps and garden waste into nutrient-rich soil, you're feeding your plants and reducing waste!

- Pick a level, well-drained, easy spot to access to use as your compost heap - you can also purchase **ready-made** compost bins.
- Build an airy base using twigs, straw, and small branches.
- Layer browns and greens: 2:1 browns-to-greens (by volume).
- Add moisture: damp, not soggy.
- Turn regularly every 1–2 weeks.



You can then start adding your waste, such as vegetable peels and fruit cores, fresh grass clippings, coffee grounds, tea bags (plastic-free), weeds (but only if they haven't gone to seed), and crushed eggshells.

Photo by Sandie Clarke on Unsplash

Jess Bouwer

century shako cap and **Waterloo Medal** highlight the 52nd (Oxfordshire) Regiment of Foot's role in Napoleon's defeat at the battle and encounter with his Imperial Guard.

The exhibition will include a collection of objects first uncovered by a French farmer in 2013, alongside the remains of an **unidentified officer**. Scraps of a uniform, badges, buttons, a pocket watch and **trench whistle** provided some clues which helped museum volunteers narrow down his identity to one of a small number of candidates, including **Osmond Bartle Wordsworth**, a collateral descendant of the famous poet, William Wordsworth. However, it was a chance encounter with a visitor to the museum, who knew another descendant that enabled **DNA testing**, through the Ministry of Defence, Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), which finally confirmed his identity. In 2022, 9 years from when he was discovered, and 105 years since he fell during the Battle of Arras, his grave was rededicated in his name, no longer an unknown casualty of war.

A full list of the 50 Objects, with images, can be found at: www.sofo.org.uk/collection/oxon50objects/

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Our current exhibition, entitled "**Oxfordshire's Military Heritage in 50 Objects**" is running **until 30 April**.



Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum

The collection of objects combine **highlights** from the museum's permanent displays from the past 10 years with recently donated items on show for the first time.

The objects have been selected from the **14,500** items preserved in the collection of SOFO Museum and tell the stories of residents of the county and the soldiers of Oxfordshire's regiments who have been impacted by, and influenced, conflict across the centuries.

Oxfordshire's military story stretches back nearly **2000 years**, from the earliest named soldier in the county, Lucius Valerius Geminus, a veteran of the **Second Augustan Legion** who was buried at Alcester in 79AD. The county's regiments played roles in shaping the most significant conflicts of the last 200 years, from **Waterloo** to pivotal battles of the First and Second **World Wars**.

Throughout history, Oxfordshire soldiers have **led** the charge, at the forefront of world-changing events. A 19th

Harwell Gardeners' Club

We meet on the **1st Monday** of the month (except Bank Holidays) in **St Matthew's Church** at **7.30pm**.

- **Monday 13th April - Gardening With Children'** - a variety of contributors.

Competition: Easter Parade

NB This meeting starts at 7pm and children are welcome!

- **Monday 11th May - Visit from The Owl Conservation Trust** with feathered friends.

Competition: Make an owl out of any material

- **Monday 1st June - Visit to Angela & Michael Barry's garden** at 'The Firs', Reading Rd, Harwell

Raffle, Refreshments & Plant Swap



Visitors always welcome to our meetings. Your first visit is **free**, following that, subscriptions are £15 for the year or £3 for any single meeting.

On **Bank Holiday Monday 25th May** we are having a **plant stall** at Harwell Feast. There will be lots of plants grown by Gardening Club members so come along and visit us for **flowers, veg, herbs, houseplants** and garden **advice**.

Schedules for **The Produce Show** will be available from our stall.

Date for your diary - Produce Show Saturday 12th September



The Sunflower Club - this club run by members of Gardeners' Club is for children aged **4 - 14 yrs** and their parents.

Basic gardening skills taught on our **allotment** on **The Green Rd**. Alternate **Sunday afternoons** at **3.00pm**.

Further details on any of the events listed available from Janice Markey - email jvmarkey@googlemail.com.

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



Big Ginger Tom Music Update



Our first Harwell gig of the year on **20th February** was an absolute cracker. It was fantastic to welcome back the wonderfully energetic **Forty Elephant Gang**. Many thanks to Jason Ritchie for this review.

“Support act is Warwickshire based **Lauren South**, who has a soothing, melodic vocal not unlike Kitty Macfarlane, and she plays acoustic guitar, fiddle and a **shruti box** (or haunted briefcase as one of her fellow musicians nicknamed it!). Highlights were ‘The Mermaid and the Swimming Lad’, the gentle ‘Tiny Boat’ and the set closer of her take on ‘Sweet Nightingale’, which gave the audience a chance to test their vocal chords!

Impressive opening set and another artist to keep an eye and ear out for new music and gigs.

Last saw the **Forty Elephant Gang** at this same venue back in **2022** & thoroughly enjoyed that gig. This time around they still feature Andrew White (vocals, guitar), Sean Mannion (mandolin, backing vocals) and James Bachmann (guitar, backing vocals), with the addition of two new members Frazor Twyman on bass and Martin Moore on drums, although the latter was away in **Scotland** due to a double booking!



Opening with the up-tempo ‘Light On Water’ the set was off to a good start, closely followed by ‘1994’, a song which tips a musical hat to the band’s indie sound.

Tonight’s gig was labelled a **single launch** for their latest single, ‘Fever Dreams’, which could be a look into one (or possibly all?) of a band member’s fever dreams. A dream featuring Elvis jamming with Zeus and Odin...nothing unusual then!

‘Joan of Arc’ is another favourite that gets an airing and as Andrew White said in his introduction it’s not based on the patron saint of France, but instead on the Joan of Arc in the film ‘Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure’.

The first set ended with one of my **favourite** songs by the band, ‘Songs of Praise’. There can’t be many gigs where you see a guitar and mandolin **duel** during a song’s solo. After an interval, the band started their second set with ‘Magpies’, a song that brings to mind the glorious harmonies of the likes of Crosby, Stills & Nash and Simon & Garfunkel.

The first set was **full** of great songs and the second set didn’t disappoint with ‘Fun While It Lasted’, the Lockdown inspired ‘Miss You’ and the haunting, stripped back blues of ‘Hollow Man Blues’. They finished the evening with a rousing ‘Hands Out Your Pockets’, complete with further **audience participation** clapping along.

Forty Elephant Gang are one of the **finest** live bands this reviewer has seen & heard. It is a mix of their music, singing, playing and the fact they seem to have so much **joy** and **fun**

performing their songs. Go see them live if they play near you.”

Our second gig of the year was **Mishra & Deepa Shakthi** with support from **Wednesday’s Wolves** on **Friday 27th March**.

Opening the show were local favourites Wednesday’s Wolves – a real hidden gem. Their set drew from a rich back catalogue, blending beautiful two-part **harmonies** with cajón, guitar and even the occasional touch of **xylophone**. Highlights included Beast, Maps and War Paint, and they received a **warm welcome** from the crowd. It was an absolute pleasure to have them back in Harwell.



Next up, **Mishra & Deepa Shakthi** took to the stage for two captivating sets, seamlessly blending American,

Irish and English folk traditions with the rich sounds of Indian classical music. At the heart of Mishra is Kate Griffin – returning to Harwell after her 2022 appearance with The Magpies – this time joined by Ford Collier, who many will recognise from The Drystones and his eclectic festival DJ sets. They were joined by Alex Lyon on clarinet, **bass clarinet** and backing vocals, Joss Mann-Hazell on double bass, and John Ball on tabla and **santoor**, all of whom first met while studying at **Sheffield University**. Completing the line-up, Deepa Shakthi’s hauntingly beautiful vocals added a **mesmerising** and deeply atmospheric Indian influence to the performance.

Much of the evening’s music came from their album **Turn O Spinning Wheel**, released late last year, alongside some earlier collaborative pieces.

The band’s relaxed, easygoing presence made the whole performance feel **intimate** and engaging, as they shared stories behind the songs and instruments in a way that felt natural and inviting.



They opened with Sunn Leh – “to settle the nerves,” as Deepa joked, marking their first gig together in a while – and treated the audience to standout moments including **Devil’s Nine Questions** and Bari Bari. The second set continued the magic with Turn, Ghoom Charakhra and **Kite**, before closing beautifully with Akhiyaan Udeek Divan.

Unsurprisingly, the audience called them back for an encore, which they happily delivered, leaving the stage to rapturous applause and bringing a memorable evening to a perfect close.

Looking ahead, our next gig is on **Saturday 16th May** with the electrifying **Urban Folk Quartet**. Tickets are flying at the time of writing, there are only around 30 left! We’re also delighted to welcome back **Anna Renae** to open the evening

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

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

Duncan Chappell, Big Ginger Tom Music



Harwell WI

Calling all ladies who live **in** and **near** Harwell – it is officially SPRING, and is my personal favourite time of the year. Mother nature never ceases to **surprise** us. Daffodils are brightening our days, tulips are almost there and the trees are full of blossom. The days are getting **longer** and the nights are **lighter**, so come and join us for a couple of hours once a month for **friendship**, tea/coffee & biscuits and **interesting topics** to listen to or **craft activities** to try. You won't be disappointed. Below are a few of the talks we can all look forward to :

- **April 8th:** Mary Darly – Pioneering mother of British Caricature. Another incredible woman from History
- **May 13th:** History of the British Toastmaster. A first hand interesting and amusing account.
- **June 10th:** Blood Bikers. Life saving couriers supporting the NHS

Harwell WI welcomes, supports and inspires **all** women. We meet on the **second Wednesday** of each month **except August** 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. 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.



OXFORDSHIRE

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

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



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The Orchard Film Club

April 2026 Update

Thank you to everyone who came to our films in March and April. **May's** film is "The Ballad of Wallis Island".



**FRIDAY 1ST
MAY 2026**

in The Orchard Hall,
Harwell Village Hall



Film showing at 7.30pm Doors and Bar open from 7pm
Tickets £6 per adult, £3 for under-17s, available from Bob's Butchers and on the door

Charles (Tim Key) is an eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island and dreams of getting his favourite musicians, Mortimer-McGwyer (Carey Mulligan and Tom Basden) back together. His fantasy quickly turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig.

Check out the Village Hall website [here](#) for more details and a link to the trailer.

Dates for your diary:

- **Friday 1st May** - The Ballad of Wallis Island (12A)
- **Friday 5th June** - title to be announced
- **no film in July** - holiday
- **Friday 7th August** - title to be announced
- **Friday 11th September** - title to be announced

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 to be able to **vote online** for the next titles!

Please send your suggestions for films to:

orchardfilm-club@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.



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HARWELL ARTS AND CRAFT GROUP
COME AND JOIN US

The Harwellian on Thursday mornings 9.30am to 12 noon
Walk in any time, come when you like

£2 per session, the first week is free

Tea and coffee is provided, open all year round (except Christmas)
Any craft, learn a new skill from other members and occasional demonstrations. For further information, contact heather.stevens@btinternet.com



The Harwellian Club
MUSIC FOR MEMORIES

2-4pm
First Tuesday of each month
(no session in August)

Live music & entertainment from local singers and bands

A place of support and connection for those with memory loss and their carers.

Free to attend. Refreshments available to purchase from the bar.

Please book in advance via email to events@harwellian.club or message / call Rebecca on 07760 175 845



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES FUND



Cholsey Repair Café - Saturday 16th May

Cholsey Repair Café opens its doors again, at The Cholsey Pavilion, from 10.00 to 12.45 on Saturday 16th May.

You can bring along all manner of **domestic items**, including **bicycles**, for the expert attentions of our volunteer fixers, who will do their best to help you **repair** them. If it's busy, try a really good cuppa and cake from Cholsey Community Café, next door. We are one of the longest-running & most respected repair cafes in Berks and Oxon.

More detail can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com

Harwell Parish History Group - February 2026

Talks

The talks in April and May will be held as usual in the **Cherry Hall, starting at 7.30 p.m.**

In March, a lively, interesting and well-illustrated talk by writer and broadcaster Joseph Rogers revealed that some so-called tithe barns are just - barns! He covered not only their history but how surviving barns are used today.

On **April 15th**, Jane Card will talk on *Richard II and the Symbolism of the White Hart* – with some reference to pubs, and on **May 20th** we have Catherine Sampson on *Berkshire and South Oxon churches: hidden gems & stories*.

Grateful thanks to Pat Cooke for arranging these.

Fictional “bunnies” and a lack of hares!

Hares gave Harwell Village its name - as recognised by the three hares' heads appearing on the coats of arms of John of Harwell, Bishop of Bath and Wells and of his elder brother Sir Roger of Wootton Wawen.



Albrecht Durer's 1502 watercolour of a hare.

The ancient Greeks and Celtic peoples associated the hare with fertility, because it breeds rapidly. Its breeding season peaks in March, near to Easter. Although a Christian festival, Easter takes its name from the Old German goddess **Eostre**.

Active at night, hares were associated with the moon which, in Celtic belief, died each morning and was resurrected at night. The hare

therefore became a symbol of **resurrection**, with mysterious supernatural and magical powers - to be treated with great caution. The date of Christian Easter is determined by the phase of the moon, so a link between hares and Easter might be expected. Yet over time the hare has been edged out by the equally fertile, but less magical and dangerous, more **fluffy** and tameable rabbit - or “bunny” - bringing Easter eggs (also a symbol of life) on Easter morning. This got me thinking about rabbits and hares in *children's* fiction - there are far more of the former than the latter. (More hares appear in adult fiction.)

This year sees the **160th anniversary** of the birth of Beatrix Potter (from October 1913, Mrs. Heelis). *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, published in 1902, was her first commercial publication. In 1903 she created the first Peter Rabbit stuffed toy, which she patented, so Peter Rabbit became the first licensed fictional animal to become a toy. *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*, the sequel, came out in 1904 and she went on to write two more tales about rabbits. This lead me to think of other fictional rabbits in children's books, namely those in *Watership Down* (Richard Adams), the bossy but well-meaning ‘Rabbit’ in the Winnie the Pooh stories (A.A. Milne), *Little Grey Rabbit* (Alison Uttley), *The Velveteen Rabbit* (Margery Williams), and *When Hitler Stole* (the toy) *Pink Rabbit* (Judith Kerr). There are many

more!

But I had problems finding similar fictional hares; I could only think of Aesop's *The Tortoise and the Hare*, and Alison Uttley's ‘Hare’ (The Little Grey Rabbit stories). Hare means well and is adventurous, generous and charming but, like the hare in Aesop's fable, vain and not competent. It is Hare who joins the Home Guard during World War 2 (published 1941/2). Lewis

Carroll's March Hare was illustrated by Tenniel with straws in his hair (no pun intended), visual shorthand for being mad. “Mad as a March Hare” is a saying derived from the **erratic behaviour** of hares in the mating season. I thought the laid-back ‘Dylan’ in *The Magic Roundabout* might be a hare - but no, he is, apparently, a rabbit. Terry Pratchett's

Granny Weatherwax, a good witch, goes Borrowing - riding the mind of an animal, using its senses - and in *Lords and Ladies*, she



Tenniel's March Hare from *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

uses a hare. (Because hares were active at night and mysterious, witches were believed to turn into them, or use them as familiars.) In *The Once and Future King* (T.H. White) a huntsman enthuses over the skill of hares in escaping capture by confusing scent trails, speed, camouflage, and all kinds of tricks. There surely are more fictional hares out there - somewhere? *Does anyone know of any?* The internet is not much help since it tends to lump hares and rabbits together. It did, however, turn up a Cornish

legend: if a woman is forsaken and dies of a broken heart, she will haunt her seducer in the form of a **white hare**, following him everywhere.

So why this shortage of fictional hares for children? They are speedy and athletic rather than cuddly. They are now less commonly seen in the wild than rabbits, so less recognisable. They have never been domesticated or bred selectively for food, as have rabbits, or as pets, so they are less familiar. Hare flesh was, and is, **eaten** but they were classed as game and hunted with dogs and they were hard to catch. So they had a reputation for **clever trickery**.

Hares lend themselves to bronze statuettes rather than cuddly toys. Speedy, reserved, **magical**, clever, occasionally “eccentric”, moon-gazers - definitely not “cute”. But rather good to lend their name to our village!

PC and JMC

Note for quizzers: the Belgian Hare is in fact a rabbit.



Hare in the Home Guard 1941/2 from the book by Alison Uttley.



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

St Matthew's Church now has a defibrillator funded by a donation

kindly made in memory of the late **Dennis Lay**.

The defibrillator is located next to the church porch, behind the bench.



What's coming up during April and May 2026

Is forgiveness unimaginable?

Or is it found in love, hope and the chance to begin again?

Bring your curiosity as we journey through Easter from tragedy to a cry of astonished joy:

Christ is risen!

Harwellandchiltonchurches.org.uk/easter

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 9th April held in All Saints' Chilton. 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).



Monday mornings 9.30am-11.30am

St Matthew's Church only. 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. **During term time only**.

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

Additional Special Service during May

Thursday 14th May Ascension Day at 7.30pm-8.30pm

Holy Communion, All Saints' Chilton

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

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3. 16

Deborah Evans, Church Administrator & PA to the Rector



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performance at 7.30pm
tickets £12 & £10

www.ticketsource.co.uk/didcot-phoenix-drama-group

Didcot and District U3A



The clocks have gone forwards, so what better way than to go into Spring if you have recently **retired or are semi retired** and living in Didcot or the surrounding area and looking for new interests whilst making new friendships, then look no further and consider joining the **Didcot & District U3A** to **'Learn, Laugh, Live'!**

With warmer days just around the corner and being 'time rich' for any newly retired or semi retired individuals, lazy days can be achieving days; **'Learn, Laugh, Live'**, why not learn a new language, or delve into your family history, enjoy walking with friends, learn to play an instrument by joining the **Didcot & District U3A** and with over **30 Interest Groups** (full details can be found on

didcot.u3asite.uk) there must be something for you?!

New members are always warmly welcomed to join (first visit is 'free-to-see') and chat over tea and biscuits at the monthly meetings are held on the **third Tuesday of every month** for this nationwide self-help teaching and learning organisation in the **Didcot Civic Hall, meetings start 2:30 pm.**

Meetings for the coming months will include:

- **April 21st Forensic Experience** from **Hayley Scott**. This is your opportunity to hear all about the life of a real 'Crime Scene Investigator' when Hayley Scott shares her experiences working for the Metropolitan Police for 14 years as a CSI.
- **May 19th AGM** plus **Emma Teasdale**, who will be reducing the risk of **domestic abuse** by raising awareness.
- **June 16th an ABC of Victorian painters** from **Simon Evers**. Victorians reacted to the social issues of the day by leveraging their positions as prominent personalities to publish articles in political periodicals, give their artworks to charity auctions, create banners or posters for social movements, or paint scenes that addressed the country's most urgent problems.

For further U3A details or information for those wishing to 'Learn, Laugh, Live'! head over to didcot.u3asite.uk

Brian and Lynn Burscough - PR Didcot & District U3A

Harwell Bowls Club – Open Day 25th April, 2pm to 4pm

It is that time of year again when the Club is working towards **opening the green** for the coming season.

New Bowlers are always wanted, so we are holding an **Open Day** on **Saturday 25th April 2026** from **2.00pm to 4.00pm**. Please come along and try it out – all you need is **flat shoes**. Also we have a **club night** on **Mondays from 6.00pm** onwards, which runs **from beginning of May** until the end of September. Plus, on Monday 25th May, which is **Harwell Feast**, we will be **open from 10.00am.**, not only for **Bowls** but for **Refreshments**. It would be nice to see some new faces.

For more information, just search Harwell Bowls Club (<https://www.harwellbowlsclub.co.uk/>), where you can get in touch with us.

Alternatively you can ring Rosemary on 01235 210179 (leave a message if no answer).

We look forward to welcoming you.



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Richard Schofield's family-run **cleaning business** has been advertising in Harwell News for more than **three decades**, with archive copies confirming Grimebusters appearing in the magazine as far back as **1991**. That remarkable continuity reflects both the **loyalty** of local customers and Richard's long-standing **commitment** to serving our community.

Grimebusters provides professional **carpet, upholstery and rug cleaning** across the area, combining modern equipment with the kind of personal service that only a local business can offer. Over the years, many Harwell households will have seen Richard's vans - and the results of his work - first-hand. Richard says the magazine has always been "a useful and gentle way to put our name out in Harwell" and he remains very happy to continue supporting the News.

Harwell Parish Council is delighted to recognise and **thank** long-standing advertisers like Grimebusters. Their support helps keep Harwell News viable as a free publication for residents, and highlights the strength of our local business community.

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Other than where stated and in reports of Parish Council matters, any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council. Items for the next issue should be sent by **15th May 2026** 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, The White Hart, St Matthew's church porch and in Harwell Village Hall for users. It is available online at harwellparish.gov.uk/the-parish/harwell-news/ where you can also sign up to be notified when the latest issue has been published.

Advertising queries to the clerk.

Parish Contact Information

All contact information can also be found on the 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

Cath Convery, Patrick Davison-Locke, Anthony Dearlove, Wayne Fleming, Hayley Greaves, Jeremy Hawthorne, Robert Hughes, Vaughan Humphries (Chair), Lucy Lacy, Simon Peacock.

District Councillors

Blewbury & Harwell Ward:

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

Sarah.James1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

County Councillor

Hendreds & Harwell Division:

rebekah.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP, Wantage Constituency: Ollly Glover
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk

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

A great family day out
raising funds for the local community

HARWELL FEAST

Bank Holiday Monday 25 May

A great day for the whole family with lots of attractions including the Fun Dog Show, giant tortoises, funfair, and a wide range of food and craft stalls.

Entry by programme - available to purchase at a **reduced price of £2.50** from local shops, the Harwellian and the White Hart in the two weeks leading up to the event. (Cost of programmes on the day is £4.)
There is **no charge for children** of 16 years and under.

Internet and wifi connection is not guaranteed on the Rec so please bring some cash too, to avoid disappointment.

Please note: The High Street will be closed temporarily from 10.40am to allow the pram race and then the parade to make its way from Townsend to the recreation ground.

We are no longer able to decorate the High Street with bunting, and we are asking householders along the parade route to decorate their houses, with a prize for the best dressed. So if you live on the **High Street or Wantage Road** unleash your creative spirit!

Send us a message on our website: www.harwellfeast.com if you'd like to borrow some bunting.




The Harwellian Club

LIVE MUSIC

Join us for a fun-filled evening of live music featuring talented local performers in an Open Mic evening.
Expect a great mix of pop, rock, folk and more

Saturday 23rd May
from 7.30pm
Free Entry
Full bar open



Musicians:
Essential to book your slot at this popular venue by emailing
Email trebor.vern@outlook.com

