

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

Published quarterly by and for the residents of Wendlebury Oxfordshire Editor: Mike Broun

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council is monitoring the Chiltern Evergreen 3 Project (the railway line between Oxford and Bicester) very closely, paying particular attention to noise levels and potential changes to roads, public footpaths and other routes across the track. We have attended several meetings with Chiltern and met with landowners who are affected by the proposed scheme. We have now written our response in time for the next stage on February 15th and will keep you informed of progress. Anybody who has individual comments, please email directly to consultation@chiltern-evergreen3.co.uk.

Please note that the bus service and timetable operated by Heyfordian have changed - the latest timetables are accessible on their website. We have contacted them and asked them to update the timetables on the bridge and the pub wall. Their website is www.heyfordian.travel/bus_services/.

Wendlebury Parish Council, along with other local parishes, are aware that there has been a lot of frustration about the traffic associated with Bicester Village generally and specifically over the Christmas period. We are liaising closely with other affected parishes and continue dialogue with the various council bodies to try and find some solutions to this – a Facebook site 'I Hate Bicester Village Traffic' now has more than 1400 members and is helping to put pressure on Oxfordshire County Council to do something to ease the traffic. There is also an e-petition on the No. 10 Downing Street website, Number10.gov.uk, with 95 signatures as of January 27th.

The Parish Council are also aware of the poor state of the 'back road' to Wyevale Garden Centre and are in contact with the appropriate council departments to persuade them to spend money on this. They have recently conducted some test diggings and we will continue to push to get the road repaired.

The precept for 2010-2011 has been approved at a total of £4,240, an increase of just £200 over last year, equating to a little over £1 per household. The total level is very low compared to other Cherwell villages, and pays for items such as the noticeboard, lighting in the churchyard, grass cutting as well as making grants to the Youth Club and the Village Hall Committee.

The brook has now been dredged from the Village Hall towards the motorway, and lower boughs have also been removed where needed. This will hopefully improve the speed at which water can flow away at times of heavy rainfall.

The Parish Council is still actively investigating potential land for allotments, in response to considerable interest in the village. Do you know anyone - or maybe you!! - have some land that may be suitable for allotments. Any ideas of potentially suitable land would be gratefully received by the Parish Council.

The new notice board has been ordered, and we are awaiting delivery.

---Chris Burton

JOB OPPORTUNITY !!

Having been on the Parish Council for something like 15 years, I have decided that it is time to step down. I have loved the time I have been a member of the council and it has really made me feel part of the village.

Consequently we need someone new to join us. If, like me you love living here, then you might be just the person. It needs a bit of time and effort, but all the other councillors are very supportive and together with Mimi our clerk they are a great team.

We deal with issues that include anything from Eco Towns to footpaths and the village clean up, we enter Wendlebury into the Village of the Year competition, we try and act in the best interests of where we live and make sure that everyone's views are listened to. Our budget is small, but that does not mean that we don't make as much noise as we can about things that concern us. There are four meetings a year, one annual meeting and occasional times when we meet informally.

The major issues that affect Wendlebury are traffic, flooding and planning applications. You don't have to have specific experience about any of these to join, but you do need enthusiasm, have time to read reports and be prepared to learn enough to have an informed opinion on the issues that we handle.

If you are interested, please do get in touch with me; either knock on my door or phone me on 244898.

I am going to stay on until our next meeting in April, but then I will say my goodbyes, so we need to hear from you as soon as possible!

---Anna McDonagh

SNOW REMOVAL HELP

Many thanks to John Miller who very kindly ploughed the snow from the entrance to and exit from the village onto the A41.

WENDLEBURY W.I. 50TH YEAR

January 2010 is our 50th birthday. As it is so near to Christmas we are putting off celebrating until May when we hope ex-members will join us.

What is the W.I.?

In 1897 Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, a Canadian farmer's daughter, whose first baby had died (largely, she felt, because of her own ignorance of hygiene and infant feeding), gave a talk to an audience of 100 women at Stoney Creek, Ontario, urging that lectures and demonstrations in domestic science and home crafts be made available to them. This led to the formation of Stoney Creek WI,.

The first WI in the United Kingdom was formed at Llanfair P.G. in North Wales in September 1915, and in the same year Singleton (West Sussex) became the first English WI to sign the rules with Wallisdown, (Dorset) a close second.

In 1948 Denman College, Oxfordshire, was opened and thus the WI's had their own adult education college. LIVE AND LEARN (NFWI 1970) tells its story.

By October 1975 there were 419,014 members, 9,294 Women's Institutes and 63 County and Island Federations.

Meetings today are for meeting new people and learning from the variety of talks we have.

How has Wendlebury W.I. changed?

Then – few women worked, there was no village hall, we met in the Red Lion or rooms in villagers' houses. Then members referred to each other as Miss or Mrs. So-and-So. We did more for the village, raising funds for a Village Hall, greeting new villagers, making sure the elderly or sick had hot meals. Average age was about mid 30's.

Now - most of the above probably still goes on, but as individuals, not as a group. With a village hall came many more clubs and activities which catered for peoples' special interest and didn't need to be under the umbrella of the W.I. As nationally (a little over 200,000 members now) numbers dropped. With more women working, more television, more choice, etc. it doesn't appeal to the younger women. Now average age is 60 in Wendlebury and more in other W.I.s.

Will there be a Wendlebury W.I. in another 50 years?

Who knows? But the future is optimistic. Sadly. today, people are put into slots; teenagers want to be together, young mums want to be together, pensioners are left to themselves. This is understandable but mixed aged groups also have so much more to offer each other. The reason I say the future is optimistic is, Wendlebury. though very slowly, has been growing. You lose some; members move away, health reason or it simply doesn't suit their needs. You gain some, new people move to the village and we now have several members from Bicester, even though there is a Bicester W.I. Nationally there are more new W.I.s forming and younger women are now joining. So maybe?

---June Pearce

WENDLEBURY GARDENING CLUB

Snowdrops emerging battered but unbowed after this old fashioned winter, daffs and crocuses sending up spearheads, can we really believe in spring? To-day an intrepid though possibly foolhardy primrose popped out so we are confidently putting together our 2010 programme.

The January AGM was postponed as we felt the last thing our members wanted was to turn out on icy roads. Also, it has given us the chance to re-arrange the mini-tour, the first one having gone pear-shaped.

The AGM will now be at the February meeting (16th 7.15pm) in the Village Hall. We look forward to welcoming members and anyone interested in joining us - a good time, as we use it as an opportunity - not only to take subs - but to meet for a chat and June and Mike will once more take us down memory lane with a recap of last year's outings.

A full programme of events will be hot off the press (DV) and subs remain at £2 pp or £3 family .so, do join us.

Happy and successful gardening in 2010!

---Elaine Harrop
Chair W.G.C 01869 252713.

CHERWELL JOB-HUNTING GUIDE

Cherwell District Council, in association with its Job Club partners, has published an essential guide for Cherwell residents who are facing redundancy and looking for job.

It offers advice on redundancy, money matters, job hunting, careers, and training. There are all the local contact details for organisations job seekers may need to get in touch with, including information on what to expect from the weekly Job Clubs in Banbury and Bicester.

Cherwell residents can get a copy by phoning the Job Club helpline, 01295 221863 or visiting one of the Banbury or Bicester Job Clubs. It can also be downloaded from the Job Club page of Cherwell District Council's website, www.cherwell.gov.uk, by following the job club link on the homepage. Partners such as Banbury and Bicester Citizen's Advice Bureau also have copies of the guide, as well as Cherwell's one stop shops and the libraries.

FORTHCOMING WENDLEBURY VILLAGE CLUB EVENTS

All the dates will be finalised in the next few weeks when we will be producing a Detailed Calendar of Events which will be delivered to your home as well as appearing on the website.

:
6th February The Taste Test – a fun evening finding out who is the best in Wendlebury at identifying food and drinks – just how good are your taste buds?

27th March Wendlebury Scalextric Grand Prix. Fantastic first prize, Pit Stop Bar and Café. Are you the GP champion of Wendlebury? Come and find out!

4th April Easter Egg Hunt for the little ones

---Jean Bebbington

NEW MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Though we were threatened with the loss of this service, the mobile library service now visits Wendlebury once a fortnight on a Wednesday morning, stopping at the bottom of Church Lane.

Books, DVDs, CDs can all be ordered via this service; also if you order on-line or via the Bicester library, you can request the delivery point to be the mobile library.

The on-line reservation service is easy to use and your usual county library ticket is now valid for the mobile library service.

---Kathy Sharp

BICESTER UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A).

Bicester U3A members extend a warm welcome to all prospective members at any of our forthcoming meetings held monthly, except December, on fourth Thursday in Wendlebury Village Hall beginning at 2.15pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the following meetings;

2010

28th January Annual General Meeting

25th February: Florence – Ann Sharman

26th March: Advanced Motorists – Mike Somerville

22nd April: Samuel Cooper, Greatest English Portrait Painter – Dr Robert Edwards

Bicester University of the Third Age (U3A) is the local branch of an international organisation whose members, having retired, are prepared to impart their lifetime experiences to others and/or continue to learn by regular house group meetings to enhance their current knowledge of Art Appreciation, Bridge, Canasta, Computing, French, German, History, Jazz, Music Appreciation, Play Reading, Short Walks, Sketching, Spanish and Sunday Lunches.

Further information is readily available from the Secretary, Mrs Peggy Penfold, Tel: 01869 242506, or the Chairman, Mrs Sheila Maclean, 17 Cedar Drive, Bicester, Oxon. OX26 4EZ. Tel: 01869 253052; Email mcSheil@aol.com

All for £11 per annum plus £1 per meeting for tea, coffee and biscuits !!

---Andy Gordon

DIAL-A-RIDE BUSES INTO BICESTER

Because there is now a reduced service through the village with the 25 bus, some residents may like to investigate the Dial-a-Ride service. It is your door to your door!!

Eligibility: The Dial-a-Ride service is for passengers who fall within one or more of the following criteria

passengers of any age with mobility difficulties (wheel-chairs accepted)

people of any age with visual difficulties

people with severe learning difficulties (provided the person can travel on their own or is provided with an escort throughout the journey)

elderly frail people or others who experience significant difficulties in using conventional public transport

escorts and guides travelling with a registered user.

HOW TO START USING THE SERVICE

Passengers will be asked to register with BCTA before they begin using the service. To do this please contact BCTA on 01869 320132 or bcta@msn.com.

Dial-a-ride schedule: You need to book the day before you want to travel. For journeys on Mondays please telephone and make a booking on the Friday before.

Travel from outlying villages into Bicester is possible on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On a Thursday there is a regular dial-a-ride service from Kidlington via the villages to Bicester and return.

Call Dial-a-Ride Bicester on 01869 320132. Bicester booking lines are open between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

If several people wish to travel together on a particular day and a particular time please phone Kevyn Powell on 01295 273086. You will get a door to door service and help carrying your shopping to your door. Sample fare £3.00 return Wendlebury/Bicester. Kevyn Powell will come to speak to a village or club meeting to explain the service if you contact him.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Please be aware of an incident that occurred today at 11.30am in Kidlington. Two white males wearing high visibility jackets knocked on the door of an elderly resident. They offered to clear the driveway of snow for £50 cash. The elderly resident thought that they were from the council and paid £50 cash and males left. They were driving a blue van, and could be travelling around the Cherwell Area. Please alert neighbours especially the elderly. If you see anything suspicious please telephone the police on 999 for immediate attention or 08458 505 505 with information. Quoting URN 564 12/01/2010

A small white van was seen loitering outside my house in the village. It was a small LDV white van - no markings. Registration number N326 ENS

The following occurred on three occasions in Adderbury Village on 27th December.

3 males wearing blue overalls and stab vests, stated that they needed to get into victim's addresses quickly and check it, as a suspected burglar has been stopped with cash further down the street. Males show a stolen Police Warrant Card as ID, one victim saw that it was a female's name.

Please do not let any unexpected callers, into your home even if they appear to rush you.

Take police warrant card or the name and shoulder number from it and phone police on 08458 505 505 to check their identity as a genuine officer.

If you have any information please telephone with details to Cherwell Priority Crime Team, Banbury Police Station on 08458 505 505.

---Jane Burrett

BADGER WATCHING EVENING

Wednesday 31st March 2010

From 17.45 to approximately 21.00

We will travel in the village mini-bus to the Bicester Garrison area. We will be met and taken to the site by Gary Beckett; Manager of Bicester Garrison Conservation.

The minimum age is eleven.

Price per person: £10.00; this includes insurance on Bicester Garrison Land.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE: Please contact Jane Burrett, 01869 325876 (answer machine) or email to janeburrett@googlemail.com

This visit is organised by Wendlebury Woodland Project volunteers - who will be working in the copse on the back road on Tuesdays until mid February (weather permitting) and on Saturdays: 30th January & 20th February. We start at 10.00 and you are welcome.

CALLING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

- Are you a good listener?
- Do you enjoy being with young children?

- Could you spare 2 – 3 hours per week?
- Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer with Home-Start?

Volunteering provides excellent experience for a CV

We offer support, friendship and practical help to local families in their homes

For more information please contact:
Sarah: 01869 349990 sarah@homestart-oxford.org.uk

SAVING ON FUEL OIL PURCHASES

Since October 2008, Merton Village has co-ordinated the purchase of fuel oil for 170 members in 22 villages, all within a ten-mile radius. To date, they have ordered a total of just under 175,000 litres of oil with an estimated saving in excess of £7,200! The savings per litre was 3.08p. A panel of 13 suppliers is used (both local and national) to provide prices on the oil order to ensure competition whilst obtaining the best price.

To be part of this scheme, you need to register. Fill in the registration form available from the village website www.mertonvillage.co.uk Just hover over Oil Buying Group on the left hand navigation bar and select Registration Form. Alternatively, you can request a form by emailing me at mertonoil@hotmail.co.uk

If you don't have an email address, or still have a query, then please call me on 01865 331183.

---Steve Blood
12 Otmoor View, Merton, OX25 2NL