

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

WINTER 2007

Published by and for the residents of Wendlebury Oxfordshire

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JUNE 2007

Every year, Wendlebury Parish Council continues to deal with the small but vital jobs that need to be done in the village. People may not always be aware of them, but we believe that they make a difference. They include getting the kerbs made safe in St Giles Close, paying the bill for the light that lights your way through the churchyard during hours of darkness, getting road markings on the road out of Wendlebury towards Oxford, persuading the county council to improve the drainage under the road by the playground, arranging the annual village clean up and organising a speed box to check the speed of vehicles driving through the village. The box told us that nearly all vehicles driving through Wendlebury near the playground, where it was sited, travelled between 26 and 31 mph.

Wendlebury entered the Calor Village of the Year competition last summer, and was one of the runners up. The wealth of material that was displayed for the judges was fantastic. There were photographs from village clubs together with details of what they all get up to, scrap books from the WI and youth club, Wendlebury mugs and tea towels from various celebrations, to name only a few.

The Parish Council now produces the Wendlebury Newsletter three times a year, and uses it to tell villagers what has been going on in the council. Every household gets a copy.

Planning applications are a major part of the work we do, and this year we had 12 applications, some of which were submitted more than once with changes and additions. On behalf of the village, councillors waded through an entire box full of documents about the expansion of Bicester at the South West side. Having read through, we then put forward various objections for consideration.

The application which drew the most activity was of course for a proposed motocross facility near the motorway. It was clear to the Parish Council that villagers were completely united in opposing this application, and I would like to thank everyone who helped in various ways, including mail drops and writing to Cherwell with objections. Cherwell had never received so many letters of objection from Wendlebury. The major problems posed by this application were noise and traffic. The application was withdrawn, and, at this time, it is not expected to be re-submitted.

I would like to say thank you to Kerry Wilce for his invaluable work on the council. Kerry stood down this year. Thank you also to all the councillors for all their work, and to the clerk without whom we could not manage. Finally, thank you to our District and County Councillors who faithfully attend our meetings.

The Wendlebury Website was launched and details of Parish Council meeting are on the site. If anyone wants to know more about the work of the Parish Council, just look us up on the web, or you can find our details on the notice board and can then get in touch with one of us.

This report should have appeared during the summer. Sadly, the illness and death of its then editor, Helene La Rue, intervened.

---Anna McDonagh

WENDLEBURY YOUTH CLUB

Wendlebury Youth Club is now coming to the end of its third year and the success of the club goes from strength to strength.

We still have 40 children, aged between 9 and 13 years old, and a waiting list of 20 children. Due to the size of the hall, it is not possible to take any more children and 40 is our maximum. Some of the children have been attending the youth club since it started in January 2005 and still enjoy coming every week in term time.

The club is run by a superb bunch of volunteers; without them the club would cease to exist: Justine Brown, Chris Burton, Hannah Daulton, Lindsay Daulton, Janet Davies, Mandy Groves, Jackie Hucker, Jenny McCabe, Debbie Montanino, Louise Pell, Kathy Sharp, Julia Underwood and Fiona Walton.

This year has seen our first sports day, a smoothie making night, bingo night, quiz night, the annual talent competition – which, this year, surpassed all others with two rock bands, dance groups, singers and musicians, to name a few.

The youth club runs from 7pm until 9pm on Thursdays in term time and we have tuck shop time each night so the kids can chill out together. Some nights we have craft activities and items for the kids to play with such as a football table, table tennis table, play stations, and pool.

---Justine Brown

DOG POO BINS

In the last issue of the Newsletter, we asked whether people felt that these bins should be purchased and installed in the village. The village website also ran a questionnaire on the same subject.

As a result of various comments, the Parish Council will not be installing bins.

If you are a dog owner, please could we ask you to be responsible and clear up after your dog?

Don't forget, bags for dog waste can be collected from the porch of No 21 St Giles Close, Clerk to the Parish Council.

DRAINAGE

New drains have been installed under the road between Manor Farm Cottages and The Willows. There has often been a large amount of water that collects there after very little rainfall and it was discovered that the pipe that channelled this water away was no longer adequate for the job. Cherwell have installed considerably wider pipe-work which should alleviate this problem.

PLAYGROUND BENCHES

Have you noticed that there are new picnic tables on the playground? The old ones had become dilapidated and dangerous, so the Village Club have replaced them. The prize money awarded to Wendlebury as a runner up in the 2006 Village of The Year Competition was put towards them. One of the tables is adapted for a disabled user.

NEW KITCHEN FOR THE VILLAGE HALL?

Have you ever marvelled how the Village Club manage to produce a St George's Day dinner for 80 people in the Hall kitchen, or how WI manage to serve tea and cakes from a space where three people make a crowd?

The current kitchen in the Village Hall is cramped, has an ancient cooker, kettles to boil water for teas and coffees, no space for a fridge and food storage, no dishwasher,..... the list is endless.

This is why the Village Hall Committee is proposing to build a new kitchen with the space and modern facilities that are expected by users. Our intention is to knock the existing kitchen and bar into one unit which will be fitted out with new cooking, food preparation, dishwashing, refrigeration and hot water equipment. This will virtually double the size of the existing kitchen. At the same time a new bar area will be built in the existing extension with a new serving hatch into the main hall.

We would like to emphasise that the Hall Committee will not be applying for a licence to sell alcohol as part of these proposals. Users who

want to sell alcohol at a function will have to apply for a temporary licence as at present.

How much will all this cost? Our initial estimates for the building work, new kitchen and bar units and electrical goods come to £20,000. In the past we have tried to reduce costs by using volunteer labour. However, with the Hall being in constant use we will need to minimise the time it is closed for the work to be done and so will have to use contractors to complete the work in a short timescale.

For the development to go ahead we will need to raise approximately £17,000. Wendlebury Parish Council fully support this project and have agreed to kick start our fundraising with a grant from the council precept. We will be applying to various bodies for additional grant aid over the next nine months as well as hoping to run fund raising events in the village. Our expectation is to have all the funding in place within 12 months so that the project can be completed in the spring of 2009.

We have already consulted with some of our village organisations on the new kitchen design and facilities and once the final plans have been drawn up we will display them in the Hall for everyone to view. We very much hope we will be able to count on the support of the village to help bring this exciting development to a successful conclusion. Bookings may be made through Jack Smellie on 253646

---Kerry Wilce
Wendlebury Village Hall Committee.

WENDLEBURY W.I.

At present, membership of Wendlebury W.I. stands at 30 ladies of all ages. We meet in the village hall once a month for a meeting at which we discuss current business and then we are entertained by a speaker or we participate in activities of various sorts. Speakers' topics this year have included Aromatherapy in an Education Setting; Belly dancing; Peru - Land of the Incas; and we have had an enjoyable evening of card making.

We also have social events: we go out for a meal together once a year, we have a Christmas party and we arrange an annual outing to visit a place of

interest. We are a friendly bunch of people and we warmly welcome new members. Our meeting night is the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Anyone interested in joining, or for further information, please contact the President, June Pearce, on 01869 243967.

VILLAGE CLUB NEWS

Notes for your diary

Sat 15 December	Children's Christmas Party	Check the website for full details
Mon 24 December	Santa tours the Village	Warm mince pies and beverages welcome as Santa brings his usual good cheer to children and adults alike
Fri 28 December	Panto at Oxford Playhouse	Aladdin!!! All tickets now sold
Sat 22 March - Easter Saturday	'Ain't Misbehavin' from Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company www.ottc.org.uk	'Ain't Misbehavin' is coming to Wendlebury Village Hall: a professional and vibrant evening guaranteed with a live jazz trio and five fabulous vocalists strummin', struttin' and singing all those great songs. Tickets on sale in January – watch out for leaflets through your door and information on the Wendlebury website

TRAFFIC ISSUES

As we all know, there have recently been a couple of major planning applications to develop land outside Bicester. Many more houses are going to be built on land along the A41 between

the Shell Garage and Chesterton. Wyevale Garden Centre has seen a huge increase in size and consequently an increase in traffic movement. There is also an application currently being considered for a Business Park between Wyevale and the Aylesbury Road. The Parish Council is very aware of the increase of traffic coming through the village. There is no guarantee that Cherwell will act on our concerns, but the Parish Council is doing its best to ensure that they are aware of our concerns. The following is from the most recent letter sent to Cherwell's Planning Department in response to the Business Park application.

"The quality of life in Wendlebury is steadily being eroded by increased traffic. The amount of traffic coming out of Bicester to Oxford and back has grown enormously over the past years. Estimates for the number of traffic movements from Wyevale Garden Centre have already been significantly exceeded. With the building of homes at Whitelands Farm and the increase of traffic that will ensue, together with that from the proposed development, Wendlebury Parish Council believe that it is essential to mitigate the effect on this small village that is ill equipped to deal with the potential increase of rat-run traffic.

"The infrastructure in Wendlebury is not adequate to cope with rat running. There are no pavements and there is on road parking. Children walking to and from the bus to both primary and secondary school during peak rush hour are not safeguarded from the traffic on our narrow country road. The school and public buses stop on the road as there is no suitable place for them to pull in.

"The huge increase in size of Bicester will inevitably increase the amount of traffic on the road. The A41 is a principal transport corridor and already is frequently unable to cope with the amount of traffic the result of which is that traffic re-routes itself through Wendlebury.

"Essential improvement to Junction 9 of the M40 has been postponed, which will increase the number of drivers trying to avoid congestion.

"Wendlebury Parish Council requests that mitigation is made to limit rat running through the village by:

- Junction design that will encourage drivers to use the A41
- Appropriate signage, e.g. 'Village Only'

- Weight restriction on vehicles driving through Wendlebury
- Increased traffic calming measures through the village
- Improved bus service to encourage people to leave their cars at home."

FLOODING IN CHERWELL

Your Parish Council has been in touch with various council departments as a result of the flooding in July.

We will be ordering signs that can be put out in the road. Red triangles saying 'Flooding'. These can then be put out to warn drivers next time a flood occurs.

It is worth keeping in mind that the bow wave caused by cars driving through the flood added considerably to the water going in to properties.

Wendlebury will be putting together a Flood Plan with the help of the council in due course. If you live in a house where flooding is a danger, Cherwell District Council will deliver sandbags and when they are needed. If you think that you should be supplied with sandbags and did not receive them in July, please contact Tony Brummell, Building Control and Engineering Services at Cherwell District Council. 01295 252535.

A review of communities that are prone to flooding is currently being carried out by the Environment Agency. This will look into the history of flooding in those communities and is due to be completed by the end of December. The intention of the report that will be made after the review is to highlight any work that could be done in the near future to alleviate flooding. As Wendlebury is considered to be a high risk community, this may mean that if any immediate and easily fixed issues are identified, that work will be done.

The Environment Agency told us that the flooding in July was as a result of water coming from over land rather than down the brook, and as the fields were already saturated, the water had nowhere to go. For this reason the flood warning system was ineffective.

This type of an event is something that is expected only once in 300 years. Flooding in Wendlebury is usually due to the stream overflowing.

Anyone wishing to contact the Environment Agency regarding the review that is being compiled should speak to David Van Beesten on 01276 454480 or by email at david.p.vanbeesten@environment-agency.gov.uk

Flood Incident Management is headed by Kate Vincent. 01491 828572 Any residents who are prone to flooding should contact her to ensure that they are part of the early warning scheme.

---Anna McDonagh

SeeSaw

*Grief support for the Young in
Oxfordshire*

Christmas Wrapping

**Let us wrap your Christmas presents
Gifts of all shapes and sizes catered for
On
Sunday 16 December 10.30am-4.30pm
At
Castle Quay Shopping Centre, Banbury
Donations will be in aid of SeeSaw**

FIRE SAFETY ADVICE FOR CHRISTMAS

The Community Fire Safety Team has sent this advice:

Make sure that all decorations, including the tree, are flame retardant.

Be extremely careful with lighted candles.

Have the chimney swept before lighting an open fire.

Put a spark guard around open fires.

Switch off portable heaters when you go out.

Fit the correct rated fuse into electrical plugs and use a good quality adaptor fitted with a fuse to plug Christmas lights into the power socket.

Take extra care where people are smoking and drinking.

Empty all ashtrays (first making sure the contents are cold) and make sure that cigarettes, cigars and pipes are fully extinguished.

Clear wrapping paper away when the presents have been opened, and be careful when disposing of wrapping paper. If you throw it onto an open fire, you risk catching the chimney alight.

Don't place the Christmas tree too close to open fires, portable heaters or radiators.

Don't trail electric flexes from tree lights, etc. across floors or place under carpets or mats (they may easily become frayed and catch fire) as well as presenting a trip hazard.

Don't put Christmas cards, stockings or decorations above an unguarded open fire or space heater.

Don't leave the Christmas lights on, unattended for long periods.

Don't use party poppers, silly string or other party streamers where there are naked flames from candles, fires etc.

Don't place Christmas presents too close to Christmas tree lights, heaters or fires. The radiated heat could quite easily catch them alight.

If you have smoke alarm(s) installed in your home, check that it is working by pressing the test button. If you are unsure how long the battery has been in the alarm(s), buy new ones and fit them before Christmas.

If you don't have smoke alarms fitted, then treat the house and yourself to a Christmas present, buy a smoke alarm(s). They cost under £5.00 each.

At home, work or school, everyone should know what to do in the event of a fire. If a fire occurs in your home you may have to get out in dark and difficult conditions. Escaping from a fire will be a lot easier if you have already planned your escape route and know where to go.

- Plan your escape route in advance – the principle of “fire practices” applies as much to the home as in the workplace, school etc. Everyone in the house should be aware of the escape route.
- Make sure that your planned escape route remains free of any obstructions and that there are no loose floor coverings that could trip you up.
- If you have a serious mobility problem, you may wish to consider having your bedroom on the ground floor, if this is practical, and as near as possible to an exit.
- If you need assistance to make your escape, it is vital that you have some means of summoning help by your bed, i.e. buzzer, intercom or telephone.

For further information contact the Community Fire Safety Team on 08000 325999.

WENDLEBURY WOODLAND PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

We have begun our 5th season of work in Bowler's Copse. This is along the back road to Bicester. We are working on the access path all the way through the small sections now re-coppiced and planted with additional hazel.

Our working day is Saturday from 10.00 until about 14.00, weather permitting. We sent out a newsletter, house to house, in early October and if anyone would like to know more, please contact Mike Pearce, the Chairman, on 243967 or Jane Burrett, the Secretary, on 325876.

TREES PRESERVED

A Tree Preservation Order has been placed on some of the trees in the grounds of Orchard House, Church Lane. This prohibits the cutting down, topping or lopping of specific trees because of their high amenity value.

FESTIVITIES AT THE RED LION

Tues 25 December	Red Lion open as usual 12- 3pm	Love to see everyone to wish them merry Christmas with a glass of mulled wine !!
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Mon 31 December	Red Lion New Year's Eve tickets now on sale	Great atmosphere, live music, hot food and great evenings entertainment...limited spaces so book now to avoid disappointment !! For more info please contact Sharon or Leigh - LeighMaund@aol.com / 252514
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WENDLEBURY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Anna McDonagh (Chairman) Manor Farm House 244898

Kathy Sharp (Vice Chairman) Brookside, Main Street 245640

Chris Burton, Manor Barn, 250174

Jackie Hucker, 14 Rectory Close, 252103

Justine Brown, Manor Barn Lodge, 248642

Caroline Abbott, Woodman's Cottage, 0774 7704412

Frank Shouler, Elm Tree Farm, 241642

Shirley Parker (Parish Clerk) 21 St Giles Close, 243370

Andrew Fulljames (District Councillor) Winter Hill House, Ardley Road, Middleton Stoney, 343237

Charles Shouler (County Councillor) 4 Prior Court, Priory Lane, Bicester, 252460

Telephone numbers for village organisations and contacts:

Playground Maintenance: Andi Hucker, 252103

Police: 0845 505505

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator: Jane Burrett, 325876

Community Bus Scheme: Dave Jones, 242514

Gardening Club: Elaine Harrop, 252713

Relief in Need Charity: Frank Shouler, 241642;

Adele Bowers

Village Club: Jean Bebbington, 243879

Village Hall: Kerry Wilce, 245738

Woodland Project: Mike Pearce, 243967

WI: June Pearce, 243967

Youth Club: Justine Brown, 248642

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST GILES CHURCH

December 24th, Christmas Eve: 5pm Crib Service 11.30pm Christmas Communion

December 25th, Christmas Day 10am Christmas Praise

THE EVERGREENS

There are about 80 Evergreens from Wendlebury and round about who meet at least once a month (on the first Monday or the next if that is a Bank Holiday) in the village hall, and enjoy many other outings. Several of the committee live in Wendlebury including Betty Tinkler, Muriel Pocock and Yvonne Clench. We have lots of fun and always welcome new members of any age and from any distance. If you want a Newsletter, phone any committee member or Stephen Pryor on 360003.

WENDLEBURY WINDS NEWS

On Saturday 17th November, Wendlebury Winds gave a concert to raise funds for Chesterton Church. It was held in the Church for an audience of around 50 people. The programme was billed as "light classical music" and the pieces were drawn from the 18th through to the 20th century. As well as "serious" pieces by Haydn and Beethoven there were some fun and jazzy ones by less well-known composers such as living composer Martha Kingdon Ward who lives in the Reading area. It was a good combination and produced an evening of very enjoyable music. Wendlebury Winds will next be playing in Buckinghamshire in February, at an event to raise funds for a local charity.

Sat 22 March - Easter Saturday	'Ain't Misbehavin' from Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company www.ottc.org.uk	'Ain't Misbehavin' is coming to Wendlebury Village Hall: a professional and vibrant evening guaranteed with a live jazz trio and five fabulous vocalists strummin', struttin' and singing all those great songs. Tickets on sale in January – watch out for leaflets through your door and information on the Wendlebury website
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UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE.

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 from others by regular house group meetings to enhance their current knowledge of Bridge, Canasta, Creative Writing, French, German, History, Jazz, Mahjong, Music Appreciation, Play Reading, Poetry, Short Walks and Sunday Lunches. This year four new subjects have been successfully introduced; Art Appreciation, Computing, Sketching and Spanish.

There is also a regular monthly general meeting at Wendlebury Village Hall on the fourth Thursday

except December from 22 November beginning at 2pm. All members are encouraged to attend when Speakers entertain on a variety of topics. For 2008 the subjects to be covered include 'Arizona', 'The Ladies of Blenheim', 'Garden Birds', 'Berlin Airlift' and 'Tudor Christmas Customs'. All for £10 per annum plus £1 a month for tea, coffee and biscuits!!

On behalf of Bicester U3A, may I thank the Wendlebury Committee for providing a home in your village hall and to introduce the organisation in your magazine. May I also extend a warm welcome to village residents at any of our future meetings beginning on 24 January with the AGM and a visit by Bicester Town Mayor, John Couzens.

---Andy Gordon, Chairman

VILLAGE WEBSITE NEWS

Launched in October 2006, www.wendlebury.org.uk, the Wendlebury website, provides an up-to-date forum for news and events throughout the year in (and out of) the village. Anyone can submit articles, notices, adverts, photos and the site can also be used to book events online, take part in fun (and occasionally serious) surveys, announce your arrival (or departure) from the visit, book the village hall and more besides. All key groups in the village including the Parish Council, Village Hall and Village Club Committees are represented and all can be contacted via the site!

Some key successes over the last year include:

- Over half the village are now on the mailing list and so receive 2-3 emails a month announcing forthcoming events/ news
- A second hand car advertised on the notice board attracted a buyer in less than a week
- Over a quarter of the village have submitted some kind of article/ message for the site with many doing so regularly
- This year the Christmas pantomime tickets SOLD OUT by the end of October and there is now a waiting list
- Village hall bookings come from far and wide and take less time for the volunteers who manage them due to the full information and booking form being available online

Your village website is visited on average 15 times a day!!!

Please continue to make the most of this facility – the site can be used to share, celebrate, inform as well as save time plus anyone in the village can also request an item to be included in the next mailing.

So: join the mailing list, book the next village event online, send us some photos, take part in the survey, catch up with the latest news and if you have any suggestions for new ideas please email admin@wendlebury.org.uk.

The more the site is used, the more useful it will become:
A HUGE thank you to all contributors to date as well as to the web Committee who help to manage it.

Many thanks

--- Jack Smellie

This issue can also be found on the Wendlebury website: www.wendlebury.org.uk.

CLEANER AVAILABLE

DIANE JAMES IS AN EXPERIENCED CLEANER AND HAS WORKED IN PRIVATE HOUSES AND IN BUSINESS PREMISES. SHE WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO DOMESTIC CLEANING AND IS LOOKING FOR CUSTOMERS. PLEASE CALL HER ON 07789 556558

This newsletter is the official publication of the Wendlebury Parish Council. Copies are delivered to each resident and also sent by email to those on the internet. This newsletter can also be found on the Wendlebury website: www.wendlebury.org.uk.

Articles for future newsletters should be emailed to the editor.

The views expressed in articles are those of its authors and not necessarily those of the Council. Material submitted for the newsletter may have to be edited. This is unavoidable and we hope that authors will understand.

---Mike Broun, Editor
brounm@tiscali.co.uk