

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

A meeting was held by the Parish Council on Saturday 13 March to inform villagers about two pieces of land that have been submitted for consideration to Cherwell District Council as potential sites for development. The Parish Council was seeking the views of villagers before commenting on these submissions. Villagers were unanimous in opposing both proposals.

As we all know, the government need to build more houses as the population of the UK increases.

Cherwell Local Development Framework (LDF) is a consultation process to identify land that might be used for development in the Cherwell area. Cherwell District Council, needs to build between 2 and 3,000 homes, by 2026 and needs to identify the land upon which they can do so. Landowners and development companies have been invited to submit sites for Cherwell to consider. Cherwell District Council then ask for comments on all these sites.

Following on from this Cherwell are obliged to produce a plan by the end of this year to show which of the submitted sites they will use. The process started last year and the Parish Council have already objected to a proposal to build on the land at the top of Church Lane.

There are two sites that have been submitted late to this process that could affect Wendlebury. At the moment, the suggest sites are for discussion purposes only. The discussion is whether they are sites that **will** be taken forward and included in the plan. The Parish Council represents the village and

needed to know the opinion of villagers, in order to know how to comment, and this must be done by 7 April. Villagers were encouraged to comment as well as Cherwell District Council listen to objections, and this is really worth doing.

The first site is the field at the Bicester end of the village, past Rectory close and with the pond in it. It has been submitted to Cherwell for consideration as a possible site for 70 houses, including 28 units of affordable housing. At the moment building is only permitted within the current built up limits of the village and this site is outside those limits. Wendlebury is a village of about 180 dwellings. It is possible that, if permission were granted to develop here, the rest of the village would consequently be open to development. Once a decision has been made by Cherwell, the Parish Council will inform the village of the decision.

The second site is at Weston on the Green You may well have read about this proposal in the press. An international development company, called Parkridge has put forward a large piece of land with the proposal of creating 'a free standing settlement providing several thousand new homes, provision of employment development and community facilities between now and 2026. Parkridge have purchased an option to build on the land north of the airfield at Weston on the Green down to the village and over the A34 to the railway just beyond the bridge over the M40 out of Wendlebury. The application includes a new railway station and tramway.

This site is about 671 hectares. 25% of this site would be needed for infrastructure. schools, roads, water, employment etc. The

remainder would support about 15,000 houses at a **low** density of build. It is of course possible, that far **more** houses would fit into this acreage. Developed at this low density, with an average of 2 people per property, this would imply a town of a population of at least 30,000. If you Google the population of Bicester you will discover that it is just under 30,000.

These 15,000 homes are outside the total amount that Cherwell are obliged to build. The Draft South East plan says that Cherwell, as a whole, **has** to provide between 12 and 13,000 homes between 2006 and 2026. A lot of this will be in Banbury and Didcot as well as Bicester. The amount earmarked for Bicester is between 2 and 3,000 homes. This is in addition to those that will be built on the South West Option, the site running from the Middleton Stoney Road, along the A41 towards Chesterton. The 15,000 homes proposed at Weston on the Green are in **addition** to this. That is, in addition to the South West Option and the remaining 2-3,000 houses required. We all now know that this site is one of 15 short-listed by the Government, and that they currently plan to announce the final choice of 10 sites after further consideration.

Weston on the Green have got together to form an action group called The Weston Front to oppose the building of an Eco town on this site. Wendlebury Parish Council is very committed to supporting The Weston Front, but believe that an independent group of villagers who could work with the Weston Front would be an immense help. If you are interested in helping please contact Anna on 244898, or email:

annamcdonagh@homecall.co.uk Weston have produced stickers saying 'Say No to Weston Otmoor'. These are available from Anna at £2 for packets of ten The more help we have the better as we could be in for a long haul.

The next meeting of The Weston Front is at 6pm on Wednesday 23 April in the Weston on the Green Village Hall.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF W.I.

The 2008 AGM of Wendlebury W.I. was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 11th March. Members of the Committee were voted in and June Pearce was elected President for a further year. After the meeting we were given a short talk by Rachel Chai, Cherwell Project Coordinator of Ryder Cheshire Volunteers. Mrs Chai explained that the RCV provides opportunities for physically disabled people to take part in leisure and learning activities that increase confidence, self-esteem and zest for life. She spoke very enthusiastically and some members showed real interest in the possibility of joining this volunteer scheme which has been running for 20 years.

At our next meeting on 8th April Catherine Hitchins talked about History Observed Through the Landscape.

We meet in Wendlebury Village Hall at 7.30pm and as always we warmly welcome visitors and friends.

We ended our year with the sad death of our Secretary of many years, Jenny Harris. She was very popular and will be sadly missed by all.

We now have a new programme and some of our talks will be "History Observed Through the Landscape", "Silk from Cocoon to Scarf", "Harp Music (& objects) from Paraguay" and many more. Evening is always finished with a cup a tea and a chat. We also look forward to our usual summer outing and autumn feast, venues yet to be decided.

We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30p.m. in the village hall. Visitors or new members are always welcome. For further information see the Wendlebury web site or telephone June Pearce on 243967.

---Elspeth Shirtcliff

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' – WENDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL, 22ND MARCH

This foot tapping, hand clapping celebration of Fats Waller's music was a sheer joy. The professionalism, energy and musicality of Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company's production would not have been out of place in London's West End. From Harlem's Cotton Club to cocktails at the Waldorf the cast brought alive Waller's prodigious musical output of the 20's and 30's. None more so than Nigel Phillips whose version of "Your feet's too big" had me crying with laughter. This was just as well, because moments earlier Sharon Wattis had brought a lump to my throat and a tear to my cheek with a heart tearing rendition of "Mean to me". The cast of five singers backed by the brilliant jazz trio that accompanied them had the village hall rocking. Musical Director Dominic Harlan's fingers sparkled over the ivories and the standing ovation that the cast and band earned at the end was thoroughly deserved.

---Kerry Wilce.

TERM 4 AT CHESTERTON SCHOOL

Children from Class 4 started the term by spending the week at Yenworthy Lodge in Devon. Everyone enjoyed what is always a challenging but enjoyable week away!

Class 1 explored the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford and were fascinated by the size of some of the exhibits as well as enjoying the African masks. There is a marvellous display of the children's work in the school entrance.

Class 4 visited the Oxford Literary Festival to see the author Kaye Umansky. Kaye is well known for her children's books and everyone enjoyed her amusing and interesting talk.

Class 2 went to Cotswold Wildlife Park. They watched the penguins at feeding time and had a lesson about plants and the environment.

Chesterton is working towards becoming an eco school. This will increase the children's awareness and enable them to commit to save energy and help to keep the environment clean and healthy.

Class 3 took part in the Oxclean event. They wore green jackets and used litter pickers to clear the litter in Alchester Road including around the church and the pub.

Please visit the school website for more information on this campaign and other events and school news

(www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk).

---Carolyn Taylor, Head Teacher

WENDLEBURY WEBSITE: COULD YOU TAKE THIS ON??

Many people agree that the village website has become a valuable and useful resource and many villagers now regularly use it to book events, look up dates, sell items, update club programmes etc. Village Hall bookings are easier to administer, the Local Information section provides a wealth of facts and we are kept up to date with the all important work of the Parish Council. Huge thanks must go to everyone who regularly (or otherwise) sends in articles, pictures, updates etc.

As with all websites however, it could do more and be further developed and reach more of an audience and with the imminent departure from the village of the present webmasters, **the Village Club are very keen to find a successor to take on the role.**

This is a chance for someone in the village (or more than just 'one' someone) to make the website even more successful, innovative, exciting, useful... this could be the chance perhaps for a younger member of the village

to become really involved (but all interest is welcome) and take the site in a new direction! This is a voluntary post but huge fun and as the present webmaster will testify, the village really is grateful! AND what is more: training can be provided (totally free – sponsored by the Village Club) which will provide you with skills you could use elsewhere as well!

There is no set timeframe here – it is likely that by the summer a new webmaster will need to be in place but any interested parties should get in touch now!!!

For more information please call Jack or David 253 646, 22 Rectory Close or email admin@wendlebury.org.uk.

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE CLUB EVENTS

19 April	Music Quiz	Something from all eras and to suit all tastes - the challenge is on – book online: http://www.wendlebury.org.uk/event.html
31 May	Travelling Supper	The usual fabulous evening - a great way to meet new and old villagers and delight in some sumptuous food
28 June	BBQ	Weather permitting, another great social event - for all the family

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE CLUB

Forthcoming events being organised in the village will include

**Saturday 19th April 7.30
MUSIC QUIZ**

**Book on line or phone quizmaster Alan on
247248**

***There will be a flyer through your door at
the end of March!***

**Saturday 31st May
THE TRAVELLING SUPPER**

Set off from the pub, eat each course at a different house and round off the evening by meeting all the diners in the Village Hall for cheese and port!

Saturday 28th June

THE VILLAGE BARBEQUE

We fire up the charcoal, you bring & cook your own food.

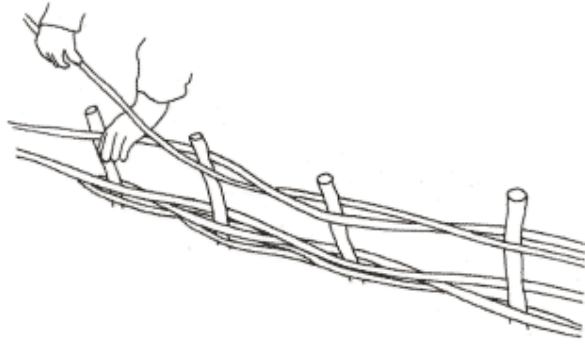
**Outdoor Bar and Aunt Sally Competitions
*Great fun for the whole family!***

THE WENDLEBURY WOODLAND PROJECT

The Wendlebury Woodland Project was started in the autumn of 2003 with the aim of restoring the remnant of Bowlers Copse situated to the left of the back road to Bicester from the village. Initial funding came from village organisations, individuals and a grant from The Oxfordshire Environment (TOE). We have now completed five seasons of cutting and planting to establish around 85% of the infrastructure with the planting of 1,100 hazels and 150 other native species. Old oak standards and other mature trees have been retained.

One of the objectives has been for the villagers to use the copse as an amenity for recreation and education and to this end we have established an access bridge and a footpath through the entire copse and encircling the seasonal pond at the Bicester end.

Over the next few years we will continue to improve the copse with additional clearing and planting. The redevelopment of the copse has reached the stage where we can undertake other activities, such as setting up bird and bat boxes to encourage biodiversity, recording and photographing the plants, birds, insects and other wildlife.



Of course, volunteers will be harvesting our first crop of hazel poles, bean sticks and fencing materials, which villagers will be able to use in their gardens, if they wish.

We need additional volunteers, particularly, those with children, who can help decide what activities we carry out so that the younger generations can learn how the copse was an essential renewable source of energy, timber and everyday commodities in the days before electricity, roads and carbon footprints. So, we hope that you will wish to walk up and see the progress on Sunday 27 April, 2008 from 14.00 – 16.00.

For further information, please contact Mike Pearce, Chairman on 243967 or Jane Burrett, Sec.on 325876.

WENDLEBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We have had a report of Fish Sellers in the Area. In particular one man in a village north of Banbury has been persuaded to part with £395.00 for a box of fish...If you get anyone in your road trying to sell fish, please ring the Police on 08458 505 505 or ring Trading Standards who are leading on this investigation on 0845 051 0845 as a matter of urgency.

Please try to obtain descriptions of persons and any vehicle details including registration numbers etc. Our advice is, as always, not to buy or sell from the door.

If you have any information about the above message ring 08458 505 505. Please state that you are responding to a 'ringmaster' message.

Recent Thefts of LEAD across the area! Excellent information received from Watch Members has contributed to a arrest and charge of an individual, plus other arrests have been made for the recent thefts. The THEFT OF LEAD is a prevalent crime all across the country, and continues to be a problem, so please continue to be vigilant and report any information you may have. The number to ring is 08458 505 505 and request information be passed onto the Cherwell Priority Crime Team.

---Jane Burrett

BICESTER UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A).

U3A members have settled nicely into our new home at the Village Hall, Wendlebury and look forward to meeting with prospective members at any of our forthcoming meetings held monthly on fourth Thursday beginning at 2pm.

The Programme for the next four months is as diverse as it will be interesting;

24th April Ladies of Blenheim – Mrs Wiseman.

22nd May Garden Birds – David Nobbs (RSPB)

26th June Tudor Christmas Customs – Martin Sirot-Smith

24th July The Berlin Airlift – Sqn Ldr A. Garrett

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 Art Appreciation, Bridge, Canasta, Computing, French, German, History, Jazz, Mah Jong, Music Appreciation, Play Reading, Short Walks, Sketching, Spanish and Sunday Lunches.

Further information available from the Secretary, Mrs Peggy Penfold, on 01869 242506 or the Chairman on 01869 243193.

All for £10 per annum plus £1 per month for tea, coffee and biscuits!!

---Andy Gordon, Chairman

THOUGHTS ON WENDLEBURY'S FUTURE

Many changes have happened in our village during the last forty years, some good, some bad.

The number of houses and people has doubled, helping the village club to build a fantastic village hall and a children's play area, both of which are well used. The gardeners' club and youth club have prospered.

The downside includes losing the school and local garage, followed later by the shop and post office.

The village has altered in its social mix partly due to lack of facilities for older people, the rapid rise in house prices, and the loss of local employment. All the village dairy farms, for example, have ceased production.

Changes may have been inevitable, being replaced by commuters, cars, broadband, etc; but I have just been wondering what the residents of the village hope for in the future.

Today's Wendlebury villagers embrace a wide range of ages, backgrounds and interests. And on the face of it, these may at first appear too wide to have many common threads. But it is heartening to see how much mutual enjoyment is shared when villagers participate in village events: the barbecue, the recent Fats Waller theatrical evening, the garden club expeditions, fireworks and bonfire nights, Women's Institute talks, and so on.

What changes would YOU like to see and what changes do you fear? If you would care to share your thoughts, please write to Mike Broun, the editor of this newsletter.

---Frank Shouler

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 14TH

At 8pm on Wednesday May 14 in the Village Hall, the annual parish council meeting will be held. All Wendleburians are invited to meet their Parish Councillors together with District and County Councillors over a glass of wine. The Parish Council will have a short report on what has been achieved over the year and the rest of the meeting will be very informal and an opportunity to ask questions or get to know us.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, it would be the perfect moment to come and find out more. Please do come and join us. The Parish Council would really like to know the views of villagers on how you would like things done.

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--Anna McDonagh