

# WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

AUTUMN 2008

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**T**here was a meeting on Wednesday 8th October in the Village Hall when Tony Henman from the Weston Front updated us on the issue of Judicial Review and Andrew Hornsby Smith described the traffic implications.

The Parish Council are working closely with the Weston Front who recently held a well-attended 'Bangers and Flash' event at the Ben Johnson.

The opposition posters originally put up around the village have become very tired and some have been taken down. We have some fresh ones that need to be put up. Is there someone in the village who would be kind enough to paste them onto board and put them up? Please contact Anna on 244898.

**Dog Mess.** You may have noticed that bags with dog mess are being put in the rubbish bin beside the village notice board and for this reason the bin men will not empty it! The Clerk has got out her rubber gloves and emptied the bin herself, which is beyond the call of duty! Please could all villagers with dogs to take their dog mess home and put it in their green bins. Thank you.

**Flooding.** The Parish Council is still working with various agencies about flooding in the village and will keep you updated. It is taking time, but we are meeting with the Environment Agency, Highways, Thames Water and a Cherwell drainage engineer in October.

**Wyevale signage.** At the request of the Parish Council, new signage has been put up outside Wyevale Garden Centre and also at the Chesterton over-bridge in an effort to improve safety and prevent traffic driving through Wendlebury.

**Weight Restriction.** The Parish Council have applied for a weight restriction to prevent heavy lorries, other than those delivering to the village, from driving through Wendlebury and this should soon be in place.

**Notice board.** The notice board now has new doors on it. Thank you very much to George Dumbleton who made them for us. Please use the notice board if you want to advertise or publicise something. The left-hand side is for Parish Council information, and the right for villagers. Please put the date on the bottom of anything you place on the notice board, so that we can take items down after a few weeks and give space to others.

**Rectory Close kerbs.** It looks as though there won't be any money in the Highways Department budget to improve the kerbs in Rectory Close. If you happen to notice that any of them are damaged and need mending, please do report it, as the more times they hear about it the better and the more likely we are to go to the top of the queue next financial year. The contact details for the Highways department are: 08453101111 or by e-mail: [northernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:northernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

---Anna McDonagh

## QC SAYS 'NO' TO ECO TOWN

**A**nthony Crean QC has advised Weston Front (campaigning against the Weston Otmoor proposed eco-town) that it is highly unlikely that planning permission will be granted for an eco-town at Weston Otmoor.

In a devastating analysis of the law Mr Crean QC listed the hurdles which the promoters of the eco-town must surmount in order to obtain planning permission and he then

pointed out that there is insufficient time before the next election for these steps to be taken. The Conservative Party have made it clear they will abandon the idea altogether.

Mr Crean also explained that there is nothing inevitable about the choice of Weston Otmoor for an eco-town. He pointed out that the law requires a comparison of alternative sites in order to select the best option.

We are seeking to be part of the Judicial Review process that the BARD campaign group (fighting the eco-town proposed near to Stratford upon Avon) has applied for. On 11<sup>th</sup> September, the Hon. Justice Collins granted permission for the Judicial Review to proceed.

The full legal opinion is available at [www.westonfront.co.uk](http://www.westonfront.co.uk)

## FURTHER NEWS AND OPINION FROM WESTON FRONT SPOKESMAN

**P**arkridge have published their “Final” Bid Presentation for Weston Otmoor. This latest version bears little resemblance to the document we were asked to comment on earlier this year as part of the so-called “Consultation Process,

The document includes land to the west and north of Weston on the Green plus the land to the south of the railway, and another SSSI meadow of the Wendlebury Meads and Mansmoor Closes complex. “Market Gardens” are now planned for all the land up to the very edge of Weston Fen SSSI and seemingly go over the Stone Pit Hills part of the SSSI site and the banks of the Gallos Brook.

It should be noted that a large proportion of the published map appears green – but hidden are power stations, car parks, and a sports centre. The land behind Turney’s, near the airfield, although on their map, isn’t joined to the eco-town!

Please note we now have three bridges across the A34!

They are still assuming that they will be able to purchase Weston Airfield, which is certainly not a done deal! Parkridge have admitted that, if they are not able to purchase the airfield, then Weston Otmoor will not be viable.

Parkridge make much of their proposal to fund part of the E/W rail-link between Milton Keynes and Oxford. However, this funding has already been arranged; and the Milton Keynes consortium involved have no wish for their proposed fast train service to Oxford to be impeded by the “one every six minutes” service being proposed to help the Weston Otmoor residents escape their eco-ghetto!

Parkridge’s transport proposals are also compromised by the intention of Chiltern Rail to build a station at Water Eaton. The Chairman of Chiltern Rail has intimated that this part of the line would be linked with the Banbury – London (Marylebone) line within 4 years.

Other issues that complicate matters are the proposals to build a recycling plant on the grain-silo site at Water Eaton and an incinerator at Ardley..

Weston Front has a clear interest in these proceedings. However, if we are to become part of the Judicial Review, we shall need a considerable fighting fund. If the judgement went against us, we would be liable for the costs of the opposite side (the Government). We will, therefore, be applying for a Protective Costs Order from the Court to limit how much we might have to pay. We will also be applying to be an Interested Party to the BARD judicial review.

There are a number of issues that are unique to the Weston Otmoor situation and so with Weston Front acting as an interested party this will add weight to the Judicial Review .

***The next public meeting at Weston on the Green is on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm in the Weston on the Green Village Hall.***

Please check the Weston Front website at [www.westonfront.com](http://www.westonfront.com) for more information. Or send an email to [info@westonfront.com](mailto:info@westonfront.com)

## WESTON WISHES

I think congratulations should be in place for the members of the Weston Front campaign, I am impressed with their teamwork and even with emails sent from a small minority of villagers complaining and trying to put the cat among the pigeons and generally being a pain! People have shown immense support for each other; the members behind the scenes not only devote their spare time, quite a few of them work full time, and use up much valued 'me' time to keep villagers up-to-date with what is going on, posting and delivering letters, offering buildings for meetings and events, keeping the funds topped up, photocopying leaflets, taking time off work to speak to the press, making sure they are seen at meetings and working to make the eco town a lost cause.

Thanks for all your help, Weston Front. Keep up the brilliant work!

---Kate Hessian,  
Parish Councillor – Weston-on-the-Green.

## WENDLEBURY VILLAGE CLUB EVENTS

**Children's Halloween Party**  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November

**Annual Village Quiz**  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
Quizmaster: Dave Jones

**Pantomime**  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm

---Dave Jones

## ADVICE FOR LOCAL GROUPS FROM OCVA

**D**o you belong to a community group or a voluntary organisation? If you do, then

you're probably involved in the endless process of raising money. You might also worry about whether your group should become a charity, whether the constitution is up to scratch, or if you've got the right sort of insurance . . .

Helping to run any kind of voluntary group is more complicated now than it ever used to be and it can be difficult to know where to go for information and advice.

Now, though, there is somewhere you can go to get the advice and support you need: The Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) has a new Development Team and one of us comes regularly to a venue near you. We're here to assist with information about sources of funding, how to apply for a grant and how to make sure that your group is working as effectively as possible.

We'll be holding regular funding and advice surgeries in Bicester at 25 The Causeway.

If you would like to see someone and get advice about a problem your group is facing, please contact John Hayes on 01865 251946 or contact him at: [john.hayes@ocva.org.uk](mailto:john.hayes@ocva.org.uk).

### **About OCVA**

Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) is the main umbrella organisation for the voluntary and community sector in Oxfordshire. Our mission is to enable a diverse voluntary and community sector to flourish. We provide advice, information and training, act as advocates and representatives and build partnerships.

Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action  
The Old Court House  
Floyds Row  
St. Aldate's  
Oxford OX1 1SS  
**phone:** 01865-25194 or [www.ocva.org.uk](http://www.ocva.org.uk)

## THE WENDLEBURY WOODLAND PROJECT

**W**e are starting our 6<sup>th</sup> season to coincide with leaf fall in BOWLER'S COPSE on the old back road to Bicester .

### VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON SATURDAYS

We will work from 10.00 to 14.00 on seven Saturdays on these dates:  
October 25, November 01, 22, December 13, January 10, 17 and 24.

We do not work every week now because the new hazel, which we planted, is growing well. We need to cut out the re-growing coppiced hazel, which is already shading the younger plants! We will maintain the paths any villager can walk along to the pond at the far end. We will be cutting up branches falling from the overhanging trees. Around the pond we will be doing some tidying. We will be extending the perimeter fencing – using our own materials from the copse itself.

New volunteers are welcome. The work is not heavy and we provide hand tools, safety equipment and instruction. You can come for an hour to try it and we work with a maximum of eight people at any time. We have tea and coffee breaks so there is plenty of opportunity to chat.

### OPEN AFTERNOON SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2008 - from 13.00

We hope that any reader and their families will come along to the copse. David Rees of the Oxfordshire Woodland Project will give a demonstration of traditional gate-making using forest and copse materials. We also plan to have our own stakes and binders from the copse to show you how they can be used.

For more information contact Mike Pearce on 243967 or email: [mike@systemseed.co.uk](mailto:mike@systemseed.co.uk) or Jane Burrett on 325976, email: [janeburrett@googlemail.com](mailto:janeburrett@googlemail.com)

## WENDLEBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**M**onday, 4th August, Intelligence suggests that foreign young men using laptops are touring villages \*apparently\* trying to pick up WI Fi connections that are not password protected.

Recommendation: ensure your broadband is up-to-date and passwords are in place. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, parked in the village using a laptop, please write a description of persons and details of vehicle, including the registration number.

Please telephone the police on 08458 505 505 and report any information you have to Cherwell Priority Crime Team.

During the night of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> August 2008, a camper van was broken into and various contents taken out and spread around. The vehicle was not damaged,.

Make sure your vehicle(s) are secure and don't leave property inside which is visible from the road.

---Jane Burrett

## BICESTER UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A).

**B**icester U3A members extend a warm welcome to all prospective members to any of our forthcoming meetings held monthly on the fourth Thursday in Wendlebury Village Hall, beginning at 2pm.

The Programme until the AGM in January 2009 might just tempt a few newcomers;

23rd October Waddesdon Manor – Patrick Tooms.

27th November Tales to make you laugh – Marguerite Osborne

December No meeting

22nd January Annual General Meeting

For the February meeting, there is a strong rumour that the Chairman is to be prevailed upon to provide a power-point presentation to celebrate the 250th birthday anniversary of Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns!!

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 is available from the Secretary, Mrs Peggy Penfold Tel: 01869 242506 or the Chairman, Tel 01869 243193.

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

- --Andy Gordon, Chairman

## FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING

**T**he County and District Councils of Oxfordshire, with sponsorship from **n power**, are offering free electric blanket testing.

Testing is by appointment only. To book one, please phone 01865 815607 or e-mail [trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## CSV MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

**T**his autumn, many local councils will be organising activities for CSV Make a Difference Day, the largest single day of volunteering in the UK. Activities can be anything from transforming wasteland into community gardens, to renovating community centres or teaching IT skills. The date this year is October 25th, although activities will take place from October 18th

until November 2nd. To find out more, or to register an activity and receive free resources, visit [www.csv.org.uk/difference](http://www.csv.org.uk/difference).

## ITV FIXERS

**D**o you have a problem or issue that needs fixing? Could young people give you a helping hand? ITV Fixers is brought to you by ITV Meridian, Thames Valley and West, ITV Local and the Public Service Broadcasting Trust.

It's a chance for young people 16-25, to act on any issue they feel strongly about – changing things for the better. They choose a problem or issue they care about, do something to fix it and make a film about it.

- We can help them plan their project and have money to help, too (up to £650 if it's needed).
- We help them make a film about their project
- We screen their films on our online channel at [www.itvlocal.com/itvfixers](http://www.itvlocal.com/itvfixers)
- And some projects are featured on ITV news bulletins.

It's a great way to involve young people in volunteering, providing them with new skills and challenging stereotypes along the way. So if you have an issue or project that could be transformed with the help of some young volunteers, or know of young people looking for ways of helping their local community, then please get in touch.

If you already have projects underway involving young people then we would be happy to discuss ways of enhancing them with ITV Fixers support.

We look forward to hearing from you.

ITV Fixers is a project of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust, and is supported by **v**, the youth volunteering charity, the Nationwide Foundation and ITV.

Visit ITV Fixers online at [www.itvlocal.com/itvfixers](http://www.itvlocal.com/itvfixers)

## VACANCY

### Clerk needed for Chesterton Parish Council including Little Chesterton

Hours: Averaging 15 hours a month. There are no specific hours other than the statutory meetings.

Pay: £150 a month "for the job".  
The post will not include finance duties.

Ideally the person should not be working full-time (as they need to deal with some parish matters during office hours), be computer literate and an experienced administrator. Local Council experience would be useful but not essential. We would expect them to attend a Clerk's training course.

For an informal discussion contact the Chairman, Colin Board, by email or by telephone.

Home: 01869 252904  
Mobile: 07826 274612  
[colin.board@btinternet.com](mailto:colin.board@btinternet.com)

## 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?

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

You can make a difference to a family in need of a helping hand!

For more information please call:

Oxford: 01865 779991  
Bicester: 01869 349990  
Or visit our website  
[www.homestart-oxford.org.uk](http://www.homestart-oxford.org.uk)

## WATCH THE WENDLEBURY WEBSITE!

**N**ow that people are getting back from holiday a lot is changing; so please have a look at the web site.

The Village hall needs someone to handle bookings - see the Home page.

Cycling Club updated. You will find it in the Clubs and Societies section.

Contributions are needed for the village newsletter - see notice on the Home page.

Do you know what is happening with the proposed new town which may come within half a mile of Wendlebury? It includes a new roundabout on the village boundary. The village needs additional help to stop this development - see the notice on the home page. Have you signed the petition to the Prime Minister? You can do it on-line from the link in the "No to Weston Otmoor" section.

Please check the home page regularly as we add new information at least weekly.

If there is anything new that you would like to see added to the site then please let us know by responding to this email.

In case you have not got the site book-marked we are at [www.wendlebury.org.uk](http://www.wendlebury.org.uk)

---Mike Pearce

## WHEN WERE YOU IN WENDLEBURY?

*Older Wendleburians, who were here, are invited to reminisce about life in the village in the last century. Here are some memories recently recorded by Myrtle Spry and Robert Lapper...*

What was life in Wendlebury like just after World War II? What has changed?

There was a school with between a dozen and twenty pupils in Church Lane. It closed 46 years ago and the children, aged 5 to 11, had to go to St Edburg's, Bicester, by bus. Chesterton School was outside the catchment area.

There used to be two pubs in Wendlebury, one where the Red Lion is today and another at the end of the village nearly opposite the village hall, where Dr Rowlands recently lived.

There was a garage doing auto repairs where Farriers Mead now stands and a shop; and, up Church Lane, a post office. They were later combined in one building near the Red Lion.

There was a soap factory at the top of Church Lane between the school and the church. This was taken over by the government during the war as a Ministry depot.

There was an outdoor swimming pool in Bicester.

In 1953, Coronation Year, a barn party was held and this became an annual event in Wendlebury.

Before people had cars, food was delivered by tradesmen to Wendlebury. You placed your order a week ahead and it would be delivered. There was also a visiting baker and a milkman.

Winters were much colder. Heating was by wood and coal. The brook often froze and was fine for skating. There also was a pond behind Dumbleton's on which there was skating.

There was bad flooding in 1967/68.

The area which became Rectory Close was originally a piggery set up by a Major Booth after the war. When the land in Rectory Close was acquired for development and the pigs turned out, there were rats everywhere. The houses in Church Lane were built by Fred Harris who had a black Labrador.

*Please contact me on 01869 245033 if you would like to share your reminiscences through this newsletter.*

---Mike Broun, Editor

## **WENDLEBURY YOUTH CLUB**

**I**f you have a child who is nearly 9, then why not put them on the waiting list for Wendlebury Youth Club?

We accept children on the waiting list from age 6 to ensure we have spaces for everyone as they reach their 9th birthday.

The youth club is run on Thursdays, during term time only, from 7pm - 9pm at Wendlebury Village Hall. This year has seen some interesting activities for children such as street dancing and African drumming. The children have had an opportunity to try out lots of craft activities, some of their favourites being mask making, clay modelling and card designing and we have also held our annual talent competition, sports day, quiz night and bingo evening.

At Christmas this year our theatre trip is to see Flashdance, which the volunteers are most looking forward to as well as the children.

If you have a child who would be interested in attending the Wendlebury Youth Club, then please call me Justine Brown, on 01869 248642.

## **DOG NEWS**

**A** few months ago, a VERY large stray dog was seen wandering around local fields, frightened and hungry. It took 5 days for him to be rounded up, and he was taken to Ardley Rescue Kennels. This is to update those of you who were involved in his rescue. He is a Dogue de Bordeaux (French bull mastiff). He is now in a new home, and has been christened Wendle (for obvious reasons!

Ardley Rescue Kennels do a fantastic job rehoming strays (We have a wonderful rescue girl - Sophie - from there.) At present they have upwards of 14 dogs, and are desperate for bedding. So if you have any old blankets, towels, throws, please let me have them and I will take them to the kennels. I can either collect them (T 245033) or please leave them in a bin liner bag outside my back gate at 25 Rectory Close. Thank you.

---Diana Broun

## CHESTERTON C of E SCHOOL

I'm writing this as I reflect on our Harvest Festival – a yearly tradition in every primary school in Britain.

Parents, grandparents and friends were shown examples of rural crafts that the children made when a visitor from Warriner School farm spent the day with us.

The church was packed and afterwards children in Years 5 & 6 organised a sale of the produce in the school hall.

Children learn so much from these experiences. Things that are not measurable in SATs or other tests but help to make them capable and considerate during their life. I am proud of how the children at Chesterton respond to these events.

Life in school continues at a rapid pace as we approach the end of the first term. The new children have all settled into their new classes and routines and we look forward to what is always a busy time of the year.

Please visit the school website for more information on other events and school news ([www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk)) and I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming months.

---Mrs Carolyn Taylor, Head-teacher

## W.I. NEWS

Our September meeting was the first after our summer break and it was very successful. Our speaker was Rosemary Munro and the title of her talk: "Harp Music from Paraguay". Rosemary brought along a harp and played a variety of pieces, many of them folk tunes from Paraguay. She is a very accomplished player, and she told us all about the instrument which is very versatile. The Paraguayan harp is unique and it is the national instrument, sometimes played with a guitar and one or two other instruments. She also brought along some crafts from Paraguay; beautiful little boxes, jewellery and exquisite hand made lace. She was wearing a lovely colourful dress which is part of the national costume. Rosemary and her husband visit Paraguay every year, sometimes taking tourists, so she is very knowledgeable about the country, its people and customs. It was a fascinating insight into this unusual country and a lovely evening of music.

Our meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October was our "Autumn Feast" when we took the opportunity to go out for a meal together at a local hostelry.

Our next meeting, on 11<sup>th</sup> November, will be at our usual meeting place, Wendlebury Village Hall, at 7.30pm for "An Introduction to Corn Dollies". Visitors are always welcome.

---Elsbeth Shirtcliff

## TIP FOR VILLAGE WALKERS

Are you a Wendlebury walker? You'll find one of the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Series footpath maps invaluable. They cover 2 ½ inches to the mile, that's 4cm per kilometre, i.e. 1:25,000. The three particularly relevant are Number 1092: Woodstock to Charlton on Otmoor (this has Wendlebury in the top NE corner) and Number 1069 Bicester and Somerton and part of The Bartons; and Number 1070, east of number 1069.

---Jane Burrett