

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

SPRING 2009

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

After 10 years, Shirley Parker has decided to stand down as Clerk to Wendlebury Parish Council. All the work she has done over those years has been enormously appreciated by Councillors past and present. She has attended training courses, been to meetings, taken the minutes, kept us all informed and so many other things. Everyone who has been on the Parish Council in those 10 years has really appreciated everything she has done. Thank you, Shirley. I know that I, personally, could not have managed without you.

Our new clerk is Mimi Powell. She has all the right qualifications to do a great job, including great enthusiasm. The Parish Council welcomed her at our meeting on 22nd April and we all greatly look forward to working with her. If anyone needs to contact the new clerk, her email address is mimiparishclerk@btinternet.com and she lives at Chestnuts at the top of Church Lane.

There will be a village litter pick on 13th June. More details in this newsletter.

The issue of the 'Eco Town' proposed at Weston Otmoor is not over. The final date for comments on the plan and various reports on it, were due in on 30th April. We now await the Government's decision. This may be announced in June or July, or possibly not until after the summer break. The various reports all demonstrate that a new town on this site would be extremely damaging to the future of both Bicester and Kidlington, would potentially damage three Sites of Special Scientific Interest, would put an intolerable strain on the road network, possibly increase flooding and need more water than can be provided at the moment. The County Council are questioning the financial report which was funded by the developer.

The Parish Council would be very interested to know if any villagers would like allotments in the village. Please let us know.

We continue to work to try and get something done to alleviate flooding in the village, and are waiting to see if Cherwell can get funding to pursue a couple of possibilities. More work still needs to be done and we are aware that this is taking an inordinate amount of time, but don't give up hope!

---Anna McDonagh

THE W.I. NEEDS YOUR HELP

January 2010 the Wendlebury WI will be 50 years old. To celebrate this we are trying to produce a book to represent the last 50 years of Wendlebury WI, it's members and events plus any changes made in Wendlebury since 1960. We have a few scrapbooks and minute books but there are big gaps.

So if you are an ex-member and have any memories to share, photos (we will scan and return them) or anything that we could use we would be most grateful.

Also do you know the date of any changes in Wendlebury, such as when houses were built or demolished? photos before or after, etc.

If you have anything (even if it is only one date) please send to me at june@systemseed.co.uk or Tel. 243967

---June Pearce

WENDLEBURY GARDENING CLUB

Wendlebury Village Hall
SPRING PLANT SALE
and COFFEE MORNING
MAY 9th 10.30am --12.30 noon
"GROW YOUR WAY TO '5-A- DAY"
plus Plants Seedlings Tomatoes,
Bric-a- Brac, Cakes, Raffles etc.
Entrance 50p -
includes refreshments

GARDENING CLUB NEWS

With the last talk of the winter programme put to bed, it's all systems go for the summer season. We start with the Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on the 9th May. This year we're on the bandwagon with the veggie theme of "Grow Your Way to 5 A Day" Of course there'll be the usual splendid choice of plants, seedlings, tomatoes etc. at knock-down prices to help get your garden off to a head start.

And, if gardening is not your thing, there's always the stalls - bric-a-brac, cakes, raffles etc. and a chance for a natter over coffee and scones.

Later, in July, we're off to Hampton Court Flower Show. There are still places for non-members, if you care to join us. A day at Ryton Gardens Organic and evening visits to gardens nearer home.

A warm welcome awaits new members and the annual subscription is still £2. or £3 family membership

For more information, please telephone me on 01869 252713.

---Elaine Harrup

NEWS FROM THE WEBSITE

(Go to the Wendlebury website for more details)

Booking is now open for the village club's guided tour of the bridges and city gates of London on Sunday, May 10th. Starting at 8.30am by coach from The Red Lion, this is a complete day out, returning from London around 4.45pm. More info or book on-line.

More things for sale - Why not advertise all that stuff you don't use but don't want to throw away?

Golf: Wendlebury Spring Classic 2009. Details in the golf section competition page.

We now have a new **Village Community Minibus**, 7 years younger than the old one. For more info or

to book, call Dave Jones on 242514

Email from America We recently received an email from Edward Lamothe who lived in Rectory Close in the middle 1970s.

---Mike Pearce

WENDLEBURY W.I.

2009 is the 90th anniversary of the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes and a range of celebratory events have been arranged.

Unfortunately the first major celebration on Friday, 6th February, had to be abandoned as it was the day of Oxfordshire's very heavy snowfall. This was going to be a gathering in Oxford's Christ Church Cathedral with music and addresses - but so many people in the county were affected by transport problems that it was cancelled. However the event was rescheduled for 24th April.

A local WI event, which several Wendlebury members attended, was a Dairy Day at Kirtlington Village Hall. Our first speaker was Neil Rowe, a farmer from Marcham, who had won a Nuffield Scholarship to research and then implement on his farm a milking system which relies on the individual cow going to the milking parlour as and when she pleases - rather than the traditional method of morning and evening milking. The system involves a piece of very high-tech computerised machinery which gathers a large amount of information about each cow and the milk she gives. The end result appeared to be happy cows giving a large volume of milk and much lower vet's bills as health problems were detected very quickly by the milking machine.

We then had a delicious ploughman's lunch at which we sampled cheeses made by our afternoon speaker, Roger Crudge of Crudges Cheeses at Kingham.. He makes a range of cheeses using unpasteurised cows' and goats' milk and he demonstrated the process of cheese-making while talking to us. It was a very interesting and informative day.

For our April meeting we had a very interesting talk about Samuel Pepys, who is best remembered for his diary. Pepys lived from 1633

to 1703, the seventh son of a poor tailor, who survived the Plague of 1665 and several other outbreaks in his lifetime - but that was the worst – and the Great Fire of London 1666. He was a very enterprising and sociable character who was also well-known for being unfaithful to his wife. In fact, his diary was partly written in code (part-shorthand, part-Latin, part-French, part-Spanish) to prevent his wife finding out what he'd been up to! Pepys was imprisoned in the Tower of London four times but each time managed to talk his way out, and each time, while in prison, he wrote another diary.

Pepys' diary is highly regarded as a window into the culture of the time. He included details of everyday life, such as collecting the two parts of the body of a person who had been beheaded and sewing them together so that the family could have a portrait painted of the one they had lost (with a scarf to cover the join round the neck!)

Another enjoyable occasion has been the Annual Council Meeting of the OFWI, held at Oxford Town Hall, at which the National Chairman, Fay Mansell, gave an address. On the same day, we had a very entertaining talk by Sheila Dibnah, widow of the well-known Fred Dibnah of steeplejack fame.

So these are just a few of the things that we get up to in the WI! We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Wendlebury Village Hall and we warmly welcome visitors and new members.

Our May meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th May, at 7.30pm, and we shall be hearing about and discussing the resolution to be put before the NFWI AGM in June, which is how Honey Bees play a vital role in the pollination of food crops and in our environment. In view of the concerns about the accelerating decline in the UK honey bee population, this meeting will urge the Government to increase funding for research into bee health...

---Elsbeth Shirtcliff and Jenny Miller

WENDLEBURY YOUTH CLUB

We currently have spaces for children at Wendlebury Youth Club.

If you are a child between the ages of 9 and 13, then why don't you come and join us? We are open every Thursday in term-time at Wendlebury Village Hall from 7pm - 9pm. We have lots of exciting activities each week and, coming soon, we have a music night, quiz night, summer party and, as ever, our annual Theatre trip.

This year we are going to see **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** at the New Theatre in Oxford which will be so exciting. So why not come and join us. If your child is between 6 and 8 then please let us know so we can put them on our waiting list.

Please call me, Justine Brown, on 01869 248642 or contact by e-mail: justine.brown17@virgin.net for more information.

WENDLEBURY'S TRADITIONAL FETE RETURNS ON JUNE 27TH

Saturday 27th June 2009 sees the return to Wendlebury of the traditional fete which was last held in the summer of 1998. The organisers hope that the fete will now continue as an annual event and once again be one of Wendlebury's summer highlights. This year all proceeds are being donated to our parish church, Saint Giles.

The fete will have something for everyone from age 3 to 103. Attractions include special events like a chariot display, the tug-of-war, a coconut shy and morris dancing as well as a host of competitions including fancy dress, skittles, cake making and welly whanging. There are also side shows including a children's merry go round, an ice cream stall and plenty of other interesting stalls with things to buy and games to play.

Admission to the fete is free so you can have a grand day out full of fun, laughter and things to do for less than the cost of travel to many other attractions and it's nice to know that every penny you do spend is contributing to a good cause.

---Julian Cordy

ALLOTMENTS IN WENDLEBURY

Would you like to grow your own fruit and vegetables? The Parish Council are aware that a number of people would be interested in having an allotment in the village and are very happy to pursue this. We need to know how many people would be interested.

Please could you let us know and we will do the work.

Contact Anna on 244898 or annamcdonagh@homecall.co.uk

We need to know by 20th May.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

There will be a litter pick through the village at 2.30pm on Saturday 13th June starting at the Village Hall. Gloves and litter picks will be provided.

Please come along and help us. We would like to make Wendlebury look as good as possible in time for the Village Fete on 27th June.

The more people who help, the easier it will be!

RECTORY CLOSE ROBBERY

Two burglars were interrupted by four young people and a barking dog while robbing a house in Rectory Close in the early hours of Saturday, April 25th.

The young people, who were on their way home after a party in Wendlebury, saw two men running out of Rectory Close and driving off in a white

Mercedes. They alerted the police who arrived promptly. and took statements from all concerned.. The police commented that other villages in the vicinity had been targeted similarly. Thanks to the prompt action of the young people, burglary of a second house in the Close was averted.

---Mike Broun

COMPLAINTS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The most consistent complaint to Parish Councillors this year has been about the state of the pavements, verges and even front gardens fouled with dog waste.

Key problem areas are the corners of Rectory Close where it joins the main road, the grass verge where St Giles joins the main road, and one front garden in St Giles Close and, as you can see below, the Churchyard.

On top of those of parishioners we have now had complaints from the Postman who has to negotiate some of these areas daily.

Can we please ask again that all dog owners clear up after their animals and don't let them run ahead out of sight on the pavements so that mess is made unobserved.

DOGS AND THE CHURCHYARD

Would all dog owners please note: dogs must be kept on a lead in the Churchyard and please if your dog fouls in the Churchyard pick it up and dispose of it in the correct manner. An inconsiderate owner is allowing their dog to foul on the graves and it is very distressing for relatives.

If you do not have a supply of small plastic bags they are available from the porch of 21 St Giles Close **free** just help yourself.

Reminder: It is against the law to allow your dog to foul in a public place and not to dispose of it.

---Shirley Parker, Parish Clerk

