

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

SUMMER 2009

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Work continues to try and create allotments in Wendlebury. Following our article in the last newsletter, we now have 13 households who are interested. We are currently speaking to landowners in the village to try and find some land. We have visited the allotments at Chesterton and Launton and done a lot of research.

Chiltern Rail are hoping to dual the railway and create a new Oxford to London rail route. The Parish Council have commented on their plans on behalf of the village pointing out that the closure of foot and bridle paths would be something that would not be popular. We continue to try and get some action on flooding and have again been in touch with the Environment Agency and Cherwell. A decision on the sites for proposed 'Eco Towns' is expected before the end of the month. The Weston Front continue to meet and monitor the situation.

We would all like to say a big thank you to everyone who made the Fete such a success, what a great day.

---Anna McDonagh

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT

As you are probably aware, there are plans in place to improve the facilities within our Village Hall.

Significant improvements will be made to the existing kitchen and bar areas (including new appliances and alterations to the fire precautions) and the mower store.

There were several tenders submitted, and after careful consideration, the contract has been awarded to Norman Dearlove Property Services based here in Wendlebury. The total cost of the refurbishment work is about £34,500, and considerable effort and commitment has been given by the Village Hall Sub-Committee in terms

of submitting grant applications from many sources including the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), Cherwell District Council and the Parish Council. Contributions are also being made by the Village Club and the Village Hall itself. We are pleased to announce that most of the money required has been granted and the work is scheduled to start at the end of July 2009 for a period of 6 weeks. Completion is therefore scheduled for the second week in September 2009. Fundraising will, however, continue to remain critical.

We already operate a very successful Village Hall in terms of existing users and continual new bookings, and we are confident that the refurbishments will make the hall very attractive to users where catering is a key element.

--Paula Cordy

POSTPONED: VINEYARD VISIT & WINE TASTING

Due to the very late withdrawal of the coach operator and our failure to find an affordable replacement, WVC regret that the Vineyard Visit & Wine Tasting at the Bothy Vineyard on the 15th August has been postponed.

---Jean Bebbington

COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN ACTION

The Churchyard is undergoing a makeover with a new notice-board and replacement water storage tank. Thanks to a new Gardening Team of 14 volunteers, we can look after and keep the churchyard looking its best.

With a generous grant from The Oxfordshire Community Foundation, we have purchased a new sit-on mower, trailer and petrol strimmer.

Special thanks must also go to The Wendlebury Club, the Red Lion, and our volunteers for making this happen. We still need more volunteers to help with the gardening and maintenance of the Churchyard

If you have no time or energy, your financial help would be most welcome. We need to make ongoing improvements to the Church, including rebuilding the crumbling walls; so please help in any way you can.

Contact me at ivor.ford@btclick.com or phone 244691

--Ivor Ford

LOOKING BACK

I moved into Wendlebury in November 1964 with husband Ray and two sons, aged 4 and 2. Another son was born in 1965, the first baby born at home in Rectory Close and, I think, the only one.

There was neither a St Giles Close nor Farriers Mead or much in Meadow View. We had a shop run by Mr and Mrs Beaskey, who delivered our groceries to us, a very small post office in Church Lane in a cottage belonging to Mr and Mrs Wheeler with room for two or three people. Much later the Post Office was moved into the shop when the Wheelers retired. There was also a petrol garage.

The school in Church Lane had just closed. Mrs Flitter lived there. The builders' caravans were still on site and only 7 houses, at that time, had been built in Rectory Close. It had previously been a pig farm. Deceased pigs were all buried there.

Major Peter Howard's farm had lots of cows sheltered where Farriers Mead now is. Sheep used to block the lane when we tried to drive out of the village and we would have to wait until they had been taken to their new fields – a lovely country scene. There were lots of ducks around the Red Lion which would follow you into your garden.

There was no Village Hall nor a Park for the children. In the early days, Mr and Mrs Baxter,

who lived in Rectory Close, did a lot to start our Village Hall. He was an architect. We would have a Nit and Natter in their home to make things to sell to raise money. We also had Jumble Sales in The Red Lion. The WI was held in Mrs Slaney's house, and also in The Red Lion.

Down the lane going to Oxford was a large lovely but empty house with a balcony. Children were always in trouble with the police for playing there. The house was finally bought and renovated beautifully but sadly, soon after this, was knocked down when the M40 motorway was built in 1991. We had 3 dogs and were able to walk up and down the dual carriageway before the cars were allowed onto it.

Lots of people became involved in building the Village Hall. With the building of St Giles Close, about 1971, and some years on, the petrol garage was knocked down to make room for Farriers Mead. New bungalows were built in Meadow View. Church Lane also had some houses built where the old glass soap warehouse was and more much later.

The village and its residents have completely changed since we came. True Villagers were a little unsure of newcomers, and the buildings going up in their village, which I understood. The inn on the corner, opposite the thatched cottage, was still in use at that time. Shortly afterward it became a house.

The flooding was much worse then. My husband carried our sons to the school bus at the end of Rectory Close so they kept dry. We used to let them paddle about first then change into school wear. We even had a small boat sailing around the Close. The water never came into the house and was always deeper at one end than the other

We had a sewage plant with a pole which went round continuously situated near the bottom of our garden. Children were attracted to it. We had to keep an eye on it. We had rotas amongst our friends taking our children to cubs etc. and, of course, baby-sitting. There were also some American families living here. We, and our boys, made some good friends. Some we are still in contact with today.

---Yvonne Clench

RAIN IN MALAWAI

R.A.I.N. - Rural Aid In Namakoma - is primarily a fund-raising / educational organisation helping to raise awareness of life in the rural communities in and around Monkey Bay in Malawi.

Two fellow volunteers and I worked in the area through the Malawi Volunteer Organisation (MVO) www.malawivolunteer.org earlier this year.

Following that visit we decided that we wanted to help the people we had worked with by fund-raising and also assisting with the projects that are both ongoing and with new initiatives.

The Malawi Volunteer organisation is a non profit organisation that places volunteers in projects that include working in local schools, hospitals, orphanages, helping the local community with home-based care, the wound clinic, people living with HIV/Aids, sports coaching and a Malaria prevention programme.

R.A.I.N. has been set up to work alongside the MVO by helping to raise funds, awareness and help educate the people living in the rural areas surrounding Monkey Bay. 100% of all donations go direct to the projects I administer in conjunction with the MVO.

I pay all my travel costs and expenses myself, so any funds go straight to the people who need them most.

The death rate around the area is horrifying, mainly from malaria or HIV/Aids and on a scale that is difficult to comprehend.

Whilst in Monkey Bay, I talked to school children in the area about the facts of the virus and plan to extend this when I return later this year.

We have also helped with a newly formed group of local people who are themselves living with HIV/Aids and are now taking on the role of educating more people in the surrounding areas. Malaria is a massive problem in the area with nearly everyone I met having been infected and continuing to be so. Impregnated mosquito nets are relatively cheap and do save lives and I plan to buy and distribute these in the local area.

In this day and age, it is heartbreaking to see people dying simply because they are poor.

If you would like to contribute to this work or receive more information please do not hesitate to contact me:

Email: rainmonkeybay@yahoo.co.uk
Tel 107715448980

---Adele Bowers

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 2pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the following meetings;

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| 23rd July | Happiness – Chamberlain |
| 24th Sept | Hostel in London – David Johnson |
| 22nd October | Zimbabwe's fascinating scenery – Mrs J. Hulbert |
| 26th Nov | The beauty of trees – Tim Bryce |

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, Music Appreciation, Play Reading, Short Walks, Sketching, Spanish and Sunday Lunches. Further information available from the Secretary, Mrs Peggy Penfold, Tel: 01869 242506 or the Chairman Tel 01869 243193

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

---Andy Gordon, Chairman

THE VILLAGE FETE

The return of the Village Fete, after a gap of 10 years, was greeted with a glorious sunny day and a fantastic turn out of people who enjoyed the day. The Fete was opened by Matthew Chambers, who plays Daniel Grainger in BBC's Doctors and the Kirtlington Morris Men then got the event off to a handkerchief-waving start. The afternoon continued with a wonderful fancy-dress parade and built to a crescendo with Roman Chariot racing along Main St with humans as horses and then the tug-of-war between the Oxford end and the Bicester end of the village. The Bicester end, ably coached by Alan Rumsey, were the final victors by 2 pulls to 1.

The Fete was held to raise funds for St Giles Church and I am delighted to report that we raised nearly £2,000, which will pay for the lightning conductor to be repaired and also provide some spare funds.

A very big thank you to everyone who planned and helped on the day. We are already thinking about 2010, so anyone who would like to get involved please contact me on 244589..

---Julian Cordy

LEAVING RECTORY CLOSE...

We made the decision to leave Wendlebury in October 2007! Now, some 21 months later, as our departure proves frighteningly close, it all feels a little scary: Will the neighbours be as nice? Will people like our dogs; will people stop and chat and, most crucially, will there be a travelling supper?

We have loved living in Wendlebury and really are going to miss the village hugely!!! It has always been a dream to move down to the South West and set up our own small-holding and originally we thought it would be the retirement plan. But with health scares, unexpected family deaths and a supposedly portable business, we thought: why wait? The fact our decision coincided with a mass downturn in house sales followed by the biggest recession since the 1980's was slightly unfortunate but all things can be overcome – if you are prepared to wait, and then wait, and then wait some more....

And so our Victorian Bodmin cottage, with its acre of land, numerous outbuildings and a utility room for the dogs (no more muddy paws in the kitchen, yeah, right...) awaits. Already we have mentally bought half-a-dozen chickens, 2 pigs, a pair of alpacas and have a vegetable plot to die for!!! The small matter of still having a business to run feels a 'minor' matter until we start considering the fact that broadband connectivity is pretty limited down there. BT kindly offered to fit a dedicated leased line for us - for £50,000! We politely declined (once we had nursed our bruised heads, the result of fainting in horror and crashing to the floor on hearing the price)!

We will take many, many happy memories with us and are proud to have been involved in many of the village events and activities over the years. First and foremost we must mention the website, so humbly begun when we started to work from home and laughingly thought we would have more time. It is now a totally amazing and invaluable resource in the capable hands of Mike Pearce. A huge thumbs up for Mike. I loved my time as part of the Village Club – what a great job it does, year in year out. One of the best meetings was where David supplied the guys with a continuous top-up of home made beer; a 2-hour meeting became nearer 4, whilst a very patient chair attempted to move business forward! The OTTC show Ain't Misbehavin' was great: have you ever seen the hall so packed???

And then there is the dog walking (or in the words of several of you, dog pulling) – how lucky we are to have the church field and how many happy hours have we spent chatting to fellow dog walkers and putting the world to rights!!! How we will miss the jokes about getting a sledge and exclamations of 'how many???' when newcomers see us with all 5! And, incidentally, any balls or Frisbees that turn up are ours.. but on reflection, consider them a parting gift!!!

Living in Wendlebury has been a real delight and if the future owners of 22 Rectory Close are made to feel half as welcome as we were, they will do fine! Being part of a community was for them a crucial factor when they began house hunting and it was very easy to 'sell' the village to them: no spin needed here!!!

And so thank you!! And goodbye!!!

---Jack and David