

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

AUTUMN 2009

Published quarterly by and for the residents of Wendlebury Oxfordshire

PARISH CLERK NOTES

Arrangements are progressing for the dredging of the stream. The pre-dredge clearance (including higher bough removal to accommodate the excavator boom) is expected to go ahead during the early October. The dredging is then likely to follow around the end of the month or early November.

Some good news - we can confirm that the mobile library service will continue in Wendlebury - there has been some confusion on this, following a notice of termination sent in error to the Parish Clerk by the Library Service. The Library stops opposite the Red Lion at 09:45 to 10.05 every fortnight, next visit is Wednesday 14th October.

The Parish Council is aware of the broken door on the village notice-board and is investigating either getting it fixed or replacing it.

---Chris Burton

RECYCLING FOOD WASTE – NEW ARRANGEMENTS

From early January Wendlebury residents will be able to recycle their food waste using the existing brown compost collection bins. This means that all food waste, cooked and uncooked, will soon go into the brown bin, this includes leftovers and food that is past its use-by date.

About 40% of the waste in our green bins is food waste. In Cherwell District alone that's

around 12,000 tonnes of food waste dumped in landfill each year when it could be recycled. With this new recycling service Cherwell will be reducing the amount taken to landfill and reducing the share of landfill fines to council tax payers.

Your mixed food and garden waste will be taken to a composting facility at Ardley. It will be shredded and put into special tunnels where air circulation, temperature and moisture can be controlled to break down the food and garden waste into high-quality compost. The new composting tunnels are an extension of the current garden composting facility and the compost produced will continue to be used as a fertiliser on farms, some very close to the recycling facility.

Each household will be provided with a kitchen waste caddy, special corn starch bags available from local stores can be used to line the caddies, or waste can be wrapped in newspaper before being added to the brown bins, which will be collected in the same way on the same day as now.

Information on the new scheme will be delivered to each household along with the kitchen caddies in the New Year. If you don't currently have a brown bin and would like one these can be ordered from Cherwell customer services team, and if you don't have room to accommodate a brown bin Cherwell can supply you with a roll of sacks for the food and garden waste.

NB: Please don't put food waste into your brown bin until you receive information on the start date for the new scheme, this new collection is being rolled out across Cherwell District in stages between now and March 2010.

VILLAGE QUIZ

Village Quiz on Saturday 7th November at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Teams of up to 5 – please register with David Jones on 242514

From 1st November we will be taking bookings for our annual panto trip. This year it is **Jack and the Beanstalk** at Oxford Playhouse on 30th December 2009 at 2pm.

Open initially to Wendlebury residents. Coach from the Red Lion at 1pm - to book, please phone David Jones on 242514

---Jean Bebbington

VILLAGE HALL

The Hall was closed throughout August and the beginning of September so that work could be carried out on the new kitchen and bar.

The new kitchen is twice the size of the old one, has a range cooker, two fridges, a separate basin for hand washing (elf and safety), with plenty of cupboards and work surfaces and looks fantastic.

Plumbing and electrics have been installed ready for a dishwasher once finances permit. The bar is also larger than the old one and has a fridge and two chiller cabinets to keep the champagne cold.

At the same time we put in a new ceiling in the main hall with new lighting, and a fire alarm system. The Hall Committee are very pleased with the results – we hope you will be too.

The work was only possible with financial support from the following organisations for which we are most grateful: Virador Credits Oxfordshire Fund and the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Wendlebury Parish Council, and Oxfordshire Community Foundation Grassroots Grants.

We would also like to thank Wendlebury Village Club for their financial support as well

as the 70's summer dance which donated its profits to the new kitchen and bar.

The Hall AGM is at 8pm on Tuesday 3rd November, so why not come along and see the new kitchen and bar and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine. Everyone is welcome.

---Kerry Wilce

WEBSITE REMINDER

Just a quick reminder to look at the Wendlebury website for quite a lot of news including:

The Village Club committee has three new members, who now include:

- Chairperson. Jean Bebbington 243879
- Vice Chairperson. Dave Jones 242514
- Treasurer. Alan Rumsey 247248
- Secretary. Steve Thompson 243052
- Members
- Anni Thompson 243052
- Lisa Bergin
- Lois Lancaster
- Rebecca Palmer
- James Davies
- Kevin Warner
- Duncan McLellan
- Graham Brown

The Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning is on Saturday 7th November. Doors open at 10.30 am. There will be stalls of goods, cakes, books, gifts etc. and of course, raffles. Please come along and support this very worthwhile charity. All proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal Fund.

The Village Hall Refurbishment is completed - we will update the website as soon as we have new photos.

---Mike Pearce

WENDLEBURY GARDENING CLUB NEWS

At the British Legion Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th November we are hoping to have a bumper crop on our "Bulb Table" (a misnomer, as anything however tenuous a connection with gardening, would be welcome) and we would be very grateful for your contributions and /or your help. If you can't be there, collection on Friday could be arranged – Tel 252713.

Hope springs eternal in the gardener's heart (or we wouldn't be gardeners!) so after the flop of the "barbeque summer" a glorious autumn, and faith is restored enough to start on the 2010 programme. Ideas are buzzing around (in one case literally!)

But in the meantime we have 2 more talks – the next on the 27th October: Rare Flowers of Britain, then in November the family of Iridaceae when Sue Bedwell will bring a collection of "Perennial" Christmas cards and gifts and we wind up our 2009 programme with the Social Evening in December.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings – visitors £1 – or only £2 subscription pa. or £3 family Contact Elaine 252713 or June 243967

---Elaine Harrup

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

On October 13th, Wendlebury WI held their Autumn feast. Nineteen members dined at Chesterton Golf Club. We had a room to ourselves and the food delicious and service excellent. Everyone seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

The next WI meeting will be in Wendlebury Village Hall at 8pm on Tuesday November 10th. Visitors are welcome.

RAFFLE WINNER

(Excerpt from "News and Views", the WI Magazine)

When the flower arrangements at the Annual Council Meeting were being raffled, I said to fellow member Christine "I wouldn't like to take that home on the bus." Whereupon whose ticket came out next...yes, you guessed it, it was mine and how was I going home...on the bus to the Park & Ride. Fortunately it was a still day, so walking through Oxford with the with the very elaborate tall arrangement was not a problem and it drew several compliments. It looked lovely at home where it was admired by friends and family I hardly ever win raffle prizes and I certainly could never make such a wonderful flower arrangement. So I was a very happy WI member!

---Elspeth Shirtcliff

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 2.15pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of the following meetings;

26th November The beauty of trees – Tim Bryce

28th January Annual General Meeting

25th February - Florence – Ann Sharman

26th March Advanced Motorists – Mike Somerville

22nd April Samuel Cooper, Greatest English Portrait Painter – Dr Robert Edwards

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 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 readily 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

HELLO FROM THE MINIONS SMALLHOLDING NOVICES!!!

Hello to all our friends and neighbours in Wendlebury – well 3 months down the line and our smallholding here in Cornwall is moving apace.

You may remember we purchased a Victorian cottage in Minions, nr Liskeard, complete with massive garden, an acre paddock and countryside to die for. The land had been used for a smallholding several years before so we were also lucky enough to inherit a mass of outbuildings complete with electrical points throughout, outside lights and a well thought out watering system with self filling troughs and outside taps. I say lucky enough, all were/are in varying states of repair BUT there is no doubt that for the complete novices that we are, this was and is a massive help to our initial plans. The acre paddock was very overgrown and so our first job was to source a machine to mow/flail, leaving a reasonable wildlife strip by the hedgerows. We went for a 2 wheel tractor which has already proved perfect: flailing, ploughing and helping us move heavy bits of wood and even a pig arc! Another fab starting point is that the paddock is completely stock-proof, an essential as we have sheep, horses and cows grazing along both lengths.

Our initial aims were chickens, pigs and a winter veg plot and thanks to advice and support from

various neighbours and fellow small-holders, all three have been achieved with relative ease, although it's too early to tell if we have good growing conditions and of course it will be a few months before we know whether we have let the pigs get too fat or not fat enough. BUT I am happy to report that we had our first 2 eggs from our ex-battery hens on the FIRST morning we had them and after just a week we are now getting 3-4 a day from 5 hens!! Oh, and we have also grown and harvested a few radishes and salad leaves. Of course we have made mistakes and I expect we will make more and bigger ones as we get more involved and ambitious but I have to credit much of our success so far to the 3 very different smallholdings we have visited since moving here, along with words of wisdom from some of our very lovely neighbours.

The first place, West Frogwell Farm (www.westfrogwellfarm.co.uk, run by Phil and Caroline Frier and also home to Animal Arks), supplied us with our two saddleback weaners. We spent an afternoon with Phil helping him to feed his 50-strong herd and listening to stories and advice from his 6 years of experience. Amongst his many pearls of wisdom was the difference between keeping pigs for meat as opposed to breeding/pets. But we still realised it was ok to call out 'pig, pig' and have them come running for their food: Ours are not quite there yet (we have had them just a week and a bit) although I think the fresh dandelion leaves pulled up this afternoon may be helping!!! We did have fun and games when the weaners first arrived: we had put up the electric fencing sticking to the 'letter of the law' with 3 strands of wire at the recommended heights, only to have weaner number one touching the bottom one, getting a mild shock and then deciding to get the 'hell out of there', running 'underneath' the wire, as opposed to back into the enclosure, closely followed of course by weaner number 2... A happy 2 hours was thus spent with our wonderful neighbour rounding them up before surrounding the whole enclosure with sheep netting!!! Phil has told us that as soon as we got the pigs in we should 'train' them to avoid the electric but I guess we were just not quick enough!!!

We were also a tad slow in realising our chickens had unfortunately brought a few lice with them: we saw feather loss but it took a good 24 hours for us to spot the little b**** and realise what was going on: I am however, happy to report that a thorough dusting with louse powder has resolved the

situation and said feathers are growing back. It was also very impressive to not have had an interruption to the egg laying! By luck rather than design the chicken plot includes an area that had been used for a bonfire which we had cleared and dug over and that has provided a fab dust bath, especially useful when lice appear!! It also took us a couple of days to realise that we needed something other than the feeder lid to keep the chicken food dry: sounds rather obvious now! David has fixed up a piece of sloping corrugated iron by the hutch that also gives more shade and protection! We love giving an afternoon treat of corn which of course the chickens adore, pecking the container before the corn is out: not sure I recommend hand feeding though: it hurts!!!!

Having joined the Cornish Guild of Smallholders as soon as we arrived in Minions, we were also introduced to Chris and Janice Rose at Lower Killigorrack Farm (home to Soupa Doupa www.five-each-day.co.uk) and we enjoyed a delightful; guided tour around the farm looking at their Berkshires, poultry and bees. Whilst our acre is limited in terms of number of livestock, Lower Killigorrack felt like the kind of set up we ultimately would like to have: where all land is utilised to the full with a delightful variety of crops and animals: bees in the orchard, pigs in the wood, chickens and ducks totally free range, sheep and cows enjoying an all-year round grass diet. Chris' DIY skills were akin to David's and whilst Janice and I lamented the delights (!!) of keeping the fox away, David and Chris discussed the intricacies of building beehives and separators!! Janice and Chris made us realise you get out what you put in and you leave nothing to chance. We left Lower Killigorrack absolutely buzzing and within 2 days David had built the pig ark and we had begun to fence off both the pig and chickens sections of the paddock! We have also enjoyed the Lower Killigorrack pork: delicious and then some...

Our third small holding was a real hands-on experience when I spent the best part of a day at Hendra Farm (www.hendrafarmpoultry.co.uk) with Senara Higgs where I helped out with the Herdwicks and the Jacobs: trimming feet, giving injections and rounding up as well as creosoting a pig arc and feeding/watering the poultry and horses. I was rewarded with a kiss or two from the alpacas and a peck or two from the rheas!! Senara's farm has to be the most organised, tidy, clean farm I have ever seen and her experience, enthusiasm and common sense an inspiration. I could quote many pearls of wisdom from Senara

but the best has to be that whilst we are responsible for ensuring top quality care and welfare for our animals, we should also expect their respect and manners, too, so, the horses waited for their hay, George, the Jacob, (as trained to walk on a halter) was expected to lead the other less-confident sheep and her Springer spaniel expected to wait at the gate before being given permission to go into the field.

So, garlic, onions, cabbage, peas, spinach, winter lettuce and more are now planted; the weaners are doing a fab job of ploughing up their enclosure (all ready for us to plant the spring veg next year with any luck) and today's egg and bacon sandwich was all from locally sourced food suppliers (including us!!).

We plan on adding ducks and meat chickens to the paddock next as well as maintaining an area for the 5 dogs to have a good run, sniff and Frisbee play! We are also thinking of getting a couple of lambs in the spring. We have grazing rights here in Minions (lucky us) so if we bucket-train the sheep, we could let them graze on the moor to give our own grass a rest, possibly ? We also have a mass of spring planting planned! There is of course the small matter of our web design business.... I don't think we will be doing enough to be self sufficient/earning enough from our acre just yet!!! But there's the joy of trying!!!!

Do have a look at : <http://www.relaxed.ltd.uk/lamorna/01.html> for more and email jack@relaxed.org.uk or contact us at Lamorna, Minions, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 5LF to say hi – we'd love to hear from you!

---Jack Smellie

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