

WENDLEBURY VILLAGE NEWS

SPRING 2010

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

This will take place on Tuesday 18 May at 8pm in the Village Hall.

There will be a short talk from The Oxford Nature Conservation Forum followed by wine, nibbles and a chance to talk to Members of the Council

Come and join us!

VILLAGE TIDY UP

Come and help us tidy up the village Saturday 15th May at 10.00am.

Meet outside the Village Hall

Please wear suitable clothing and, if you have one, a reflective top.

Gloves and rubbish bags provided.

GARDENING CLUB NEWS

The 2010 Programme is now on course and though we don't expect to please all of the members all of the time we hope to cover enough diverse subjects to please all the members most of the time!

Just one more talk before the summer programme starts – A variation of “Bill and Ben” now – growing veggies in jars. This is carrying on last year's theme of “Grow Your Own for Five a Day” and, to help things along,

we aim to have a varied selection of seedlings etc at our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning in May - diary date: Saturday 15th May.

Smiles on faces at last as Spring, with a few hiccups, is believable. But there's a fair bit of catching up to do in the garden. Maybe we can help. At our annual Plant Sale in May there will be, as ever, an extensive range of seedlings and plants to give you a head start whether in a potage or in pots to “Grow Your Own for 5 - a - Day” and also fill in the gaps in the garden left by this vicious winter.

However if gardening is not your thing, there will be the bric-a-brac, cake, produce and raffle etc. stalls, - or just enjoy a chat over a cup of coffee and scones.

Other news: Mini Tour to East Anglia 4th - 7th May We make 8 visits, which include Hyde Hall, Blooms of Bressingham and Anglesey Abbey and also Christchurch Mansion, which houses the most important collection of works by Constable and Gainsborough outside London

Our programme of summer outings starts in June and we will be revisiting the gardens at Highgrove House and also Sudeley It is over 10 years since we visited Highgrove and it will be interesting to see the developments

Our membership numbers remain healthy; but we are always happy to welcome more. We have no boundaries and the annual sub is only £2 or £3 family membership. Contact numbers as below.

Happy and successful summer gardening.

---Elaine Harrop 01869 252713

TRAVELLING SUPPER MAY 22ND

The Wendlebury Travelling Supper will take place on Saturday 22nd May. You will be receiving further information for this popular event and a form to fill in.

On the 26th June there will be a young children's Sports Day at the Village Hall in the afternoon followed by the Village BBQ from 6pm in the evening.

We look forward to your support.'

---Jean Bebbington

WENDLEBURY W.I.

On Tuesday 25th May we are celebrating our 50th birthday and to mark the occasion we are holding an event in Wendlebury village hall. This will be a sit down evening meal and we are expecting around 30 members, ex members and friends – as well as our Federation Chairman Sue Cox. It is going to be a jolly evening and there is still time to include more people, if there are others out there who would like to join us. The contact is June Pearce (tel. 243967).

We are very proud to have reached our 50th anniversary, particularly as other W.I.s in nearby (larger) villages have fallen by the wayside over the years. We are always looking for new members and it would be lovely to increase our membership in this our 50th year. If you would like to know more about us, do speak to our President, Janet Witney (tel. 240705) or our Secretary, Christine Tulloch (tel. 243278).

Our programme for the forthcoming year includes talks on the honey bee, living through a tsunami, the history of the parish of St Thomas the Martyr in West Oxford, memories of a Jewish childhood during WW2, and, closer to home, the Bayberry Clinic in Church Lane, Wendlebury. We welcome visitors to

any of our meetings which are held at 7.30pm in the village hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. (There is a small charge of £3 per visitor.)

The Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes also arranges a variety of events and over the past few months other Wendlebury members and I have attended a few:

We went to "Pig Day" when we had a talk given by Tracy, Marchioness of Worcester, and her colleague Alistair Kenneil. We saw clips of Tracy's film 'Pig Business' which was shown on More 4 TV earlier in the year, and they explained the reasons for Tracy's campaign against pig farming at an industrial level. These include the inhumane treatment of pigs in other countries (the UK has the strictest standards for pig farming in the world), the destruction of rainforests to grow pig fodder, and also food labelling which is often misleading as to the provenance of the meat. Tracy is passionate about the treatment of pigs and urged us to buy pork bearing the Freedom Foods logo or the Quality Pork Standard with the Union Jack – and also to lobby our MPs on the subject.

In March we attended the OFWI Annual Council Meeting, presided over by outgoing Chairman Pauline Goddard, which was both interesting and entertaining. I also went to "Water Day – Women Reaching Women" which was part of the Oxford International Women's Festival. Again we had a range of very good and interesting speakers, from Water Aid and Thames Water, as well as a representative from a project set up by an Oxfordshire village to help provide fresh water to a village in Africa. We also heard more about the Millennium Development Goals.

For something completely different, my husband and I (yes, men are welcome too - sometimes!) went to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (which was an experience in itself) to hear a talk about the Galapagos archipelago. Entitled 'Darwin's Islands' the lecture was given by Dr David Robertson, a scientist from the Open University who gave a

fascinating talk about what the future may hold for these extraordinary islands – illustrated by wonderful slides and video.

So that is a flavour of the Women’s Institute – and there is so much more! Do join us, ladies.

---Elspeth Shirtcliff

WENDLEBURY PLAYGROUND

At long last the swings have been repaired! Sorry it took so long, but Trevor Stewart, who built the playground, has been very busy. Safety of the play equipment is vital.

The playground has an annual safety inspection by ROSPA, but is also checked on a weekly basis by a group of volunteers from the village. The children of some of the volunteers on the inspection rota have long since grown up and no longer use the playground. It would be nice to replace them with people whose children are of an age where they use the playground. So if you have young children, why not volunteer? You would be allocated a specific month when you would be responsible for visually inspecting the playground once a week, checking for any faults and raking the bark around the swings. This only takes about 30 minutes and can be done on a day and time to suit you. I will even send you a reminder by e-mail when it is your “month”.

If you would like to volunteer please call me on 01869 245738, or e-mail me.

---kerry_wilce@talktalk.net

CHESTERTON SCHOOL

We have returned to school for the Summer Terms in a blaze of very pleasant sunshine, just right for our “planting week” where pupils and staff have been busy preparing and planting the wildlife area - the foundations of which were put in last year. This has resulted in fighting nettles an

thistles but what a victory for group work and learning from first hand experience. It has involved choosing the best positions for plants that like shade or those that prefer full sunshine.

Families have been very generous in donating plants, as they are towards so many things that go on in school. I am also very grateful for the financial assistance given to us from Cooper School due to their science college status and the proceeds from the Andy Reading Road Race. I am told that when Andy was Head Teacher here he believed in using the environment in educating children so a fitting use of the money provided. Hopefully parents and friends will help us further with our fight against the stronger nettles during the School Association clear up day.

The planting week is just one example of many activities that are going on in school. Please go to our website www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk to see photographs of other activities or visit us at one of the events below.

Some Dates from Our Diary

7 th	May	School Association Cinema Evening for pupils
8 th	May	School Association Clear Up Day
17 th /20 th	May	Missioner leading assembly as part of Lifelong Mission Week
21 st	May	African Dance Workshops
22 nd	June	School Association Fashion Show 7.30pm in the school hall
30 th	June	Sports Day
2 nd	July	School Association Family Sports Evening
17 th	July	Summer Fair

---Carolyn Wharton
Head Teacher

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 the fourth Thursday in Wendlebury Village Hall beginning at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the following meetings;

2010

- 27th May A Girl's Life in the Army –
Gillian Cane
- 24th June Life as a Country Doctor –
Dr. Colin Campbell

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: 242506 or the Chairman Tel. 253052. All for £11 per annum plus £1 per meeting for tea, coffee and biscuits!!

---Sheila Maclean, Chairman.

WI QUIZ AT EXETER HALL

On April 28th, a team from Wendlebury took part in the annual WI Oxfordshire quiz at Exeter Hall. A total of 44 teams from around the county took part in what it turned out to be a very exciting evening. At the end of the quiz, 4 teams, INCLUDING WENDLEBUR, tied for first place. After a sudden-death tie-break, three teams remained and it took three further tie-breaks to decide second place. The Wendlebury team (Pauline Goddard, Jenny Miller, Jill Peck and Diana Broun) finished in joint third place, (The final question, which we "failed" on was "Which two South American countries do NOT have a border with Brazil?"

How many of you know the answer?

---Diana Broun

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT FOSTERING?

There is a recognised shortage of 10,000 Foster Carers in the UK. PACT (Parents And Children Together), founded in 1911, is also known as the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work inc. We are a registered charity working to improve life chances for children. The focus of our work is within Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and aims to build and strengthen families.

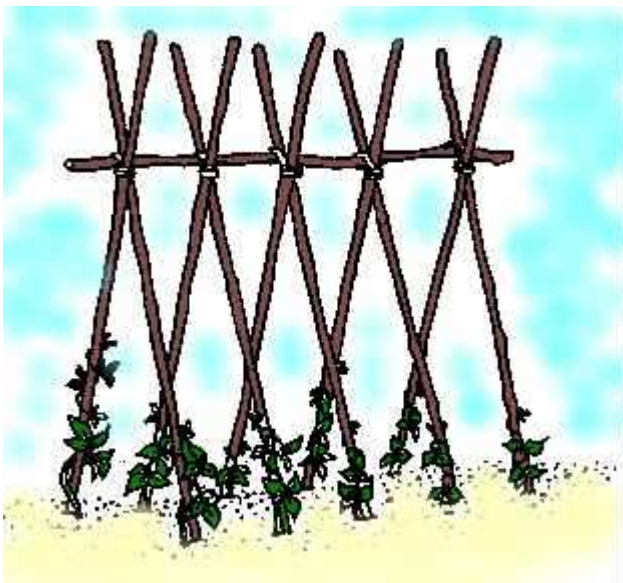
We are an approved Adoption and Fostering Agency. We have a history of finding safe, loving families for children in care. Here are a few facts about Fostering:

1. Did you know you don't have to be married to become a Foster Carer?
2. You don't have to have children already although you do need to have experience of caring for children.
3. Did you know you get paid a Fostering Allowance of £335.70 a week to be a Foster Carer which is tax free and won't affect any other benefits?
4. Most of the children who need fostering are known as 'hard to place' children, they will usually be 8+ years of age.

Fostering is a hard but very rewarding job. If you think you might have what it takes to become a Permanent Foster Carer or you want to find out more then contact PACT now on 0800 731 1845 e-mail fostering@pactcharity.org or visit www.pactcharity.org.

---Philip Cook, Recruitment Officer
www.pactcharity.org

WENDLEBURY WOODLAND VOLUNTEERS IN BOWLER'S COPSE



We finished our working season in mid-February. We have coppiced completely the first section where new hazel was added in January 2004. The old coppiced stools had grown up a lot and yielded 9 sets of bean poles. A set of 11 should last for 5+ years if stored in the winter. The new hazel which we had planted in 2004 did not really yield anything but - in 6 - 7 more years there should be much more material available for gardeners to use.

The cycle for using copse materials means that villagers who want to get involved are welcome. The work is not heavy now, since the original regeneration of the copse has been completed. With the help of a grant from our Parish Council we have been able to obtain some more funding from the TOE for future work. In addition to maintaining this green space, what we do gives us autumn/winter exercise in the fresh air just a short stroll up the back road. Hand tools and hot drinks are provided. We start again in the copse at the end of October.

You can stroll through the copse at any time and see what is coming up around the hazel and any wildlife there. Contact Mike Pearce 243967 mike@systemseed.co.uk, or Jane Burrett on 325876.

MERTON OIL-BUYING GROUP

We have completed the April oil order. CPL Petroleum won our business this time round and the order was in excess of 68,000 litres. Despite the continual rise in oil prices, the price obtained was a competitive 43.0 pence per litre (excluding VAT). The highest price was 46.6 pence per litre from Total Butler representing a saving of 3.6 pence per litre!!! For the 89 members who ordered, a total saving in excess of £2,450 was made!!!

We have ordered over 363,600 litres of oil with estimated savings in excess of £17,600 since October 2008.

There will be a summer order when prices will hopefully fall significantly. The following order will be in October. Please visit www.mertonvillage.co.uk for further information.

How do you join? Fill in the registration form available from the village website. Just hover over Oil Buying Group on the left hand navigation bar and select Registration Form. Alternatively, you can request a form by emailing me at mertonoil@hotmail.co.uk

If you don't have an email address or still have a query, then please call me, Steve, on (01865) 331183 or 07968 096338. Finally, just a quick Thank You to all that have signed up for this scheme as it would not work without your support.

---Steve Blood
(12 Otmoor View, Merton, OX25 2NL)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Parking will continue to be monitored at Chesterton school as there are still a few issues at both the end and the start of the school day, it was decided to remove Stratton Audley and Steeple Aston as the team have conducted in excess of 30 targeted patrols in these areas and have hopefully improved the

parking in these areas; our patrols certainly seem to indicate this.

The new locations added are High Street Upper Heyford and Hardwick Road Hethe.

As there have been no reports of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in Fringford, Steeple Aston and Chesterton despite several months of patrolling, it was decided to suspend patrols in this area and to discuss further at the next meeting, as the nights become lighter the reports of ASB may be forthcoming.

In relation to speeding it was decided to remove all three locations, Fritwell, Launton and Upper Heyford and monitor the following locations

1. A4421 Newton Purcell
2. Station Road, Lower Heyford
3. Station Road, Blackthorn
4. Ploughley Road, Ambrosden.

The team have carried out a drugs warrant in Ambrosden during the month, I attended parish council meetings at Bucknell and Ardley and PC Sullivan attended Hethe's meeting. We have also attended the weekly coffee morning at the Red Cow in Chesterton which continues to be well attended by residents. We also escorted the children from Chesterton school to their end of term church service where they had a procession along Alchester Road dressed in Easter costumes.

During March the following crime trends have emerged: there has been an increase in the theft of scrap metal. If you have any lying around outside your property then please be mindful of this as we have had reports of people driving round looking for properties to target. Likewise around the Fritwell area there has been several thefts of heating oil. The lead thieves have returned to the churches and schools. Also, several pubs have been targeted in overnight burglaries; the offenders seem to be targeting gaming machines for cash. I have visited the majority of pubs in the villages and given crime prevention advice packs. If you see anything suspicious then

please report this to police by ringing 999 in an emergency or 0845 8505505 and in particular try and obtain any vehicle details especially the index number.

If you have any village event that you would like us to attend then please let us know and we will do our best to get an officer along. We have several events in the calendar already. We can be contacted by e-mailing

bicesterruralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING CHERWELL'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife in north Oxfordshire will continue to receive vital support from Cherwell District Council.

The council has just finished work on a new biodiversity action plan which sets out how it intends to protect and improve wildlife throughout its services.

The plan aims to protect and improve habitats and species on property the council owns or has some influence over.

The latest example is a new set of swift boxes which are to be installed at Bodicote House to increase the number of nesting swifts at the site.

These add to the council's efforts which also include swift bricks and bat boxes integrated into construction of the new Spiceball Park sports centre.

Such action is felt to be vital as these species are rapidly losing places to live and breed. Their new accommodation will give them the opportunity to thrive.

Cherwell's head of safer communities, urban and rural services, Chris Rothwell, said: "These are excellent examples of how support for wildlife can be integrated into council owned buildings.

"We also support wildlife through partnerships with a number of conservation organisations.

"The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group helps to protect, create and restore important habitats on farms and the RSPB provides specialist advice to local landowners on management for important species of birds.

It will also help meet requirements of the government's Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 and other legislation.

Cherwell supports the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre to collate and provide wildlife data for use in the planning process.

Oxfordshire records centre manager, Gavin Bird, said: "We're involved in two ways, one is to provide information to the council about important sites, habitats and species and the other is to help the recording groups understand how their work fits in at a district level."

The Cherwell swifts conservation project is a successful community initiative that involves local people recording swift nest sites in their area.

Cherwell's Biodiversity and Countryside Officer, Sue Marchand, said: "Over two years, more than 50 parishes have contributed to the project, recording more than 100 nest sites.

"The swifts are due to arrive again soon so I would encourage as many people as possible to get involved."

Information from the swifts project is made available to planners so if a planning application is made which affects a nesting site, the council can make enquiries and request it be left unaltered or alternative nearby provision is made.

To find out more about the swifts project visit http://www.cherwell.gov.uk/media/pdf/a/c/Swift_Conservation_in_Chерwell_District_Report_2009.pdf

WENDLEBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Summertime reminder: This is a general reminder to remember to lock your garden

shed before you go indoors in the evening. If you are spending more time in your back garden remember the sneak thieves might try your front door. In this area three people, who had been targeting village pubs at night, have recently been arrested and charged They did not succeed in entering our village pub.

In relation to crime reported to police, there have been two car windows smashed in Chesterton and a set of car number plates were stolen from a car parked at Chesterton golf club..

---Jane Burrett

ARE YOU LOOKING TO SAVE MONEY ON YOUR HEATING OIL?

If the answer is yes, buying direct from Nolan Oils in Middleton Stoney could prove a better option.

Buying oil as part of a group can often appear better value than buying individually. However, more and more of our customers are actually saving money by buying direct and keeping control of the time of year they buy their oil, making the most of low market prices. For example our price at the time of the last buying group delivery was actually 2 pence per litre cheaper. As a result, we have promised to match or beat any buying group price at the time of scheduled deliveries.

There are also other advantages of buying from a reputable, established local family supplier: you can order your oil exactly when you need it; we offer emergency deliveries on the same or next day at no extra charge to regular customers; we deliver 6 days a week at flexible times with no charges for cancellation or non delivery to regular customers; we have excellent technical knowledge from over 40 years in the oil industry and we take pride in being a local depot serving local communities. Payments can also be spread out over the year by standing order and there are no charges for paying by credit card.

Contact Nolan Oils on 01869 343477 for a price comparison next time you are ready to replenish your oil or if you would like any advice on your oil usage or about using oil as an alternative heating source. We look forward to hearing from you.