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The Wonders of Westonbirt

A talk by Martin Green

This talk covers the seasons, events
and future direction of the beautiful
Westonbirt National Arboretum.

Monday 20th March
7:30 Village Hall

FREE ENTRY (Visitors £2)
Refreshments available

HAILEY HERALD

Number 251

Twitter.....@haileywestoxon

March 2017

Parish Council News

Lisa Wilkinson, Clerk	T: 0781 1174733 E clerk@haileywestoxon.org
Graham Knaggs, Chairman	T: 899125 E:knaggsgraham@gmail.com
Website www.haileywestoxon.org	

Proposed Sharba Homes development on Land south west of Charlbury Road, Hailey

At the Hailey Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th February, the emerging proposal to build up to 85 homes on land south west of Charlbury Road by Sharba Homes, was discussed. As no planning application has yet been submitted by Sharba Homes, any Council decision is a provisional one however Hailey Parish Council voted unanimously to oppose this planning application when it is registered.

Vacancies for Parish Councillor

Hailey Parish Council previously had two vacancies on the Parish Council. On Monday 13th February Giles Doland and Calvert McGibbon were co-opted onto the Council. The Parish Council would like to welcome them aboard.

West Oxfordshire District Council News

Letters are being sent to householders in West Oxfordshire encouraging them to sign up for a new opt-in garden waste collection service. The new subscription-only service starts from the beginning of April 2017 and costs £30 per bin a year for fortnightly wheelie-bin collections. For many years garden waste collections have been free in West Oxfordshire, but due to the loss of external funding, a small charge is now being made. Many councils are already charging for garden waste collections, as unlike other waste, it is not a statutory service and they are not legally obliged to make collections. Sign up by visiting www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden or calling 01993 861025.

Bi-election for District councillor for the Hailey, Minster Lovell and Leafield Ward will be held on **Thursday 9 March**.

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm.

Joan Smith Educational Trust meeting

This charity exists to help young people under the age of 25 who live in the Parish (or a parent does) with the costs of educational expenses or to assist with entry into a profession, trade or calling. Examples of help previously provided include contributions towards computer equipment, musical instruments, expeditions, field trips, music lessons, tools, specialised clothing, etc. Requests for grants are NOT means tested. The next meeting will take place following the Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th March. If you would like to find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk or download an application form from the Parish Council section of www.haileywestoxon.org

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting Monday 13th March at 7.30pm

BABYSITTER

I am a responsible thirteen year old girl living in Hailey. I have just completed a babysitting course and a St John's ambulance first aid course through school. I am looking for local babysitting - please contact me to discuss on 01993 868 808.

Diary Dates

Mar 2nd	Lent lunch (Thurs) at Ivydene, Dolly End 12noon
Mar 2nd	Hailey Singers Witheridge Farm 7.00pm
Mar 3rd	Charity Coffee Morning, Village Hall, 10 -11:30am
Mar 7th	Lent lunch (Tues) Village Hall 12 noon
Mar 8th	Play Reading Group The Sidings 7.00pm
Mar 13th	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall, 7.30pm
Mar 14th	Second Tuesday Ladies Village Hall 7.30pm
Mar 15th	Village Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00 - 2.00pm
March 16th	Lent lunch (Thurs) Vine Farm Hailey 12noon
Mar 16th	Hailey Singers Witheridge Farm 7.30pm
Mar 20th	Gardening Club Talk see ad above
Mar 23rd	Lent lunch (Thurs) Winnings Farm House Poffley End 12 noon
Mar 29th	Hailey Singers Witheridge Farm 7.00pm
March 30th	Lent lunch (Thurs) Witheridge Farm, Hailey, 12noon
April 11th	Hailey Singers Witheridge Farm 7.00pm
April 24th	Gardening Club Talk "Plants, borders and gardens" Village Hall 7.30pm

St John's Church

Parish Office 01993 779492
The Rev Toby Wright 704441

Churchwarden

Dr Robin Carr 01993 868079



On Feb 12th we said good bye to our vicar, Neil Traynor, with a lively service in church followed by a very jovial farewell lunch in the village hall. Everyone contributed to what was a veritable feast. Neil was presented with a beautiful copy of the gospels and epistles, and the whole family was given a Hailey Hamper full of all sorts of goodies including a Rubik's cube for Harriet, and some doggy treats for Asa. We shall miss them all greatly.

Looking forward.....

We have the regular services in church, on Sundays and Thursdays, together with the start of our Lent Lunches which will take place weekly throughout Lent usually on Thursdays but see the village calendar for details. These will be raising money for Christian Aid.

There will also be evening Compline services on Thursdays in Lent. Compline is a beautiful, candlelit, tranquil service lasting about 15 minutes, providing a wee bit of time just to think, which is a rare commodity these days. If you've never been, do come along, you will be very welcome.

Wednesday March 1st: Ash Wednesday St Mary's 11am,
St John's Curbridge 7.30 pm

Thursday March 2nd: Holy Communion 10am,
Soup Lunch 12-2pm Ivydene, Delly End,
Compline 7pm

Sunday March 5th: Holy Communion 9.15am, Evensong 6pm

Tuesday March 7th: Soup Lunch 12-2pm The Village Hall

Thursday March 9th: Holy Communion 10am, Compline 7pm

Sunday March 12th: Holy Communion 9.15am

Thursday March 16th: Holy Communion 10am,
Soup Lunch 12-2pm Vine Farm, Middletown
Compline 7pm

Sunday March 19th: Holy Communion 9.15am

Thursday March 23rd: Holy Communion 10am,
Soup Lunch 12-2pm Winnings Farm, Poffley End
Compline 7pm

Sunday March 26th: Mothering Sunday Holy Communion 9.15 am

Thursday March 30th: Holy Communion 10am
Soup Lunch 12-2pm Witheridge Farm
Compline 7pm



Wychwood Project feeds 10 tonnes of seed a year to local birds. We all love to see song-birds in our gardens, but many birds rely on farmland to survive the rigors of winter. The Wychwood Project's Bird Aid group runs feeding stations near Hailey and in half a dozen other locations across the old Wychwood Forest area. In the past 12 months some 20 volunteers fed around 10 tonnes of seed to at least 2000 overwintering birds.

A local farmer, Mike Kettlewell, is delighted with the improvement in bird numbers that the Wychwood Project's Bird Aid has helped to sustain on his land.

"The introduction of winter feeding and then year round millet, fed from hanging feeders, has been dramatic for winter numbers and birds remaining to breed. The winter supplementary bird feeding was at the inspired instigation and support of the Wychwood Bird Aid project and has continued for over 12 years.

The most dramatic effect has been on the winter numbers of farmland specialist birds such as chaffinches, yellowhammers, linnets, reed bunting, goldfinches and tree sparrows as well as skylarks and brambling. Mixed flocks of birds moving around the fields and hedges can number many hundreds particularly with the influx of continental migrants."

To get involved with the Wychwood Project's Bird Aid Group:

Visit www.wychwoodproject.org

phone: 01865 815423; email: wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk



www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject

Jumble sale held on 11 February

Ann Evans

Thank you to everyone who donated items and gave their help on the day. It raised £625 which has been split between the League of Friends of Witney Hospital and Base 33.

Knit and natter

Ann Evans

We will be doing this at the coffee morning on the first Friday of each month in the Village Hall. We have well over 200 squares to sew together so if you fancy a cuppa and a slice of Dawn's tasty cake, while sewing up the squares, you will be more than welcome. We also have a bring and buy stall and a raffle.

Second Tuesday Ladies

Doris Burton 702433

Our next meeting will be on March 14th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

To advertise or send an article

**Copy for the April issue is
required by 20th March**

It can either be taken to The Sidings' (next to
Middle Farm,) or
emailed to daburton@btinternet.com
Attachments in Word (.doc) are the most
convenient.

Charity Coffee Morning

Friday 3rd March, 10.00- 11.30 village hall.

.We donated £55-60 to Help the Heroes last month
March coffee morning will be in aid of Make a Mothers Day appeal.
Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Play Reading Group

David Burton

On February 8th we read "The Village Fete" by Peter Tinniswood, written in 1995. A rather repressed and unhappy family had moved to a house in the country where they met a very outspoken handyman and would-be philosopher called Winston who shocked them all into a much rosier outlook on life. A comedy with deeper undertones. I am still considering his breakfast menu of dripping toast and port wine.

Our next meeting will be on March 8th, 7.00pm at The Sidings. Any enquiries to Alan Bailey on 704271

For the Hailey Herald, choristers update your diaries please!

HAILEY SINGERS

Forthcoming Singing evenings, all at 7pm, Witheridge Farm unless noted:

Feb 22, March 2,16(7.30pm)and 29, April 11.

New recruits very welcome, much fun to be had!

JEREMY LEWIS 07973 260872
JeremyWLewis@aol.com

FIX THE FLOOR

Monica and Sue

Ladies, please put the 14th July in your diaries. We hope you will come to a

**Flower Arranging Demonstration by a NAFAS demonstrator
in St John's Church, Hailey,
in the morning, followed by Lunch in a garden if fine,
in the Village Hall if not..**

Should be a fun day. Full details later.

HAILEY ACTION GROUP.

Many of you are already aware that a group of concerned residents have come together to formalise objections to the proposed development off Priest Hill Lane and Charlbury Road.

The level of support within the community has been phenomenal- and we are keen to recruit as many members as possible to the cause!!

We are very aware of the requirement for affordable housing, but this proposal is not the way to evolve as a village community. We must ensure that developments within the village actually benefit LOCAL RESIDENTS, and not just the developer.

PLEASE, PLEASE help us STOP this development and stop Hailey becoming a suburb of Witney. Send your contact details to haileyactiongroup@gmail.com to enable us to keep you informed of the latest information regarding the proposal and how you can help.

We have set up a bank account to enable a co-ordinated objection. If you are able to donate ANYTHING, we will use the money to fund costs associated with the objection and process objection letters for the entire village. Please feel free to contact the email address for further information. We are still waiting for an ACCOUNT NUMBER and SORT CODE, but if you would like to make payment via cheque then please make cheques payable to HAILEY ACTION GROUP and drop the cheque to 21/22/23/25 Giernalls Road.

Together, we can beat this and prevent developers destroying our village!

Ben Mountfield HAILEY ACTION GROUP 22 Giernalls Road.

Witney Festival of Food & Drink

St Mary's Church, Witney

Saturday 20th May 2017

This year's Festival of Food & Drink will soon be with us so please do come and join us on the day!

We are always in need of items for the Tombola, so if you have recently sorted out your cupboards and have spare items (tins, boxes, jars of food or new food related items such as utensils, bowls or oven gloves) then we would really appreciate these.

Items can be dropped off at 25 New Road, Hailey or please phone me, Julie Clifford on 01993 864986 / 07710 410119 to arrange collection.

Proceeds from the Tombola will go towards the work of the Parish of Witney. For more information please visit the website at www.witneyfoodfestival.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival!

Many thanks, Julie

To Book Hailey Village Hall Please Ring 07873242063

Or Email HVHALLOX29@HOTMAIL.COM

News from the Gardening Club **Judith.knaggs@gmail.com 899125**

So near, yet so far! Everything's shooting, buds all over but not much to see yet. A bit of sunshine should work wonders. Resist the plug plants in the garden centres - unless you have a greenhouse or very large window sills - or you'll be replacing them when the frosts return! However the days are getting longer so time to get the new gardening year started. The Gardening Club's first event is **"The Wonders of Westonbirt", a talk by Martin Green on Monday 20 March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Free to members, visitors £2.** If you've never visited Westonbirt, come along for a preview. We have two more talks planned this year - on Monday 24 April with inspiration for "Plants, borders and gardens", everything you need in one easy lesson. In October, depending on how the seasons and the weather behave this year, you might be glad of "Pest and disease control without chemicals". See details of all our events in the Gardening Club's full programme included with this issue.

March is also membership renewal time. This year to celebrate our 60th Village Show we have extended this year's membership until September 2018 (at no extra cost). Expect a committee member to visit during the month. We will again be offering seeds to grow for the Plant Sale at the end of May. It is one of our most important fundraising events during the year so your support is vital.

We will all be sad to see the departure of our vicar, Neil Traynor, and his family but as they say "it's an ill wind..." Flats in London don't have gardens so all Neil's surplus gardening equipment will be donated to Wood Green School. We are always grateful to receive any tools in good condition so a huge "thank you" to Neil for helping us in our continued support of Wood Green School gardening group.

IS LOCAL NEWS IMPORTANT TO YOU BUT YOU ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY READING IT? DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

Witney Talking Newspaper (which is a registered charity founded in 1979) provides a free audio weekly talking news service for people living in West Oxfordshire who are visually impaired or who otherwise have difficulty holding and reading newspapers. We provide the listener with a free listening device which we deliver to your home and show you how to use, and which you keep for as long as you need. We post out to you a memory stick each week in a special padded envelope. You return it to us in the same ready-addressed envelope and Postage is free.

Each week a team of committed volunteers meet up in the Witney Methodist Church to record a one-hour programme drawn largely from the current Witney Gazette, and also including a short quiz, articles from the Faringdon Folly, Chipping Norton News and the Editor's choice of article as well as reports on local sport and a short Reflections item. We also produce two special audio magazines each year.

We are keen to make WTN known as widely as possible, so if you are having difficulty reading newspapers, or know of someone who might benefit from this excellent free service, please contact:
Peter Bee on 01993 703837 or Doreen Turner on 01993 200678 for further information.

to summer. My favourite time of year in Breach Wood. Last year, we had individual 5 orchids flowering in Breach Wood, of two different species. See if you can find them this year. (look, but don't touch, please). The population seems to be gradually increasing.

Of all the delights of summer, you have one special treat to look forward to; the AGM (sometime in June) will be held in Wytham Woods this year, accompanied by a guided tour of what is possibly the most-studied woodland in Europe. You will be able to time-travel to a sneak view of what your Breach Wood will look like 200 years hence. Everyone will be welcome, and details will appear in the Herald in due course. See you there. Sean Morris

Hailey Football Club

Martin Friend

Before we reach on field matters, we must say thank you to Blenheim Floorings for sponsoring the first team's new kit. My apologies for not reporting this last month but on behalf of Hailey F.C. a belated Thank You.

Now to on-field matters. The first team are in a relegation scrap following defeats by Charlbury 5-0, Kirtlington 3-2 and fellow strugglers Minster Lovell 4-1. These results meant that the latest match against Eynsham S & SC was crucial as Eynsham has similar problems. Hailey's relegation fears have somewhat eased following a 2-1 win.

The reserves had a two match winning run against Brize Norton and Chipping Norton reserves but it came to an abrupt end with a 5-0 thrashing by Witney Wanderers

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Middletown, Hailey.
contact no. 01993 778641



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Breach Wood has experienced a slightly different style of annual “haircut” this winter. In addition to the routine removal of Brambles and Old Man's Beard, and the machine-trimming of the hedges, the Trustees have carried out “upper pruning” of oaks, in order to encourage them to grow upwards rather than outwards. Consequently, the wood looks a bit of a mess, with oak-branches on the ground under the trees. It is our policy to leave trimmings on the ground, to rot down and contribute to soil-fertility. Same this time, but the trimmings are larger. Don't worry, the insects and fungi will tidy it all up for us...eventually.

With Breach Wood leafless, and the trees exposed, it is really apparent to see how the “sprinters” (Cherry, Birch, Poplar, Alder) have dramatically outgrown the “plodders” (Ash and Oak and Beech). The sprinters are already mature enough to produce seeds.....a few of the Ash, too, but the Oaks will hang fire for a few more years. Each species has evolved its own strategy. In a hundred years' time, the situation will be reversed, as the sprinters will be mature, or even on the way out, while the Ash, Oak, and Beech will grow on past them.....but with one proviso; The dreaded Ash Die-back has reached Breach Wood, so the future of Ash trees in Breach Wood is uncertain. A summary of the situation is as follows;

Ash Die-back (ADB) is now widespread in the UK, wherever Ash is found. It is not possible to prevent ADB from spreading (fungal spores are carried on the wind), or to eradicate it once it has arrived. ADB is unlikely to kill 100% of Ash trees (Denmark and Southern Sweden, with a similar climate to ours, experienced approximately 90% mortality). Breeding programmes to create strains of Ash that are resilient to ADB will take decades, and will be very expensive. However, seeds from the few local Ash that are naturally resistant to, and survive, ADB infection, may eventually re-establish Ash in Breach Wood. Fingers crossed, then, that some of our trees are resistant..... The arrival of ADB has fired that starting pistol for a new phase in the management of Breach Wood; Culling, or Thinning, of existing trees, to make space for the others to flourish. It so happens that the Ash infected so far by ADB have been the smallest, feeblest ones in Breach Wood, so, while culling approximately 150 (mainly Ash, but a few Oak as well) trees, we have coincidentally also removed many of those with ADB. However, expect to see the bulk of the remaining Ash to also succumb to ADB in the next few years.

Four years ago, the Trustees anticipated the arrival of ADB by planting other species in the areas of Breach Wood where Ash predominated, so that if/when the Ash vanish, we would not be confronted with areas with no trees. These are the saplings you see in their deer-guards, dotted around the wood. They are a mixture of Cherry, Poplar, Lime, Sweet Chestnut, Alder, Birch, Beech, along with a few Scots' Pine. We added another 25 saplings this winter. In addition, we have many wild-sown saplings taking root. If you are walking in Breach Wood, please do not remove the deer-guards from any of the small trees. Without a guard, the trees are quickly (within a few days) destroyed by deer, which rub the bark off the stems while scent-marking them. If you see a guard on the ground next to a tree, please put it back on. Neither of the two blocks of Hazel Coppice are ready for cutting this year. One block will be ready for coppicing next winter.

I know we are still in the grips of winter, but as I write this in early February, the Hazel catkins are already producing pollen, Thrushes are singing, and the resident pair of Blue Tits has staked its claim on the nest box in the “old tree”. By the time you read this, we will be on the cusp of spring, followed by the delightful transition from spring



HAILEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hailey, Witney, Oxon, OX29 9UB Tel: 01993 703802

Hailey School Governor Vacancies

Hailey Primary School is looking to recruit new members of its Governing Body from the Hailey parish. Being a governor is a challenging but rewarding role – not only is it a vital part of our school community, ensuring a safe, caring and effective education for our pupils, but it also gives a personal opportunity to develop your own skills and experience with a group of people all similarly committed to our lovely school.

Governors ensure that the school is accountable to the children and parents it serves, to its local community, to those who fund and maintain it as well as to the staff it employs. All skills and experience are welcome, but if people have finance or data skills and/or previous committee expertise, particularly chairing experience, then this would be very helpful.

If you are interested but want to know more, then please call the school. We are happy to provide more detail on the sorts of activities, responsibilities and time commitment involved. Please be reassured that all governors have access to training to help them carry out their role. Alternatively, information on the role of governors, the current governing body and governing body newsletters are all available on the school website:
<http://www.hailey.oxon.sch.uk/>

If you are unable to give the time commitment but know someone locally who may be interested in becoming a governor: a friend, a work colleague or family member, then please do urge them to get in touch.

Debbie Davies
Head Teacher

Sue Haywood
Chair of Governors

