

## **Wickwar Parish Council**

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

#### Minutes

A meeting was held for the above Council on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at the Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm

#### **Attended:**

Councillor M Summers (Chairman)  
Councillor M Cowley (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor I Aldous  
Councillor S Isaac  
Councillor A Carroll  
Councillor A Pennington

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor G Fielding

Ward Councillor M Lewis attended this meeting.

#### **Public Time Session**

Parishioners attending spoke to the Council on rights of access for horse riders in the Parish. Those attending requested the Parish Council and all interested parties attend a working party group, dates and attendees to be agreed. The Clerk will announce this in the next available Parish Magazine.

- 1. Annual Report Chairman**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 2. Annual Report from the District Ward Councillor**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 3. Financial Report to the 31st March 2016**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 4. Report from the Alexander Hosea School LEA Governor**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 5. Report from representatives of Lower Woods.**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 6. Report NHW**  
Given verbally at this meeting. Transcript attached.
- 7. Report from Wickwar Educational Foundation**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached

- 8. Report from King George V Playing Fields**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 9. Report from the Community Centre Management**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 10. Report Wickwar PROW Committee**  
Verbal report. Transcript attached.
- 11. Police Report**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 12. Wickwar Parish open & closed Cemetery**  
Read out at this meeting. No sent to PC
- 13. Wickwar Speed Watch**  
**Verbal report. Transcript attached**
- 14. Wickwar Youth Club**  
Read out at this meeting. Report attached
- 15. Wickwar Playing Fields Association**  
Read out at this meeting. Attached
- 16. Wickwar Out of School Club**  
Report read out at this meeting. Attached
- 17. Wickwar Brownies**  
Report read out at this meeting. Attached
- 18. Holy Trinity Church**  
Report read out at this meeting. Attached

## **Annual Report – Wickwar Parish Council Chairman – Mr M Summers**

Wickwar Parish Council's Chairman's report for Annual Parish Meeting on 19th May 2016.

'Nobody's perfect, all of the time; nobody's perfect, we are what we are'. A song by one of my favourite groups, Mike and the Mechanics. Also, I heard on an episode of Cold Case someone say 'We don't know everything about everything'. What I'm getting at is that we Councillors and our Clerk are just ordinary people from this Parish. We've probably acquired skills to some degree throughout our lives and they might help with what we do, but no guarantees. As Councillors we've given our time as volunteers to do our best for our Parish. That might not always be the best, perhaps due to legislation, regulations, etc., etc., but we like to think we are more often right than wrong. Our Clerk is usually the source of reference for us and that can come from many sources available to all Clerks. So, we like to think we always have the best interests of our Parish in mind when decision making and we have the support from our parishioners.

Last year we had the usual four-yearly elections. We had previously lost two Councillors before the end of their term of office, one with the death of Roger Stimpson, the other being David Howard, who resigned due to certain issues. Also, our illustrious Chairman, Terry Proffit, decided not to put himself forward for re-election, considering age was against him to undertake another four years. All had valuable input and will be missed. It happened, again, that no actual election was necessary as applications were only made by six individuals. That included the new names of Michael Cowley and Gareth Fielding. To complete the complement, Andy Pennington responded to an advert (although he wasn't the only one) and was accepted to complete the full seven Councillors needed. In their first year all three have settled in very well and I feel blessed we still have a very good Council in operation. I'm very pleased that Ian Aldous, Angie Carroll and Stephen Isaac were happy to take on another term, so consolidating cohesion.

There are some items to make comment about:

### The Town Hall

It is in the course of rectifications, which should see works completed by the end of this Summer. Additionally, we are exploring ways the premises can be developed to meet 21st Century needs without losing the original character.

### The King George V Playing Fields

The loss of the village cricket club was very sad and has had an impact of the field's management. We will be looking at how we can maximise its usage for the future but, obviously, hope that another cricket club might 'rise from the ashes'. The pavillion has been redecorated and we've had good reports from the football club. Communication with the club was a bit troublesome at one point, but we seem to be good now.

### Youth Centre

Deliberately, the Council has been building up a sum of money to help the Centre continue to operate if the funding provided by South Gloucestershire Council becomes exhausted. We believe the Centre is a very important part of the community and should remain operational as long as possible. Ian will say more in his report later.

### Quarry on the Downs Road

The liaison group meetings provide valuable communication outlets that have, for some while now, enabled very good relations to be the 'norm'. Complaints are now a rarity and, if there was to be any, are taken seriously and acted upon by Cemex. With excavation moving away from the village (although that means towards Churchend) blastings and vibration are not so evident.

### Planning applications

For those applications that there is a need, we make site visits and send comments to South Gloucestershire Council. Much as we'd like to at times, we can't be emotive. There is legislation and

regulations that control the decisions made, but we hope we have some influence on design and environmental issues. There are concerns on how the large-scale development at Brimsham Park will affect the local infrastructure and we do our best to make the Planning Department aware and take on board how to address the inevitable impact. Time will tell.

#### Wickwar Spring Clean

It was good to see all those who turned up to help. It was not so good to see how much rubbish they all collected. I'm sure we all have a sense of pride in our neighborhood, so I would urge all to pick up whatever they come across (if practical) and so keep it all clean and tidy. O.k., I know the waste collectors don't help and the weather can be troublesome, but that shouldn't be a reason to ignore it.

#### Web site

It was in need of a re-vamp. Apologies for the hiatus whilst we were working on a newer and, hopefully, more user-friendly version, which should be available very soon now.

#### The Beacon

After the previous occasion of its usage, when it came near to being burnt to the ground, repairs were made to make it much more durable. This was shown to be successful with its lighting again on 21st April to acknowledge our Queen's actual 90th birthday. A pleasing turn-out by a couple of hundred people.

To finish, I thank my fellow Councillors for their support and our Clerk, Pat, for all her hard work. Also, thank you to our South Gloucestershire Council member for Ladden Brook, Marian Lewis, for her valued input and being a conduit for issues we have.

Wickwar Parish Council thanks Mr Kevin Bateman for the kind donation of the Parish Notice Board, it has been a wonderful addition for the Parish.

P.S. Don't forget the photograph competition.

P.P.S. We'll soon have wi-fi capability in this building.

## **Report to Wickwar Parish Meeting – 19th May 2016 – Ward Councillor M Lewis**

To keep you up to date with what's been going on in South Glos generally:

**Devolution:** The idea is that the four unitary authorities of S Glos, Bath and NES, North Somerset and Bristol get together to form 'The West of England Partnership' and once that can be agreed, we, as a group, shall have access to some £900M and shall be collaborating on road infrastructure, housing and training schemes. We shall also have to have a Regional Mayor, an idea not universally welcomed. North Somerset has not committed to the scheme yet.

**Waste Management:** We are just about hitting our recycling target at present, but more is required in the near future, and following random tests, we have found far too many recyclable items in the black general waste bins. Teams have done all they can to encourage public participation, but, for example, 23% of black bin content is still food waste. For this reason, the plan is to reduce the size of the black bins, still collect fortnightly, but collect ALL recyclables weekly.

**Speeding traffic:** Problems with speeding traffic in the village continue, but experience shows that whatever we do, there will always be irresponsible drivers who will drive too fast. The 20mph restriction in the vicinity of the school should be in place soon.

**Housing developments.** It was announced last June that S Glos had enough potential housing sites in the pipeline – in places like Filton Airport, North Yate and Lyde Green – so that they wouldn't require any substantial numbers of houses to be built in the villages. This situation changed rapidly when it was discovered that S Glos did not have a 5-year land bank - which would deliver enough completed homes within 5 years. This means that many developers are now submitting 'expressions of interest' for sites not previously in the S Glos Local Plan. No specific applications have been received yet, but some interest has been shown to the south of the village.

**Infrastructure:** Plans are going forward for the proposed new motorway link off Westerleigh Road at Emerson's Green to ease the peak time congestion on the Ring Road. The new Metrobus route is now under construction as users of the M32 will have noticed.

The quarterly Area Forum meetings have been discontinued, as has the funding for New Homes Bonus, the Positive Activities Subsidy, and the Local Transport Priority Scheme. The Area Forums have been amalgamated with the SSCG meetings, and are now called Community Engagement Forums. We are now in the Charfield, Cromhall, Rangeworthy group. I think it's worth mentioning that replacing the New Homes Bonus is CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and this will enable money to be passed to Parish Councils when new building projects happen in their areas. I understand the levy is £80 per sq meter and parish councils will get 10% of this.

### **LIBRARIES**

The cost of our library service has to be reduced. The net annual running cost is £2.6M and we need to reduce this by £650,000. The consultation period on this scheme has now closed.

Whilst this does not affect Ladden Brook directly as none of our villages has a library, we SHALL be affected if the Mobile Library service is withdrawn.

The Mobile Library is the most expensive part of the service and it costs £80,000 pa. Of the people who use the Mob Lib, 87% also used a static library, leaving 101 unique users, at a cost of £792 each pa.

This is clearly not sustainable, and the proposal is that these vulnerable residents would be supported by the 'Home Visit Service' which is already in operation. Wickwar is to be congratulated upon setting up a free book exchange service at the Town Hall.

Marian Lewis – Ward Councillor for Ladden Brook - May 2016

**Wickwar Parish Council's accounts- Chairman Mr M Summers**

To the best of my knowledge the Clerk has been efficiently and accurately undertaking the accounting responsibilities in accordance with regulations, such that I am satisfied the accounts truly show the financial activities of the Council throughout the last financial year ending 31st March. I should add that the previous year's accounts were signed off by the auditors without requiring change or comment.

**Gareth Fielding.**

**AHS,**

**Wickwar School Governor.**

Another really good year for our school.

We are working towards an outstanding grading from Ofsted at next inspection.

We have established evidence of high both quality teaching and learning. We are rightly optimistic.

Currently the School has 211 pupils. Expect this number to increase with new houses being built all around us. We have some capacity. But watch this space!

This is the "Year of Science" for the school.

There have been a number of events around this, from following and interacting with Tim Peak's mission in Space to trips to Bristol Zoo and visits from the RSPB, and many others.

We have had lots of educational visits and visitors to support the curriculum.

We have been working on the learning environment across the school to support children's learning - communication spaces in classrooms and outside. So not just teaching the children. But thinking about how we teach them and making improvements where we can.

We also amazingly have new outdoor gym equipment. This should increase the fitness levels of the children - great success so far - very popular. We have the most fantastic outdoor sports environment for the children and this only makes it better.

We had a positive response from parent questionnaires in the last few weeks. Parents rated the school leadership and management, teaching and learning and behaviour and safety very highly. No specific worries or follow ups needed.

We have a very stable senior teaching team. Governors and Friends of School both dynamic and supportive organisations - and well attended. The new business manager has fitted in excellently.

The children have participated in a whole range of events outside school, from the Thornbury Eisteddfod, the Bloodhound (Airbus) project, overnight trips to Kilve Court and even celebrating the Chinese New Year. In sport we have had great success at football, in cross country and swimming and we put on lots of Christmas plays and concerts which seemed to go down really well!

We look forward to the exams coming up - sort of - and next year one of the Governors will join to present this in person.

Apologies for this year's absence.

Gareth Fielding.

Vice Chair.

AHS,

Wickwar School Governor.



## **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

### **Lower Woods Nature Reserve**

#### **Report for Wickwar Annual Parish Meeting 2016**

##### **1. People**

Neil Lodge's assistant Dave, who has led on firewood production, has left to set up his own business. March saw his replacement Lewis Goldwater start work, three days a week in Lower Woods. Lewis has experience with Natural England, National Trust and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and in his own time is a green woodworker making and selling a range of items. He will take over responsibility for most fund-raising activities in the woods, thus freeing up Neil's time for woodland management. These activities will include running courses and cordwood and firewood production.

##### **2. Ash Dieback**

This fungal disease which leads to the eventual death of nearly all Ash it attacks, continues to spread eastwards and northwards across the country but although it has appeared within a few miles to both the north and south of Lower Woods it has yet to make its appearance here. This is only a matter of time and may well be 2016. The speed with which it will spread through the woods is unknown but younger trees generally die more quickly than mature Ash, which can take many years to succumb.

GWT has produced a policy for Ash Dieback on its nature reserves but unfortunately there is no cure and thus there is little to be done except address health and safety issues around dead/dying trees, monitoring tolerance to the disease which is likely to be exhibited by a very small percentage of Ash, surveying the effects on wildlife and ecology in the woods and undertaking in due course a range of mitigation measures such as replanting where appropriate.

During the winter felling of Ash associated with the coppicing work in particular has been much reduced. This is to protect Ash stools as coppice regrowth is very susceptible to the disease, plus to ensure that in due course we maximise the pool of trees which may show tolerance to the disease. Felling of other canopy trees such as Poplar has also been limited in order to reduce the amount of open areas which could result from extensive Ash death.

##### **3. Woodland Management**

Coppicing in Crews and Oakhall has been ongoing throughout the winter with the main aim of bringing old neglected Hazel coppice back into rotation and improving their value to wildlife. This work has largely been carried out by the Thursday volunteer group. Fencing these areas against deer has now commenced.

Ride restoration has been carried out focussing on Longs and Musgrave's trenches. A 'nameless' trench has now been named after Don Watts the former Badminton estate forester who managed work in Lower Woods over many years. A glade was created and an Oak log seat positioned near a carved name board. Don's family were invited along for a simple commemoration ceremony. Various useful work in the woods has and continues to be carried out by groups from companies such as Intel and also Occupational Therapy groups.

Many trenches (rides) were cut at appropriate times during the summer and autumn to improve their value to wildlife such as woodland flowers and butterflies.

The hedge dividing the Lodge meadows has been laid and fenced by the volunteers.

Oak trees grown from acorns gathered in the woods have been planted in gaps where appropriate amongst the coppiced areas.

Many of the way-marking posts in the woods have become obscured by vegetation and some are damaged. Maintenance is to be carried out as soon as possible in time for the Summer season. Deer and squirrel damage in the woods is significant and highly damaging to other wildlife. Following a major survey undertaken last year of the impact of deer on the woods, GWT is considering how best to manage the increasing deer population.

The Lower Woods Management Plan has taken much longer than expected to finalise but we are just about there now. It is a major and comprehensive piece of work with many different contributors. The final piece of work is to marry the action plan with the main body of the Plan.

#### 4. Woodland Produce

The extent of cut firewood sales is to be reduced as delivery is very time consuming. However, deliveries will still be made to the communities local to Lower Woods, including Wickwar of course. To replace the cut firewood logs will instead be sold as cordwood from the yard, using a tendering process. This is much less labour intensive.

Firewood and cordwood sales are to be managed in future directly from GWT headquarters at Gloucester, which will free up further time of Neil and Lewis at Lower Woods.

Poplar logs have been sold to a S. Wales timber company.

Charcoal production utilises smaller-sized wood which would otherwise go to waste. This is done in our own kiln in the yard and it is planned to increase production to at least six 'burns' annually. A Lower Woods charcoal bag has been designed and the bagged charcoal will be available for local sales as well contracts for larger quantities.

Lewis will also be utilising a range of Lower Woods produce for his green woodworking activities and of course the usual bean and pea sticks etc will still be available for local sales.

#### 5. Surveys

A range of surveys have taken place on trees, woodland and grassland flora through the year.

A major survey and subsequent report on deer impact and damage in the woods took place last Summer/Autumn, which is informing deer management planning.

Currently a bat habitat survey is in progress, bluebell surveys are planned where tree felling will take place and surveys of woodland flora in North Elms will take place this Spring/early Summer.

#### 6. Events and Courses

A large Yurt has been procured with the help of a grant from Cory. This wooden and canvas structure will be erected in the yard and will form an ideal base for a variety of courses, including for teenagers both from local areas but also deprived areas of Gloucester.

GWT have information on their website and in a leaflet of the full range of events and courses which are available in Lower Woods.

#### 7. Lodge access track

The track is again in a terrible state with potholes. GWT does not own the track but takes the initiative for its management and repair. The only solution, now agreed, is to have it re-laid and regraded, and GWT is looking for grants to help achieve this solution for the long term.

Bill Heslegrave, on behalf of Neil Lodge and the Lower Woods Management Group.

May 2016

## **Report NHW – Mr P Revill**

Wickwar Neighbourhood Watch is in danger of folding. It appears no one is able to help to run the organisation.

There is no co-operation from the Police. Information comes from village informants and not the Police. NHW has not has an AGM for three years.

If this village wants a NHW then local people should be interested in coming forward.

**Wickwar Educational Foundation. Mr M Summers**

I have represented Wickwar Parish Council since the Foundation's meeting in June last year. Up to now my input has been nominal; more the case of getting to grips with procedures. The January meeting is the main one where grants are agreed and, as far as I am aware, all applicants were successful. From early 2004 there have been revised guidelines on how much, and to whom, grants can be given. This was explained to me that it is due to the lower returns on investments and savings, which continue to be the case. Even so, modest amounts of capital have occasionally been used, prudently, to allow agreed grants to be paid out. Any details people might need can be obtained from Graham Teague, the Chairman

## **REPORT – KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS.**

The Pavilion has recently been decorated and the toilets and shower area ungraded and the kitchen has been totally refurbished which has meant that the facility is more up to date.

The main user of the facilities at the Playing Field is Wickwar Football Club, and due to their season lasting longer they have been able to hire the fields longer due to the fact that the Wickwar Cricket Club disbanded the previous year.

The Parish Council had to take down the Cricket Nets for safety reasons.

The regular cutting of the fields has given the Playing Fields have given the area a well-presented appearance.

The Children's Play Area has passed its annual ROSPA Inspection but one of the more recent pieces of equipment, the wooden swing, has broken due to what appears to be rotten wood. This has been dismantled and the Parish Council are pursuing the matter with the manufacturers of the equipment.

The Playing Fields and Pavilion are available for future hiring's should any village interest wish to do so.

Councillor Ian Aldous.

## **REPORT – WICKWAR COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Community Centre has had another busy year and are still encountering the same issues as in previous years, namely, lack of storage space for our two main hirers, Wickwar Pre-School and Wickwar Out of School Club.

The Centre has been redecorated earlier this year which has improved the appearance of the building.

The planned extension for a disabled toilet near the entrance is still ongoing and plans are currently being drawn up.

There is still some scope for future hiring's in the evening and at weekends.

The Community Centre is financial sound and looking forward to the future.

Chairman Community Centre Management Committee

Ian Aldous.

**Wickwar Parish Council – Public Rights of Way Group**

Wickwar Parish Council holds a monthly Parish Walk on a Sunday morning starting at 9.30am, and advertises this on the Parish Notice Board, web site and Parish Magazine.

Councillors, Clerk and Parishioners choose a route where issues might have been reported as having access problems.

We undertake simple works such as clearing gateways and overgrowth. Any other problems encountered which we cannot deal with are reported to South Glos Council.

Wickwar Parish Council promotes health and wellbeing, and we encourage people to walk in our beautiful countryside.

P Trull – Parish Clerk

## **Wickwar parish report May 2016 – PCSO Haley Bromley**

In the past five months we have seen the below incidents reported to the police:

26/02- Theft of tyres from Citroen garage

20-21/04- Shed break, chainsaw taken

24/04/- Arson at farm, believed linked to a series around the force

30/04-03/05- Damage to the village hall window

03/05- Theft of tyres from Citroen garage

12-13/05- Sus men seen in the village last week

Wickwar had a number of burglaries at the tail end of 2015. Two people were arrested and charged to court for the offenses. Gloucestershire police also suffered a number of burglaries which occurred in the same time frame and similar MO

We have had a report of one dog bite offence in the village which is currently still being investigated following the report at the start of May 2016.

We have also had a number of incidents reported to the police relating to domestic issues, neighbour disputes and public order offences.

We are continuing to patrol Wickwar playing fields and the church car park area in search of ASB/ drug offences. So far this has been negative.

There are currently no crime trends; however, we did see a spate of vehicle breaks in a nearby village (Cromhall) within the last two weeks. Tools which had been left in work vehicles were the target.



## **Wickwar Cemetery Reports 2015/16**

### Closed cemetery

We have watched the grass and Wildflowers trying to make a comeback this year. Bulbs seeds and plants that were planted to replace some of the lost flora has worked and we had some Fritillaries back again and naturalized Daffs so not all was lost. The Moon Daisies had a very poor showing last summer but hoping for a better display this year. We shall leave plants to self-seed and mow a circular path again to the bench and back.

We also plan to plant some more wildflower seeds up there in the Autumn.

There is a small amount of tree work to be done this year if possible, just trimming back.

We also had the interment of ashes of one of the Arnold family at their family grave. The Clerk and myself represented the PC.

### Open Cemetery

Firstly, I have to say the bollards we so desperately needed were erected with the help of Cemex late Spring. They have made a fantastic difference and prevented the couple of cars that insisted on driving along the paths from doing so.

A lot of Parishioners who visit the Cemetery regularly were, very relieved but all found it upsetting. The bollards have been beautifully painted and inscriptions put on them by Councillor Cowley's artist wife Sandra. It gives a feeling of uplift I think and so do villagers., I have spoken to many villagers up there and they have all expressed their like and gratitude. Not just for the bollards but for Sandra's artwork!

On a not so happy note, sadly we lost a lot of Daffodil flowers this Spring in the clumps we, Parish councillors and Clerk, have planted over the last few Autumns, as one of Mr. Howse employees unfortunately strimmed them back last year while they were finishing flowering, but Mr. Howse will replace the bulb clumps that did not come back this year.

Otherwise he has kept the Cemeteries looking very nice and tidy, with a few extra cuts as well as it grows so fast up there.

We have had to write to a couple of families where relatives have put surrounds and gravel on graves and Cremation headstones. This is not allowed as per our regulations and they have been cleared away by the families.

Some of the headstones laid down due to health and safety have been repaired and stood back up, but others remain laid down as no family to contact.

I do however think we need to get some contingency plans in place as to what we should do when Cemetery is full as ground has to be prepared.

Angie Carroll

### **Wickwar Speed Watch**

Speed watch continues to thrive in Wickwar and we believe we really do make a difference to slowing down the traffic. Speed watch is a community project run by volunteers.

We are supported by Avon and Somerset police, but as with the NHW we have very little contact or support. However, they do process the data sent to them and speeding motorists are sent letters and are apparently monitored.

Speed watch has an amazing committee, and the dedication of the Chairman Mr John Pearce is to be commended. John also undertakes the training and support for all volunteers.

The Committee has been successful in gaining grant aid for training, speed watch kit and bin stickers. Its hard work and we are all volunteers, but give our time for our communities.

P Trull – Wickwar Speed Watch

## REPORT – WICKWAR YOUTH CENTRE.

Since taking over the Wickwar Youth Centre from South Gloucestershire Council in 2013 the Management Committee have become a Registered Charity to assist them in their Fund Raising. South Gloucestershire Council financially assisted the Centre for the first three years but there was some doubt about the assistance in this financial year but after much lobbying to the Council this was recently agreed for this year. It is apparent that there still is some doubt about future years so extra effort will be required to get funding for future years.

The Youth Leader left at the end of last year but we now have a new Leader, Natalie Rolfe who is very keen to develop the Youth Centre. The Management Committee have also had a new Youth Assistant start recently and are assisting her through her courses.

The Youth Centre are very appreciative of Cemex Quarry who have assisted financially to repair the Youth Centre Boundary wall.

Also, we thank all our supporters who help us financially.

There has been a slight drop off in numbers attending the Centre but it is hoped to rectify that in the coming year.

Val Johnson our Chairman and Trustee has recently resigned due to ill health. Val was a driving force in the running of the Youth Centre for many years.

Trustee Ian Aldous.

## WICKWAR PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

### **CHAIRMAN**

*Mr J Broad  
97 Inglestone Road  
Wickwar  
Wotton-Under-Edge  
Gloucestershire  
GL12 8PH*

### **CHAIRMAN**

*Mr J Broad  
97 Inglestone Road  
Wickwar  
Wotton-Under-Edge  
Gloucestershire  
GL12 8PH  
Tel: 01454 294051*

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

*Mr J McAleese  
47 High Street  
Wickwar  
Wotton-Under-Edge  
Gloucestershire  
GL12 8NP  
Tel: 01454 294539*

### **TREASURER**

*Mr K Ashworth  
15 Burleigh Way  
Wickwar  
Wotton –Under-Edge  
Gloucestershire  
GL12 8LR  
Tel: 01454 299296*

Sunday, 15 May 2016

Wickwar Annual Parish Meeting 2016

Good evening,

On behalf of the Trustees of Wickwar Playing Fields Association I would like to provide you with an update of the trusts activities this year. We are delighted to report that the playing fields are going from strength to strength and the public use of the fields is increasing as each year goes by.

From the outset the ambition was to take the litter strewn agricultural field and make it a place for residents to enjoy sporting and recreation activities, this ambition is now coming to fruition. Obtaining planning permission for sporting and recreational use came with a number of conditions which have been gradually ticked off. The main conditions were that before we could play sporting fixtures on the field access visibility and car parking facilities were to be made available.

We are therefore delighted to say that this season Wickwar Wanderers Football Club has been playing regular weekend fixtures on the field for the first time. Both the U10's and U11's football teams have been using the pitch for Saturday and Sunday fixtures. The considerable efforts of the football club are ensuring reduced wear on the King George V pitches and the improved condition of our pitch over the last season. The Run England 3-2-1 Trim Trail is getting regular use by runners, joggers and walkers.

The Wickwar Games organised by a joint committee comprising of WPFA Wickwar Wunners, Friends of Wickwar Church, Friends of AHS, Wickwar Pre-School and Wickwar Toddlers representatives was held in July. The Games were a roaring success and provided great enjoyment for the dozens of individuals and families who attended. This year's highlight was the Its-a-Knockout competition organised by Caroline Baker.

In addition to the sporting activities the Allotments are thriving, the Apiary has a full complement of hives and the Traditional Gloucestershire orchard is maturing with additional varieties being added when available.

To enable these facilities and the whole field to be maintained it is essential that storage facilities are made available for maintenance, sporting and recreational equipment. To this end, this year we have obtained planning permission and building regulation approval for the new Groundsmans Store. Once again we appreciate the assistance of a number of residents of the village who are providing temporary storage of equipment and machinery that we currently possess. We are delighted to say that as this report is being written work on the foundations has just commenced.

Our Trustees are very appreciative of the overwhelming support we receive from the village at large and the exceptional skills of a number of residents who provide advice, assistance, equipment and expertise out of pure kindness. In addition we would like to thank, South Gloucestershire Council, Frome Vale Area Forum, Gloucestershire playing Fields Association and Fields in Trust for their assistance and ongoing support.

Kind regards,

John

John Broad  
Chairman  
Wickwar Playing Fields Association

## **Wickwar out of School Club**

Wickwar Out of School Club (WOOSC) is registered with Ofsted (Registration No136114) and is run as a not for profit organisation. Our aim is for the club to be accessible to the children and families from all sections of our local community. We pride ourselves on offering a safe and secure environment, with a range of activities to reflect the interests of the children in our care. Our Club follows the Play work Principles, so the children are free to choose activities and resources as they wish.

WOOSC are based in The Olive Pollard Community Rooms adjacent to the Alexander Hosea School in Wickwar. Although not directly affiliated with the school, we enjoy a close working relationship with them and maintain good communication links. This ensures continuity of care and a smooth transition between school and club at each session. Our opening hours are from 7.50 am until 9.00 am and 3.30 pm until 6.00 pm weekdays, during term time. We also offer some holiday care from 8.00 am till 6 pm according to demand. Children from other local schools are also welcome at our Holiday Club sessions.

## **Report from 1st Wickwar Brownies**

Last September saw the opening of a brownie unit here within Wickwar, using the community rooms as a venue for unit meetings. Starting off with a small group of 11 girls from 7 to 10 years of age, we started off on our Brownie adventure. We have seen a big increase in our numbers to now 24 regular girls attending weekly meetings. The girls enjoyed a sleepover experience, when I was even allowed to lie in on the Sunday, to various badges being awarded from Friends to Animals, Cooks, Arts and swimmer. With 2016 being the centenary of our senior section it was decided that we would join in by concentrating on the Mission Spectacular which has been a little challenging for the brownies with last week seeing them work as individual teams on a cooking competition making either smoothies or pizza. Very tasty creations were sampled by everyone. Good work girls.

Next term we will be working with the school helping create some flower arrangements for everyone to enjoy, also another sleepover is planned with a BBQ for family members.

It has been a pleasure using the community rooms enabling us to join the rainbows in the village but it may mean in the near future looking for somewhere more accessible for both sections of girl guiding. A big thank you from us all.

## **Holy Trinity Church Wickwar**

After 18 years of being here in Wickwar it is my pleasure to offer a report on the life of the church for the first time.

As you will know, Holy Trinity is part of a 5 parish Benefice, or group, including Rangeworthy, Charfield, Kingswood and Hillesley, under my incumbency and with the assistance of an assistant House for duty priest, a curate in training and a licensed reader. And we have groups of lay people that can take family services and other events here and there. In the main we accomplish at least one service a week in each of the churches not least Wickwar. We also have a student on placement from Trinity College Bristol for a few weeks each year.

Over the last year we have refreshed our monthly family service and re-activated our Sunday school, known as S Club, and our monthly weekday service for pre-school children, toddlers praise, is well supported and is often a way we meet families for the first time.

Our traditional and mainstream worship continues in the form of early morning said communions from the traditional Book of Common Prayer and the later 11am service, a family communion service using the current and seasonal forms of worship in contemporary language with well-known hymns.

Annual services such as Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Crib services, Carol services and Midnight mass are exceptionally well supported, and numbers from this last year were amongst the highest attendances.

But church is not all about numbers and a lot of work, support and visiting goes on behind the scenes and mostly unnoticed save to those to whom it is directed.

We have a monthly service in Wickwar Care home alongside seasonal events. And we have a monthly Tea at three for those in the Avon Crescent sheltered housing in their community room. The school enjoys visits from our assembly team called 'Open the Book' and assemblies from me alongside seasonal church visits and it is always a joy to have the church filled with parents and children for their Christmas production.

The church is still sought after regularly for weddings, baptisms and funerals. And it has been my experience that folk are really grateful for the opportunity to celebrate life's moments in the surroundings of the church and with the particular accent that a church service can bring to such occasions. Once a year on the first Sunday in November we have an evening service for those who wish to quietly remember folk who are no longer with us and that event has a particularly strong following as people light countless candles filling the chancel symbolically with memory and thanksgiving.

Many people use our ancient building privately during the day and Brian Quinlan unlocks and locks up on a daily basis to enable that. We have had some security and safety issues over this year particularly, but that seems to have subsided and we persist in making the church as available as we can.

Rev. David Russell