

The Future of the Wychwood Library

As many of you will know, Wychwood Library is one of 21 in the county which will deliver services differently from April 2015, with community and volunteer support for staff in the running of the library.

The Library will remain part of the existing network of 43 libraries in Oxfordshire that will continue to be funded, managed and run by the County Council - unlike in other counties, no libraries in Oxfordshire are being closed. The Library Service is working closely with your local Parish Councils, and the 'Friends of Wychwood Library', to develop a plan that will work for our

library and to shape the future of how the library will be run.

It is likely that Library Volunteers will be sought in due course, and people are very much encouraged to join the 'Friends of Wychwood Library'.

To find out more, please contact James Hazlewood, the county council's Community Libraries Coordinator, on: james.hazlewood@oxfordshire.gov.uk. We will keep everyone updated as matters progress, but in the meantime, watch this space!

Rodney Rose
County Councillor for Charlbury
and Wychwood

Neighbourhood Watch

Thames Valley Police have recently re-launched the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in West Oxfordshire. The aim is: "to reduce crime and the opportunities for criminals, to reduce the fear of crime and to promote community spirit."

All well and good I hear you thinking but what has that got to do with me and can I really make a difference? The answer is a lot and yes you can. One example, last summer - an elderly neighbour of mine was pestered by a 'gentleman' at his door who showed him some roof tiles that had supposedly fallen from his roof and was demanding money to replace them. His carer happened to arrive at that moment, told the 'gentleman' to clear off and rang the police. Within half an hour the police arrived and later apprehended the man trying the same thing in another part of the village.

Without that prompt action who knows how many elderly folk in the area would have been taken in? So, let's get down to

the nitty-gritty. The way Neighbourhood Watch is being organised is to appoint a village co-ordinator (yours truly for Shipton), supported by area co-ordinators responsible for manageable areas who would then be responsible for recruiting members and passing on messages. The latter hopefully achieved by persuading members to either sign up to the Thames Valley alert scheme or agreeing to their co-ordinator passing information by e-mail.

In Shipton we are looking for about 12 to 14 area co-ordinators so if you are interested, please give me a ring on: 01993 831127. I would be happy to call round to discuss in detail if required. Additionally if you are a resident of the other villages and would like to set up a similar scheme in your village please ring and I will be happy to put you in touch with the relevant person to set the ball rolling.

Terry Wilson