

WENDLEBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2013
WENDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL
19.30

BOWLER'S COPSE (Wendlebury Woodland Project volunteers)

Since Autumn 2003 the main work of clearing and replanting the copse with hazel is completed. It will be another six to seven years before we can say that the copse is properly mature and productive as each of the sections needs to complete to cycles of growth and harvest before we have a fully re-established copse.

In the meantime we will still be maintaining the copse during each winter (November to March); repairing fences to keep out muntjac deer and rabbits who like the new growth and giving some areas their first harvest.

A maintained copse was essential to villages in earlier times – before the advent of easy transport and cheap plastic materials. Bowler's Copse was very much bigger before enclosure in the 18th Century with the name on the old map and still on modern OS maps today. With the resurgence of interest in sustainability and maintaining a 'low carbon' lifestyle we hope that younger parents will be interested in using the copse to teach their children how sustainability works in practice and using natural materials from as close to the village as possible.

At the moment the volunteers are all retired. As the 6-7 year cycles for each section between harvesting go on obviously younger volunteers will be able to make use of the copse materials in the traditional manner by making garden fencing, cutting sets of bean poles, making gates and even charcoal. We have the tools and people have developed interesting traditional skills. We could transfer them to you.

Between now and the beginning of November 2013 we will be having a gate making day in the copse in MAY as we had to cancel the planned event. A flyer will go round about this. We are investigating the idea of a notice or display board in the copse so that visitors walking through can see the idea behind the activity there. The Parish Council has offered some funding to help us with this and so has Chesterton Parish Council. We hope to have news next year. Thank you. Jane Burrett

HAZEL: CATKINS, LEAVES and HAZEL NUTS



