

WEST OXFORD NEWS

26

May 1978

Adventure Playground Willow Walk?

CITY OFFICIALS MIGHT consider favourably a proposal to build an adventure playground in one of the local recreation grounds. This probability emerged from a recent discussion reported to the Community Association by the community education worker, Di Parkin. Such a scheme might just entail some play equipment for older children, rather than supervised or enclosed facilities as in South Oxford, but local parents should voice their opinions on what is needed: the children too will have their ideas.

JUBILEE CASH?

Approval for this kind of scheme would not of course necessarily mean any backing in cash or kind. Is this something the Oatlands Road Jubilee Committee would support - or that the three local Jubilee committees would get together on? The Jubilee Appeal was for the benefit of youth.

Parents are however already saying that the idea needs a closer look. The site which the City's recreation manager is understood to favour is adjacent to the existing play equipment opposite the end of Oatlands Road. But is this site too close to the river, and too near the younger children's equipment? Some people have argued before for an 'adventure playground' by Willow Walk, where the ditch and trees already prove an attraction for children: this is County Council land, so permission would need to be obtained from them before anything could be done.

No radio mast

The proposal to put two 150ft masts and aerial and a one-storey equipment building on land at Medley Manor Farm, Binsey Lane has been turned down, following further consultation with the local branch of Radio Electrical and Television Retailers' Association and the BBC. The Planning Committee's decision was referred to a meeting of the full council on 24th April and adopted. The reasons for refusal were that the mast would spoil the view from the west of the city and particularly from Wytham Hill. It was not felt that reception of Radio Three in Oxford after the rearrangement of frequencies would be bad enough to warrant building the mast in the Green Belt.

Youth Club back on its feet

The last issue of WON reported that the youth club had closed down. We are pleased that this closure was short-lived. At the beginning of May the club reopened - or rather, two new clubs opened: seniors (14-18) on Thursday nights, and juniors (11-14) on Tuesday nights.

The clubs reopened thanks to the enthusiastic support of our two leaders, John Griffiths and Steve Park, as well as the students from Westminster and some of the elder lads.

We are sorry that so few parents or local residents came to the meetings to discuss the club. This means that we will still have problems running the club in the summer when the students are away.

Please help West Oxford kids keep their clubs open. Contact Diana Parkin, c/o Centre, Binsey Lane or 42666 mornings if you can help.

Fresh support for WON

WON IS BACK! And now we really are going to be monthly again! Uncertainty over advertising revenue and our finances in general has delayed recent issues, but in mid-May the Community Association decided to back WON financially. This means that WOCA has a measure of control over WON that it didn't have before, though in practice this is unlikely to be used.

WON has been written for the last 2½ years by people already active in the local community, most of them involved in the Community Association itself.

DEADLINES - AND WHERE YOU CAN HELP

The next WON will appear on July 1st. News and articles must be in by the middle of June at the latest: our address is c/o the Community Centre, Binsey Lane, or you can telephone us via 46079.

WON needs help in the following ways. We need deliverers in Becket Street / Christ Church New Buildings, East Street/ North Street, Alexandra Road, Duke Street, and Botley Road west of Binsey Lane.

We also need someone to take on the advertising side of WON. A few daytime hours a month checking who wants to advertise in the next issue, and collecting the money - that's all that is involved. Among our readers there must be several hundred housewives and pensioners who could help - any volunteers?

THE TUESDAY MEETINGS

The editorial meetings are open to all: they take place at the Community Centre every Tuesday at 8 pm. If you have news or a letter, or can spend some time typing or drawing, please just come along and help.

FETEful day - September 2nd

The big one

Fete September 2nd

This year we intend holding several competitions - the photographic competition has already been publicised with 2 classes of entry 1) West Oxford pre- 1950, 2) West Oxford 1978.

Art Competition The general theme is 'West Oxford' (people, views etc.) and you are also invited to submit up to 2 other works of your own choice. The competition will be divided into 3 groups 1) under 8 years old, 2) 8-15yrs old and 3) over 15yrs. Entries will need to be submitted before the Fete day at a date to be announced later and all entries will be exhibited locally on the Fete day and, hopefully, for a few days after.

This competition is open to beginners as well as those well practised so why not have a go?

For more information contact Andy Walton, 20 Binsey Lane.

Other competitions also being arranged include wine making, jam making, baking, the best flower, fruit and vegetable competitions, so get busy NOW!

St. Frideswide's Friends

ST FRIDESWIDE'S NEWLY formed Friends are already at work. An Arts Festival is planned, probably for September, to include paintings and crafts in a display, and concerts. People are wanted to help with the organisation: if you are willing, then Anne Pegg at 25 Henry Road (46017) would like to hear from you.



DIG - IN

Another gardening session is fixed for the afternoon of Saturday June 3 - once again volunteers are needed to help make further improvements in the churchyard and river bank. The Friends' committee is also very anxious to start work on the roof of the church, which needs repair, and to lay on water and lavatories, both of which are completely lacking at present.