

THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005

Editorial

Welcome to summer. You don't get any lectures from me this time but that doesn't mean you won't in the future!

John Dransfield

"SHOE BOX SMILES"

Once again, a collection of shoe boxes is being organised to send to needy families in Romania. If you would like a leaflet giving details and instructions about what to do please contact Joyce Rogers on 812314 or Helen Buddle on 823121.

Leaflets will be available by the end of August and the deadline for handing in boxes is 24th October.

LOCAL WOMAN IS NEW CHAIRMAN OF CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL

Susan Normington, of Bridge Street, has recently been elected as Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Susan has lived in Wistow for 23 years and has been a county councillor since 1989. Up until the last election earlier this year she represented the division that included Wistow, Upwood, the Raveleys, Ramsey Town, and the Ramsey villages. Following local government boundary changes, however, her ward now excludes Wistow as we have been moved, along with Upwood and the Raveleys, into Warboys division.

We would like to congratulate Susan on her elevation and wish her all the best.

THE CHURCH HERITAGE WEEKEND

The Heritage Weekend in June was blessed (or cursed?) with some extremely hot weather, and the refreshments available in the church were more than usually appreciated.

In addition to the usual stalls at the church, Colin and Jane Weaver held a stall in their front garden of bric-a-brac and crafts from Nicaragua, with half the proceeds going to SIFT and half to church funds.

The open gardens were well visited and widely admired, and many thanks go to all those people who were happy to share their pride and joy with the village. It was also nice to see a couple of new gardens this year. What a pity we have to wait two years until the next time.

Incidentally, don't forget the Harvest Festival (all age worship) in the church on September 18th at 6.00 pm, to be followed by a Harvest Supper in the village hall.

NEW FACE ON WISTOW PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual General Meeting of Wistow Parish Council, held in May, the council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Phil Moore. Phil and Pat are planning to move out of the village to live in Bristol and we wish them all the best. The Parish Council would like to thank Phil for all his work on behalf of the village over the past few years.

At the meeting of the council on 30th June Trevor Struggles was accepted as a new councillor to fill the vacancy and we wish him well in his new role.

Trevor will be well known to many of you, having lived in the village for around 35 years, and brings a great deal of local knowledge that the Parish Council should find invaluable.

Incidentally, don't forget that none of the current parish councillors have been elected. The Parish Council represents the lower tier of local democracy and it would be much healthier if there were a number of people seeking election so that the people of Wistow could vote in a ballot.

So come on, put yourselves forward; contact Dave Titmarsh to get more information. The council would be very interested in hearing from people who would be prepared to serve as chairman.

Do you need a Baby Sitting Service?

If you need a baby sitter at any time, and would like someone who is reliable and lives in the village, then give Emily Carlyle a call.

Emily is 14, sensible and responsible, and is experienced in looking after children. For more information give her a call on 822753.

DO YOU WANT A FREE TIMESHARE?

If you fancy taking ownership of a week's timeshare in a one bedroom apartment in Spain now is your chance – and it's free!

The apartment is in Dona Lola, about 30 minutes drive from Malaga on the Costa del Sol, is well equipped, and there are many facilities on site. The week coincides with the school half term break each February.

The only costs involved in taking this opportunity would be a one-off legal fee for change of ownership and an annual maintenance charge of approximately £200 per annum.

For more information contact Ted Benson on 822353.

WISTOW NOTELETS

The Village Hall Committee have produced sets of notelets with photographs of the village – 5 from the past and 5 from the present day. These are priced at £2.00 for a pack of 5, or £3.50 for 2 packs. Please contact Carol MacInnes on 823131 or Jean Duke on 822828 to place your orders.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

The Parish Plan open day, held in the village hall in June, proved to be a great success. There was an excellent response from the village, and our MP and local district and county councillors and officials also came along. Feedback received on the day has been duly taken into account.

The plan is now completed in draft form and its conclusions and recommendations are to be presented to a special meeting of the Parish Council on 9th August. Once the plan has been finalised and approved by the Parish Council it is hoped to circulate a copy to all households in the village during the autumn.

Bus Stop Re-painted Following Vandalism

Those of you who catch the bus will know that, a few months ago, the bus shelter was vandalised by paint being thrown around inside it.

This has now been re-painted by members of the Parish Council and looks a lot better. It's a great pity, in a small village like ours, that this sort of thing should happen and result in effort, and cost, to rectify it.

THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH WALL NOW COMPLETED

As can be seen, the church wall restoration is now complete, and is looking really good.

We mentioned in the last Warbler about the various projects connected with the wall's restoration (Toddlers Group, the Seekers and primary school children, the W.I., and the Friendship Group), as well as the film and video record of the restoration work by village teenagers.

Those of you who went to see the exhibition of these projects in the village hall over the heritage weekend couldn't fail to have been impressed. No-one more so than Ann Mason, from the Local Heritage Initiative (a major source of grant funding) who is suggesting that the Wistow style of presentation should be used as a role model for future grant applications.

So congratulations to everyone involved for a job very well done, and a big thank you from the Parish Council. This was an excellent community exercise.

Wistow Fun Weekend, 16th and 17th July

Leading up to this year's fun weekend was the first Flowerpot Man competition which produced a fair response with 11 flowerpot men and 1 dog! It was amusing to see these figures popping up around the village. The winning flowerpot men live at the following addresses: in 1st place 2 Oaklands Avenue; 2nd place Westmorland House, Mill Road; and 3rd The Shieling, Church Street. Incidentally, apologies to those who would like to have competed but didn't get prior notice; no excuses for next year – start collecting your flowerpots now!

The weather for both days' events was perfect, with blue skies and sunshine. The music evening on the Saturday was once again a big success with music by the Jazz Beens. It was nice to see families accompanied by so many well-behaved children.

Sports day on the Sunday had the usual combination of stalls and competitions with an excellent turnout for the sporting events. This year's balloon race, with a prize of £20, was won by Kayleigh Hunwin; low winds meant that this year's winner only went as far as Whittlesey. When the balloons were released, some struggled to get in the air, but all of these were reattached to fresh balloons so no-one lost out.

The weekend raised £1,250 for Village Hall funds, and the committee would like to thank everyone who supported the events and, in particular, all those who helped in setting up and running things. Helpers are vital, and if you would like to offer your services for next year please ring Carol MacInnes on 823131.

After everything was cleared away, some items were found on the field: a pair of adult glasses, a pair of children's sunglasses, and a 'bee' pram toy. If these are yours, call Carol to retrieve them.

Wistow Cricket Tournament

On Sunday afternoon, September 25th, the Village Hall committee is holding a cricket tournament in aid of Village Hall funds. This will be taking place on Porch House Field with the kind permission of Richard and Patsy Coles.

Four teams of varying age groups will be competing, there will be a bar and cream teas, so come along and see if there is any potential England material on show.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2005

Sunday 18th September, 6.00pm – Harvest Festival (Church) followed by a Harvest Supper (Village Hall)

Sunday pm, 25th September – Cricket Match on Porch House Field