

# THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2003

## Editorial

We are now into the third edition of the newsletter and, so far at least, we have had enough articles to provide (hopefully!) interesting reading.

I must reiterate, however, that the long term viability of this publication will be dependant on a regular supply of articles from **you**, the people of Wistow.

So, if you want to say it, and you think others may be interested, then note it down and pass it to me.

John Dransfield

## The end of an era at The Three Horseshoes ...

As I am sure you all know, John and Eileen Cooper have finally called time on their long tenure as proprietors at the pub.

John and Eileen took over back in 1969 and at that time ran it as tenants, the pub being owned by Watney Mann. Following the government directive to large brewers to reduce the number of their tied houses, they obtained the freehold in 1988.

In the years since then, they have carried out a number of improvements to the pub and have built up a popular meals trade.

I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing John and Eileen all the best for the future.

## ... and the beginning of a new one

The new hosts at The Three Horseshoes are David Link and Catherine Lumb who are embarking on their first venture into the licensed trade.

They intend to continue with the same layout at the pub, opening 7 days a week, and also continuing the theme of "good value pub grub" with new dishes being introduced gradually onto the menu.

They will continue serving real ale, probably introducing regular guest ales, and David is aiming for a listing in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide.

We wish David and Catherine every success in running "our" pub and hope they enjoy life in the village.

## **VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO UNDERTAKE WORK IN THE VILLAGE**

From time to time the Parish Council commissions work of an "odd job" nature to be carried out around the village. Obviously it would be preferable if work of this kind could be carried out by local people and anyone interested should let David Titmarsh know what type of work they are able to undertake.

This work will be paid and David should be in a position soon to let interested people know the rates that will apply. Please give him a call.

## **The Parish Council – What Does it Do?**

The Wistow Parish Council meets monthly (usually on the last Thursday of each month) in the village hall to discuss, and make decisions on, issues arising within the parish of Wistow. It is usual for our County Councillor (Mrs Susan Normington), our District Councillor (Mr John Rigby) and our Community Policeman (PC Blackburn) to attend also.

Details of forthcoming meetings are on the village notice board (on the side of the bus shelter) and on the village web site ([www.wistowparish.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.wistowparish.fsnet.co.uk)), and members of the public are very welcome to attend any meeting in order to hear what goes on or, with the permission of the chairman, to contribute to discussions on agenda items.

The council has an extensive list of items for which it is responsible, in some cases in conjunction with the District or County Councils, and included on the list are allotments, bus shelters, grass cutting, street lighting, litter bins, the playing field, footpaths, the village hall, salt bins, traffic calming, and many others.

The Parish Council is here to represent you and to listen to what you have to say. So, know your councillors, let them know of any concerns or issues that you have concerning the village, and feel free to attend any future council meetings.

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE'S RELAUNCHED WEB SITE**

We are informed that Cambridgeshire Police have recently re-launched their web site ([www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)) which gives information on current police operations in Cambridgeshire.

### **Wistow Parish Plan - Latest**

Work is now underway on the preparation of the Wistow Parish Plan which, when completed, will be a

blueprint or vision of how our community wants to develop and the actions needed to achieve this.

The plan can include anything and everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the village; for example, from employment, transport and playgrounds to the siting of new buildings and the protection of hedges, trees and ditches.

Most importantly it is you, the community, who will decide what is important to you.

A small team of volunteers is now carrying out preparatory work on the plan, the most important immediate element of which is a questionnaire for you all to fill in. The initial draft of the questionnaire is nearing completion and towards the end of the year, or early next year, it will be circulated to everyone in the village.

Please take the time to fill this in when you get your copy. Remember, this is your chance to have your views taken into account, and you *can* make a difference.

Wistow is already a great place to live; together, let's make it even better.

### **CANCER RESEARCH**

The Ramsey & District local committee of Cancer Research has been working since its formation in 1985 to raise money for research into this terrible disease.

The committee is made up of 6 members from Wistow and another 5 from nearby villages.

At a recent celebration dinner/dance at the Marriott hotel, the committee were presented with a certificate to show they had raised over £100,000 over the years; last year alone they sent £18,000 to headquarters.

All of this money has been raised steadily with the help and support of many friends, especially in Wistow. Whatever functions have been arranged in the village hall have always had excellent support from the village, including Big Breakfasts, Pink Parties, sales of fabrics and Christmas decorations, coffee mornings, carol singing, mulled wine evenings, etc.

The committee would like to thank everyone who has helped in the past and look forward to seeing you at the Mulled Wine Evening in the village hall on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

## **ARE YOU A ROTTER?**

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is looking for new recruits!

If you have an interest in environmental issues, enjoy encouraging other people and have a little time to spare, why not join a friendly network of volunteers in promoting home composting?

Did you know that around one third of the contents of the average household waste-bin can be composted?

Home composting is great for the environment because it:

- Reduces the need to transport waste
- Reduces methane and leachate emissions from landfill sites
- Provides a useful product for your garden
- Reduces the need for chemical fertiliser, saving you money at the garden centre

The Master Composter Programme is run by HDRA Consultants in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and

Huntingdonshire District Council. The Cambridgeshire programme began in 2001 and is the largest of its kind in the UK, now supporting over 150 volunteers with over 2000 hours of voluntary activities completed so far.

Volunteers are required to provide local, friendly advice and support to people who already compost or who wish to start.

Becoming a Master Composter is a great way to meet people, learn valuable skills, and benefit from being part of a team that makes a difference. Any one over 18 can participate and no previous experience is necessary.

All volunteers will receive a Master Composter resource pack, training from HDRA, and several day trips. Training is free of charge, but volunteers are then expected to spend 30 hours over the following year promoting home composting.

These activities will be tailored to your individual skills and could include giving demonstrations to neighbours, giving presentations to classes of school children, or promoting compost bin sales. After your 30 hours of service you will be awarded the title of Master Composter and be invited to receive your certificate at an award ceremony.

If you are interested please contact Penny Holmes at HDRA Consultants, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG Phone 024 7630 8202, or e-mail [pholmes@hdra.org.uk](mailto:pholmes@hdra.org.uk)

## **Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries**

21<sup>st</sup> November (Fri, 7 – 9 pm) – Cancer Research Mulled Wine evening (Village Hall)