

THE WISTOW WARBLER

Wistow village web-site: www.wistovillage.info

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2007

WISTOW IN BLOOM JUDGING

The two inspectors from Anglia in Bloom, Bob Ollier and Bill Boardman, visited Wistow on Monday 9th July and were taken on a tour around the village by Pam and Henry Franklin, Ann Leeming and John Dransfield.

Although they both kept their cards very close to their chests regarding how we have performed, we got the impression that they were impressed by the general level of effort that people had made to make the village look attractive, and they made many stops to admire displays and to take photographs. We were also blessed with beautiful weather which contributed to the village looking at its best.

The level of involvement by villagers is an important factor when awards are being made. So, well done to the many people who made our village one to be proud of, and thanks to youngsters for taking part in the various competitions and to the people who helped to organise these events. One of the inspectors gave us a gratifying accolade when he said "this is a village that I'd like to live in myself".

The results of the competition will be known on September 13th, so fingers crossed. Once we know how we performed another News Letter will go out to everyone.

I'm afraid I have to end on a sour note. The two hanging baskets on the bus shelter, sponsored by the Reading Group, have been stolen. How sick is that! I hope it wasn't anyone from the village.

PUB QUIZ NIGHTS

As I'm sure most of you know, there have been regular Quiz Nights at the pub, held on the last Wednesday of each month with the proceeds going to Cancer Research.

However, as a result of dwindling attendances, it was decided to suspend them during the summer, with a view to starting again at the end of September. However, it is only worth holding them if they are well supported.

It would be a great pity if the village lost these quiz nights as a result of not enough people being interested. These are extremely enjoyable evenings and they are also raising money for a good cause; so, when they start up again in the autumn, let's try to get bumper attendances so the Quiz Night can continue and flourish.

Incidentally, if there are any of you who would be happy to set quizzes from time to time then please let Gerry or Julia know; they'll be delighted to hear from you.

CHURCH FLAGPOLE

I'm sure that you have all seen that, thirty years on, the churchyard has a new flagpole; the previous one collapsed sometime during the 1970s. The new pole has been generously supplied and erected by Ronnie Sansom, with Nip Peacock helping with the fitting, and will once again enable the church to fly the flag on special occasions.

FUN WEEKEND 2007

After seven consecutive years of fine weather, our luck finally ran out this year. We were almost there, but at 4 o'clock on Sunday the heavens opened and the sports day had to be abandoned. However, only a couple of

final races were lost, but the tug o' war had to be cancelled so no Richard Juggins trophy to award this year (incidentally, thanks for the return of the trophy).

Until the rains came it had been another lively afternoon with some close-run competition. All the children's certificates were handed out, but not the prizes for the field events; these have subsequently been given to: Oliver Jenkins/James Tortice and Chris Newton/Marcus Crocket (equal first for Egg Throwing), and Laura Smith (winner of under 14s Skimmers).

There were fewer entries for the Flower Pot Man competition this year, but the standard was still very high and judges Patsy and Richard Coles commented on how hard their decision was. The winner of the junior section prize, presented by Wistow in Bloom, was the Cox family of Manor Street, and the winner of the adult section was the Manwaring family of Mill Road.

Although the rain somewhat spoiled sports day, it was a different story on Saturday for the Music Evening, with a warm evening and a spectacular sunset; ideal conditions for a picnic listening to some good Rhythm & Blues music from the main band, En Route, and the supporting band, the BJs. The bands created a really excellent atmosphere which had everyone up on their feet.

Overall attendances were down on both days, probably due to the unsettled weather. Despite this it was another enjoyable weekend that raised £750 for Village Hall funds, and the committee would like to thank

everyone who helped and participated, especially Patsy and Richard Coles for providing the lovely venue for this annual village event.

Also, please don't forget the next event which will be the Cricket Tournament to be held on Sunday 9th September.

WI MEETING OPEN TO ALL

The September meeting of the WI is open to everyone. This is to be a Cheese and Wine evening, with "Poacher's Cheeses", and will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 12th September at 7.30 pm. Admission is £2 for non-members of the WI.

LATEST ON THE PROPOSED BRIDGE CLUB

Following my article in the last Warbler I have now had expressions of interest from 28 people, ranging from complete beginners up to serious competition players. More are required, so if you are interested in adding your name to the list then please give me, John Dransfield, a call on 822936.

To all those people who have expressed an interest, please bear with me. Something will happen although you're probably best not to hold your breath. Just to reiterate, this is intended to be "social" bridge and is open to all levels of player, including those who have never played; people who want to learn from scratch will be catered for.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR VILLAGE

The Raffier family, who are Americans and lived for 3 years in Wistow on The Grove

but have now returned to the US, have asked me to put the following article in the Warbler. This is reproduced in full.

“After 3 wonderful years in Wistow, our time in the UK has come to a close and we must now, unfortunately, return to the US. We would like to take a quick moment to thank the Wistow community for the kindness offered to my family that made our stay in the village so memorable.

“From our first day in the village we were greeted, not simply as US visiting forces, but as welcomed residents. Through the annual music nights, sports days, Linda’s involvement with the WI, village hall events, countless other activities, and the friendship of all, we have thoroughly enjoyed our time here. Personally, my third place in last year’s Flower Pot Man competition will remain one of my life’s crowning achievements!

“Thanks to all who make Wistow such a wonderful place to live. We’ll miss you all.

Warmly, John, Linda, Nate and Ben Raffier”

What a lovely tribute to our village, and all the best to the Raffier family for the future.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE INTRODUCE “E-COPS”

Do you want to know what our neighbourhood policing team is doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in our area? Cambridgeshire Constabulary has introduced e-cops which it describes as “an innovative free e-mail newsletter which complements Neighbourhood Watch and is a great way to keep up to date with community news and policing in your area”.

If you want to sign up for e-cops then visit www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops.

“Neighbourhood Panel Meetings” are being introduced jointly by the police together with partners such as local councils. These are public meetings to discuss issues affecting our neighbourhood, for members of the public to find out the latest actions on tackling issues such as anti-social behaviour and for you to give your feedback and raise any concerns. These are an opportunity for you to play a part in setting local police priorities and contribute to creating a safer environment.

Don’t forget the police’s “Crime Stopper” phone number (0800 555111) if you have any information about a crime. Information supplied to Crime Stoppers led to the charging of a man in connection with a burglary at Ramsey St Mary’s church and the recovery of the stolen property.

In the light of current terrorism alerts, Cambridgeshire police are also likely to be acting under Section 44 which gives them broad discretion to search for articles which could be used in connection with terrorism. If you have any information that will help the police in their fight against terrorism there is a terrorism hotline number, 0800 789 321.

A LIME TREE’S DEMISE

On Friday, 20th July, one of the lime trees at the junction of Bridge Street and Manor Street collapsed. Was it rotten? was it blown over? was it struck by lightning? If anyone knows perhaps they could let me know.

The local police attended the scene and, within hours, this fine old tree was reduced to a pile of logs. Sad.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2007

Cricket Tournament – Sunday 9th September, Porch House Field

WI Cheese & Wine Evening – Wednesday 12th September, 7.30 pm, Village Hall