

THE WISTOW WARBLER

Wistow village web-site: www.wistovvillage.info

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2007/8

Editorial

As usual I'd like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and all the best for 2008. Just a reminder to anyone who wishes to put an article in the Warbler, or a date in the "Dates for your Diary"; as soon as you have anything, let me have it immediately, don't wait until you think the next issue is due or you might miss it.

John Dransfield

Wistow Christmas Tree

Every year for the last six years Wistow has had the benefit of a Christmas tree by the Church, illuminated by lovely lights, which has transformed the centre of the village with its warmth and festive glow. But many of you may not be aware who has so generously provided this most welcome feature.

In fact, the tree and lights are gifted by Roger and Leslie Telling of Bridge Street. So, from all the people in the village, especially the children, a big thank you to Roger and Leslie for their generosity, which provides so much pleasure to all of us at Christmas.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH OTHER WISTOWS?

Richard Farrar recently received an e-mail from someone who lives in another Wistow, one near Selby in Yorkshire, who seemed to be interested in finding out more about us and in establishing some kind of relationship. This started a thought process about establishing contacts with the other Wistows – there's also another one in Leicestershire.

Initial ideas that have occurred to Richard include, for example, inviting contingents from the other villages to our Fun Weekend, and inviting them to enter a team in the Wistow Ashes cricket tournament. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in doing something about this then please call Richard on 822444.

WISTOW TODDLERS GROUP CLOSÉS

Sadly, after running for many years on Thursday mornings, the Wistow Toddlers Group has had to close due to lack of support.

If anyone is interested in re-starting the group the toys are still available at the village hall. Interested people should contact Jane Cox on 823805.

LAWNMOWER WANTED

Henry Franklin is looking for a second hand motor-powered FlyMow lawn mower. If anyone has one that they'd like to sell, please contact Henry on 824725.

PARISH COUNCIL LATEST

For 2008, Parish Council meetings will be held in the Village Hall on the last Tuesday of each month except December; members of the public are free to attend the meetings to listen to proceedings but may not speak unless the chairman briefly adjourns the meeting and invites contributions. Meetings start at 7.30 pm with the exception of the meeting on Tuesday 27th May; this is the

Annual Open Meeting, which villagers are encouraged to attend, and starts at 7.00 pm to be followed by the Annual General Meeting (please note that this date is still to be confirmed).

Some of you may have heard that, for this year only, the parish Council is increasing its precept from £6,300 to £12,600. This one-off increase is required primarily in order to totally refurbish the rubber matting under the play apparatus in the playground, as this has now deteriorated to the point where it could be dangerous and was the subject of criticism by ROSPA who oversee the quality and safety of play equipment nationally. In the event of any child having an accident the Parish Council would be potentially liable for paying a substantial claim which could well be considerably more than the one-off precept increase.

Following John Bance's decision to cease using his part of the village allotments, three people expressed an interest in using this land and, following representations at the last Parish Council meeting, the land has been offered to Chris Bowd of Bridge Street.

NEW POLICE INSPECTOR FOR OUR AREA

The following is a message from our new Sector Inspector:-

"Allow me to introduce myself, I am Mark Newman, the new Sector Inspector for the communities of Ramsey, St Ives and the surrounding villages.

Firstly I have been a Police Officer for over 24 years and have proudly served in the Metropolitan Police and Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Some may call me a career Detective, having served most of my service within various departments of the CID but I hasten to add no matter which field of Policing I am employed in I will always strive to provide the best level of service.

I was born and bred in the Ely area so some might say I am nearly a local, others I'm sure will not, but I hope to use my local knowledge and understanding to help provide the Service you deserve. Although each Community is uniquely different, we all desire the same, a safe, peaceful environment to live in and I want to reassure you that my team and myself will be working to achieve this for each and every one of you.

Hopefully over the coming days, weeks and months I will have the opportunity to meet many of you, to discuss the issues that concern you."

MIGHT YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO RESEARCH WISTOW'S HISTORY?

Wistow has a long and interesting history going back to Saxon times, and possibly earlier, and Richard Farrar has suggested that it would be great if a few people got together with a view to delving into the detail of our village's past.

If this is the sort of thing that would appeal to you and you'd like to get involved then give Richard a call on 822444. As a bit of an appetite wetter, I plan to put another article into the next issue of the Warbler about Wistow's past, courtesy of Mac Simpson.

Wistow In Bloom Latest

Firstly, thanks to all the people who took part in the pansy-planting day in December, and also to those who supplied pansies. They look really pretty, and maybe we could build up the number of plantings year by year.

A "thank you tea party" was held in the Village Hall on Saturday 5th January to celebrate our success in winning a Silver Award. Prizes and awards were presented to the children for their efforts in the various competitions that were run during the year, and certificates were also

presented to those villagers who had made exceptional contributions to the cause. Well done to everyone, especially the youngsters. But, we must not rest on our laurels, and an even greater effort will be needed this year to impress the judges.

Following the success of last year's Wistow in Bloom Quiz Night, another one is to be held this year. This will be in the Village Hall on Saturday 26th April commencing at 7.30 pm.

Finally, the organising committee would like to appeal for more people to come forward to join the committee or to offer to help with events and projects. The next committee meeting is to be held on Monday evening 28th January, so if you'd like to join then please give Pam Franklin a ring on 824725 so you could attend.

WISTOW HAS AN ADDITIONAL POST BOX

One of the projects that was requested on the parish plan questionnaire, and formed a part of the subsequent Parish Plan, was to have an additional post box down Oaklands Avenue.

After many letters and phone calls all over England and Scotland (!) during the last 15 months, the Parish Council has finally succeeded in getting the Royal Mail to provide one. The new box is outside Oaklands Close and should save a lot of walking for people who live in that area.

Cut Your Carbon

East of England Development Agency pre-launched the goal of the "Cut your Carbon" campaign in November 2007 to mobilise communities in the East of England to come together to tackle their carbon emissions. Groups and communities taking part will be able to seek EEDA funding for projects ranging from £5000 to £200,000 that cut carbon emissions and that are highly effective, innovative or replicable.

In order to receive funding, communities will be asked to establish their carbon footprint and

demonstrate that they are taking action to reduce it. EEDA will provide support for this in the form of online community foot printing tools, region-wide workshops and personal support from community officers.

Communities will be actively encouraged to draw upon the expertise and services available from other public sector agencies in the region as they seek to cut their carbon emissions. The first funding round of 2008 will be open for project proposals from April 1 to June 13 and the guidance, terms and conditions for eligibility, and the project proposal form, are intended to be published in January.

If you would like to find out more about "Cut your Carbon", please register with Hunts District Councillor Peter Bucknell, e-mail peter.bucknell@huntsdc.gov.uk.

Beware of Bogus Charity Collectors

If anyone receives a plastic bag accompanied by a leaflet urging you to fill it with old clothes and shoes for a charity then make sure that it's genuine. There are a number of operators, mainly east European, who are using this approach to obtain clothes that they then sell commercially abroad.

To make sure that you are giving your old goods to a genuine charity look for a charity number on the leaflet. A company registration number is not the same thing. If you are still in doubt then you can check with the Charity Commission on 0870 333 0123.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2008

Saturday 26th April – Wistow in Bloom Quiz Night, 7.30 pm Village Hall

Tuesday 27th May – Parish Council Open Meeting, 7.00 pm Village Hall (date still to be confirmed)