

THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2003/4

Editorial

In order to keep this newsletter interesting, remember that I am always in need of articles, and I need them from you. You can submit them to me at any time, there's no need for you to wait until you think an edition is coming out.

One type of article that it would be great to be able to publish would be from those of you who can provide reminiscences from Wistow's past, whether first hand experiences or just because you happen to know.

Also, why not these pages to express your opinions about any aspects of village life, or maybe ask for other people's opinions.

John Dransfield

Attempts to curb speeding in the village

The Parish Council has applied for funding for traffic calming measures as a "Huntingdonshire Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme" to try to address the problem of speeding through the village.

In order to try to maximise our chances of being awarded funding, for which there is considerable competition, it has been decided to draw up a petition which, it is hoped, will be signed by everyone in Wistow and will then be submitted to support the application for funding.

A member of the Parish Council will be calling shortly to ask you all to sign and we hope we can call on your support.

A THANK YOU FROM LIZZIE THOMAS

Lizzie Thomas would like to thank all those villagers, especially the residents of Kingston Way, who showed their kindness and sympathy when the horse she was riding was tragically killed after being struck by a vehicle in Mill Road. To all those people who helped at the time in any way Lizzie would like to offer her personal thanks and gratitude.

WISTOW VILLAGE HALL

The Wistow Village Hall Management Committee has another busy year ahead. Fundraising last year raised around £1,700, much of which was spent on making improvements to the hall (have you seen the new kitchen? what an improvement!).

However, fundraising events are not just about raising money, they are also about fostering community spirit, and the more these events are supported the more events will be held.

If any readers have any bright ideas for future events then please contact a member of the committee. Better still, why not join the committee, you'll be more than welcome.

If being on the committee isn't your style then your help would still be appreciated, especially at the musical evening and sports day in July.

A Message from The Three Horseshoes

Catherine and David would like to thank all of their customers for making them feel so welcome here in Wistow, and say how wonderful it was to see so many people enjoying Christmas and New Year at the pub.

February sees the beginning of a regular quiz night (last Wednesday of each month), details of which will appear soon on the pub's web site (www.wistowpub.com). There will also be a Valentine's Night supper with acoustic entertainment; you are advised to book early to avoid disappointment as space is limited.

Ideas for events to be held at the pub are always welcome. You can e-mail them to ideas@wistowpub.com or drop them into the pub's suggestion box.

Finally, Catherine and David would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful 2004.

JULIA'S SUCCESS!

In the Summer edition of the Warbler we told you about Julia Hurford's forthcoming trek along the Great Wall of China to raise funds for "Breakthrough Breast Cancer".

Well, she did it and she's back, having raised just under £8,000 for her charity, and would like to thank everyone who helped to make this possible.

The walk was a terrific experience for Julia. It took place in November and winter had come early, with temperatures of -7°C and with a foot of snow lying on the ground. The intention had been to sleep in tents, but the low temperatures meant that the nights were spent in hostels and hotels instead.

The route passed through a number of villages with plenty of opportunity to meet with local Chinese people for whom the sight of a group of western women was strange indeed. On one occasion, lunch was prepared by a local farmer and earned the accolade of the best Chinese food ever.

The walking was along mountain ridges with sheer drops on one side with extremely steep ascents and descents, sometimes with steps and sometimes not, which was not made any easier by the snow.

However, the views were fantastic, as was the sense of achievement when she finally arrived at the end of the walk in the city of Shanhaiguan on the Yellow Sea having walked around 125 kilometres. The luxury hotel, with proper loos, was much appreciated after the hardships of the previous few days.

WISTOW WOMENS INSTITUTE

Wistow W.I. meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, and is always pleased to welcome new members. The programme for the year is displayed on the notice board at the bus stop, and also outside the village hall.

If you want, why not go along as a visitor to see if you like the look of them before joining! For more information please ring Jean (on 822828), Carol (823131) or Deanna (824755).

Wistow Parish Plan Update

Work is now almost complete on the preparation of a questionnaire that will go to every resident in the village to help in the preparation of the Wistow Parish Plan, and this questionnaire will be sent out very shortly.

The committee has met with a representative from Huntingdonshire District Council who has advised on the issues most likely to be of relevance to our community and how they should be dealt with in the questionnaire.

So when you receive your questionnaire and get the chance to participate please be ready to answer questions on topics such as: the future of the village hall; controlling traffic through the village; crime and policing; public transport; and care for our environment.

A THANK-YOU FROM CANCER RESEARCH

2003 was another successful year for this charity and they would like to thank all of their friends and supporters from Wistow.

The usual round of activities, including coffee mornings, Big Breakfast, Pink Party and mulled wine evening, were all enthusiastically supported with some noisy but fun gatherings in the village hall.

Events are advertised on the W.I. and Church notice boards, so keep checking.

The Celebration Dance held at the Marriott Hotel was even featured in Cambridgeshire Life and raised £2,500.

In this financial year, over £23,000 has already been raised and the organisers are naturally delighted and extremely grateful to everyone in Wistow who has helped.

RECYCLING AND THE WISTOW BOTTLE BANK

It is good to see so many people in the village making use of the fortnightly "green box" collections for re-cyclable paper, card, plastic, etc.

But don't forget that for your newspapers, cans and glass please keep using the special re-cycle bins next to the playing fields in Oaklands Avenue. The village receives credits in lieu of materials collected.

Well Done You Carol Singers

Many thanks are due to all those people who joined with members of the Womens Institute in carol singing around the village in the week before Christmas.

Thanks also to all of you who gave so generously to the collection. This has enabled donations to be made of £100 to the Milton Childrens' Hospice and £100 to Cancer Research.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2004

Saturday February 14th – Valentine's Supper at the pub

Saturday March 6th – Quiz Night (Village Hall)

Sunday April 25th – Car Rally

Saturday 15th May – Plant Sale

Saturday 10th July – Musical Evening

Sunday 11th July – Sports Day