

THE WISTOW WARBLER

Wistow village web-site: www.wistovvillage.info

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

WISTOW BRIDGE

As was reported in the Summer edition of the Warbler, Cambridgeshire County Council have been looking at Wistow bridge as a result of concerns about its long term safety. At that time, three options were being considered:-

1. To build a new bridge alongside the existing bridge, and to make the existing bridge pedestrian only.
2. To build a new structure over the existing bridge.
3. To strengthen the existing bridge and to clear some foliage from the area, maybe involving purchasing some land, to improve visibility from both directions, and to make the bridge single track. Traffic calming measures in this area would also be considered.

Stephen McGee, of Cambs County Council, agreed to expand on these options and to then present them to a Public Open Meeting in the village. It would now appear that the County Council has decided to go forward with option 3, without having presented the options to the village, and are talking about commencing work very shortly.

The Parish Council has decided that the PC meeting on Tuesday, 27th January 2009, will commence early, at 7pm, in order to present the plans for the bridge to parishioners and to give you a chance to ask questions; you are encouraged to come along and have your say. In the meantime you can find details of the plans and an explanation of the work, provided by Cambs County Council, on the

Parish Council notice board and on the Wistow website.

VILLAGE BENEFITS ADVICE SERVICE

The Village Benefits Advice Service helps people living in rural areas of Cambridgeshire to claim the benefits to which they are entitled by offering advice and assistance.

They offer free and confidential advice on all social security benefits, home visits, support in getting the benefits you are entitled to - for example filling in claim forms, writing to the Department of Work and Pensions and helping with appeals. They also go to clubs and groups around the county to give talks and offer benefits advice.

You can contact the Village Benefits Advice Service at:- P O Box 257, Ely, Cambs CB7 9EA, 'phone number 01353 666990

West Anglia Crossroads - Caring for Carers

Do you care for someone? West Anglia Crossroads are a registered charity (Registered Charity No.1091522) based in St Ives who specialise in respite care for people of all ages in their own homes and in the community.

Services include one to one support, palliative, emergency and group care. If you would like more information, or are interested in joining, then please contact Nazaqat Ali on 0845 241 0954. Alternatively you can e-mail him at care@westangliacrossroads.org.uk.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Another vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council following Joe Latter's resignation. Many thanks to Joe for his work on the village's behalf during his period as a councillor.

If you would like to serve on the Parish Council then you are invited to apply to the clerk, Patsy Coles, who can also provide you with any information you may need. Parish Council Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month except December and normally start at 7.30 pm.

INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Cambridgeshire County Council now produces a free guide to community transport in Cambridgeshire. If you would like a copy of the guide, or want more information, then contact Gavin Moulton, Community Transport Officer, on 01223 717755 or alternatively gavin.moulton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Help Is At Hand If You Face Your House Being Repossessed

One of the worst things that can happen to anyone is to lose their home as a result of mounting debt and financial difficulties.

Repossession Rescue is a new company that was launched only in November 2005 by a group of debt counsellors. Having successfully found specific solutions for clients facing increasing arrears and repossession orders they decided to form a company specialising in finding solutions for home owners in distress without them incurring further debt.

If you, or anyone you know, might have a need for this type of service then you should contact Lesley Mitchell on 020 7193 9399 or alternatively you can e-mail contact@repossessionrescue.org.

Repossession Rescue's head office is in Raunds, Northamptonshire, currently covering the Eastern region; a national roll-out was planned during 2006. They can provide testimonials on request.

WISTOW IN BLOOM

The annual Wistow in Bloom fund-raising quiz will be held this year on Saturday 25th April in the village hall. Once tickets go on sale I would recommend you snap yours up quickly; last year the village hall was bursting at the seams.

One of the prime spots in the village for "doing something" is the grass bank across from the pub, and the WIB committee would be interested in any ideas that you might have for some sort of display there. If you have any suggestions then please contact Pam Franklin on 824725.

Keep your eyes out for the regular WIB newsletters that will be distributed from time to time.

CANCER RESEARCH

The Ramsey, St Ives, Huntingdon and District local committee wish everyone in Wistow a happy new year. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously throughout 2008 supporting fund raising events such as Big Breakfast, Swap Shop coffee mornings, Pink Party, the highly successful Hog Roast, the Mulled Wine evening, and the Carol Singing.

This was the first year that the carol singing wasn't sung around the village but instead it was decided to sing around the beautifully lit Christmas tree outside the church. There was a tremendous response with over 50 friends all coming to sing and it was particularly heartening to see that so many young people came along. Father Christmas made a surprise appearance with small gifts for the

children, and he particularly enjoyed the carol they then sang for him. A collection bucket on the night yielded £79.19, plus a special gold chocolate coin from Robin Bennet.

Afterwards, Julia and Gerry invited everyone back to the Three Horseshoes for mulled wine and mince pies and the atmosphere was buzzing; a really enjoyable evening. Many thanks to Julia and Gerry for this, and for their full support during the year.

Thanks again for all your support and contributions throughout the year and long may this continue. Keep a lookout for announcements of future events through 2009. All money raised goes towards purchasing a new diagnostic machine for Addenbrooke Hospital's Research Unit.

POLICE WARNING ABOUT A NEW KIND OF CARJACKING

The Police advise that a new carjacking scheme has started to be used in some major cities and is expected to spread.

You return to your parked car, start the engine, and then notice in the rear-view mirror a piece of paper stuck to your rear window. So, leaving the engine running and the door open, you jump out and go to the back of the car to see what it is; that's when the carjackers (who have been lurking nearby) leap in your car and drive off at speed.

Remember, if the thieves have taken your car in these circumstances, they haven't just got your car but also probably your credit cards, house keys, etc, from your purse or handbag.

The advice from the Police is, if you see something stuck to your rear window, then just drive away and remove the piece of paper later. Nothing legitimate would ever be stuck there.

Wistow Women's Institute

Ladies of Wistow – if you are not already a member then the Wistow Women's Institute would be delighted to welcome you to one of their meetings. Go along as a visitor and, if you like what you see, then think about joining.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, except August, and are usually held in the village hall with a 7.30 pm start.

On Wednesday 11th February there will be a Thai cookery demonstration, and, on 11th March, Rebecca Rayner will be talking about running Glebe Farm in Kings Ripton which supplies organic flours, bread mixes and gluten-free products.

The WI looks forward to welcoming you; see the back page for contact details.

INTERESTED IN JOINING A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME?

Thankfully, Wistow doesn't attract too much crime, but unfortunately isn't crime free. We all need to be vigilant in this respect and the Parish Council has decided to ask for any volunteers who would be interested in helping to set up, run, or be involved in a village Neighbourhood Watch scheme. You'll recall that this was one of the actions in the parish plan (section 6, Police and Crime)

If you would like to help, please contact a member of the Parish Council to register your interest.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2009

Saturday 25th April – Wistow in Bloom Quiz Night in the village hall