

THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2004

Editorial

Welcome to the Summer issue. I've nothing to say this time other than please keep those articles coming in!

John Dransfield

The Village "Fun Weekend" 2004

Another successful fun weekend was held on the 11th and 12th of July and raised around £1,000 for the continuing maintenance and improvement of the village hall. Although the weather was not as favourable as had been hoped this did not seem to dampen anyone's enthusiasm although numbers were slightly down on last year.

As usual Porch House Field was in immaculate condition to provide a lovely setting for the weekend, and many thanks go to Patsy and Richard Coles for allowing their field to be used and for putting in so much effort for its preparation.

The Village Hall Committee would also like to extend its sincere thanks to the army of volunteers who contributed in many ways to making the weekend a success.

The music night on the Saturday saw a delayed start due to the band "mislaying" their bass player. However, Winnie Clarke led a session of line dancing until the band was up to full strength, and Winnie's contribution was very much appreciated. Once the band was playing at full volume we understand that even people living at the Toll could get their musical

entertainment without coming down to the village!

The sports day on the Sunday saw a full programme of activities and races with, as usual, some keen rivalry.

The Richard Juggins Senior TOW Trophy was won for the second year by the MacInnes Invitation team. This was despite a flagrant attempt at cheating by a WI team who fielded around 20 tuggers! The junior event was much better behaved and was won by the Strongbows.

New records were set this year. In the egg throwing there was a tie between Graham MacInnes/Oliver Reed and Ed Mallard/Gregor MacInnes with very impressive throws of 69 meters. Georgina Croft set a new record in the ladies caber tossing with a distance of 9.5 meters, and a distance of 8.26 meters was set by Jacob Williams in a new junior competition.

Introduced this year was a helium balloon race. We don't yet know the final winner but leading at this stage is Jean Green whose card was returned from the Somme area of France.

The fun weekend now seems to be firmly established in the Wistow calendar and it is hoped that it will go from strength to strength. This of course will depend on the continuing support of the village, which in turn depends on the activities and entertainment provided.

If you would like to suggest changes or improvements, or would like to be involved, please contact a member of the Village Hall Committee.

ORGAN FOR SALE FROM THE CHURCH

The church has recently purchased a new organ, and a good home is now being sought for the previous one. This is a Technics organ, complete with stool, and is available immediately; the price will be £100 or near offer.

For more information please contact Pam Franklin on 824725.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

Following the previous notification of a vacancy on the Parish Council I am pleased to say that Ted Benson, of Mill Farm House, put himself forward as wishing to join the council.

There were no further applicants and so Ted was unanimously co-opted onto the Parish Council at the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May.

This means that the council is once more up to its complement of 7 councillors and, for his sins, Ted has agreed to pick up responsibility for traffic issues.

Erecting Advertising Signs on the Approaches to the Village

This will be of interest to anyone who may wish to erect any signs along the roadside to advertise forthcoming events in the village.

In the past, signs have been put up on the verges to advertise events and occasionally these signs have disappeared. The reason is that, apparently, the Highways Act 1980 makes such signs illegal and allows local authorities to remove them; in fact, Huntingdonshire District Council employs someone specifically to remove such signs.

So, if you wish to put up any advertising signs, you should first of all get agreement from Cambridgeshire County Council (not HDC!). They are usually OK about signs for one-off

events of a non-commercial nature, and will then advise Hunts D.C. not to remove them.

Contact Traffic Management at Cambs C.C. Western Division on 01480 376700.

UPWOOD YOUTH CLUB

We have been asked to let you know about Upwood Youth Club which started in September last year. It is open to youngsters in school years 7 to 11 who attended Upwood Primary School, and so many teenagers from Wistow are eligible.

The club meets in Upwood Village Hall and activities include pool, table tennis, Playstation, computers, chill and chat corner, table football, snack bar, dance mat, and lots more. Themed meetings include film nights and game nights.

New funding means that the club is planning to open every Friday, as well as selected days during school holidays. Day trips to exiting places such as Alton Towers, Thorpe Park and Butlins are also being planned.

For more information contact Kim on 710760, Kate on 815475, or e-mail youthclub@upwood.org.

UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH WALL

You will recall that we informed you last year that the church wall was in need of extensive renovation and that this work would be likely to cost in the region of £30,000.

The principle source of the funding, some 75%, will be from Huntingdonshire District Council with most of the balance coming through a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative. It is a condition of this grant that applicants must be able to demonstrate the involvement of, and a benefit to, the local community; to this end a small working group of members of the Parish

Council and the Parochial Church Council was put together to take this forward.

As a result, a number of initiatives have been agreed. The WI is to produce a "Timeline" of Wistow – old and interesting buildings in the village; the Friendship Group is to produce a display of old Wistow photos and artefacts; the Sunday School is to survey the wildlife that lives in and around the wall; and the teenagers are to produce a photo record of the reconstruction from start to end.

At a meeting on 13th May with the Church Architect and English Heritage it was decided that the work required along Parsonage Street is less than anticipated but that the stretch along Church Street will need completely rebuilding.

New drawings and specifications have now been drawn up and invitations to tender sent to three firms of builders. Once the responses are in a decision will be made about which tender to accept and hopefully the work can then commence in the not too distant future.

BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR CAR CRIME

We understand that there have been some recent instances of car crime in the village.

A number of cars have had petrol siphoned off. In one case the owner of a car found would-be robbers had already opened the boot of the car; they ran off when challenged and unfortunately escaped.

So you are advised to be on your guard and to watch out for strangers acting suspiciously.

LATEST ON THE PARISH PLAN

Watch out in September for the Parish Plan Questionnaire which will be dropping through your letterbox.

This is your opportunity to contribute to the plan by highlighting the issues you think are important to our parish and how to address them. A generous grant has been obtained from the Countryside Agency and a number of volunteers have been giving their time; but the most important thing is for everyone to spend a little time making their views known. Note that there is a separate questionnaire for under sixteens.

Please also note that there is a **prize draw** for all those who return completed questionnaires.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Did you know that a Mobile Library visits Wistow on a regular basis? If you want to take advantage of this facility it visits on alternate Thursdays from 11.10 to 11.20 am and parks on Church Street. The next dates will be August 12th and 26th.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2004

Tuesday 31st August – W.I. trip to Hyde Hall Gardens (9.30 am)

Friday 10th September – Quiz Night, Village Hall

Wednesday 13th October – Games Night, Village Hall

Friday 26th November – Mulled Wine Evening, Village Hall

Monday & Wednesday, 13th & 15th December – Carol Singing around the village