

THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2004

Editorial

This is the last issue of The Warbler for 2004, so I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

So that there is plenty of material for next year's issues can I once again ask for any of you who have any articles that you'd like to insert to submit them to me.

Remember that these can be topical, historical, controversial; anything that you feel would be interesting or informative.

John Dransfield

Collection Tabs to be Re-introduced on our Postboxes

Since 2002, post boxes have only displayed the last collection time each day, rather than when the next collection will be made. This has caused problems as it was impossible to know if the last collection of the day had already taken place, which frequently happened before the stated time.

The Royal Mail are now introducing day tabs, which will show the day of the next collection; this will be updated at the time of the last collection. So, if it's Monday and the tab says Monday, you can be sure that the last collection has not yet taken place.

The Royal Mail's plan is to have introduced the day tabs across the whole country by the end of the year.

VILLAGE "TREE WARDEN" WANTED - AND VOLUNTEER TREE PLANTERS!

The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to act as Tree Warden for the village.

The background to this is that Huntingdonshire District Council will donate, free of charge, up to 50 trees to the village to be planted at our discretion. The role of the Tree Warden is to work closely with the Parish Council to decide where new trees should be planted, to co-ordinate the receipt and planting of the trees, and also to possibly liaise with the HDC Tree Officer about tree related matters.

No experience or specific knowledge is required and a training pack will be provided by HDC. However, the position would suit someone who has a keen interest in preserving and improving the natural environment of the village.

If you are interested then please contact the clerk David Titmarsh on 822517. Volunteers are also needed to help in the planting of the trees; again, if you are interested, please contact David.

VANDALISM AT THE VILLAGE POST BOX

A few weeks ago someone pushed a half-eaten pizza into the post box by the bus shelter.

Although this sounds trivial and amusing there are potentially serious repercussions. The Royal Mail has threatened to consider withdrawing the collection service should this be repeated.

If this were to happen it would be a major blow so, please, no repeats.

A Different Way to Donate to Charity

The Wistow WI have decided on an initiative for this Christmas to help selected charities.

Instead of sending Christmas cards to friends who live locally, why not instead donate the money saved to go to the charities that have been selected by the WI? A list of these charities will be posted on the WI notice board on the bus shelter.

If you wish to participate in this scheme then please contact either Jean Duke (822828) or Denise Dransfield (822936).

DO YOU WANT TO STOP UNSOLICITED MAIL?

If you are fed up with receiving loads of unsolicited advertising mailshots, did you know that you can put a stop to most of them?

The direct mail industry uses standard lists of names and addresses and you can have your name removed from these lists by contacting the Mailing Preference Service.

To find out more contact:-

Mailing Preference Service Ltd
FREEPOST 29
LON 20771
London
W1E 0ZT

Web site:- www.mpsonline.org.uk

...AND ALSO COLD SALES TELEPHONE CALLS?

If you are fed up with these also, you can register with the Telephone Preference Service whose address is DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London, W1W 8SS; phone number 020 7291 3320.

This tells all organisations who are members of the Direct Marketing Association not to ring your number. It won't stop calls from non-member organisations but should considerably reduce the number of calls you get.

RAMSEY AND WARBOYS ADVICE SERVICE

The Ramsey and Warboys Advice Service is a new service for people on low incomes who need specialist advice on welfare benefits, housing, and money matters. Most people on low incomes or who receive income support, working tax credit, or pension credit are eligible for the full service.

Experienced advisers can give advice on a range of issues such as homelessness, threat of eviction, housing benefit, council tax benefit, income support, tax credits, jobseekers allowance, rent arrears, fuel debts, credit card debts, etc.

The service is free, confidential, and is independent of local or central government. Home visits can be arranged for people who are frail, elderly or housebound.

To arrange an appointment call 01480 356778. The line is manned from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday to Thursday with an answerphone at other times.

Wistow Parish Plan Update

There was a great response to the parish plan questionnaire. From approximately 220 households in the village there were over 160 completed questionnaires returned and the Steering Group would like to thank everyone who participated for their support and contribution.

The prize draw will take place at the Cancer Research Mulled Wine Evening in the village hall on 26th November.

The Steering Group has already started work on analysing your responses and a first draft of the plan is expected to be available for discussion at an open meeting that will be held in the village early in the new year.

REMOVAL OF ELM TREE IN OAKLANDS AVENUE

We are informed by Huntingdonshire District Council that sadly one of the elm trees in Oaklands Avenue is suffering from Dutch Elm Disease and requires felling.

Unfortunately there is no other option. The elm bark beetles lay their eggs under the bark where they over-winter before hatching in the spring and then spreading

the disease. It is therefore important to remove the tree as soon as possible.

Obviously this will be a loss to the area, but HDC is proposing to plant a replacement tree – a lime tree has been suggested.

Wistow Church Clock

This is the second of a series of articles about the church clock, with thanks to Paul Turner

The clock does not have its own chime bell. Instead, the strike mechanism lifts and drops a hammer that strikes one of the bells in the bell tower.

Unfortunately the accuracy of the clock's timekeeping is not perfect. This is because the pendulum, which is made of oak, changes slightly in length according to the weather. Accuracy to within around a minute per day is the best achievable, and the clock needs to be re-set every 1 to 2 weeks.

In 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the clock was replaced with an electric mechanism to drive both the hands and the chime. Unfortunately the clock was badly damaged in the process and the electric drive burned out in 1985.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2004

Friday 26th November – Mulled Wine Evening, Village Hall

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