

THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2005/2006

Editorial

First of all I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, and I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas.

I'd like, once again, to draw your attention to the article about the Parish Plan and beseech you to get involved in the actions. Let's not lose the enthusiasm that was generated when the plan was presented in the village hall.

John Dransfield

Do You Want to be Paid to Cut the Grass Around the Village?

Every year the Parish Council spends a considerable amount of money to pay for the cutting of grass in certain areas of the village.

Tenders are being invited for carrying out this work for 2006, and if there is anyone who lives locally who would wish to undertake the work then the Parish Council would very much like to hear from you.

If you are interested then contact David Titmarsh, Clerk to the Council, who will let you have a specification of the work (locations, frequency of cut, etc) and will advise on how you should submit your quote.

Your quote will need to be submitted to David by February 21st at the latest as the decision about to whom the contract will be awarded will be made at the Parish Council meeting on February 23rd. Quotes have already been received from outside contractors.

Well Done You Carol Singers

Many thanks go to all those people who turned up and participated in the carol singing before Christmas.

Over 30 people joined in the singing and helped to raise £177 to go to Cancer Research and to the Air Ambulance. Let's aim for even more next year.

Don't Forget the Pub Quiz Nights

This is just a reminder that these are held on the last Wednesday of every month, 8.00 for an 8.30 pm start, but check the board outside the pub in case there are any changes. Remember that the proceeds go to nominated charities and, in the run up to Christmas, towards the Pensioners' Christmas Party.

Those of you who haven't yet been along are missing a very enjoyable night out.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

At the meeting of the Parish Council on November 24th 2005 the council voted unanimously to co-opt John Parkinson as a councillor to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Heather Marshall.

John, known to many of you as "Scouse", has lived in the village for donkey's years and has previously served on the Parish Council, including a spell as chairman. We all welcome John back to the council where his knowledge of the village should be a major asset.

Do You Care About Healthcare in Huntingdonshire?

You'll recall that in the last Winter edition of the Warbler I did an article about the Patient & Public Involvement in Health Forum for Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. There is also a forum for Huntingdonshire Primary Care Trust; primary care covers GPs, dentists, pharmacies, opticians, clinics, etc.

PPI Forums act as the voice of the public on health related issues and are made up of local volunteers, members of the public who have a keen interest in the quality of healthcare being provided and want to make a difference.

The Huntingdonshire PPI Forum has been involved in such issues as the proposed closure of the GP surgery in Little Paxton, the lack of convenient public transport to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, the need for more NHS dentists locally, etc. The work of the forum is determined by views and information from the public so if there are any aspects of the service that concern you then you are strongly encouraged to inform the forum.

Volunteers to serve on the forum are actively being sought; the more members there are the more of a difference the forum can make. You do not have to have any experience in the NHS, just an interest in raising standards.

If you wished to join you would receive a range of appropriate training and would need to set aside around 4 or 5 hours per week. You would be involved in working in teams with other volunteers on a range of projects, and could, if you wished, take on projects of your own.

This is a unique project which, for volunteers serving on the forum, should prove interesting, challenging and rewarding.

For more information about becoming a member, or to report any issues of concern that you may have about our local primary health care services, please contact Amy Potter at Cambridgeshire ACRE, E-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA; telephone 01353 865353.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Andrew Harding would like to thank all of the people who supported and helped to organise the inaugural "bash" on New Years Eve in the village hall.

The event was a great success with around 60 people attending and being entertained by a guest appearance from "Brucio" with "Play Your Cards Right", a karaoke and disco, and a live projection of Big Ben at the chimes of midnight. Around £110 was raised on the night, to be divided between Cancer Research and the Village Hall fund.

The organisers wish everyone a prosperous new year and look forward to seeing you at their next event – watch this space.

PARISH PLAN LATEST

In the last Warbler we said that the intention was for each of the 16 actions to be co-ordinated by a Parish Councillor. These responsibilities have now been allocated and are as follows:-

Ted Benson – *Traffic and Police/Crime*

John Dransfield – *Pedestrians and Post Office/Shop*

Trevor Struggles – *Lighting and New Post Box*

Andy Carlyle – *Litter, Countryside and Youth Issues*

John Parkinson – *Newspaper Deliveries, Activities/Clubs and Communication*

Henry Franklin – *Good Neighbourhood Scheme and Village Signs*

John Wadsworth – *Village Hall and Flooding*

Some of you have already “signed up” to get involved but many have not. So, if you want to participate in any of these actions, or want to find out what is involved, then contact Dave Titmarsh or, alternatively, the appropriate parish councillor directly. You can look at your copy of the plan to see more detail about each of these.

This really is your opportunity to participate in moving these actions forward and to influence the outcomes, and it would be great for our community to have as many people involved as possible.

Wistow Church Clock

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

In the last article in the Autumn 2004 edition we told how the electric drive, fitted in 1977 to drive both the hands and the chime, burned out in 1985.

In 1986 the clock underwent a complete restoration to its original condition. This work was carried out by Paul Turner with help from Mac Simpson and a business colleague and took around 3 months to complete. It was then run in for a period of 6 months using the original weights to drive the mechanism.

Satisfied that the clock was fully functional again a grant was then obtained to help pay for the fitting of an electric auto-winder. This ingenious device consists of a heavy motor and gearbox weighing the same as the original weight. It gradually climbs up a chain to rotate the drum at the same speed as it climbs and thus effectively stays in the same position.

So once again the clock runs exactly as it did when it was built in 1748, except that the winding of the drums is now done automatically.

In 1987 the clock face was restored, with Ramsey Fire Brigade kindly providing the men and turntable ladder to remove and then replace it. This help was provided without charge although a donation was made to a local charity.

NEED TO MAKE A 999 CALL BUT NO MOBILE SIGNAL?

If you are in an area where you have no mobile signal, such as in a tunnel, but you urgently need to dial 999 what can you do? To solve this problem phone companies have signed up to a method whereby, if you have no signal, you dial 112. This will divert to a satellite signal and put you in touch with a 999 call centre.

Apparently another advantage of this is that, because you are connected to a satellite service, it means that the call centre automatically gets a trace as to where you are.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2006

Friday 17th March – Annual Cancer Research “Big Breakfast” , village hall, 10.00 – 12.00 am.

May (date to be fixed) – Car Boot Sale

June (date to be fixed) – Plant Sale

Saturday 15th July – Music Evening, Porch House Field

Sunday 16th July – Sports Day, Porch House Field

Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd September – Cricket Tournament, Porch House Field