

# THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

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## Editorial

From this issue on, you will find the names and contact details for our District and County Councillors, and also for our MP. Please feel free to contact them if you have any concerns.

John Dransfield

## **TWO THANK-YOUS FROM JULIA AND GERRY**

Apologies for being a bit late with the first of these; I'm afraid it just missed the deadline for the January issue.

Julia and Gerry at the Three Horseshoes would like to say a very big thank you to Ronnie Sansum and Nip Peacock for collecting around the village before Christmas, and to every one of you who generously donated towards the pensioners' Christmas Lunch. It was a great success, and Julia and Gerry are very much looking forward to the next one later this year. Thanks again.

Secondly, they would like to thank everyone for being so friendly and welcoming and for making their first year in Wistow so enjoyable. Yes, really, their first anniversary was on 13<sup>th</sup> April – doesn't time fly!

## **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Replacing Susan Normington, who now represents Ramsey as a result of local government boundary changes, Victor Lucas was elected last May as our Cambridgeshire County Councillor.

Wistow is now part of a County Council Division known as Warboys and Upwood which also includes Woodwalton, Wyton on the Hill, and villages in between.

Victor's main responsibility is as a member of the Cabinet concerned with the quality of teaching and learning in schools, and you can find his contact details on the back page. He can be contacted regarding any issues concerning education, highways, and social services, and is also happy to forward any concerns you may have to our MP, Shailesh Vara.

He also works closely with our Huntingdonshire District Councillors, Peter Bucknell and Jack Taylor, to ensure that all problems are addressed and to avoid things falling between the gaps. Along with Peter and Jack, Victor usually attends meetings of Wistow Parish Council, and is keen to help to improve things in the village; he is particularly keen to assist in the implementation of our Parish Plan.

## **WISTOW FUN WEEKEND**

Don't forget to put the date of the next Fun Weekend in your diaries – 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July. Patsy and Richard Coles are once again kindly making Porch House Field available for this event.

The music evening on the Saturday will once again feature jazz; music will be by the Jazz Beans who proved very popular last year. The sports day on the Sunday will feature the usual mix of races and fun events, with opportunities to improve on previous year's records and to topple the

current holders of the tug o' war competition – start putting your teams together.

Last year saw some imaginative flower pot men taking up residence in several gardens a week or so before the fun weekend, and the hope is that the prize for the best flower pot man (or woman) will be even more hotly contested this year.

Further information will drop through your letter boxes nearer the time, but please give your support by turning up to enjoy the fun. Remember that this is the Village Hall Committee's main fund-raising event to keep our village hall operating successfully.

By the way, don't forget the plant sale, car boot sale and cricket tournament; dates are in the "Dates for your Diary" section.

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A "GOOD NEIGHBOUR" SCHEME?**

One of the actions in the Parish Plan was to set up a Good Neighbour scheme. Following an initial meeting, a list is now being drawn up of all those people in the village who will be willing and available to help others with various chores such as shopping, dog walking, driving folk to doctors or dentists appointments, etc, when these things become difficult through illness or infirmity.

If you want to help, or want some more information about how you can contribute, then please call Henry or Pam Franklin on 824725.

## **Fresh Pork Available from Porch House**

Patsy and Richard Coles are taking orders for the next batch of their home-reared rare-breed pork which is ready around now. If you would like to have half a pig then call Patsy or Richard on 823542 and they will reserve it for you.

The next batch of pork will be sometime in the autumn; if you would like more information or wish to register for future batches then give Patsy or Richard a call.

## **PEOPLE STILL NEEDED TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PARISH PLAN**

Some of the actions from the Parish Plan are now underway, and have had a reasonable response from people wishing to get actively involved in the implementation. However, some of the actions have received no volunteers at all, or insufficient to get the actions off the ground.

Remember, if people don't get actively involved then some of these actions will never happen. So, get out your copy of the Parish Plan, have another read, and let Dave Titmarsh know which actions you'd like to be involved in.

If by the time of the next Warbler there is still a shortage of people on some teams then I'll list the actions that will need more participation.

## **Wistow Enters The Anglia in Bloom Competition**

The Parish Council has entered Wistow into the local Anglia in Bloom competition, to be judged in July this year, which gives us all the opportunity to show off our creative horticultural skills and to demonstrate our pride in our village.

Judges will be looking for good choices of plants, colour, good floral displays in both public and private areas, and also for a generally tidy environment with no litter. Photographs showing evidence over the last twelve months is also acceptable, showing how the village looks at different seasons.

There are a number of awards available, looking at different aspects of beauty, creativity and colour, so let's show the judges what we're made of when we get our trowels out. For more information contact David Titmarsh.

## **PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE WHEN USING FOOTPATHS**

This is a reminder from the local farmers about the need to observe the Countryside Code when walking your dogs on the various footpaths across agricultural land around the village.

You are very welcome to walk these paths but are asked to stick to the correct routes, stay on the path, and don't walk on any other grass strips as these are left quiet for the benefit of wildlife. Dogs should be kept under close control or on leads at all times, and sticks or balls should not be thrown into the crops.

This doesn't just apply to the established rights of way but also to the permissive paths, such as the circular route from Wistow Bridge whose correct route is clearly shown on the route map.

Everyone's co-operation would be much appreciated so that we can all enjoy the countryside without causing problems for the local farmers.

## **Huntingdonshire Concessionary Bus Fares**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, qualifying persons will be entitled to free bus travel within Huntingdonshire, and to reduced fares if you travel beyond Huntingdonshire but within Cambridgeshire; this will cost £1.80 return or £1.00 single.

The main qualifying groups are: anyone aged 60 or more, anyone registered blind or deaf, those qualifying for the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance, and those with a learning disability.

If you will be obtaining a bus pass for the first time then you must do so in person; the nearest places are Ramsey Information Centre on Great Whyte or the Cash Office, Castle Hill House, Huntingdon. If you are renewing a pass then you can also do this by post to Pathfinder House.

As with all such schemes there are lots of nitty gritty exceptions and restrictions, and you can find out full details, and also find out what you should do to apply, by phoning 01480 388167.

## **MORE PARISH COUNCILLORS URGENTLY NEEDED**

In the very near future several vacancies are going to arise on the Parish Council. Don't forget that the Parish Council does an important job within the village; so, please put your names forward to Dave Titmarsh if you are prepared to give a small amount of your time for the benefit of our community.

## **Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2006**

Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> – Plant Sale, Village Hall, 2.00 pm

Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> – Car Boot Sale, Playing Field, 2.00 pm

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Music Evening, Porch House Field

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day, Porch House Field

Saturday & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Cricket Tournament, Porch House Field