

THE WISTOW WARBLER

Wistow village web-site: www.wistowvillage.info

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2006/7

Editorial

As usual I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to everyone. I have to start 2007 with some sad news; our elderly chocolate labrador, Toby, finally succumbed to his nearly 17 years and, at Christmas, he went off to the big kennel in the sky. We'll miss him.

John Dransfield

VILLAGE "HANDYMAN" STILL NEEDED BY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is still looking for someone local to carry out small jobs around the village. This is now getting quite urgent as the number of jobs waiting to be done is starting to mount up.

The work is paid, and the Parish Council prefers to give this opportunity to someone local rather than bringing in commercial contractors. If you are interested, or if you want more information, then contact the clerk, Dave Titmarsh, on 822517.

VANDALISM AT THE PLAYING FIELD

Vandalism and Wistow are two things that shouldn't go together but regrettably this isn't so. It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that three picnic tables have been badly damaged and thrown into the ditch.

It may be possible to repair these tables, but it will cost the Parish Council needless money (which, don't forget, is your money) to get them fixed and possibly to have them secured so they can't be moved around.

The Parish Council is determined that this sort of behaviour, which constitutes criminal damage, will not be tolerated, and are appealing for any information into the perpetrators so that appropriate action can be taken. Anyone who knows anything should contact a member of the Parish Council.

For the future they are also asking everyone to be vigilant and to report any future acts of this kind so that Wistow doesn't go the way of so many other villages and become plagued with mindless vandalism.

Ken Twigden Retires From Delivering the Sunday Papers

It's the end of an era as Ken Twigden retired from the job of delivering our Sunday papers just before Christmas.

Ken has been delivering the Sunday papers to many people in Wistow, as well as to one or two surrounding villages, for nearly 30 years, and did this through rain, snow, wind and hail, as well as sun. However, he reckons that something called "age" has finally caught up with him.

I'm sure all Ken's old customers will join me in thanking him for making our Sunday mornings a bit easier, and will wish him well.

The good news is that Ken has arranged for the Sunday deliveries to continue, and this will in future be done by Philippe Sivakumar from Sophie Convenience Store in Ramsey. If other people from the village would like to start receiving Sunday papers then give him a call on 01487 813870.

LOSS OF ONE OF OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Jack Taylor, one of our District Councillors, sadly died on October 26th after a long illness. This means that, until the election in February, our sole District Councillor is now Peter Bucknell, of the Conservative party. Jack, who lived in Warboys for many years, had been one of our councillors since 2004.

BULBS PLANTED AROUND THE VILLAGE

As part of Wistow's commitment to Anglia in Bloom, on 2nd December over a thousand spring bulbs were planted around the village by a team of 16 volunteers. A big thank you goes to these hardy souls and to all the other people who donated either bulbs or money to make this possible.

These were planted at the entrances to the village, outside the cemetery, around the base of the trees at The Grove, and in two half barrels which have been placed on the lawns outside Oaklands Close. We should have an excellent show this spring.

We are entering the competition again in 2007 and judging is likely to take place in the first week of July. At this stage, there are a few bits of advice about how we can improve our chances: firstly, make sure that we clear up litter and dog poos; secondly, the judges have suggested that people put up bird and bat boxes. If you want to do this then please let a member of the co-ordinating committee know and they will try to get you a discount on the prices which start at £5 for bat boxes and £8 for bird boxes.

In the next issue I'll go into some more of the recommendations from the judges. Incidentally, the co-ordinating committee consists of the leader Pam Franklin (824725), secretary Heather Stewart, Ann Leeming, Sarah Carlyle and John Dransfield. If you want to get involved or have any suggestions then give Pam a ring.

MORE CHANGES ON WISTOW PARISH COUNCIL

There have been more changes on the Parish Council. For personal reasons Geoff Smith

has resigned, and at the Parish Council meeting on 25th January Joe Latter of Church Street was co-opted as his replacement. Thanks to Geoff for his time as a councillor, and thanks and best wishes to Joe.

One bit of news concerns the precept (ie the amount that Wistow Parish Council is funded by the residents of Wistow); for the first time for several years this has had to be increased, by 5% to £6,300, for the year 2007/8. This is as a result of increasing costs for various items such as grass cutting and electricity supplies, and the repair of the vandalism to the playing field picnic tables and their permanent fixture to the site (see separate article about this).

Also, don't forget the parish Council Open Meeting, which will be held on Thursday 24th May. This is your chance to hear what is going on, to have your questions answered, and to express an opinion or two.

Wistow Web Site Updated

There have been a couple of additions to the Wistow web site. Around 20 fascinating old photographs of the village can now be viewed, and also the "Village Walk" which guides you round the village and describes the features of interesting buildings.

THE THREE HORSESHOES RAISES MONEY FOR CHARITY

Once again, Julia and Gerry at the pub would like to say a big thank you to all their customers who helped to raise £1,820 for Cancer Research during 2006. This was raised from the regular quiz nights, meat raffles, bonus balls and library.

Don't forget that the quiz nights continue at the pub on the last Wednesday of every month, and there is an additional music quiz on Wednesday 7th March. So get down there and have a good time while helping a good cause.

WISTOW NOW HAS AN INDOOR CRICKET TEAM

Wistow now has a cricket team which competes in the Second Division of the St Ives Indoor 6 a Side Cricket League. Matches are played at St Ives indoor leisure centre on Sunday afternoons.

Team members from Wistow are Andrew Harding, Gregor and Graham MacInnes, Jason Short and Matt Lee. They are also helped out by a couple of players from St Ives Cricket Club.

The team is performing admirably, lying joint 3^d in the league with 4 wins and 4 defeats, which is very good for a team in its first season. If you are interested or want more information then contact Andrew Harding (captain, manager, treasurer, all round good egg, etc) on 822747.

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE STATE OF OUR ROADS?

Ted Benson, Vice-chairman of the Parish Council, is concerned that Cambridgeshire County Council are not adequately maintaining the roads leading to Wistow.

As an example he quotes a gentleman who was planning to move to Wistow who decided against on account of the roads being, as he saw it, uneven, subsiding, and dangerous when wet. When he approached the County Council the response that he received indicated that they did not see any particular problem. What do you think? If you have any strong feelings about our roads then why not contact Ted or our County Councillor, Victor Lucas, and let them know your views.

Wistow Church Clock

This is the fourth and final episode of a series of articles about the church clock, with thanks to Paul Turner

Last time we heard how the clock was fully restored in 1986/7 and fitted with an electric auto-winder. Now the clock continues to run reasonably reliably although, as has been mentioned before, the time can gradually drift by a few minutes due to the pendulum changing length with different weather conditions. Minor repairs are required from time to time, and the mechanism is lubricated with turret oil, a special oil from a clock maker in Clerkenwell in London.

Probably the most bizarre reason for the clock stopping was due to a swallow. For some reason peacock butterflies are attracted to the clock tower in large numbers; on one occasion this particular swallow was chasing these butterflies and got squashed between the pendulum and the chamber floor (now what are the odds against that?)

The most recent restoration work was carried out by the Parochial Church Council to protect the clock from dust and rain that was blowing in through the window behind the face.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2007

Parish Council Open Meeting – Thursday 24th May, 7.00 pm, Village Hall (followed by AGM)

Plant Sale (mid May) and Car Boot Sale (mid June) – in aid of village hall funds, final dates to be announced later

Church Heritage Weekend and Open Gardens – Saturday and Sunday, 23rd and 24th June

Wistow Fun Weekend – Saturday and Sunday, 14th and 15th July

Cricket Tournament – Sunday 26th August