

THE WISTOW WARBLER

Wistow village web-site: www.wistovillage.info

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

WISTOW IN BLOOM

Don't forget that the Wistow in Bloom Quiz is being held in the Village Hall on Saturday 26th April, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start. So far around 40 tickets have been sold; if you are intending to go, and haven't yet got your tickets, then contact Pam Franklin or John Dransfield. You'll need to hurry, as numbers are limited to around 50 people.

Keep your eyes out for future WIB Newsletters for details of planned projects and activities, there are lots of things happening this year. Judging for the Anglia in Bloom competition will take place sometime during the first 2 weeks of July and if you're not directly involved in any projects you can still play your part by making your gardens and boundaries as attractive as possible.

The Annual Open Meeting of the Parish Council

The Wistow Parish Council's Annual Open Meeting will take place on Tuesday 29th April 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and everyone living within the parish is invited to attend. Various reports, including the Financial Statement and Chairman's Report, will be read out on the night by members of the council, and villagers will be free to ask questions about these reports.

There will also be ample opportunity for residents to ask the council about any issues that they wish to raise concerning life in our village. You are encouraged to attend as this is your opportunity to find out what the Parish Council is doing with your money and to make your views felt.

As a specific request, the Parish Council would like to ask that any acts of vandalism noticed

around the village be reported to the Parish Council as well as to the Police.

Yet Another Request to Dog Owners

The Parish Council would like to repeat its appeal to dog owners as the situation with regard to dog poo on pavements and verges is still a big problem and the subject of repeated complaints.

All dog walkers are asked to take plastic bags with them and to clear up any mess their dogs might make on pavements, verges, greens, etc within the village; note that dogs are not allowed at all on the playing fields. It's no trouble, the bags are free, and there are now a number of bins around the village specifically for disposing of them, so please use these bins.

You should also have had a leaflet through your door a few weeks ago from Huntingdonshire District Council about this issue; in particular it's worth noting that substantial fines apply to dog owners who allow dogs to foul in public places and don't immediately clean it up.

Many dog walkers already take care. So, if the rest did, then in future we could have Wistow as a dog poo free zone. Wouldn't that be a lot more pleasant for everyone.

Handmade Cards For Sale

If you'd like a custom handmade card made to order for a loved one, or for a special occasion, then call Sue Mack, of Oaklands Avenue, on 822444. Sue can make any card to order at a very reasonable price, with typical cards being about £2.50, depending on the amount of work involved. If you'd like to see examples of her work, feel free to give her a call.

EVENTS FOR 2008 ORGANISED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The Village Hall Committee will be organising the usual range of events in the village during 2008, so make sure that these dates are in your diaries.

A Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 10th May, 12.00 to 3.00 pm, on the green at the corner of Bridge Street and Manor Street; your opportunity to purchase bedding and other plants at very reasonable prices.

The Fun Weekend kicks off with the Music Night on Saturday 12th July, starting at 6.00 pm, and will feature the return of "On Route", a very popular rhythm and blues band. This will be followed on Sunday 13th July by the Sports Day, starting at 2.00 pm, with the usual mixture of sporting events, side-shows and activities for all.

Wistow Cricket Tournament will be contested on Sunday 7th September. This is proving to be a very popular afternoon of sport and entertainment with four village teams battling for the Coles Trophy. A junior tournament will be held in the morning for youngsters; those who have played previously have had a lot of fun, and it would be great to see a lot more budding stars taking part this year. As usual, the Fun Weekend and Cricket Tournament will be held at Porch House Field with the generous help of Patsy and Richard Coles.

It is also a possibility that a Rounders Tournament will be held, possibly sometime in June. If this is confirmed, keep your eyes open for an announcement of the details.

PARISH COUNCIL TEMPORARY RESTRUCTURING

Following the recent hospitalisation of one of the Parish Councillors, Gordon MacInnes, our current District Councillor, Peter Bucknell, has agreed to be co-opted

onto the Wistow Parish Council for up to 6 months, with a review at 3 months. Many thanks to Peter for stepping in at this time, and also best wishes to Gordon for a full and speedy recovery.

Coffee Mornings in aid of Cancer Research

The dates of two Coffee Mornings in aid of Cancer Research have been set. The first is on Tuesday 8th July, 10.00 to 12.00 am, at Hall Farm, Bury, by kind permission of Linda and Tom Blackhurst. The second is on Thursday 28th August, 10.30 to 12.00 am, at Pound House, Parsonage Street, by kind permission of Jill and John Wadsworth.

At each there will be a raffle and a bring 'n' buy; if the weather is nice, please bring your own garden chairs for sitting outside.

HISTORY OF WISTOW'S ECONOMY FROM DOMESDAY

This is the third article in a series about the history of our village

The Domesday survey of 1086 recorded that Wistow had a wood for pannage (pasturage for pigs for a payment) extending one league by half a league (3 miles by 1½ miles). It is probable that Rolts Wood and Wistow Wood are two surviving remnants at the extremities of the original wood.

Wistow was assessed at nine hides (1350 acres) with a value of £8, and had a church, a priest, and a mill. This is evidence that the village was a place of some importance at the time.

A survey of 1252 indicated a windmill, almost certainly on the same site as that of a mill shown on a map of 1768. This was on the right hand side of the road going out of the village towards Kings Ripton and was

used by tenants of Upwood and the two Raveleys as well as by those of Wistow.

A new four storey mill was built on the site around 1850 by a John Dickerson. Subsequently the sails were removed and the mill was powered first by a portable steam engine and then by a crude oil engine. The mill continued in operation until the early 1900s and milling was obviously an important industry for many years.

No trace of the mill now survives. Most of the windmill was dismantled during the second world war so as not to impede aeroplanes using Warboys airfield, and the bottom course of bricks were removed in the 1950s.

Over the centuries there was a constant need for reeds, for thatching and for fuel and summer grazing. To ensure this supply Wistow possessed a portion of fenland at Wistow Fen and in fact the parish still contains around 700 acres of fenland.

Extracted from the booklet produced by Mac Simpson, to whom many thanks

NO DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR RAMSEY POLICE STATION

There is no longer a direct telephone number for Ramsey Police Station. You now need to call 0845 456 456 4 and the switchboard operator will be able to put you through. However, in order to raise an incident or a crime, you will need to report it to the main operator. I don't know that number, but presumably if you ring the 0845 number they'll be able to tell you.

FRESH LOCAL PORK

Richard and Patsy Coles at Porch House in Manor Street are due to have fresh pork available in May and June.

In response to local feedback they are trying to make their delicious pork available to a wider audience by offering individual joints as well as their own sausages, burgers, mince and sausage rolls. From July they will have the same service from their freezer but need to know the likely on-going level of demand in order to retain sufficient stock. If there is a demand for other products such as raised pies they would be pleased to hear from you.

With public demand increasing so significantly for locally sourced food it is good news that Richard and Patsy are developing their services in this way so contact them on 823542 or at porchhousepork@btinternet.com to discuss any requirements or to provide feedback.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2008

Saturday 26th April – Wistow in Bloom Quiz Night, 7.00 for 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Tuesday 29th April – Parish Council Open Meeting, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Saturday 10th May – Plant Sale, 12.00 – 3.00, corner of Bridge and Manor Streets

Tuesday 8th July – Cancer Research Coffee Morning, 10.00 – 12.00, Hall Farm, Bury

Saturday 12 July – Music Evening, 6.00 pm, Porch House Field

Sunday 13th July – Sports Day, 2.00 pm, Porch House Field

Thursday 28th August - Cancer Research Coffee Morning, 10.30 – 12.00, Pound House, Parsonage Street

Sunday 7th September – Cricket Tournament, Porch House Field