

THE WISTOW WARBLER

Wistow village web-site: www.wistovillage.info

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009

Editorial

It has been suggested to me that it would be a good idea to allow trades-people from the village to advertise, free of charge of course, in the Warbler. So, if you provide a service and you'd like your details to go in each future issue then please let me have the details. It would be nice to think that villagers would use local trades-people wherever possible.

Also remember that in order to keep this newsletter interesting I am always in need of articles, and I need you to provide them to me. You can submit them to me at any time, don't wait until you think an edition is coming out.

In addition to articles about current events and goings on, one type of article that it would be great to be able to publish would be from those of you who can provide reminiscences from Wistow's past, whether first hand experiences or just because you happen to know about something.

John Dransfield

FREE COMPOST

Once again Huntingdonshire District Council are making bags of compost available, one per household, free of charge. Deliveries will be sometime during May and the aim of the compost giveaway is to promote the benefit of composting and to say thank you for all the hard work residents have put in to separate out their waste for recycling and composting. Watch the Parish Council Notice Board and website for details of when and from where the compost will be available for collection.

Wistow Toddler Group Is Back

By popular demand, the Wistow Toddler Group is back. Time Out TotS restarted during March and sessions are held in the village hall on Thursdays from 9.30 to 11.30 during school

term time. So go along for a cup of tea and/or a chat.

All pre-schoolers are welcome, and there is a charge of £1 per session. Children must be supervised at all times. For enquiries, or any ideas, phone Mel Bennett on 823749.

CHURCH HERITAGE WEEKEND 2009

This year sees the biennial Church Heritage Weekend, to be held on the 20th and 21st of June. At the church there will be the usual Flower Festival, teas and refreshments, and an assortment of stalls.

This is also the weekend when volunteers in the village open their gardens to the public. It's always nice to have some new gardens to see and admire in addition to the lovely gardens that are usually open; if you have not previously opened your garden but would wish to do so this time then please contact Helen Buddle on 823121.

Proceeds from sales, and the £1 fees for touring the gardens, go to church funds. But it's more than fund-raising, it's also an excellent social event, and if you are new to the village it gives you the chance to meet lots of people. So, everybody, come along.

CANCER RESEARCH SUCCESS

At the local Cancer Research committee meeting in 2008, it was decided to unite all fund raising activities and to try to purchase a special piece of equipment.

They are very pleased to report that they have reached their target having raised £56,540 and are now able to buy a Fluorescent Activated Cell Sorter, a state of the art analyzer by Flow Cytometry Facilities. This amazing piece of technology can tell Scientists how fast cancer cells are growing or if any anti-cancer treatments are working. It can also provide valuable information about the cell, eg the amount of fluorescently

labelled DNA in a cell which is a reflection of whether they are multiplying or not. Very technical, but sounds impressive.

To celebrate this achievement, a plaque is being presented at the Cancer Research Institute on the Addenbrooks site in the laboratory of the head scientist, Richard Grenfell on April 7th. Members of the local committee have been invited to attend.

None of this would have been possible without the continued support and generosity of everyone who has given so willingly to so many of the various fund raising activities; many thanks to everyone. It's great to see that money raised from such things as the pub quiz nights, pink parties, etc turns into something real and tangible.

Incidentally, volunteers are always welcome to help with collecting. Future collection dates are May 9th in St Ives, August 8th in Huntingdon, and September 5th in Ramsey. You would be asked to collect for 1 hour during the morning.

A Pink Party is being held at the Three Horseshoes on Friday 30th October, 10-12 am, with the usual bring 'n' buy, raffle, etc. Also, look out for future notices for coffee mornings.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

The vacancy on the Parish Council following Jo Latter's resignation has now been filled.

Three people put themselves forward for the position and at the Parish Council meeting on 24th February Deborah Robinson, of The Cottage, Bridge Street, was appointed as a councillor. Many thanks to those people who were prepared to offer their services, and good luck to Deborah.

WISTOW IN BLOOM

Don't forget that the Wistow in Bloom Quiz is being held in the Village Hall on Saturday 25th April, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start; there will be refreshments and a licensed bar. Tickets are now available so if you are planning on going and haven't yet been approached then you can obtain them from Gerry and Julia at the pub, or contact Henry Franklin on 824725. Tickets, at £5 each, are limited to 50 and were all sold out last year, so reserve yours ASAP to avoid disappointment. 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.

Projects already decided include:

- Leaflets showing many of the birds that can be seen around Wistow, with a map of existing feeding stations; leaflets will be found in the church porch and in the pub
- A vegetable planting session for children (and mums and dads) on Saturday 2nd May at 10 am at Sue Sykes' house at the bottom of Oaklands Avenue. If anyone has any spare heads of rhubarb or any herbs to donate please contact Henry

As mentioned in the last Warbler, a prime spot in the village for "doing something" is the grass bank across from the pub. A suggestion that is now being proceeded with is to plant a selection of ornamental shrubs there so keep your eyes open.

Are You Interested in a Walking Club?

Patsy Coles is going to try to start a Monday afternoon walking club. She has been doing the odd walk (usually to a pub!) but would like to do it more regularly and thought there may be other people in the village who would enjoy to do a couple of hours on footpaths in this area and would like some company. If you fancy this then contact Patsy by email (patsycoles@btinternet.com), or phone on 01487 823542.

The Annual Open Meeting of the Parish Council

The Annual Open Meeting of Wistow Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 28th April 2009 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 you to ask the council about any issues that you 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.

WISTOW BRIDGE

Following the meeting in the village hall at the beginning of March with Stephen McGee from Cambs County Council and Tim Arianpour from Atkins, where they explained the plans for the bridge and traffic calming scheme, villagers present had the chance to put forward their questions and concerns. The main point of concern was the plan to position the footpath on the south side of the bridge. Following much discussion on safety issues, and remembering that the purpose of the project is to strengthen the bridge, Mr McGee and Mr Arianpour agreed to take into consideration requests by the village to provide a footpath on the north side of the bridge to link in with the existing footpath and to avoid having to cross the road at a dangerous point.

Although there has been a delay in purchasing land to provide a clear line of site when approaching the bridge, this was not thought to be a problem. However, assurances were sought by the village that, if the scheme is carried out in two phases, the second phase would not be hampered by funding issues and it was confirmed that ongoing funding would be available to complete the scheme. However, it now seems likely that work on the bridge will not commence until the autumn although some parapet repairs will be carried out in the next few weeks.

Since the meeting Mr McGee has been contacted by a couple of farmers who are concerned that there may be a problem bringing machinery through the traffic calming scheme at harvest time. This is being addressed by the County Council and the Parish Council are now waiting to hear the outcome.

WISTOW HISTORY SOCIETY

The Historical Society is up and running again, and has now met twice this year. As was said some time ago, the aim is to produce a comprehensive and interesting record of Wistow's past, going back as far as information is available.

Althea Walker and Debbie Booth have been doing lots of research and have come up with a load of fascinating facts (as an example, someone who committed a crime in the village was transported

during the 1850s) and it is intended to have a display in the church at Heritage Weekend illustrating some of these.

Anyone is welcome to participate in developing this historical record, in particular all those people who have long-standing ties to Wistow and who can provide any information about the past including personal recollections, old photographs, etc. If you would like to get involved then please contact Jonathan Latter of Wistow Lodge, on 824696 or email personal@jlatter.co.uk.

“RACE NIGHT” AT THE THREE HORSESHOES

Another of the very successful and enjoyable Race Nights is being hosted at the pub on Sunday May 3rd 7-10.30 pm. These are organised and run by the Nial Mellon Trust, a charity that provides housing in South Africa, and a portion of the proceeds also goes to local charities. The following Monday is a bank holiday, so no excuses for not turning up.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2009

Saturday 25th April – Wistow in Bloom Quiz Night in the village hall, 7 pm for 7.30

Sunday 3rd May – Race Night at the Three Horseshoes, 7–10.30 pm

Saturday 9th May – Plant Sale, Village Green, 12-3 pm (in aid of village hall funds)

Saturday/Sunday 20th/21st June – Church Heritage Weekend and Open Gardens

Saturday 11th July – Music Night, Porch House Field, 6-10.30 (Music by the Urban Blues Band)

Sunday 12th July – Sports Day, Porch House Field, commencing 2 pm

Saturday 19th September – Cricket Tournament, Porch House Field

Friday 30th October – Pink Party at the Three Horseshoes in aid of Cancer Research, 10-12 am