

THE WISTOW WARBLER

Wistow village web-site: www.wistovillage.info

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2009

Editorial

In the last edition I offered to include permanent adverts for anyone who has a business that they want to publicise but, so far, only Ray Burton has asked to be included. I'm surprised that no one else has come forward. Remember, it's free and your ad would appear in every issue of the Warbler.

John Dransfield

WISTOW FUN WEEKEND

The Urban Blues band provided some lively music for this years Music Night. The evening started with our regular duo, the BJs who returned to play during the intervals. Both bands kept the atmosphere lively and the weather at bay with it only raining for the last half hour or so. This didn't spoil the fun and the hardy (or fool hardy) kept up the dancing until the very end.

Sunday dawned drier and got better as the day progressed so that all who came along to enjoy Fun Day did so in bright warm weather. They were able to try their hand at some of the regular activities and a few new ones, like the water slide introduced for the first time this year. The children's races were as popular and hotly contested as ever, keeping the starters and helpers fully occupied with a steady stream of winners going to the Marshals tent for their certificates.

This year's "western" theme was created by a posse of "cowboys and outlaws riding into town". The Outlaws, a charity group of western enthusiasts put on a display of gun handling and quick draw shoot-outs. The afternoon culminated with a noisy "bank robbery".

The Competition Tent was popular again with entries of photographs, cakes, jams and amusing vegetables. Wistow in Bloom again sponsored a miniature garden competition for the children. The western theme continued in the scarecrow competition and 14 imaginative

and well dressed scarecrows appeared around the village the week before Fun Weekend. The winner, "Barack Crowbarma", in Bridge Street was a masterpiece and sets the bar very high for future years.

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all the judges and helpers who worked so hard over the weekend to make it a success. As always special thanks go to Patsy and Richard Coles for making their field available to provide the ideal setting for such a traditional village gathering. Without all this help and of course the support from all those who come along to enjoy the fun, the weekend would not be possible. Congratulations to all those who took part and to the worthy winners of the competitions listed below.

Catching raw eggs: Under 14 boys: Jordon Unwin & Tommy George, 20.20 m; Under 14 Girls: Kayleigh Unwin & Hannah Parker, 13.92m; Adults: Andrew Swannell & Stuart Parker, 32.90m

Welly Wanging: Under 10: Oliver Bowd, 15.3m; Boys 10-14: Eli Ainapore, 12.7m; Girls 10-14: Saffron Wingad 9.3m; Adult: Andrew Swannell, 30m

Skimmings: Under 14: Joint winners with score of 17 - Grace Carter & Tamara Few; Adult: Paul Briggs with score of 21

Competition Tent: Best Wistow Photo: Annie Roper with "Wistow in Bud"; Best Pot of Jam: Veronica Barker; Best Cake: Annie Roper; Amusing Vegetable: Tegan MacInnes; and Miniature Garden: Annie Roper

Scarecrow Competition: Runner up: Crosby family with "Tribute to Denny", Oaklands Avenue; Winner: Deborah Robinson with "Barack Crowbarma", Bridge Street

NEW MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

There have been two resignations from the Parish Council. Henry Franklin, who has served on the council for a number of years,

latterly as Chairman, resigned in anticipation of relocating out of the village, while Gordon MacInnes resigned due to his ongoing health problems. Many thanks go to both Henry and Gordon for their past service on behalf of the village.

At the AGM in May, Richard Farrar was voted in as the new Chairman, with Chris Leigh being voted Vice Chairman. Jeremy Carter, of The Grove, and Deborah Rice, of Harris Lane, have also been co-opted onto the council to replace Henry and Gordon. Good luck to both of them and thanks for stepping forward to do their bit for the village.

As an interim measure, Peter Bucknell, one of our District Councillors, has been co-opted to fill in for Deborah Robinson, who is recuperating from an operation and will need time to fully recover. Best wishes to Deborah, and thanks to Peter for once again stepping into the breach.

MESSAGE FROM THE THREE HORSESHOES

Julia, Gerry and Nick would like to thank all their customers – both diners and drinkers – who have supported them since they took over the pub in April 2005.

For those of you who don't yet visit the pub, excellent good-value pub grub is served every day; lunch 7 days a week, and dinner every evening except Sunday; ring 822270 to book a table. They also serve excellent real ales (Adnams Bitter and Broadside) and are listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide.

A charity quiz is held on the last Wednesday of each month, and a new introduction is Nintendo Wii sports available on the big screen; ask at the bar if you'd like to play.

RAY BURTON SERVICES

Ray Burton, of Mill Road, undertakes all aspects of garden work, including: tree surgery; hedge trimming; installation of decking, patios and walls;

installation and repair of fences; turf supplied and laid; lawn cutting and treatment; sheds erected, repaired and re-felted; chipping and removal of refuse; gutters cleaned.

Ray is a registered waste carrier, is NPTC qualified, and carries full liability insurance. If you need any work doing you can contact Ray on 822492, or on his mobile 07741 224630.

WISTOW's NEW VILLAGE SIGN

Well, after all this time we now have our new village sign. As I'm sure you've all seen by now, this is sitting proudly between the benches on the green at the corner of Bridge Street and Manor Street. All that remains to be done is a slate coping for the brick plinth. Well done to everyone concerned in bringing this Parish Plan action to fruition.

I personally think it looks great, and has a real impact as you enter the village from the Toll. I know that different people have different tastes, but I hope everyone in the village is pleased with it.

Wistow in Bloom

Judging by Anglia in Bloom took place on Wednesday 8th July and, who knows, we may improve on last year's Silver award and get Silver Gilt – fingers crossed. We'll know the results in September.

This year the judges stressed that the two main criteria on which they base their assessment are "the extent to which the village environment is conserved and enhanced", and "the extent to which the village involves local residents, in particular children". So it is not all about loads of floral displays, although these play a part in the overall village environment.

The judges particularly commented on the attractive nature of the playing fields, the colourful and well-tended gardens on Oaklands Close, and the bird feeding stations and bird identification leaflets. As part of "conservation" they were impressed by the planting of the additional lime trees outside Rooks Grove Farm, and, as part of "involvement", by the children's vegetable plots in Sue Sykes' garden on Oaklands Avenue.

They also liked the tree identification board on the green. However, it is understood that Wistow Parish Council has refused permission for this

board to remain permanently; it would be good if the parish council could reconsider this decision

All good so far, but the bad news is that there is a very high likelihood that this will be the last year of Wistow in Bloom. There have been some unpleasant confrontations between members of the WiB committee and one or two long-standing residents of the village about some of this year's activities; this has resulted in the resignation of a number of committee members who feel that they do not put in time and effort on behalf of the village only to be criticised and lambasted.

It seems sad that Wistow in Bloom should come to an end in this way, particularly as so many people, both residents of the village and visitors, have been very supportive and have said how attractive our village looks as a result of WiB. It would be interesting to know the views of people in the village about whether they wish it to continue, and whether there are enough people who will come forward to form an organising committee for the future. If you feel strongly about this, or would like to form a new committee, then please contact John Dransfield (822936) or Jill Wadsworth (822541) who will coordinate any responses.

CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Following the success in raising £56,540 to provide a specialist piece of equipment for the Cancer Research Institute in Cambridge, fund raising continues unabated, with collections being held in St. Ives and at Morrisons in Cambourne, and a Trolley Dash at Rainbow in Ramsey in conjunction with the Rotary Club. Linda Blackhurst held a delightful coffee morning in her garden and on Sunday 19th July, Sally Wilson and helpers attended the huge Kimbolton Classic Car Fete, selling items at a CRUK stall.

The Three Horseshoes held another very successful Hog Roast. A lovely evening was had by all both inside and out and another £1020 was raised. Thanks to all who attended and made extra donations. Julia and Gery continue to raise money through quiz nights, sale of

books and the bonus balls. Since arriving in the village in 2005, they have raised over £9,500 for Cancer Research alone; with events planned for the rest of the year, they may well reach their target of £10,000.

Forthcoming events include a Pink Party on Friday 30th October from 10-12 at the Three Horseshoes, and a Mulled Wine Evening on Monday 30th November 7-9pm at the Village Hall. Collecting will also be taking place in Huntingdon on 8th August and in Ramsey on 5th September - all volunteers welcomed.

DO YOU NEED A MOLE CLEARANCE SERVICE?

However nice moles may be, once they decide to take up residence in your garden they can wreak havoc. If you have a mole problem then I can recommend a mole catcher who I used recently; he caught two moles in the space of a few days.

His name is David Anderson, he is a member of the Guild of British Mole Catchers, and uses only traditional humane trapping methods with no gas or poison. He guarantees 100% clearance, is very reasonably priced, and only charges when he has caught the offending mole or moles. Based in Fen Drayton, he can be contacted on 01954 202460, mobile 07813 430232, or by email at mole.control@hotmail.co.uk.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2009

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

Monday 30th November – Mulled Wine evening at the Village Hall in aid of Cancer Research, 7-9 pm

Monday 14th December – Carol Singing at the Church, 6.15-7 pm