

THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2004

Editorial

This is now the fourth edition of this newsletter and we are still going! I would very much like to thank all of those people who have contributed articles; shortage of space meant that I could not include all the ones that I have received but all of these will be included in future editions so please keep them coming.

I still have not had any articles about Wistow bygones, so if anyone has any interesting tales from the past then please let me know.

John Dransfield

Speeding in the village

Thanks to all those people who signed the petition supporting the provision of speed reduction measures.

This petition will be presented by the Parish Council to Cambridgeshire County Council as part of a pack supporting the case for funding, and this will go forward in late summer in time for the next funding reviews.

It would also be much appreciated if residents in the village played their part by adhering to the 30 mph speed limit themselves.

VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council.

This follows the resignation of Terry Knights who has now moved out of the village. Many thanks go to Terry for his many years of hard work on behalf of the village.

If any of you wish to join the Parish Council then please speak with the Clerk, Dave Titmarsh, on 822517. He will be able to advise on how to proceed and can give you any further information you may require.

To be eligible you must be aged over 21, be a British citizen, and you must have lived in the parish for at least a year.

NEW TREE FOR THE CHURCHYARD

Further to previous articles about the removal of the horse-chestnut tree, I'm sure you will be glad to hear that a replacement tree, an Incense Cedar, has now been ordered and will be planted in the autumn.

It is hoped that this new tree will grace the churchyard, and indeed the village, for many years to come.

Get On-Line at the Pub

Did you know that you can now get free access to the internet at the Three Horseshoes? Yes, free! You can also do quality black and white laser printing for only 5p per page.

So why not get down to the pub to surf the net and have a pint at the same time.

VANDALISM AT THE PLAYING FIELDS

It is with great sadness that we have to report a recent incident whereby broken glass was strewn down the slide in the playground.

This mindless act could have resulted in serious injury to a child and we trust that this is an isolated incident that will not happen again. It would seem sensible for parents of young children to advise them to check the playground facilities before playing on them.

If any of you know who the perpetrators were, perhaps you could advise them of the potentially serious consequences that could have resulted.

RAFFLE PRIZES WANTED!

The annual Fun Weekend which is to be held in July, with the musical evening on Saturday the 10th and the sports day on Sunday 11th, needs raffle prizes! Raffles are held at both events and always provide a good contribution towards Village Hall funds.

So, if any of you generous souls would like to donate a prize, then please contact Denise Dransfield on 822936.

WISTOW PARISH COUNCIL COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

If anyone has a complaint about the procedures or administration of the Parish Council then they should notify a councillor or the clerk who will then

attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint is not resolved at that point, the complaint should be put in writing to the clerk or, if preferred, to the chairman.

The clerk, or chairman, will initially attempt to resolve the complaint with the complainant. However, if the complaint is about the behaviour of the clerk or a councillor, then the person being complained about will be notified and given the opportunity to respond and suggest a resolution.

All complaints submitted in writing will be reported at the next meeting of the Parish Council, and the clerk will then notify the complainant of the date of the Parish Council meeting at which the complaint will be considered. The complainant will be given an opportunity to explain their complaint at that meeting if they wish.

Following the meeting the complainant will be informed of the council's decision and of any actions to be taken, and these will also be stated publicly and reported in the minutes of the meeting.

The only circumstance under which a complaint will be deferred beyond the next meeting of the Parish Council is when issues of law or practice are involved on which the council requires advice from a third party. In this case, the complaint will be dealt with at the first meeting following receipt of such advice.

Also bear in mind that the public have ten minutes at the start of every Parish Council meeting in which to raise complaints that they wish to have discussed at that meeting. A full list of meeting dates is posted on the notice board at the bus shelter.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR HUNTINGDONSHIRE CRICKET BOARD

Huntingdonshire Cricket Board covers all ages and levels of cricket within Huntingdonshire and Peterborough and is currently looking for volunteers to help with all aspects of its activities.

This includes club/league cricket, schools and youth cricket, county representative sides, umpiring and scoring, coaching, and administration.

The board is currently trying to raise the profile of the game by achieving full minor league status.

If you wish to help in the development of our national summer game in the area then please contact the secretary, Penny Kerr, on 01767 651067 or e-mail p.kerr2@btinternet.com, and she will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

The Church Clock

This is the first of a series of articles that will appear about the church clock, that mysterious and eccentric part of the village's heritage. Thanks to Paul Turner for this.

The clock was made in 1748 by John Rayment, who was believed to have been a blacksmith rather than a clock maker. Most parts are forged from iron except for the bearings and crown wheel, which are of brass, and the cable drums and the pendulum, which are of oak.

The clock would have been wound every day, the winder having to go up to the tower via the narrow spiral staircase and, using a large winding handle, wind the cables back onto the drums until the weights were back up to the ceiling of the clock chamber.

Raising Money for the Church Development

You will probably have heard that the church is to have some building development, which is going to cost a great deal of money. To help to raise money, Pam Franklin of The Grove decided to undertake a sponsored 2 mile swim – a long way, and very boring in a 15 metre pool.

In the 6 weeks before the event, Pam built up to swimming a mile at a time. At around 5 minutes to do 10 lengths this meant the final swim would take about 1 ¾ hours.

On the day, the pool was initially empty and so the swimming was easy but, as time went on, more people arrived resulting in the water becoming choppy and more difficult for long swimming.

In the event Pam completed the 2 miles in 1 hr, 44 mins, and 2 secs! She would like to thank all those people who sponsored her attempt, which has now raised around £570.

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2004

Saturday 15th May – Plant Sale

Saturday 10th July – Musical Evening

Sunday 11th July – Sports Day