

THE WISTOW WARBLER

THE WISTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2004/5

Editorial

A slightly belated Happy New Year to all our readers and welcome to the first Warbler of 2005.

I was talking to someone the other day who observed that there was a wealth of interesting history connected with our village. So come on, all of you with long standing connections in the village, and let me have any interesting stories or facts that we can share with everyone.

John Dransfield

NEW TREE FOR THE CHURCHYARD

Those of you who are sharp sighted will, no doubt, have spotted that the new tree, which had been promised for the churchyard to replace the horse chestnut, has now been planted.

The tree is a *Calocedrus decorrens*, better known as an Incense Cedar.

Although pretty small at this stage we understand that this species should be fairly fast growing and so we hope that it will quickly grow to become an attractive feature of the village in the not too distant future.

THE LIGHT AT WISTOW TOLL

While we are on the subject of being sharp sighted, how many of you have noticed that the street light on the

main road at the Toll is now back and working?

The light was attached to a telegraph pole that was destroyed in a road accident quite a few months ago. Although BT quickly reinstated the telegraph pole, the light was the subject of some convoluted discussions and wrangling between the Parish Council, the firm holding the light, and various insurers.

Thankfully this is now over, and the light is back. Incidentally, how many of you noticed that the light was missing in the first place?

Patient & Public Involvement Forum for Hinchingbrooke Hospital

PPI Forums were created by the government in December 2003, replacing Community Health Councils, to act as the voice of patients and the public. There is a forum for each NHS Trust, made up of volunteers interested in helping to improve local health services.

The PPI Forum for Hinchingbrooke Hospital is considering various issues including the new Treatment Centre, Infection Control and Cleanliness, the Out-of Hours Service, and Public Transport to the hospital. In November three Forum members carried out a monitoring visit to the Outpatients Department and will be issuing a report that will be available to the public.

The Forum is now arranging a programme of public meetings for 2005 with the first to be held in Sawtry in February. At this meeting there will be a presentation by Brian Gibbs (Director of Facilities at Hinchingsbrooke) on the Green Transport Plan and Access/Public Transport to the hospital.

These public meetings will be held every 2 months in venues around Huntingdonshire and will be advertised widely (eg in the Town Crier) in order to attract wide participation from anyone who has concerns about the topics to be discussed.

The Forum would be pleased to come and talk about their role to any of our local groups and they are keen to meet the public to hear their views and concerns on the services provided by Hinchingsbrooke.

Anyone who requires more information should contact Amy Potter at Cambridgeshire ACRE, E-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA; telephone 01353 865353.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR MARIE CURIE CANCER APPEAL

Marie Curie Cancer Care is a charity dedicated to providing a free home nursing service to terminally ill people in the comfort of their own homes.

Volunteers are currently being sought to help with the Great Daffodil Appeal collections to be held during March this year. The average amount collected in a two hour period typically funds a night's home nursing care for someone in our local area and obviously the more people who help the more care can be provided.

By donating a couple of hours of your time you could make a real difference to people living with cancer and give them the choice of spending their last days at home.

Anyone interested should contact Nicky Jackson, community fund raising manager for our area, on 01223 416405. I have a copy of their latest newsletter if any of you wish to see it.

Tsunami appeal at The Three Horseshoes raises over £785

On January 12th a special quiz night was held at the pub in support of the Indian Ocean disaster. With takings from the quiz, the donation of the night's bar takings by Dave and Kathy, other donations at the bar, and the generous gift of the quiz prize (6 bottles of wine) by the winners to be auctioned, the total raised was over £785. Fantastic!

Incidentally, don't forget the regular quiz nights at the pub – last Wednesday of every month.

COMMUNITY POLICING IN WISTOW

For the last few months Wistow, along with the surrounding villages, has benefited from regular patrolling by Police Community Support Officers operating from Ramsey Police Station. Two PCSOs operate from Ramsey, with our officer being Jill Tiernan who lives in Broughton.

The role of the PCSOs is to provide a visible uniformed presence and to act as a link with the local police. Jill drives around the village more or less every day and from time to time patrols the whole of the village on foot. The times of these visits vary with PCSOs doubling up for foot patrols after 8.00 pm.

PCSOs are on the look-out for any criminal or anti social behaviour. Jill can be contacted on 01480 456111, ext 2933, about generally low level activity such as vandalism, obstruction, abandoned vehicles, nuisance, etc, or any suspicious activity – indeed anything that causes you concern. She would

be delighted to come out to visit any villagers who wish to discuss such issues.

Currently, PCSOs have limited powers of arrest, although their powers are expected to increase in the future. So for more serious crime, such as burglary, theft, etc, contact the police direct on the above 'phone number (without the extension number). The Community Beat Manager for Wistow is PC Tracey Ackers who can be reached on the above 'phone number (extension 2935), on her mobile 07753 786285, or alternatively by e-mail at tracey.ackers@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

We are fortunate in Wistow to have a relatively small amount of crime and anti social behaviour. By working closely with Jill and Tracey we can hopefully ensure that we have even less.

HISTORY OF WISTOW

This is the first in what I hope will be a series about the history of our village

Wistow is an extremely old settlement dating back to well before the Norman conquest of 1066. In fact, it was referred to in an ancient Ramsey Chronicle as being in existence prior to the founding of Ramsey Abbey in about 969 AD.

At that time it was known as Kingstune and was owned by King Edgar. It extended to embrace not only the current parish but also the later manors of Bury and Little Raveley.

The name of the village has gone through a number of transformations. In 974 it was known as Kingstune, then as Wicstoue, Wistou at the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, Wyrstowe in 1227, reverted to Kingston in 1253, then Wynestowe in 1270, Whistowe in 1286, and Wistowe by 1321.

Although the two names by which the village has been known over the years (Wistow and Kingston) seem unrelated, the etymology is in fact very similar. Wistow derives from the old English "wic" meaning

Lord and "stowe" or "stou" meaning place; Kingston from "king" (fairly obvious) and "tune" meaning domain. So both names mean a place belonging to a king or lord.

The Ramsey Chronicle relates that Needingworth was purchased from King Edgar by Oswald, Archbishop of York, who intended to give it to his friend Ailwyn, the founder of Ramsey Abbey. However, on realising that Needingworth was an inconvenient distance from Ramsey, Oswald exchanged it with the king for Kingstune which was then presented to the Abbey.

It would seem that the distance of Wistow from the Abbey in Ramsey also became an inconvenience to the monks, possibly because of flooding. Consequently, in the early part of the 12th century, a church was built on the high ground at Bury. From that point Bury became the more important and Wistow took the role of a chapelry, meaning a church subordinate to a parish church.

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

Forthcoming Events - Dates for your Diaries for 2005

Saturday/Sunday 18th/19th June – Church Heritage Weekend and Open Gardens

Saturday 16th July – Musical Evening

Sunday 17th July – Sports Day