Spring 'ROUNDABOUT'

A Wistaston Community Council Publication

2014
ISSUE 133



Many thanks to Jonathan White for spotting these snowdrops close to the Wistaston Brook at Joey the Swan and reminding us that Spring is on its way.

The Magazine for People Living 'Roundabout' Wistaston

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Circulation: 4100

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Editorial :
With very many thanks for all the continued and splendid support you give to Roundabout for without your contributions and advertisements it simply could not exist! Please continue to send in your articles for our Summer edition – due out in early June – by 15 April 2014. We are also deeply indebted to our wonderful Roundabout deliverers and area co-ordinators. Without their invaluable support Roundabout would not reach its readers. If you think you could help to deliver some roundabouts please contact us.

Eileen Bamber
31 Broughton Lane
01270 569126
email: eileen@bamberuk.com

Geoff Poppitt
19 Byron Way
01270 569642

The Community Council organises the Christmas Concert, the Village Fete, the Flower and Produce Show and the Fireworks Display; the Village Fete being the biggest fund raising event of the calendar and with the proceeds of such fund raising events we aim to help individuals or groups where a small donation would help with their local efforts. If you would like to know more please send your details to the Secretary, Wistaston Community Council, 22 Herrick Close, Wistaston CW2 8DX. We look forward to the many events planned ahead for our village.

New events for younger people
Wistaston Community Council are looking into organising and running one or two big events per year for the younger people of Wistaston – ages from 14 – 17 years. To do this however we need input from Wistaston youngsters themselves to help steer us in the right direction.
If you have ideas or want to be involved in making your or others ideas happen, please email Chairman@wistastoncommunity.co.uk or phone 07931 557070

Letter from the Editor
Dear Readers
At the AGM in January the Wistonian of the Year was announced and I really couldn't believe it but it was me. I really want to thank most sincerely those who nominated me and to say what a privilege it is but how very humbling at the same time. Thank you.
Eileen

WISTASTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Donations In Year 2013

To	£
Miss Carolines School of Dancing (Donation)	300.00
Duck Race printing (Donation)	32.40
Conservation Group Donation from Fireworks	200.00
The Children's Society (Donation)	150.00
Action For Children (Donation	150.00
Mrs M Wood (Donation)	100.00
Shavington High School (Donation)	100.00
Total Donations	1,032.40

Dates for your Diary for 2014
Wistaston Events

Saturday 29 March	Spring Concert
Saturday 21 June	Village Fete
Saturday 16 August	Flower and Produce Show
Saturday 6 September	Annual Duck Race
Saturday (tba) November	Firework Display
Sunday 9 November	Remembrance Service
Friday (tba) December	Christmas Concert



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WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. BUDGETS 2014/15

We have completed our financial planning for the year 2014/15 and I am pleased to report there will be no increase in the Precept. With careful planning we have been able to maintain our essential services and support our village organisations with grants totalling £5,500.

2. HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Church Lane

This scheme was for 300 houses on land opposite our recreation fields with access to Church Lane. Cheshire East Planning Authority has refused planning permission on this land which is defined as Green Belt.

2.2 Wistaston Green Road

This proposal is to be submitted shortly for 150 houses on the site opposite the Rising Sun Public House. Your Council has put forward robust objections against the scheme. A final decision will be made by Cheshire East Planning Authority. Residents can follow progress on Cheshire East Website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/localplan

3. WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Our major scheme to develop 'Old Covert' with safe access, planting and coppicing is nearing completion. Final approval to the work will be given before the end of February. Other minor works will continue throughout the year

4. RESIDENT CONCERNS

With prolonged periods of inclement weather many concerns have been raised on flooding, blocked drains and roads surface hazards. Your Council continues to press for action but again we need resident support to strengthen our efforts. Concerns should be raised by direct contact to Cheshire East Highways on 0300 123 5020 or their website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/roadworksandhowtoreporthighwayfaults. Please support your Council.

6. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings at Wistaston Memorial Hall on the following dates:- 20th March 2014 – 7.30 p.m.: 10th April 2014 - Annual Parish Meeting 8.00 p.m.

15th May 2014 – 7.30 p.m.

Cllr. J. Moore ,Chairman

Councillor Contact Details:- ST. MARY'S WARD (2 VACANCIES)

Joyce Bond	**23 Freshfields, Wistaston, CW2 6QD**	**569423**
Gwyneth Brown	**101 Church Lane, Wistaston, CW2 8ER**	**568823**
Betty Cooke	**25 Westfield Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EU**	**569676**
Derrick Millington	**9 Chesterton Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EA**	**664471**
Ray Westwood	**550 Crewe Road, Wistaston, CW2 6PP**	**569844**

WELLS GREEN WARD

Ian Hodkinson	**432 Crewe Road, Wistaston, CW2 6QN**	**661601**
John Moore (Chairman)	**50 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 6Q**	**661924**
Graham Roberts	**29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston, CW2 6QA**	**568521**

WISTASTON GREEN WARD (1 VACANCY)

Nigel Cadwallader	**7 Keswick Close, Crewe. CW2 8QD**	**663826**
Peter Edwards	**6 Grizedale Close, Wistaston, CW2 8NY.**	**567693**
Ken Parish	**12 Riverside Grove, Wistaston, CW2 8QF**	**650280**
Suzanne Winter	**7 Keswick Close, Crewe. CW2 8QD**	**663826**

Clerk to the Council

Mrs. Andrea Cross	**4 Arundel Close, Wistaston. CW2 8EY**	**652098**

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We are walking fortnightly on Sundays throughout the year and there are also evening walks on alternate Thursdays during the summer months.

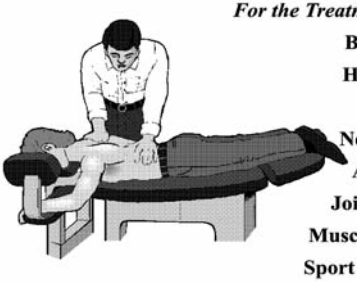
We have members of all ages and have three walks to choose from of six, nine and twelve miles to satisfy everyone.

Travel is by coach departing from Crewe Library with pick-ups at Wells Green, the former Earl of Crewe pub and Nantwich Bus Station

DATE	START	WALK LOCATION
02/03/14	NANTWICH	**MARPLE BRIDGE** Near Stockport SK6
16/03/14	CREWE	**WENLOCK EDGE** Shropshire TF13 9 miles South of Much Wenlock
30/03/14	NANTWICH	**BOSLEY** Cheshire East SK11 5 Miles South of Macclesfield on A523
13/04/14	CREWE	**CRAVEN ARMS** Shropshire SY7
27/04/14	NANTWICH	**UPPERMILL** Oldham OL3 7 miles East of Oldham on A669
11/05/14	NANTWICH	**HAYFIELD** Derbyshire SK22
25/05/14	CREWE	**IRON BRIDGE** Near Telford TF8
08/06/14	CREWE	**STIPERSTONES** 14 miles South of Shrewsbury on A488
22/06/14	NANTWICH	**GRASSINGTON** Near Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 **Early Start** **NANTWICH 0800 CREWE 0815**

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Local lass, Stacey Bennett, named Best Young Business Person of the Year

One of Wistaston Community Council's business sponsors, PA4You, the Telephone Answering and Sales Support Services on Nantwich Road, are proud to announce their Business Development Manager, Stacey Bennett, has won a prestigious award at the Annual Awards Dinner of the South Cheshire Chamber of Commerce at Crewe Hall last month.

MD Helen Gould says 'Stacey fought off stiff competition to scoop a very deserving award. We are all very proud of her and how she has grown into her Business Development Manager role over the 7 years she has been with us. She has also supported many other local businesses as Chair of the South Cheshire BNI business networking group for the last 12 months and grew it to be the largest and most profitable BNI group in our whole region. Great things await her in the future here at PA4You.'



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Advance notice for Audlem Charity Shop's Summer Fair in the Methodist Hall, Audlem on Saturday 14 June 2014 : Wide range of goods on sale including Plants.

Wistaston Church Lane Primary School

This year the oldest part of our school building is 140 years old. It opened in 1874 and we want to mark the anniversary with a celebration. We plan to have a Victorian day with the children and create a time capsule.
In the evening we plan to open the school to members of the community who would like a tour of the building. Both events will take place on Friday 2nd May.
We are trying to reach past pupils and members of the community who could share memories, photographs and other memorabilia from the school's history.
The school has changed its name many times since 1874, and most recently in 2007 when the junior school amalgamated with the infant school. Therefore we are looking for relatively recent history as well as many years ago.
We would also like to trace our oldest past Pupil. We'd love to hear from Roundabout readers!

James Bancroft

****

The Tree

Sent to Roundabout by Dorothy Hall

I think that I will never see
A tree as lovely as that Tree
It stands and looks at God all day
Spreading its leafy arms to pray
With coloured blossoms, large and small
But when the wind blows those blossoms fall.

Dear Lord I think I will never see
A tree as beautiful as that tree
Yes, poems are made by you and me
But only God can make a tree.
It stands at the front of my property
So graceful for all to see.
I gaze at it through my window
Many, many times each day
And praise you Lord and thank you
For the wonderful sight of my Wild Cherry Tree.

"Ministers Musings"

As soon as I finish this "musing", I am going upstairs to pack and prepare for a journey to Israel. I am excited about this trip, yet also a bit apprehensive – will the journey be OK, what will the roads to Heathrow be like? Will I get to the airport on time? When we land will my debit cards work or will I be money-less? Will my phone work? Have I packed the correct chargers? Will the situation between Israel and Palestine spoil the experience and the beauty of the country?

I have to confess, I am always a nervous traveller. My wife, Rebecca, will testify to the fact that if we are travelling on public transport I cannot physically or mentally relax until we have made the final connection and there is no possibility of missing the last flight/boat/train etc.

If, on the other hand, I am driving...well that's different. I'm in control, I can choose to accelerate or slow down (within the realms of the law of course(!)), if we get stuck I can ask my SatNav to find an alternative route. It drives Rebecca up the wall sometimes.. but I'm sure I'm not the only one! Am I?!?

We are all on a constant journey – the journey of life itself. I'm sure I'm not alone in being a somewhat nervous traveller through life as well as through the national rail network! I get anxious when things happen which are outside of my control, when others are making decisions that will have an impact on me. I want to be in control of my life. I want to be the author of my own destiny.

Yet if I stop and think for a minute, in fact the very opposite is true. For it is easy to get distracted and confused on life's journey, making choices and following directions which do not bring ultimate fulfilment and happiness. When I make my choices, I cannot see what the full ramifications of those decisions will be. I want – I need – Christ to be in charge of my destiny, directing my steps, leading me through life.

This is why I am glad we have the season of Lent. Lent is a time for us to pause, take a deep breath, and examine our journey – checking that we are listening to, and following, the One whose will for us is perfect and pleasing and good. Indeed, we need to ensure that we are, every day, journeying towards a deeper relationship with God in and through Jesus Christ. Then our final destination will be assured.

Every blessing, and safe journeys!

Rev Steve Ingrouille

Wells Green Methodist Church

****

Hands off Wistaston Action Group

The **Hands Off Wistaston Action Group** would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their tremendous support in attempting to save "Witters Field" off Church Lane from the development of 300 houses. At the Strategic Planning Board meeting held on the 8th January 2014 the application by Gladman Developments was refused unanimously by Cheshire East Council. **Hands Off Wistaston** are now waiting to see if the application goes to appeal.

If it does everyone's support will once again be required for us to continue to fight to save our green open spaces from this development that is unnecessary, unsustainable and unwanted.

Cricket at the Brittles

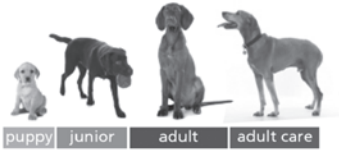




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Report from Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club

As we approach the end of 2013 we reflect on the past months of superb tennis enjoyed by WJTC members. After a shaky wet start to the year the Summer came into its own providing us with uninterrupted days of glorious weather. At the Village Fete in June it couldn't quite make up its mind but eventually the sun decided to show itself providing the crowd with a wonderful afternoon. September also is the month with the ever popular Duck Race where over 700 ducks were launched together with boats of all shapes and sizes in the Joey the Swan waters. This event is very much a family affair attracting all age groups from the mature to babes in arms; once again raising funds put to good use in Wistaston Village.

We are very lucky in Wistaston for the excellent facilities available to all and members of WJTC are particularly grateful for the great tennis courts in the centre of the Village. During the year some members have raised large amounts of money for their favourite charities including a 12 hour marathon and member Ben Reinhardt celebrated his 60th birthday by doing his own marathon raising funds for his favourite charity and incorporating swimming, cycling and running.

As I write this report 2013 is almost at an end so I take this opportunity on behalf of all members of WJTC of wishing everyone a very Happy Healthy and Peaceful 2014.

Alice Chalwin

On Wednesday 29 January 2014 Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club (WJTC) held their Annual General Meeting in the tennis pavilion.

The Chairman Alastair Bain welcomed the fifteen present and announced that he was standing down as Chairman at this meeting.

The Membership Secretary Bill Heath reported that there had been 114 members compared with 93 in the previous year. He was pleased to announce that there were now 29 junior members.

The Club Captain Tony Mason reported on the teams in the Slazenger South & Mid Cheshire Tennis League. The 'A' team finished as Champions of Division 3 of the Summer league. The 'B' team finished fourth in Division 4 and the 'C' team finished third in Division 5.

Club sessions continue to be well attended on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. The senior morning sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays are most successful.

The Treasurer Bill Heath reported that the Club was in a strong financial position. The courts will be repainted during the Spring.

The Election of Officers and Committee for 2014 resulted:

-President - Alice Chalwin
-Vice President - Diane Mayman
-Acting Chairman - Bill Heath
-Vice Chairman - Margaret Maddock
-Secretary - Chris Raiswell
-Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Bill Heath
-Club Captain - Tony Mason
-Grounds Coordinators - Tony Mason and Bill Heath
-Memorial Hall Delegate - John White
-Press Officer - Alice Chalwin
-Junior representative - George Raiswell
-Co-opted members - Carole Kearns, Ben Reinhardt and Adrian Dunning.

It was agreed to increase the membership fees by a small amount and to enter two men's teams in the Summer league.

Jonathan White and Alice Chalwin

Wistaston Green Townswomen's Guild

Led by a spirit of adventure, our speaker for November, Ellen Matthews, regaled us with her account of her voluntary contribution to the 2012 Olympics. Following up an advertisement for community involvement in the role of greeting the public during the Paralympics, it was with some hesitation that the finger struck the 'send' key winging the application on its way through the ether to the organisers. What have I done? Too late now – just wait and see. In due course she was summoned to London for an interview, in itself a daunting process. Volunteers were expected to fund their own expenses – no politicians' privilege for them. As the enormity of what she had done dawned, there were moments of self doubt. Following her selection and the induction process, the next question was how to acquire accommodation when at this late stage 'one of ten in a bed' was looming large. Through divine intervention she did manage to find a bed after following a false start. Her account was hilarious and it would be remiss to reveal all, the only thing I would say is that it ended with her receiving her just reward in the most unlikely way. She says she will feast on the memories for some time to come. We did wonder if we had heard correctly when the words 'America' and 'Harley Davidson' were mentioned – bring it on – we can't wait.

December saw the round of party and panto. The Christmas lunch this year was held in Chester with the theme of Putting on the Ritz. The weather was inclement but there was cheer aplenty with good food and entertainment which whetted the appetite for the festivities to come.

Our final speaker for the year was Mrs Redstone demonstrating her craft of willow weaving. She explained how initially she thought about just growing the willow until she discovered there are many different types needed for the numerous applications. Whilst demonstrating her skill she enlightened us as to how she developed her craft into a business. Mrs Redstone made several Christmas decorations which she kindly donated to the Christmas raffle and the excellent mince pies were made by Betty Hulse.

Following the Annual General Meeting, the Carol Concert is the next biggest event in the Guild's calendar. In December 2013 for northern guilds this was held in Coventry Cathedral, a truly wonderful location. The old cathedral has a spire which is nearly 90m tall and said to be the third largest in England. It is worth pausing in the ruins to reflect on the horror suffered by the people of Coventry when incendiary bombs were raining down on them and in the wake of which the decision on 14 November 1940 was made to rebuild an equally impressive place of worship in an act of faith and hope for the future and areas of the old cathedral ruins are dedicated to reconciliation.

The new cathedral was consecrated on 25 May 1962 in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II who had laid the foundation stone on 23 March 1956. Even today it has an extremely modern air about it with particular features which make it unique. A competition was held in 1950 to find the most suitable design and Sir Basil Spence's was chosen although it was controversial and unorthodox in its style. At the entrance at the top of the steps one can see the beautiful bronze statue of St Michael and the Devil on the wall, sculptured by Sir Jacob Epstein who sadly died the year before this was mounted. The entrance to the nave is through the great West Screen of Saints and Angels which is 70' high and 45' wide. This transparent wall links the old and new cathedrals and on a bright day the reflection of the old cathedral is strikingly visible. Provost Howard's aim was to depict all saints responsible for bringing Christianity to Britain but John Hutton made the initial design and felt the saints should be interspersed with angels all magnificently engraved into the glass sections. It is possible to spend some time viewing this creation. We were lucky enough to visit on a sunny day which gives the full benefit of seeing the incredible Baptistery window, 81' high, in all its glory. It was designed by John Piper and the stone containing the glass by Sir Basil Spence. The striking stained glass in vertical sections fills the interior with colour. In front of this masterpiece is the font which has been created



from a boulder brought from the Holy Land. Behind the high altar and dominating the east wall is Graham Sutherland's 72' high tapestry 'Christ in Glory'.

With the warmth of the sun on the backs of the large congregation, the Reverend Canon Dr David Stone opened the proceedings by saying how privileged they felt that the Guild had chosen Coventry for their annual carol service. Indeed it was our honour that they welcomed us. There were many popular carols sung by all with great feeling filling the enormous space, interspersed with readings by members of the national executive. In addition there were four specially selected pieces sung by the South Staffordshire Federation Choir sporting their bright pink jackets. They looked as though they were thoroughly enjoying the experience of singing in such a renowned and hallowed place. In all it was a very uplifting experience and certainly worth the trip.

We were pleased to welcome a good number of members to our first meeting of the year with a buffet provided by the committee followed by social time.

Our meetings take place at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month at St Mark's Church Hall, Bramhall Road, Wistaston Green, Crewe; if you come along you will be made most welcome.

****

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South Cheshire Orchestra
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and
The Karelia Suite

For further details please contact
Ray Banks, telephone 01270 569542

Wistaston Village Cricket Club.

(Founded 1980)

With the **2013** cricket season now but a distant memory, the intervening months have witnessed the usual meticulous preparations at 'The Brittles' to ensure that the highest standard of pitches are ready for the **2014** playing season. By the time my latest editorial wings its way through countless letter boxes the cricket season will only be a month away (first fixtures for the **First and Second Elevens** commences on **Saturday 19th April).** The cricket club has now completed the demanding schedule of work through the winter months - which is so essential in ensuring that not only are our wickets perfect but also equally important, the outfield and facilities meet the usual high standards required by **The Cheshire Alliance**.

Indoor nets have been in progress (see my editorial in Winter Roundabout – Issue 132) at South Cheshire College, Crewe since last November and will move outdoors to the Brittles after Easter. Special attention should be made to the fact that outdoor training sessions **(The Brittles)** for the girls (**under 11's and 13's**) will commence, subject to the amount of interest generated, from **Sunday 27th April**, with the view of entering either a league or similar format. This training not only is available for girls living in the Wistaston area but also outside the area. It has always been the aim within the cricket club to promote cricket for as many girls as possible irrespective of their location. **So pass the word around that a warm welcome will be made to everyone, irrespective of their ability.** Outdoor training for the junior boys will commence from **Monday 28th April at The Brittles.**

For updates on information related above please contact K. Jobbins on 01270 663699 in the first instance.

Wistaston Village Cricket Club will be competing in the following divisions during **2014**:-

First Eleven:- **The Cheshire Alliance Division 1**
Second Eleven:- The Cheshire Alliance Division 4
Third Eleven (Sundays):- Cheshire County League Division 4 West
Women's First Eleven:- Cheshire Women's Cricket League Division 2
Wombats (Sundays):- Friendlies
Under 9,11,13:- The South Cheshire Junior Cricket League
Under 18's:- To be confirmed.
Under 11's and 13's (Girls) The Cheshire Girls Cricket League. * This will be subject to the response generated by this editorial. Fuller details are available from Mr K.Jobbins 01270 663699.
Senior Women's Eleven:- The Cheshire Women's Cricket League Division 2

At the cricket club's **Annual General Meeting** which was held on **28th November 2013,** the following members were elected:-

President- R.Titus Chairman/development- K.Jobbins. Secretary/development - M.Stokes.
Treasurer – J.Parr. 1st capt- N.Townsend. 2nd capt- S.Cunningham. Sunday league capt- P.Heaton.
Sunday wombats capt- D.Titus. Club capt/league rep- S.Collins.
Junior league rep- K.Thornhill. Womens league rep- Alison Smith.
General/press- J.Avery. General/wsla rep - P.Jobbins.
Membership sec- T.Stokes Junior players rep - A.Heaton

The cricket club held a very successful **Halloween** social evening in October which was followed by a joint **Christmas** Social and Quiz evening at the **The Cricket Pavilion on 14th December.** Both events were extremely well supported and feed-back was very positive. Proceeds from these events help to finance the future development of the club.

PLAYERS REQUIRED FOR THE FORTHCOMING 2014 CRICKET SEASON

Following the excellent debut season by Wistaston Village Cricket Club's women's senior eleven, the cricket club would like to build on their initial successes and would very much welcome new players irrespective of age or ability, who have harboured the idea of playing cricket but have neither had the opportunity nor self-belief of taking the next step.

We have always offered cricket to juniors and adults of all standards, so if you really would like to take the next important step towards playing cricket, please contact either **Pauline or Kevin Jobbins** on **01270 663699**, for more details on what our cricket club can offer you.

The cricket club holds Bingo evenings every **third Friday** of each month at the **Wistaston Pavilion Lounge** to raise funds and a warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to join us.

We offer cricket to adults and junior of all standards and we're proud on being very much a child friendly club and have been re-credited with the **E.C.B Club Mark originally awarded in May 2005**. Interested in joining W.V.C.C? Please contact **Kevin Jobbins: - 01270 663699** in the first instance.

For more details of our Bingo evenings please contact either **Kevin or Pauline Jobbins 01270 663699.**

John Avery **'Zusammen', 13 Lear Drive, Wistaston Tel 0781 7082678**

St Mary's Wistaston

Why not come and Celebrate Easter with us at St Mary's, Wistaston!
We have services to suit all ages:

Good Friday
11am - All Age Worship - a special service for younger ones with a craft activity on this Holy Day
2pm - An Hour at the Cross - a meditative service with readings and music
Easter Day
9am - Easter Holy Communion **(St Luke's Willaston)**
10:40am - Easter Holy Communion for all ages

For further details of any of our services please go to:
stmaryswistaston.org.uk
facebook.com/stmaryandstluke
Or follow us on Twitter @maryandluke for all the latest information
Or call us on: 01270 567119

The Laurie Twiss Trophy : 2014

Calling all Wistaston's budding journalists! Write a story or article in not more than 200 words that could be printed in next Winter's Roundabout. The competition is open to young people in our area with ages ranging from 9 – 16 years.

The winner will be able to keep for one year the Laurie Twiss Trophy for Journalism plus an additional prize. It's your choice of material - real or imaginary, fact or fiction – so do get into writing mode now.

Please include the following information:
Name and address:
Contact telephone number:
Age:
School attended:
Title of Article/Story:

Entries should be submitted by 15 May 2014 to one of the following:

Barbara Brereton, 16 Prior Close, 569861
Greg Brereton, 7 College Fields, 560194
Eileen Bamber, 31 Broughton Lane, 569126

South Cheshire George Formby Ukulele Society Concert.

A monthly South Cheshire George Formby Ukulele Society concert took place at the end of last year in the Wistaston Memorial Hall. http://www.crewegeorgeformby.com
The concert contained group, duet and solo ukulele performances and featured well-known George Formby songs such as 'Chinese Laundry Blues', 'When I'm Cleaning Windows' and 'Leaning on a Lamp Post', along with songs by other well-known artists. Performers came from Crewe, other parts of Cheshire and counties beyond. There were also two audience members on holiday from Adelaide in Australia, who were entertained with 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport'.
The Society was founded in 1994 and performs a concert at Wistaston Memorial Hall on the fourth Friday of every month throughout the year. There are no membership fees to pay to attend a concert and the entrance fee is just £1 to cover the cost of rent and refreshments. The 2014 concerts all start at 7:30pm prompt and take place on 24th January, 28th February, 28th March, 25th April, 23rd May, 27th June, 25th July, 22nd August, 26th September, 24th October, 28th November, (Saturday) 27th December. In 2014 the Society will be celebrating twenty years of monthly concerts in the Hall. For further enquires please contact Brian Edge on 01270 569836.
Jonathan White



Ukulele Concert in aid of Wistaston Rose Queen's chosen charity.

A Ukulele Concert in aid of Wistaston Rose Queen Naomi Barker's chosen charity - Alder Hey Children's Charity - takes place on Saturday 8th March 2014 in St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston. Doors open at 6.30pm and the band starts at 7pm. Popular Liverpool band 'Ukebox' are the main attraction and will be playing an eclectic range of music for all tastes. The Concert will be followed by a short disco. There will be a Licensed Bar. Tickets: £5 for all ages. Tickets are available from St Mary's Church Office or Frances and Howard Barker. 01270 627244. *Jonathan White*



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Wistaston Church Lane Primary School : the class of Miss Evanson in 1933. **Front row**: Joyce Williams (nee Astbury), second from left; Geoffrey Vaughan, seventh from left; **Second row**: Colin Tucker, sixth from left; **Third row**: Monica Clough (nee Ralphs),eighth from left. Can anyone recognise anyone else especially considering the school is celebrating its 140th anniversary this year!

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Nature article for Roundabout, Issue 133

Our first sight of the now infamous clouds of starlings was early November when, in the gloaming, a journey back from town revealed a small flock of probably no more than a dozen swishing in a wave over the Valley Road crossroads with Readesdale and Danebank Avenues. Barely gloaming, on reflection - only 3.30 p.m. Since, and certainly in the gloaming, waves have appeared more frequently, bearing pretty much west-east over the village. On 23.12. at 8 a.m., a rare time for our journey to town, the still-dark skies produced a mixture of starlings and jackdaws, again in small flocks, with occasional pigeons, noticed especially over Valley Road: trips from roosts to feeding-grounds, presumably. It made us appreciate the advantages of early-morning travelling for we miss so much as the day wears on.

Again, early November brought our first sight of a presumed fieldfare flock overhead, the intermittent wingbeats diagnostic, but none landed for absolute confirmation. At the end of October we were treated to droves of these birds overflying at Kishorn on the west coast of the Scottish Highlands, criss-crossing low over us when dropping into rowans bursting with berries; gorging while moving on south. Mid November rowan berries in a Sandylands Park back garden did at last attract a number of these splendid thrushes.

On 2.11. a female sparrowhawk in the allotments hedgerow sat eying up neighbouring bird-feeders, but, without a stoop, soon flew on, characteristically low down in the concealment of the shrubbery.

We looked back through our 'beer' diary to check for a possible weather forecast for 20.11. since no birds at all appeared in our garden. By chance it was a Wednesday, the routine day for a pub lunch and often including a line about the weather. The line that day read 'heavy showers, hail, cold'. Enough said.

Ken Booth of Sandylands Park has almost caught us up with his numbers of goldfinches: his highest count fourteen, ours sixteen.

December brought us a few treats, with a mistle thrush sighting at twilight in our front tree on 22nd and a great spotted woodpecker on a fat-block in the same tree, 23rd, Christmas and Boxing Days.

A rare discovery for us of a live mole occurred before Christmas on the allotments and it was interesting to learn a few facts about this controversial little creature. Although earthworms are its main diet, its appetite is almost insatiable, deprivation of food for just a few hours resulting in death. Being a carnivore, and sometimes cannibal, it will consume any animal flesh available, attacks being recorded on small birds, amphibians and reptiles. Predators include buzzards, owls and foxes, but, since moles live mostly underground, they are fairly safe from anything other than human interference.

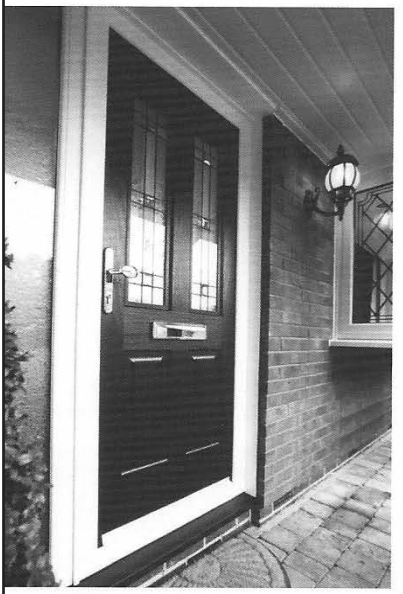
Halfway through January and we are still awaiting winter, but shooting bulbs in borders remind us all of the spring to follow.

Our thanks to all contributors.

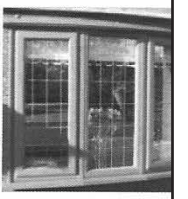
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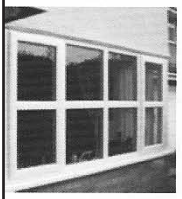
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Wistaston Conservation Group

I would first like to address some comments which have been made recently concerning work which has, and is still, being carried out in our area.

The first concerns the large Oak tree which was recently taken down from the recreation ground. None of us like to see any tree destroyed unnecessarily, but this one was at the end of its natural life, was internally rotten, and beginning to give concern with respect to public safety. The tree's situation was assessed by a well qualified expert, who condemned it. The Parish Council took the decision to have it removed, by contractors, who did an excellent job, safely, and cleared the area of all debris, using the chippings to improve a very wet area of the path out of Rookery Bank Covert, a good example of recycling.

The second concerns the allegation that 'trees have been felled to build fences'. Neither our Group, nor the Parish Council, condones such action; we do not do such things. Yes, both organizations are in the process of building natural hedges to try to stop people from wandering over areas which have been replanted. All the timber used has been felled for other reasons, such as being dead, needing thinning out or coppicing, or encroaching on well-used pathways. Having seen a small amount of Beech wood used in one of the hedges by a contractor, the boss of the contractors has been spoken to, and he assures us that this will not happen again. As we were in the process of arranging a tree planting, we added 18 Beech saplings to the order, to make amends for this unfortunate error.

I can assure everyone that all our projects are very carefully considered, with the well-being of all aspects of the natural world taken into account. I hope that these comments will allay any concerns with respect to the actions of our Group, and that we can continue to make Wistaston a better place in which to enjoy our natural features, assuming the developers will allow us to do so.

On the positive side, we continue to work on various projects:

1. **Tree planting**

Over the past 2 months we have planted well over 200 new trees in our woodlands, so that there is a progression when the older trees come to the end of their natural life. These include 0ver 100 Oak saplings, grown locally by one of our members, Beech, Hawthorn, Guelder rose, etc.

We have also 'reused' a lot of Willow, by replanting the stems which have had to be trimmed to make the main path across the recreation ground more user-friendly. Willow will very quickly take root if the stems are replanted quickly after being cut.

2. **Hedging**

Further work has been done on the 'natural' hedging in several areas, to try to prevent people wandering in replanted areas, as noted above. Small saplings are very easily destroyed by walking over the area, so I would ask everyone who uses the areas to keep to the footpaths, and respect these replanted areas.

3. Pathway clearing

Anyone who regularly uses the main pathway from Joey-the-Swan to the car park on Wistaston Green Road will have noticed that the path has become a lot narrower, due to the grass edges gradually growing over the path. During mid January, our heavy gang has started to put this situation right, and by the time you read this the path should be back to its original width, and much more pleasant to use. (See photo below)

4. Wild flowers

We have been fortunate to have been given several packs of wildflower seeds from the heritage seed collection. These have been distributed in 2 areas, on the wildflower meadow, on the triangle by the Greenway, and on the natural garden at Joey-the-Swan, on the left opposite our information board. Hopefully nature will do the rest, and we will have a great show of wildflowers this year.

5. Developments

It is gratifying to hear that Cheshire East have refused the request for development on a large area of Wistaston's Green Belt land. We must, however, not be complacent, as it is almost inevitable that the developer will appeal this decision, and it will then be necessary to start the objections all over again.

As always, if you have any conservation issues, or would perhaps like to consider joining our Group, our contact details and working party dates, are available on our website; www.wistastonconservationgroup.org.uk.

John M Wood

****



WYCHE MALBANK PROBUS CLUB

Retired and time on your hands? Why not come and join us?

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings in the lounge at the Masonic Hall, Willaston. We have coffee together and, following brief business affairs, listen to visiting speakers giving talks on a wide range of fascinating subjects, often backed by visual presentations using our own digital projector.

Social events include luncheons, outside visits and special occasional meetings when non members are invited.

Come and visit us - we are a happy club and assure you of a warm welcome.

To find out more please contact the secretary, David Clews: 01270 668553

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach & Alsager Areas.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm – unless a change is shown in the programme – at Wells Green Methodist Church Hall, Wistaston. We charge £1 entrance fee which includes tea and biscuits.

Our trip to Barton Grange Garden Centre for Coffee and Lunch was enjoyed by all. There was a good choice of food and several people had the two or three course Christmas lunch which included the Chef's Steak and Ale Pie and individual Christmas puddings with brandy sauce. Delicious! I enjoyed the pudding so much that I bought two for Christmas! In the afternoon we spent two hours at Boundary Mill where people bought Christmas presents or clothes to wear at Christmas events. It has become a little more up market with many good buys to be had.

Our Christmas Party on 3 December was very successful and a buffet with a wide variety of food was enjoyed by all. John White had organised some quizzes and there was a special visit from Father Christmas. Grace had organised next year's programme where there are new-to-us speakers on a wide variety of subjects. Our speakers are asked to make their talks light-hearted and illustrated by power point, slides, pictures etc.

4 March Mr Derek Poulson – Humorous Talk on Dialects.

1 April Mr Jonathan and Mrs Pam Baddiley (musician and singer; members of the George Formby Society with lively music from the 60s and 70s.

6 May Mr Derek Jones – 'The Confessions of a Landscape Gardener l981 – l986' before becoming a tutor at Reaseheath College. A very humorous presentation.

3 June Dr Graham Dodd – 'Crewe Hall at War' from Civil War and Second World War (power point presentation).

We are now looking forward to our New Year's Lunch on the 16 January at Dane Bank College. This is now completely booked.

Ex Civil Servants and friends welcome. For those of you who only come a few times a year, please make a New Year's Resolution to come more regularly. We have some excellent speakers whom we should support. Remember this is not a female only group – bring your husbands as well!

Grace Harding, Chairperson

****

Eat Fish and Chips and raise money for charity. Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16 May 2014 whilst supporting the Spinal Injury Association's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA. I**n 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone** holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.**The money raised** will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

For more information call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email draising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk

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WANTED !!

2014 is a special year for **Wistaston Young Drama Group** as we celebrate our 20th year of drama and we are looking for budding actors/actresses aged 6 -16 to join us in readiness for our celebrations. Classes are fun and entertaining with an opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends. Why not give us a try? The first session is free.



Rehearsals have commenced for our Annual Showcase which promises to be a spectacular occasion. Classes are held in the Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston on Saturdays from 10.30am to 12.45pm and are £6.00 per week. Free taster sessions are available for new members.

We provide a fun and safe environment with an opportunity to make new friends. Classes are run by professionally trained drama leaders and lessons include creative movement, structured improvisation, drama games, language development and voice coaching which aims to build on confidence, improve concentration and creativity.

So why not give us a try? For further information regarding the classes contact Margaret 01270 668233 or Judy 01270 650341, or by email wydg@hotmail.co.uk

Further information and updates can be found on our website:
www.wistastonyoungdramagroup.weebly.com

****

Wistaston Community Council 100 Club

A big thank you to all who took part in the 100 club during 2013. The total gross fund raised by the 4 weekly draws was £2908.00. Total prize monies to the winners of all 2013 draws was £1455.00, leaving £1419.63 after Lottery running expenses, bank interest and tax deduction to be used for donations/presenting events by Wistaston Community Council.

Major Prize Winning Numbers in 2013

Draw Number

Prize Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
£200													109
£100						43							
£50			41						61				86
£25	42	11		113	15		89	68		118	97	93	

In addition to the above six £10 winners drawn for draw 1 to 5 and five £10 winners draw 6 to 12 plus an additional eight at draw 13.

I also wish to send a big thank you to five collectors who work very hard collecting and handing out prizes throughout the year.

G.B. Moores.

Bernard Moores (Promoter)

Wistaston Church Lane Primary School Report

Compiled by: Tom, Ellie, Natalie, Eva, Bradlee and Jana from Year 5.

Chinese New Year

Foundation and Year 1 learnt about the Chinese New Year in January. They tasted lots of delicious Chinese foods such as prawn crackers, spring rolls and noodles. Mrs Clyne also taught about Chinese cultures and traditions and the children listened to Chinese music.

Mademoiselle Emilie

This Spring term our school has welcomed a wonderful new Belgian exchange student called Emilie Des Cleufs. She will be working in all the year groups, teaching French and also about Belgian culture. Mademoiselle Emilie will also be attending the Year 6 France trip in February to help them with conversations with French shopkeepers and the Manor Residential in March for Year 5.

Healthy Schools Weeks

At the start of February the whole school enjoyed a very active healthy schools week. We would like to thank Mrs Croft and Mrs Simons for their hard work as they helped Year 3 make super soup, Year 4 cracking kebabs, Year 5 perfect pizza and Year 6 brilliant breakfast bars! The week culminated in the Year 6 pupils leading aerobics sessions for both KS1 and KS2. Jana Manfredi, Year 5, said of the aerobics 'I thought the Year 6s did some very well thought out and planned dance routines'.

Smoke Busters!

On 13 February Crewe Fire Service came into Year 5 to teach the children what to do in the event of a fire. They learnt the importance of night time routines and to make sure fire alarms are checked regularly. The firemen also brought in a smoke tent to show what it would be like if there was a fire, the children learnt to stay low and crawl to safety as the air is cleaner lower down.

Christmas Plays

Our school put on 3 Christmas plays this year. Foundation and Year 1 did the 'Not Now Nativity'; Years 2 and 3 did 'A Midwife Crisis' and Years 4, 5 and 6 performed 'A Pudding for the Chimney Sweep'. All the children did a fantastic job from actors and musicians to sound engineers and the lighting crew. We were all very proud of their performances!

Trips

Before Christmas, Year 5 went to Bramall Hall near Manchester to learn how the Tudors lived. They learnt Tudor dances, made nose-gays and had a tour of the magnificent house.

Year 4 went to Wrexham and enjoyed doing lots of different Roman activities like spear throwing. They also learnt how the Romans lived and visited a fort.

Foundation stage went to see 'Peter Pan' the pantomime before Christmas at Crewe Lyceum. All the children enjoyed it and were close to losing their voices shouting at the stage!



Wistaston Memorial Hall – Chairman's Report

The nineteen members of the Hall's Management Committee continue to maintain and improve the facilities for the forty organisations which use the hall built to honour sixteen Wistonians who perished in the Second World War.

Our future activities include:

Thursday 27th March – the 65th Annual General Meeting in the Dudley room starting at 7.30pm. You are welcome to attend this meeting to hear about what has been achieved during 2013 and our plans for the future.

Saturday 29th March – The Spring Concert, in the main hall starting at 7.30pm by the Crewe Concert Band, with Musical Director Albert Dunseath. Programmes at £6 each on sale at the door. There will be light refreshments and a raffle.

Saturday 6th September - The Annual Duck Race and Children's Model Boat Race at Joey the Swan Recreation Ground.

Sunday 9th November – The Annual Service of Remembrance at the hall starting at 3pm.

A tribute will be given to Lieutenant Ronald Arthur HULSE who died on 17th June l944, aged 29 years. He served with the 91st Regiment, Royal Artillery and is buried in Egypt. He lived in Manor Avenue, Wistaston and had attended the Nantwich & Acton County Grammar school. If anyone could let me know any further details, please contact me on 01270 661484.

John White, Chairman
14 Westfield Drive, Wistaston.

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Volunteers needed to help older people in Crewe

Do you have a little time to give? Do you enjoy other peoples company? Would you like to contribute to the work of a national charity? Then we need YOU!

Older people's charity Royal Voluntary Service (formerly known as WRVS) is calling on local people to volunteer for an on-ward befriending service at Leighton Hospital to be launched in February. The charity will be working in conjunction with the Mid Cheshire Hospital Trust to launch the service, which will be part of the dedicated dementia friendly ward at the hospital and provide support to older people. Our volunteers will help provide a calm environment to soothe patients, providing companionship and reassurance, relieving boredom and at meal times volunteers will play a key role in encouraging patients to eat.

Amy Cartwright who will be managing the service said that they were pleased to be launching the service which will bring vital support to older patients who are staying in hospital providing valuable company and friendship. More volunteers are needed to allow more older people to be helped whether it is an hour or an afternoon a week, it will make a real difference to patients and their families.

If you are interested in finding out more about the service or volunteer opportunities contact service manager Amy Cartwright on 07436 534608/01270 278091 or email amy.cartwright@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

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New Life Community Church



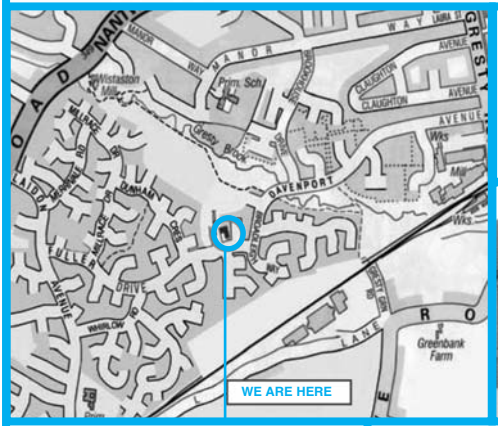
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