

John Wood's Conservation Group busy clearing the path in Old Covert

# Spring 'Roundabout'

A Wistaston Community Council Publication

2017
ISSUE 145

## The Magazine for People Living 'Roundabout' Wistaston

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk

Circulation: 4100

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# EDITORIAL FOR SPRING 2017

With very many thanks to everyone for the continued splendid support you give to Roundabout in whatever capacity, for without your contributions and advertisements it would not exist! The Wistaston Community Council is also very appreciative of the support you give to all the events organised over the year.

Please send in your articles, photographs etc for our Summer edition, due out in early June, by 15 April.

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

Geoff Poppitt
19 Byron Way
01270 569642

At the Wistaston Community Council's AGM in January the Wistonian of the Year was announced for 2016 and we are delighted to reveal that it is Margaret Moores. Please read on page 15 why she has won this very prestigious award and why she is such a worthy winner. Very many congratulations, Margaret.

The Carol Concert in December was the latest in a long line of events that the Wistaston Community Council has organised for the people of Wistaston. John Lomax worked very hard to make it happen with excellent musicians - Church Lane Academy Choir; Shavington Academy Music Ensemble; Myra Wood and her Singers. As well as organising events the Community Council is all about enabling the people of Wistaston to have a shot at something more challenging which sometimes might be outside the pool! Helping local societies to have the right equipment for their members; supporting local and not so local entertainers to enable them to continue and of course via their fundraising supporting local charities.

| WISTASTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL | |
|---|---|
| Donations In Year 2016 | |
| PAID TO | £ |
| Wistaston Church Lane Academy | 50.00 |
| Hartford Gymnastics | 50.00 |
| Funky Choir | 50.00 |
| Liberty Morris Dancers | 50.00 |
| Firefighters Charity | 50.00 |
| Duck Race | 69.60 |
| Wistaston Cricket Club (New Nets) | 200.00 |
| George Raiswell Donation Tennis Fees etc. | 200.00 |
| Fireworks Donation to Scouts | 400.00 |
| Cheshire Academy of Intergrated sports and Arts. | 500.00 |
| Roundabout Shortfall 2016 | 450.00 |
| Action For Children | 100.00 |
| Mrs M Wood | 100.00 |
| Shavington High School Academy | 100.00 |
| Wistaston Church Lane Academy | 100.00 |
| St Mary's Church Hall | 100.00 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Total Donations | 2669.6 |

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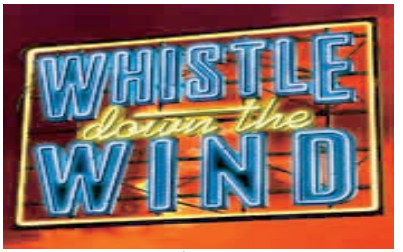
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# Wistaston Parish Council **Chairman's Report**

**WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**1. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE** www.wistaston-np.org.uk

**Further to our last report** our first draft was completed and issued to the consultee listing provided by Cheshire East. This stage is Regulation 14 and has a compulsory period of 6 weeks which ended on 31st January 2017. Numerous replies have been received and will be fully reviewed at our February Neighbourhood Plan Group meeting. The next stage work includes amendments from the consultation responses, adding photographs, maps and appendices. This will then be issued to Cheshire East (Regulation 15 stage) for formal comments and approval. The next stage will be Regulation 16. Progress can be followed on our Neighbourhood Plan Website.

**2. BUDGETS**

**Our Budget plan for 2017** has been finalised and submitted to Cheshire East. Your Council is faced with increased costs this year. These include pension provision due to law changes and supporting our Neighbourhood Plan programme, however, we are pleased to continue supporting village organisations with proposed grants of £6,300 next year. Two grants we hoped to receive from Cheshire East have been withdrawn. One was the Council Tax Support grant which last year was £916 and a means tested grant to help our Neighbourhood Plan programme. As a result our Precept will increase by £3,000. This represents approximately 1.6p per week / 80p per year for a Band D household.

**3. DOGS**

**As previously reported** we are receiving increased level of concerns of dogs roaming freely, faeces droppings and many bagged dog waste discarded or hung in visible areas.

**Attention is drawn** to the serious health hazards that can result and enclosed is a separate flyer to raise awareness. Changes will have to be made as your Council has a duty of care responsibility to introduce changes to improve the present conditions. These could include dog control orders and authority patrols.

**We would again appeal to owners,** please bag your dog waste and deposit in the bins provided. Both dog bins (red) and general waste bins (black) can be used safely.

**4. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS**

**We would appeal for more community speedwatch volunteers** to join our small existing team. Training will be provided with suitable Hi-Viz jackets. Interested? Please contact our Clerk in the first instance.

**5. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**Residents are welcome** to attend Parish Council meetings at 7.30 p.m. at Wistaston Memorial. Next meetings are on 16th March 2017, Annual Parish Meeting on 13th April 2017 and 18th May 2017.

***Cllr. J. Moore Chairman***

**********

## Dates for your 2017 Diary

Thursday 30 March - Memorial Hall Management Committee AGM
Saturday 17 June - Wistaston Village Fete
Saturday 19 August - Flower and Produce Show
October - Annual Hall Quiz
Sunday 12 November - Service of Remembrance

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# Councillor Contact Details:

**Councillor Contact Details:-**

**ST. MARY'S WARD**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **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** |
| **Francesca Jones** | **3 Swift Close, Wistaston, CW2 8DZ** | **748131** |
| **David Lucas** | **23 Rectory Close, Wistaston, CW2 8HG** | **664916** |
| **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 6QH** | **661924** |
| **Graham Roberts** | **29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston, CW2 6QA** | **568521** |

**WISTASTON GREEN WARD**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Andrew Bicknell** | **1 Meadow Drive, Wistaston, CW2 6RF** | **487579** |
| **John Edge** | **179 Ruskin Road, Crewe, CW2 7JX** | **07710 960598** |
| **Thomas Kilkenny** | **15 Park Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EN.** | **650045** |
| **Ken Parish** | **12 Riverside Grove, Wistaston, CW2 8QF** | **650280** |
| **Andrew Woolley** | **37 Langdale Road, Wistaston, CW2 8RS** | **651378** |

**Clerk to the Council**

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

**********

## Wistaston Community Council 100 Club

A big thank you to all who took part in the 100 club during 2016. The total gross fund raised by the four weekly draws was £2632.00. Total prize monies to the winners of all 2016 draws was £1315.00 leaving £1265.80 after deduction of Lottery running expenses and registration fee to be used for donations/presenting events by Wistaston Community Council.

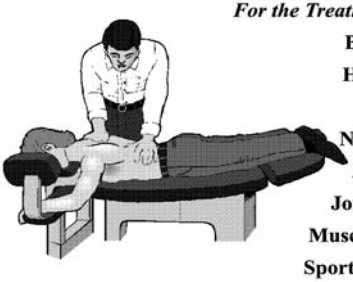
MAJOR PRIZE WINNING NUMBERS IN 2016

| Prize Value | DRAW NUMBER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| £200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 35 |
| £100 | | | | | | 110 | | | | | | | |
| £50 | | | 41 | | | | | | 112 | | | | |
| £25 | 74 | 41 | | 85 | 22 | | 22 | 23 | | 65 | 37 | 79 | |

In addition to the above, five £10 winners drawn for draws 1 – 12 and nine at draw 13.
I also wish to send a big thank you to the five collectors who work very hard collecting and handing out prizes throughout the year.
There are vacancies for 29 more people to join the club. Please express interest to any collector and/or Community Council member, otherwise contact **John Lomax on 663037**. I am looking for a collector for Valley Road and surrounding area urgently. **Please contact John Lomax if you are willing to help out.** Thank you.
Finally thankyou all who have joined the 100 Club whilst I have been Promoter. I have to resign this year because of personal reasons and I wish you all Good Luck. John Lomax has agreed and been accepted by the WCC to take over as Promoter for the 100 Club.
***G B Moores,* Bernard Moores, Promoter**

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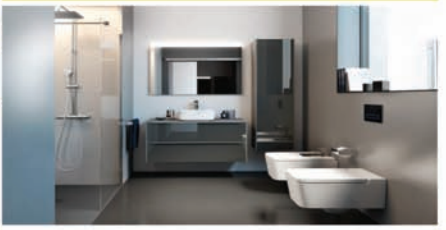
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# Wistaston Village Cricket Club
## (Founded 1980)

At the time of compiling this latest editorial, the **2017** cricket season is barely three months away. Work has been carried out at "The Brittles", to ensure perfect wickets and outfields to enable the cricket club to enjoy another successful season from April to September.

The **2016** cricket season was as previously reported in the Winter edition of *Roundabout* a pretty successful campaign on several fronts and I know that all players are itching to emulate their successes during **2017.** By the time my latest editorial wings its way through countless letter boxes, the cricket season will only be barely a month away from commencing (first fixtures for the **First and Second Elevens** due to begin **mid-April.**)

**Winter Nets:-** Winter nets started on **Thursday 26th January at South Cheshire College,** Junior members 7-8pm and Seniors 8-9pm. **- Cost of nets for these will be £3.00 per session.**
**For updates on information related to the above please contact K. Jobbins on 01270 663699 in the first instance.**

### PLAYERS REQUIRED FOR THE FORTHCOMING 2016 CRICKET SEASON

Following the excellent 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 or 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 any-one wishing to join us.

**We offer cricket to adults and juniors of all standards** and we are proud on being very much a child friendly club and we 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**

# An update re Ceri Palmer née Howells Memorial Fund for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young)



Robert, Alison and Joel would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has supported this vital cause, since Ceri died on 28 March 2014. She tragically died in her sleep of a sudden arrhythmic death (SADS). CRY know that at least 12 young people are dying of this hidden condition **every week** in the UK alone. **80%** of people who die from this condition often exhibit no obvious symptoms prior to the event.

Various fundraising events have been held so far such as 'The Grand Day Out' when well over £2000 was raised, a Weleda Ladies Pampering Event, a Harp Duo concert at Richmond Village and also funds from Richmond Village's Christmas Raffle, a Decibella Ladies Choir concert, CRY Cake Bakes in various venues, the Macclesfield Half Marathon (ran by Ceri's Aunty) and the CRY Heart of London Bridges Walk, to name but a few.

Currently the Head of 6th Form, John Harrison, at Malbank High School (where Ceri was a student) is training for the Wilmslow Half Marathon for Ceri's Memorial Fund. If you would like to donate to John's Just Giving Page this is the link:
https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/John-Harrison-Malbank

To date at least £8,000 has been raised in Ceri's memory.
A CRY Memorial Heart Screening (for 14-35 year olds) will be held at Malbank High School in Nantwich in June 2018 and a further one at South Cheshire College, date in 2018 TBC. Dates, venues and information about CRY Heart Screenings are posted on www.testmyheart.org.uk These screening sessions have been proven to reduce the risk of death from the condition by almost 89%.

This much needed service is funded purely by donations and funds raised by bereaved families and supporters. Many young lives are being saved by CRY's vital work, one of whom is a student who is studying at South Cheshire College, who discovered they had a serious hidden heart condition at a local screening last year and subsequently were fast tracked into NHS Cardiology services to require the correct treatment to save their life.

CRY is campaigning to ask MPs to recognise the significance of at least 12 young people dying every week of young sudden cardiac death. We strongly urge you to contact your MP to request they sign a pledge to support a National Strategy for the Prevention of Young Sudden Cardiac Death to help save young lives as in the following link:http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/about-my-pledge/

We are holding a Fashion Show in aid of CRY and local heart screenings. It will be on

**Friday 19th May, 7.30pm at Malbank High School.**
**Tickets are £7 which includes drinks and a light buffet.**
Please buy tickets by emailing: alibagshowells@gmail.com
See you there!!
**The clothes being modelled are from 'White Ribbon Boutique' Nantwich**

If you would like to find out more about the work of CRY or would like to make a donation to Ceri's CRY Memorial Fund, please go to:
http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/memorial-funds/ceri-palmer-howells/ or contact Alison on:
alibagshowells@gmail.com





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# Margaret Moores:
# Wistonian of the year for 2016



At the 2017 AGM of the Wistaston Community Council Dane Chaplow was very proud to make the award of 2016 Wistonian of the Year to Margaret Moores – a very worthy and unassuming lady of Wistaston.

Margaret has worked tirelessly collecting for local community charities and WCC events. She helped Geoff and Sheila Armitage preparing paper work and prizes for many of these events and could regularly be seen working in the kitchen, organising the Tombola or making placement records at the Flower and Produce Show.
Margaret is a very willing and helpful assistant to her husband Bernard with many behind the scenes activities that have been undertaken to form their successful partnership.
As well as the above, she has been a great friend and helping hand to many people in the village - collecting medication, tidying around and cleaning if required or just a friendly ear at lonely times and for many years has been the primary named contact for various care alarm systems for local housebound ladies, responding many times, frequently in the middle of the night.

**Congratulations Margaret!**

**********

## Wistaston Community Council – The Hundred Club

Wistaston Community Council is an organisation which raises funds to be donated to local good causes as well as organising community events within the village.

**The Hundred Club** was set up by the Council over 20 years ago as a way of achieving this and it has run successfully ever since.

The Club is a kind of local lottery which gives members a chance to win some money with the surplus going to needs within Wistaston.

Every member of the **Hundred Club** donates £2 every four weeks and is entered into a draw with prizes of between £25 and £200 available together with several £10 prizes. There are 13 such draws each year.

It's a bit of fun and helps to provide money to be used within our own village and there are valuable prizes to be won.
**If you are interested in joining please contact John Lomax on 01270 663037 at any time.**

# Wistaston Conservation Group

It has been rather cold recently, when the working party have met each Monday morning at 0930, but amazingly we have averaged 8 people, which just shows the dedication to keep Wistaston looking great.

**Tree planting**

The tree planting in Old Covert has now been completed, using tree whips and pot-grown specimens, mostly having been donated by members of the Group, by local residents, and by the Forestry commission. This job was made harder because of the much drier than usual weather in December, which resulted in the ground being harder, and an increased need to water the trees when they had been planted.



**Path clearing**

One of the main drawbacks to woodland paths is that most of the trees have a habit of shedding their leaves in autumn and winter, and thus making the paths less fun to walk on. The photos show members of the Group clearing the paths in both Old Covert (see front cover) and Woodside Covert (above). It is hoped that everyone who uses these paths is grateful for the amount of work that the working party have put in to keep our woodland paths in good order.



**Hedge laying**

You may remember my comments in the last issue about some of our members trying their hand at willow weaving, to make a new hedge above the pond at Joey-the-swan.

We are now embarking on another new pastime of hedge laying. We are fortunate in that 2 of our members have done some hedge laying before, although they do not profess to be experts, or are qualified in this task. However, we have recently laid approximately 75 metres of old hedge in Woodside Covert, and by the time you read this, we will have planted Hawthorn whips to fill in the gaps. The photo shows a section of the, almost, completed hedge.

**Future Projects**

Looking forward to warmer and better weather, we already have a list of jobs to keep us occupied but if any local resident has any ideas for improving

Wistaston's natural features, we would be only too pleased to discuss their plans and ideas.
As usual, if you have any conservation issues you would like to discuss, either contact one of the Group, or come along and meet us on a Monday morning. We meet at 0930, with a coffee break at about 1100. If you time it right, you might be just in time for a free cup of coffee and a biscuit!
Where we will be working on any Monday is usually noted on our website at www.wistastonconservationgroup.org.
*John M Wood*,
Chairman.

**********



**Wistaston Gardeners' Society**

At the Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston.
Monthly at 7.30pm
Calendar - April 2017 – December 2017

**11 April** - Jan Greenland – Herbs
**2 May** - Anne Harrison – Wildlife Gardening
**13 June** - Harry Delaney – Climbers & Wall Plants
**11 July** - Summer Social Evening
**8 August** - Jack Swan – Beauty of Trees and Shrubs
**12 September** - Alistair Glen – The Gardeners Christmas
**3 October** - Len Tomlinson – Daffodils
**14 November** - David Tideswell – Birds in the Garden
**12 December** - Christmas Party
**New Members and Visitors welcome**
**For further information ring 01270 665974**

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**Roundabout Deliverers**

Do you have one or two hours to spare four times a year?
We are in need of Roundabout deliverers in several areas of Wistaston and if you can help please contact Eileen on 01270 569126

# To the Manor Born (or not in my case) by Jolyon Robinson

Timing can be a strange thing in life and it has proved so in relation to my own circumstances, the latest being the raising of the State Pension age to 66 and many years back the raising of the age to ride a motorcycle from 16 years of age to 17, the outcome being that I'll be working a year longer than expected to claim the State pension and that I had to ride a 50cc moped until I was 17.

**My parents, elder sister and brother** were all residents in the early 1950's of Wistaston Manor prior to it becoming a place for eating and drinking. As mentioned above the timing of a move from the Manor to a cottage in Willaston happened a year or so prior to my arrival on Earth, my stars and planets have been in conflict with each other ever since!

**Dad (Norman John Robinson)** was born a Wistonian and lived in 'Mount Pleasant' the cottage behind the Woodside Pub at the top of the bank where the path leads steeply down and across the brook to Broughton Lane, the path emerging opposite Wistaston Cottage (no 63) where his family moved in 1932.

The Robinson family farmed quite a large area of Wistaston from Yew Tree Farm on Broughton Lane, the pathway of which ran to the farmhouse from just past Milton Drive (on the left travelling from Nantwich Road), two Yew trees on Broughton Lane (opposite Yew Tree Road) signal where Yew Tree Villa stood, now numbers 14 and 16.

**Mum (Elsa Clare Binns)** was born in Yorkshire and lived in Oxenhope with her parents, brother and sister.

**Grandpa Binns** was a veteran of World War One. He was wounded at Gallipoli and sent home to recover. Gaining his commission he was next sent to the Western front where he was captured and spent the last 9 months of the war in a prisoner of war camp. In World War Two he served as an Air Raid Warden as it was something he could do as he was too old for active service. He became a Headmaster in Oxenhope and mum used to travel to her school in Keighley using the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway made famous in the film 'The Railway Children'.

**In the late 1940's mum came to Crewe** to train as a schoolteacher based at the Teachers' Training College now part of Manchester Metropolitan University. One of the places she lived in 'digs' was with a Mrs Ridgway at 'Hillcrest' which is the detached property between the Woodside and Joey the Swan. Somewhere around this area mum and dad must have met, most probably when dad was working in the fields on the family farm. Their relationship began and they married at St Chad's Church in Wybunbury in 1951.



They moved into one half of Wistaston Manor sharing the property with his mother and father,which end of the building was theirs I do not know! Here in the 1950's they kept chickens and other livestock and farmed the fields at the rear of the Manor, a period sales document for the property describes the land as being in total 11 Acres 2 Roods 29 Perches. It was owned later by a Mrs Beatrice Campbell who ran it as a poultry farm and nursery.

Another document (Tithe Redemption Commission) shows only fields opposite Wistaston Mill and the Manor all the way up to the Large house (now a Dentists surgery) on the corner of Dane Bank Avenue. Manor Way runs to number 12 on one side and number 13 on the other, everything else ehind the Manor is fields.

An article in the Crewe Chronicle (1970's?) by a historian Derek Hulland puts the case forward that the Poet John Milton resided at Wistaston Manor during his time in hiding from the vengeful supporters of Charles II and wrote 'Paradise Lost' here! His 3rd wife was Elizabeth Minshul the daughter of a 'Cheshire Gentleman' from Wells Green

As I was born in 1956 at the 'Cliffe' in Wybunbury it is fair to assume that my family had taken up residence in Willaston by then and my father's brother had taken over the running of Yew Tree Farm which he later sold and moved out to Coole Pilate releasing the land at Wistaston for building, now the estate that includes Lear Drive, Milton Drive and Byron Way.

My dad having been in contact with the Fathers at the Oblate Mission since it was formed in 1943 (formerly Wistaston Hall) acquired the use of the old Tennis club building off Broughton Lane and ran a small shop from there until that itself succumbed to being built on and became number 77 Broughton Lane.

Some memories from my childhood include many visits to Wistaston Mill and meeting Mr Lea and his daughter Mollie (she wrote an article about the Mill in 'Roundabout' Spring 1983), also visiting the Smith family who lived at Vine Tree Farm which stood where now is Dane Bank College and the regular trips to dad's shop where we always hoped to cadge a bag of sweets! A few years ago prior to my mum's passing we were contacted by the daughter and youngest son of the Smith family who both live in Wales and we managed to meet up with them for a re-union and to exchange memories. Unfortunately I haven't been able to find their address since but our visit to see them in the 1960's often comes to mind when they moved to a remote farmhouse near Caernarfon. Water was carried in a bucket from a fast running stream to the farmhouse across the fields if my memory is correct!

In 1980 my wife and I moved into a new house on Waldron Gardens, in a way completing a 'triangle' of properties that had been occupied by our family in the one small area, 'Mount Pleasant' and 'Hillcrest' included.

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# Nature Article

On 25 October Sylvia Boston (Fuller Drive) witnessed a fox in her garden appropriately while she was viewing 'Autumnwatch'.

Frank Morton mentioned a great spotted woodpecker on the Willaston allotments the morning of 14 November. That month a 'great spot' came regularly to our fat-balls and we enjoyed him into December. We expect it is the same bird. There is drumming occasionally into the bark of the apple-tree, but mostly it is the hangers that attract it. Our garden is across from the allotments and before the bird visits us we are aware of it passing through the branches above the dividing hedgerow. A third report of this bird was made by Mick and Helen Pierce in their back garden behind our neighbour's in Sandylands Park early afternoon 6 December. At the same time a male sparrowhawk also visited them, 'scaring the life out of them' (to quote).

A treat for us has been our first visit by a grey wagtail (first on 26 November and regular since). Diagnostic are its bright yellow underparts, blue-grey back and long constantly bobbing tail. As it favours fast-flowing water we wonder why it is attracted to us, an area of garden ponds at best. It is more associated with the habitat of the dipper.

Flocks of a dozen or so small birds breezing through treetops, as in our allotment bank, will often prove to be goldfinches, very gregarious and which will settle onto feeders as one body, issuing their wheezy cheep.

'No shows' in the winter garden bird survey in which we participate are thrushes and nuthatch, of the commoner birds, with only one greenfinch, this latter so often suffering the fatal disease of trichomoniasis. The parasite responsible lives in the bird's digestive tract, the bird's throat becoming progressively blocked till starvation finally kills the bird. Birds feeding each other during the breeding season with regurgitated food spreads the infection and infected saliva endangers water in baths. Signs of the disease are lethargy, fluffed up plumage and clogged beaks. Outbreaks are slowed by leaving off feeding for several weeks, which disperses birds, reducing contact between the sick and healthy. Frequent cleaning and disinfection of feeders is urged.

An amusing incident occurred one day in December when a jackdaw on telegraph wires decided it wanted to cross the pole for the wires on the other side. Perched on the post was a gull and, perhaps to save the energy of flight, jackdaw thought it better to

use the gull as a stepping-stone. Tolerant gull didn't flinch as it was used in this manner and jackdaw lazily achieved its objective.

Despite our seeing no bird Mid December did bring the welcome sound of song thrush from the allotment trees: we would have certainly expected it in January.

From our winter survey returns it was interesting to pick up redwing, fieldfare, blackcap, brambling and bullfinch from Broughton Lane between October and December, the bullfinch regular all through.
Lucky recorders: we travelled all the way to Whitegate to see our bramblings!

Our thanks to all contributors.

Trevor and Hilary Clowes
Tel. 664358 email handt136@talktalk.net

## Little Egret Siting

Jan from Brooklands Avenue writes that on 6th February a Little Egret flew down across her garden in Brookland Avenue and then went up into one of her neighbours tall trees. The Little Egret is photographed below and Jan asks whether anyone else has see this bird. She has no idea where it can have come from.



# Easter at St Mary's

Here we are in the season of Lent once more. A time when Christians the world over take time to pause, reflect on their life and faith, on their journey with God and prepare for the events of Good Friday and Easter Day. Life in church is different, there are no flowers (except for Mothering Sunday) and services have a more solemn air to them. One of the things I like about Lent is that it leads us into Spring, into new life, into lighter nights and nature coming to life once again! To celebrate Easter we have the following services, please do feel free to come and celebrate with us.
*Revd Mike.*

**Good Friday (14 April)**
11am - All Age Worship
2pm - An Hour at the Cross
**Easter Sunday (16 April)**
10:40am - All Age Easter Communion
Further details can be found on our website: stmaryswistaston.org.uk
www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk @maryandluke
facebook.com/stmaryandstluke

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## South Cheshire Orchestra

Reg. Charity 1002015

## Spring Concert

## Saturday 25 March 2017 at 7.30pm

## Nantwich Methodist Church Hospital Street, Nantwich

**A varied programme of light classics**

**For more information please contact Ray Banks on 01270 569542**

## Report from Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club

As the AGM of the Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club was held at the Pavilion on the coldest and wettest night Chairman Bill Heath got straight down to business announcing that three teams had played in the South and Mid Cheshire League and were doing very well whilst two men's teams have been entered for the Summer season so we wish them well. Young player George Raiswell organised a raffle which raised almost £80 for the Charity 'Mind'. Well done George!

As we have had some very dark and gloomy days over the past few months it was a pleasant surprise to wake up to find the sun shining – a sure sign that spring is really around the corner; and even more good news - the fees for the 2017 Season will remain the same as last year! Further information from Bill Heath on 01270 560471.

# Wistaston Young Drama Group

The children will present their end of year showcase at the Memorial Hall in February. Both groups worked together on their production of *The Witches*, which was directed by Kelly-Ann Davies, and assisted by Margaret Boschi, Judy Gratton and Harry Valentine.

The photograph shows some of the witches rehearsing for the production.



We have been invited to participate in Holly Holy Day celebrations at the end of January so you may see us there!

Wistaston Young Drama Group, based in the Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston provide drama activities for children aged 6 - 18. We provide a fun and safe environment with an opportunity to make new friends. The sessions start with drama games and activities. 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 confidence, improve concentration and creativity. We are an inclusive community group.

We meet on Saturdays from 10.30am to 12.45pm

Places are available. Why not give us a try? The first session is free.

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

**********

**Cheshire Wildlife Trust South Group**

present

**Shropshire Wildlife**

An illustrated talk by **Jim Almond,** a well kown photographer of birds and animals

**When: Wednesday 15 March at 8pm.**

**Where: Methodist Church, Hospital Street, Nantwich**

Entry: £3 including refreshments; open to all.

http://www.cheshire wildlifetrust.org.uk/

**Easter at Rope Green**
www.ropegreenmethodists.org
**Holy Week Reflective Prayer** Services - every day Monday 10th to Friday 14th April in various Methodist churches in the Rope Green Mission Area (up to 30 mins long):

Monday 10th 10am Shavington; 7pm Wells Green
Tuesday 11th 10am Wells Green; 7pm Shavington
Wednesday 12th 10am Willaston; 7pm Willaston
Maundy Thursday 13th 10am Chorlton
**6pm Holy Communion** Chorlton
Good Friday 14th 10am Shavington
7pm Wells Green

**Easter Day Services** at Wells Green Methodist Church
7.30am Sunrise Service at Joey the Swan
8.15am Breakfast followed by short Holy Communion Service at 9am
10.30am Easter Celebration for all the family - hunt the (chocolate!) Easter Eggs.
All are invited to any of the above events - you will be made most welcome. Look out for our Easter Cross decorated with spring flowers on the Brookland Avenue/Crewe Road Junction on Easter Day.

**Wells Green is celebrating 50 years of the church sanctuary building this year.** The church hall is much older, so we are spending some time updating the church hall with UPVC windows and new insulation for the walls during the year. We are also hoping to replace our windows and doors in the church porch from opaque glass to clear glass so that people can see into our building more easily, and so that as we look out, we can see and be reminded of the wonderful community we are privileged to be a part of. We would like to express special thanks to Leonard Brothers Veterinary Practice for their kindness in allowing us the use of their car park during the evening and at weekends for users of the church and hall.

**Easter blessings** to all residents who receive this magazine,
**Revd Den Harding**
51 Crewe Road
Shavington, Crewe,Cheshire
CW2 5JE
**OFFICE: 01270 666156**
revdenise@btinternet.com
*Day off - usually Friday*

**Cheshire South Circuit: Rope Green Mission Area**

# The Berkeley Academy Report

**Staff at The Berkeley Academy** have been busy preparing an exciting 'Science Week'. This is aimed at inspiring the young scientists of The Berkeley Academy through a range of stimulating and motivating activities. For example, we are having a visit from scientist Peter Hoare; a workshop run by the science dome and a 'Mad Science' day.



**Air Products** have been into school for a demonstration with liquid nitrogen for years 3 and 6. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all pupils.

**Google Expeditions** have also been into school this term. They brought along their Virtual Reality headsets and took children on journeys across the globe.

This term Year 5 have been on a visit to **Wrenbury** to enhance their knowledge of the village. This was to support their literacy work and develop their understanding of current housing developments and their implications. We visited the Church, pubs, local businesses and the school. Year 5 would like to thank everyone who made their trip so enjoyable.



# WISTASTON IN BLOOM

Last year Wistaston won silver in the Britain in Bloom (North West) competition.

Judging took place in July when it was reported that the judges were very pleased with the bedding and planting throughout the village and they thought many gardens of private residential houses were well maintained as were hedges and grass verges. Also the Memorial Hall, Bowling Club and Tennis Club were praised as being 'maintained to a very good standard'.

On the negative side the village fell down on dog fouling and some litter particularly in the area of the car park and pathway off Wistaston Green Road. Some pathways needed weeding and there were small amounts of litter outside the shops in Kings Drive possibly due to an overflowing litter bin. All these criticisms are easily remedied with more care from the public.

But in the main the Wistaston in Bloom committee were pleased with the work carried out in 2016 and now look forward to 2017. Once again we have entered the Britain in Bloom competition and have already appointed new contractors (Crewe Road Nurseries) to plant up six of the eight beds the committee are responsible for with the committee planting up the remaining two beds.

Finally I would urge residents to have their front gardens looking at their best by early July when judging normally takes place and hopefully Wistaston may do a little better in the 2017 Britain in Bloom competition.

Bill Heath

Secretary, Wistaston in Bloom




# Foundation Rides

This year will see the 5th running of the **Foundation Rides and the 10th anniversary of the Up and Under Foundation (registered charity no: 1124079).**
Eric Swan, that famous Wistonian, was the inspiration behind the charity (which looks to support disadvantaged local youngsters take part in adventurous outdoor activities). One of the main bursaries is named in his honour (www.upandunderfoundation.org ).
It was the enthusiasm with which Eric guided and encouraged so many (including a young Andy Fewtrell), often through sport and outdoor activities, that made him stand out. Andy is now a local business man and the charity's founder, and he is keen that today's youngsters should benefit from some of the same opportunities as those provided by Eric.
The Foundation Rides event, a charity bike ride on May 7th, includes three different distances (50, 100 and 160 km), and is the main fundraising event for the charity which, last year, supported over 100 youngsters. To enter, or to find out more about the event go to: www.foundationrides.co.uk

Lorna Fewtrell
CREH,
Coppice House, Quakers Coppice
Crewe CW1 6FA
01270 250583
**Trustee of the Up and Under Foundation**






# Wistaston Church Lane Academy Rhys Williams and Lilly

## Learning – KS1

All of KS1 have been working hard on their topics. Foundation stage have been working on Valentine's day activities and had a fantastic time watching a production of Aladdin at the Lyceum Theatre and "booing" Abanaza. Year 1 had a great time with their topic of toys – who wouldn`t with a visit to Lego land! Year 2 studied how the Great Fire of London started and the differences of time ages.

## KS2

In KS2 they have also been working hard on their Maths and English. Year 3 have been studying Mexico as their topic and have had their dress up day (there were plenty of sombreros.) Year 4 have been learning about Celts and had a brilliant time transforming into Celts themselves. Year 5 were blasting off into space in their topic and enjoyed rocket making in design and technology. Year 6 have recently been to Liverpool Maritime museum to find out more about the Titanic.

## Plays

In the Autumn term, we were treated to some great performances by children from Foundation to Year 4. Foundation and Year 1 put on a splendid show called **Lights, Camels, Action**. The Year 3 and 4 play was **Christmas is Forever** (who knew there were more Santas in the world!) Year 2 did a spectacular harvest performance called **The Little Red Hen**. Well done to everyone in the performances.

## Special events

During the Autumn term, all the staff and children had their annual Roald Dahl dress up day. We had loads of creative costumes such as: Charlie (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), Matilda, foxes (Fantastic Mr Fox), BFG (although they weren't so big) and lots more. We also had some champions from the spelling bee and times table competition. Congratulations to all our winners!

## Sports success

In the amazing athletics competition Years 3 and 4 came 3rd in the local area and out of the whole of Crewe and Nantwich. We have a magnificent football team that has been doing extremely well as we are in the finals of the exciting football competition. Congratulations to everyone who participated in these events.

## Swan Stars

Swan Stars is now one year old, has 145 children on role and it's going really well. Swan Stars is helping doing up the garden area and growing its own produce too. If you would like to, we would love some seeds to be donated to us. Swan Stars is run by Miss Stones and assistants - Mrs Jones , Mrs Simons and Mr Farell. We hope you consider coming to Swan Stars too!

# A Tribute to Brian Edge



Barrovian Brian Edge died in Leighton Hospital on 2nd December 2016 aged 84 years. He was so proud to be a Barrow lad, born and bred.

During one's life, one encounters significant people who have great influence on one's present and future; one such person was Brian Edge.

In 1968 Brian formed the Crewe & District Coin and Medal Society. The members still meet monthly in the Dudley room at the Wistaston Memorial Hall.
In 1982 he founded the National Token Congress at the Crewe Arms hotel. At the 2006 silver jubilee meeting of the Congress, Brian was presented with a silver medal in appreciation of his work.
In 1994 Brian was the founder of the South Cheshire George Formby Ukulele Society, which still meets monthly in the Wistaston Memorial Hall. Brian's philosophy of welcoming all performers on to the stage, whatever their standard, still remains.
In 1996 Brian joined his wife Connie, on to the Management Committee of the Wistaston Memorial Hall. He became the Vice Chairman in 2002.
Brian has written books on Token Coinage and the history of Crewe and was frequently asked to proof-read books written by local authors.

Brian is survived by his daughter Diane, son-in-law Steven and grandson George.

Brian Edge has achieved so much for so many people over so many years. Those who have encountered this intelligent, empathetic, dedicated and genuine man have indeed been privileged; he will be greatly missed.
*John C White*
Chairman
Memorial Hall Management Committee
February 2017

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## Laurie Twiss Award 2017

**Calling Wistaston's budding writers!**

Write a story or article in under 200 words. The competition is open to young people in our area aged from 9 - 16. **The winner will b**e able to keep for one year the Laurie Twiss Trophy plus an additional prize. It's your choice of material – real or imaginary, fact or fiction, so get into writing mode now. Please include the following information with your entry: Name and address, Telephone number, Age, school attended and title of story.
**Entries** should be submitted by **15 May 2017 to one of the following:**
Barbara Brereton, 11 Barndale Close
Greg Brereton, 7 College Fields
Eileen Bamber, 31 Broughton Lane
**Good Luck with your writing!**

# Wistaston's 35th Annual Flower and Produce Show Saturday 19 August 2017

As seed merchants' catalogues drop through people's letter boxes it's time to display the schedule for 2017's show so that exhibitors can decide which classes to enter. The Show Committee wish you all well and hope to see a heap of entries .

**Section 1 - Flower Classes**

1. Bowl of Sweet Peas, mixed colours, 15 stems minimum.
2. A specimen Rose in a vase.
3. Three Large Gladioli, any variety or varieties.
4. Three Small Gladioli, any variety or varieties.
5. Three Pom Pom Dahlias, any variety or varieties.
6. Three Cactus or Semi-Cactus Dahlias, any variety or varieties.
7. Three Decorative Dahlias, any variety or varieties.
8. A Single Stem of Any Flowering Plant (not on schedule) in a vase.
9. A Single Geranium Head in a vase.
10. Six French Marigolds, any variety or varieties.
11. A Shallow Bowl of Floating Flower Heads - arranged for effect.
12. A Vase of Mixed Flowers - home grown
13. A Cactus.
14. A Geranium in a Pot - with saucer.
15. A Begonia in a Pot - with saucer.
16. A Flowering Plant in a Pot - with saucer - excluding plants from Class 21.
17. A Foliage Plant in a Pot - with saucer.
18. Six Fuchsia heads on a board.
19. A Fuchsia in a a 9cms Pot - with saucer - any variety.
20. Alpine Garden - 25cm x 25cm maximum

**Section 2 - Vegetable Classes**.

21. A Vegetable not on Schedule - please specify on entry form.
22. Five White Potatoes on a Plate - any variety.
23 Five Coloured Potatoes on a Plate - any variety.
24. Six Potatoes on a Plate – two varieties - three of each colour.
25. Six pods of Peas with some stalk.
26. Three Onions - roots shown - see Rules. .
27. Three Onions - roots shown - not to exceed 225 grams each. See rules.
28. Six Carrots - tops trimmed to 8cms.
29. Five Ripe Tomatoes - not cherry variety - on a Plate.
30. Nine Shallots - Large.
31. Three Round Beetroot - tops trimmed to 8cms.
32. One Vegetable Marrow - with stalk.
33. One Lettuce - roots shown.
34. One Cucumber - with stalk.
35. A Truss of Tomatoes - not cherry variety - some ripe.
36. A Truss of a Named Variety of Cherry Tomatoes on a plate - some ripe.
37. One White Cabbage - roots shown.
38. Five Ripe Cherry Tomatoes on a plate: variety to be named .
39. Six Runner Beans - with some stalk.
40. Six Dwarf Beans - with some stalk.
41. Three Courgettes - each with some stalk.

**Section 3 - Wistaston Parish Vegetable Display**

42. A Collection of Five Different Classes of Vegetables.
43. A Single Pot of Three Different Herbs.

**Section 4 - Flower Arrangements**

44. Hat for Ascot.
45. Disney
46. A Day at the Seaside
47. By the Light of the Silvery Moon

**Section 5 : Harvest Basket**

48. A Basket Containing Fruit, Flowers & Produce: not to exceed 46cms in width & length; height not restricted.

**Section 6 : Children's Classes**

49. Pre-School - My Favourite Flower.
50. Year 1 Children - Fabric Flower
51. Year 3 Children - Healthy Fair Trade Plate
52. Year 5 Children - Church Lane Academy to confirm.

**Section 7 - House Craft Classes**

53. A Jar of Homemade Strawberry Jam) Cellophane
54. A Jar of Homemade Chutney ) covers
55. A Jar of Homemade Lemon Curd ) only.
56. Three pieces of Shortbread.
57. Five Square Flapjacks.
58. Five Jam Tarts.
59. A Plate of Five Chocolate Butterfly Cakes.
60. A Lemon Drizzle Cake in a Loaf Tin..
61. A Date and Walnut Cake - baked in a Bun Loaf tin.
62. A Victoria Sponge Cake - please read Rule 20 **carefully**
63. Five Cheese Scones.
64. A Quiche approx. 20cms in diameter - presented on plate
65. An Apple Pie - approx. 20cms in diameter - shortcrust pastry top and bottom - presented on a plate.
66. Five Decorated Cup Cakes.

**Section 8 - Hobby Crafts**

67. A Cross Stitch Picture 15cm x 20cm maximum.
68. A Painting. Own original work: A4 Size max: Unframed.

**Parish Council Photographic Competition**

**Class 1. A typical Snapshot.**
**Class 2. A Cardboard Framed Enlargement.**

Prize money for the Photographic Competition to be £5, £3 and £2 in both classes.
Entries to be with the Show Secretary by 11 August 2017.

**All entries for this competition are free.**

For 2017 it is again agreed that people who work in Wistaston or are first year Domestic Science students at Dane Bank College or are plot holders on either of the Willaston or Wistaston Allotments and all members of Wistaston U3A Groups may enter the show.

Please read the schedule and the rules very carefully to make sure your entries are in the correct class, are trimmed as directed, are the correct size, contain the right amount of ingredients. No judge likes to place a N.A.S. (Not As Schedule) ticket against an entry. Ours is not a cut throat show. In fact it is renowned for its friendliness and help between one competitor and another but there have to be rules or the whole thing would be chaotic. Let us all hope for good growing conditions.

*Gwyneth Brown,* President

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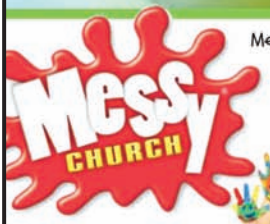
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