

Snow scene at Joey the Swan by Jonathan White

Spring 'Roundabout'

A Wistaston Community Council Publication

2018
ISSUE 149

The Magazine for People Living 'Roundabout' Wistaston

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk

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EDITORIAL FOR SPRING 2018

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

For **Dates for your Diary** see page 22.

At the Wistaston Community Council's AGM in January we were very pleased to present Ray Westwood with the Wistonian of the Year award for 2017. Please read on page 15 why he has won this very prestigious award and why he is such a worthy winner. Very many congratulations, Ray.

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 Singers.

WISTASTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL	
Donations In Year 2017	
PAID TO	£
Charlotte Rhodes Donation	250.00
Scottish Dancers	50.00
Jane Banks Falconry	50.00
J White G Formby Tribute	25.00
Wistaston Church Lane Academy	50.00
Funky Choir	50.00
Laura Conliffe Singer Fete	25.00
Firefighters Charity	50.00
Pauline Jobbins Planters	200.00
DR Donation - Wistaston Memorial Hall	629.00
FW Donation to 35th SWC Scouts	700.00
Shavington High School	100.00
Wistaston Bowling Club	150.00
Wistaston Conservation Group	200.00
Mrs M Wood	100.00
Action For Children	100.00
St Mary's Church Hall	100.00
Wistaston Church Lane Academy	100.00
The Children's Society	100.00
Weston Christmas Lights	100.00
Wells Green Girl Guides	150.00
Total Donations	3279.00

As well as organising events the Community Council is all about enabling the people of Wistaston to have a shot at something more challenging.

The Community Council are now organising their next event - the Village Fete at which the theme will be **Suffragettes and Suffragists as it** is one hundred years since women got the vote and then they had to have reached the age of thirty!

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July 15th Poulenc Sextet (piano & wind)
Jonathan Ellis piano

Sept 9th Wind Decet Tim Reynish conductor
Wissam Boustany flute

Sept 30th Piano & Wind Trio (flute, bassoon & piano)

Oct 14th Beethoven Piano & Wind Quintet
Andrew Wilde piano

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Wistaston Parish Council **Chairman's Report**

1. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Referendum held on 7th December 2017, had a successful outcome with over 88% voting in favour. The plan is referred to as "made" and is awaiting formal signature from the Cheshire East Council Portfolio holder, to complete the process (Regulation 20). The plan is now a legal document which Cheshire East Planning Department have to take into account for all changes and developments in Wistaston. A limited number of copies will be produced for future reference. Residents can still view details on Cheshire East Council website www.cheshireesast.gov.uk then search for Wistaston Neighbourhood Plan. The neighbourhood plan website will not be renewed and will eventually close.

2. SPEEDWATCH

Our Parish Councillor/Resident group of 7 members are routinely carrying out checks in 8 locations across our Parish. A total of 243 vehicles were logged over the legal speed limit and reported to the Police during 2017. To extend the programme more members would be welcome. Interested? Please contact Cllr. Andy Bicknell or our Clerk for details.

3. ADULT PLAY/ EXERCISE AREA

For a number of years your Council has had plans to introduce a second play area for adults and set up a fund to contribute to obtaining grant support. Initial ideas of a central playground have progressed towards a more favoured open plan arrangement for exercise apparatus around Joey the Swan recreation land. A Community/Parish Councillor group is examining options for the Councils consideration. Residents views would be welcome, contact should be made to Cllr. Mrs. Francesca Jones or our Clerk.

4. CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL APP

Cheshire East Council has an App to use with smart phones to report environmental issues. Litter, graffiti, street lighting, potholes, fly tipping, dog fouling etc. can all be reported using this App with the function to upload photographs. This will be sent to the Cheshire East Council Street Scene Hub to be logged and assigned for action.

5. CHURCH LANE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

This new development for 300 mixed types of properties has been submitted for formal planning approval. Your Council has made representations on the design and layout, Cheshire East Ward Councillor Mrs. Simon has submitted a request to "call in" the plan to be considered by the full planning committee, not delegated to one Officer. Numerous issues are of concern, lack of car parking, close proximity to neighbouring properties, inadequate number of properties for the ageing population, traffic congestion particularly in Church Lane and adjacent roads. It is also disappointing that Cheshire East Council have allocated £605,000, almost two thirds of the development grant aid under section 106 to build a new roundabout at the Peacock. Your Council's view is more money should be allocated to the community to improve road conditions, footpaths and street lighting.

6. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings at 7.30 p.m. at Wistaston Memorial. Next meetings are on 15th March 2018, 17th May 2018 and the Annual Parish Meeting is on 12th April 2018 at 8 p.m

Cllr. J. Moore
Chairman

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Councillor Contact Details:-

	St. Mary's Ward (1 vacancy)	
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 (2 vacancies)	
Andrew Bicknell	**1 Meadow Drive, Wistaston, CW2 6RF**	**487579**
Thomas Kilkenny	**15 Park Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EN.**	**650045**
Ken Parish	**12 Riverside Grove, Wistaston, CW2 8QF**	**650280**
Clerk to the Council		
Mrs. Andrea Cross	**4 Arundel Close, Wistaston. CW2 8EY**	**652098**

****

Wistaston Community Council - The 100 Club - 2017

The 100 club is organised by Wistaston Community Council with the aim of raising money for good causes in the village as well as giving members a chance of winning some decent prizes ranging from £10 to £200 and it was set up 20 years ago.
During 2017 £1185 was given out as prize money, the main prizes being as follows:-

MAJOR PRIZE WINNING NUMBERS IN 2017

Draw	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Prizes	25	25	50	25	25	100	25	25	50	25	25	25	200
Winning Numbers	72	89	49	46	111	10	101	47	99	5	82	67	67

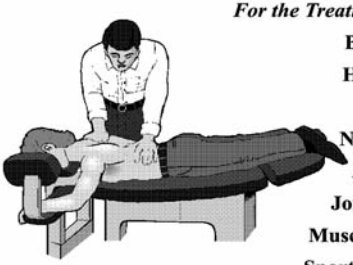
In addition to the above, numerous £10 prizes were awarded.

Every member of the 100 Club donates £2 every four weeks (or annually if preferred) and is entered into a draw with prizes between £25 and £200 together with several £10 prizes. It's a bit of fun and helps to provide money to be used within our own village.
I would like to thank all 100 club members for their continued support.

Anyone wishing to join the 100 Club is most welcome. Please contact John Lomax on 01270 663037 at any time for more details.
John Lomax
Promoter

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Below is Pat Cotton's Report from Willaston W.I.

We have been entertained and intrigued by our speakers in Autumn. **Lyn Hand** told tales of being a guide in Chester and the surprising questions asked such as "where is the chippy?"

We heard of the origins of **St John Ambulance** and how they are now assisting our very busy NHS ambulance service and **Wendy Northway** showed fabulous photos and spoke of the **Hidden Gems** she has seen whilst diving off the coast of Britain - brightly coloured coral and unusual fish and plants.

In December several of our members sang in the choir at the very popular **Carol Concert in Chester Cathedral** and we had fun at our Christmas party playing games and enjoying a tasty buffet.

We have been busy playing **darts, dominoes and scrabble** and winning trophies and we answered all the quiz questions correctly. The teams are now practising hard and hoping for success in 2018!!

The very popular **book club has been reading and reviewing** and the **lunch group has sampled the food at local eateries.**

Plans for the Spring include social evenings,day trips, coffee mornings and some excellent speakers.

Meeting details from Pat Cotton.

Tel:01270 664030 if you would like to come along to a meeting.

Spring

Barbara Tomkinson, Wistaston

The morning is dull with drizzly rain
The clouds are scurrying along
No sign of the sun
How sad is that
It really is a crying shame.

A few hours later, here comes the sun
Oh! What a difference that makes
A robin in the birdbath – what fun
He's singing away as his body he shakes.

It's March now, the winter's behind us
Let's hope dark days are past
I love the spring, new life abounding
Snowdrops, daffs appearing at last.

Time for planting, time for mowing
The tubs come out, the baskets swinging
Lambs in the field, cattle lowing
Trees in blossom and birds singing.

****

Easter at St Mary's

To celebrate Easter at St Mary's we have the following services, please do feel free to come and celebrate with us.
Revd Mike.

Good Friday - 30 March
2pm - An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday 1 April
10:40am - All Age Easter Communion
6pm - Evening Prayer - Book of Common Prayer
Further details can be found on our website: stmaryswistaston.org.uk or via the Office on 567119.

Wistaston Village Cricket Club
(Founded 1980)

At the time of compiling this latest editorial, the **2018** 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 **2017** cricket season was as previously reported in the Winter edition of *Roundabout* a success on some fronts but unfortunately less successful on others.

I am sure that all players are looking forward to a productive campaign during **2018** and that our winter nets will help them to hone their skills to this effect. By the time my latest editorial wings it s way through countless letter boxes, the cricket season will only be barely a month away from commencing (from information available at the time of this editorial first fixtures for most of our senior sides are due to begin from **mid-April.**)

For 2018 our senior teams will be playing in the following leagues:-

Ist Eleven:- Cheshire Cricket League Division 4

2nd Eleven:- Cheshire Cricket League Division C (South)

3rd Eleven:- Cheshire County Cricket League - Sunday Central Division
Women's Eleven (The Swans) Cheshire Women's Cricket League Division 1/2

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 are 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 483494** in the first instance.

For more details of our Bingo evenings please contact either **Kevin or Pauline Jobbins 01270 483494.**

John Avery
"Zusammen", 13 Lear Drive, Wistaston
Tel 0781 7082678

WISTASTON IN BLOOM

Last year Wistaston won Silver-Gilt in the Britain in Bloom (North West) competition - one award below that elusive 'Gold'.
Judging took place in mid-July and the judges commented that all of the bedding areas were to a very high standard and all of the plants used were of a very high quality. The recently refurbished raised bed on Beech Drive was praised in particular as being of a very high quality and the 'Parkland' area off Joey the Swan, and Westfield Drive were also praised by the judges.
On the negative side the judges felt some grass verges were untidy and a lot of the channels on road edges had a lot of weed growth in them. Both areas not in the control of the Wistaston in Bloom committee but hopefully we will persuade the appropriate authority to address this situation this year.
The committee were very pleased with last year's result and look forward to 2018. Once again we have entered the Britain in Bloom competition and in conjunction with our contractor, Crewe Road Nursery, will aim to achieve that 'Gold' award.
Finally I would urge residents to have their front gardens looking at their best by early July just in time for the visit of the Britain in Bloom judges.
As a footnote if there are any gardenenrs in the vilage who would like to be involved in the Wistaston in Bloom group please contact me, Bill Heath, Hon. Secretary Phone 01270 560471
****

Wistaston Volunteers - See list on page 18

My wife and I have been living in Wistaston for 10 years, having moved from a few miles away. We were attracted to the area for several reasons and were amazed at the number of leisure activities in the area. There is something going on somewhere pretty well every day, some of which we are involved in, either as participants or volunteers.
I have been doing some research into both the number of organisations in the area and also the number of volunteers involved.
The list includes many different types of activities all of which rely on volunteers to operate. Without these volunteers, currently estimated between 200-300, the parish would not be the lovely place where we all live today.
Being a volunteer is not as onerous as you may think, in fact it can be most rewarding and enjoyable at the same time.Whilst there are volunteers who love committee meetings there are others who just provide their names to the main contact list of their chosen group(s) and help as and when needed: both types of volunteering are much appreciated.

Volunteers are required to keep these groups going in order to maintain Wistaston as the attractive place it is.
The list shown on page 18 is an attempt to identify Organisations in and around Wistaston and give a brief outline of their activities along with a contact name and number. If you are aware of other organisations/activities which take place in our area please contact me and I will include them in a further publication. The main criteria is that they are run by VOLUNTEERS and not run as Commercial enterprises. **David Clews 668553**

Church Lane Academy - Report

Year 3 –Cadbury's World
This half term, year 3 has visited the fabulous Cadbury's World. Whilst there, they watched a funny choco bean TV where chocolate raisins told you news about Cadbury's World. After, they watched an incredible 4D show. It was so cool! Then, the year 3 children went into the factory to see how the chocolate was made –they didn't use machines it was all done by hand! Once in the factory, the children had the opportunity to eat some delicious melted chocolate with two toppings of their choice. The options were: popping candy, crunchie, small chunks of biscuit or marshmallows. During the day, the children had the chance to go on some small attraction rides and play on Cadbury's World play equipment. What an adventure!

Year 4 –York
This year, our year 4 children will be going on a three day residential to the wonderful City of York where they will stay in a youth hostel. They will get the chance to take part in a variety of activities such as building a boat and making their very own catapult. On arrival, year 4 will have a fantastic tour around the hostel and settle in to their home away from home for the next two nights.

Year 5 –Whitemoor Lakes
In May, year 5 will be going to the brilliant Whitemoor Lakes to take part in an amazing three day residential. The children will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of team building activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, zip wire, caving and many more.

Year 5 –The National Space Centre
In March year 5 will be going on a school trip to The National Space Centre. During this term, the children have been learning about space, the order of the solar system and why we have night and day. Visiting The National Space Centre will be a fantastic way to round off their 'out of this world' topic and give the children a chance to put everything they have learnt into practice.

Year 6 –London
In the summer term, our year 6 children will be travelling to London to visit our capital city. Over the course of this three day residential, all of the children will go to watch the breath-taking musical, 'Matilda' and they will take a trip to the magical world of witch craft and wizardry when they visit the Harry Potter studios.

Ray Westwood: Wistonian of the year for 2017



At the 2018 AGM of the Wistaston Community Council Dane Chaplow was very pleased to make the award of 2017 Wistonian of the Year to Ray Westwood - a very worthy recipient of the award.

Ray, pictured here with Dane, has lived in Wistaston for most of his life. He is married to Sheila and they have three children and recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.
He was, until 2011, a Cheshire East Councillor representing St Mary's Ward, Wistaston and during this time helped hundreds of residents resolve many issues and helped to improve services in the community. He has also been a County Councillor with a wealth of local government experience and in 2011 he was made an Honorary Alderman for his dedicated service to public life. As well as chairing many local committee meetings for children's services and schools he has also been a local school governor and has been a member of Wistaston Community Council.
Ray has been Chairman of Wistaston Sports and Leisure Association,WSLA, and is now Treasurer. He has played a major part in both the funding and organisation of the construction of the multi-use games area and the recent extension to the clubhouse, enabling excellent new facilities to be enjoyed by many local residents, particularly children. He has laid down the planning and development of the association for the next five years and also plays an active role in its operational running.
Ray has helped whenever possible at the annual village fete as well as volunteering to help at many local events. In short he is recognised as an upstanding member of the local community and certainly deserves his new award which really is long overdue.
Congratulations Ray!

****

Helen De Falco tells us more about the activities of her feathered friends!

A welcome Sight. A very pleasant surprise awaited the residents of 15 Swift Close on a very cold, frosty and snow-covered morning before Christmas .....the welcome return of "Mrs Twisted Foot", who appeared by the garden shed in time for an early lunch! She is so named as a result of her rather unusual appearance. Her foot is twisted back-to-front.
However, we have come to realise how fickle she is - she ignores my Husband on occasion and then rushes to him at other times. This happens at feeding times and we know she loves her food so this is very odd.
However, we have concluded that it depends on which hat he is wearing. She likes him in a baseball cap but not in his "Russion"style hat which he wears in the Winter. It would appear that "Mrs Twisted Foot" has the same taste in hats as I do as I don't like the "Russion" hat either. *Helen*

Wistaston Conservation Group

Over the past few months our working party has got really dirty, but not the way you are all thinking. Most of our work has been clearing the local paths and re-digging the ditches which are designed to keep our area reasonably dry, (but see below), and our ponds full of water.

Path clearance

You may remember my facetious comment in the last issue that "trees shed their leaves in autumn". This means that our woodland paths are deep in leaves and can become very slippery at this time of year.



We have now completed our clearance of all the woodland paths in Woodside, Rookery and Hinging Bank coverts, and have cut back a lot of the overhanging branches in the same areas, making these paths much better for walking and enjoying.

We have also cleared a large tree which had fallen in Hinging Bank covert, except for the main trunk which was just too big for even our best equipment.

Drainage clearance

The trees do not just drop their leaves on our paths, but also in the drainage ditches which were designed to channel water from where we do not want it to where we do, i.e. in our streams and ponds. Clear ditches allow good drainage, but clogged ones are no use to anyone.

We have spent the last few weeks clearing all the debris from these channels, so that water will again run smoothly into our ponds and streams: this is the "dirty work" I referred to earlier.

We are also trying to find several older drainage systems which were put in to keep our recreational areas from becoming waterlogged. These systems were put in, but there is no written evidence as to where they are, and unfortunately human minds and memory do not last forever. If anyone has any evidence of these systems, we would appreciate their help in finding them, so that we can get them working as they were intended.

Hedgerow around old railway area

In the last issue I noted that we had laid the hedge on the recreational ground side of the old railway area. I can now confirm that we have planted Hawthorn whips into this hedge, thanks to the Community Council who agreed to pay for the whips from the proceeds of the firework evening; thanks for your support.

Tree planting general

The Woodland Trust have a system where they give free trees to local groups providing they can prove that local people and wildlife will benefit from the planted trees. We have put in an application for trees to improve the wildlife corridors in our area, and to improve the local woodlands for the benefit of local

people. Thus we score on both the Woodland Trust rules; we can't lose, or can we?

Wildflower planting

We have now completed the planting of bulbs around the locality, as noted in the last issue. By the time you read this, there should be much evidence of this planting up the road towards the Woodside, behind the information board at Joey-the-swan and on the banking near to the children's play area.

We look forward to a great display, thanks to the Parish Council who purchased the bulbs for us to plant, for your enjoyment.



Wistaston in Bloom award

We were really pleased when the Wistaston in Bloom Committee presented the Group with a plaque which stated:

Parkland, Wistaston

Level 4, Thriving

Although we are not suggesting that this is all due to our work, the projects which we continue to progress help to keep our area in a great condition, and certainly helped towards this achievement.

It was noted in the letter that the score was only one percentage point from an "Outstanding" award.

We are all working hard towards at least one more point next year!

Committee

Our treasurer, Paul Mayes, has been ill for some time and has not been able to fulfill the duties of treasurer of the Group. I would like to thank Paul for his help over the past years, and hope that his health improves

I am pleased that Carole Jones has volunteered (a word that doesn't crop up very often) to become our new treasurer. Thank you, and welcome, Carole.

Thanks

I must say how grateful the Group are for the financial and practical help they have had this year from:

Wistaston Parish Council

Wistaston Community Council

Crewe Road, Wistaston, Co-operative Store.

Without your help we could not have done all the things we have achieved for the people of Wistaston; THANK YOU.

As usual, if you have any conservation issues you would like to discuss, or have any ideas for improving the natural features of Wistaston, either contact one of the Group, or come along and meet us on a Monday morning. We meet at 0930, with a coffee break about 1100, so if you time it right you may be just in time for a free coffee and biscuit.

Where we meet is normally noted on our website at

www.wistastonconservationgroup.org.uk

J M Wood, Chairman.

Activities in Wistaston Mainly run by volunteers

Compiled by David Clews - see page 13

Group/Venue **Main Contact** **Main Activities**

Parish Council: Andrea Cross (Clerk) 652098 Parish Council Business, 15 Members of the Council. Currently 3 vacancies .

Wistaston Conservation Group: John Wood 661066 Tree planting/pruning, path renovation, hedge maintenance. On Open Ground in Wistaston 12 members plus helpers

Wistaston Community Council: Dane Chaplow Chairman 07931 557070 Organise Fete, Fireworks, Duck Race, Carol Concert, Flower & Produce, 15 committee members plus helpers

Wistaston in Bloom: Bill Heath 560471 Organise major flower bed planting, plant and maintain tubs and some flower beds 11 members, more volunteers welcome

Wistaston Litter pickers: Carole Jones 669403 Collect litter around the parish around twice per month. There are currently 5 volunteers - more would be welcome.

Wistaston Memorial Hall : John White 661484. Chairman: Maintain the hall, Remembrance Day Service, Annual quiz, Annual concert. There are 20 Trustees.

Wistaston Memorial Hall Booking Secretary: Bill Heath 560471

Wistaston Tennis Club: Bill Heath 560471: Social and tournament tennis. 8 Committee members

Wistaston Bowls Club: Beryl Davies (sec) 661610 Social and league bowling. 10 Committee members

Eric Swan Sports Ground: football/cricket **Kevin Jobbins** 483494 Organise teams for under 9's, u13's and ladies & men

Brittles Pavilion Booking Secretary: Pauline Jobbins 483494: Eric Swan sports ground incorporating the Brittles Pavilion is run by the Wistaston Sports and Leisure Association

St Mary's Church:

St Mary's Church Hall: Polly 567119 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Ladies Afternoon Group, Mothers Union, Youth Club. Children's Drama

Wells Green Methodist Church:

Wells Green Methodist Church Hall: Myra Wood 661066 Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Lunch stop, chippy dinner, choir, open meetings and many others.

Church of Latter Day Saints

U3A Crewe and Nantwich: Neil Crossley Membership Sec 567289 12 committee members. Organise members and the 120+ classes which are all run by volunteers.

Wistaston and District Flower Club: Mrs Chris Wainwright 668800. Flower arrangement demonstrations, workshop and outings. 7 Committee members, more needed.

Wistaston Singers: Jill Oakes Sec 662940: Mixed choir: sings at several events each year.

George Formby Society: Mrs Dorothy Dodd 581920 Monthly concert on 4th Friday in the Memorial Hall. Take part in several local events.

Wistaston Young Drama Group: Margaret Boschi 668233 Provides drama activities for children aged 6-18

Wistaston Gardeners Society: Keith Wilford 665974 Guest speakers and discussions. Organise garden visits

Nantwich and District Scottish Society: Christine Groves 01270 781137. Scottish Dancing in Wistaston Memorial Hall with various other social activities.

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www.cheshire-conservatories.co.uk

The Rotary Club of Crewe would like to thank the Wistaston Residents for their great support to our Christmas Float, the total amount raised over the 15 nights was £12,000, whilst the money helps us support around 43 local charities, club members get great enjoyment out of seeing the excitement on faces young and old. Again thank you for your Support.

Stroke Awareness Day Saturday 21st April

The Rotary Club of Crewe are again supporting the Stroke Awareness Day, with qualified people available to take your Blood Pressure and give you advice.

We will be at the Market Centre Crewe and the Life Style Centre on Saturday 21st April between 09:00 and 13:00

Rotary Ride 2018 for Prostate Cancer Sunday 8th July

Rotary Clubs in the area are currently organising a Rotary Ride for Prostate Cancer.

The event will be held on Sunday 8th July and will be from Crewe Queens Park to the Nantwich Barony via Kingshilling Way. More information later.

How can I join the Rotary Club of Crewe?

If you are interested in finding out more about Crewe Rotary, then you can either contact Neil Fearn via email: neilfearn123472@btinternet or call him on 01270 501241

Another way is to call into Hunters Lodge on Thursday 29th March when club members would be only too pleased to talk to you between 8.00 and 9:30pm.

School Peace Days

In 2017, Rotary Club of Crewe embarked on a programme of "Days of Peace" in Crewe primary schools. Rotary International vigorously promotes peace-building activities and peace education around the world. The School Peace Days in Crewe are a way for Rotary to promote the celebration of peace among children on a local scale.

Participating schools set aside a day to focus on peace through drama, song, dance, poetry and artwork, all coordinated by a Rotary Club facilitator. Schools which have taken part in the last year are Haslington Primary, St Mary's Catholic Primary, Leighton Academy and Vine Tree Primary. According to Kelly Harding, SMSC* Coordinator at St Mary's, "Our Rotary Peace Day took place during our One World Week, and was an excellent opportunity for children to develop their understanding of issues to do with world peace and conflict - thus helping to prepare them for their role as global citizens."



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Bus stop one minute away.

Treatments by appointment

South Cheshire Orchestra

Reg. Charity 1002015

Spring Concert
Saturday 17 March 2018
at 7.30pm
A programme of music by Mozart
At the Methodist Centre
Hospital Street
Nantwich

The programme to include
Overture: The Marriage of Figaro
Horn Concerto No. 2
Soloist : Jez Ainsworth
and
The Jupiter Symphony

Tickets £6.00 (children free)
Available from Ray Banks Tel: 01270 569542 (or on the door)

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Wistaston Gardeners' Society meets monthly in the Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston 7.30pm

Mar 13 AGM and Supper
April 10 Jane Allison: A Country Walk
May 1 Michael Walker: Update on History - Trentham
June 5 Judy Popley: A Prospect of Arley.
July 10 Summer Social Evening & Barry Walker Rose Competition Trophy
Aug 14 Graham Shillabeer: Winter Colours
Beryl Fentem Trophy Pot Plant Competition
Sept 11 Robert Barlow – Gardening in Shady Places
Oct 2 Derek Jones: Organic Vegetable Production
Nov 13 David Race: Moods & Colours
Dec11 Christmas Party

Text and photograph by kind permssion of Jonathan White as he reports on the **Wistaston Annual Boxing Day Walk.**



Over forty local walkers and dogs enjoyed a gentle stroll on **Boxing Day 2017.** The event was organised by Helen Gould, a member of the Wistaston Community Council, and the route lasted for ninety minutes over 3 miles of glorious fields in Wistaston. Helen Gould said, "It was the best turnout ever on a beautiful morning in Wistaston. We all enjoyed the chat and met some new dog walking friends. **We hope to see you all again on Boxing Day in 2018."**

The Wistaston Community Council organises the annual Wistaston Fete, Flower and Produce Show, Christmas Concert and November Fireworks Display. They are always keen to attract new people to help organise the Wistaston-based events. Please visit http://www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk/ for further information if you would like to join.

A walking group – The Wistaston Wanderers – meets every Monday and Thursday at the shops on Kings Drive in Wistaston for a one hour (7pm to 8pm) walk. No commitment and it's free! Children over 16 and friendly dogs are also welcome to join. Please visit https://en-gb.facebook.com/Wistastonwanderers/ for further information.

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Cheshire Wildlife Trust South Group
Ray Jackson talks about the work of Lower Moss Wood Wildlife Hospital and Educational Nature Reserve
Wednesday 21 March at 8pm.
Methodist Church, Hospital Street, Nantwich

Cost: £3 including refreshments; open to all.

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

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Dates for your Diary - 2018

Thursday 29 March - Memorial Hall Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday 12 May - Variety Concert 7.30pm Saturday 16 June - Wistaston Village Fete
Saturday 18 August - Flower and Produce Show, Church Hall.
Saturday 8 September - Model Boat and Duck Race
Sunday 11 November - Service of Remembrance.
Friday 7 December - Christmas Concert

Wistaston Young Drama Group

Rehearsals are now underway for our Annual Showcase in March 2018.
The children will be performing Matilda and from the early rehearsals this promises to be a fabulous piece of theatre!
We are so proud of our children and would like to thank them and their parents for supporting us.
Wistaston Young Drama Group, based in the Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston provides 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





Nature Article

Long-tailed tits were the earliest birds at our feeders in October as autumn began to take hold; 13th seeing the return of a great spotted woodpecker. The week ending 4th November brought a kingfisher to the garden of Peter and Lesley Heal of Broughton Lane, and on 17th two ring-necked parakeets arrived at their feeder: birds more associated with London parkland. The parakeets were also seen in Clare Drive on 15th December, and more recently in the coverts, so they were in no rush to move away.

Back in November Peter got one sighting of an American mink which was very active and tried to catch mallard on the stream. This was a 'first' for Peter who commented that, positively, the mink should clear rats, but, negatively, was not good for voles, mallard and moorhens. In the 1980s the range of the European mink was said to be contracting, its being found mainly in Scandinavia, eastern Europe and France. By contrast the introduced American mink had colonised much of Europe, including Britain and Scandinavia, with a wide range of habitats, usually close to water. The fur of the American mink is normally dark brown, 'though variable. The diet includes fish, mice, voles, frogs, poultry and waterfowl. Mink are good swimmers and climbers; their main call a high-pitched whistle.

Our feisty collared doves are experts at dropping from a tree and landing on ground-feeding wood pigeons. They are always the attacker in spite of their smaller size and their aggression continues to surprise us.

Into the festive month when Trevor, in Hilary's absence, glimpsed, in his words, **'a beautiful red fox** in prime condition' coming up the back-garden path, to the front where it disappeared.

Around Christmas there were three treats in store for us: first a **treecreeper,** second a **male and female blackcap**, and third a female **sparrowhawk**, all on different days. **Treecreepers**, with their sharp downward-curving bill and snow-white underparts, are notable for starting up a tree, twisting and twirling round

the trunk, then flying off unexpectedly to a neighbouring tree, to start the action all over again. The smooth brown back of the **blackcap** helps with diagnosis; more importantly, of course, the striking black crown on the male and russet-brown of the female. It is a delight to see these warblers here in winter as they are more commonly summer visitors. The female **sparrowhawk** was seen perched on the birdbath directly beneath the window and it was no wonder there were no other birds in view.
Despite the depressing weather the shooting of bulbs and lengthening of daylight hours remind us that spring is on its way.
Our thanks to all contributors.
Trevor and Hilary Clowes
Tel. 664358 email handt136@talktalk.net





Lovely photographs of the female blackcap by Helen Pierce

Miss M M Skerratt wonders whether readers might be interested in Chester Cathedral Falconry and Nature Centre which she has visited several times. It is just behind the Cathedral and well sign-posted. The staff are friendly, informative and happy for visitors to be hands on with the birds. She has had the privilege of holding most of the birds from the Kestrel to the Golden Eagle - see right - and has flown their Kestrel, Harris Hawk and Vulture various times. More information can be found on the internet.



Nepal - **Charlotte Rhodes**

Below we print a superb article written by Charlotte Rhodes and accompanied by wonderful photographs of her time in Nepal with Raleigh on the International Citizen Service Scheme:

My eye-opening time in rural Nepal

A few months ago I was packing up and saying a very emotional goodbye to the community I had called home for two and a half months. With the help of Wistaston Community Council, way back in April I reached my fundraising target and I was getting excited about going off to Nepal in the summer with Raleigh on the International Citizen Service Scheme. The time between then and now has flown and I can't quite believe I am now left reflecting on the ten weeks I was out there.



The ICS programme is supported by the government and this means volunteers work in some of the most in need regions, and the aid goes to those who truly need it. I lived in a small village in a region called Makwanpur. It straddled a green, lush valley which meant crossing a 50m bridge if you wanted to go to the shop - it had a tendency to bounce and so safe to say I conquered my fear of heights! The experience not only lacked the obvious luxuries of a comfy bed and internet, but other things that we all take a little for granted.



There was no hot water, and when I arrived our host family didn't have a shower. A tarp and bamboo cover was constructed to create a little privacy (not that the toads took any notice!), and a jug became my shower head. Communication and speech is a commodity I had always taken for granted. Our host family could say 'Thank you' and 'Tomorrow' in English, and we could say 'Namaste' (hello) and 'Mitho cha' (it's delicious) in Nepali. As a chatterbox it was hard not to be able to just chat, we found ways round it though. Big hand gestures, facial expressions and sign language became key when trying to ask where you should wash your dishes!



The intangible connections I made when I was out there, the long lasting, sustainable difference we had made, and the friendships I created, made every difficulty worthwhile. It's very hard to summarise in an article the experience I had and what we achieved. During the time spent there we worked hard, and saw first-hand how resilient the Nepalese are. The effects of the 2015 earthquake were still prevalent with officers visiting to assess damage to the area and to the previously two storey school, now reduced to a single floor. Meanwhile, the dramatic flooding covered in the British News, occurred while I was out there. Although my village was safe from flooding, it suffered detrimental landslides, that have ruined the road they use to transport crops for the foreseeable future. Despite these hardships, the community were never downhearted, they always greeted us with a 'Namaste' and a smile, wanting to know why you - an 'American' from so far away had come to their tiny village.



The work I did out there will impact their lives. But the cultural exchange on both sides will be the memories we keep. I miss the simplicity and kindness of Nepal, and hope I can return again one day.

If you are interested in finding out more, I have written several articles for St Marys Magazine, which are available online, as well as several blogs for Raleigh: https://raleighnepal.org/blog/nepal-ics/joys-life-rural-nepal/ and https://raleighnepal.org/blog/nepal-ics/4-things-i-learnt-leadership/

Wistaston Community Council's Annual 'Christmas Concert' took place on the evening of Friday 8th December 2017 at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston.



The concert featured the Wells Green Choir led by Myra Wood, Shavington Academy Music Ensemble led by John Clarke and Wistaston Church Lane Academy Choir led by Helen Collett and Victoria Palethorpe and the audience joined in the carols.
Festive refreshments were available during the interval and there was a prize raffle.
The event was also attended by the Mayor of Cheshire East, Councillor Arthur Moran and the Mayoress, Carole Thomas. The event was also supported by members of Wistaston Community Council, Wells Green Choir, The Wood-side public house, H. Clewlow Butchers, Shavington Academy and Wistaston Church Lane Academy.
Wistaston Community Council needs new members to help organise next year's Christmas Concert, as well as other Wistaston-based events such as the Summer Fete, Flower and Produce Show and the Fireworks Display. Please visit http://www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk for furher information if you would like to join.
Jonathan White.

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Laurie Twiss Award 2018
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. With your entry please include your name and address, telephone number, age, school attended and title of story. **Entries** should be submitted by **15 May 2018 to one of the following:**
Barbara Brereton, 11 Barndale Close
Greg Brereton, 7 College Fields
Eileen Bamber, 31 Broughton Lane

The Berkeley Academy Report

Spring term at The Berkeley Academy has already proved to be busy and exciting.

The whole school had a fantastic assembly from 'Marty the Scientist' who made things explode, transport and even set on fire! Staff at The Berkeley are now making plans for our 2018 Enquiry week which will take place in a few weeks time. The children will be taking part in workshops, shows as well as experiments and challenges throughout the school.



Year 6 children have participated in a workshop run by **STEM ambassadors** at Bentley Motors. They discovered how renewable energy is now being used in businesses. The children made and tested their own wind turbines.

Year 1 children visited the Catalyst Discovery Centre and took part in a planets and solar system workshop where they made their own telescopes. They also watched a light show and completed lots of hands-on experiments in the museum. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip.

We have had many sporting successes this term too. Our dodgeball team won their Crewe and Nantwich



Competition and are now through to the county finals. The year 5 football team reached the county finals as did our girls football team. Finally our fantastic indoor athletics team also won their local competition and are now going to compete in the county competition! **We are very proud of their ability to show determination, commitment as well as great sportsmanship**!



Wistaston's 36th Annual Flower and Produce Show Saturday 18 August 2018

Entry fee - 20p per class. Children's Classes Free. First Prize for each class £2

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 Pom Pom Dahlias, any varity or varieties.
5. Three Cactus or Semi-Cactus Dahlias any variety or varieties.
6. Three Decorative Dahlias, any variety or varieties.
7. A Single Stem of any Flowering Plant (not in schedule) in a vase.
8. A Single Geranium Head in a Vase
9. Six French Marigolds, any variety or varieties.
10. A Shallow Bowl of Floating Flower Heads - arranged for effect.
11. A Vase of Mixed Flowers - home grown. .
12. A Cactus.
13. A Geranium in a Pot - with saucer.
14. A Begonia in a Pot - with saucer.
15. Flowering Plant in a Pot, with saucer, excluding Plants from Class 19.
16. A Foliage Plant in a Pot, with saucer,
17. Six Fuchsia Heads on a Board.
18. A Fuchsia in a 9cm Pot, with saucer, any variety.
19. Alpine Garden - 25cm x 25cm maximum

Section 2 - Vegetable Classes.

20. A Vegetable not on Schedule - please specify on entry form.
21. Five White Potatoes on a Plate - any variety.
22 Five Coloured Potatoes on a Plate - any variety.
23. Six pods of Peas with some stalk
24. Three Onions - roots shown, not to exceed 225 grams each. See Rule 21.
25. Six Carrots - tops trimmed to 8cm
26. Five Ripe Tomatoes - not cherry variety - on a Plate.
27. Nine Shallots - Large, over 30mm in diameter.
28. Three Round Beetroot - tops trimmed to 8cm.
29. One Vegetable Marrow - with stalk.
30. One Lettuce - roots shown
31. One Cucumber - with stalk.
32. A Truss of Tomatoes - not cherry variety - some ripe.
33. A Truss of a Named Variety of Cherry Tomatoes on a plate - some ripe.
34. One White Cabbage - roots shown.
35. Five Ripe Cherry Tomatoes on a plate - variety to be named.
36. Six Runner Beans all with some stalk.
37. Six Dwarf Beans - all with some stalk.
38. Three Courgettes - each with some stalk..

Section 3 - Wistaston Parish Council Vegetable Display

39. A Collection of Five Different Classes of Vegetables.
40. A Single Pot of Three Different Herbs.

Section 4 - Flower Arrangements - See Rule 20

41. 'Hat for Ascot.'
42. 'Disney'
43. .'By the Light of the Silvery Moon'
44. 'Flower Arrangement with Ornament' - Petite. 25cms overall.

Section 5 - Harvest Basket

45. A Basket containing Fruit, Flowers & Produce - not to exceed 46cm in width and length; height unrestricted.

Section 6: Children's Classes (Free to enter. Entries to be with the Show President by 9 August.)

46. Pre-school - theme TBC
47. Year 1 chilldren - theme TBC
48. Year 3 children - theme TBC
49. Year 5 children - theme TBC

Section 7 : Housecraft Classes

50. A Jar of Homemade Strawberry Jam) cellophane
51. A Jar of Homemade Chutney) covers
52. A Jar of Homemade Lemon Curd) only.
53. Three pieces of Shortb read
54. Five Square Flapjacks.
55. Five Jam Tarts.
56. A Plate of Five Chocolate Butterfly Cakes.
57. A Lemon Drizzle Cake baked in a loaf tin.
58. A Date and Walnut Cake - baked in a loaf tin.
59. A Victoria Sponge Cake - Read Rule 19 carefully.
60. Five Cheese Scones
61. A Quiche, approx.20cm in diameter, presented on a plate
62. An Apple Pie approx. 20cm in diameter, short crust pastry top and bottom - presented on a plate.
63. Five Decorated Cup Cakes.

Section 8 - Hobby Crafts

64. A Cross Stitch Picture - 15cm x 20cm maximum
65. A Painting - own original work. A4 max.size, unframed.
66. A Decorated Plant Pot. 10cm-15cm diameter.

Section 9 Beverages

67. A bottle of Home Made Fruit/Vegetable/Flower Wine - 75 ml bottle, not from a kit.

Parish Council Photographic Competition

Free to enter
Class A: A Typical Snapshot
Class B: A Cardboard Framed Enlargement.
Prize money will be £5, £3 and £2 in both classes.
Entries to be with the Show President by 9 August 2018.

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 and contain the correct amount of ingredients.

***Gwyneth Brown, Show* President**
101 Church Lane, Wistaston CW2 8ER. Tel: 568823

Holy Week at Wells Green: www.ropegreenmethodists.org.uk

Come and Worship

Monday 26 March -10am Reflection/Prayers at Wells Green – Rev. Helen Stubbs
7pm Reflection/Prayers at Shavington Rev. David Westhead
Tuesday 27 March - 10am Reflecton/Prayers at Willaston Rev David Westhead
7pm Reflection/Prayers at Betley (Rev Den Harding
Wednesday 28 March - 10am Reflecton/Prayers at Betley Rev Ian Duffy
7pm Reflection/Prayers at Willaston Rev Den Harding
Maundy Thursday 29 March
10am Reflection/Prayers at Chorlton Rev Den Harding
7pm Holy Communion at Chorlton Rev Den Harding
Good Friday 30 March
9.30am Hot Cross Buns and 10am Prayers at Shavington Rev Den Harding
2,30pm at Betley Village Green (Rev Den Harding/Rev Peter Chantry
7pm Reflection/Prayers at Wells Green Rev Ian Duffy
Easter Sunday 1st April 7.30am Outdoor Witness at Joey the Swan Wistaston
Followed by breakfast at Wells Green – 8.15am
8.45am Easter Communion at Wells Green Rev Gordon Ryder
10.00am Holy Communion at Shavington Rev Den Hardng
10.30am Easter Worship at Chorlton – Mrs Janet Field
10.30am All Age Worship at Wells Green – Mrs Sue Taylor
10.30am Easter Worship at Willaston Ms Gifty Asamoah
6.30pm Supper and Chat at Shavngton Rev Helen Stubbs

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