

WINTER 'ROUNDABOUT'

2024 ISSUE 176

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk



A Wistaston Community News and Events Publication Circulation 4500

THE MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE LIVING 'ROUNDABOUT' WISTASTON



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday 6th December 6pm

St Mary's Church Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston

This year we welcome
Wells Green Church Choir and Crewe Brass Band.

The Rose Queen & her attendant will be raising money for Cancer
Research by selling Christmas cookies.

Special visit from Santa who will be drawing our raffle.

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EDITORIAL FOR WINTER 2024

Hoping everyone is looking forward to the Christmas festivities in Wistaston. The Winter Editorial continues on page four but meanwhile on this page we would like to remind you that your help is needed to choose our and your 2024 Wistonian of the Year.

Wistonian *of the* Year

The award of Wistonian of the Year has been made for over 40 years now and has been given to so many active and helpful volunteers and residents of our wonderful community. Wistaston Community Council was formed from the village group which in 1977 organised the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebration. Three years later in 1980 we awarded the first Wistonian of the Year to Gladys Byrne who had been so instrumental in organising the village Silver Jubilee events. A full list of winners can be seen on our website at: Wistonian of the Year - Wistaston Community Website.

Each year in December we ask, primarily through the Roundabout magazine and now through our Facebook page, for nominations for the award from any organisation, group, or individuals in, or associated with, Wistaston. Nominations are then considered by Wistaston Community Council selection committee and the award is made at our AGM in January.

The winner of the award has usually contributed to village life over several years or has recently done something that is notably worthy and deserving of recognition. The award is then given for one year and the winner receives a commemorative shield to keep. During the year the Wistonian of the Year is then invited to take part in the WCC village events and may well be involved in other events in Wistaston. We hope that the award and taking part in village events is fun and while not too onerous does help recognise the individual's contribution and the wider activities in Wistaston.

If you know of someone who has helped and contributed to our community and should be recognised for this, then please nominate them by completing this form and sending it to arrive by 4 January 2025 with a summary of the nominee's achievements to Wistaston Community Events, 148 Sandylands Park, Wistaston CW2 8HE or email woty@wistastoncommunity.co.uk

We, the undersigned nominate:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Proposer - Name

Address

Seconders - Name.....

Address

Seconders - Name.....



EDITORIAL FOR WINTER 2024

Thank you so much to everyone for the continued splendid support you give to Roundabout in whatever capacity, for without your contributions and advertisements it wouldn't exist!

Please send in your articles, photographs etc for our Spring edition, due out in early March 2025 by the 15 January

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

Ian Gould 07971 649110
accounts.roundabout@wistastoncommunity.co.uk

Dates for your Diary 2024



Christmas Concert: Friday 6 December. 6pm: St Mary's Church Hall
Wistaston Village Fete – Saturday 21 June 2025

Flower and Produce Show – Saturday 16 August 2025

Our recent events were the Flower and Produce Show, the Duck Race and the Fireworks; all very well reported and photographed by Jonathan White. Very many thanks go to Jonathan for the events he covers and very many apologies that there isn't enough room in Roundabout to include them all. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the successful outcome of these events which all take a lot of work to produce. Come and help us bring our events to life. We would all love to meet you!

Our next event is the Christmas Concert on Friday 6 December at 6pm – the official start of the Christmas festivities or so insists some of our regular attendees! We have a wonderful selection of music, Christmas music and not, from our singers and musicians. Come and see for yourselves.

THE SCREEN @ WELLS GREEN

Just a reminder that there are still some thought - provoking films to see next year at Wells Green:

Sunday 19 January – Reclaiming a Stolen Family Painting.

Sunday 16 February – From Slave to Court Musician in France.

Sunday 16 March - The First Women's World Cup

Films start 2.30pm – 3rd Sunday in the month.

No charge but a donation can be made.



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Wistaston Parish Council **Chairman's Report**

1. Parish Clerk

We completed our interview program, and our selected person is Sarah Turnbull who started on the 11th November.

Our Clerk Kerri will remain in post until the year end to ensure we have a smooth learning changeover.

2. Budgets 2025/26

We will be commencing our annual budget review during November/December for our next year's plan.

Early indications show we are facing significant cost pressures. This will require careful planning to keep cost increases as low as possible.

3. Wistaston in Bloom

We have had another year of success.

Following the Summer visits by the National judges escorted by Bill and Helen Heath, Dave O'Hara and our Ranger, highlighted points included the flower beds, conservation work and appearance of Joey the Swan Open areas and Woodlands, Bowling club in play, general tidiness of the village and absence of litter and graffiti and many attractive gardens.

Council's thanks are expressed to all those helpers and residents who made this another successful year.

Awards are;

- a) A Gold award in the Small-Town category.
- b) Outstanding awards in the neighbourhood category for both the Conservation group and the Bowling Club.
- c) An RHS award to the Conservation Group for 5 years of achievements.

4. Council Vacancies.

We still have places available in both Wistaston Green and St Mary's wards.

Interested? please contact our Clerk in writing with a short resume.

If more information is required or a discussion on Council's activities please contact our Clerk or the Chairman

5. Meeting Dates

19th December 2024, 16th January 2025, 20th February 2025, 20th March 2025, 17th April 2025
(Annual Parish Meeting)

Cllr J. Moore

Chairman

Wistaston Parish Councillor **Contact Information**

ST. MARY'S WARD (Five Councillors – 1 Vacancy)

Diane Houston	c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) cllr.diane.houston@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	07871 605483
David Lucas	23 Rectory Close, Wistaston, CW2 8HG cllr.david.lucas@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	01270 664916
Derrick Millington	9 Chesterton Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EA cllr.derrick.millington@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	01270 664471
Bob Squirrell	6 Beaumont Close, Wistaston, CW2 8BU cllr.bob.squirrell@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	01270 569803

WISTASTON GREEN WARD (Four Councillors – 3 Vacancies)

Julia Robinson	2 Fuller Drive, Wistaston, CW2 6GU cllr.julia.robinson@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
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WELLS GREEN WARD (Three Councillors)

John Moore (Chairman)	50 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 6QH cllr.john.moore@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	01270 661924
Graham Roberts	29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston, CW2 6QA cllr.graham.roberts@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	01270 568521
Margaret Simon	c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) cllr.margaret.simon@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	07783 927447

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Sarah Turnbull	104 Church Lane, Wistaston, CW2 8ER clerk@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk	07301 026335
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Wistaston Gardeners Society

Monthly meetings are held at Wistaston Memorial Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month starting at 7.30pm.

We are a friendly group with interesting speakers. Come along as a guest for £2 and experience what we have to offer.

For further information contact Pauline Hutchings on 01270 211674

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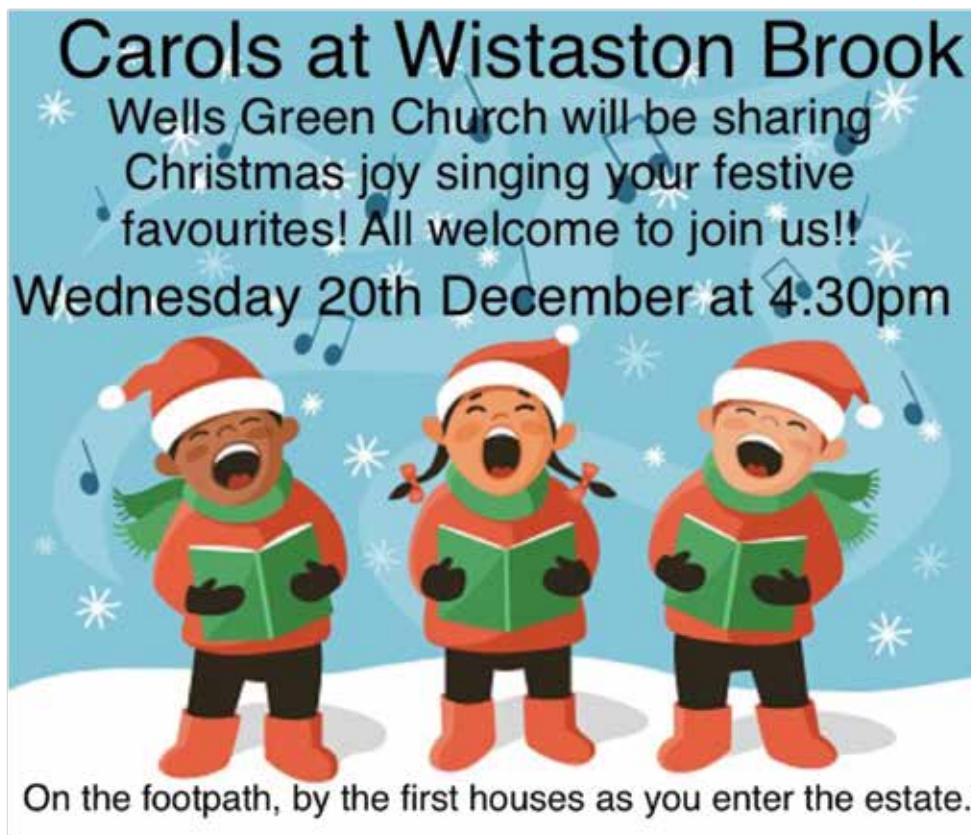
Christmas Services at Wells Green Church
Sunday 17th December at 10.30am
International Carols
Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm
Carols and Lessons
Christmas Eve at 10.30am
Carols and Lessons
Christmas Eve at 4.00pm
Christingle Service
Christmas Day at 10.30am
Family Celebration

Brookland Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 8EJ

Carols at Wistaston Brook

Wells Green Church will be sharing
Christmas joy singing your festive
favourites! All welcome to join us!!

Wednesday 20th December at 4.30pm



On the footpath, by the first houses as you enter the estate.



Volunteering



We are always looking for volunteers to assist in our Community Share Hub and to help at events.

Please email hr@motherwellcheshirecio.com to express an interest.

Donations

We are always looking for donations of:

- School uniforms (generic and branded)
- Football boots
- Children's winter coats
- Baby clothes (up to 2 years)
- Baby items such as prams, cots, Moses baskets, blankets, bouncers/rockers, playmats etc.
- Toiletries and sanitary products

01606 557666

54-64, Beech Drive, Wistaston, Crewe
CW2 8RG

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Christmas at St Mary's Wistaston



Wednesday 11 December

2pm Ladies Afternoon Group Carols. All welcome!

Saturday 14 December

5pm Carols on the Green - outside St Mary's Church

Sunday 22 December

6pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

5pm Crib Service and Nativity

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

★ Christmas Day ★

10.40am Christmas Holy Communion for all ages

Scan the QR code for more information including St Luke's Willaston or go to



stmaryswistaston.org.uk :: facebook.com/stmaryandstluke

x.com/maryandluke :: youtube.com/StMarysWistaston1

Instagram.com/maryandluke :: phone 01270 567119



SOUTH CHESHIRE NATURE AND WILDLIFE GROUP

Monday 20th January 2025

A talk by Mike Sokolowski 'Commic Terns'

Monitoring Terns on Anglesey

Monday 17th February

Shetland Isles, Birds, plants and travelogue talk

by Steve Holmes

Monday 17th March.

Swans, a talk by Lynn Besenyei

All meetings start at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm

at Acton Parish hall

Entry £5 to include refreshments

All welcome

Wistaston Village Cricket Club

(Founded 1980)

For Wistaston Village Cricket Club, 2024 saw another season of mixed fortunes for our senior and junior sides. Our **First Eleven** playing in the strong **Cheshire Cricket League Division 3** certainly found the season challenging and to their credit finished their campaign after **twenty-two fixtures** with their final record reading **won 8, lost 11 with 3 abandoned**, with a final tally of **186 points**. If the abandoned matches had been played it could easily have resulted with additional points that would have seen them with an improved table reading.

The Second Eleven:- competing in the **North Stafford South Cheshire Premier Cricket League Division 8** also had a challenged season. In a league of just **nine clubs**, a season's final total of **four victories** from their **sixteen** fixtures with **one** fixture abandoned accumulated a total of **127 points**, but unfortunately resulted in the team finishing in second to bottom position by just one point and affected relegation. **Final table :- Played 22 Won 8 Lost 11 Abandoned Points 127.**

The Swans XI: The ladies team "**The Swans**" competing in **Division 4 (West) of Cheshire Women's Cricket League** enjoyed a productive season. From their ten fixtures they finished in third position. Their playing record was much improved from last season which is reflected in the final table - **Final table:- Played 10 Won 7 Lost 3 Points 192.**

Women's Softball League. The Women's softball team had an enjoyable season ending 4th in their table with a playing record of **Played 10 Won 4 Lost 6 Points 12.**

Junior sides: Under 9's:- The under 9's finished their playing season having had a positive campaign finishing with a final league position of **8th**. In a league of some **eighteen** teams, the play was very competitive which reflected in the final points standing - **Final table:- Played 17 Won 7 Lost 6 Cancelled 2 Abandoned 0 Conceded 2 Points 115.**

Under 11's:- Our under 11's completed a demanding season and finished the season in 12th position out of 15 - **Final table:- Played 14 Won 4 Lost 8 Abandoned 2 Points 67.**

Under 13's:- Our under 13's completed their season in attaining **twelfth** position out of 15 in their league. In what could be considered a demanding season from fourteen fixtures they attained 2 wins and lost 10 matches with **two** games cancelled finishing with a points total of 42.

Senior winter nets are to be on Wednesday evening from 1900hrs to 2000hrs across 2 lanes at the Cricket Barn, which will run from 08/01/2025 to 01/04/2025.

Junior Awards 2024.

The following awards were earlier made to our up and coming youth players - the future of our cricket club.

Under 9's:- Batter- Rehan Bailey. Bowler- Freddie Barlow. Most Improved-Hayden Massey. Hat-Trick - Freddie Barlow. Player of the Year- Freddie Bowker.

Under 11's:- Batter- Louie Townsend . Bowler- Freddie Barlow. Most Improved-Seth Wrighton. Hat-Trick- Rhys Atkinson. Player of the Year- Evan Hazeldine.

Under 13's:- Batter-. Sam Hough. Bowler- Dexter Massey. Most Improved- Lucas Whitehurst. Player of the Year- Dexter Massey. **Congratulations to you all.**

Notification of Senior end of season cricket awards will appear in the **Spring** edition of **Roundabout**, as the voting is not due to be made until **November** and this editorial would have been transmitted in October for the Winter edition.

**www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk/roundabout.html and
www.creweguardian.co.uk/sport**

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. For more details of our Bingo evenings please contact either Kevin or Pauline Jobbins 01270 483494. Bingo evenings are an event where all of our "regulars" who attend can have an enjoyable evening. This would equally offer the opportunity for anybody within the village who may have thought about attending for the first time, to take that important first step. A friendly welcome is guaranteed.

Wistaston Cricket Club continues their search for players for the current cricket season, not only to promote but further improve on the great progress achieved over past seasons. As mentioned on many occasions we offer cricket to adults and juniors of ALL STANDARDS therefore if you are interested in joining our cricket club please contact Kevin Jobbins:- Tel. 483494 in the first instance.

We introduced an initiative to increase our cricket club's playing membership, the club introduced a "back to cricket training session", which is dedicated at encouraging parents of the successful Junior section within our friendly cricket club and equally focused on players who have previously played cricket, perhaps a few years ago and who may have felt daunted at the prospect of starting again at an established cricket club. The initiative worked admirably. It is our intention to replicate this successful all-inclusive initiative for next season.

On a personal note, I have been involved in cricket as a player and administrator for well over sixty years and I have experienced speaking to many people who thought about starting or re-starting playing cricket but did not take that all important step because they thought that they were not up to the mark and subsequently regretted that decision. If one feels undecided because of self-doubting contact the cricket club to put your mind at ease.

We offer cricket to adults and junior 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: - Tel. 483494 in the first instance.

If any of our readers of Roundabout would like to become Social members of the cricket club, the cost is £5. All new members would be most welcome and it would offer you a chance to introduce yourself to our cricket club and the wide range of opportunities that we offer for both adults and especially for children, who have an interest in playing cricket.

John Avery "Zusammen", 13 Lear Drive, Wistaston Tel. 07817 082678

Wistaston Conservation Group

The Great UK Water Blitz.

Across the UK, our waterways are in crisis and as a result the charity 'Earthwatch' (website <http://earthwatch.org>) has invited participants, or 'citizen scientists' to monitor the amount of nitrates and phosphates in local freshwater bodies, rivers, canals, ponds and lakes. This 'Great UK Water Blitz' was the first of its kind to be carried out, and it is hoped that it will provide a snapshot of conditions of water quality, similar to that being done for endangered wildlife species.

As part of this, in June and September, a member from our conservation group measured the water quality of Wistaston Brook, as part of the ongoing survey.

Both nitrates and phosphates occur naturally in the environment and are essential to plant growth, but high levels of these nutrients trigger excessive plant and algae growth, which in turn reduce oxygen levels in water and impact on aquatic fauna and flora.

The modernisation and intensification of agriculture during and after World War 2 has undoubtedly led to excess nitrates in the environment. In particular the use of artificial fertilisers which add no organic content to the soil and being water soluble, wash easily from farmland through the groundwater into our rivers and streams. The Environment Agency estimates that 50 to 60 per cent of nitrate losses into the water environment comes from agriculture whilst sewage effluent contributes about 25 to 30 per cent nationally.

It is estimated that households contribute 73 per cent of total phosphorus to watercourses, while agriculture contributes 20 per cent. During heavy rainfall the capacity of sewers can be exceeded, leading to sewage being released into rivers and streams. These combined sewer overflows were developed to act as overflow valves to reduce the risk of sewage backing up during heavy rainfall. They do the same today but have to cope with vastly increased levels of output.

It is probably no surprise then, that the results show that 75 per cent of the sample points across the UK have poor ecological health. The Anglian and Thames river basin has the poorest health and the Solway Tweed river basin shows the best health. The former having a much higher population and more intensive farming than the latter.

Locally, Wistaston Brook recorded acceptable health in both June and September. The brook was sampled at the point near the Spinney during dry weather conditions. However, further upstream, above Church Lane another participant recorded unacceptable ecological conditions in June.

Another Water Blitz will take place in 2025 and we look forward to sharing the results with our readers.



Cleaner Water Ahead!

As mentioned in the previous article there has been frequent mention of pollution in waterways by sewage for many years now. This seems to be a fairly recent problem, but in fact it is not, to judge by the photograph and caption shown below.

United Utilities our local water company is currently in the process of planning steps to be taken to reduce the amount of effluent entering our own Wistaston Brook in times of heavy rainfall. Plans put forward include a massive 36000 cubic metre holding tank for sewage to be situated on land between the Wistaston Brook housing estate and the brook itself.

During heavy rainfall, the tank will store the surface water and sewage until the rain stops, then the contents will be pumped through a pipeline, to the treatment works at Worleston, instead of having to overspill into Wistaston Brook.

In addition, United Utilities have agreed to pay Scottish Power to place overhead electricity power lines underground. This is in order to facilitate the work mentioned above, but it will improve the overall appearance of the local area as well.

Work on this should take place in April of next year.

The water company has promised to keep residents informed of progress and consultation meetings will be held locally, most probably at the Memorial Hall on Church Lane.



WISTASTON HALL

The hall was occupied by a member of the Delves Broughton family, related to the family of that name at Doddington. He was in dispute with the local authority about sewage pollution in the local watercourse. Problems relating to sewage disposal in the area go back at least 100 years. The hall overlooks an area known as Joey the Swan. It is remarkable for a bird to be still remembered in this way about fifty years after his death.

What we did one Monday at the end of September.

We met up as usual intending to split into two groups, one to tackle the potholes and pools of water on the various pathways and the other to transfer compost from our bins at the Old Railway site into a new nursery bed and then plant some young trees there.

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In the event, we got word that due to the strong winds during the night a large tree had fallen, completely blocking the path leading to the car park on Wistaston Green Road.



We decided this needed priority. So, we split into three groups and all three jobs received attention despite the bad weather. The tree was removed, pools and potholes filled and the trees planted. All in a morning's work.

If anyone would like to speak to us about our work, our website will give the location where we will be working on any given Monday morning.



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Wistaston Memorial Hall and Community Centre

General Update

A duo of events took place at Wistaston Memorial Hall and Community Centre to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its opening. The Memorial Hall was constructed in memory of sixteen Wistonians who perished in the Second World War. The Memorial Hall was officially opened by the Hon. Lady Barlow, Chairman of the Cheshire Rural Community Council, on Saturday 26th March 1949.



On Thursday 12th September 2024 in the afternoon there was an exhibition to showcase the Hall's past, present and future; whilst in the evening there was a concert featuring music from the Crewe Concert Band.

The afternoon exhibition coincided with Heritage Open Days and included several displays relating to the Hall's history from its official opening to current organisations that use the premises and plans for a future rebuild. Hall organisations that setup a stall included South Cheshire George Formby Ukulele Society, Cancer Research UK Xmas Fair, Nantwich & District Scottish Society, Crewe Movie Makers, Wistaston Flower Club, South Cheshire Orchestra, Crewe & District Coin and Medal Society, U3A, Studio 97 Art Group and Wistaston Gardening Society.

The evening concert featured Crewe Concert Band conducted by their Musical Director, Adam Shilton. The band performed a variety of music from the lifetime of the Hall. The band played in its usual enthusiastic, energetic and professional manner to the appreciative audience. Refreshments were provided during the interval and there was a prize raffle.

Crewe Concert Band were established in 1982 and are Crewe's longest running concert band. The band is open to musicians from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and experiences. The Band performs a variety of concerts (both indoor and outdoor) each year around the Crewe area, including Nantwich and Alsager. They rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at Wistaston Memorial Hall, which has been the band's home for around 30 years! For further information please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/cwecb> or email: creweconcertband@gmail.com

Diane Edge-Robinson, Chair of Wistaston Memorial Hall, said: "A huge thank you to all who contributed, assisted and attended our events, it was very much appreciated. It is a privilege to be part of such a wonderful community."

Words by Jonathan White

Wistaston Memorial Hall - continued Centre Rebuild Project Update

We have reached a major milestone in the Rebuild project. We are excited to announce that the Design Brief for the new Hall was signed off by the Wistaston Memorial Hall and Community Centre Management Trustees on 26th September 2024, by Michael Simpson Chair of the Wistaston Memorial Hall Bowling Club on 9th October 2024 and by Bill Heath Chair of the Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club on 10th October 2024. The design brief can be viewed on the Rebuild page of our website.

The design brief has now been issued to our architect Clive Tucker from Bower Edleston and we are looking forward to receiving the first draft of the plans for the new Hall soon. These plans will be posted on our Rebuild page, so keep on checking the site. A number of open days at the Hall will be arranged to provide the opportunity for people to view and discuss the plans with the Hall Management Trustees.

To get the latest news visit our Rebuild page at **www.wistastonmemorialhall.uk**.

If you would be interested in being involved in either the day to day running of the Memorial Hall or the Rebuild project, we would love to hear from you.

Contact us at wistastonmemorialhall.uk



CREWE & NANTWICH RAMBLING CLUB



Rambles will normally take place on Sundays fortnightly throughout the year. There is a choice of approx 6, 9, or 12 miles. Travel by coach with pick-ups at Nantwich, Wistaston & Crewe.

There are also Thursday morning walks throughout the year on a four weekly basis, travelling by car with the option of a pub meal after the walk.

New members are very welcome - please contact Brenda Farrall for further information on 01270 624649 or visit Club Web Site www.creweandnantwichramblingclub.org.uk/

Wistaston Flower Club

***Meetings held at The Memorial Hall, Church Lane Wistaston at 2.30pm
(1st Wednesday of each month (excluding January, August & November))***

September's talk was from Kate Russell from Spital Area entitled 'A Little of What You Fancy'. Kate gave us a wonderful talk and there were lots of laughs. The Photo shows just two of her beautiful arrangements.

Our Member's had a lovely Friday afternoon in September with a Workshop from the very talented Kathleen Williams from Oldham who taught us all how to create the most beautiful Poinsettia, We are all now ready for Christmas!

We are looking forward to spending a lovely afternoon at the Royal Oak Worleston in November when we hold our annual meal with our Speaker this year being the very talented Sue Holden, and her talk will be 'Such are the Dreams of an Everyday Housewife'. We are all looking forward to a fun afternoon.

Our December Demonstration is being given by Leanne Williams from Welshpool - If you want to start Christmas off with some 'Sparkle and Shine' then come along on 4th December as a Visitor to our Club and I am sure you will not be disappointed.

Our Christmas Workshop will be on Friday 6th December 2-4 p.m. and this will be a table arrangement all ready for the Christmas festivities.

Come and spend an enjoyable couple of hours with us here at Wistaston Flower Club - you could even go home with one of the fabulous raffle prizes which will be created before your eyes.

For more information about our activities or meetings please contact Caryn Murray (07530682196 or carynmurray24@gmail.com)





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NATURE ARTICLE



We had a slight improvement in butterfly sightings with warmer conditions, speckled wood and red admiral crossing our garden: the former the yellow-spotted brown, lover of woodland shade, therefore a privilege to see in our gardens; latter common but, unlike speckled wood, unable to survive our winters in any of its stages. Joyce and Andrew Booth reported painted lady, peacock, comma and speckled wood in mid August. As to be expected, it is the buddleia bush that attracted the insects. Once upon a time we, too, had a buddleia, but it seemed to die away mysteriously and how we miss it.

Last year we experienced a sunflower extravaganza, huge plants dominating back garden. This year an early crop of self-sown potatoes rather spoiled the display, but there were still some magnificent specimens attracting insects, mainly bees and flies. Lavender, however, remained the favourite source of nectar. It was amusing, as the sunflower blooms were fading, to see a squirrel climbing a stem, to detach a seed-head. It was not uncommon to witness this impish creature bounding along with a head wedged in its mouth. A first-rate demolition artist!

Thanks to Belinda Walters we learnt the reason for starlings descending en masse to peck rigorously at the lawn. They are after leatherjackets, the larvae of crane-flies (daddy-long-legs). Crane-flies live, in their adult state, only a few days, long enough to breed, and birds do a lot of good by gobbling up the larvae in the soil, which are harmful to the roots of grass and plants generally.

Thanks also to Chris Waling of Sandylands Park, describing night sightings of animals, including a fox, caught by his infra-red camera. In daytime all the common species of tit visit his garden, along with robin.

Andy Woodman of Kemble Close, a litter-picker and wildlife enthusiast, was presented, in October, with a lawn of fifteen magpies, a fox sighting, and female sparrowhawk tearing a young magpie to bits.
He doesn't chase squirrels as he likes to see them!

There have been hints of buzzards in the skies and singing of chiffchaff mid September. Chiffchaffs are known to stay with us till October before setting off to winter in South Africa. However, mild conditions here sometimes encourage them to stick around.

Autumn is always an exciting time for those who feed the birds, the cold weather bringing more varied species to our gardens: or is it just that the barer boughs are destroying their cover?!

Our thanks to all contributors.

Trevor and Hilary Clowes

Tel. 664358 email handt136@talktalk.net





Wistaston Singers
A choir for all occasions

Annual Christmas Carol Concert

3pm Saturday 14th December 2023

Come and join us at St Stephen's Church,
Gainsborough Road, Crewe

Tickets priced £8 (£4 under 16 years old) include a refreshment buffet during the interval. The concert lasts about 2 hours. As well as performing a number of beautifully arranged Carols and Christmas music, there is plenty of opportunity for you to join in and sing traditional carols with us.

Tickets are available on the door but may be reserved or purchased in advance from

Mandy Ramsden - 07920 449543

email wistastonsingers@aol.com

Parking is available at Ruskin Road College.

Can't wait until then or want a taster?

We are singing carols at Minshull's Nursery and Garden Centre on Thursday 21st November from 4pm, the Peacock Inn, Willaston, Monday 2nd December 6pm -7.30pm and at The Hand and Trumpet, Betley on Friday 6th December from 7pm

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**Burn off your
Christmas Calories
at the
Annual Village
Boxing Day Walk**

**Thursday 26 December
10.30 – 1200 from the
Memorial Hall Car Park**

**All welcome
(Dogs in Xmas coats especially welcome)
Bring your wellies and warm clothes**

Madame Klara

We continue the true story of how Madame Klara came to Wistaston and opened her Salon:

Jonathan White has sent us the following narrative:

DLUGIE TO ZA LATA OD KOSOWA

Kosow is a small town set in rural Poland. In 1939, surrounded by forest and farmland it enjoyed the peace such towns possess. Its citizens worked in the glass factory or the brickworks, both owned by the Grycewicz Family or they worked in the surrounding countryside on the farms or in the forests. One of the Grycewicz's sons, one Joseph by name, was both a farmer and a forester.

Joseph was happily married to Maria and their union was blessed with four young children, three girls and a boy. Klara Teresa Katagina was one of the three charming girls. The happiness of this idyllic family was blown apart amidst the bombs and shells of the Nazi invasion of their land in that late summer of '39. Soon Kosow's streets echoed to the tread of the jackbooted reign of terror with which Hitler ravaged Poland.

Like so many of his countrymen Joseph took his life in his hands and joined the underground army. Eventually Joseph had to flee from his farm leaving Maria and her four young children in the hands of an evil enemy who had no hesitation in throwing them all into prison in an attempt to lure Joseph into captivity and eventual execution. After six months these cruel men realised they would not succeed in drawing Joseph into their snare so Maria and her little ones were herded with many other Poles into trains and transported on a long grim journey to a labour camp near Hanover in Germany.

Now little Klara with her brother and two sisters trudged into the fields with their mother and daily slaved, in all weathers, to help the Third Reich raise its crops. However, that was not all; when the Allies' bombers visited Hanover and wrecked the railyards and the tracks running in and out of the city, men, women and children were marched from their camps and driven into the muscle-tearing task of effecting repairs only to have to return again and again after raid succeeded raid.

All this heavy manual work had to be accomplished on one daily meal; a very basic meal of coarse bread and a soup consisting mainly of fish heads and turnips. Klara decided that she would supplement this diet as best she could. She had grown into an engaging little girl who, with a winsome smile, could wheedle from the more tender-hearted farmers potatoes and extra vegetables. The harshness of their existence had sharpened the awareness of the children so that they were quicker to spot an opportunity for gain than they would normally have done. So Klara would risk punishment by slipping away into the fields and woods to gather mushrooms and berries.

Days of grinding toil ran into each other with inexorable monotony until, gradually, rumour began to spread from Hanover into the surrounding countryside right into the camp itself that all was not going well for Hitler's war machine. Soon it became obvious that the Allies would be completely victorious and the happy day arrived when the G.I.'s marched into Klara's camp to be surrounded by its inmates and showered with grateful kisses and interminable hugs from all and sundry. Freedom had arrived with chewing gum, chocolate and a thousand untold, unheard of goodies tumbling from its ever generous pockets and all distributed with smiles wreathed in the smoke of ever-present ten cent cigars. Klara and her brother and sisters rejoiced with Maria and looked forward to returning to their own dear Poland and their long lost father Joseph.

To be continued.....



The Laurie Twiss Award

This year the Laurie Twiss Award goes to Esme Gray Foy for her prize winning entry, shown below – a creepy murder!

Congratulations go to Esme for her superb story and we hope to hear and see more of Esme's writing.

Wistaston Murder **By Esme Gray Foy, age 11**

Mrs Sue Mackles was found murdered on 18th July 2024.

This 61 year old woman worked as a teacher for 33 years, then worked on a farm with her husband and was also a part-time baby-sitter.

When her husband died she moved to Wistaston to build a new life. "Wistaston is a lovely place; clean, quiet and the people are nice" she was known to have said after moving into the area.

Sadly, on 18th July, Sue was found dead in her home. It was a discovery that has shocked the whole community.

The police came to investigate.

"We have no idea who could have murdered Mrs Mackles" said the police. "Whoever did so was very cunning and left few clues. They carried out the murder with a knife, by the looks of the wound" they added, "but no murder weapon has yet been found".

Investigations are ongoing.

Now it's your turn – start thinking of what you could write, fact or fiction. Look out for more details in the Spring Roundabout to enter next year's Laurie Twiss Award

Christingle and Nativity Service

Christmas Eve

24th December 2024 @ 4pm

Wells Green Church

Brookland Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 8EJ

All Welcome



Eric Swan Sports Ground - The Brittles

Church Lane, Wistaston – behind the school

Hire our Flood lit Multi-use Games area

Meeting rooms available for hire:

Clubs • Classes • Meetings and Parties • Wakes

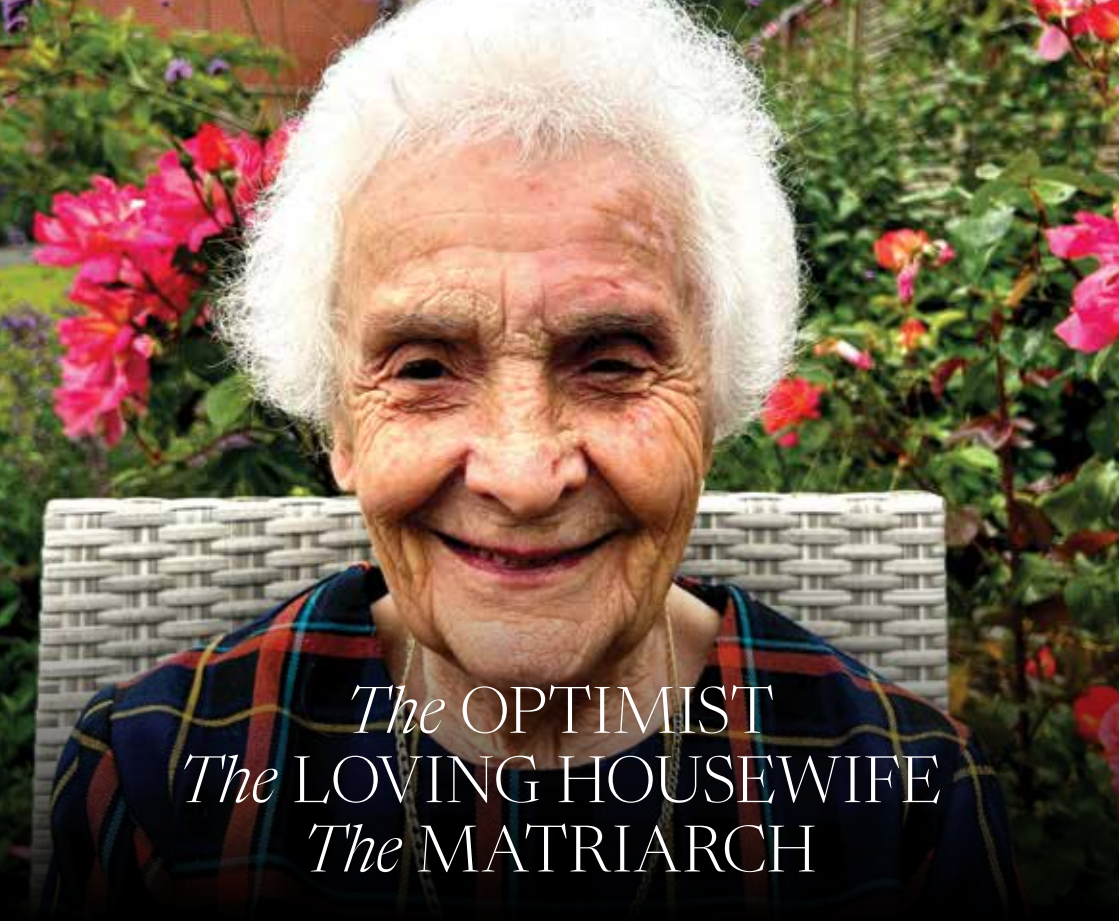
Daytime or Evening: Excellent location with ample parking

Kitchen • toilets and changing rooms: facilities all disabled friendly

For further information on activities and availability please contact

booking secretary: Telephone 07758 302647

Web site:- wistastonsports and leisure association



The OPTIMIST *The* LOVING HOUSEWIFE *The* MATRIARCH

I was born in a little place called Dawlish, in Devon. I grew up in a very large family and got married when I was 20. I went on to have four and then... well, I was a housewife and mother. I just brought the children up - one happy family!

When I was 80, I was widowed, and I came to live in Crewe so I could be closer to my granddaughters. I then came to Richmond Villages Willaston (as I thought) for a fortnight holiday - but I never went home! I didn't know

I had dementia so, if I've got it, I don't know when it started!

I'm very lucky to have my granddaughter and daughters working here - what more could I want? It's lovely - the staff support me with shopping, the washing, the ironing - they help me with absolutely everything. You're very well looked after. I don't think 'ohhh it's just another day....!'. I think 'I'm at home' and that's exactly what I feel like here.

Every resident has a story, this is Audrey's. Move to Richmond Villages Nantwich or Willaston and celebrate yours. **Settle in and save up to £3000 over 6 months.**

Call 01926 679502 visit richmond-villages.com/care-homes for more information

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WISTASTON'S 42ND FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST 2025

Schedule of Classes will be available in the next Roundabout and on Face Group. Looking at the tables below – see the most superb things you could make, bake, grow for next Summer. Enjoy and see you at the Show!



POPPY'S
RESTAURANT
Helping you to keep safe



Poppy's restaurant, is part of the Hopes and Beams charity based in Crewe and is a designated provider of meals for those who are housebound; self-isolating; over 60 years of age or have any sort of underlying health condition.

We deliver high quality 2 course meals to your door. We are recommended by NHS dieticians, social care services and GPs.

Meals delivered
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Cost of meal is only £6.00 with no additional delivery charge.

We deliver all over Crewe, as well as to Haslington, Wheelock, Shavington, Wistaston and Willaston.

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(All with Roast potatoes or chips)

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choice of sweets...

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