



SPRING 'ROUNDABOUT'

2026 ISSUE 181

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk



A Wistaston Community News and Events Publication Circulation 4500

THE MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE LIVING 'ROUNDABOUT' WISTASTON

**Thank you to Nadiah Mckeown for this lovely snow scene
which was taken in the area near Wistaston Mill.**

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EDITORIAL FOR SPRING 2026

Do hope our Spring weather will soon be here! Thank you so much to everyone for the continued splendid support you give to Roundabout in whatever capacity, for without your contributions and advertisements and our wonderful deliverers, it could not exist!

Please send in your articles, photographs etc. for our Summer edition, due out in early June 2026, by the 15th April.

Eileen Bamber
31 Broughton Lane
01270 569126

eileen@bamberuk.com

Ian Gould - 07971 649110

accounts.roundabout@wistastoncommunity.co.uk

Dates for your Diary 2026



There are plenty of things happening in Wistaston over the next few months. Keep looking on facebook and notice boards for updates etc. Initially though, jot these dates down in your diaries.

Village Fete : Saturday 20 June 2026

Flower and Produce Show - Saturday 15 August 2026

Duck Race - Saturday 5 September 2026



The Laurie Twiss Award 2025

Those winners of the Laurie Twiss Award who were able to, attended the Christmas Concert and are shown receiving their awards on page 9 of Roundabout. We hope to show the winners who couldn't attend the concert receiving their prizes in the Summer edition.

All the young writers of Wistaston can begin to think about what they are going to write about this year. It will be a story or article of your choice - real or imaginary, fact or fiction. The winner will keep for one year the Laurie Twiss Trophy plus a Gift voucher and pen. The second and third winners will also receive vouchers and pens.

With your entry, please include your name and address, telephone number, age, school attended and title of your story/article.

Entries should be submitted by 31 July 2026 to: Eileen Bamber, 31 Broughton Lane, Wistaston, or by email to eileen@bamberuk.com

Thank you so much to everyone who sent in photographs especially of the snow. I did hope to put them in Roundabout but only had room for the one on the front cover.

Wistonian of the Year

Very many congratulations to Debra Sloan who has recently received the 2025 Wistonian of the Year Award and is a very worthy holder of this prestigious award. Debra is an energetic member of the Wistaston Community Events Group being involved with most of their events especially the Flower and Produce show which is going from strength to strength. She has recently introduced new categories which could bring in new entrants. Debra can be seen at the Duck Race with her very appealing games where the ingenious prizes keep the customers coming. Debra and her games go to the Village Fete too. However at both these last two events Debra does much more with the events than organising her games!

Debra is actively involved in the Swans WI and indeed was a founder member of this group.

Well done Debra – enjoy the year ahead as Wistonian of the Year.



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Wistaston Parish Council Chairman's Report

Budget Plans for 2026/2027

Your Council approved this year's budget at its January meeting. The precept is set at £79187 (£76176 last year), an increase of £3011 (4%)

Voluntary organisations are central to our village life, providing a wide range of activities, meetings, sporting facilities and community events. This year, we agreed to a larger increase in our financial support to help them expand their development plans. Our main cost increases are:

Voluntary organisations £10580 (last year £5908)

Parish street light replacement £3614

Replacement boundary sign £1200

Children's playground £1000

With several underspends and reductions, we were able to limit the overall cost increase to £3011.

This represents an increase of 91 pence per year based on a Band D property.

Wistaston in Bloom plans for 2026

Our 10 flower beds are divided into two groups.

a) Flower displays

Five are to be planted as in previous years. This is placed under contract for planting early in June.

We plan to improve on last year's displays with bed improvements.

Additional mulch will be added, and our contractor has included routine fertilising before planting and during watering.

b) Perennial Planting.

Our 5 other beds, including the Sensory garden, are under the stewardship of our conservation team.

These are currently planted with shrubs for ease of maintenance. Work is underway to tidy these beds. A change this year is to reinstate the sensory bed to its original standard of aromatic shrubs.

Speedwatch

We have made a start in establishing a new group with one of our councillors who has had pre-training and is actively working alongside our neighbouring Rope parish team. Speeding is a regular concern, and to raise awareness for reporting police action, several teams will be needed.

Any residents who can spend a few hours each month, please contact our clerk.

Training and hi-vis vests will be provided.

Council Co-Options

One additional co-option has been approved. We welcome Eleanor Tatton, and we now have our full complement of 12 councillors. Contact details are included in our Ward contact information.

Concluded on page 7, beneath Councillor Contact details.

Wistaston Parish Councillor Contact Information

ST. MARY'S WARD (Five Councillors)

.Kay Garner c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) 07301026335
cllr.kay.garner@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Diane Houston c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) 07720 293704
cllr.diane.houston@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
David Lucas 23 Rectory Close, Wistaston, CW2 8HG 01270 664916
cllr.david.lucas@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Derrick Millington 9 Chesterton Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EA 01270 664471
cllr.derrick.millington@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Bob Squirrell 6 Beaumont Close, Wistaston, CW2 8BU 01270 569803
cllr.bob.squirrell@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

WISTASTON GREEN WARD (Four Councillors)

Julia Robinson 2 Fuller Drive, Wistaston, CW2 6GU
cllr.julia.robinson@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Mario Scarpa c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) 07301026335
cllr.mario.scarpa@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Vicky Shaw c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) 07301026335
cllr.vicky.shaw@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Eleanor Tatton c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) 07896668552
cllr.eleanor.tatton@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

WELLS GREEN WARD (Three Councillors)

John Moore (Chairman) 50 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 6QH 01270 661924
cllr.john.moore@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Graham Roberts 29 Berkeley Crescent Wistaston CW2 6QA 01270 568521
cllr.graham.roberts@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
Margaret Simon c/o Mrs Sarah Turnbull (Parish Clerk) 07783 927447
cllr.margaret.simon@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL
Sarah Turnbull 104 Church Lane, Wistaston CW2 8ER 07301 026335
Clerk@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Chairman's Report continued:

Litter Collection

With thanks to our litter team who work hard keeping Wistaston litter free.

	2024	2025
Large Bags of Litter	373	372
Dog Bags	237	208
Snap Bags	15	17

Future meetings in 2026: 19 March; 16 April (Annual meeting), 21 May, 18 June.

Councillor J Moore, Chairman



Wistaston Swans WI

The Wistaston Swans meet at 7:30pm on the second Wednesday of the month (excl. August) at the Brittles. In addition, we have subgroups which meet regularly (Book Club, Hooks and Needles, Darts, Potty about Plants, Walking Group) and arrange trips out. All WI members have access to a wide range of Cheshire, and National Federation online events.



To round off 2025 we held a ‘Craft Safari’ at our December meeting, where members could try out a number of festive crafts, creating some fabulous seasonal decorations and greetings cards.

Groups also attended a wreath making workshop, a 70s jukebox evening in Chester and meals out at local restaurants - the Christmas lunch held at the South Cheshire College restaurant was highly recommended.

There was quite a buzz at our latest meeting, as we welcomed a local beekeeper for an educational and entertaining talk about the fascinating life of honey bees and beekeeping.



And so to sports... our darts teams have had some success, with both teams winning their local matches to qualify for the Cheshire Federation finals event to be held at Weaverham in March.

For more information on joining us email WistastonSwans@gmail.com



The Laurie Twiss Award 2025

Below are the prize winners in the Laurie Twiss Award

The winner and holder of the Trophy: Anya Gray Foy with *The Mystery of Bengall House*

Second prize: Grace B with *The Hunter*

Third prize: Eden A with *Landfill*

Special Poetry Prize: Courtney Bloomfield with *Silence was the Language*

Highly Commended: Gracie W with *The Hunter*

Mia W with *The Hunter*

Jacob L with *The Hunter*

Olivia S with *The Hunter*

Ava-Rose Grayson with *Landfill*

Anya Gray Foy received the Trophy, Book Voucher, Pen and Certificate at the Christmas Concert in the Church Hall on the 5 December.

Courtney Bloomfield also received her Book Voucher, Pen and Certificate at the Christmas Concert. Anya and Courtney were both presented with their prizes by the Mayor and they are photographed below.

We do hope to have photographs in the Summer Roundabout of the second and third prize winners together with the winners of Highly Commended.



Wistaston Flower Club

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

Church Lane, Wistaston at 2.30 pm doors open at 1.45 pm. (1st Wednesday of each month (excluding January, August & November))

Wistaston Flower Club - Blue Sapphire Anniversary Year !
‘Spring was in the Air’ as we launched into our 2026 Programme when Jane Furey from Wolverhampton gave us a fabulous demonstration following our AGM in February called ‘Signs of Spring’



In March we welcome the return of a very popular demonstrator Donald Morgan from Aberystwyth – his flower demonstration is entitled ‘Let Me Entertain You’. He is sure to be fabulous and will definitely entertain Us ! April's demonstration is 'Poetry in Motion' - Kathleen Williams from Oldham - I wonder what these flowers will tell us from Kathleen: –
‘Come little flowers, it’s time to wake, And paint the World in Cheer, And Sing the song of growing things, The warmth of Spring is Here !’



Looking ahead to May we have our ‘Blue Sapphire Anniversary’ and are intending to celebrate in style with Lorena Dyer (National Demonstrator from Coventry) - ‘Are You Sitting Comfortably’ We will ALL be sitting very comfortably for this wonderful demonstration and we would like to encourage people to join us as visitors on such a momentous achievement as a Club. Let’s Celebrate !



St. Mary's

Ash Wednesday, which this year was 18 February, marks the beginning of Lent. During Lent there are significant services along the way which guide us towards the celebration of Easter Sunday. Here are a few you may be interested in joining us for:

- Mothering Sunday** 15 March, 10:40am at St Mary's
- An Easter themed Messy Church** Saturday 21 March, 2pm in St Mary's Church Hall
- Palm Sunday** 29 March, 10:40am at St Mary's
- Maundy Thursday** 2 April, 7pm at St Luke's Willaston (Coppice Road)
- Good Friday, An Hour at the Cross**, 3 April, 2pm at St Mary's
- Easter Sunday** 5 April, 9am at St Luke's Willaston and 10:40am at St Mary's

You can watch all our services from St Mary's live on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/StMarysWistaston1. Of course, you would be most welcome to join us at any of our services and lots more information can be found on our website, stmaryswistaston.org.uk, or by calling the office on: 01270 567119.

With best wishes,
Revd Mike (Rector).

Flower Club continued

We have a thriving Club - but there is always room for more and we welcome anyone to come and join us – and we look forward to Welcoming You !

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

Wistaston Village Cricket Club

(Founded 1980)

May I wish all the readers of Roundabout a somewhat belated happy and healthy New Year. As I compile my latest cricketing editorial (in early January) and with the severe winter weather across the country, especially in Cheshire, it is hard to believe that in barely three months, another cricketing season will be upon us. Hopefully the severe weather that we are experiencing at the moment will be a distant memory when our cricket club commences their **2026** campaign in April continuing until September.

Once the weather becomes less intrusive, essential preparations to our wickets and out-field can commence to ensure that our cricket club continues to prepare excellent playing conditions under the guidance of Head Groundsman **Kevin Jobbins** ably assisted by club member **Mark Bourne**.

The **2025** cricket season, as previously reported in the **Winter** edition of Roundabout resulted in a demanding campaign on several fronts, and in the main, our participating teams generally enjoyed their cricket and are positive about achieving a productive forthcoming playing season.

The First Eleven will be competing in **The Cheshire Cricket League Division 3.**

The Second Eleven will be competing in **The North Stafford South Cheshire Premier Cricket League Division 8.**

The Third Eleven shall compete in the **Stone and District Cricket League Section B, North.**

The Swans XI, the ladies' team, will be competing in **The Divison 4 (West) of the Cheshire Women's Cricket League.**

Womens's Softball League will be competing in **The Cheshire Women's Cricket League Division 5 South 1.**

Our junior teams, the future of our cricket club, shall be competing in their respective leagues within The South Cheshire Youth League.

The aforementioned leagues may be subject to any restructuring prior to the commencement of the playing season. Any changes will be reflected in the **Summer** edition of **Roundabout**.

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

Senior Winter Nets commenced at The Cricket Barn, Aston CW5 8DP, on 13th January 2026 until the end of March every Wednesday 19.00 - 20.00.

Junior (Under 11s, 13s and 15s) Winter Nets (Hardball) commenced at Brine Leas School on 21st January 2026, every Wednesday 18.00 -19.00.

The Under 9s All Stars, together with Soft Ball Nets, commenced at Malbank School on 30th January 2026 from 18.00 to 19.00.

New players are always welcome, so please get in touch; you can email us at wistastoncricketclub@outlook.com

Due to the cricket club's **A.G.M** not being held until the **23rd of January**, details of our election of officers for **2026** will appear in the **Summer** edition of **Roundabout**.

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**.

Wistaston Cricket Club continue their search for players for the current cricket season, not only to promote but also to further improve on the progress achieved over past seasons. As mentioned on many occasions, we offer cricket for adults and juniors of all standards; therefore, if you are interested in joining our cricket club, please contact Kevin or Pauline Jobbins 01270 483494. Take that all-important first step.

We offer cricket to adults and juniors of all standards, and we are proud of being very much a child-friendly club, and we have been re-credited with the ECB Club Mark originally awarded in May 2005.

For those readers who enjoy watching a game of cricket, why not make a detour to The Brittles on a Sunday afternoon, where you will be made most welcome.

John Avery. "Zusammen", 13 Lear Drive, Wistaston. Telephone 07817082678.



Time is running out for Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club to save its courts.

Founded in 1977 to mark the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the club has around 100 members and two floodlit courts behind Wistaston Memorial Hall. It has secured £15,000 from Sport England to resurface the courts — but must match the funding by 6th April 2026 or lose it.

The club is urgently seeking £15,000 through a Crowdfunder campaign, with donations welcomed from residents, former players and supporters. Local businesses can also sponsor courtside billboards.

Club captain George Raiswell said the project would modernise facilities, widen access through a new pay-and-play scheme, and protect an inclusive community hub for years to come.

To support the appeal, please visit the club's Crowdfunder page:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/wistaston-jubilee-tennis-club-new-courts-fundraise>

Wistaston Conservation Group

Working to ensure that our woodlands are managed in a safe, sustainable and sympathetic manner for the benefit of all users.

‘Every Litter Bit Hurts’

Littering is nothing new. Paul B. Giori, back in 1963, coined the phrase, “**Every litter bit hurts**”, sixteen years after introducing the word *litter-bug* through American advertising.

On 29 January 2025, over 50 years later, a report was published by the environmental charity, Keep Britain Tidy. The report, titled *A Rubbish Reality*, followed a decade of research and provided a shocking indictment of society’s problem with litter. The charity’s Chief Executive, Allison Ogden-Newton, stated: *‘Our report is a wake-up call. It shows that litter is more than an eyesore – it prevents investment, creates inequality, damages the environment and makes people feel depressed and unsafe.’*

Litter and littering are becoming an increasing problem and some of it is linked to attitude. Some will ask: *What does it matter if a sweet wrapper is dropped or a cigarette butt discarded? It is only a little bit of litter – who cares?* Regular litter picking by **Keep Wistaston Tidy (KWT)** volunteers find our bags filled not only with discarded cigarette butts and sweet wrappers but throwaway vapes; empty crisp packets, take-away food containers and cartons; cardboard and drink cans; bottles (plastic and glass); receipts, can ring pulls, straws and wipes. More shocking finds are filled dog poo bags (in and amongst the flora and fauna or decorating the branches of trees) as well as fly tipped items including cool boxes, carpets and clothing; even a chest of drawers – items consciously dropped or purposefully discarded irresponsibly.





Members of Keep Britain Tidy and conservation groups across the country will tell you, even show you, how each small piece of dropped litter accumulates into bagfuls of unnecessary and unsightly rubbish, and that's the reality.



The many of us who volunteer and/or take pride in our local community, recognise that every bit of litter hurts the eyes; hurts the environment and the natural world and ultimately hurts us.

On one occasion in late October 2025, wearing my *Keep Wistaston Tidy* high-vis jacket, and armed with pickers and a bag on a litter pick, I was approached by a couple who pointed me in the direction of the field alongside Joey, and to a path frequented by many walkers with or without dogs. There, as they had described, I found three, used firework cakes and a collection of used rockets, gathered in their original plastic packaging. As I began collecting up the rubbish, it started me wondering: *Why was it so easy for those who set the fireworks off to carry them to the field but so hard to take the used ones back home? But further to that thought: How many people had walked past and tutted at the disrespectful, discarded display of someone else's fun but then done nothing? How many had actually considered picking up the used fireworks and disposing of them but then thought again - perhaps too much effort? How many just walked on by? How many thought, potentially like the couple who reported the littering in the field, that it was ok to do nothing as someone else - like myself, a KWT volunteer - would come along and clear up the mess?*

Continued on page 18

Wistaston Memorial Hall and Community Centre

General Update

As we move into a new year we remember that there are many tasks involved in keeping a Village Hall up and running. The **popular campaign, Village Halls Week, is set to take place from 16th to the 22nd of March 2026. The intention of this campaign is to raise awareness of England's 10,000+ rural community buildings and** we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Trustees and volunteers of Wistaston Memorial Hall and Community Centre who give up their time to make this happen. Without them it would not be possible to run a successful hub in the community. We also benefit from the many hirers of the hall who make it an eclectic mix of events and activities, day in and day out. Please visit our website www.wistastonmemorialhall.uk and click on the clubs and societies to see what's going on.

Rebuild Update

New Hall Plans Signed Off

On December 17th 2025 the plans for the new Hall were signed off by the Hall Trustees, Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club and Wistaston Memorial Hall Bowling Club. This is a major milestone in the Rebuild project, enabling the project to move to the next stage and apply to Cheshire East for planning permission.

It has been 4 years since we first informed the Wistaston Community in the Spring 2022 edition of Roundabout of the Trustees looking into the process of building a new Memorial Hall. Thank you to everyone who has been on the journey so far with us, especially the Rebuild Project Team.

Planning Application in progress

In January 2026 an inspection of the Hall site was made by Elite Ecology to provide the necessary ecological report and biodiversity net gain strategy as inputs to the planning application.

By the time you are reading this issue of Roundabout we would expect the planning application to have been submitted to Cheshire East, in which case the planning application reference will be on our Rebuild Project page on our website. We would be grateful for your support by visiting Cheshire East Planning and commenting on our application.

To view the plans for the new Hall and for all the latest news on the project visit the Rebuild Project page on our website.

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. Contactus@wistastonmemorialhall.uk



Members of Wistaston Memorial Hall Bowling Club are looking forward to the reopening of the Bowling Green in March 2026, following their successful season in 2025.

The C Team were winners of the Crewe and Nantwich Veterans League Division 3, with the A Team placed 3rd in Division 1. The B Team placed 3rd in the Holmes Chapel League Division 3 and were Winners of the Sandbach League Division 5, with Rob Dutton achieving a commendable 3rd place in the League averages.

There were individual successes in the Crewe and Nantwich Veterans League KO Competitions with Alan Whittingham winning the Harold Pace Singles, and in the Sam Basford Pairs, Dave Allcock and Anne Vetter were runners up.

Bowling is a healthy and active sport and WMHBC offers sessions for all ages and abilities where members are able to make new friends and bowl both socially and/or competitively. Free coaching sessions for members will be available each week for those new to the sport or those who wish to improve.

New members, including beginners, are always welcome.

For further information please check out the club website:

www.wistastonbowling.club or contact the Club Secretary (Anne Vetter) 07933570204

Conservation Group Article Continued

Is it too high of an aspiration to want to live, work, relax and participate in activities within a pristine village and semi-rural landscape; to stimulate the senses with the aesthetics, sounds and smells of the natural world; to feel at peace and in harmony with our surroundings. Regular, dedicated litter picks along the roads and pavements, around local amenities, amongst the floral beds and across the Joey the Swan parklands and woodlands have and continue to help maintain our beautiful village and positively contribute towards pride in Wistaston and regional recognition. The **WCG** were worthy recipients of the **RHS It's Your Neighbourhood** and Britain in Bloom (Northwest) *Outstanding – Level 5* award for 2025.

Litter is a personal choice. If everyone used the many litter bins available in the village or took their litter home; picked up unsightly litter found dropped on the paths and pavements outside front gates and drives or on walks through the village (and beyond), what a positive difference it would quickly make, especially to the open, green spaces so many of us love, want to conserve and enjoy. Let's say 'NO' to litter, protect our environment; see our community and our own wellbeing thrive, as **every little bit of litter hurts**.

The WCG and the Keep Wistaston Tidy group appreciate the many verbal 'thank you' comments we receive and the interest shown by passers-by in what we are doing; some even choosing to join the groups. We all volunteer because we care about Wistaston and are proud to be able to do our bit to make a difference.

If you are interested in joining the Keep Wistaston Tidy group or WCG, please contact **Sarah Turnbull** using the following email address:

clerk@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

If anyone would like to meet us to discuss what we do or to suggest ideas for projects, we are usually working in the 'Joey the Swan' area on Monday mornings. Further contact details are shown on the WCG noticeboard close to the Church Lane entrance, online (search on Wistaston Conservation Group), and on Facebook.



Easter Day at Wells Green

Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship
at 'Joey The Swan' 7.30am
(Followed by breakfast at
Church)

Easter Sunday 'All Age'
Worship with Communion at
10.30am

Come and celebrate
the risen Christ!

Wistaston Community Gift Day, at Wells Green Methodist Church, 22nd November 2025

Once again, a big thank you to all members of church and community who donated so generously to our annual Christmas Appeal, on behalf of the Crewe Salvation Army and Crewe Food Bank. Besides cash and toiletries, tins of food and packs of biscuits, there were plenty of chocolate treats!





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QUEENS PARK VETERANS' GOLF SOCIETY

We are looking for new members.

Are you over 55 and fancy joining a friendly golf society that play at Queens Park every Wednesday morning?

We have a standing Tee reservation from 08.00 hours.

Our competitions are varied and include medals, Stablefords and trophies as well as team games such as Texas Scrambles, Greensomes and pairs Betterball. All games are played over nine holes.

Our membership fees are £15 per annum and we charge £1 for each competition with M & S vouchers for winners. Raffle tickets (for wine prizes) are optional as is the 50p entry to the 'twos' competition.

Members are still required to pay the course green fee or membership.

Before members can qualify for prizes/trophies they are required to submit three score cards to obtain a society handicap.

If you are interested or need to know more, either turn up on a Wednesday morning and ask to speak to a Committee member or ring either Bob Dafon: 07929 456864 or Ken Kinsella: 07484 101556



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View more details on our website www.cheshire-conservatories.co.uk



Late October and skeins of geese increasingly common, contact-calling while flying over in their loose 'V' formations and in various directions.

We've been deepening our knowledge of grey squirrels, not through liking of them, but since they are so frequent around us. Their chasing displays have been partly explained. It is not known if some of it is play or aggression. In the mating seasons (May and December) a number of males may chase a female to test which wins the prize. With litters of between three and seven twice a year it is no surprise there are so many of these rodents about.

Magpie numbers continue to be high: eight seen one morning in mid November, and the poor attendance of garden birds at feeders is slowly improving. Jackdaw numbers increased last century, we have read, reason unknown, so no wonder the bird is so common in Wistaston. A theory of our own is that, with the ever shrinking countryside, a bird that can adapt to human presence, i.e. urban life, is most likely to survive, and the 'daw' is surely such a bird.

The cold and sudden snowfall of 2nd January brought a magpie unexpectedly to our fat-ball feeder where, of the crow family, only jackdaws have been seen before. They are both heavy birds for delicate food holders, a wing almost continuously flapping for balance, energy sapping. Desperate times.

6 Jan. and we are waiting for the freezing conditions to tempt in rarer birds to pep things up a bit. Having just said that a message came in from Chris Waling who was watching a small flock of redwing in Sandylands Park – a 'first' for the observer. A winter visitor from northern Europe the redwing is known to breed in Scotland. The red flank patches and prominent eye stripe mark it out from other thrushes. We think Chris sent the flock on to us as soon afterwards small numbers appeared in the oak across from us. Thank you, Chris.

And what's happened to the house sparrow? None was recorded in the first half of our winter feeding survey (Oct.-Dec.).

Awaiting appearance of first snowdrop we are witnessing the waking up of bulbs: uplifting to acknowledge that even in the depths of winter there is always a taste of spring.

Our thanks to all contributors.

Trevor and Hilary Clowes

Tel. 664358 email handt136@hotmail.co.uk

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 Helen Pierce on 07866 649804

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/

Barbara's Baby Knits

Barbara is now putting together Pretty Party Boxes decorated with ribbon which are ideal presents for a new baby.

They contain Matinee Coats, Hats etc.

For more information call

Call Barbara on

07746 800061



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Easter Coffee Morning
Saturday 28th March
11.00 to 12.30



All Donations to Action for Children

Please Join us for Tea, Coffee and
Hot Cross Buns!

Easter Springtime Stall:
Easter Eggs, Flowers and Plants

Bring and Buy!

Free Admission



Wistaston Community News and Events

Flower and Produce Show – Saturday 15 August 2026

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SECTION F: FLOWER CLASSES

- F1. Bowl of Sweet Peas, mixed colours, 10 stems minimum
- F2. A specimen Rose in a vase
- F3. A single Gladioli, any variety or varieties
- F4. Three Pom Pom Dahlias, any variety or varieties
- F5. Three Cactus or Semi Cactus Dahlias, any variety or varieties
- F6. Three Decorative Dahlias, any variety of varieties
- F7. A Single Stem of any Flowering Plant (not in schedule) in a Vase
- F8. A Single Geranium Head in a Vase
- F9. Six French Marigolds, any variety of varieties
- F10. A Shallow Bowl of Floating Flower Heads, arranged for effect
- F11. A Vase of Mixed Flowers, home grown
- F12. A Cactus or Succulent
- F13. A Geranium in a Pot (with a saucer)
- F14. A Begonia in a Pot (with a saucer)
- F15. Flowering Plant in a Pot (with a saucer) excluding plants from Classes F13/14/17/18
- F16. A Foliage Plant in a Pot (with a saucer)
- F17. Six Fuchsia Heads on a board
- F18. A Fuchsia in a Pot (up to 15cm, with a saucer), any variety
- F19. Alpine Garden 25cm x 25cm maximum

SECTION V: VEGETABLE CLASSES

- V1. A Vegetable not on schedule (please specify on entry form and label exhibit)
- V2. Five White Potatoes on a Plate, any variety
- V3. Five Coloured Potatoes on a Plate, any variety
- V4. Three Onions – roots shown, not to exceed 225 grams each (see rule 21)
- V5. Six Carrots – tops trimmed to 8cm
- V6. Nine Shallots – Large (over 30mm in diameter)
- V7. Three Round Beetroot – tops trimmed to 8cm
- V8. One Vegetable Marrow – with stalk
- V9. One Cucumber – with stalk
- V10. Five Ripe Tomatoes (not cherry variety) on a plate
- V11. A Truss of Tomatoes (not cherry variety) – some ripe
- V12. A Truss of a Named Variety of Cherry Tomatoes on a plate – some ripe
- V13. Five Ripe Cherry Tomatoes on a plate – variety to be named
- V14. Six Runner Beans – all with some stalk
- V15. Six French Beans – all with some stalk
- V16. Three Courgettes – each with some stalk
- V17. A Single Pot of Three Different Herbs
- V18. A Wonky Vegetable

SECTION D: WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL VEGETABLE DISPLAY

- D1. A Collection of Five Different Classes of Vegetables (each class as described above)

SECTION B: HARVEST BASKET

- B1. A Basket containing Fruit, Flowers & Produce – not to exceed 46cm in width and length; height unrestricted

SECTION A: FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS (Please read rule 20)

- A1. “2026 Commonwealth Games”
- A2. Arrangement in a Recycled/Reused Container– not to exceed 46cm in width and length; height unrestricted

SECTION H: HOUSECRAFT CLASSES

-Please cover entries with transparent covering

- H1. A Jar of Home Made Jam – cellophane/muslin covers only
- H2. A jar of Home Made Marmalade – cellophane/muslin covers only
- H3. A Jar of Home Made Chutney - cellophane/muslin covers only
- H4. Three Pieces of Shortbread
- H5. Three Square Flapjacks
- H6. Three Jam Tarts
- H7. A Plate of Three Chocolate Butterfly Cakes
- H8. Three slices of a tray bake (to be named on plate)
- H9. A Lemon Drizzle Cake baked in a loaf tin
- H10. A Victoria Sponge Cake – Please read RULE 19 carefully for recipe
- H11. Five Decorated Cup Cakes
- H12. A Fruit Pie approx. 20cm in diameter, short crust pastry top and bottom, presented on a plate
- H13. Three Cheese Scones
- H14. A Quiche – approx. 20cm in diameter, presented on a plate

SECTION W: BEVERAGES

- W1. Bottle of Home Made Fruit/Vegetable/Flower Alcoholic Drink (please name)
- W2. Bottle of Home Made Fruit/Vegetable/Flower Non-Alcoholic Drink (please name)

SECTION Y: HOBBYCRAFTS (Please read Rule 18)

- Y1. Any craft not on schedule (please specify on entry form)
- Y2. A Knitted Toy
- Y3. A Crochet Toy
- Y4. Cross stitch
- Y5. A Painting – own original work, A4 max size, unframed
- Y6. A Decorated Plant Pot 10cm-15cm diameter pot
- Y7. A Woodcraft item (please specify type and size on entry form)
- Y8. A Homemade Garment (YARN), on a hanger if applicable (Please specify type on entry)
- Y9. A Homemade Garment (FABRIC), on a hanger if applicable (Please specify type on entry)

SECTION C: CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- C1. Pre-school – “My Favourite Flower”
- C2. Under 12's – “Insect” made using natural material from the garden
- C3. Under 12's – A Greeting Card
- C4. Under 12's – A Decorated Plant Pot
- C5. Under 12's – One Decorated Biscuit

PARISH COUNCIL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Class A: A Typical Snapshot (printed)

Class B: A Cardboard Framed Enlargement

Prize money will be £10, £5 and £5 in both classes. Max of 2 entries per person in each class.

Entries to be with the Show Secretary by 8th August 2026.

Please read the schedule and the rules 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.

Show Secretary Tel: 07720 505815

Email: WistastonShow@gmail.com

Willaston WI began the new year with an excellent talk from John Lindley entitled 'Adventures of a full-time poet'. Members enjoyed the light hearted speech and reading of poetry. Talks are arranged for the rest of the year on a wide variety of subjects including 'The Original Oatcake' on 13th May and 'The Life and Times of Patrick Lichfield' on 10th June, to name just two. Various outings are planned and a pub lunch is organized at the end of each month.

Jenny Hodkinson enters her fourth year as President. Zandra Price has taken on the role of Secretary, Diane Debens having stepped down from the job after several years. Two new members have joined the Committee who, supported by a very active Sub Committee, keep the group active and enjoyable.

The monthly meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at The Acacia Suite (The Masonic Hall) Willaston CW5 7ER at 7pm for the meeting to begin at 7.30pm. Visitors, potential new members, are very welcome to attend on a try before you buy basis and can be sure of a warm welcome. If you would like more information, see Willaston WI Facebook or telephone Jenny Hodkinson on 07854 869325 or Brenda Taylor 07484 100456.

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colescaringcompanions@gmail.com

Concluding the report on the Wistaston Scout Group's (35th South West Cheshire) Summer Camp, with accompanying photographs.

Every year the group holds a week long summer camp attended by our scouts from 35th and explorers from Drake Explorer Unit who use our premises. This year the camp was held in a field on the outskirts of Criccieth, courtesy of a kind local farmer. This article has been jointly written by patrol leaders and their assistants, Samson, Bella, Matilda, Emily, Elliot, Cian, Maisie and Liv. The group are now half way through the week.

On Wednesday we went to see some birds of prey. We saw tons of cages with owls and different hawks' species. Then the man came out with a huge owl that he let us all hold, it had big orange eyes and was very heavy. While we waited for the Harris hawk show out came some albino ferrets that we were all allowed to hold although they were cute, they stank! We also had a go at having the Harris hawk land on our gloved hand and fly over us lying down. When back at site, we played a Viking murder mystery wide game, organised by the Explorers before a communal BBQ for tea.

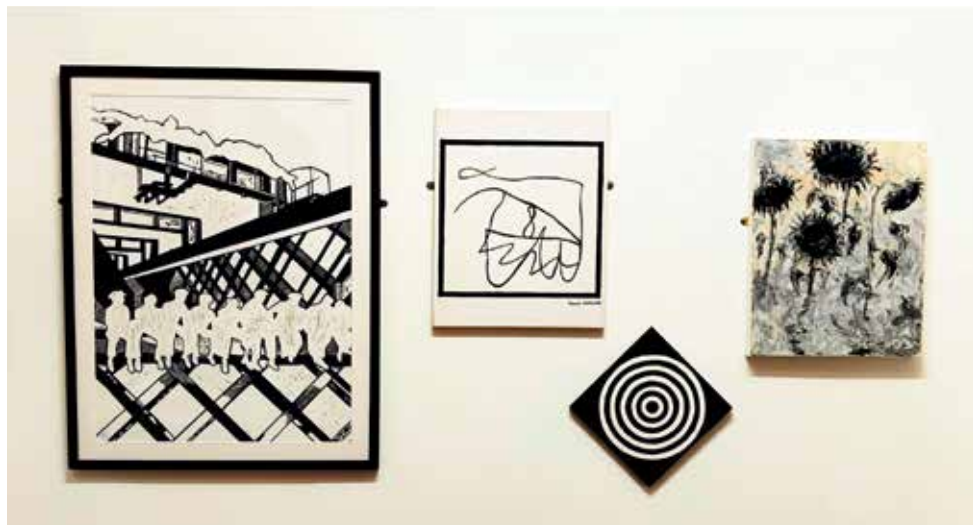
Thursday was an exciting day on camp as it was T-Shirt reveal day, and this years colour was... black! We then went to Zipworld where we'd be doing two different activities. The first was the tree top nets, which was basically like a giant trampoline and cargo nets which we ran around, it was very tiring! Then it was one of the favourite activities of the week, the forest coaster. We were in pairs in these carts, which transported us up to the top of a hill, before we weaved our way back down along the track. It may not have been that fast looking at it, but when you were on it, it seemed really fast and it was really good fun.

Friday, we went food shopping for our patrol meals at Lidl, my patrol was doing a schnitzel with chips. After that, we went to the beach, where we did the signature Scout vs Explorer match with the scouts battering them again. Once we got back to site, it was all hard work to make our meals a reality.

The last morning of a week jam packed. Within the space of a couple of hours, everything from tents to patrol boxes was packed and put away, and we were all ready to get into the minibuses for a sleepy and slow drive home

Many thanks to all of our Scouts & Drake Explorers for another fantastic week away. The biggest thanks however, is to the incredible leadership team, without whom the week wouldn't be possible.





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