

Spring 'ROUNDABOUT'

A Wistaston Community
Council Publication



2012
ISSUE 125

*Wistaston Flower
Club celebrated its
Golden Anniversary
late last year and
these photographs
plot its progress*

Coffee morning 1987



*Pearl Anniversary
with Mr Harry Gordon,
Demonstrator 1991*

*Golden celebrations
at Hunters Lodge,
November 2011*

Left to right: Mrs Olive Williams;
Mrs Wendy Davis, National Chair;
Mrs Catherine Scales;
Mrs Sheila Holland, Area President;
Mrs Isabel Lloyd, President;
Mrs Christina Wainwright
and Mrs Elizabeth Russell.



The Magazine for People Living 'Roundabout' Wistaston

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Editorial

With very many thanks for all the continued splendid response you give to Roundabout for without your contributions and advertisements it could not exist! Please continue to send in your articles for our Summer edition – due out in early June – by 15 April 2012.

Congratulations to Wistaston's Flower Club who celebrated their Golden Anniversary at the end of last year.

Very many apologies that there is not space in this issue for our Crossword but it will be in the Summer edition with the solutions to our last one. Apologies too to Sue Brown our last issue's cover photographer who not only submitted the photograph as mentioned but also took it.

Eileen Bamber
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Geoff Poppitt
19 Byron Way
01270 569642

Dates for your Diary in 2012

Fri. 16 March	Spring Concert – Church Hall
Thur. 29 March	Memorial Hall's AGM
Sat. 2 June	Diamond Jubilee Concert – Memorial Hall
Sat. 16 June	Village Fete
Sat. 18 August	Flower and Produce Show
Sat. 1 Sept.	Duck Race
Tues. 23 Oct.	Annual Memorial Hall Quiz
Sat. 3 Nov.	Fireworks
Sun. 11 Nov.	Remembrance Service at 3pm – Memorial Hall

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in aid of Help for Heroes

Saturday evening 2 June

in the Memorial Hall, Wistaston

The Wistaston Community Council organises village events with some of these being run for charity. The Summer Fete, held in June, is organised in conjunction and with the kind support of St Mary's Church and is the biggest fund raising event of the year. We aim to help individuals or groups where a small donation would help with their local efforts. If you would like to know more send your details to the Secretary of the Community Council, 54 Sandylands Park, Tel: 01270 664467. The Community Council's other events are the Flower and Produce Show, Fireworks Display and the December Christmas Concert.

The Memorial Hall's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 29 March starting at 7.30pm. All Wistonians are invited to attend this meeting to hear what has been achieved during 2011 and plans for the future.

Wistaston's Celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Wistaston Parish Council and Wistaston Community Council have each provided three members to form a steering committee to help Wistonians with their celebrations of our monarch's sixty year reign. This action mirrors the events of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 when a wonderful community spirit blossomed which has been maintained ever since.

Obviously people's thoughts will be turning to street parties, picnics and similar activities and throughout the year various happenings such as concerts and fun days will be held.

To help Wistonians with their celebrations Roundabout will carry information as will the web site: www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk and of course people will be able to use both these facilities for themselves and their activities.

To begin with use the web address of Cheshire East Council www.cheshireeast.gov.uk then the link leisure, culture and tourism in Cheshire. This web site will be able to help in setting up street parties etc and if you don't have access to a computer phone Jane Kavanagh on 01270 685854 for assistance.

It is hoped that many people will take part and help to make 2012 a very memorable year in the annals of Wistaston. There is to be a beacon in Wistaston, hopefully on our Church Tower, as the Queen would like a wave of beacons the length and breadth of the country between 10pm and 12 midnight on Monday 4 June; the Memorial Hall Management Committee is holding a Jubilee Concert on Saturday evening 2 June; many village societies are holding parties to celebrate the Jubilee; there may be a special Jubilee School event – lots of happenings in the pipe line – still to be determined. In fact everyone can do something to celebrate this event.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire will officially open celebrations at the Rising Sun on Friday 8 June with a band etc. There will be an official 'unveiling' of a new beer called Joey the Swan which the Rising Sun's Brewery has made especially for the Jubilee. There will be the planting of a Rose Garden at the Rising Sun with help from the adjacent nursery. There is a lot happening in Wistaston this year – be part of it!

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Wistaston & District Flower Club 50th anniversary ~ 1961 to 2011

The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) was formed in 1959. At a public meeting, instigated by Mrs Elsie Gibbons and held on 3rd May 1961, the Wistaston & District Flower Club was formed. Mrs Boughey was elected President and Mrs Fumston was elected Chairwoman. Vice-President was Mrs Jenna, Secretary Mrs Butler, Treasurer Mrs Addison, Programme Secretary Mrs Proudlove. Committee Members were Mesdames Jobson, Slack, Slight, Wilks, Williams, Wright, Robinson and Miss Clare. By 1962 the Club had 86 members and this has increased to 130 in 2011. We have two members - Miss Margaret Cope and Mrs Christine Harper - who joined Flower Club in 1962 and are still members today - what an achievement! There are others who are still members of the club from the 1970's and have given excellent service. We have two honorary members Mrs Beryl Lees and Mrs Joan Bentley.

On 25th July 1961, the North West Midlands and North Wales Area of NAFAS welcomed Wistaston & District Flower Club into the above Association. In 1970 the Area was divided and Wistaston elected to join Mercia & North Wales Area.

In 1965 Mrs Slack very kindly donated a silver cup to the Club to stimulate interest in the club competition. Over the years other trophies were presented to the club in memory of past committee members. The Iris Wright Rose Bowl, The Miss Clare Trophy, The Mrs McCutcheon Trophy, The Barbara Jolley Salver, The Doris Bimson Salver and the Colin Lindop Trophy. In 1987 a Scroll of Honour for past officers was given in memory of Mrs Atkins. The scroll hangs in the Wistaston Memorial Hall today. In 1966 the committee elected to cater for a Cheese & Wine Luncheon prior to the AGM. Never had so many members been seen at an AGM before!

In 1967 Wistaston took over the running of the Floral Art Section at Nantwich Agricultural Show. In 1988 we presented a cup for "Best in Show" competition. In 1989 Nantwich Flower Club joined us in running the event until 1991 since which time we have always assisted.

In 1972 when the Queen opened Leighton Hospital we were delighted to be asked to design the floral arrangements for the special occasion. For the Queen's Jubilee in 1977 the club celebrated with a Cream Tea. It is now an annual event with scones traditionally made by committee members.

The club has a wide range of activities in its programme each year including monthly demonstrations by either National or Area Demonstrators, Workshops, Coffee Mornings, Day Trips and visits to National Shows. All very much enjoyed.

Many charities have benefited from our fund-raising events and the committee wishes this to continue.

We have participated in local Church Flower Festivals together with Chirk Castle, Lichfield and Chester Cathedrals. All the special anniversaries of the club have been celebrated in style as our photographic record shows.



Cheese and wine luncheon - 1968. Newspaper clipping. Officials and prize winners photographed at the cheese and wine lunch which preceded the annual meeting. Left to right: Mrs Duernden - Treasurer, Dorothy Jobson, Mrs Slight, Nancy Wood, Jenie Hall, Mrs Slack? Mrs Biggs, Mrs Perkins, Mrs Atkins, Miss Clare, Mrs Lindop.

This year 2011 has been a very special one for us as we celebrated 50 years since the club was formed. Two special events were held:

- On arrival at the hall on 2nd June, members and friends were presented with a golden rose buttonhole and a resume of the Clubs 50 Year History. Jonathan Moseley a National Demonstrator gave an excellent demonstration, after which a toast to the continued success of the club was given by Mrs Sheila Smith, Chairman of Mercia & North Wales Area. Mrs Wendy Davis 1st NAFAS Vice Chairman added her congratulations and wished the club well.

- On 2nd November a Celebratory Lunch was held at The Hunters Lodge Hotel, Crewe in the presence of Mrs Wendy Davis now National Chairman and Mrs Sheila Holland President of Mercia & North Wales Area. Spectacular flower table arrangements by Mrs Catherine Scales and Mrs Judy Gratton and a floor-standing arrangement by Mr Brian Spencer decorated the room. By each placement there was a menu produced by Mrs Christina Wainwright which members took away as a memento of their day. Following a superb lunch Mrs Wendy Davis spoke to the members and toasted the club praising everyone for past achievements and wishing them well for the next 50 years! Mrs Sheila Holland added the congratulations of Area to the club.

Our club has flourished over the past 50 years by the dedication and hard work given by all committee members past and present. We are extremely proud to be a thriving club, providing entertainment, enjoyment and camaraderie and in the finest tradition uphold our motto

**"PLAY WITH FLOWERS
AND SMILE".**

This superb article recording the 50th anniversary of Wistaston & District Flower Club was sent in by Jonathan White on behalf of Mrs Olive Williams, Chairwoman, Tel: 01270 668800.

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Reaseheath College

Tree planting by Reaseheath students to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee



Students Megan Poole and Danny McKennan plant the young trees watched by Wistaston Park Ranger Dave O'Hara, Vic Harris from the Rotary Club of Crewe and Nantwich Weaver and Graham Roberts, a Wistaston Parish Councillor and member of Wistaston Conservation Group.

Several hundred young trees have been planted on a new rural corridor linking Crewe and Nantwich to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The trees were obtained by The Rotary Club of Crewe & Nantwich Weaver and planted by arboriculture students from Reaseheath College, Nantwich, on the Crewe-Nantwich Greenway near the A530 Middlewich Road, Wistaston on Wednesday 25 January.

It is hoped that the mix of native species, which include hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, birch and oak, will grow into a wood which will benefit the local community and its wildlife for years to come.

The Rotary Club acquired the trees in a Community Tree Pack from the Woodland Trust which is giving away free trees as part of its Jubilee Woods project to mark the 60 years which the Queen has served as monarch. The group also plans to plant a Royal Oak sapling - grown from an acorn gathered from a royal estate - in Church Square in Nantwich town centre.

The Rotary Club also wants the tree planting to commemorate a second significant local event - the Great Fire of Nantwich in 1583 - when Queen Elizabeth 1 played a major part in helping to rebuild the town.

Explained Rotary Club Community and Vocational Committee Chair Neil Brown: "The main objective of Rotary is service - in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world - so it's great to be able to both mark the Diamond Jubilee and pay tribute to Elizabeth I. There's a great royal tradition in the area and we hope the trees we plant will last hundreds of years."

The trees have been planted on land owned by Cheshire East Council near to the Rising Sun public house. The site is part of the Crewe-to-Nantwich Greenway, a rural corridor linking Nantwich's riverside walks with Crewe's historic Queen's Park along the A530 corridor. The project,

which should be completed in Summer this year, is aimed at offering cyclists and walkers a traffic-free link between the two towns.

The Greenway will be added to the 13,000 miles of Sustrans' National Cycle Network, which is developing new walking and cycling routes across the UK.

The tree planting is being supported by the Wistaston Parish Council and by Wistaston Conservation Group, who are responsible for the adjoining public land and take a proactive interest in conserving and establishing woodland and other areas for wildlife.

Final year Level 3 Forestry and Arboriculture students at Reaseheath College carried out the planting. Megan Poole, aged 28, said: "It's been great knowing that if we come back in 20 years we'll find a woodland community benefitting both the wildlife and the local community."

Anyone wishing to apply for a free tree pack or offer land for the planting of a Jubilee Wood can find out more at Jubileewoods.org.uk

For further details contact
Reaseheath's Press Officer
Lynne Lomax on
01270 613279/ 07960 781658

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Wistaston Conservation Group

The last months have seen the Group working hard in the area and a lot of good work has been achieved. Unfortunately, as you will note below, certain other local inhabitants do not seem to share our aims to keep Wistaston's natural features in good condition for the benefit of future generations.

Tree planting

We were very fortunate in being awarded 430 tree whips by the Woodland Trust for us to plant to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

As the majority of the trees in the Old Covert woodland are getting on in years, it was decided to plant the majority of our new trees in that area, so that the woodland would regenerate, and be good for years to come.

To this end, our working party planted about 300 of the whips around the Old Covert woodland, and all seemed well. However, about a week later, some mindless individuals decided that they did not like what we had done, and destroyed about 75% of the trees we had planted. We have since tried replanting those which were not too damaged, but their chances of survival are low, and we can no longer look forward to the regeneration we planned, to celebrate the Royal event.

Pond work

A lot of work has been done to improve the pond in Rookery Bank Covert which had been badly silted up, and overgrown, to the extent that there was virtually no water in the pond, and the pond was in total shade all the year.

The Group has achieved several objectives to improve this situation:

1. cut back a lot of the overhanging foliage to allow more light to get to the water
2. dug out the silt to a depth of about 12 inches to allow more water, to encourage more aquatic species
3. constructed a bund around the pond, using only natural materials cut or dug from the area, to better contain the water in the pond
4. cleared all the inlet and outlet streams, so that, in future more water will keep the pond topped up
5. planted various native species, including flag iris, to improve the surroundings, and provide more colour to the area.

We are already seeing more wildlife around the pond area, and hope that, when the water and vegetation has had a chance to settle, even more species will make the pond their home.

Stream/drain clearance

A lot of work has been done in the Old Covert area to free the streams which drain down from the houses on the Beech Drive estate, land drainage only, and



feed into the Wistaston Brook. Again, all these have been badly silted up to the extent that all the areas were boggy, and very little water managed to find its way as far as the brook.

The Group has now cleared these streams, and water is again flowing freely. This job will need to be done on a regular basis due to the amount of leaf detritus, and the very soft nature of the soil in the area.

Projects for 2012

We have several projects planned for 2012:

1. planting the "Tree Warden" trees, which are donated by Cheshire Landscape Trust to our local tree wardens to improve our local woodland
2. continuing our litter picking along the local paths. PLEASE take your litter home for disposal, or put it in a local litter bin, rather than leaving it for volunteers to have to spend time removing.
3. we are working with the Parish Council to improve the Woodside woodland, and the paths in that area
4. we are again continuing to control invasive species in the Joey-the-Swan area, with specific emphasis on Himalayan Balsam, a never ending task.

Thanks

Most of the above work has entailed heavy, back-breaking work, which has been carried out by our members on a completely voluntary basis. I would like to thank them all for their efforts, on behalf of all the people of Wistaston.

I am again pleased to report that we have recruited several new members, and our Group number is now above 20, allowing us to consider more, and bigger, projects. We are always ready to welcome anyone who shares our aims "to keep Wistaston's natural features for future generations".

John M Wood

Chairman, Wistaston Conservation Group



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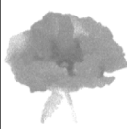
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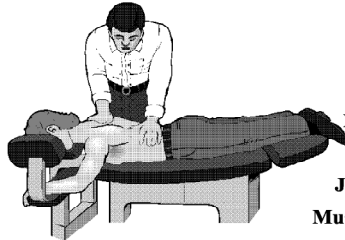
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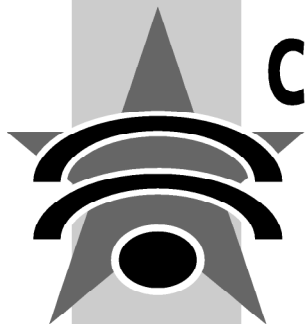
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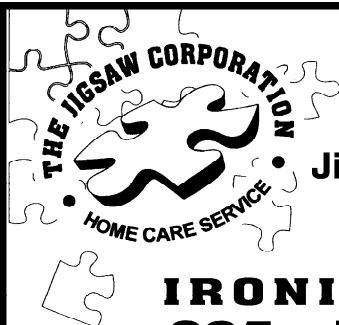
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Nature article

Last time's foxy tale prompted both Jonathan White and Eileen Bamber to recount their own stories. The week commencing 9 October Jonathan saw a fox twice at the Joey the Swan end of Broughton Lane. It crossed in front of him into Wistaston Park. Earlier on Eileen saw a fox around midnight, at the top of the drive across from her, in Broughton Lane. It was motionless in the full light of the street-lamp and was still there when Eileen returned from putting her bin at the gate.

1 October remains our last personal swallow sighting and the anticipated overwintering chiffchaff has fallen silent. A sparrowhawk, at home, on 29 October, was eyeing the now dozen or so house sparrows regularly gathering on back-garden bushes. A burgeoning hedgerow of thick shrubs has served to increase sparrow numbers markedly. It is a daily rendezvous for socialising in sight of a quick nip across lawn to food at a collapsing bird-table. We have read that the original home of house sparrows is Africa and that it is likely they were introduced to Britain by our first farming ancestors, proceeding to spread all over Europe.

We noted fieldfares over-flying first on 9 November: a well-spaced flock of about eight, their rapid wing-beats alternating with pauses, and their constant chattering, diagnostic. 20 December saw lots descend upon the allotment trees beside Sandylands Park, before quickly moving on.

We played host to a mini invasion of starlings one day in November, both on the fat-block and on the ground for spillages, but only because we'd trimmed off the blackened surfaces of the block. It is important to ensure such food is clean and presentable since birds, as humans, like their food to look palatable. It is easy to forget about hangers of seed and nut mixes and to wonder why they are neglected. Once dampness takes a hold food soon becomes congealed and compacted and will not flow freely, so a regular shake of containers is recommendable.

Since before Christmas a cock pheasant has kept a regular presence in Sandylands Park. Recorded in Britain in 1059, its true home is Asia; birds from the western part of this range, the Caucasus, being introduced here and bearing the nomenclature: 'Old English Pheasant'. From the eighteenth century there were repeated introductions from eastern Asia of forms with a white neck-ring. Although reared for the shooting season there is a well-established wild breeding species in assorted habitats.

Helen and Mick Pierce of Sandylands Park may have solved the mystery of the cherry stones. Their morello cherry tree is plundered by blackbirds which take cherries together with stalks, and it is thought the trick is passed on through the same family of blackbirds that nest in the garden.

Dave O'Hara kindly informed us of the Woodland Trust's donation of over 420 native trees to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and that the Parish Council and Conservation Group had planted up a large area of Old Covert by the scout hut. Crewe Chronicle featured the item along with the vandalism of at least half the trees. A sorry note on which to end.

Our thanks to all contributors.

Trevor and Hilary Clowes

Tel. 664358

email handt136@talktalk.net

The Return of Mr Scruffy or 'Scruff' as we call him

Well, I don't know where he's been, but he has not been practising for the Olympics (as I said in my last article), as he appears to have put on weight! He returned on Christmas Eve as hungry as ever. He soon arrived at his original feeding place, only to find that other birds were eating in his space, between the shed and the wheelie bin. He was too nervous to eat alone and would only eat when my husband stood by him. In fact the other birds have to have food placed a short distance away, to allow 'Scruff' to have a chance of his own food. A better solution has been found: 'Scruff' waits under the garden seat by the back door until my

husband appears outside— they then go together to collect the food and return to eat it at the side of the garden seat (i.e. the bird not the husband!) and he has a drink from his own bowl. Mr Scruffy is better treated than me! Birds seem to have a very good memory as it is almost three months since he left us but he has not forgotten his routine!

Helen De Falco

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£50			71						90				60
£25	11	112		17	95		95	63		38	115	84	

A big thank you to all who took part in the 100 club during 2011. The total gross fund raised by the 4 weekly draws was £3088.00. Total prize monies to the winners of all 2011 draws was £1535.00, leaving £1509.90 after Lottery running expenses, Bank interest and tax deduction to be used for donations/ presenting events by W.C.C.

In addition to the above, six £10 winners were drawn at every draw plus an additional eight at draw 13.

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

G.B. Moores.

Bernard Moores (Promoter)

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WISTONIAN OF THE YEAR 2011

Sheena Sambrook is our 2011 Wistonian of the Year. There are numerous and significant ways in which Sheena has given her time, energy and commitment for the benefit, development and nurture of



Wistaston's evolving and developing community over **thirty-eight years which makes her extremely worthy of this award:**

• **Church involvement** - Sheena began worshipping at St Mary's Church, Wistaston in 1974. She has been involved in Sunday School classes and Rose Queen events for many years. She is a member of the Mothers' Union and the Ladies' Evening group. Sheena has initiated and organised special foods, including soup, for Lent as well as charity lunches and suppers. She is a graduate of the Bishop's Course in Christian Life and Faith and has been a group leader on this course. She was commissioned by the Bishop as a Parish Worker in 1999. She assists in Wistaston as a contact for Family Life (Marriage Enrichment). Sheena has been a sides person for many years at St Mary's Church in Wistaston and has been a member of the Parochial Church Council for over eleven years, devoting time to organise many special events. She has been a member of the Deanery Synod for the last seven years. Sheena's voluntary work includes giving valuable and valued support to her husband Ken in his calling as a Priest to the Parish and Community of Wistaston.

• **Guiding** - from 1975 to 1977 Sheena was Wistaston's uniformed assistant Guide Leader, assisting Mrs Joyce Lusty. From 1977 to 1979 she was Assistant Leader to Wistaston's Ranger Guide unit and was leader from 1979 to 1993. From 1979 to 1983 Sheena was the Guides' Commissioner for the Nantwich division. From 1995 to 1999 she was the Assistant Guide Company leader. From 1999 to the present she has been a member of the Trefoil Guild. During her thirty-six years as a leader Sheena organised every type of Guiding Activity, from overnight hikes locally to week-long camps in the Peak District, the Lake District and Scotland. Activities include cooking, entertainment, hobbies and debates often in conjunction with the Wistaston Woodside Venture Scout Unit. She is always keen to promote good family and Guiding values and provide a listening ear to the teenage queries and quandaries of many young women who have progressed through the Wistaston Ranger Unit. During the time that she was a Ranger

Guide leader Sheena was also an Expedition Trainer and Assessor under the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Many of these same young people have since undertaken voluntary positions in Wistaston's community in the wake of Sheena's influence, and inspirational leadership.

• **Diabetes Voluntary Group** - Sheena is a tireless worker for the cause of Diabetes sufferers in this area. She has been Secretary of the Local group and is now the Honorary President. Every month she hosts the local Group, often providing transport to and from meetings for the less mobile members. She is a relentless fundraiser for this and other local charity events, including the Annual Charity Dinner involving South Cheshire College students, a summer charity stall in her garden selling bedding plants and an Annual Garden Party, at which she provides much homemade produce for the sales tables. It is well supported by Wistaston's people and visited by the Mayor. Apart from the considerable sums of money raised for her charity, Sheena has always sought to enrich the lives of Wistaston's youth by involving them in helping, and ensuring that the highest standards of safety, security and behaviour are maintained. Over the last ten years these efforts have raised many thousands of funds for charities. In the last calendar year Sheena's initiatives and very largely by her own work, the Local Voluntary Diabetes UK was able to raise over £10,000 for Diabetes Research nationally. This finance sponsored Diabetes Specialist Nurses to help educate local Diabetic youngsters and their parents about their condition and learn to cope with the effects of diabetes.

• **Voluntary teaching** - As a retired teacher Sheena has voluntarily helped a number of Wistaston's children with literacy and numeracy. During her teaching career Sheena worked with children with Special Educational Needs, latterly with Hearing Impairments. Since 1999 she has been a volunteer group leader and Coordinator of U3A's Spanish Teaching Groups devoting each term time on Thursdays to her groups.

During 2012 Sheena and Ken will celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary; this award would be so appropriate.

Over a period of 38 years, Sheena Sambrook has epitomised the qualities required of 'Wistonian of the Year'. She has given freely of her time and experience for the fulfilment of Christian values within the church and community, for the nurture and guidance of young people and for the support and caring attitude through her work with Diabetes UK. She has certainly made major contributions to the life and welfare of so many of Wistaston's residents of all ages over many years. Such consistent, supreme efforts deserve our community's recognition and she fully deserves the prestigious accolade and award of 'Wistonian of the Year 2011'.

Wistaston Village Cricket Club

(Founded 1980)

As I write (type!) my latest editorial, the **2012** cricketing season for our cricket club may be a little over three months away; already our senior and juniors players have commenced their indoor cricket nets at **Brine Leas School Nantwich** in preparation for the new season. **These indoor nets will still be in progress** when this editorial appears in your Spring copy of "Roundabout", so please do not miss out on the opportunity of pre-season cricket nets.

Table of Indoor Nets:-

Mondays at Brine Leas

Under 15s, 18s & Seniors

1900hrs – 2100hrs

commencing Monday 9th January 2012

Cost £3.00 per session.

Tuesdays at Brine Leas

Under 9s, 11s, 13s and girls 1800hrs – 2000hrs commencing Tuesday 24th January 2012 Cost £3.00 per session.

Please note that these nets will continue until Easter, where after outdoor practice nets will continue at The Brittles:-

Table of Outdoor Nets:-

Week Commencing Monday 9th April 2012.

Seniors Tuesday commencing 1800 hrs

Juniors Thursdays commencing 1800 hrs

New members are **always** welcome, we offer cricket to adults and junior of **all standards** and have cricket coaches within the cricket club to encourage new players and to make everyone feel at home from the moment you take that all important first step and make yourselves known.

Players required for the forthcoming 2012 cricket season

Wistaston Cricket Club are still continuing their search for new players to not only promote but further improve on the great progress taken in girls cricket at The Brittles. For those who read my past editorials, our girls team have continued to perform exceptionally well during 2011 as they did the previous year and they hope to do even better in 2012. To this end the club wish to bring to the attention of all girls in the area who are interested in playing cricket, that they will be warmly welcomed to the coaching facilities that are available within the cricket club. For further details contact Pauline Jobbins on 01270 663699 in the first instance.



Our **First Eleven** will be again participating in **The Cheshire Alliance Division 1**, hoping to improve on last seasons good campaign, even to the point of a possible promotion, whilst our **Second Eleven** will be contesting honours in **The Cheshire Alliance Division 3**. Our third senior side (**Sunday**) will again be playing in **The Cheshire County Cricket League, Division 4 West**. This effectively will allow our **young players** to gain the experience of adult cricket. Matches would be played on a Sunday afternoon. **The Sunday (Social) XI (Wistaston Wombats)** will again (**as during 2011**) play opposite the Sunday league and cup fixtures (i.e. when our league team is playing away, then our social XI would play at home and vice-versa).

In **2012** our cricket club will be entering a girls team in **The Cheshire Women's Cricket League in Under 13's and 15's**.

Once again, our junior sides (**Under 9's, 11's 13's 15's and 18's**) will be participating in their respective divisions in the **South Cheshire Junior League**.

Committee members elected for 2012 were:

Chairman:- Mr Kevin Jobbins;

Secretary: Mr Mike Stokes;

Treasurer: Mrs Janet Parr;

Club Welfare Officer 1: Mrs S Heaton;

League Rep. (County): Mr Paul Heaton;

Club Welfare Officer 2: Mr Kevin Jobbins;

League Rep. (Alliance): Mr Steve Collins;

Club Welfare Officer 3: Mr Keith Thornhill;

Junior League Rep.: Mr Keith Thornhill;

Development Officers: Mr Kevin Jobbins and Mr Mike Stokes;

Junior manager: Mr Keith Thornhill

Club Captain: Mr Steve Collins;

General members: Mr John Avery, Mr Paul Heaton, Mrs Tracey Stokes and Mrs Pauline Jobbins;

President: Mr Rod Titus;

Groundsman: Mr Kevin Jobbins;

Social Secretary: (Vacant).

Captains:

1st XI Captain: Mr Mike Chester

2nd XI Captain: Mr Steve Collins

3rd XI Captain: Mr Paul Heaton

Sunday XI Captain: Mr John Avery

Managers:

Under 9's Manager: Mr Roger Davies

Under 11's Manager: (Vacant)

Under 13's Manager: Mr Kevin Jobbins

Under 15's Manager: Mr Keith Thornhill

Under 18's Manager: Mr Paul Heaton

Under 13's Girl's Manager: Mrs Pauline Jobbins

Under 15's Girl's Manager: Mr M Parr

continued ...

Very Important Announcement - President's Day 2012

It has been decided to hold the Wistaston Cricket Club's President's Day on Sunday 13th May at The Brittles. Full details of this event will be circulated nearer the time. Please make a note in your diaries.

A reserve day has been allocated in case of bad weather conditions which will be Sunday 15th July at The Brittles.

Weather permitting; the cricket club will be carrying out the usual "**Nat-West Cricket Force**" programme at the ground – re-furbishing sight-screens which have recently been somewhat battered by the elements together with our nets, fences etc around the end of **March/early April 2012**, in preparation for the new season. Anyone interested in helping please contact either **Kevin or Pauline Jobbins (663699)**. 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. Whilst on the subject of Bingo, I would like to report that the response to the "**Christmas**" Bingo held at **The Memorial Hall in December last year** was a superb success. To see so many in attendance was very gratifying, thank you.

Wistaston Village Cricket Club will be hoping for a productive season, and everyone within the club is positive with the route our cricket club is progressing. **As previously mentioned, we offer cricket to adults and juniors of all standards** and we are proud on being very much a **child friendly club** and we were recently 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 663699** in the first instance or team captains. For more details of our Bingo evenings please contact either **Kevin or Pauline Jobbins** at the above number.

Readers of the "Roundabout" who have an interest in the cricket club may find the following two web-sites useful:-

<http://www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk/roundabout.html>

<http://www.creweguardian.co.uk/sport/>

John Avery

"Zusammen", 13 Lear Drive, Wistaston
Tel: 07817 082678

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship (Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach and Alsager areas)

We had two new members from our last entry in Roundabout and would like to see more retired or newly retired Civil Servants. Don't be shy we are a friendly group. Husbands or wives welcome. Also non-Civil Servants are welcome as visitors. Our

meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Wells Green Methodist Church Hall. We charge £1 entrance fee which includes tea and biscuits.

Our speakers are asked to make their presentations light hearted and most are illustrated talks with slides, artefacts, sound effects, music etc.

6.3.12 – Mr Peter Kirk 'Birds of the Garden and Countryside' illustrated with computerised slides.

3.4.12 – Mrs Sue Church 'The Church Family of Nantwich who lived at Churches Mansions'.

1.5.12 – Jonathan and Pam Baddeley, music mainly 50s and 60s. Jonathan and Pam are members of the George Formby Society – Jonathan is a professional musician and plays ukelele and other instruments.

5.6.12 – Mr Chris Hughes 'My Life with Egg on my Face'.

3.7.12 – Mr Ray Cowdall 'A funny thing happened on the way to the Theatre'.

We have just had our New Year Lunch at South Cheshire College which was thoroughly enjoyed. Many thanks to the students and teachers.

We had four coach trips last year and I am looking at places to visit for this year. Do come and join us, you will be made very welcome.

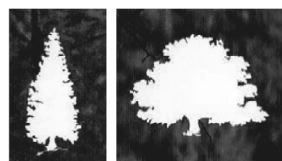
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Grace Harding

Chairperson

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Wistaston Young Drama Group Christmas Showcase

Wistaston Young Drama Group presented their Christmas production at the Players Theatre, Nantwich on 21st December 2011 to a packed auditorium.

The first performance was *Scrooged*, based on Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol*. Edwina Scrooge, a mean spirited and ruthless business woman is forced to see the error of her ways, when she is visited by the ghost of a distant relative. This was a lively performance with excellent comic timing. All the actors were convincing in their roles as they retold a modern version of the timeless classic.

After the interval *Winter Wonderland* was showcased. Through a number of sketches including *Christmas at the Workhouse*, *Pickwick Papers*, *Maria Marten* and *The Innkeepers Wife*, Katie was shown the true meaning of Christmas. There were superb performances by the group and the play was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

Both performances displayed the versatility and professionalism of the young actors.

The Showcase was directed by Michaela Warrilow, one of the drama leaders of the group.

The drama group was formed in 1994 and provides classes for ages 7 – 16 on Saturdays 10.30am – 12.45pm and for ages 16 - 18 on Wednesdays 7.00pm - 9.00pm, at the Memorial Hall, Church Lane,

Wistaston. New members are always welcome.

Coaching is provided in a fun and safe environment by professionally trained drama leaders. Lessons include creative movement, structured improvisation, drama games, language development and voice coaching. Free taster sessions are available for new members.

The Group's next performance will be at the Audley Theatre on Saturday 21st March 2012.

For further information regarding the classes or tickets for the Annual Showcase contact Margaret 01270 668233 or Judy 01270 650341

WISTASTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Over the last year the Wistaston Community Council have helped the following people and/or groups to further their particular endeavour.

Donations In Year 2011

PAID TO	£
West Street Christian Centre	250.00
Wells Green Methodist Church (KITCHEN)	250.00
Wistaston Cricket Club	250.00
The Disability Resource Exchange	250.00
Spring Concert : Kipling Singers	80.00
Wistaston In Bloom Sign	24.00
Wistaston In Bloom W.P.C.(flower bed)	26.00
British Legion	50.00
Fete : Liberty Dance Troupe	50.00
Special Wheelchair	250.00
Fete : Firefighters Charity	50.00
Fete : Church Lane School	50.00
Wistaston Sports & Leisure	110.00
St. Marys Church Hall: Donation	
Christmas Social	44.50
Ray Of Hope Donation from Fireworks	400.00
Shavington High School Christmas Concert	100.00
Myra Wood Christmas Social Donation	50.00
Action For Children Christmas Concert	300.00
The Childrens Society Christmas Concert	300.00
Total Donations	2,884.50



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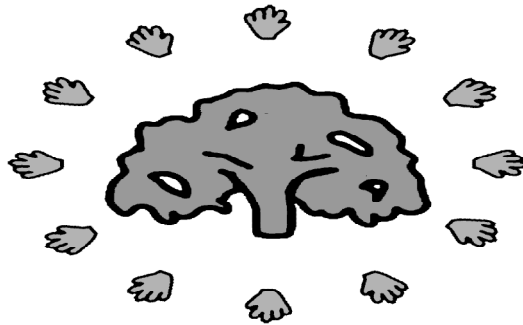
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A corn usually feels as though there is a small stone imbedded in the foot and if palpated feels like a small, hard prominence. It is most painful when pressure is exerted on the area and eases off when the foot is rested and shoeless.

So what can be done? The only way to remove a corn permanently is with a scalpel. 'Ouch!' I hear you shout. 'Isn't that painful?' Not at all. We are talking about a 'plug' of hard, dead skin with no nerve endings whatsoever. People talk about corns having 'roots'. This is not dentistry, this is chiropody and, believe me there are no roots involved! The technique used is called 'chiropodist's curve' and the best way to imagine it is by lifting an egg out of an egg-cup with a dessertspoon. Chiropodists use all sorts of peculiar-shaped scalpel blades from the straight sort favoured by surgeons to actual tiny spoon-shaped blades. Once the corn has been enucleated, the hollow is painted with an antiseptic and then dressed. The dressing need only remain in situ for 24 – 48 hours. The patient can bathe or shower as normal during this time and usually there is no need to return for further treatment unless the condition recurs which, unfortunately, it quite often can do unless the cause is eliminated.

What should NOT be done. The use of 'corn-plasters' is not recommended as these treatments contain a strong caustic called salicylic acid which can actually burn the skin. The packaging carries a warning that the product should not be used by diabetics or anyone suffering from a circulatory disorder. Wise advice indeed. Nor should any attempt be made at self-surgery.

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Maureen Craig



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WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BUDGET

Your Council have completed plans for the coming financial year 2012/13. The cut back in grants by Cheshire East Council last year continues to impact our finances and necessitated changes and restrictions on future plans in order to control costs. Our capital programme for village improvements has again been limited to £1,000. Despite applying minimum increases only where essential we still are faced with a budget shortfall. As a result we are proposing a precept increase of £3,000. This equates to approximately 85 pence per year per household.

WOODLAND CONSERVATION

Our woodlands have again had their annual review and as a result numerous trees required felling in addition to considerable surgery for deadwood removal. This review is essential to ensure safety risks are minimised and to meet a strict criteria applied by the Council's insurers.

In order to keep up our planting programme of replacement trees, our Park Ranger obtained 420 trees from the National Diamond Jubilee initiative. These were planted, however, many have been destroyed by vandals. Regular maintenance is ongoing in order to deter vandals.

MEMORIAL FOR THE 1914-18 GREAT WAR - ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD

No additional letters in support of moving the Memorial have been received, the total to date being 3. In addition Rope Parish Council have supported the view that widespread agreement is essential before considering any move, particularly in view of the potential high cost involved.

ALLOTMENTS

Your Council has continued to request information on detailed proposals for the transfer of the Allotment site from Cheshire East Council. Final proposals, however, have not been received to date. We therefore do not expect this to be resolved by April as originally suggested. Your Council are awaiting Cheshire East Council's proposal before taking any further action.

Wistaston & Rope War Memorial

For the sale of Wistaston Hall by Brigadier General Walthall DSO, the sale brochure (dated May 1919) made reference to 'Church Road' rather than its present designation of 'Church Lane'.

For many years, various bodies have been unable to identify ownership of the triangle of land in front of the Church of St Mary. Looking at the Tithe Map for Wistaston dated 1840 (copy hangs in the Dudley Room, Wistaston Memorial Hall) the triangle is shown as an adjunct of Church Road, there being no line to divide it from the highway. In common with all

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Below is a list of Council meeting dates which are held in the Dudley Room, Wistaston Memorial Hall, Church Lane:-

Thursday - 12th April 2012 at 7.00 pm
Annual Parish Meeting in Main Hall at 8pm
Thursday - 17th May 2012 at 7.30 pm
Thursday - 21st June 2012 at 7.30 pm
Thursday - 19th July 2012 at 7.30 pm
NO MEETING - August Recess

Cllr. J. Moore

Chairman

Councillor Contact Details:-

ST. MARY'S WARD

Joyce Bond	Tel: 569423
23 Freshfields, Wistaston, CW2 6QD	
Gwyneth Brown	Tel: 568823
101 Church Lane, Wistaston, CW2 8ER	
Betty Cooke	Tel: 569676
25 Westfield Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EU	
John Hatfield	Tel: 569624
25 Nessina Grove, Wistaston, CW2 8EL	
Derrick Millington	Tel: 664471
9 Chesterton Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EA	
Christopher Robbins	Tel: 662179
119 Church Lane, Wistaston, CW2 8ER	
Ray Westwood	Tel: 569844
550 Crewe Road, Wistaston, CW2 6PP	

WELLS GREEN WARD

Ian Hodgkinson	Tel: 661601
432 Crewe Road, Wistaston, CW2 6QN	
John Moore (Chairman)	Tel: 661924
50 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, Tel: CW2 6QH	
Graham Roberts	Tel: 568521
29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston, CW2 6QA	

WISTASTON GREEN WARD (3 VACANCIES)

Ken Parish	Tel: 650280
12 Riverside Grove, Wistaston, CW2 8QF	
Pam Williams	Tel: 663479
5 Hardy Close, Wistaston, CW2 8DY	

Clerk to the Council

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

highways, it was not numbered for tithe (church tax) purposes. It is probable that future draughtsmen concentrated on the symmetry of Church Road itself, leaving the triangle unattached. If correct, the area still legally belongs to the County Council and will be recorded as such at County Hall, Chester. There may be no 'deeds' as such. It should be feasible for the County Council (or Cheshire East Council) to donate this land to the people of Wistaston for their own use.

Malcolm Bellis



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Wistaston Green Townswomen's Guild

In November Mr T Butler gave a presentation of his experiences of working for British Rail and in particular his organisation of visits involving the Royal train. He worked at Rail House and retired after 40 years, 25 of which had been planning royal rail travel. He has raised over £5,000 for the very worthy Railway Children's Charity with his amusing and informative talks. He went back to Queen Victoria's time when travel was exceptionally slow and would take as long as 24 hours to get to Balmoral. There were no facilities on the train and stops were frequent for sleep, comfort and food. Victoria spent a night at Crewe Arms and special arrangements were made. Due to her lack of agility it is recorded that a tunnel was built from the station to the hotel to avoid the use of the steps but apparently it was never used. Today's train speed is lower than the scheduled services. When royalty come to Crewe and district they frequently stay overnight in North Wales, somewhere quiet and in the open for security purposes. Nine coaches are required when the Queen travels and there is a royal baggage master. There are double doors in the centre of the train and it has to stop precisely at the red carpet. Absolute timing is the key and all persons to be presented have to line up by this carpet with toes at the edge so it is imperative to get it right – misjudgement equals embarrassment and has happened. Mr Butler related many anecdotes such as when the Queen Mother was seen in a sou'wester and wellies taking a morning constitutional and on another occasion seen by a startled farmer strolling in his corn field. Prince Charles was observed letting his hair down on an overnight stop on another occasion. The royal family are often criticised for their cost of travel but they do in fact pay for the use of the royal train.

In December 2010 the Carol Concert was held in Chester and in November 2011 we hosted an event at Hunters' Lodge Hotel entitled 'More Women of Vision'. Many ladies wore period costume of the early 20th century and some from Nantwich Guild wore suffragette type outfits – white blouses, black skirts and purple and green sashes (the Guild's colours) and of course the ubiquitous hats.

The National Vice Chairman invited four council members to speak on the lives of four women who had contributed a great deal to change the attitude of influential people and without their vision and fortitude no progress would have been made in radically changing the lives of women of the time.

Mary Jones, an illiterate child who was determined to learn to read saved up to buy a bible and eventually walked 25 mountainous miles to Bala to buy one. An annual walk was instituted in recognition of her determination and bravery. She was instrumental in founding the Welsh Bible Society and ensured the protection and survival of the Welsh language.

Elizabeth Fry, a Quaker banker's daughter who after her marriage and many years of childbearing – 12 in all – she travelled widely to press for prison reform and abolition of capital punishment.

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson overcame innumerable obstacles to become a Doctor of Medicine but sadly following her remarkable achievement the law was changed to prevent other women from following in her footsteps. She was a suffragette and advocate for the admission of women to the medical profession.

Dr Elsie Inglis, another suffragette, was born in India of Scottish parents and gained her degree in medicine in 1899 at Edinburgh University and went on to be the first woman to run a maternity hospital in Scotland. She took hospitals to war and served in the Balkans until 1915 when she was captured. The Serbs never forgot her and when she died of cancer in 1917 Serbian Officers were her pall bearers.

In the afternoon we were entertained by Lucy Adlington and her assistant Merry in covering the first 25 years of the 20th century with 'The History Wardrobe'. Whilst narrating the history of the period with the rise of the suffragette movement Merry was dressed piece by piece in clothes of the time. Some of the garments were genuine and others copies, from the corsets and pantaloons to the tiny hand bag in which Merry secreted a long length of chain with which to secure herself to the railings in London. Some of their antics were outrageous but how long would it have taken for women to obtain suffrage if it had not been for these visionaries? The presentation ended with the age of the flapper with garments releasing them from the excruciating cramping of the previous period. It was completely enthralling.

At our December meeting we thanked our Treasurer, Jean Stubbs, for her major contribution to a lovely evening. Not only did she provide three flower arrangements for the raffle but also delicious Christmas cake to enjoy with our tea. To top it all she was our speaker for the evening relating her travellers' tales over a three month solo trip to Australia in December/January 2010/11. The aim was primarily to see her family in Perth and enjoy an Oz style Christmas with BBQ in a baking 30 degrees C; a nativity in which the three wise men arrived on camels! And also experience an up close and friendly encounter with the indigenous locals of the furry kind. Amongst her souvenirs was the netted hat to keep away those cussed flies. Jean flew to Sydney taking in the iconic Opera House, from there on to Canberra and Melbourne and returning by rail from Adelaide, quite a marathon. Her overall impression was one of cleanliness. Would she go again? You bet.

The Christmas table raised £115 for the local McMillan Nurses.

The annual Christmas lunch was again at Chester but unlike the arctic expedition of last year, it was mild and wet. The theme for this year's event was My Fair Lady with many of the ladies attired for the occasion. The prize went to a group of ladies from a Townswomen's Guild – what a sporty lot.

Our meetings take place at 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month at St Mark's Church Hall, Bramhall Road, Wistaston Green, Crewe.

The Laurie Twiss Trophy for Journalism - 2012

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

The winner will be able to keep for one year the Laurie Twiss Trophy for Journalism together with his/her additional prize.

It's your choice - real or imaginary, fact or fiction – so do get into writing mode now. Good reporting!

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

Entries should be submitted by 31 July 2012 to one of the following:

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

Wistaston Painters



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Below we print our Second Prize Winner's entry for the 2011 Laurie Twiss Award which is an enthralling story by Kate Smith who at the time of writing it was attending Berkeley School.

Anna's Adventure

Anna's husband asked her to find his electric drill which was down in a freezing cold cellar. She collected her torch which didn't work very well before going to find the drill because the light had broken. She took her time going down the old creaking stairs which led to the cellar.

Anna began to search for the drill which didn't seem to appear. She found her old bicycle which hadn't been used for years and on the punctured wheel she gazed at her Mexican hat which had been missing for weeks.

All of a sudden, Anna heard a noise which frightened her. It sounded like a floor board creak. She quickly turned around but nothing was there. Whilst she was really quite nervous Anna was determined to find the drill. However she soon started to think what could be down there with her which was keeping close guard on her.

Eventually, it came clear to her that the drill mustn't be down in the cellar but that was the last place where it was seen. Anna heard another sound which seemed to be getting closer then it all turned silent. She saw loads of aluminous eyes which glared at her and were the same shape but had a range of different sizes.

Anna was in absolute shock and horror. She slowly walked towards the stairs still looking at the eyes which were behind a murky old washing machine. She thought she was in a dream but she was wrong. Anna's husband opened the door because of how long she had been down there.

Anna's husband saw quite a large stray cat with kittens which he thought had been hiding down there for a while.

Kate Smith

Age 11

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Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club

The AGM of Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club was held recently with a resume of the 2011 season. Although the weather was mixed it didn't deter the members who enjoyed their tennis throughout the year.

Special congratulations were given to both men's teams who both expect to be promoted as a result of last season's efforts. The men's B team are League 5 Champions and also won the Les Becket Men's Knock-out competition. The Ladies team retained their Division's status. WJTC have been involved with Wistaston Village activities, taking their unique tennis game to the summer Fete in June and the Duck Race in September, a huge community favourite attracting children and adults from all around the area.

In view of the present economic situation it has been decided that the club fees for the current year will remain the same as last year, 2011, and are as follows:

i	Senior member (aged 16 years and over)	£75
ii	Husband and wife	£140
iii	Junior member – aged under 18	£35
iv	Student member – aged 18 and over	£50
v	Senior Citizens - aged 60 and over	£55
vi	Family group (up to two Seniors and Jnrs under 16)	£150
vii	Holiday membership (per calendar month)	£15
viii	Guest (with member per session)	£4
ix	Junior Guest (before 6.30pm per session)	£4
x	Social member (non-playing)	£5
xi	Match fees for each League and cup matches	£1

Any further details can be obtained by ringing Mr Bill Heath, Treasurer and Membership Secretary on 01270 560471

New members are always welcome at the superb courts situated at the rear of the Wistaston Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston.

Alice Chalwin



Christine Cooper representing the Ray of Hope at Leighton Hospital attended the Community Council's AGM when she was presented with a cheque from the Council and Roundabout for £500 to help with their unit at Leighton.

Wistaston Church Lane School



Before Christmas the children were all busy preparing for concerts. Our children in Foundation and Year One performed in Nativity Party. In Years Two and Three the children loved their performance of Christmas With The Aliens! Pupils in Years Four, Five and Six went back in time to the Victorian era and put on a wonderful show of Scrooge!

Lots of special events have taken place over the last few months. Foundation and Year Six children went to watch Snow White at Crewe Lyceum. Charlotte, a pupil in Year Six, was dancing in the show! Year One children visited Attingham Park and also had fun on their dress up day where the pupils and staff all dressed as a toy! A local weather enthusiast, Jon Eyes, came in to talk to the Year Fours about his weather station. Mark Brisbourne, a teacher from Malbank, has been working with each year group to put on a 'Play in a Day' and our parents loved coming in to watch each show. Year Four travelled to Chester to learn about life 2000 years ago when the city was a Roman fort. They were led on a tour of the city by a real Roman legionary. Year Six pupils travelled to Shavington High School to learn explore World War Two artefacts. Children in Year Three went to Liverpool World Museum to explore Ancient Egyptian artefacts and learn more about life in the ancient civilisation. 32 Year Six pupils enjoyed a week in France at Le Chateau du Broutel. They had a wonderful time using their language skills, visiting local towns and cities and learning about everyday life in France. This year the weather was very cold but it didn't stop them from visiting Rue, Amiens and Abbeville, which are nearby towns and cities. Children who didn't go to France remained in school for an Italian Week where they learned lots about Italy. They were able to try lots of Italian foods and also make their own pizza at Pizza Hut in Newcastle.

Our healthy week was a great success. The children learned to make lots of healthy foods and about exercises to help them to lead a healthy lifestyle. Visitors to school included the WFU and Sainsbury's. Children in Year Five visited Shavington Leisure Centre. Year Six pupils led a fitness session on the last day of the week with routines they had prepared. It was lots of fun!

Miss Holland and Mr Lawrie have just returned from a week in Tanzania where they worked with teachers and pupils from our partner school, Mang'ula A. They introduced a Break Time Buddy system, like the one we have in our own school. They also shared ideas about how we can all make more use of the outdoors in education.

Time flies when you're having fun!



South Cheshire 'George Formby' Ukulele Society's 'Christmas Concert' - Sat 23rd Dec 2011

The South Cheshire 'George Formby' Ukulele Society's 'Christmas Concert' took place on Saturday 23rd December 2011 in the Wistaston Memorial Hall, Church Lane. The Concert contained group, duet and solo ukulele performances and featured well-known George Formby songs as well as Christmas songs and carols. Performers came from Crewe, other parts of Cheshire and counties beyond and many were dressed in a Christmas hat or even the full Santa outfit. Jonathan Baddeley was Master of Ceremonies and introduced each act with his usual quick fire repartee. Hot and cold drinks and a wide range of refreshments were served during the interval. The main hall, which had been decorated with festive bunting and a large decorated fibre-optic Christmas tree, was filled to capacity with over 150 attendees.

Society founder Brian Edge said that he would like to thank everyone for supporting this event and for making it such a great success. He advised anyone to attend one of the Concerts or rehearsal sessions where they would be made most welcome and do feel free to bring a friend too.

The Society was founded in 1994 and performs a Concert at Wistaston Memorial Hall on the fourth Friday of every month throughout the year. There are no membership fees to pay, the entrance fee being just 50p to cover rent and refreshments. The curtain goes up at 7:40pm prompt. The dates of the 2012 Friday Concerts are: 27th January, 24th February, 23rd March, 27th April, 25th May, 22nd June, 27th July, 24th August, 28th September, 26th October, 23rd November and 28th December. There are also rehearsal sessions, to which new ukulele players are always welcome, at Wistaston Memorial Hall on the third Tuesday of every month throughout the year and the next rehearsal is Tuesday 17th January 2012. For further enquires please contact Brian or Connie Edge on 01270 569836.

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