

Summer

A Wistaston Community
Council Publication



'ROUNDABOUT'

2013
ISSUE 130



Cyclists photographed at the Opening Ceremony of the Crewe to Nantwich Greenway.
Article and further photographs inside.

The Magazine for People Living 'Roundabout' Wistaston

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk

Circulation: 4100

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The Cheshire Academy, Macon Way, Crewe
(adjacent to Crewe Fire station)

Editorial

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

Please send in your articles, photographs etc for our Autumn edition – due out in early September – by 15 July 2013 .

Eileen Bamber Geoff Poppitt
31 Broughton Lane 19 Byron Way
01270 569126 01270 569642
email: eileen@bamberuk.com

Dates for your Diary for 2013

Saturday 15 June	Village Fete
Saturday 17 August	Flower and Produce Show
Saturday 7 September	Duck Race
Saturday 2 November	Fireworks
Sunday 10 November	Remembrance Service
Friday 13 December	Christmas Concert

The Fete 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, Wistaston Community Council, 22 Herrick Close, Wistaston, CW2 8DX, secretary@wistastoncommunity.co.uk. The Community Council organises the **Flower and Produce Show to be held on Saturday 17 August** when the people of Wistaston show how green fingered they are and produce the most amazing selection of flowers and vegetables together with mouth-watering cakes, jams and chutneys not forgetting the superb flower arrangements, craft work and photographs. The talent in our area is staggering. It is at this event that the Wistaston in Bloom awards are presented.

Firework Display – Saturday 2 November which begins with the Fancy Dress and Pumpkin competitions at the Triangle in Park Drive from

where the procession led by our piper winds its way through Wistaston to the Brittles where the annual village firework display takes place.

Wistaston Village Fete

Saturday 15 June 2012

1.15pm Rose Queen Procession

from the Memorial Hall to

Rectory Gardens

1.45pm Opening of Fete

Crowning of St Mary's Rose Queen

Naomi Barker

Arena Displays: Scottish Piper;

Scottish Dancers

Special Olympics

Funky Choir; Zumba Display;

Miss Caroline's Street Dancing

Bouncy Castle; Stalls; Games

Children's Fancy Dress Competition

Café in the Hall with

Wistaston Church Lane Primary School

Choir

Zumba Display

Irish Dancing

The Wistaston Community Council organise the Wistaston 100 Club which has six vacancies. We have 13 draws a year, 1 every 4 weeks approximately at a cost of £2.00 per Draw or £26.00 per year. The prizes paid are 1 of £25.00 plus a minimum of 5 of £10.00 every draw except March and September when the First Prize increases to £50.00. In June the First Prize is £100 and at Christmas the First prize is £200.00 and an extra £50.00 prize is injected. The number of £10.00 prizes at Christmas is adjusted up from 5 if required to ensure that prize money paid is as near to 50% of income as possible.

Anyone wishing to join can do so by contacting Bernard Moores, 36 Sandylands Park Wistaston, Telephone 01270 669794 or a member of the Community Council. You Have to Be in it to Win it!

Wistaston in Bloom

Hopefully we are all looking forward to a decent summer and having been awarded a Silver in last year's North West in Bloom we have entered this year's competition and hope to at least emulate Nantwich who compete in the same Town class as ourselves.

The committee are grateful for the work you, the residents, put in to bring the village up to scratch for judging which is usually held in July.

I think I should remind residents of the awards that are put up yearly by the Parish Council for the best front garden in each of the three wards – Wistaston Green, Wells Green and St Mary's, namely first, second and third prizes of £25, £15 and £10 gift vouchers. Not to mention £25 for the best hanging basket display and the honour of winning the cups and trophies to be retained for one year.

So let's set to and see if we can capture that elusive Gold medal.

R. Woodward
Hon.Secretary



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WISTASTON PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

I mentioned in my last report our work preparing a major scheme to enhance our woodlands. Our plan was to target Old Covert with new pathways, improved access, coppicing and planting. I am delighted to report our success with the Forestry Commission awarding a grant of £26,500, towards our scheme. Our Council will be required to financially support this scheme and £4,275 provision is included in our 2013/14 budget. Work is in hand to start during the summer.

2. HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Many residents will now be aware of proposals to build major schemes of more than 2,000 houses. These have been submitted by developers for pre-planning consultation. Planning application to Cheshire East normally follows this process. The areas concerned are the agricultural land between Church Lane and Middlewich Road (opposite facing Joey the Swan recreational area) approx. 1,800 houses and land on the right side of Wistaston Green Road between the allotment site and Middlewich Road approx. 240 houses.

Your Council has opposed these schemes as they are unsupported for local needs, have serious impact on road traffic, schools and medical services. We also have strong support from our Cheshire East Councillors Mrs. M. Simon and Mrs. J. Weatherill. Separately a resident action group has been established to campaign against this unsustainable and unwarranted development.

Our April Parish meeting had a capacity turnout to discuss the issue and listen to the many resident views. Our May meeting will include a visit from Cheshire East Council Leader, Cllr. Michael Jones, who we expect to present his and Cheshire East Council's vision on Housing Developments. Cllr. Jones is on record that he believes these schemes for Wistaston are unnecessary within the Cheshire East 'Shaping our Future' policy brochure. Information can be obtained on Cheshire East website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/localplan and Parish Council website www.wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk A brochure is available direct from Cheshire East or Crewe Town Library titled 'Shaping our Future'. Views can be expressed at www.crewewest.com and www.your-views.co.uk/wistaston. Contact to the resident group is via email: handsoffwistaston@hotmail.co.uk, facebook Hands Off Wistaston and twitter @HandsOffCW2

3. RESIDENT CONCERNS

Many residents continue to ask how to resolve highway problems. Mostly these relate to potholes, pavement condition and street lights not working. Whilst your Council will actively follow up complaints we again appeal for more public support. Contact can be made to Cheshire East on 0300 123 5020 or via their website: cheshireeast.gov.uk / Roadworks and how to report highway faults.

4. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings at 7.30 p.m. at Wistaston Memorial Hall. Next meeting dates are 20th June, 18th July and 19th September 2013.

*Cllr. J. Moore
Chairman*

Members of the legal panels of the Land Trust, British Waterways Board and National Farmers Union and Solicitors for Nantwich Town Council



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WISTASTON GREEN TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

In February, based on Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion, our speaker, Colin Bell, cleverly used the musical "My Fair Lady" for the theme of his topic, the street where you live. He discussed the plot stressing the importance of our surroundings and how they play a major part in our lives. His talk was interspersed with music from the show. He felt anyone could be taken from their surroundings and manipulated to change their attitudes but is it possible to eradicate our formative years and dismiss that influential part of our learning. All Eliza wanted from life were the simple things that were her dreams; opportunity and wealth do not necessarily bring happiness. His final piece of music was Ode to Joy and the anthem Peace for all Humanity. Wouldn't that be lov-er-ly? It was a very entertaining and thought provoking evening.

Our AGM, was held in March and our new President was announced. Ruby Coulson, a very popular member has been selected. Ruby has been a very keen and active member for many years and volunteers to represent our Guild at the annual bowling competition along with Jean Stubbs, our Treasurer. We congratulate her and hope she enjoys her year in office. Following the business was our fish and chip supper freshly cooked by the local Bramhall Road chippy which went down very well.

Not everyone will be aware of the activities of the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), a charitable organisation, and in April Mr Holmes enlightened us with a very informative talk on it. The founder, George Williams, was born in Somerset in 1843 and belonged to a Gospel church. He moved to London to become an apprentice where he saw a great need to provide evening activities for the young people to keep them out of trouble. He started a prayer and bible group which soon grew and attracted young men from all over London. From these beginnings education classes developed. It soon spread outside London and today is a global organisation. George received a knighthood from Queen Victoria and on his death at the age of 83 he was laid to rest in the crypt of St Paul's cathedral. Our local branch is based in Gresty Road,

Crewe, which was a former hostel for railway workers. The building was opened for housing young men in 1980 and has recently been extended offering accommodation on a temporary basis for 16-24 year olds who, for a variety of reasons find themselves homeless. It is rare for anyone to be denied a space. In Crewe they have 55 single rooms and over the year provide about 140 places. They are offered counselling and along with social services are found other permanent accommodation or return home. The facilities are varied, including a kitchen where the young men are trained in culinary skills. There is also a gymnasium and a football academy which has proved to be very popular. They are encouraged to develop their interpersonal skills and to accept discipline which is often difficult for them due to their unstructured lives and a suspicion of authority. Perhaps in some ways this talk links with that of Colin Bell and the aspirations and hopes of those who are disadvantaged. It is a sad reflection on civilised society that such organisations are still needed in the 21st century but it is much to the credit of the staff and volunteers that it is still provided in such an efficient and caring manner.

Our meetings take place at 7.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at St Mark's Church Hall, Bramhall Road, Wistaston Green, Crewe; if you come along you will be made most welcome.

Dates for the diary:

6th June – Stories and Poems: Mrs S Taylor

4th July – Story of Banyan Tree: Mrs M Gleave

1st August – Appears on Eggheads: Mr C Hughes

CREWE and NANTWICH U3A PART TIME JOB

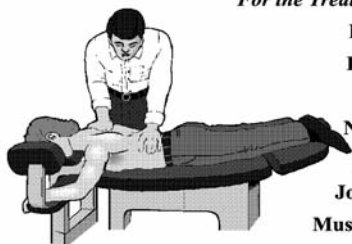
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Crewe to Nantwich Greenway Opening Ceremony

The first day of Spring, Wednesday 20th March, was blessed with dry weather for the opening ceremony of the Crewe to Nantwich Greenway. There was a splendid turnout of around one hundred people, which included representatives from walkers groups, cycling clubs, wheelchair users, three horses, two ponies and a skateboarder.

The official opening took place near the entrance to Alvaston Hall, where Councillor Peggy Martin, Mayor of Crewe, Councillor George Walton, Mayor of Cheshire East and Councillor Arthur Moran, Nantwich Town Council cut the ribbon, and unveiled the metal figures standing behind the Portrait Bench. Also present, in full costume, were human versions of the images on which the Portraits are based, a Roman Soldier, a Civil War Roundhead soldier and a Railwayman.

After a very enjoyable event, everyone made their way to the Rising Sun Inn which kindly provided free hotcross buns and tea; a pleasant end to a lovely day.

The route of the Greenway runs from Tipkinder Park in Crewe, through and around Queens Park, around King George V playing fields to the Rising Sun Inn, then west through the fields alongside the A530 Middlewich Road to Barony Park where it ends at Beam Street in Nantwich. It will give pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists a traffic-free route between Crewe and Nantwich. The western section from the Rising Sun Inn to Barony park has been designed to accommodate horse riders.

The route was funded by the Big Lottery Fund, constructed by William Pye Ltd and promoted by Sustrans (sustainable transport charity).

With acknowledgements to Graham Roberts for the article and photographs with additional information from Jonathan White.



Wistaston Parish Council - Councillor Contact Details:-

	<u>ST. MARY'S WARD (1 VACANCY)</u>	
Joyce Bond	23 Freshfields, Wistaston, CW2 6QD	569423
Gwyneth Brown	101 Church Lane, Wistaston, CW2 8ER	568823
Betty Cooke	25 Westfield Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EU	569676
John Hatfield	25 Nessina Grove, Wistaston, CW2 8EL	569624
Derrick Millington	9 Chesterton Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EA	664471
Ray Westwood	550 Crewe Road, Wistaston, CW2 6PP	569844

	<u>WELLS GREEN WARD</u>	
Ian Hodkinson	432 Crewe Road, Wistaston, CW2 6QN	661601
John Moore (Chairman)	50 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 6QH	661924
Graham Roberts	29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston, CW2 6QA	568521

	<u>WISTASTON GREEN WARD (1 VACANCY)</u>	
Nigel Cadwallader	7 Keswick Close, Crewe. CW2 8QD	663826
Fiona Carlin	44 Bowness Road, Wistaston. CW2 8QF.	669597
Ken Parish	12 Riverside Grove, Wistaston, CW2 8QF.	650280
Suzanne Winter	7 Keswick Close, Crewe. CW2 8QD	663826

<u>Clerk to the Council</u>		
Mrs. Andrea Cross	4 Arundel Close, Wistaston. CW2 8EY	652098



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The Laurie Twiss Trophy for Journalism - 2013

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

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

Entries should be submitted by 31 May 2014 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

See who has won this year's award at the Village Fete

Alvaston Cottages, Middlewich Road, Wistaston

Simon Clarke who lives in one of the four cottages once lived in by the Housekeepers of Alvaston Hall 2 Alvaston Cottages Middlewich Road, Wistaston, recently wrote the following to Roundabout:

'The deeds show that the house was built in 1890 and I have been trying to get hold of any old pictures of the property. However as I have had little success I wondered if readers of Roundabout might know of any old pictures relating to our house as I would be very interested to have one.'

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Housing Development over Wistaston's green and pleasant land.

Over the past few weeks you have probably heard of housing development that is planned across Wistaston. Gladman Homes and Muller Property Group between them plan to build up to 1,800 homes on fields stretching from Church Lane to Middlewich Road. Dolphin Land and Property Consultancy have developed plans for over 200 homes on land off Wistaston Green Road by the Rising Sun pub.

Hands Off Wistaston is a residents group that was formed to campaign against these proposals. We are ordinary people like yourself who value the green gap that this land provides. We know that many people across Wistaston (and beyond) use this land for recreational use and it is a treasured local amenity that stretches across the parish. This green space gives Wistaston its character and is an important buffer to prevent Crewe, Nantwich and the surrounding areas like ours from merging into each other. We certainly don't want to see this land lost for good and we hope you feel the same way.

It is important to put these developments into context. There are currently 4,050 homes in Wistaston. Cumulatively, the proposals from Gladman (330 homes), Muller (1,500) and Dolphin (240) could see an extra 2,070 homes built in Wistaston. Were all of these planned houses developed, that would see an astonishing 51% increase in the number of properties in the parish compared to current levels. In our view these plans are unnecessary, unwanted and unsustainable. Extra homes on this scale would lead to significant strain on local services and infrastructure, such as the local road network, school provision and health services.

The group have met with Wistaston Parish Council as well as Margaret Simon and Jacquie Weatherill, the Cheshire East councillors for Wistaston. They are clear that these speculative developments are not wanted, not by them and not by either the Parish Council or Cheshire East. They have given their full support to Wistaston residents and will help and advise at every step of the way with any threat of intrusion into the

green gap. Our local Member of Parliament, Edward Timpson, also supports the retention of existing green gap land. The decision makers are on our side and we are all determined to stop this development. But we need your help to do it!

Many of you will have recently received our leaflet that explains how you can keep in touch with the group, either via email (handsoffwistaston@gmail.com), Facebook (Hands Off Wistaston) or Twitter (@HandsOffCW2). We will do all that we can to make residents aware of when these planning applications are submitted into Cheshire East council.

It is important that we as residents all make sure that our voices are heard, please make sure that once these applications are formally made that you write into the council and voice your concerns and objections to these proposals.

Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club

Although the hopes of members of WJTC for warm, sunny days have not yet materialised, the weather hasn't deterred the intrepid players from enjoying their tennis. The strong blustery winds have proved a challenge even to the more experienced players but hasn't put anyone off. The club now has 6 members' sessions weekly which are regularly attended and enjoyed fully. The pavilion has had a facelift during the past months and is now completely fitted with all mod-coms – a great improvement!

The membership continues to rise and we now offer coaching for Juniors and Seniors, and four teams have entered for the Mid and South Cheshire Tennis League.

The good news is that the fees for WJTC have not increased so remain the same for the fourth year running.

Further information regarding any aspects of the club can be obtained by contacting Bill Heath: Membership Secretary and Treasurer Tel: No. 01270 560471

Bell Ringers at St Mary's, Wistaston

St Mary's Church in Wistaston
<http://www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk/>
require new bell ringers, aged 10 years
and over.

Would you like to have a go?

**Come up and have a look before
any Sunday morning (10:40am)
service
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The Nantwich Support Group of St Luke's Cheshire Hospice

would like to thank the people in
Wistaston for supporting
their Spring events.

The Quiz evening raised £222.70p, the
Coffee Morning £280.20p
and the Lunch £557

Future Events are:

**3rd – 5th June Collection in Morrisons,
Nantwich**

**19th October Coffee Morning in the
Parish Rooms, Nantwich.**

**21st – 23rd October Collection in
Morrison's Nantwich**

**If anyone is interested in helping the
group, please contact
Mrs Norma Simpson
Tel. 01270 625399.**

Wistaston Memorial Hall & Community Centre

Present their

Annual Charity Duck Race

**including Fayre and Children's Model
Boat Race**

**Saturday 7 September 2013
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Joey the Swan**

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Children's Boat Race starts at 2.30pm
Duck Race starts at 3.30pm

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Model Boat Race Prizes

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by Herbert Locke)
Second Place £3 Book Token
Third Place £2 Book Token**



Wistaston & District Flower Club

Wistaston & District Flower Club have this year to date enjoyed the pleasure of two National Flower Demonstrators. Barry Grey for our first meeting in February when the stage was awash with colour, a joy to behold after the winter months; Sue Davies in April based her demonstration on the title 'That Old Magic' with both her flower demonstration and humorous presentation being highly entertaining. Area demonstrators Liz Broad and Pat Murphy entertained us in March and May with their demonstrations: 'A Floral Dance' and 'Inside Out' respectively.

Forthcoming demonstrations which take place on the first Wednesday of each month will again be presented by both Area and National Flower Demonstrators. In April a number of members attended a very successful workshop tutored by Flower Demonstrator, Dawn Weaver. To promote N.A.F.A.S, members countrywide were requested to display a flower arrangement in a prominent position, our arrangement designed and created by Mrs Olive Williams and Mrs Elizabeth Russell was displayed in the Wistaston Memorial Hall in May. Future events include an organized visit to two gardens, one in Weston-under-Redcastle followed by lunch and then onto the second garden at Petton.

August brings us our Annual Cream Tea with speaker Ruth Moore Williams, her theme being 'A teller of Stories' and 'Music Maker' with her humorous narrative which is not to be missed; if you enjoy Victoria Wood you'll certainly enjoy Ruth. On October 16th we will be holding our yearly coffee morning; come along and buy some early Christmas bargains. In November we are holding our A.G.M at Crewe Golf Club preceded by lunch. December brings us to the final demonstration of the year which is always one not to be missed and the flower demonstrator will be Jayne Pugh.

Each month members are encouraged to enter the club competitions where various cups donated by past members families can be won. As you can see we are a very friendly lively club living up to our motto 'Play with Flowers & Smile'. If you are tempted to join why not come along as a visitor at 2.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of January, when you will be made most welcome. If further details are required please phone 01270 668800.

Christina Wainwright, Secretary.

Photo: Arrangement by Olive Williams and Elizabeth Russell displayed in the Memorial Hall.

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Wednesdays 8pm
Wistaston Memorial Hall
Church Lane Wistaston CW2 8ER

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Telephone 01270 663958 to book.
Register of Exercise Professionals



Wistaston Village Cricket Club
(Founded 1980)

Our Ground Force week-end at the end of March went well and much needed repairs and general upkeep to the facilities at The Brittles were completed. At the time of going to press the new 2013 season is less than a week away, with our first league matches in **The Cheshire Alliance** scheduled for **Saturday 20th April**. Our **First Eleven** participating in **Division 1** are visitors to **Glazebury 1st XI** while the **Second Eleven** host **Maritime CC 1st XI** in **Division 3**. In **The Cheshire County Cricket League, Division 4 West** our **Sunday 3rd XI** play host in their first fixture of the season to **Bowden Vale** on **May 12th**.

Our **Under 13 Girls** team will be participating in the **Cheshire Women's Junior League** and our newly created **Wistaston Village Women's 1st XI** will be competing in **The Cheshire Women's Cricket League Division 2** with their opening match on **6th May** away to **Hawarden Park 1st XI**. Our junior sides again will be competing in **The South Cheshire Junior League in 2013**.

-X-

Wistaston Village Cricket Club are extremely pleased to announce that four members of our girls' team, after attending winter cricket nets, have been chosen for inclusion in the Cheshire County Girls League. Congratulations to Hannah Bratt, Hattie Parr, Morganne Prince and Hannah Thornhill.

Important news:- Followers of our cricket club will be pleased to hear that they can now follow the club on Facebook.

Earlier this year the cricket club held two well supported theme evenings - Chinese New Year (February) and St Patrick's Day (March) both of which were well supported with all proceeds being channelled into the cricket club. Further similar theme evenings are scheduled for the future – watch this space.
www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk/roundabout.html and www.creweguardian.co.uk/sport

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 very welcome.

It has been decided to hold a Cricket Day for our junior members on Sunday 19th May and our President's Day for 2013 will be held on Sunday 21st July. As with all events, these dates are dependent on the weather and any changes can be found on our web – site:- www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk/roundabout.html and www.creweguardian.co.uk/sport.

Wistaston Cricket Club continues their search for players for the current cricket season, not only to promote but further improve on the great progress achieved over past seasons. As mentioned on many occasions we offer cricket to adults and juniors of **ALL STANDARDS** therefore if you are interested in joining our cricket club please contact Kevin Jobbins:- Tel 663699 in the first instance.

The cricket club holds Bingo evenings every **third Friday** of each month at the **Wistaston pavilion lounge at The Brittles** to raise funds and a warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to join us. Following a summer break, Bingo evenings will re-commence on **Friday 20th September 2013**.

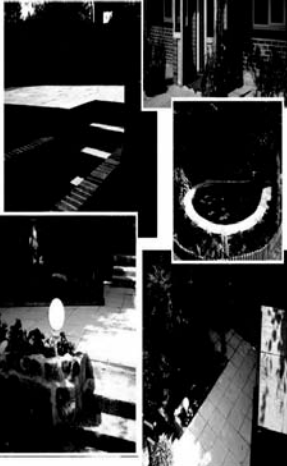
We offer cricket to adults and juniors of all standards and we are proud on being very much a child friendly club and we have been re-credited with the **E.C.B Club Mark originally awarded in May 2005**. Interested in joining W.V.C.C.? Please contact **Kevin Jobbins**: - Tel **663699** in the first instance.

For more details of our Bingo evenings please contact either **Kevin or Pauline Jobbins (663699)**.

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WISTASTON SPORTS & LEISURE ASSOCIATION AND ACTIVITY AT THE ERIC SWAN SPORTS GROUND

Most people who live in Wistaston are well aware of the village's fantastic recreation area at Joey the Swan but rather less seem to be aware of Wistaston's hidden gem, our equally fantastic sports ground.

The 'Eric Swan' sports ground stands behind Church Lane school and is accessed via a short road to the side of the school. Approximately 7 acres in area the ground is run by the Wistaston Sports & Leisure Association (WSLA) and is home to Wistaston Village Cricket Club and to a number of football clubs. In addition to the football and cricket pitches the ground has a very well equipped pavilion and a recently refurbished all-weather artificial turf facility or MUGA (multi use games area).

The ground is a hive of activity all the year round. Currently 11 cricket teams and 9 football teams are based at the ground but in addition there is considerable community use. The University of the Third Age (U3A) run a variety of classes in the pavilion and other uses include a Bridge Club and a Slimming Club. Public tennis is available during the summer on the MUGA and in the winter the MUGA is used under floodlight by 6 groups for training and 5-a-side football. Coaching is a regular feature of life at the ground, both the Cricket Club and the Football Clubs have qualified coaches and a tennis coach is arranged each summer.

The ground is owned by the Parish Council who lease it to WSLA. The Association is a non-profit making body originally created by the Parish Council to manage, maintain and develop the ground for the benefit of residents of Wistaston in general and for the benefit of the youth of the area in particular.

The Association is now run completely independently from the Parish Council and is financially self-sustaining. However it does work in partnership with the Parish Council to seek out grants to enable further improvement of the facilities. In recent years WSLA has taken the lead in this partnership and has initiated a number of projects, most recently a ground drainage project and a complete MUGA refurbishment, which have



greatly benefited the ground. Balances built up by the Association over a number of years have proved useful in leveraging in grant funds. For example the MUGA refurbishment cost £85,000, £20,000 of which WSLA provided, but this levered in £65,000 worth of grants.

It is less than 20 years since the Parish Council had the foresight to buy the land and make the initial investment in the site. There can be no doubt the investment has paid off handsomely and thanks to that investment and the activities of the volunteers who run WSLA, the village has a facility all of us can be proud of.

One of the volunteers referred to above was the late Eric Swan. Eric made an immense contribution to the development of the facility and in 2010 the WSLA committee were proud to rename the ground in his memory.

The committee of WSLA are keen to encourage even greater use of the ground and are particularly keen to see the development of new sports at the ground.

If you would like to book any of the facilities at the ground, please call 07758302647.

To express an interest in developing new sports or social activities, or if you would simply like to know more about the ground and/or the Association, please call me direct on Crewe 569844.

Ray Westwood, Association Treasurer



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Chapel etc.**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. We meet at 2pm in Wells Green Methodist Church Hall with £1 entrance fee which includes tea and biscuits. We have a very interesting programme for 2013. I'm pleased to say it is very sunny today – Spring has sprung. When I was writing for the last episode of Roundabout it was snowing heavily!

Due to illness Derek Jones had to cancel his talk at a day's notice. Luckily Chris Hughes of Eggheads fame was able to switch his talk and in April we had a very interesting talk from Chris on his work on the Railways called 'Random Railway Reminiscences'. A big thank you to Chris for his very interesting talk at such short notice.

Derek Jones recovered in time to give his talk 'A Shropshire Lad' on 2 May. A very humorous talk about his life on a remote farm in Shropshire and the characters he met from the area. He certainly had a tough life at times but in wonderful countryside and with interesting wildlife.

Forthcoming Programme

4 June 2013 – Jonathan and Pam Baddeley 'Nostalgia Time' - lively music from 50s, 60s etc. Jonathan is a busy member of the George Formby Appreciation Society and plays the clarinet, ukulele and they both sing.

2 July - 'My part in beating Hitler'. Mr Ray Cowdall - humorous and informative.

6 August - 'Private Palaces: Great houses of London' Mr Michael Murphy - illustrated with slides and pictures.

3 September - The Queen's Award of M.B.E. in 2009: Mr Ray Stafford MBE illustrated on DVD

1 October - 'Landed Estates in Cheshire' Mr Doug Haines – Power Point Presentation.

We had our first outing of the year to the Tweedmill, St Asaph, for coffee and shopping; then to Llandudno in time for lunch and sightseeing. After the bad weather of the previous months we had a sunny day and it was enjoyed by all and John White thanked Grace for arranging it. We are a friendly group originally set up for Civil Servants and partners. We would particularly like to welcome recently retired Civil Servants from various departments, visitors also welcome.

Grace Harding
Chairperson

Garden Party
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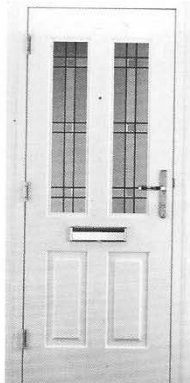
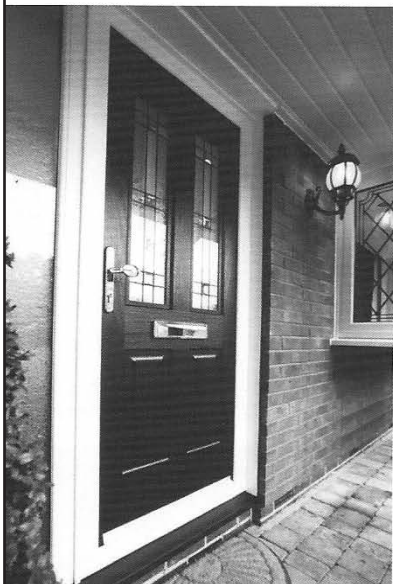
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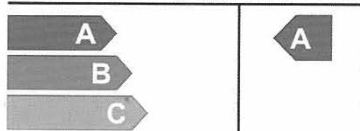
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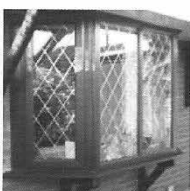
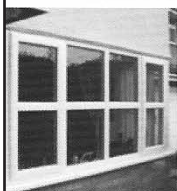
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Wistaston Conservation Group

Since my last notes, our volunteers have been very busy on several jobs around the village, which at first seemed very small, but have risen to be fairly major tasks.

Housing developments

I must, first, bring up the issue of the day, housing development proposals, and local planning. You must all have seen the number of houses that various companies want to build in this area.

We are more than happy with the number of houses, and population of this wonderful village, and thus are totally against any of these “planned” housing developments.

I do not wish to go into all of the reasons here, as it would take up the whole of this issue of Roundabout, but here are just a few of them;

- Our Group motto is “to preserve the natural features of Wistaston for future generations “. If any of these plans go through, there will be precious little for us to preserve.

- The “village” community spirit of Wistaston would be totally destroyed by the building of this large number of new houses.

- We need the open spaces for the health and well-being of the people of this area, the very reason many of them decided to live in Wistaston in the first place.

- The local infrastructure, roads, schools, etc are already overcrowded, and could not cope with such an increase in population envisaged.

We hope that everyone in Wistaston will stand up and fight these ridiculous plans. Please lobby our MP, the local councillors, go to the meetings and have your say, and give your support to the “Hands off Wistaston” campaigns. By doing this we may be able to keep Wistaston a great place to live, rather than just another pot of money for speculators who do not live anywhere near here.

Woodside woodland

This project requested by the Parish Council, has proved to be a much bigger job than we first thought, but we are progressing well, and have had a lot of positive comments about the natural fencing we have erected. The biggest problem was having enough timber to erect the fencing, but by combining this job with a planned coppicing and pollarding of various species in the woodland, we have managed to improve the supply chain.

Wildflower meadow.

Having reported strimming the area in an earlier issue, which seemed a drastic thing to do, our work has been successful, as a good number of native wildflowers are now showing through, especially Cowslips. Further sowing of native species should improve this situation even further for next year.

Daffodils

I reported, recently, that we had planted a large number of Daffodil bulbs, around the Wistaston Green Road car park, and behind, Broughton Lane, by the stream. It is great to see such a lovely show of these beautiful flowers in these areas. This, and the wildflower meadow, make all our hard work worth while.

Drainage

Our heavy gang have recently been around the area looking for old, and often broken, drainage systems. When found, these have either been cleared of debris, or totally re-dug, so that many more of our local paths will stay dry during wet weather. This is heavy, and back-breaking work, but should prove worthwhile in the future.

Water Voles

There have been several new sightings recently, which proves that, not only are these lovely creatures inhabiting our local streams, but also, by being there, are proving that the watercourses are clean. My only concern is that I have not seen them yet myself.

Greenway

Now that the Greenway is fully open, right down into Nantwich, what a fantastic asset it is proving to be, with many people using it.

The Group attended the opening ceremony, which was held near to the Alvaston Hall driveway, by the new seat and statues. Present, along with the official party, were walkers, cyclists, horse riders, and even a Roman soldier, Roundhead, and a local railway man, all in traditional costume. A great sight to open a wonderful new pathway.

The Group are looking at an idea to designate a circular walk, based on Wistaston and the Greenway. More information in a later edition.

Website

We now have our own website thanks to Terry Hughes, one of our members, where details of our activities, projects, etc are listed; www.wistastonconservationgroup.org.uk or just search for Wistaston Conservation Group.

As usual, if anyone is interested in the work of our Group, or has any conservation issues to discuss, please contact either myself or any members of the Group, or just come and see us at the Village Fete on Saturday 15th June outside the Church Hall.

John M Wood, Chairman.

Nature Roundabout, Issue 130

It takes a freeze to fetch 'em in. Although fieldfares have been plentiful enough in the countryside, it was only at the onset of snow, on 18 Jan, that we caught our first glimpse of arrivals in the allotments hedgerow of Sandylands Park: six to eight quietly perched in a tree, then gone. A song thrush appeared that same day, to hang around for a second day. On 15 Jan Derek Owen of Windermere Road noticed four waxwings and a goldcrest in allotment trees off Wistaston Green Road. A disappointing year for berries, to attract in the fruit-eating birds, may explain a general absence.

House sparrows, primarily ground feeders, and not very acrobatic when alighting on hangers, had their eyes on our nest-box terrace even in the snows of January; possession of one hole confirmed in February when a sparrow was seen dragging in nesting material.

January brought a regular goldcrest to a Lear Drive garden where a male blackcap was photographed on suspended nuts. In February a blackcap visited a garden in Springfield Drive for over a week and bramblings mixed with chaffinches were also enjoyed.

Alan Fairhurst mentions the thousands of starlings gathering in Handforth Road. He was watching them on the evening of 27 Jan when they were congregating in three conifers. There wasn't enough room for all the birds, he said, and described the din as 'astounding'. Flying in from the west they were seen to converge on Queen's Park and Tipkinder Park; a local flock of around twelve birds flying around in circles but not joining the mass. On the subject of Alan's study of buzzards, he thought a juvenile was present in trees in Flag Lane, keeping low and seeming reluctant to soar. About ten years ago he tracked a pair for two years. It flew daily from a site near him to Minshull, Willaston, his local fields, Crewe Road, Nantwich, then Bridgemere; returning from the east end of Crewe, back to nest-site. Five adults and two of last year's chicks were seen to rise on 28 March. On a final note, Alan and neighbours had noticed a sharp decline in all birds in the area until this year when they have returned in good numbers.

Our own delights during the exceptional cold have been a brambling twice; redpoll; regular siskins and two cock reed buntings – the latter called 'collar and tie' birds by Hilary on account of the male's sporting a vivid white neck band and black bib – perfect evening dress. A rare bullfinch and great-spotted woodpeckers drilling to enlarge an entrance-hole to a tit box were also enjoyed. We thought, with brief excitement, that the 'Sandylands' pheasant had returned, as we watched a handsome cock bird strutting across our frontages on 12 March, but it was a one-off.

In mid March Joyce Rawlings of Park Drive reported a white heron (little egret?) spending twenty minutes in a bush. It flew to a garden with a pond where, Joyce thought, it took some fish. Joyce previously had a tree creeper and is well blessed with common birds, including long-tailed tits.

Tina and Ken Booth of Sandylands Park were lucky enough to see two jays among the magpies at their feeding area, and once a raven. Of the corvines they have regular rooks, crows and jackdaws, as well as dunnock and wren. Mammalwise, four foxes together made an appearance in February, some brawling issuing among them.

Amphibianwise, Helen and Mick Pierce of Sandylands Park reported frogspawn on 7 March, later this year than the expected dates; whereas in 2012 the frogs were 'ruffling the waters' on 23 Feb.

Maybe spring really has sprung – Trevor found a tortoiseshell butterfly in the garden on 6 April.

Our thanks to all contributors.

Trevor and Hilary Clowes

Tel. 664358 email handt136@talktalk.net

Wistaston Memorial Hall and Community Centre Chairman's Report

The nineteen trustees on the Hall's Management Committee have worked tirelessly to manage and maintain the building which was officially opened on 29th March 1949 in memory of the sixteen men from Wistaston who perished during the Second World War.

Recently many improvements have been made to this 64 year old building, which is well-used by over forty organisations:

- Replacing the floor coverings with carpet tiles in the Holmes and Dudley rooms, costing £1,327.
- Completing the construction of large cupboards in the store room and decorating the area.
- Decorating the new internal doors in the main Armitage hall.
- Removing doors to the gents' urinal and replacing them with a sliding door.
- Installing a light sensor in the urinal.
- Re-staining all the external doors.
- Purchase of twenty green chairs for the Dudley room.

Plans are currently in hand to purchase new curtains and tracking for the stage area at a total cost of £3,173. Grants have gratefully been received from the Wistaston Parish Council, the Rope Parish Council and Mr Norman Bentley, Vice President, for this project.

Financial plans involve:

- An Emergency and Improvement Fund (currently totalling £43,670.18) which is designated to deal with any unexpected damage, deterioration or emergency within the property e.g.: floor in the main hall, central heating system or roof.
- A Rebuilding Fund (currently totalling £74,004.68) is a restricted 'ring fenced' reserve fund for the purpose of building an anticipated new hall in the future.
- The Hall was constructed from two surplus ex-army reinforced concrete buildings in 1949 - a recycled building which has lasted for over sixty years. Expert advice in 1999 was that the building could become uneconomic to maintain beyond a further twenty years.

Three events are planned for 2013:

- **Thursday 18th July - Coffee Morning** at 14 Westfield Drive, Wistaston (10am to 12 noon). Bring and buy stalls to include bric-a-brac, books, toys, cakes etc. Admission £1 (includes light refreshments). There will be a raffle. All proceeds for Wistaston Memorial Hall funds. For further information please contact Glenys White, Tel. 01270 661484.
- **Saturday 7th September** - our annual **Duck Race and Children's Model Boat Race** at the Joey the Swan recreation ground. You are invited to join the activities from 1pm. Stalls open and duck tickets on sale. Children can make preparations for their boats with two sections:
 - i) Best designed boat - 3 prizes
 - ii) The Boat Race - 3 prizes

The three prizes for the duck race are £100, £50 and £25 - what quacking rewards!

- **Sunday 10th November** - The Hall's **Remembrance Service** starting at 3pm, during which one of the WW2 heroes from Wistaston will be remembered - **Driver Robert Walker Hilton**, Royal Corps of Signals, who died on 8th September 1941, aged 25 years. He was the son of Mrs Hilton and the stepson of Mr AH Bricker formerly of the Earl of Crewe hostelry, Nantwich Road, Crewe (recently demolished). He was the husband of Elsie Hilton of Lewis Street, Crewe. He is buried in the Crewe Coppenhall Cemetery after suffering in a fatal road accident while carrying out military training in southern England. More information on him would be welcome.

It can thus be seen that the nineteen trustees on the Management Committee of the Wistaston Memorial Hall and Community Centre are a dedicated, enthusiastic and hard-working team who have overseen the management of this 64 year old building to the best of their abilities, to ensure that the memory of sixteen Wistonians who perished in WW2 is not forgotten.

John White, Chairman
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Members of Wistaston Young Drama Group in rehearsals

Wistaston Young Drama Group

Rehearsals are well underway for the Annual Showcase due to be performed at Audley theatre on 11th May 2013.

Members aged between 6 - 11 will perform *Hansel and Grethal*, a tale given a modern twist. The

children have helped write the play which has been facilitated by Hayley Lindley.

The picture shows Group 2 in rehearsal for a comedy murder mystery, which the members have written, facilitated by Alex Craig Colcombe.

The senior group will present *The Audition*, directed by Michaela Warrilow which explores attitudes and prejudices of young people in the entertainment industry.

We provide a fun and safe environment with coaching by professionally trained drama leaders. Lessons include creative movement, structured improvisation, drama games, language development and voice coaching which aims to build confidence, improve concentration and creativity.

Why not give us a try? Classes are held in the Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston on Saturdays from 10.30am to 12.45pm and are £6.00 per week.

Free taster sessions are available for new members .

For further information regarding the classes contact Margaret 01270 668233 or Judy 01270 650341, or see our website

www.wistastonyoungdramagroup.weebly.com

Little Stars and Rising Stars at Shavington

This past year has seen another successful time for both our Little Stars Preschool and Rising Stars Out of hours. Building a giant dragon for Chinese New Year, pancake races, and sport and dance companies coming in to teach the children were just some of the activities enjoyed this last year.

We are proud that we achieved outstanding in our last Ofsted report and the work of the team continues to ensure that the highest standard of care and stimulating play experience is provided for the children.

We have fund raising events throughout the year for not only our Little Stars and Rising Stars but also a chosen charity nominated by our committee. We advertise our fundraising events throughout the year and we are grateful to everyone who supports these events.

Such is the popularity of our Little Stars Pre School that we are already taking bookings for **2014** so we would ask that if you are planning a Pre School place for your child at Shavington then please contact us as soon as possible.

Our Rising Stars Out of School Club offers excellent breakfast and after school care at very competitive prices. The dedicated team provide a wide and exciting range of activity sessions for children between the ages of 4 and 11.

Last summer our Rising Stars ran a very successful Holiday Club and we have now finalised the dates for our summer 2013 Holiday Club .These are weeks commencing the 5th 12th and 19th of August.

The club is run at very competitive rates and the team are busy putting the finishing touches to the programme. All of the weeks are going to be full with exciting and fun activities including –At the Zoo, Space and Art week. We are planning giant art sculptures; bake offs; sporting activities and treasure hunts.

So please don't delay get booking today.

If you would like further information about Little Stars or Rising Stars or would like a booking form for the Summer Holiday club then please call 01270 650015 and ask for Becky Perry.

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French Chic Comes To South Cheshire

French Furniture UK are proud to announce the opening of their new showroom at 225 Nantwich Road, Crewe and invite you along to see a wonderful selection of interesting and unusual furniture pieces on display.

The owner, Marta Szajewska, started her interest in sourcing classical antique, vintage and good quality reproduction furniture from French auction houses, provincial country markets and suppliers across Europe many years ago. She eventually had three showrooms in her home county before moving with her family to Cheshire in 2010.

She is delighted to be open for business in the UK providing original furniture for clients looking to embrace the chic French and European styles in their own home, as seen in many designer interior design magazines, at very sensible prices.

As well as pieces in a wide selection of woods and veneers she also has a selection of unfinished items just waiting for you to create your own bespoke 'shabby chic' piece. Quite a nice little project for anyone restyling their home this summer.

Marta is also happy to take orders for other pieces not on show if you bring along a photograph of what you have in mind and can leave a deposit with her.

Her showroom is open every day except Sundays and she can be contacted on 01270 219987 for telephone enquiries. Website online ordering will follow soon.

Pop along and enjoy a cup of fresh French coffee with her. Some parking at rear of the showroom.

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Elim New Life Community Church

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The Wistaston Singers

Jonathan White sent us this account of the Wistaston Singers when on Saturday 11th May 2013 they performed an evening concert in front of eighty people at Bakewell Methodist Church.

Phil Houghton was the Musical Director and Jane Hale the accompanist. The Singers provided a varied programme incorporating amongst others works by Gershwin, Schonberg, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Parry, Lloyd Webber, Gilbert and Sullivan, Rutter and finishing with Hughes Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah.

The soloists were Chris White (ukulele), Jane Hale (piano) and Phil Houghton (organ).

The Wistaston Singers were originally formed by members of the choir at St Mary's Parish Church Wistaston in May 2000 and now numbers over forty members singing four-part harmony music. The choir perform a varied choice of music ranging from choral church music and anthems, Gilbert and Sullivan items, music from the shows. New members are welcome and further details may be obtained from Choir Secretary Jill Oakes, Tel: 01270 662940 and email: jillandjohnoakes@uwclub.net

Jill advises us that on Saturday 13 July at 3pm the Wistaston Singers will be singing at a Strawberry tea concert in St. Stephen's Methodist Church, Gainsborough Road, Crewe. Everyone is invited to come along to listen to the choir and enjoy the strawberries.

Tickets are available from choir members or contact Jill Oakes, as above.

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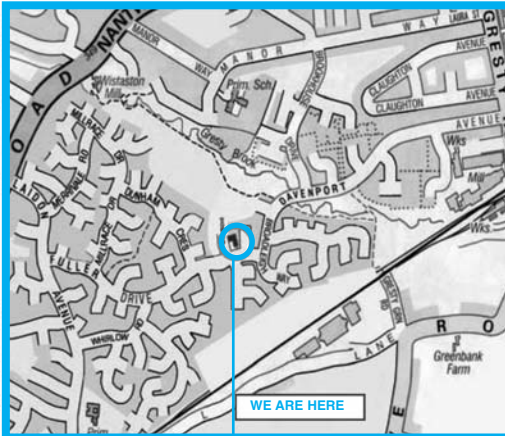


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