

Spring is on its way! With thanks to Jonathan White for photographs on the front and back covers.

SPRING 'ROUNDABOUT'

2021 ISSUE 161

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A Wistaston Community Council Publication Circulation 4300

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EDITORIAL FOR SPRING 2021

Hoping everyone is looking forward to Spring when the situation might have improved with lockdown lifted and the vaccine situation nearing completion. With very many thanks to everyone for the continued splendid support you give to Roundabout even in these very straitened times in whatever capacity, for without your contributions and advertisements it would not exist! **Please send in your articles, photographs etc. for our Summer edition, due out in early June by 15 April.**

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

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

Phone Call to the Editor - John Dargan of Wistaston looks back fondly to his childhood when he enjoyed the company of his neighbour's rough colley dog Shep who would eat anything but really preferred his mother's good meaty meals. John is looking to get a colley dog – it would encourage him to exercise more. Can anyone help? Phone me on 569126 and I will contact John.

Dates for your Diary - 2021



We do hope that some of our events might come about this year:

Saturday 19 June	-	Village Fete
Saturday 21 August	-	Flower and Produce Show, Church Hall.
Saturday 4 (11) Sept.	-	Model Boat and Duck Race
Saturday 6 November	-	Firework Display
Sunday 14 November	-	Service of Remembrance 3pm
Friday 3 December	-	Christmas Concert in the Church Hall

For really up-to-date information of what is happening in Wistaston check on our website and Facebook page - you will find everything there! We really don't know what we'll be allowed to do as the year progresses but we'll try to do something for our events so watch this space!

Very sad news: Just as we were going to press we were given some very sad news that Roger Woodward had passed away after a short illness. Roger was an invaluable member of the community - Wistonian of the Year; Britain and Wistaston in Bloom, stalwart of the Flower and Produce Show, distributor for Roundabout magazines - he will be very greatly missed. We hope to write more later. We send Roger's family our heartfelt sympathy at this time.

Malcolm Bellis starts us off in pursuit of :

The Rockwood/Dog Inn, Church Lane

The Dog was a black and white alehouse which stood opposite 61 Church Lane.

There is some confusion between the two names, see title. The Rockwood was reputedly named after a well-known greyhound. It is possible that The Dog was a nickname - we know that the Swan Inn in Victoria Street was always referred to as the Big Duck and the Edgerton Arms in Minshull New Road as the Blazer - so there is some credence to this view.



On the Bryant map of 1831 the building is marked as The Rockwood. Dr A J Macgregor in *The Alehouses and Alehouse Keepers of Cheshire 1692-1829* (published 1992) lists the succession of licensees as John Profit (1765-1817); John Dale (1818-1828). (Licensee not known although the property was still listed as an alehouse in 1839). In 1850 John Fisher is listed as victualler and shopkeeper of the Rockwood which was changed in 1860 to victualler. William Powell (1864) was listed as proprietor of the Dog Inn.

Ted Richardson gives us details here of the barrels used at the time and their contents.

The ale would have been delivered in a wagon drawn by two dray horses trained to stand and wait whilst the delivery was completed. Ale barrels came in different sizes, hogshead (54 gal), barrel (36 gal), kilderkin (18 gal), firkin (9 gal) and pin (4.5 gal). It is considered that the licensees would have purchased barrels or kilderkins depending on sales. A barrel would have been dropped from the dray-wagon onto a stuffed bag and rolled on its side to the desired location. A brass tap would have been hammered through a soft bung in the end of the barrel ready for serving. The end quarters of each barrel were rounded to enable them to be ‘rocked’ vertical should that be required.

The ale sold would have been unlike today’s brews and would have probably comprised brown ale, porter or stout. Remnants of the yeast used in the brewing process would have remained in the drink thus giving rise to the saying that beer was a healthy drink particularly when compared with the then state of some drinking water!

Find out in the next issue of the subsequent fate of the Dog

A really interesting report from the inside; school during lockdown!



Lockdown Report by pupils of Wistaston Church Lane Academy

We are currently in Covid-19 lockdown, which started in January 2021. During lockdown, we have been at school, although most of our friends have not. We feel lucky to be at school because if we don't get the work, our teachers are here to help or to repeat it. Both of our classes are in the same classroom and we are in a smaller group. Our playground is split into sections for each group. Covid-19 is a major virus, so it means we have to social distance in school and out. The teachers wear their masks in the corridors and outside and they make sure nobody is going into the wrong parts of the playground.

We also have to sanitise our hands a lot, just to make sure we don't spread any germs. Children are able to come into school as long as their parents are key workers or for other reasons. If they don't need to come into school however, they will do online learning. This has included Zoom lessons where they can ask questions and the teachers will give them help. The teachers also read a class book in reading lessons. The children who are in school will also participate in the Zoom lessons with another adult. It has felt weird being in school because it's quieter and there haven't been many people, but we have mostly felt excited to come into school every day. We can't wait until all our friends can come back and join us!

By *Megan and George* (Y5)

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Wistaston Parish Councillor Contact Information

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

Diane Houston 8 Park Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EW. 07720 293704
cllr.diane.houston@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Thomas Kilkenny 15 Park Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EN 01270 650045
cllr.thomas.kilkenny@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

David Lucas 23 Rectory Close, Wistaston, CW2 8HG 01270 664916
cllr.david.lucas@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Derrick Millington 9 Chesterton Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8EA 01270 664471
cllr.derrick.millington@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Jay Revell 44 Lear Drive, Wistaston, CW2 8DS
cllr.jay.revell@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Bob Squirrel 6 Beaumont Close, Wistaston, CW2 8BU 01270 569803
cllr.bob.squirrel@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

WISTASTON GREEN WARD (Five Councillors – 3 Vacancies)

Ryan Moore 36 Thirlmere Road, Wistaston, CW2 8AQ
cllr.ryan.moore@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

John Scott 28 Davenham Crescent, Crewe. CW2 7RZ 07890 815941
cllr.john.scott@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

WELLS GREEN WARD (Three Councillors – 1 Vacancy)

John Moore (Chairman) 50 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 6QH 01270 661924
cllr.john.moore@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Graham Roberts 29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston CW2 6QA 01270 568521
cllr.graham.roberts@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Kerri Condliffe 20 Wybunbury Road, Wiillaston. CW5 7JF 07871 605483
clerk@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk



Following a year of lock down and restrictions, we hope that you are all safe and well. Hopefully the vaccine programme is well on the way and we can hope to welcome all of our usual groups back to 'The Brittles'. If things allow the Tennis Courts will be open from Easter again and the usual arrangement with regards to accessing the courts will resume. Our outside facilities have proved to be very popular during these difficult times and it has been great to see them being used to their full potential, so if you are interested in hiring a room/s, The MUGA, Tennis Courts, Football Pitch then please call our booking line on 07758 302647 for more information.

Mrs Jane Christelow
Clerk, Treasurer & Booking Secretary
Wistaston Sports and Leisure Association

Wistaston Parish Council **Chairman's Report**

1. Clerk to Council

I'm pleased to announce the appointment of our new clerk Kerri Condliffe. Kerri's starting date was the 1st February and contact details can be found on the Parish Council's website. There will be a period of overlap with our previous clerk Andrea Cross to ensure a smooth handover of duties.

2. Budgets

Our review for the coming financial year 2021/2022 was approved by your council in January and submitted to Cheshire East Council (CEC). Limiting some of our future projects has enabled us to contain our budget with no increase in council tax payments based on a band D property.

3. Council Projects

The first item of our long standing projects the playground light has now been installed. The high visibility is expected to act as a deterrent and reduce the high level of vandalism and anti social behaviour. Our PCSO has been informed to help monitor night time activities.

Our Speed unit posts to be sited in Broughton Lane are still awaiting a firm installation date. Speeding is still a regular reported concern and we have requested more spot checks from our PCSO.

Our speedwatch team are not yet operating owing to Covid restrictions.

4. Footpath - Broughton Lane to Woodside Lane

For a number of years we have requested CEC to register this public right of way which has become a hazard to users owing to its poor condition. After a further discussion with the support of our CEC Councillor M. Simon agreement has been reached to register the pathway. We are awaiting details to our request for urgent repairs.

5. Litter and dog waste bags.

We have seen significant increases particularly in our recreation areas during the past year. The latest sample collection reported from our litter teams are, large green bags 28, face masks 42, dog bags 42, and Snap bags 24. In addition our Park Ranger has to devote more time in collecting of dog bags. Last weekend collection details show 117 were collected. Discarded dog waste is a serious concern owing to the risk to others.

Owners are requested to place waste bags in any red or black bins or take this home. Volunteers would be welcome to assist in collection of dog bags.

6. Future meetings

These are to continue on the video conference zoom platform until further notice; details to join are on notice boards and our Parish website.

The next meetings are March 18th, April 15th and May 20th at 7.30pm.

7. Councillors

With the loss of a councillor vacancies are available in each ward. Interested? Please contact our clerk.

Cllr. J Moore - Chairman

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Lost a loved one? What is your action plan

Heather Lally, Associate Solicitor and Estate and Trust Practitioner at Bowcock Cuerden LLP explores the first steps to take when dealing with a bereavement.

When there are so many things to do and think about, on top of grieving for your loved one, a useful starting point may be to use the following checklist:

1) **Obtain the Medical Certificate**

This is usually obtained from the hospital / Doctor.

2) **Register the Death and obtain a couple of death certificates.**

The number of death certificates you need will vary depending on whether you are instructing a Solicitor to administer the estate. In such cases, a Solicitor can produce a Death Verification form which is widely accepted by most organisations, avoiding the need to pay for additional Death Certificates at the outset. Most Registry offices are able to take the registration details by telephone during the pandemic.

3) **Check if there is a Will – If so who holds the original Will?**

If a Will has been made, this is the document that will confirm who are the Executors and Trustees, they will be the people who are entitled to deal with the estate. If a Will cannot be found, it is worth making enquiries with local Solicitors and banks as to whether they hold a Will. A search can also be made for a Will using Certainty National Will Register for a small fee. If you are instructing Solicitors, check with them first, some Solicitors Firms have an account with Certainty, meaning that they can do a search at no cost to you. The Will may contain funeral wishes. If there is no Will, rules called the Intestacy Rules govern who can deal with the estate administration and who benefits from the estate. This is not always as straight forward as you may think – consult a Solicitor to check the rules as to who can deal with the estate and who benefits.

4) **Funeral Arrangement**

When you have checked the position in 3 above, if you are the person able to deal with the estate, you can start to make funeral arrangements. This can lead to problems and disputes later down the line, if you are not the person entitled to deal with the estate. Check if there was a funeral plan taken out, if so this is likely to pay for the majority of the funeral, you may have to contribute towards the initial expenses such as the Church / crematorium and other fees that the funeral directors have to pay out, to be refunded to you from the estate in due course. If not, once you have a funeral account, if there is sufficient cash in a bank account, banks will often discharge the funeral account. Often there is a discount if the account is paid promptly.

5) **Take Advice**

Whether there is a Will in place or not, even if the estate looks simple, please take initial advice. Most Solicitors will offer a no obligation first meeting to discuss the estate. If the estate is simple and you can deal with matters yourself, the Solicitor will tell you so. The Solicitor is likely to also discuss aspects of dealing with an estate that you might not have known about or thought about. If you do need any legal assistance going forward then that assistance can be tailored according to your needs. Remember each individual is different and therefore each estate is different. You could find yourself faced with legal claims made against you personally, if you do not deal with an estate administration correctly.

For more information on estate administration, Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney or Court of Protection matters, please contact Heather Lally on 01270 611106 or email hlally@bowcockcuerden.co.uk

This article is not intended to be comprehensive or to provide specific legal advice. It should not be relied upon in the absence of specific advice given in relation to particular circumstances.

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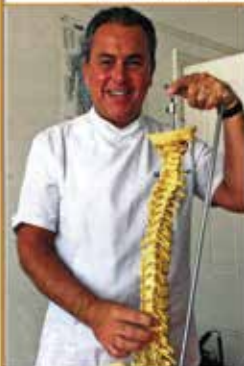
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Wistaston Village Cricket Club

(Founded 1980)

At the time of compiling this latest editorial (in early February), hopefully the **2021** cricket season is barely three months away. As with so many other cricket clubs within Cheshire, **Wistaston Village Cricket Club** are sincerely hoping that the forthcoming season will be easier to compete in than **2020**. Despite Covid, matches were fulfilled and players were never in short supply which in instances meant that some missed out on a Saturday fixture, such was the enthusiasm and commitment by our members, a large thank you to you all. Meanwhile necessary preparations have been carried out at 'The Brittles', to ensure that perfect wickets and outfield are in place again to enable the cricket club to enjoy another successful season from April to September. It is a known fact that visiting teams over past seasons look forward to playing at 'The Brittles' because of our facilities, which is extremely encouraging to know.

The club's chairman reported that during **2020**, within the club, as mentioned above, the enthusiasm among players was present with senior and junior players availability. Unfortunately during **2020**, our ladies team '**The Swans**' had struggled with player availability. Additional players are required for **2021** and initiatives are in place to canvas local schools. Remember any newcomer to the club will be warmly welcomed also those who are reading this editorial and who may feel that they would like to play cricket with our club should contact in the first instance **Kevin Jobbins:- 01270 483494**. We, as a club, would readily welcome you and would ensure that the facilities are available to encourage you to join us, and enjoy your cricket.

Ist Team Captain's Report: A very good start to a delayed season, setting the pace at the top of the league for the first half of the season before falling away slightly towards the end. Batting in particular was a strong point within the team.

2nd Team Captain's Report: Team had a tough time with games but hopefully **2021** will be a more productive playing season.

3rd Team Captain's report: In a shortened season due to Covid 19, the side won their first three games. It was pleasing to see young players coming through. Best thing is to keep bringing them through which would ultimately be good for the team

These brief reports were taken from our AGM held in January. For the junior teams, the cricket club have teams entered in both **Mid-week and Week-end leagues in 2021**.

Good progress has been made throughout **2020** with several players from the Under 15's stepping up to senior cricket and thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Election of Officers 2021**

Chairman : Andy Whitehurst. Vice-Chairman: Keith Thornhill.

Secretary: Tristan King. Treasurer: John Avery/Fiona Nobrega *. Club Welfare Officer: Tanith Allwood. Junior Manager: Tanith Allwood.

Ground Rep: Dean Titus. Stone & District League Rep: Mark Bourne. UKFast League Rep: Steve Collins. Junior League Rep: T.B.C. Mid-week League Rep: President: R.Titus. Groundsman: Kevin

Jobbins. 1st XI Capt: Ryan Briddon. 2nd XI Capt: Andy Whitehead. Sunday XI Capt: Josh Adams

Mid-week XI Capt: T.B.C. Ladies XI Capt: T.B.C. Ladies Manager: Zoe Davies. Ladies Coach:

Steve Lawson. Under 9's Manager: Keith Thornhill. Under 11's Manager: Kevin Jobbins.

Under 13's Manager: Tanith Allwood. Press: John Avery. General Member: David Gregg.

*** gradual handover due to Covid 19. To be completed when practical environment permits.**

**** Information shown above taken from minutes from January AGM. Apologies for any minor errors that may arise. (J.A.)**

Practice evenings for 2021: For future 2021 practice evenings please contact Kevin or Pauline Jobbins 01270483494.

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

Interested in joining W.V.C.C? Please contact Kevin Jobbins: - 01270484494 in the first instance.

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

Wistaston Conservation Group

Hello again to all in our community.

Here is what we have been doing in the last few weeks of 2020.

Tree Planting. We have planted more than 200 tree saplings taken from our on-site nursery to six new and existing clearings. These native varieties of trees include oak, beech and field maple sourced originally from the Woodland Trust and also some donated by Wistaston residents, to whom we extend our grateful thanks.



All the trees seem to have taken well to their new habitats in and around the 'Joey' area and we will continue to monitor them especially if the weather becomes drier in the summer months.

Hawthorn Hedge. Part of the hawthorn hedge on Church Lane destroyed by a car last year and replaced has had to be replanted as some of the 'whips' had failed to 'take' partly due to the spell of hot weather last summer. The daffodils and bluebells are starting to appear, always a welcome sign of the approaching spring.

Keeping the Footpaths in Good Shape. Other work undertaken has been the pruning of intrusive tree branches and the cutting back of the usual brambles which although providing a necessary food source for wildlife have to be kept in check when they threaten to swamp our pathways and planted areas. The cuttings from this work are always put to a useful purpose by providing 'windrows' (artificial hedgerows) for wildlife shelter.

Here it might be appropriate to mention the good work done by our parish Park Ranger who has been busy clearing the field drainage system as far as he is able, using rods and a spade. For a long time this network of field drainage pipes and ditches, some possibly dating back to late medieval times, had been neglected, except in the vicinity of the football pitches where drainage was improved when these were laid out.

As and when restrictions allow our group will assist in clearing drains, opening up blocked ditches after the autumn leaf fall and draining pools of water that have formed on some of the footpaths making it a more pleasant experience to walk and enjoy our little slice of countryside.

The Tree Count. Our group's project manager has entered our new tree count for Wistaston on the BBC 'Countryfile' interactive map. This exciting BBC project lasts for two years with the aim of encouraging tree planting in order to help in combating climate change that will preserve wildlife and add to our own well-being. The Woodland Trust, together with support from 'Countryfile' aim to boost national tree cover from 13% at present to 19% by 2050. A worthwhile undertaking with many potential benefits for future times.

Feeding the Birds. Thanks should be given to those members of the public who have taken the trouble to put seed out for the birds in and around 'Joey'. This supplements the bird feeding stations provided by our project manager and our late and much missed Chairman, John Wood.



It is appropriate to mention here that one of our project manager's interests is ornithology and he has published his 'List of Birds Recorded in Wistaston in 2020' on our website, details of access to which is shown further on in this article.

Can we again thank both the Community Council and the Parish Council for their valuable and welcome support for our endeavours.

How to contact us

Lastly, if anyone has any conservation issues or suggestions they would like to discuss with us, we always have a break for coffee when we are working (Covid rules permitting) at about 11am on Mondays. Our website will show where we will be and anyone is welcome to visit us and have a drink of coffee. Our contact details if we are not working, are also on the website that may be accessed by putting '**Wistaston Conservation Group**' in your search engine.



A socially-distanced coffee break.

Please be aware that the photo of our coffee break was taken before the latest Covid related restrictions were put in place.

Stay safe everyone!!

The 2020 Laurie Twiss Award

Overleaf we show our winners and their entries for the 2020 Laurie Twiss Award. There is Poppy Tomkinson who won the Trophy with her lovely account of life in lock down whilst Maria Price who is a twice holder of the Trophy gave us a delightful story of a typically persistent squirrel with lots of determination and Edward who took us into the jungle where he brilliantly outwitted the wily tiger. Well done everyone; in the next edition we hope to print Lukas and Chloe's entries.

Now it's your turn!

The Laurie Twiss Award 2021 - Calling Wistaston's budding writers!

Write a story or article in under 200 words. This competition is open to young people in our area aged from 9 - 16.

The winner will be able to keep for one year the Laurie Twiss Trophy plus an additional prize. It's your choice of material – real or imaginary, fact or fiction, so do get into writing mode now. Please include the following information with your entry: Name and address, Telephone number, Age, school attended and title of story.

Entries should be submitted by 31 July 2021 to one of the following:

Barbara Brereton, 11 Barnwell Close

Greg Brereton, 7 College Fields

Eileen Bamber, 31 Broughton Lane

Good Luck with your writing!

Wells Green Methodist Church

At Wells Green Methodist Church we continue to have services by Phone Conference Service on PowWowNow by phone or internet.

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If there are any questions I can be contacted on 01270 663236

Please come and join us you will be very welcome.

Experiences in Lockdown by Poppy Tomkinson

Last Summer Poppy was a pupil at Wistaston Church Lane Academy.

Looking back, if I was told four months ago that Friday 20th March 2020 would be the last day I was in the WCLA school building as a Year 5 pupil I would have thought that person was telling me fibs, but now I realise they were telling the truth all along.

Lockdown began rather strangely because nothing was like it normally would be. In every advert break on the television people were told to stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives. The Prime Minister Boris Johnson, his government and their advisers were giving everybody daily Coronavirus updates about the huge numbers of people who were ill, critically ill in hospital or had sadly lost their lives because of the invisible infection that had arrived on our doorsteps uninvited.

People were emptying supermarket shelves of pasta and toilet rolls in a panic buy situation because how else were they going to survive at home. Children's desks at school were empty as their kitchen tables had now taken their place and turned into where they would learn. One hour daily walks were only allowed in order to protect people and gardens had now become children's safe playgrounds.

The first few weeks dealing with the new changes, being taught by my mum instead of my teacher and not being able to visit my close friends and family was hard to get used to especially when my 10th birthday was days away. Instead of going to the places I had been looking forward to celebrating my birthday at I received socially distanced gifts left on my doorstep and video calls from family wishing me a good day. A few weeks later into lockdown I discovered the unknown Zoom app and how I could carry on my much missed hobbies. It led me to dance lessons in a new studio 'my lounge', completing tap on an old wardrobe door and ballet supported by a chair instead of 'the barre,' and a world record breaking attempt of the most tappers completing a routine online. Also I was able to continue my regular clarinet lessons and was pleased I could still learn new pieces of music as time went on.

Rainbows became a sign of hope and started to appear in people's windows to show their support for the hard working key workers and NHS staff. It was lovely to see how on Thursday nights people would come outside to clap for the NHS staff who carried on their job putting themselves at risk on the frontline through the pandemic.

Month after month with the new normal beginning and extremely long hair things have started to get back to normal. Bubbles of help and safety have started to be created and seeing close family and friends has started once again. Having to wear masks to keep you safe is now very trendy and don't forget regularly washing your hands and keeping a social distance will hopefully keep you safe as this strange unknown year continues as a vaccine is desperately being looked for.



**A Squirrel's Mission : Maria Price.
Malbank**

The young squirrel darted along the fence as though it was an easy path. Determinedly, he launched himself off the wooden fence, barely missing the Holly bush. The mission began. Groups of sparrows whispered in the trees in awe of the squirrel's agile acrobatic skills.

As he scampered cautiously across the immaculate lawn, three confused pigeons and one startled robin made a quick exit. Proudly, the squirrel marched up to the bottom of the pole of the bird feeder. He greeted his opponent with a stern glare. Making constant eye contact with the feeder (his opponent) , the young squirrel darted up the pole. Water spilled out of one of the dishes as he climbed the great height of the bird feeder. He reached the top with confidence, but his mission was not over yet.

With a great leap he pounced on the fat balls, clinging with all his strength. His tail and his back legs clung to the pole, stretching. He scooped out some food from the mesh container and held it tightly in his paws. With one swift leap the young squirrel returned to the fence to eat his meal.

His mission was complete.



**Tiger in the Woods - Edward Matthews.
Berkeley**

One day the boy was strolling in the woods, when suddenly

'Roar!' A tiger leapt snarling and prowling.
'I'm going to eat you' spat the tiger.

'Me? No, No, No!' explained the boy 'boy on his own is horrible; you should get some daisies and sticks'. The tiger growled and went to fetch the ingredients. The boy sighed. 'Here' grunted the tiger. The tiger opened his mouth and

'Stop' shouted the boy 'don't you know? You of course need a handful of grass and a sprinkle of mud.' So the tiger sighed and slunk off. Minutes later, just as the tiger was about to tuck in

'Stop!' bellowed the boy 'I could get away so easily, get some rope and make a trap!'
The tiger huffed. Eventually it was done.
The tiger's fangs came nearer.

'Wait!' Look over there' exclaimed the boy. As the tiger did, the boy ran. The tiger turned and the trap sprang and whoosh! The tiger was in the trap.
The boy shouted in triumph 'SERVES YOU RIGHT!' And ran off home.



Wistaston Scouts request plastic bottle ends for new 2021 Remembrance Day poppy display

For the past two years the Wistaston Scout Group have displayed their impressive 24ft long Remembrance Day poppy cascade outside their Scout Centre in 2019 and Wistaston Memorial Hall in 2020. The cascade was made of dozens of plastic bottle ends painted red to resemble poppies attached to steel wire mesh.



For November 2021, the Scout Group has an even more ambitious display planned for a new, yet to be announced, location in Wistaston and they would like help from the general public.

Please cut off the bases of any plastic bottles you may use over the coming months and place them in the plastic bottle end collection point on the Wistaston Memorial Hall car park on Church Lane in Wistaston. The bottle ends will be painted red, so any colour is suitable. Where possible, please just deposit the bottle ends.



Remembrance Sunday Services commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. This year also includes the 80th anniversary of the surprise aerial attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu Island, Hawaii, by the Japanese that precipitated the entry of the United States into World War II.

Wistaston Scout Group started in 1958 and currently has 130 young people and 30 leaders & helpers. The Scout Centre is located in Bluebell Wood, off Elm Drive, Wistaston. For further information please visit: <http://wistastonscoutgroup.org.uk/>

Wistaston Memorial Hall was built over seventy years ago in memory of the sixteen men from Wistaston who lost their lives in the Second World War. For further information please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/wistastonmemorialhall>

John Bennett, Group Scout Leader - Wistaston Scout Group (35th South West Cheshire), said: "Following the success of the last two displays we are looking to create something bigger for 2021. We will be very grateful for any bottle ends that the people of Wistaston can donate."

Many thanks to Jonathan White for the text and photographs.



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NATURE ARTICLE

We have been noticing fewer small birds about this last year, so when a neighbour reported repeated visits of a sparrowhawk to his garden we considered this the most likely reason for diminishing interest in our own premises. There were even fewer than usual of our regulars – goldfinches – with often just singles of blue, great and coal tits despite no cessation in feeding them. The arrival of colder weather in December did bring an increase in numbers and varieties, but no rarities. A similar decrease in numbers is evident from the first half of the winter garden bird survey running between October and January, organised by SECOS (South-east Cheshire Ornithological Society), and to which we contribute, so it's not only Wistaston that is suffering. A stock dove did return to us on New Year's Day, its modest pinks and greens setting it apart from other pigeons. The raucous squealing of gulls drifting inland for the winter alerts us to the increasing number of scraps slung out after the festive period, and it is a blessing that our viruses do not affect the plantlife as even before Christmas the bulbs were shooting green in gardens and hedgebanks.

On 7 November a sleek fox crossed front lawns in our section of 'Sandylands', with something in its jaws, but one glance at us through the window and off (who wouldn't be?) We marvel at the way a little mouse has survived for months, toing and froing between our back-garden hedge and bird-table – a distance of only a few yards, but open enough for mouse to be vulnerable to predators. Mouse must be feeding on seed falling from table; perhaps its longevity reflecting a reduction in visiting cats.

Herewith a few notes selected from Wistaston Conservation Group's 2020 report kindly forwarded by David O'Hara. The more unusual wildfowl wigeon and teal visited flooded fields, and, along with familiar coot and moorhen, other water birds along the streams were little egret, heron, kingfisher and grey wagtails, but we are not surprised that pied wagtails were scarce as they are seldom now noticed on our own gravelly pavements once so enjoyed by them. A barn owl was seen in Wistaston Green Road and a tawny heard in Broughton Lane. Of the woodland birds, common were great spotted woodpeckers, nuthatches and tree creepers, and of the two primarily summer migrants blackcap and garden warbler, blackcap was the more plentiful. A rare grasshopper warbler, which stayed around for five days, must be the highlight. Sadly, the drop in swallows, swifts and house martins was most likely the result of loss of

nesting sites.

Here's hoping our New Year's resolutions teach us more discipline. That's a different finale, isn't it!

Our thanks to all contributors.

Trevor and Hilary Clowes Tel. 664358 email handt136@talktalk.net

Crewe and Nantwich Rambling Club

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

There would also normally be [Thursday morning](#) walks, monthly in the winter, and [Thursday evening](#) fortnightly in the summer, both travelling by car. Option of a pub meal after the walk.

Unfortunately, our walks are currently suspended under the National Lockdown Rules. We hope to resume these once the restrictions enable us to do so though it is unlikely that the use of a coach or travelling out of the Cheshire East area will be allowed for some time yet. New members are welcome for the future - please contact Richard Farrall on [01270-624649](tel:01270-624649) or visit www.creweandnantwichramblingclub.org.uk.

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Litter Bugs!

Tilly and Marcus Wright
keeping Wistaston Tidy,
31/12/2021.

Thank you Tilly and Marcus for setting us such a good example. If we all did the same Wistaston would be an even better place in which to live.



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Wistaston Drama Academy
Drama for the Community

In line with the government guidelines we have had to suspend our drama group until such time it is safe to reopen.

Prior to the lockdown we were able to run some sessions. The photograph shows some of our members working on some improvisation work whilst maintaining a safe distance and learning how to interact with each other in a new way. They have been very creative working on these pieces and exploring the narrative. *Apologies from the editor here - I couldn't transfer the photo!*

As well as working on basic stagecraft, voice work and general performance we provide the young people with the opportunity to explore their creative skills and working as part of a team. Our sessions are fully interactive and great fun!

Are you interested in having fun with your friends whilst showing off your dramatic side? If so, then Wistaston Drama Academy would be delighted to meet you. We are always interested in welcoming young people from our community aged 7 onwards to be part of this long standing, award winning drama group.

We meet every Saturday morning from 10.30am to 12.45pm at Wistaston Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston CW2 8ER.

Due to the social distancing element still being in place we will be keeping our numbers to a maximum of 12 in each group.

So, don't delay, come and reserve your place in this vibrant, energetic, creative drama group!

Looking forward to meeting you soon.

For more information :

www.wistastonyoungdramagroup.weebly.com

email: wydg@hotmail.co.uk or contact Judy 07506022709

Roundabout Deliverers

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With many thanks to Jonathan White for braving the varying elements over the winter to bring us these!



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Musical Injection from Wistaston

After a long career based in and around the motor industry one of our Villagers is making a difference in a new direction. **Jef Sparkes** has lived in Wistaston for most of his life and has a passion for Brass bands; for the last 21 years he has been the Musical Director for one of our areas top flight bands known at first as Crewe Co-op Band. Since Jef took over the band they have changed their name along with sponsor a few times, Co-operative Funeral Care Band, TCTC Group Band and now for the last 12 months **Acceler8 Band**.

So with a busy career in Business Management and Musical Directorship Jef stepped back from work just as the first Covid lock down took over in early 2020, the band was forced to cease all concerts and eventually all rehearsals too! Although plenty has been going on for the Acceler8 Band virtually online including sending a Christmas concert to care homes in Cheshire and Staffordshire it's been a quiet time for Jef.

2021 brought a need to do something worthwhile! So Jef volunteered his time to assist with the Covid support effort but soon found himself making a huge change in his skill set.

During January Jef retrained with the help of Allied Pharmacies (Alsager Branch) to become a certified Vaccinator!

Working in Alsager with a small but great team of 6 people the Pharmacy has vaccinated over 4000 people in only a month but this week a halt in the process was made to celebrate Jef's 1000th Vaccination completed. After a small but entertaining presentation of a Cookie was made with 1000 written on the top it was back to work.

Who knows how long the vaccination roll out will take but Jef has signed up to see it through to the end, then what happens next remains to be seen, hopefully he'll be back in the bandroom soon too! **Jef.sparkes@acceler8band.com Facebook Acceler8 Band**





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But, although we may be in lockdown, our church fellowship is still very active **online** throughout the week on our facebook page:

 **NewLife Community Church**

We are live on **zoom** every Sunday morning for worship, and a message.

This meeting is live streamed on our  **YouTube** channel: **NewLife Crewe**

Our **weekly newsletter**, which outlines our programme of regular events, can be found on our website: **www.newlifecentre.co.uk**

If you need to talk, you can email us: **info@newlifecentre.co.uk** or contact me directly on **07713 840179**

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