

AUTUMN 'ROUNDABOUT'

2023 ISSUE 171

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk

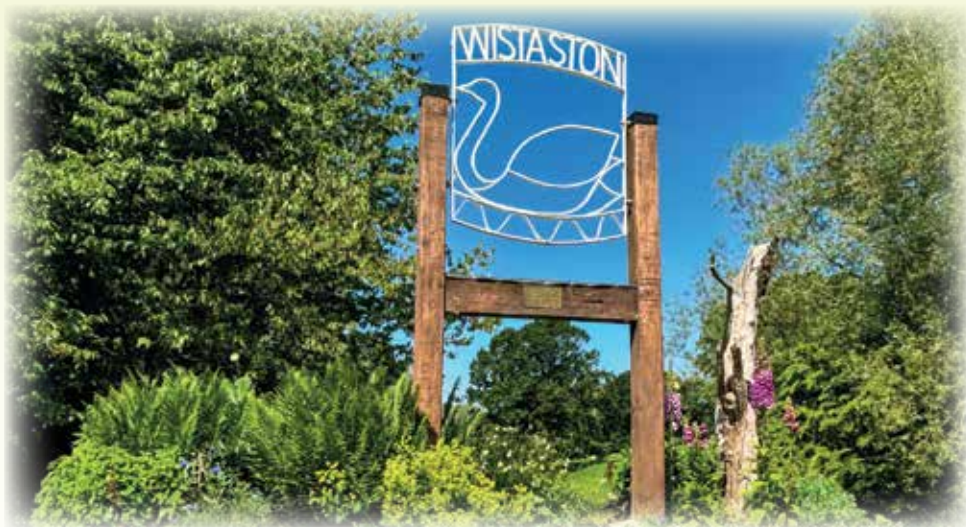
A Wistaston Community Council Publication Circulation 4500



THE MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE LIVING 'ROUNDABOUT' WISTASTON



**LOOK OUT FOR THE RESULTS OF WISTASTON'S JUDGING FOR BOTH NORTH-WEST IN BLOOM AND BRITAIN IN BLOOM.
THERE'S A LOT GOING FOR WISTASTON THIS YEAR!**



**COME TO JOEY THE SWAN FOR WISTASTON'S ANNUAL DUCK RACE ON
SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER - MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 9. WITH THANKS TO JONATHAN WHITE FOR THESE PHOTOS**



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EDITORIAL FOR AUTUMN 2023

Thank you so much to everyone for the continued splendid support you give to Roundabout in whatever capacity, for without your contributions and advertisements and all our wonderful deliverers, Roundabout would not and could not exist!

Please send in your articles, photographs etc. for our Winter edition due out in early December by the 15 October.

Eileen Bamber

31 Broughton Lane

01270 569126

eileen@bamberuk.com

Ian Gould 07971 649110

accounts.roundabout@wistastoncommunity.co.uk

Dates for your Diary in 2023



Saturday 9 September : Model Boat & Duck Race - Joey the Swan

Saturday 4 November : Fireworks - The Brittles - details later

Sunday 12 November : Remembrance Service 3pm Memorial Hall

Friday 8 December : Christmas Concert - Church Hall

Thank you to everyone who made our recent Fete so successful; thank you so much to Wistaston Church Lane Academy for allowing us to use their building and field, the Academy staff who helped us on the day, all our wonderful volunteers, our Rector and the staff on the field keeping everyone interested, our amazing stallholders, our superb cars in the motorcade, our lovely Rose Queen and everyone in her retinue. What an amazing line up!! That's not even mentioning our fantastic organisers who didn't sleep for a week!

For really up-to-date information of what is happening in Wistaston, please check on our website and Facebook page - you will find everything there!

We have an action packed autumn ahead of us. The Community Events Team are organising the Duck Race in September. There will be the Fireworks in November and the Christmas Concert in early December. They're all labour intensive so if you can help it would be great.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM JUDGES INSPECT WISTASTON

Britain in Bloom judges from The Royal Horticultural Society (<https://www.rhs.org.uk/>) visited Wistaston on 1st August to judge the village in the Town category of the Britain in Bloom 2023 UK Finals.



The two judges travelled from Huddersfield and Jersey and met the Chairman of Wistaston Parish Council John Moore, and members of the Wistaston in Bloom group and Wistaston Conservation Group at Wistaston Memorial Hall, prior to inspecting the village's gardens and flowerbeds and the Joey the Swan parkland area. The winners of each Britain in Bloom category will be announced at an awards ceremony in the autumn. Wistaston has scooped many accolades in previous years including a number of Gold awards.

Bill Heath, Secretary of Wistaston in Bloom, said that Members of the Bloom Group, Wistaston Conservation Group, Wistaston Parish Council, Wistaston Park Ranger Peter Baskerville, Crewe Road Nurseries, together with residents, all played their part in preparing the village for the judging. A representative from The Royal Horticultural Society congratulated the 44 community gardening groups who have secured a place in the 2023 Britain in Bloom UK Finals. He said that this year, groups will again be judged against criteria with the environment, community engagement and horticulture at its core.



Britain in Bloom is one of the most effective, and longest running environmental competitions in the United Kingdom and each year it grows in size and importance and involves more people, groups and organisations within the community. *Thank you to Jonathan White for narrative and photos.*

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Wistaston Parish Councillor **Contact Information**

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

Diane Houston c/o Mrs Kerri Wilcox (Parish Clerk) 07871 605483
cllr.diane.houston@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

WISTASTON GREEN WARD (Four Councillors – 4 Vacancies)

WELLS GREEN WARD (Three Councillors)

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

Graham Roberts 29 Berkeley Crescent, Wistaston, CW2 6QA 01270568521
cllr.graham.roberts@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Margaret Simon c/o Mrs Kerri Wilcox (Parish Clerk) 07851 511850
cllr.margaret.simon@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Kerri Wilcox 20 Wybunbury Road, Willaston, CW5 7JF 07871605483
clerk@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Wistaston Gardeners Society

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

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

For further information contact Pauline Hutchings on 01270 211674

Wistaston Parish Council **Chairman's Report**

1. Parish Council

I am pleased to report in response to the Summer issue note two applications have been received for Co-Option to your Council.

These will be discussed in the September meeting. Three vacancies remain. Interested? please contact our Clerk.

2. Best kept Village/Small Town competitions

Two recent visits by Regional and National judges took place in July and August. These were organised by Bill Heath leading the WIB team and meetings included our voluntary groups.

The Northwest judges' walkabout were complimentary of flower beds, absence of litter conservation work on Joey the Swan and the many village activities. Some criticism was made of the street conditions particularly weeds, unkempt verges, and street cleanliness. Judging would mark down their ratings for this.

For the National judges visit which is a first for our Parish efforts were made to have a street clean-up campaign.

With the help of residents, volunteers and ANSA for street sweeping a big improvement was achieved.

Thanks are expressed to all who helped make this a successful visit.

3. Litter and Dog bags Jan – Jul 2023

192 large bags of litter

90 Discarded dog bags

10 snap bags

4. Police Crime Statistics for Wistaston

The following statistics have been taken from the Cheshire Police website for the month of June but also include parts of Willaston and Woolstanwood.

Violence and sexual offences 25

Anti-social behaviour 9

Other theft 3

Public order 3

5. Future meetings

15th September 2023, 19th October 2023, 16th November 2023, 21st December 2023

Cllr J. Moore

Chairman



Wistaston Swans WI

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month (excl Aug)

7.30 pm at; The Brittles, Church Lane, Wistaston, CW2 8EZ

Visitors are always welcome. The WI is open to all women aged 18+

Message us for more info  **WISTASTONSWANS@GMAIL.COM**




 **FACEBOOK.COM/WISTASTONSWANSWI**  **INSTAGRAM.COM/WISTASTONSWANSWI**

You know that moment when you look at your toddler and wonder how did they grow so big and where has the time gone? Well, that's our 'new' Wistaston Swans WI for you.

We've just had our 2nd birthday party and are not just learning about the world around us from our amazing monthly meetings visiting speakers but also through our additional, member only, sub-groups. We're up and out walking, learning golf, having tennis coaching, exploring art and crafting, wild swimming, crown green bowling, playing darts, gardening, enjoying quizzes and book club. Meanwhile we're introducing our members to several of our local venues they might never have had the chance to explore before.

We've also had social day trips out to visit Liverpool, Shrewsbury, local gardens, theatres and cinemas along the way.

If you're a local woman looking to make new friends and try new things then come learn and grow with us. You never know what you'll discover next with the Swans WI.

And as for our monthly meetings, there's not a pot of jam, or Jerusalem, in sight!

WI Swans Membership is now just £34.50 which will cover you through till Feb 2024. Non-member visitors are welcome at £5 per visit.

Find us on facebook: Wistaston Swans WI (public page)



Wistaston Community
Council

MODEL BOAT & DUCK RACE

Saturday 9th September



Open to stall holders at 11am

Open to the public at 1pm

Model Boat race at 2.30pm

Duck race at 3.15pm

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk

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Wistaston Tennis Aces win Wimbledon!



George Raiswell and Charlie Robinson, from Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club, have won their Men's Doubles Finals competition at Wimbledon (<https://www.wimbledon.com/>)

The pairing won through to playing on the hallowed turf by winning both their 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon' FAST4 Tennis Area Finals and Regional Finals.

2023 is the first year that an Adults 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon' doubles competition has been introduced for Men and Women aged 19+ years.



The victories meant that on Wednesday 9 August 2023 George and Charlie entered The All England Lawn Tennis Club gates on Church Road in London SW19, to play in the 'Play Your Way to Wimbledon' National Finals on the grass practice courts at Aorangi Park.

George and Charlie got to use the Wimbledon courts and facilities usually reserved for professional players competing in The Championships, as well as receiving a personalised tour of the historic Grounds and Museum.

Competing in white match kit at SW19 the pairing played a round robin format against two other pairs to win their Group to battle to the Quarter finals, then Semifinals and through to the Final for a momentous inaugural Men's Doubles win on the iconic courts at the world famous venue.

Play Your Way to Wimbledon, powered by Vodafone, is the UK's largest individual mass participation tennis competition and is delivered by Vodafone in partnership with the LTA and The All England Lawn Tennis Club, forming part of the brand's ongoing commitment to support grassroots tennis in the UK, whilst encouraging more people to pick up a racket.

George and Charlie usually play their tennis at Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club on the two hard courts behind the Wistaston Memorial Hall & Community Centre on Church Lane in Wistaston. They both also play league tennis in the Slazenger South and Mid Cheshire Tennis League, <https://smctennis.co.uk/>



Thanks to Jonathan White

Wistaston Village Cricket Club

(Founded 1980)

By the time this latest editorial finds its way through your letterbox, the **2023** cricketing campaign would be coming to the end and begs the question where does the time go since my last editorial.

Our **First XI** competing in **The Cheshire Cricket League Division 3**, have at the time of compiling this latest editorial, completed just over half their cricketing programme and are holding a mid-table position having won **six** of their fixtures with another abandoned. The last three matches up to **8th July** have produced some really effective cricket and a continuance of this form could very well see them attain a final end of season position in the top three. Watch this space.

Special note:- It was a day of milestones in the fixture at home to **Glazebury (1st July)**, as **Oliver Botham** starred for the **1st team** with **150** as we posted **286-6**, **James Hogben** then taking **5 for 15** from **eight overs** as **Glazebury** were bowled out for **38** in reply.

Our **Second XI** competing in **The Cheshire Cricket League Division C (South/Central)** have had a harder season to contend with and at present are bottom of their division. From their opening twelve fixtures they have managed a single victory against **Prestbury CC** in late May. In fairness, they have contended in three fixtures in which they came very close to victory, together with having to concede two further fixtures. In their fixture against **Toft** at the beginning of July they failed by **two runs** to claim victory, a match in which **Keith Thornhill** starred with an unbeaten **107**.

Our ladies eleven '**The Swans**', competing in **Division 4 (West) of Women's Cricket League** have won **two** of their **five** opening fixtures and are currently **fourth** in their league. In the three fixtures that they lost the scores were extremely close and could have easily gone to '**The Swans**'. With a game in hand over other competitors, the season could easily see them finished in a strong position in their league. Availability within the team is good.

Our junior sides are competing in their respective leagues within **The South Cheshire Junior Cricket League**.

Under 9's : Playing in a league of **14 teams**, our **Under 9's** are conducting their campaign very well and at the time of this editorial they hold **8th position** in the league with **74 points** from their opening **twelve** fixtures.

Under 11's : Our **Under 11's** are enjoying a productive season contesting in a league containing **17 teams**. Currently they hold **5th position** having **won seven** of their fixtures and losing just **four**, with a further match abandoned and another victory gained when their opponents had conceded the fixture. Watch this space. Looking good.

Under 15's : The **Under 15's** have played **eleven fixtures** in their league and have accrued **43 Points**, from a playing record of winning three fixtures, losing seven and one match conceded.

Team Updates:- Numbers could be tight going in to **2024** playing season, but with additional recruitment we as a cricket club, should be able to run **Under 9's, 11's, 13's & 15/16's**. Now is an excellent time for young players to seize the opportunity of joining our club. You would be most welcome.

In May the cricket club held a fund raising event in the aid of **Mind**. The amount donated was so generous and a total of well over **£4000** was achieved. Due to the last editorial being submitted before the final donations had been made, it was not possible to include this information in the **Summer edition of Roundabout**.

Our cricket club held the second Wistaston C.C. Softball Festival on Sunday 2nd July at The Brittles. Eight teams including **Wistaston Village Cricket Club** attended, other teams included **Grappenhall Cricket Club, Wallasey Cricket Club, Aston Cricket Club and Oakmere Cricket Club.** The weather held and with the amazing help offered on the day by **Nicki Jarvis** and all those who assisted her, a successful event was achieved which was fantastic. Thank you one and all for your splendid assistance.

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.

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

The cricket club holds Bingo evenings every **third Friday** of each month at the **Wistaston pavilion lounge** to raise funds for the cricket club and a warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to join us. Following the summer break, bingo evenings will re-commence on **Friday 15th September 2023 at The Brittles.** For more details of our Bingo evenings please contact either **Kevin or Pauline Jobbins (483494).**

It would be good for all our ‘regulars’ who attend our Bingo evenings, to re-ignite their interest once again, after a break of three months since our last bingo evening. It would equally offer the opportunity for anybody within the village who may have thought about attending for the first time, to take that important first step. A friendly welcome is guaranteed.

Our annual **President’s Day** is scheduled to be held on **28th August** and our **Junior awards evening** hopefully will be held on **1st September.**

We offer cricket to adults and junior of all standards and we are proud on being very much a child friendly club and we have been re-credited with the **E.C.B Club Mark** originally awarded in **May 2005.** Interested in joining W.V.C.C? Please contact **Kevin Jobbins: - Tel 483494** in the first instance.

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

John Avery, ‘Zusammen, 13 Lear Drive, Wistaston, Tel 0781 7082678

Wistaston Conservation Group

Hello again everyone, just to keep you aware of what we have been doing lately. But first, a brief deviation from our usual topics, into the realms of local history.

Origins of 'The Spinney'. Our group has been carrying out quite a lot of work over the past few years in the area known as The Spinney. This land and the surrounding area had been badly neglected for a long time, some of the trees there were in a dangerous condition, and expert advice indicated the necessity for them to be taken down.

Not many people are aware of the history connected with this land.

In the very early part of the last century, the land was purchased from local land-owners, the Walthall family, by the local authority with a view to establishing a waste treatment plant. The timeline for the construction of this infrastructure is unclear, but it is believed it was in full operation in the early 1930s and occupied quite a large area of land, as shown in the plan of the site at its maximum extent. When the plant was no longer required, Nantwich Rural District Council offered it to Wistaston Parish Council, but they declined the offer, so the two parcels of land were sold off. The purchaser of the west parcel (the old Settling Tanks) planned to create a fish farm, but that never transpired. The purchaser of the east parcel (the old Filter Beds) applied for planning permission to build houses, but that was refused.

Eventually, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council obtained a Derelict Land Grant, which enabled them to remove both the Settlement Tanks and the Filter Beds, but nothing happened to the area until The Spinney was created.

We still find pieces of buried masonry, concrete and drain pipes when we are planting trees in the area. Eventually, Wistaston parish council after protracted enquiries, were able to trace the current owners who, although reluctant to negotiate a change of ownership to the parish, were happy for the land to be administered for the benefit of the public, which explains why our group are now working on improving the area.



Natural Woodland Re-cycling.

The Birch tree shown in the photograph should live for many years, also the Bracket fungus growing on the bark will co-exist by feeding on the tree, as the tree continues to grow and expand so will the fungus, the bulk of which is hidden inside the tree.

The tree will not be harmed at first, as the fungus only feeds on the dead outer layers of the bark, but as time passes the fungus inside the tree will weaken the tree's structure, cause it to become unstable and eventually fall. Sometimes with very little indication that this will happen.



Wood has a very strong structure that gives a tree amazing strength and durability, but the fungi are able to break down these tough structures, and by means of fine filaments known as Mycelium, release nutrients back into the soil to feed a fresh generation of tree seedlings.

A Swift Result?

A number of nest boxes have been made, donated and installed across our open green spaces and wooded areas. Many birds will enter these nest boxes during the Autumn and Winter, looking for a suitable place to roost or perhaps feed. They often use the same boxes for nesting the following Spring. Both great tits and blue tits will not seriously look for nesting sites until February or March.

The design of the nest box suits different bird species. For example, a wide opening provides a nest site for the robin (note box S10 at the top of the Spinney) and a small round aperture for the blue tit (note box S1 at the bottom end of the Spinney). Many of the boxes at the Spinney and the Woodside Covert have been successful with adult birds rearing their young. WCG (Wistaston Conservation Group) have taken care to position these new boxes between north and east, as this gives protection from direct sunlight, wind and rain, at a height of 2 to 4 metres with the box slightly tilted forward to allow any rain to run clear of the entrance. It is also important to have a clear flight path to the box.

This Summer the UK Parliament will debate how to help swifts, one of our summer visitors, by asking builders to provide swift bricks in new buildings. The debate came about thanks to a RSPB petition, "Make swift bricks compulsory in new housing to help red-listed birds".

The Many Facets of Conservation work.

We were asked by the parish council to solve a long standing problem to do with grass-mowing on the football fields at the 'Joey' area. Whenever the grass was cut with the usual method of a heavy mowing machine towed by a farm tractor, one of the access panels (manhole cover) would be struck causing the cast steel cover to become dislodged. The cover was very difficult to see due to the length of the grass before being cut, and once dislodged took a lot of time and effort to replace.

A bag of concrete mix, a bucket of water, and a bit of skill took care of the matter. The photo shows one of our group using his expertise to finish the job.

We pride ourselves that we will tackle any problem, if asked to.

Continued from previous page :
Wistaston Conservation Group)

The Finishing Touch - we pride ourselves
that we will tackle any problem, if asked.



If anyone would like to speak to us about the work we are doing or have some constructive suggestions as to work we could do, we are usually working in the Joey the Swan area each Monday morning between 9.30 and about 12.15.

Details of the work being carried out is shown on our website that may be accessed online.

**Cheshire Virtuosi RNCM Professors and Alumni
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Wistaston Memorial Hall

New Build Project Update

The New Build project has been busy evaluating the range of alternatives for how the project can be delivered in terms of financial and practical viability. We are following The National Lottery Community Fund guidelines for how to do this. First step, to determine the options available has been completed. Whether any of these options are feasible depends on a range of factors, the ownership arrangements, the funding available, the location, the accessibility, the timing and scale of the project. Meetings around options have been held with Wistaston Sports and Leisure Association and Wistaston Memorial Hall Bowling Club. We are looking to meet with the Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club in August. A key task is gathering information about the advantages and disadvantages of each option, one of the most difficult being to cost each option. Our aim is to complete the process by the end of 2023. Look out for updates on our web page.

Regarding project timescales, the earliest we would start is 2026. During the build we will be looking to find alternative accommodation for our Hall users to minimise the impact of the project

In June the Trustees gave approval to hire Nantwich architect Bower Edleston to draw up the plans for the new Hall. Bower Edleston has considerable experience of village hall builds being involved in the new village hall builds at Worleston, Warmingham and Audlem. They are currently working on the Hough village hall extension/refurbishment project.

This Autumn we will be focussing on completing the options appraisal, doing a design brief for Bower Edleston and exploring other funding options. See our New Build page at www.wistastonmemorialhall.uk for latest news.

If you would be interested in being involved in either the day to day running of the Memorial Hall or the New Build project, we would love to hear from you. Contactus@wistastonmemorialhall.uk

Wistaston Memorial Hall

On the 17th of June the Memorial Hall was once again involved in the Fete, as the starting venue for the procession. What a turnout it was with lots of preparations taking place in the car park. The Memorial Hall Trustees had a stall on the day, as this was a great opportunity to promote what goes on in and around the hall with all the Groups, Clubs and Societies that hold their meetings there.



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A Fundraiser for Springfield School at Wells Green Methodist Church

Our afternoon of music on Wednesday 21st June featured Wells Green Choir and some of the students from Springfield School. It was enjoyed by all, with a varied selection of music and entertainment. Myra Wood presented a cheque for £500 (which included gifts and donations given throughout the year) to Lizzie, one of the sixth form students and her three amazing teachers who gave their full support to the event.



Date for your Christmas Diary
Wistaston Singers Annual Christmas Concert
3pm Sat 9th December 2023
St Stephens Church Crewe



NATURE ARTICLE

In April, Graham Jones, Memorial Hall caretaker, witnessed a raptor capturing a pigeon in Wistaston Green Road, flying off towards scout hut before the 'Rising Sun'. Guess the hearty meal made it thirsty! As with ourselves, Graham is 'pigeon pestered'.

20 April brought our first peacock butterfly, very few butterflies visiting thereafter, bees seeking out our flowers rather more often, especially the shy dullish pinks of berberis.

Talking of the eternal pest – grey squirrel – it was introduced from North America 1877-1929. Its varied diet includes crops, tree bark and sap, birds' eggs, young birds and insects. Continuously growing teeth must be worn down so a need to grind on nuts and seeds. An acute sense of smell relocates winter caches of food. Fruit is supplementary to diet, with soil for mineral content and roughage. In 1937 the Government prohibited importation and release or keeping of 'greys', except under licence, but to no avail in reducing numbers.

Late April and a young wood pigeon was flapping wings, soliciting food from parent, and we had a close-up view of the two standing on edge of bird-bath, youngster taking food from parent's crop: the protein-rich substance similar to a mammal's milk, which youngster itself stores in its crop.

Margaret Skerratt produced photos of a female great spotted woodpecker on feeders, along with goldfinches and wren, and they are a joy to see.



See over:



Goldfinches left.

Wren below



June and staring out at our first rose of summer. So quickly does time fly that it won't seem long before we stare out at our last. More young of birds, with an immature rook pleading to be fed, adult unconcerned, concentrating purely on itself. No white patch base of bill on a young rook.

A delight for Andrew Booth (Freshfields) later in June, believing a reed warbler was singing in his shrubbery, unwilling to show itself and be correctly identified. We played our song recording against Andrew's and the two proved the species. July and the short-lived reappearance of the neighbourhood sparrowhawk on our lawn, but no kill.

As the month races on we can enjoy the bouts of thunder rain after so much hot dry weather!

Our thanks to all contributors.

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

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Bridgemere Wheelbarrow Winners

On Saturday 8th July, **The Berkeley Academy** won the wheelbarrow competition at Bridgemere Show Gardens after being judged by TV personality, David Domoney, seen here with pupils, Nathan and Harry.



This event took place to celebrate children's gardening and to inspire the next generation of gardeners. The Berkeley were delighted to showcase the wonderful work that has been taking place at the school over the last few years with support from Mrs Bond, a grandparent of a child in Year 2. She has transformed the mini Berkeley garden whilst teaching the children all about different plants and engaging them in a love for growing things. The Berkeley garden is shown centre below.

Children have grown different plants, vegetables and herbs including radishes, lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, courgettes and lavender. Some of these have then be used to make delicious cakes and biscuits.

For the wheelbarrow competition, Mrs Bond was asked to help alongside Miss Brown, Headteacher. The children have been learning about bee friendly plants which had been grown from tiny seeds. These, along with other plants, were incorporated into a fabulous wheelbarrow with a bee friendly theme. The school are really proud of the result and the work that has taken place to raise the profile of gardening at The Berkeley Academy.



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Wistaston Scout Leader awarded MBE in Kings Birthday Honours list

John Bennett has been awarded an MBE in the Kings Birthday Honours list, for services to young people in Cheshire.



John was born in what is now Milton Keynes in 1944. He was a wolf cub and then a boy scout with 1st Wolverton Scout Group. He left Wolverton in 1964 to move to Crewe where his future wife lived. He took a break from scouting as he settled down with a new job (police officer with Cheshire Constabulary) and a young family. In 1974 he responded to a plea for help from 38th South West Cheshire and became the Scout Leader for that group. Pressures of shift work in the early 1980's were such that he could not devote the necessary time to the group and he stepped back and remained in the District Fellowship. He became involved in fund raising activities especially the Crewe Gang Show with which he is still connected and is preparing for the 2024 show as their Technical Director. His Police career was such that he had one weekend off every four weeks and during the summer months that weekend was normally spent as a warden at the County Camp Site at Sandiway. He still spends a lot of time at the site in his role as County Safety Advisor. When he became Group Scout Leader (GSL) at Wistaston Scout Group in 2007 he took over a very successful group. Many of the core leaders at that time are still with the group. Thanks to those leaders, and others who have joined over the years the group has flourished and is the largest in the district with two Beaver colonies, two Cub packs and two Scout troops all supported by about 30 leaders.

The new Scout Centre was built during John Bennett's tenure and whilst he drove that project forward (including managing the fund raising) he had a fantastic team behind him and without them the project would have failed. He is currently GSL 35th South West Cheshire, District Secretary South West Cheshire, County Safety Advisor and member of Cheshire Scouts Trustee Board and as he said: he was very surprised, honoured and humbled (and over the moon) with the news. He was sure that without the fantastic leaders he had worked with over the years this award would not have been possible.

The Scout Group most recently gained National recognition for a 'ribbon of poppies' which they had made from recycled soft drinks bottles. This ribbon had more than 5000 'poppies' and was suspended from the tower St Mary's Church Wistaston and was more than 30 metres long. This had such an impact that John was asked for one of the Cub Scouts to meet the Duchess of Cambridge to discuss the display and the impact remembrance had on young people. All the monies raised by this display was given to the Royal British Legion.

Taken from information provided by John Bennett..

A STATUE FOR ADA

Dorothy Flude, local Councillor and ex-Mayor of Cheshire East, was passionate about local history. In particular, she wanted a statue of suffragist Ada Nield Chew placed in Crewe in order that she be remembered.

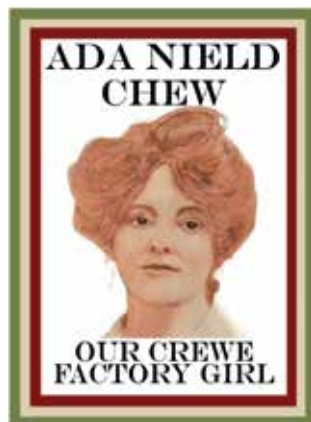
Ada first became noticed in 1894 when she wrote a series of anonymous letters to the *Crewe Chronicle* outlining the poor conditions in local textile factories for working women; she lived in the town and worked at Compton's Clothing Factory in Bridle Road. She signed herself 'A

Crewe Factory Girl' and was forced to leave her employment to save the jobs of her fellow workers when factory owners tried to uncover her identity and punish those who agreed with her.

Undeterred, Ada took up the cause of working women as an organiser for the Trade Unions, campaigner for the Independent Labour Party and a strong working-class voice in the suffragist movement; Ada wanted votes for women, but also the freedom for girls to be raised as human rather than simply domestic servants.

Ada was a true character – lacking formal education but highly literate, an avid reader, a devoted mother, a keen theatre-goer and a woman totally uninterested in fashion (and often sporting a rakishly-angled hat!) She had a lively sense of humour and strong opinions on everything.

For more information please email StatueForAda@outlook.com or visit the Facebook page.



CREWE & NANTWICH RAMBLING CLUB



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

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

New members are very welcome - please contact Richard Farrall for further information on 01270 - 624649 or visit www.creweandnantwichramblingclub.org.uk



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Wistaston Flower Club

The Memorial Hall, Church Lane

Wistaston at 2.30pm

1st Wednesday of each month (excluding January, August and November)

In July we welcomed Donald Morgan from Aberystwyth with his title 'Anything Goes'. We were entertained with his tales of the hazards of being a florist and his stunning arrangements. This was Donald's first visit to Wistaston Flower Club and we are sure it won't be his last! A photograph of one of his arrangements is pictured below.

In September we welcome Anne Houghton from Heswall with her title 'Constance'. This is Anne's second visit to the club and we are looking forward to a fun filled afternoon. At the end of the demonstration the flowers will be raffled. Visitors are most welcome - £6.00.

As a large group of flower lovers we are keen to share our enthusiasm for our hobby and skills. In addition to the demonstrations we offer seasonal flower arranging sessions for all ages and abilities, in an informal setting.

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



The group is enjoying increased membership and extra activities organized by a newly formed sub-committee. In early March members visited WI House in Chester for a tour of this interesting historic property. An extremely cold and snowy day was not a deterrent. In April we enjoyed a guided tour and walk along Welsh Row in Nantwich. In May there were visits to 'Calendar Girls' at the Lyceum Crewe and also 'Handbagged' at the Players Theatre in Nantwich. In June an afternoon tea cruise took members to the river Mersey in Liverpool. More outings are planned for the rest of 2023.

As well as these extra activities we have enjoyed excellent speakers. In April Mark Nyman's talk was titled Happy Scrabble when he demonstrated his amazing ability with words which has taken him all over the world. In May Kevin Reynolds 'How we created our garden birds' described the change in relationship which has happened in the last century from seeing birds as useful for their feathers, food or a nuisance to crops, we now view them as friends to be enjoyed and fed in our gardens. In June Hazel Griffiths gave an extremely detailed and illustrated talk about the life of Grace Kelly.

St Luke's Church in Coppice Road has been the venue for afternoon tea, and bingo which were both very much enjoyed. More speakers are booked and in October we will hold our own WI Show. Monthly lunches are very popular with a wide range of venues.

Meetings are held at The Acacia Suite (The Masonic Hall) Willaston CW5 7ER on the second Wednesday of each month, excluding December, at 7pm for 7.30. Visitors/new members are very welcome to attend any meeting on a 'try before you buy' basis and can be sure of a warm welcome. Please telephone Jan Warnes on 01270 663881 or Brenda Taylor on 01270 623191 for further information or simply turn up

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Messy Church is an all-age, fresh expression of church that aims to share Jesus with families in a friendly and enjoyable fashion. It is a church for all stages of your faith journey, whether you are just exploring church for the first time or want to deepen your faith in new and creative ways.

We start with a celebration/worship slot where we enjoy songs and stories around a biblical theme. This is followed by a time of exploration for children and parents to enjoy crafts and activities. Next comes another short celebration/ worship slot with prayers and songs. During this time, the craft area is turned into a dining room, where we conclude by sharing a meal together – usually Pizza and Chips. (With advance notice we can cater for all dietary requirements)

Over the last twelve months we have created eco-friendly crowns that we later planted out in the garden, knocked nails into tin cans to let the light of Jesus shine through, made butterflies, and given our worries to God with fizzy and bubble prayers, and so much more.

If you would like to come along, there is ample parking space, and a warm welcome awaits you among the dozen or so families who already attend. There is no charge for Messy Church, although donations are welcome towards the cost of crafts and food. Our main priority is to encourage you and your family to join our growing community. If you want to find out a bit more, do get in touch.

Our Autumn Messy Church dates are 10.30 – 12.30 on Saturdays 9th September; 14th October; 11th November. Please contact Kathryn1108lw2@gmail.com or Malcolm.m.h.crook@keele.ac.uk

CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST SOUTH GROUP

Details of our October meeting are as follows:

Monday 16 October at 7.30pm (doors open 7pm) at Acton Parish Hall.
Entry £5 to include refreshments. Children free.

Speaker Jeff Clarke: 'How to build a naturalist, 45 years of magical wildlife moments'

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CREWE AMATEUR MUSICALS SOCIETY CELEBRATES CENTENARY



Crewe Amateur Musicals Society

celebrates its Centenary this year with several events. As part of the celebrations, Elizabeth Hughes (nee Bishop) has written a book charting the first 50 years of its history - 1923 to 1973 - entitled 'Beginners please! Act I'. The Society was formed in 1923 by Mr. E. G. Hodgkison, music teacher at Crewe Secondary/Grammar School, with former students. 'Beginners please Act II' - 1974 to 2023 - is already planned.

Elizabeth has used material from the family archive which contains programmes, photographs and newspaper articles. The archive was started by her father Geoffrey

Bishop, former Headteacher of Church Lane School, Wistaston, who joined the Society for its 1929 production of 'Iolanthe. Her mother Marjorie had started to write a history of the society, but never published it. Further research was carried out at the County Record Office and Crewe Library. The family archive does not have a programme for the 1934 production of 'The Mikado'. If anyone has one, Elizabeth would love to hear from you! The book costs £15, copies can be obtained by contacting Elizabeth at creweams.history@gmail.com All profits will go to the Society. The Society's production next April will be 'Kinky Boots'.

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