## WINTER ROUNDABOUT

**2023 ISSUE 172** 

www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk

A Wistaston Community Council Publication Circulation 4500



THE MAGAZINE FOR PEOPLE LIVING TROUNDABOUT WISTASTON

## Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas & New Year





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## EDITORIAL FOR WINTER 2023

Hoping everyone is looking forward to the Christmas festivities in Wistaston. The Winter Editorial continues on page four but meanwhile on this page we would like to remind you that your help is needed to choose our and your 2023 Wistonian of the Year.

#### Wistonian of the Year

The award of Wistonian of the Year has been made for over 40 years now and has been given to so many active and helpful volunteers and residents of our wonderful community. Wistaston Community Council was formed from the village group which in 1977 organised the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebration. Three years later in 1980 we awarded the first Wistonian of the Year to Gladys Byrne who had been so instrumental in organising the village Silver Jubilee events. A full list of winners can be seen on our website at: Wistonian of the Year - Wistaston Community Website Each year in December we ask, primarily through the Roundabout magazine and now through our Facebook page, for nominations for the award from any organisation, group, or individuals in, or associated with, Wistaston. Nominations are then considered by Wistaston Community Council selection committee and the award is made at our AGM in January.

The winner of the award has usually contributed to village life over several years or has recently done something that is notably worthy and deserving of recognition. The award is then given for one year and the winner receives a commemorative shield to keep. During the year the Wistonian of the Year is then invited to take part in the WCC village events and may well be involved in other events in Wistaston. We hope that the award and taking part in village events is fun and while not too onerous does help recognise the individual's contribution and the wider activities in Wistaston. If you know of someone who has helped and contributed to our community and should be recognised for this, then please nominate them by completing this form and sending it to arrive by 4 January 2024 with a summary of the nominee's achievements to Wistaston Community Council, 22 Herrick Close, Wistaston CW2 8DX or email woty@wistastoncommunity.co.uk

We, the undersigned nominate:

Name:

Address:

Proposer - Name Address

Seconder - Name Address

Seconder - Name Address

## EDITORIAL FOR WINTER 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 it would not exist!

Please send in your articles, photographs etc. for our Spring edition, due out in early March 2024 by the 15 January

Eileen Bamber

Ian Gould - 07971 649110

31BroughtonLane 01270 569126

accounts.roundabout@wistastoncommunity.co.uk

eileen@bamberuk.com

### Dates for your Diary in 2023/2024

Christmas Concert: Friday 8 December at 7pm: St Mary's Church Hall. See page 24.

Wistaston Village Fete - Saturday 15 June 2024.

Flower and Produce Show - Saturday 17 August 2024

Our recent events were the Flower and Produce Show, the Duck Race and the Fireworks all very well reported and photographed by Jonathan White. Very many thanks are due to Jonathan for the events he covers and very many apologies that there isn't enough room in Roundabout to include them all. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the successful outcome of these events which all take a lot of work

to produce. Come and help us bring our events to life.

Just one of the amazing photographs taken by Jonathan at the Firework Display on Saturday 4 November.

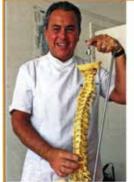
Our next event is the Christmas Concert on Friday 8 December - the official start of the Christmas period or so insists one of our regular attenders.

We have a wonderful selection of music, Christmas music and not, from choirs, groups and bands. Come and see for yourselves. There will be mince pies!



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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 Squirrell 6 Beaumont Close, Wistaston, CW2 8BU 01270 569803

cllr.bob.squirrell@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

WISTASTON GREEN WARD (Four Councillors – 3 Vacancies)

Julia Robinson 2 Fuller Drive, Wistaston, CW2 6GU

cllr.julia.robinson@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

WELLS GREEN WARD (Three Councillors )

John Moore (Chairman) 50 Laidon Avenue, Wistaston, CW2 6QH 01270 661924

cllr.john.moore@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Graham Roberts 29 Berkeley Crescent Wistaston CW2 6QA 01270 568521

cllr.graham.roberts@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Margaret Simon c/o Mrs Kerri Wilcox (Parish Clerk) 07851 511850

cllr.margaret.simon@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Kerri Wilcox 20 Wybunbury Road, Willaston CW5 7JF07871605483

clerk@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk



Our meetings for January to March 2024 are as follows.

January 15th: Hedgehogs: A talk by Kathryn Jones

February 19th: The Infinite Variety of Lichens; An illustrated talk by Mary and Eric Steer

March18th: The Pigeon, From the gods to the gutter.

A talk by Kevin Reynolds

All meetings are held at Acton Parish Hall, Acton CW5 8LG.

Doors open 7pm for 7.30 start. £5 entry to include refreshments.

All welcome

## Wistaston Parish Council Chairman's Report

- 1. Voluntary groups. a) Wistaston in Bloom: Another successful year with a silver gilt in the North West in bloom and for the first time a gold award in the National finals. Congratulations and thanks to Bill Heath and his team for all their hard work. Bill has decided to stand down after 12 years and we are looking for volunteers and a team leader to fill this interesting role to organise a small team, prepare plans for the annual flower bed planting and some outdoor light ground work. Anyone interested? Please contact our Clerk.
- b) Speedwatch: A regular resident concern we are looking to restart this group with volunteers and a team leader to organise a rota for selective speed checks.

Training will be provided. Interested? please contact our Clerk.

2. How to report a problem: As a Parish Council we quite often get residents emailing or ringing with problems in the area, so we have drawn up a useful list for what and where to report problems to:

#### Issue

Road Issues (potholes, weeds, gullies), Street Lighting, Footpaths, grass verges Fly Tipping.

#### Report to

**Cheshire East** fixmystreet.com

Breaches of planning control

Animal Welfare, Noise Nuisance Pest Control

**Public** Rights of Way

Water Issues (ie. leak or pressure) Sewage or blockage in the Joey Stream

Criminal activity or anti-social behaviour Speeding

**Tree** issues or damaged play equipment At Joey the Swan

Any issues on the Wistaston Brook estate

cheshireeast.gov.uk / Planning **Planning Enforcement** cheshireeast.gov.uk / Business **Environmental Health** 

cheshireeast.gov.uk / Leisure, Culture & Tourism - Public Rights of way

unitedutilities.com

cheshire.police.uk - report

Tel: 101

clerk@wistastonparishcouncil.org.uk **Bloor Homes (The Developers)** nwest@bloorhomes.com

**Bellway Homes (The Developers)** northwest-sales@bellway.co.uk

Kingfisher Reach Estate

#### 3. Future Meetings.

18th January 2024, 15th February 2024, 21st March 2024, 18th April 2024 (Parish Council Meeting 7pm, Annual Meeting 8pm).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Festive Christmas and a Happy New year in 2024. Cllr John Moore Chairman



#### You can be a complete newcomer or live in an area 40 years - and still be lonely.

Us mums (and dads of course) can feel a profound loss of purpose when the kids move up to high school and they don't want us walking them to the school gate anymore. We miss the other parents chatter at home time too.

That sad feeling of emptiness when our older kids leave home for university or to work away in another town is hard too.

Maybe our own workplace isn't the kindest place to be just now. Or maybe we've recently lost a partner, family member or a dear friend. As the dark nights draw in we can all feel sadness so much more intensely.

If this sometimes feels like you, then Wistaston has so many welcoming groups just waiting for you. We need to give ourselves a heartfelt hug and find new things to look forward to.

Try to take a deep breath, try to lift your head and heart. And try to look to the future and see what's out there to help give you a feeling of belonging to something meaningful.

There's plenty of volunteering and affordable group activities here in our lovely Wistaston to get yourself involved in. And know this, woman of Wistaston, our modern Swans WI group are there for YOU with open arms and a friendly face.

Take care of yourself this winter and things WILL get easier by the time the sun comes out again. Sending love, Swans WI xx

Christmas Services at Wells Green Church
Sunday 17th December at 10.30am
International Carols
Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm
Carols and Lessons
Christmas Eve at 10.30am
Carols and Lessons
Christmas Eve at 4.00pm
Christingle Service
Christmas Day at 10.30am
Family Celebration

Brookland Avenue: Wistaston, CW2 8EJ



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Website: www.waverleyhotelcrewe.co.uk

## Wistaston Memorial Hall **New Build Project Update**

In August over 20 members of the Wistaston Jubilee Tennis Club (WJTC) met with Trustees to discuss the impact of the project on their club. One option, to free up space for a larger Hall and create more space for car parking, is to move the WJTC to Wistaston Sports and Leisure Association (WSLA). This was explored with WSLA and found not to be viable.

Also in August we had a first on site meeting with the Architect from Bower Edleston. At this meeting we discussed the scope for the design brief for the new Hall which was very informative.

Throughout September and October, we continued to evaluate the range of options for how the project can be delivered in terms of financial and practical viability. We are following The National Lottery Community Fund guidelines and are currently at Stage 2 of the process. This involves gathering information about the advantages and disadvantages of each option, one of the most difficult being to cost each option. In October we agreed a Pricing Matrix to identify all the items to be costed including demolition, rebuild, loss of income during rebuild and running costs for each option. We hope to obtain all costs by mid November, with an aim to complete the Options Appraisal and make a decision on which option to progress by the end of 2023.

We are reviewing whether to hire a professional fundraiser to assist with fundraising. Even if we achieve the maximum National Lottery Community Fund grant, this and the funds raised by Trustees over many years will not be enough to meet the budget required to build the new Hall. Funding from the Community Ownership Fund, a government initiative to support groups to take ownership of assets such as village halls at risk of being lost, is also being explored.

See our New Build page at www.wistastonmemorialhall.uk for latest news.

The process for becoming a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) is entering the final stages, with the registration of the land being one of the last key pieces of work, which is now awaiting approval by the Land Registry.

As part of the ongoing maintenance cycle of the Hall, we achieved a grant from the Wistaston Parish Council as a contribution to the budget to repaint the exterior of the Hall. This work was completed in October.

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. <a href="mailto:Contactus@wistastonmemorialhall.uk">Contactus@wistastonmemorialhall.uk</a>

## **Wistaston Village Cricket Club**

(Founded 1980)

For Wistaston Village Cricket Club, 2023 saw another season of mixed fortunes for our senior and junior sides. Our First Eleven playing in the strong Cheshire Cricket League Division 3 certainly found the season challenging and to their credit finished their campaign in 6<sup>th</sup> position. This was a significant improvement on the previous season. From their twenty-two fixtures their final record read won 9 lost 4 with 4 abandoned, with a final tally of 199 points. If the abandoned matches had been played it could easily have resulted with additional points that would have seen them in a final position of 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Second Eleven.:- competing in the strong Cheshire Cricket League Division C (South/Central) also had a challenging season. The Autumn edition of Roundabout reflected their position when they were bottom of their league with just one victory, despite having played some very closely fought matches which could have gone in their favour. From their remaining ten matches they managed a further three victories but finished the season bottom of their league.

**Final table**: Played 22 Won 4 Lost 11 Abandoned 3 Conceded matches 4 Points 99. **The Swans XI:** The ladies team '**The Swans'** competing in **Division 4 (West) of Cheshire Women's Cricket League** enjoyed a relatively good season. From their ten fixtures they finished in third position. As previously mentioned, scores in some matches were close and could have easily gone in their favour.

**Final table:**- Played 10 Won 3 Lost 6 Opposition Conceded 1 Points 132.

#### **Junior sides**

<u>Under 9's:-</u> The under 9's finished their playing season soon after the last editorial and maintained a final league position of 8th. In a league of some fourteen teams, the play was very competitive which reflected in the final points standing. Final table:- Played-13 Won 4 Lost 3 Cancelled 2 Abandoned 1 Conceded 1 Tied 1 Points 78.

<u>Under 11's</u>:- Our under 11's completed a productive season against sixteen clubs and finished the season in 8<sup>th</sup> position.

Final table:- Played 16 Won 7 Lost 7 Abandoned 1 Won 1 (Conceded) Points 111. **Under 15's:-** Our under 15's completed their season in attaining fifth position in their league. In what may be considered a balanced season from their twelves fixtures they attained 4 wins and lost 7 matches with one game conceded finishing with a points total of 56.

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

The cricket club holds Bingo evenings every third friday of each month at the Wistaston Pavilion Lounge to raise funds and a warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to join us. For more details of our Bingo evenings please contact either Kevin or Pauline Jobbins 01270483494. Bingo evenings is an event where all of our 'regulars' who attend can have an enjoyable 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.

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.

We introduced an initiative to increase our cricket club's playing membership; the club introduced a 'back to cricket training session', which is dedicated at encouraging parents of the successful Junior section within our friendly cricket club and equally focused on players who have previously played cricket, perhaps a few years ago who may have felt daunted at the prospect of starting again at an established cricket club. The initiative worked admirably. It is our intention to replicate this successful all inclusive initiative for next season.

On a personal note, I have been involved in cricket as a player and administrator for well over sixty years and I have experienced speaking to many people who thought about starting or re-starting playing cricket but did not take that all important step because they thought that they were not up to the mark and subsequently regretted that decision.

If one feels undecided because of self-doubting, contact the cricket club to put your mind at ease

Earlier in October, the cricket club held its senior end of season awards. Ist XI. Batter:- Ryan Briddon. Bowler:- Billy Ridgeway. Captain's Player:- Gareth Barnes

**2nd.XI.** Batter Keith Thornhill. Bowler:- Mark Bourne. Captain's Player:- Steve Collins

Ladies XI. Batter Nicki Jarvis. Bowler:-Anna Bourne. Captain's Player:- Callie Biggs.

Player's Player (Hardball):- Bela Smith. Player's Player (Softball):- Helen Edwards. Club Awards:- Club Award:- Junior Coaching Team. President's Award:- Nicki Jarvis.

Outstanding Performance by a Junior Player in Senior Cricket:- Luke Edwards.

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, just a few things you might be interested in reading about.

**Asian hornets.** There has been mention in the news media in recent months regarding an 'invasion' of foreign insects, believed to be due in part to warmer weather conditions in the European continent.

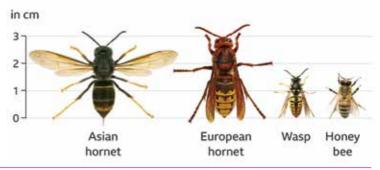
Asian hornets arrived in France in 2004, probably in goods shipped from the Far East. Since arriving, they have spread and are thought to be moving into some adjacent countries. The main concern about Asian hornets is that they prey on bees. In France, it has been estimated that a large number of bee populations, including the European honey bee have been badly affected. British nature conservation groups, including the RSPB, are extremely concerned about the impact of the Asian hornet on bees, as these pollinating species are an essential part of well-functioning ecosystems, and other types of insect are nowhere near as efficient at spreading pollen among the flowers.

The evidence of appearances by the Asian hornet in the last few years indicates that it is capable of becoming an invasive species and would cause untold harm to the environment in the UK, if this were to happen. There have been 22 confirmed sightings of the non-native species so far in 2023 in this country, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The relevant authorities reacted swiftly and eradicated these insects. However, there is no room for complacency and the UK government urges everyone to be on the lookout for Asian hornets and to report any suspected sightings.

A quick and easy way to report sightings is by downloading and using the Asian Hornet Watch app, for iPhone or Android.

The app was launched in 2017 by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UK CEH) to make recording of Asian hornet sightings as simple as possible. It provides lots of information on similar-looking insects. An alternative to using the app is to complete an online recording form at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology at https://www.ceh.ac.uk

Hornet compared to similar species



#### Save Our Voles.

The River Weaver has sadly seen the dramatic decline of the Water Vole (Ratty in the Wind in the Willows) population.

Water voles are almost wiped out, in the main due to loss of habitat, pollution and the rapid spread of the invasive, non-native American mink, which preys on them. Some effort to save the vole is underway in the UK, for example the first re-introduction to the Lake District at Haweswater.

The fur of the American Mink has been highly prized for use in clothing and their treatment on fur farms has been a focus of animal rights activism for a number of years. American mink have established populations in Europe (including Great Britain and Denmark), possibly due to being released by animal rights activists, or otherwise escaping from captivity.

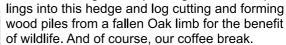
Projects led by various bodies and Wildlife Trusts employ "smart traps" on floating rafts. They are fitted with an excluder to prevent water voles and birds from getting in.

When a trap door closes, the mink is not harmed and it triggers a text message to a trained volunteer who can safely and humanely dispatch the mink. In the UK, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to release Mink into the wild, and they must be humanely killed.

A good spot in Cheshire to see a healthy population of water voles is at Gowv Meadows, near Ellesmere Port. A tell-tale sign of a healthy population is chewed grasses and other vegetation at the water's edge, a sight that we all hope will become more common as time passes and voles re-establish themselves.

#### The Thinas We Do.

Some of our 'run of the mill' stuff we did on a Monday morning last month. Strimming alongside the hedge at the nursery, also known as the old model railway site, cutting down two dead Birch trees by Beech Drive car park, weaving pyracantha through hazel stakes to make a hedge, transplanting hawthorn sap-









Conclusion of Wistaston Conservation Group Report.

If anyone would like to speak to us about the work we do, perhaps suggesting projects we can carry out, we will be working in the Joey the Swan area each Monday morning between 9.30 and noon. Our website has information about the work we will be doing, along with our precise location.

#### **Eric Swan Sports Ground & Brittles Pavilion**

Church Lane Wistaston – behind the school.

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#### Scarlett, Annie and Emily pressing the button at the Fireworks!

Winners of the Best Dressed and Pumpkin competitions pressing the all-important button to start the Firework Display.

Scarlett in the centre of the photograph later sent in a letter which we show below describing her experiences of the evening.

Scarlett Mansfield, aged seven.



I went to the fireworks display at the Brittles in Wistaston and I won best dressed as Wednesday. I felt excited and really happy. I won a fivepounds. I also got to press the button on the machine which started the fireworks. The lady who chose me to win was lovely. I got to choose some sweets. The fireworks were amazing.

Scarlett then went on to draw some amazing fireworks! Almost as good as Jonathan's photograph on page 4.





Wistaston won a Gold Award in the Town category at the 2023 RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals, the country's largest community gardening competition.

Wistaston in Bloom members Bill & Helen Heath and Diane Edge-Robinson and Wistaston Parish Council Cllr. Diane Houston attended the glittering ceremony on 23rd October at RHS Lindley Hall in London.

Bill & Helen Heath stepped up onto the stage to proudly receive the Gold Award in the Town category from television gardening presenter Rachel de Thame.

The Town category is for towns with a population between 6,001 and 12,000 people.

Britain in Bloom judges from the RHS - Royal Horticultural Society visited Wistaston in early-August to judge the village. The judges met the Chairman of Wistaston Parish Council John Moore, 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.

In their report on Wistaston the RHS judges commented: "A lot of hard work had been done by everyone. The area has a feeling of being well kept and that people care about where they live. No litter and no sign of graffiti. Well done to everyone involved."

Wistaston were a first-time entrant in the Britain in Bloom UK Finals, although they have won several Gold Awards previously in the regional Britain in Bloom (North West) competition.

Bill Heath, Secretary of Wistaston in Bloom, said: 'We are all absolutely delighted to have won this national award for Wistaston.'

Kay Clark, RHS Community Development Manager, said: '44 Bloom groups took part in this year's Finals across ten categories. We are very proud to work with all the entries as they continue to build communities and tackle local issues across the UK. Thank you to all the volunteers for your endless enthusiasm and commitment to making the places we live better for others, as well as for wildlife and the environment.'

The RHS (<a href="https://www.rhs.org.uk/">https://www.rhs.org.uk/</a>) is the UK's leading gardening charity. They aim to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place.

Britain in Bloom awards and results: <a href="https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/news/articles/bloom-awards-results">https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/news/articles/bloom-awards-results</a>

Wistaston in Bloom are always seeking volunteers. If you have any spare time and would like to be part of the group who help in keeping the village looking its best, please contact Bill Heath on 01270 560471. Thanks to Jonathan White for the above text.

Bill Heath added that winning Gold represents a lot of effort, not only by the Bloom Group but also the Conservation Group, Litter Pickers, the Park Ranger, our contractor Jim Dentith of Crewe Nursery and of course residents who tidied up front gardens, hedges and verges. Well done to everyone who did their bit.

Finally on a sad note Helen and myself have decided to retire from the Bloom Group having been involved for over twelve years.

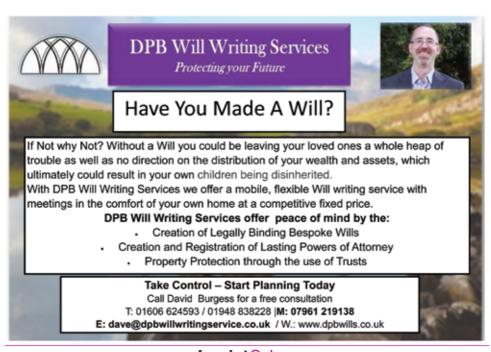
We informed the Parish Council last April of our decision so now they are looking for volunteer/s to take up the mantle and continue Wistaston's success. If interested please contact the Chairman of the Parish Council, John Moore, phone 01270 661924.

Once again well done to everyone, Bill and Helen Heath Wistaston in Bloom until March 2025

Thanks to Jonathan White for this photo of the flower bed at Jacksons Corner and the photo on the front cover of Joey the Swan in snow.









## willaston **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

In October Willaston WI held their own Show. Categories included baking, handicrafts, photography, preserves and floral art and gardening. There were over 100 entries in all covering each section. Independent judges made their assessments in the afternoon and at the evening meeting cups and prizes were awarded.

The whole event was very enjoyable and a resounding success. Marion Proudlove was thanked for her hard work in organizing it. The evening also included a talk by Sarah Darlington who gave an interesting and detailed account of how the family business, making jams, chutneys etc, had grown over many years. Beginning on the family farm where her mother took her home-made items to local firms, it is now an international business exporting all over the world.

Outings in September have included visits to The National Arboretum; Nantwich Theatre; a Beetle Drive; plus our monthly pub lunches. The November meeting is our AGM when a new Committee will be elected and in December we are once again looking forward to a Christmas Lunch at Crewe Golf Club.

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. You can find extra information on our Facebook page or telephone Brenda Taylor on 01270 623191.



## NATURE ARTICLE

July, and a presumed domestic pigeon, forgetting where home is, our lawn, ring on both legs, right looking metallic, left a black arrived on in its mottled appearance, bill much smaller than in a wood band. Beauty pigeon. Not approachable but content to peck around all day on droppings from hanging feeders. A second ringed bird, with the vivid bars of a rock dove, arrived one day late in the month, bearing only one ring – blue, on right leg. First bird edged up to newcomer on ridge of a neighbour's roof, not quite greeting - more curious. Perhaps it was whispering: 'Are you lost too? What does your SATNAV say?' Newcomer only stayed a few days, and, suddenly, in early September, first bird disappeared. We'll never know if it got back home or was predated. Resentment was shown by house sparrows of our occupation of greenhouse since they have been venturing in to catch ants. We thought the birds had forgotten how to get out till we saw what they were up to!

Mid-August and we began to witness small compact flocks of starlings flying through.

We encounter few moths so those we see excite. A large yellow underwing (Noctua pronuba) trapped in the house, was almost vacuumed up. It is a species of 'Noctuidae'), a large family of mainly nocturnal insects. Perhaps our captive had overnighted in our back room. The fat brown larva of an elephant hawk moth (Deilephila elpenor) crept sluglike through border vegetation one day in early September. The retractable projection of its foremost segments is suggestive of an elephant's trunk, hence name. A pair of fake eyes is located just above the 'trunk'. The beautiful night-flying adult is a mix of green, black and pink, and not said to be rare.

As September races on cometh the annual infestation of craneflies nearing end of life, and perhaps our only ever glimpse of a grasshopper in the garden.

Mammal wise, foxes continue to make a presence in the village, David Norbury of Church Lane with one in his garden 3.9.

With birds again, and our final reports come from Mr. Colclough of Lear Drive, with a pheasant in his garden on 2 October, and a typically farmyard red-legged partridge from the Booths of Freshfields, 7.10, second sighting of one here.

Our thanks to all contributors. Trevor and Hilary Clowes Tel. 664358 email handt136@talktalk.net

## **Wistaston Flower Club**

#### The Memorial Hall. Church Lane. Wistaston at 2.30pm

First Wednesday of each month, excluding January, August and November



In June three members of our Committee erected a brass commemorative plaque next to our Sorbus (Whitebeam) Tree which was planted at Joey the Swan to mark Wistaston Flower Club's Diamond Anniversary.

The 2023 Programme is going very well – September was a demonstration by Anne

Houghton from Heswall – entitled 'Constance' and October was a very enjoyable demonstration from Alison Cooper from Salford – 'Headtales' – each floral arrangement depicted flowers she thought represented a children's book she could remember from her childhood.

We would always welcome new people to join our group, or just come along as a Visitor to any of our meeetings.

Our next 'In Hall' meeting is 6th December when we welcome Julie Pearson from Bolton with her Demonstration entitled 'Tis the Season' – Julie is a Chelsea Flower Winner – February meeting is a guest Speaker Kathleen Williams from Oldham talking about Marvelous Markets.

'WISTASTON FLOWER CLUB WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR MEMBERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR FOR 2024'

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

Barbara's Baby Knits: Matinee coats, cardigans, hats, pram blankets etc. Ages birth to 3 years. Call Barbara on 07746 800061

Burn off your Xmas calories at the annual

#### **Village Boxing Day Walk**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December 10:30 – 12:00 from the Memorial Hall car park

All welcome
(Dogs in Xmas coats
especially welcome)
Bring your wellies and
warm clothes





## Wistaston Community Council's

**Annual Christmas Concert** 

on

Friday 8 December 2023

at 7pm

St Mary's Church Hall, Wistaston

Seasonal Refreshments Raffle

£5 adults and £2 children

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Treatments by appointment



The annual Wistaston Community Council Fireworks Display took place on Saturday 4th November 2023 at the Eric Swan Sports Ground/Brittles Pavilion off Church Lane, behind Wistaston Church Lane Academy, in Wistaston.

The event was organised by the Wistaston Community Council and supported by Wistaston Parish Council. Entry was by donation with all profits going to local good causes.

Candy floss and popcorn was available to purchase from the team at Wistaston Community Council, whilst hot dogs and drinks were served by 35th South West Cheshire (Wistaston) Scout Group.

The results of the children's best dressed competition, judged by Helen Gould, Wistaston Community Council and Jonathan White, Wistonian of the year 2022. were: -1st prize - Wednesday Addams complete with Thing hand ornament by Scarlett, a Year 2 pupil at Wistaston Church Lane Academy, who won £5. Following her award presentation Scarlett said: "I am really happy to win this prize." -2nd prize - Skeleton Girl by Lola who won £3.

-3rd prize - Willy Wonka by Oliver who won £2.

The results of the children's pumpkin competition, also judged by Helen Gould, Wistaston Community Council and Jonathan White, Wistonian of the year 2022, were: -1st prize - Tom Cat by Annie who won £5. -2nd prize - Jerry Mouse by Emily who won £3.

It took Annie and Emily 30 minutes each to craft their pumpkins.

Prizes winners Scarlett, Annie and Emily were also awarded the pleasure of pressing the button to start the spectacular fireworks.

The fireworks display was setup and operated by Black Lab Events and Fireworks (https://www.facebook.com/BlackLabEvents) who produced a wonderful 14-minute display which included aerial star shells, comet candles, and multi-shot cakes.

The display was enjoyed by several hundred people. However, there was no Torchlight, Fancy Dress & Pumpkin Parade through the village this year due to a lack of volunteers. Helen Gould, Wistaston Community Council, said: "We've had new volunteers come forward, but we need a dozen more in order to cover all five annual Wistaston Community Council events through the year. We have a lovely, vibrant community and we want to keep it that way, BUT WE NEED YOU. If you can help, please contact us via Facebook."

For further information please visit https://www.facebook.com/wistaston/ or https://www.wistastoncommunity.co.uk/

## St Mary's Wistaston invites you to Follow the Star this Christmastime

All at St Mary's wish you a Happy
Christmas and Peaceful New Year and we invite you this year to 'Follow the Star and Join the Song'. Please see below for opportunities for us to join together and sing a carol or two (or more!) and worship the new born King. More information can be found on our website including our regular and online services: stmaryswistaston.org.uk

Follow The Star

Thursday 14 December
2pm Ladies Afternoon Group Carols - All welcome!

#### Saturday 16 December

**5pm:** Carols on the Green - We begin outside St Mary's Church and make our way to the Church Hall for seasonal refreshments

#### **Sunday 17 December**

**6pm: Nine Lessons and Carols -** A traditional service of readings and carols.

#### **Christmas Eve**

**5pm - Crib Service and Nativity -** Come along and join in the Nativity! Children can come dressed as a Nativity character or use one of our costumes available on the night!

#### 11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion

The first Holy Communion of Christmas taking us in to Christmas Day

#### **Christmas Day**

**10.40am Christmas Holy Communion for all ages -** why not bring a toy to show?



OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY

7.30am-6pm



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#### THE BIG SCREEN @ WELLS GREEN PROUDLY PRESENTS

#### **MOVIES WITH A MESSAGE 2023/2024**



We are pleased to present some more films that raise moral, social, political and spiritual questions, besides offering an opportunity for a brief discussion of these issues afterwards (though there is no obligation to remain once the showing has ended). Further information is available from Malcolm Crook, m.h.crook@keele.ac.uk

Sunday 10 December 2023:A cleaning lady on a shopping spree in Paris

Sunday 21 January 2024: A mixed-race woman in aristocratic society.

Sunday 18 February An adopted adolescent and his birth mother.

Sunday 17 March An old man in search of a lost love.

All movies start at 2.30pm, usually on the third Sunday in the month, but please note the earlier date in December. There is no charge for admission, but a donation will be gratefully received. You may bring your own refreshments. Wells Green Methodist Church is situated just off the junction of Brookland Avenue with the Crewe Road at CW2 8EJ, next door to the Leonard Brothers Veterinary Surgery, where there is some parking space. We shall look forward to seeing you.

Wistaston Gardeners Society: Monthly meetings are held at Wistaston Memorial Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



### The Laurie Twiss Award

This year there were two entries that were so outstanding that it was quite impossible to choose which should be awarded the Laurie Twiss Trophy as they were so very different but both excellent in their own way. The judges therefore decided that they should share the Trophy. Both winners have each received their own voucher, pen and Certificate.

Very many congratulations go to Maria Price who has won the Trophy twice before and I think this award makes it a hat trick! Well done Maria!



Very many congratulations to Poppy Tomkinson too. Poppy also has won the Trophy before - we really have some talent here. Both girls live in Wistaston; Maria attended Wistaston Berkeley and Poppy Wistaston Church Lane Academy but now both attend Malbank School.

#### Here is Maria's award winning entry:

08:55. We filed into the exam hall, armed with calculator, pen, pencil, and ruler in a clear case, and a clear, unlabelled bottle of water. No phones, no watches, no books. Stopping at the seating plan on the wall, my eyes searched down the columns until I found my name, then I traced along to find my row. Our teachers lined the pathway into the hall, wishing us good luck. We walked through the doors into the silence, like marching ants entering their hill.

There were a couple hundred individual tables, uniformly arranged into a sort of grid pattern. Each table was accompanied by just a test paper placed face down, and a hard, blue foldable chair. We spread around the massive room, each studying the tiny, lettered pieces of paper on the front wall, which corresponded to our rows in the seating plan. Ironically, we started school with letters of the alphabet and now we were finishing it with letters of the alphabet! I walked along the back of the hall, made a sharp turn onto my row, then counted up the row. There it was! My name was displayed on the little white label in the corner. After quietly untucking my chair and sitting down, I nervously arranged my stationery on the table, being careful not to touch the paper yet. What will the first question be? Which topics will the biggest questions be on? Will everyone find it easy or impossible?

I glanced up at the huge time projected on the front wall. 08:58. Patiently, I listened to all the announcements and regulations. Waiting. Sitting still. Writing my name and centre number. 08:59. Waiting. Sitting still. 09:00. We may start! Suddenly, the synchronised rustle of papers echoed around the exam hall, and within a second everyone was scribbling away eagerly. Now the race against time had started!

#### Here is Poppy's prize winning entry and this time it is a poem, entitled

#### I am different so are you

My skin is white and yours black, You say you cannot play with me, I am not your colour, I AM DIFFERENT, SO ARE WE.

You blame my religion for not fitting in, I get put down for having split parents, 2 houses, 2 homes, I AM DIFFERENT, I AM ME.

You single me out, but I would not dare, The things you say, the way you act; it is all in my head.

That is what you say to me, that is what I get told, But I AM DIFFERENT.

Why has society stereotyped everything? Wanting to do something without being told that is a boy thing, The world is changing, I am being more me, more excepting, Yet I walk down the street, I get stared at I am wearing clothes I like. I AM DIFFERENT, cannot people just see, I AM JUST BEING ME.

There are more ways at identifying, You want to be a girl, but you will stand out, Why cannot you just be yourself, feeling comfortable in your skin, But you are going to be different, I AM DIFFERENT, SO ARE WE.

You get tormented, laughed and made fun of, Just because you show emotions, You make yourself vulnerable, Sometimes you must show the inside before the out, How no one can change you for being you, I AM DIFFERENT, YOU ARE TOO.

Now it's your turn - start thinking of what you could write; fact or fiction. Look out for more details in the Spring Roundabout to enter next year's Laurie Twiss Award.







# Wistaston Singers Annual Christmas Carol Concert 3pm Saturday 9th December 2023

Come and join us: St Stephens Church, Gainsborough Road, Crewe Tickets priced £8 (£4 under 16 years old) include a refreshment buffet during the interval. The concert lasts about 2 hours. As well as performing a number of beautifully arranged carols and Christmas music, there is plenty of opportunity for you to join in and sing traditional carols with us.

Tickets are available on the door but may be reserved or purchased in advance from Mandy Ramsden - 07920 449543.

Parking is available at Ruskin Road College.

Can't wait until then or want 'a taster'?We are singing carols:Minshull's Nursery & Garden Centre, November, Sat 25 at 11am and Sun 26 at 1pm.

#### CREWE & NANTWICH RAMBLING CLUB





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

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

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





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#### Wistaston's 41st Flower and Produce Show Saturday 17 August 2024 Schedule of Classes

#### Section F - Flower Classes

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

#### Section V - Vegetable Classes.

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

#### Section D - Wistaston Parish Council Vegetable Display

Dl. A Collection of Five Different Classes of Vegetables..

#### Section B - Harvest Basket

- B1. A Basket containing Fruit, Flowers & Produce not to
- exceed 46cm in width and length; height unrestricted.
- Section A Flower Arrangements please read rule 20.
- A1. ) Themes to be
- A2. ) Agreed

#### Section H - Housecraft Classes - please cover entries with transparent covering.

- H1. A jar of Home Made Strawberry Jam;
- H2. A jar of Home Made Jam not Strawberry
- H3. A jar of Home Made Chutney.

#### The above three items to have cellophane covers only.

- H4. Three pieces of Shortbread
- H5 Five Square Flapjacks
- H6 Five Jam Tarts
- H7 A Plate of Five Chocolate Butterfly Cakes
- H8 A Lemon Drizzle Cake baked in a loaf tin.
- H9. A Cheesecake, approx.20cm in diameter presented on a plate.

#### H10. A Victoria Sponge Cake - read Rule 19 carefully.

- H11 Five Cheese Scones
- H12 A Quiche, approx. 20cm in diameter, presented on a plate.
- H13.An Apple Pie approx.20cm in diameter, short crust pastry top and bottom, presented on a plate.
- H14. Five Decorated Cup Cakes.

#### Section W. Beverages.

W1 A Bottle of Home Made Fruit/Vegetable/Flower Wine 75 ml bottle, not from a kit.

#### Section Y - Hobby Crafts - Please read Rule 18

- Y1. Any craft not on schedule(please specify on entry form)
- Y2. A Knitted Toy.
- Y3. A Crochet Toy.
- Y4 Cross stitch..
- Y5. A Painting: own original work, A4 max size unframed.
- Y6 A Decorated Plant Pot. 10cm-15cm diameter pot.

#### Section C - Children's Classes

- C1. Pre-school tba
- C2. Under 12's tba
- C3. Under 12's. tba
- C4. Under 12's tba
- C5. Under12's tba

#### **Parish Council Photographic Competition**

Free to enter

Class A: A Typical Snapshot.

Class B: A Cardboard Framed Enlargement.

Prize money will be £5, £3 and £2 in both classes.

Entries to be with the Show President by 11 August 2023.

Please read the schedule and the rules very carefully to make sure your entries are in the correct class, are trimmed as directed, are the correct size and contain the correct amount of ingredients.



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