

NEWS from Wolston Parish Council – December 2016

1946 "Seventy years ago, in the midst of Christmas preparations, the children of Wolston School (located at that time in School Street) did not forget others less fortunate, and a collection for children in hospital at Great Ormond Street in London raised £10-6s. This was £4 more than the previous year. (In today's figures these would be about £400 and £155).

The school's breaking-up party took place and about 100 children sat down to an excellent tea which had been made possible owing to generous offers of help and gifts. A small group of parents worked with the staff, organised by headmaster, Mr F. H. Potton, to make the party as good as any previous one. After tea, an entertainment, lasting about two hours, was arranged during which a conjuring display was given by "Nemo" of Wyken. As a surprise item, made possible by Mr and Mrs Atkins, ice-cream was served." What a treat that must have been.

Living here in the village we all share a common experience, even if we don't all have the same interests. Certain things evoke memories and highlight the bonds we share with previous generations. The village Millennium Project is one of these.

Standing next to the brook on Main Street we have a Mill Stone – set in a brick structure, with a brass plaque on the back of the brick wall. The stone is one of a pair which were recovered from the old Wolston mill, with the permission of Captain Fetherston-Dilke. The plaque on the reverse of the structure contains the words: "This Mill Stone was recovered from the ruins of the old Wolston Mill and it is intended to provide a tangible link with the past. It should be a reminder of our common bond with the people who have gone before, and those who will take our place."

It doesn't seem possible that sixteen years have elapsed since Mrs Kathleen Holloway, the oldest Wolstonian in the village and Mackenzie Newman, the youngest child on the roll at Wolston St Margaret's, took part in the special unveiling ceremony on 30th September 2000. Reverend Nancy Cervantes and Reverend Paul Simmonds officiated at the dedication, and Bilton Silver Band provided music to entertain the villagers. After the ceremony refreshments were served in the Baptist Church. Rae Taylor had created a special Mill Stone-shaped cake to celebrate the occasion and this was very popular. It was such a special day and such a wonderful location for the project. We are indebted to the Millstone Gardeners who do such a fabulous job enhancing the centre of the village with the four flowerbeds, two either side of the Mill Stone, on which they tirelessly lavish their skill and care. We should also thank the Memorial Gardeners for all they do to honour the memory of the villagers whose names are recorded on the War Memorial and which looked outstanding at the recent Remembrance Sunday service. A special thank you also to the people who continue to maintain the planters at the entrances to the village.

A village tradition will continue when the lights on the annual Christmas tree are switched on at 6.30 pm on Friday, 2nd December, 2016. It will be the 18th consecutive year that the village has had a tree. December 1999 was the first time, and we haven't missed a year since, although it has been touch and go, over the years, as to whether the electrics would produce any surprises on the night.

Originally, the tree was sourced from Oakdale Nursery, at Brandon, but there have also been trees donated by residents. Usually Paul Simpson would be heavily involved borrowing transport in which to collect the tree; in charge of cutting the tree down; putting it in the trailer; bringing it to the village green; putting the tree up and then also sorting out the lights. This was especially difficult the year that BT said that lights could not be strung across the road from their telegraph poles and proceeded to cut them down on a Friday afternoon, the day before they were due to be switched on. So if you have ever wondered why we don't have lights festooned across Main Street, or across School Street to the shops, now you know why.

This year we can look forward to members of the Salvation Army Band providing the music to make the Carol singing even more robust than usual. We hope that as many people as possible

will come along, enjoy the atmosphere, enjoy the mulled wine and mince pies, and enjoy themselves.

On behalf of Wolston Parish Council I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Tim
Chairman
Wolston Parish Council**

Harvey-Smith