

Your First Time - Welcome to the Wroth Silver Ceremony

This is we believe Britain's longest running annual ceremony being recorded as 'ongoing' in 1086 and on this site since 1170

The programme

The ceremony takes place at the stone, the base of an old wayside cross, on the mound at the top of **Knightlow Hill every 'Martinmas Eve before sun-rising'**. That means on 11 November every year just at first light the Wroth Money is collected from the parishes of the Hundred of Knightlow by the Agent to the Duke of Buccleuch. (On the occasions the date falls on a Sunday we hold it on the previous day, the Saturday)

In practice that is about 6.45am but it varies with the first light of dawn.

Anyone is welcome to attend. Many people will be regular attenders and will be bringing their children.

The actual collection from the 25 parishes only lasts about four and a half minutes so do not be late!

Many people will already have been to the local pub, **The Queens Head** in Bretford (CV23 0JY Tel. 024 76542671 www.thequeenshead-bretford.co.uk) for the traditional drink of rum and hot milk. The bar usually opens at 6.00 am

All will then return to The Queens Head for a breakfast and speeches. **Please note that breakfast tickets need to be pre-booked directly with the Queens Head**, breakfast cost is £11 in 2010. Included in the price is a glass of rum and hot milk with which to toast the health of His Grace and a churchwarden pipe (tobacco supplied). People will be departing by about 8.45am.

Car parking at the stone

Please do NOT park cars in front of the cottages by the field entrance. That is reserved for the Mayor of Rugby, the Duke's Agent and the householders.

There is plenty of parking either a few hundred yards along the road at the old petrol station and pub. There is a good pavement to walk back along to the field.

Or across the road in the lane. There is a gap in the safety barrier to make crossing easier.

More information

- See the website www.wrothsilver.org.uk
- There is an official announcement in the Rugby Advertiser about three week before.
- Many local history books make reference to the ceremony, but we suspect that many of the authors have never attended!
- Please be aware the A45 is a very busy dual carriageway so take care when driving and slowing down and crossing.
- The stone is in a grass field and the ground may be wet underfoot.

