Wilbrahams' Warbler

Winter 2024



Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom

Service of
Lessons & Carols

Join us for our annual Advent carol service followed by refreshments.

3pm Sunday 22nd December
St John's, Little Wilbraham

All welcome!





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Public Service Contact Details

Emergency	Police, Fire or Ambulance 999
Community Support Officer	PCSO 101 ext. 7113441

The Surgery, Bottisham Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments: 810030
Fulbourn Health Centre Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments: 880216
Out-of-hours / Urgent Care Cambridgeshire	NHS Direct 111

Anglican Church	Rev Alice Goodman 880337 Lay Minister: Steve Mashford, 882163
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Great Wilbraham Parish Council

Chairman	Hilary Burton hilary.burton@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Clerk	Sam Chambers-Turner 07369248998 clerk@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

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Clerk	Hayley Livermore 07725080631 clerkLW@wilbrahams.co.uk

County Councillor	Claire Daunton 07905473395 Claire.Daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
District Councillors	Carla Hofman 01954713000 Cllr.hofman@scambs.gov.uk Graham Cone 07595361285 cllr.cone@scambs.gov.uk John Williams 01223 880940 john.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	Pippa Haylings pippa.heylings.mp@parliament.uk.

Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Warbler. With Christmas just around the corner we have another packed edition for you.

Martin has now well and truly stepped down as one of our editors. Thank you, Martin, for all your hard work over the years. I have enjoyed the time we have worked on the Warbler and just hope that we can continue the good work you John Bramwell and I started all those years ago.

I am very pleased to announce that Carol Whitehouse has now joined our ranks. She is an active member of the Over 60's and regularly reports on what they have been up to. I for now will continue to do the compiling of the warbler so all your articles, reports and letters, please send them to me. Caroline will continue to deal with all the advertising. My plan would be to sit down with both Carol and Caroline to discuss where we go in the future with the Warbler. One thing is emails to us. I have had incidents where an email or two have been 'lost' or difficult to find in my inbox. Some of you have also requested an acknowledgement from us that we have received your emails. So an email address with an auto reply might be the way forward. Anyway, I think that will be a topic for us in the new year.

David White, for his On the Farm piece has written a rather interesting article following the recent Government Budget and how it will hit thousands of farmers up and down the country.

Moving Swiftly on Nick Toovey from the Wilbrahams Environmental Group has written about ongoing projects. It looks likely that we will have more solar farms locally. Plans are afoot for a Six Oaks Solar farm and the much larger Kingsway Solar farm group.

David and Rebecca Lomas give us some insight into the history and workings of Little Wilbraham Windmill it was built in the early 1800's so is now about 200 years old. There is also evidence of a much older mill on the site. To find out more you will have to read the article.

Roddy Tippen, at the time of writing his cricket report was in New Zealand on the eve of the Grandmasters World Cup Finals, where England O70's played Australia..... Did he play for England – I didn't ask. If you want to find out you'll have to ask him yourselves.

Someone above has written two articles, see if you can work out who and what it may be about.

We hope you all have a good Christmas and best wishes for 2025

John Torode

Letters

Dear Residents

23 years ago, on the 1st October 2001 we opened the doors to First Steps Day Nursery, and on the 1st of October 2024 we have sold the nursery and handed the reigns to Little Birches and taken our retirement.

During the course of this year, it became obvious that we had run out of steam and have no more to give in what is now a very challenging sector. We advertised the business and had a lot of interest. The one person who stood out to us as having the same ethos as us, the energy and enthusiasm was Mr Glen Jones, the CEO of Little Birches Day Nurseries. He took control on 1st October, and we wish him every success.

We would like to thank all the families from the Wilbrahams and surrounding villages who have supported us by entrusting the care of their children to us. It has been a privilege to see how well the children have developed and gained confidence during their time with us and to see the first intake of children now as successful young adults, some with children of their own.

Many thanks and best wishes

Duncan and Val Wells

Dear Editor

It would be nice if more people supported the Well – Brahams Committee who organise a free coffee morning each month in the village hall. There is tea, coffee, and a wonderful selection of cakes to enjoy games to play and the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Look for notices around the villages to give you the dates and come along and have an enjoyable morning.

Bette Armstrong
39 Angle End, Gt Wilbraham

Dear Editor

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are promoting opportunities for local people to have their COVID-19, flu vaccines this winter. Even if people have had a COVID-19 or flu vaccine previously, even if it's on many occasions, it's still important to get protected this winter.

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Please check if you, or someone you care for, is eligible - each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria as follows:

- Flu vaccine – for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled

person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.

- COVID-19 vaccine – for anyone aged 65+; those aged between six months and 64 years who are at increased risk of getting seriously ill due to a health condition or treatment; people who live in a care home for older adults, and those who are pregnant; and frontline health and care workers.
- RSV vaccine – for anyone who is pregnant, or aged 75-79.
- Pneumococcal vaccine – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).

To find out more about these vaccines and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators website https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators

Thank you,
Communications Team 03300 571 021 **www.cpics.org.uk**

Want your Christmas Tree collected in January?



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme is back and bigger than ever with new postcodes added for 2025!

In partnership with Just Helping, their teams of volunteers will be collecting used Christmas trees from CB1-CB5, CB21-CB24, CB25, SG8 and SG19 from 9-11 January 2025. To register your tree (and avoid needles in your car) visit arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling Registrations will open in mid-November and will close 5 January 2025.

Letters from Santa

In December, Arthur Bear, from Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, is teaming up with the North Pole, to bring the magic of Christmas to Cambridgeshire. For a small donation, Santa will send a personalised letter, directly to the special little people in your life.

Not only will your little ones experience the magic of Christmas, but your generous contribution will directly support patients and their loved ones. Visit **arhc.org.uk/santa** to order your letter from Santa and remember to register before 8 December 2024 to make sure your letter arrives on time.



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For more details, to make a reservation, or to view our menus, please visit our website:
carpentersarmswilbraham.co.uk/christmas-2024

The March for Clean Water on 3rd November London.



Five members of the WRPS set off for London to support the March for Clean Water on November 3rd. We joined 130 other national organisations including: surfers, wild swimmers, rowers, farmers, sailors, paddlers, sandcastle builders, walkers, and birdwatchers in the countryside or in town. Our remit; to call for an end to the polluting of our country's rivers and coastal waters with sewerage, agricultural effluent, road runoff and other toxins that find themselves in our waterways.

All marchers were dressed in blue to evoke a flowing river and carried a collection of banners and placards. As well as many representations of fish, dragonflies and birds, there were also a significant number of artworks and costumes featuring the less savoury offerings from our current day watercourses.

The march was led by Chris Packham who spoke in Parliament Square where he gave a moving request on behalf of nature. Other speakers articulated our requests of the government, namely: to reform regulation by conducting an immediate review of Ofwat & the Environment Agency and to enforce the laws which we already have in place to end water pollution.
In a move to stop pollution for profit – make sure ALL polluting industries invest here and now for the long term, upgrading infrastructure, reducing water wastage and leaks, helping farmers restore habitats, increasing efficient water use everywhere.

Let us hope our contribution helps to raise the profile of this problem which is all of ours and all of our nations and affects every drop of water we use.

Rebecca Lomas Secretary WRPS

THE WILBRAHAMS' SOCIAL CLUB

Our Coffee Mornings on Saturdays are always busy with many friends from the village and other villages. They provide a social get together for a chat, catch up and many laughs. The selection of cakes is always appreciated. We also have a raffle with lots of prizes kindly donated by the coffee drinkers. Why not join us?

Coffee Morning dates 10.30 - 12.00 on:

December 21st 
January 18th
February 15th

We also have very busy Food and Craft Market mornings serving many many cups of coffee and offer a comfortable lounge to sit in if it's cold or wet outside. The summer months have been a bit mixed. Wednesday and Thursday evenings continue to be well supported by the Table Tennis club and the Choir, with entertaining evenings. Cricket afternoons were busy, the cricketers and their supporters sitting on the patio and all round the recreation ground with a drink or two and sampling delicious cricket teas. A couple of the home games were rained off but thankfully the sun came out for the rest.

The football season is now here and we open the bar after the home games in the afternoon and stay open until everyone goes home! The fixture list is on the window in the club.

Currently we are not able to open more frequently owing to lack of bar staff volunteers and unfortunately nobody except the committee attended the AGM. New members are always welcome, the annual membership is £5. And once again new bar volunteers and committee members would be great.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Social Club Committee

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On the Farm

Sorry it's a political comment this time, but this is very important.

I almost missed the submission deadline for this piece having spent time doing pieces for the Times, ITV local news and the Farmers Guardian this week. Why? because I and thousands of other small family farms have over the last few days since the budget been looking at how they try to the retain their farms intact following a budget tax raid. This is due to the removal of Agricultural Property Relief which has historically removed the tax liability upon the inheritance of a farmland asset. Farmland is valued at many times its earning potential which means without selling part of it the tax bill cannot be funded. The £1m threshold before the 20% tax on the business value is triggered is many times too low to allow farms to continue (see pic 1 below).



Sadly this tax still won't stop investment corporations and "city billionaires" from buying farmland as a tax hedge which is why its value is as inflated as it is. They of course will be more interested in development and carbon off-setting than producing food. Ironically these tax hedge purchases are exactly why the budget changes were made! As it stands my daughter will inherit the responsibly of maintaining and hopefully improving Hawk Mill Farm during her "tenure". She will become the custodian, as I and my father before me were. By earning a modest income that should sustain the business from dilapidation and enable her to pass it to my grandchildren, one of whom may wish to be a farmer. And so it goes on, as it has since my grandfather started farming during the agricultural depression of the 1930s. Other rural business are also being hit with changes to business reliefs and extra employment costs. Many will now also suffer from cancelled orders as farm businesses consolidate to minimise taxable value. (see pic 2 over).

To show the depth of feeling at these changes I and thousands of others will be going on a peaceful protest march to Westminster on 19th November. I won't be



David White has cancelled two planned upgrades on his Cambridgeshire farm since the budget

NICK STRUGNELL FOR THE TIMES

Rural tradespeople are 'first victims' of Labour's farm tax raid

Builders and machinery dealers are losing out as farmers pull the plug on upgrades for fear of large inheritance tax bills in future

Will Humphries, Countryside Correspondent

Sunday November 10 2024, 10.51pm, The Times

Share

Rural tradespeople are among the first to suffer from the inheritance tax raid on agricultural land as farmers pull the plug on investments such as barns and machinery.

shouting, waving a placard or blocking roads with a tractor (yet) but be there just to be counted.

Back on the farm.

Autum sowing has now been completed with most crops "green up the row". For the second year running conditions have been quite wet with late September and October sowings done into marginal conditions, if done at all. Rainfall for September was excessive and more than double the norm at 120mm. October less so at 75mm but with a high frequency of small amounts of 1-2mm which can be very unhelpful. November has been much kinder and as I write this on the 13th we have enjoyed 10 dry days. Farming acquaintances further west have not been so lucky and have still been getting tractors stuck in their fields.

Our 6+ species cover crops (green manure) have enjoyed the rainfall and are now flowering well (pic 3 below), sustaining the bees that provide the honey for my breakfast porridge. The vegetation is bulking up nicely too which with the aid of some sheep will form the nutrition cycle to feed the spring planted cereals, negating the need to apply expensive imported potash and phosphate fertilizer.



I've recently entertained a couple of groups for farm walks. One a group of MSc students from around the globe who were studying soil science

and the other a group of farmers and agronomists from Denmark. Its always interesting to compare farming practices in the UK with those from other countries.
I also had a visit from a UK soil scientist who was working with Warwick University on soil eco-acoustic monitoring. This involves literally recording the sounds in the soil. The premiss is that an active soil full of worms, nematodes, arthropods and growing roots will produce more noise than a poorer less diverse more heavily cultivated one. We are always talking about a healthy soil these days, how do we prove we have one. I look forward to seeing (or hearing) the results.

David White.

Cover Pictures

Front Cover Fireworks (Ian Cumming)
Inside Front Cover: Marilyn and Steve Harmer. (Untold Stories, Page 20)

Children in Need at Gt Wilbraham School (page 40)

Inside Back Cover: Aerial view of the last cricket match of the season, (Tony Ryan) A swift (page 28)

Duke of Edinburgh out for a stroll I Wandlebury Park (Page 26)

You can Email contributions or adverts to the editors.
Hand-written or typed contributions can be handed in or posted to us

Deadline for the Autumn Issue Friday 14th February 2025

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John Torode.
7 High Street, Little Wilbraham, Cambridge CB21 5J
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Email johnboy_torode@hotmail.com

Friends of St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham

In July, the Friends held the first lecture in what will become an annual event. Jason Webb gave an excellent talk about the role of the airfield at Bottisham in the landings on D- Day, and the outstanding work of volunteers in creating the museum that many of us have visited. On 26 February 2025, we are presenting a second lecture on the Knights Templar.



Anyone who has read Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code*, or seen the film, will know something about the Templars – or at least his highly imaginative version of their history. The story of the Templars has attracted lurid accounts of secret initiation rites and conspiracies – no doubt 'fake news' concocted by their enemies.

The real story is more interesting. The Knights Templar - or the Poor Knights of the Temple of King Solomon to give them their full name - were established around 1118 by a French nobleman to offer protection to Christian pilgrims and their money as they travelled to Jerusalem which had been recaptured in the first Crusade. They were monks and warriors, armed by their faith and their swords. The Poor Knights soon became very wealthy from providing financial services both to pilgrims and to the crown in France and England. They acquired large land holdings, including here in the Wilbrahams. The name of The Temple in Great Wilbraham still records their presence – as does the templar cross on the wall of St John's in Little Wilbraham.

The Knights Templars were suppressed in the early fourteenth century, weakened by the loss of Jerusalem to Islam and the desire of the kings of France to escape from debt. Our church and village are part of this story of religious conflict, of war in the middle east, and of royal finances. We are delighted that Steve Tibble, the leading expert on the Crusades and the Knights Templar, will tell us how.

The lecture will be preceded by drinks in the church at 7pm. Tickets are £10, either at the door or in advance from Nigel Wathen (nigelwathen@gmail.com). We plan other separate events to further explore the Knights Templar. We are delighted that Alexander and Joli Wright are offering a visit to The Temple (details to be arranged), and we plan to organise a trip to the Temple church in London. We hope to see many of you at what will be another fascinating exploration of our village's place in major events in world history!

Martin Daunton, Chair of the Friends

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BOTTISHAM & BURWELL PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Our meetings continue and members are enjoying a variety of photographic lectures and competitions during our 2024/2025 programme.

An evening of note was a Zoom presentation by Gary Friedman from Massachusetts, USA on 'Computational Photography – How Our Smartphones are Beating the Big Cameras'. The smartphone will cover most, but not all, of the techniques required for amateur photography, but it will no doubt sometime in the future.

Our programme continues during the Winter months and into next year; some of the highlights are listed below:

2024

November 12	Print League Competition No. 1
November 19	'Scotland Behind the Lens' by Stephen Ball of Stephen Ball Photography. Zoom presentation.
December 3	'Living & Working in the Antarctic' by Professor Lloyd Peck, Science Leader of the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge.
December 10	Christmas Quiz led by Sarah Horsley.

2025

January 7	'Iceland in Winter' by Colin Westgate FRPS MFIAP APAGB MPAGB, West Mersea. Colin has visited Iceland many times and has some stunning images.
January 14	Panel Pics/Creative Board Competitions. Themes chosen by members – up to 3 Panel Pics and up to 3 Creative Boards. Judge: Jonathan Vaines LRPS CPAGB AFIAP

Meetings are held Tuesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall High Street, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD (except the third Tuesday in the month an online Zoom meeting) and new members are always welcome.

Visitors can attend a lecture for a small entrance fee of £4.00, which includes refreshments. Our annual subscriptions are £55.00 for Adults, £30.00 for Students, plus a weekly attendance fee of £1, which includes refreshments.

If you would like to join us we would love to see you. A copy of our programme for 2024/2025 can be obtained from our Secretary, Debra Bennett, at secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB, Chairman

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THE HOLE in THE WALL

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Fulbourn Women's Institute

This year has marked a special year in the history of WI campaigning, and I hope one in which you have all assisted in however small a way. You may recall a while back I wrote about our campaign to "Keep Britain Tidy" and the global recognition of its logo of the man throwing his litter in the bin . Well believe it or not 2024 is the 70th anniversary of that campaign and as far back as 1925 we successfully persuaded cigarette and chocolate companies to add anti-littering messages to its packaging

Our speaker in September was Helen Green who entertained us with her talk about "dashing away with the smoothing iron". Starting in medieval times when people perhaps only washed their clothes once or twice a year (that must have been when you truly knew who your friends were as the smell must have been awful at times) She went on to talk of dolly tubs, mangles and flat irons.

In our October meeting we had the much-anticipated return of Marion Leeper who is a captivating storyteller. She and her husband live near Jesus Lock in Cambridge, and she was telling us of how on one of their walks they wanted to try and see if they could trace the source of the Cam. As they were walking along she enhanced her story with folk tales of Finn McCall and an old lady sitting in a hedgerow cooking chicken soup (we were so engrossed in her tales that we never did get to the source of the Cam - perhaps they haven't walked that far yet).I did tell her and our members later that I went to a talk a few years back where we were told that if the Cam had bent the other way it would have been the village of Cambridge and the town if Reach (amazing the things you remember) Between 30th May-1st June 2025 Marion will be amongst a group of storytellers taking part in the East Anglian Storytelling Festival at the Food Museum in Stowmarket for more details go to www.eastanglianstorytellingfestival.co.uk

In November we welcomed a speaker from Each at Milton telling us about their work and in December it will be a members only meeting where we will be making our Christmas table decorations whilst enjoying a few festive nibbles

Our speakers for the beginning of 2025 are

Jan 15th. Keith Day. Granny's recipe book.

Feb 19th. Sarah Harrison "you couldn't make it up"

Mar 19th.Alison Moore. Miniature Dolls Houses.

Some more about our campaigns since the year 2000:

Social

The National Federation of Women's Institutes called upon the government to protect victims of modern slavery in the first instance and deliver long term support to help them rebuild their lives. We also called upon our members to raise awareness of the prevalence of modern slavery and to campaign to defeat it. In the early part of the century, we raised concern about the increase of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour.

Health

The NFWI noted 3 people die every day whilst waiting for an organ transplant and therefore called upon its members to make their wishes regarding organ donation known and to encourage their families and friends and members of their local communities to do likewise. It was also noted that mental health matters as much as physical health and the NFWI asked its members to recognise the parity between the two and to take action to make to acceptable to talk about both issues and to lobby the government for better support for mental health. We also asked the government to ensure that the NHS provides facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and have been admitted to hospital. Similarly, we asked that urgent action be taken to ensure that necessary facilities and services be available for older people irrespective of their means to spend their remaining years in comfort and dignity whether this be in their own homes or residential care. The NFWI became aware of the chronic shortage of midwives and asked that services were adequately resourced to enable a higher standard of care. At the beginning of the millennium, we asked the government to start funding children's hospices in accordance with the same principles as that for adults. We voiced our concerns about the increase in obesity in young children and diet related issues and linked to this we asked the government to recognise the need for participation in sport as an essential factor for a healthy population, we also looked for ways to alleviate loneliness in the community.

Environment

The NFWI noted with concern the continuing decline of our high streets and the damaging effect this has on our local communities, and we called upon our members to shop locally where possible and make the high street their destination of choice for goods and services

Hoping you all have a Merry Christmas and all that you wish for in 2025

Marilyn Moyse,
President Fulbourn WI

UNTOLD STORIES 36, Marilyn Harmer



Marilyn Harmer has been living a drama among us for the past ten years. Even before that, she was in Cyprus when the Turks invaded…

Steve, my husband, was a quantity surveyor. In 1973, his employer sent us to Cyprus. It was paradise! I did not have a work visa, so I was a housewife. That was fine! We got involved with the Church of Scotland there. We rented a bungalow in a Cypriot village, The Cypriots there very friendly and helpful. At that time conflict between Greeks and Turks was beginning to cause skirmishes in the villages, and Steve realised that there was real trouble ahead. One day I was making lemon curd when Steve rang and told me to pack a bag with all essentials: we were off to the RAF base at Akrotiri. I was angry! What about my lemon curd? He rushed back. There were no Turkish men working: they had all been called up for military service. Our friends on the base thought Steve was worrying unnecessarily. They invited us to stay the night, and we could return in the morning. But the morning news was that the Turks has landed on Cyprus! We were not allowed to go back to collect our possessions. We were at Akrotiri for about two weeks helping others to leave, and then we had to leave. We left as refugees in a Hercules and were flown to Brize Norton. After a few days in a hotel, Steve went back to work, and we lived with my parents for a while. We had tenants in our house, and we could not turn them out. I got a temping job.

It was difficult to settle.

After about a year, Steve got a promotion, and we bought a bigger house to start a family. James was born in 1976 and Peter in 1980. After a few happy years there the call came again to go back to Cyprus, this time with the forces. The boys were 8 and 4 and they had a great time in Cyprus. Education was outdoors and mostly sport. Then Steve was asked to return, with a promotion, and we moved here in 1986.

Was the next major event when Steve became ill? When was this?

Just after Christmas 2014 he had a “significant” stroke. Life changed completely. We now lived in a medical world, a different dimension, quite apart from the world we had lived in before. Steve was in hospital for four months. He had to get his speech back. He was doing very well, walking and talking, but then, about

2018, he started developing dementia. His speech suddenly deteriorated again, and he could not walk. The stroke had damaged his brain. He lived with that for four years.

You *lived with that for four years.*

We did have carers in. There came a point when I could not look after him, and he went into a nursing home for about six months. He died just before Christmas 2022.

You spoke of being involved with a church in Cyprus. Has religion played a large part in your life?

Yes. I became a Christian when I was about 17. Steve did also.

Can you say a bit more about what you mean by "becoming a Christian"?

People have different views on this. In the Baptist tradition you have to accept Jesus into your life. It's a personal faith. It is an acceptance of your sins and of the forgiveness of those sins. I was baptised by total immersion.

The suffering you both went through was intense. What did this do to your faith?

It tests you. Being a Christian does not make you immune from life. You ask the same questions as anyone else.

Did you doubt the existence of God?

I did sometimes. But I found a lovely fellowship in the Fulbourn United Reformed Church. We had been there years before. The day I went, there was a woman speaker whom I knew. She seemed to be speaking to me even though she did not know what I had been through. It really lifted me. I became an elder in 2019. I am involved in many other activities including the community choir, Tai chi and Scrabble.

You have had to show real courage in your life. Was there anything in your early life to prepare you for this?

I was born in Battersea in south London in 1949. I went to a secondary modern school. I went to the library often when I was younger. I did an RSA course in shorthand and typing. My first job, aged 16 or 17, was as a dental nurse. I did that until I got married.

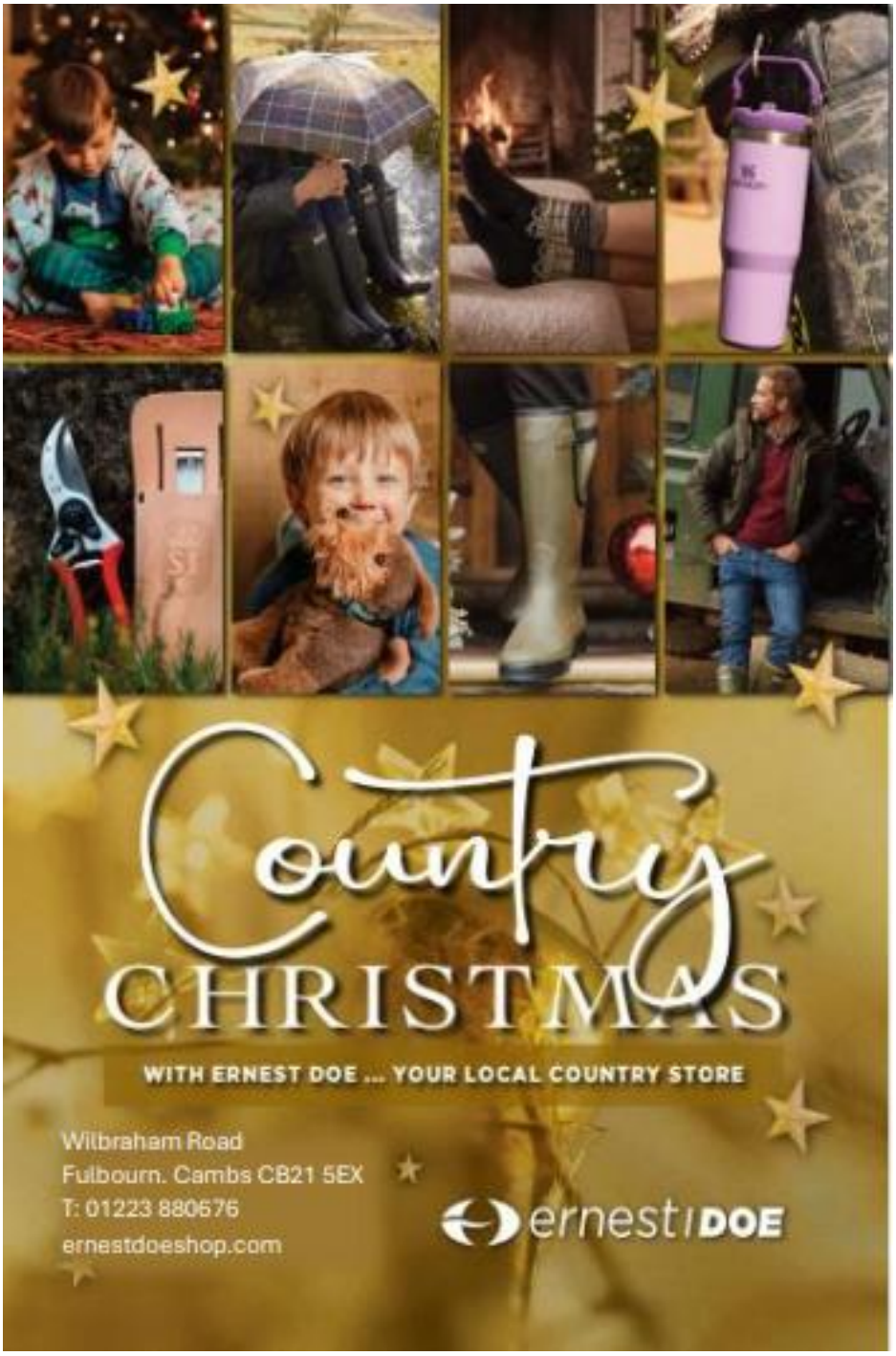
How did you meet Steve?

We were in a Baptist church in Balham. It just happened to be the nearest church to where we lived. A lot of young people were in its organisations.

Is there anything you would like to say to the people of the villages?

I would like to thank people for being so supportive without being intrusive. People would come in when Steve was on the floor and help me lift him up, which was much appreciated.

Thank you, Marilyn, for sharing so much with us.


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The Little Wilbraham Windmill

We thought it would be of interest if we explained some of the background to this historical building. The current brick tower windmill was built in 1820 although there is evidence of a smaller smock mill on the site prior to this. The location is slightly unusual as there was an existing watermill nearby at Hawk Mill. Both ground corn from the surrounding fields but after the ~1800 Enclosure Acts the river levels dropped. This reduced the output from the watermill while increasing the potential arable land and the demand for milling. The mill in the 20th Century was operated by Sidney Strand who lived in 45 High Street with his wife Nellie. They are both buried in St Johns Church Graveyard – look for the headstone with a windmill carving. The mill was damaged in the 1950s following a storm, stopped working and was left derelict until 1960 when work started to convert it to a dwelling. This involved removing all the machinery below the cap and creating large front windows as well as building an adjacent garage and kitchen with a flat roof. The Francis family of Quy Hall carried out the work and a Mrs Woollard and her children lived in it until the early 1980s when it was largely abandoned. Over the next few years, it was unoccupied and deteriorated. Janice Stephens (Chairwoman LWSMB Parish Council) decided to protect it by listing it in 1984.

In 1988 the Francis family put the mill on the market, and we decided to buy it – a rather high-risk idea as both the water supply and central heating had failed, the roof leaked, and part of the mill wall had fallen off. At that time there was no bedroom that would take a double bed! The garden was overgrown, and the survey was not promising – amongst many things the kitchen turned out to have flags laid straight onto soil as the floor. Over the next two years we restored the utilities, repaired the mill wall, the leaking roof and cleared the garden with help from friends and relatives. To cut a 3-decade story short we went on to extend the adjacent building and add a pitched roof while having 2 children and both working fulltime.



As you may have noticed, in the last few years (since we retired) we have undertaken fairly major renovations approved by the conservation and planning authorities. This has involved replacing the windows and doors as well as removing the white "cheeks" surrounding the windows that gave the mill more of a lighthouse appearance. The cap was cleaned and repainted and the deteriorating sail stocks removed and replaced with new ones. The sail stocks proved a complex exercise requiring several years planning and the expertise of a Millwright Paul Kemp.

Fortunately, the original oak frame on top of the tower proved to be in good condition along with the windshaft and brakewheel. The replacement stocks had to be dried out for 3 years then shaped to exactly the right size and painted. A complicated system of interlocking wedges and clamps hold the stocks in place and they had to fit exactly through the box canister on the end of the windshaft. After several dry runs on the ground a suitable dry and relatively windless day came along at the end of May this year and with the help of a huge (and expensive – Little Wilbraham needs a Clock Fund!) crane the stocks were installed. It was an exciting day after all the planning – and fortunately everything fitted correctly. The final stage came in October this year when the lightning conductors were fitted.

Sadly, the only machinery left from the 1960s conversion is in the cap although the original millstones are embedded in the path round the tower. Now it looks more like the original windmill we plan to take part in National Mills Day each year when we can (usually 2nd weekend May). There will be a display of old photos as well as explanations of the workings and history.

David & Rebecca Lomas

JOHNSON BEDE LANE TRUST

Do you know about the Johnson Bede Lane Trust?

This is a local charity which can make small grants to people and projects which benefit those who live in Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom.
We currently support people with winter fuel grants and funds for equipment to support health and educational needs. Enquiries and applications are treated in strict confidence. You can contact the Trustees via JohnsonBedeLane@gmail.com
New: We have recently been approached by Ridge Clean Energy and Ely Food Bank who are administering winter fuel grants, for £50,
in partnership with local charities including Johnson Bede Lane Trust (JBL). If you are suffering hardship this winter and would like to apply for a Winter Fuel Grant, please let us know and we would be happy to support an application on your behalf.
Grants are easy to apply for and only need basic contact information (including an email), and the name of your fuel provider. They are paid through Paypoint, or your Post Office. If this is something you would like to apply for, please contact a Trustee of JBL or by email: johnsonbedelane@gmail.com. Please note whilst JBL grants can only be awarded to Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Residents, the Ridge Clean Energy fuel grant is also open to Great Wilbraham residents.
Trustees: Adel Helmy, Guy Mulley, Karen Ostenfeld, Juliet Carter, Holly Tilbrook, Anne-Marie McCubbin and Revd. Alice Goodman

Karen Ostenfeld 07828601994

Wilbrahams Community Choir

After a busy and productive Summer, The Wilbrahams Community Choir meet again for the autumn term and to start preparations for the Carol Services at Little Wilbraham and Great Wilbraham. We will be singing at The Carol Service at St John's, Little Wilbraham on Sunday 22nd December and at St Nicholas', Great Wilbraham on Tuesday 24th December. These are highly enjoyable special events for the choir, and we hope for the congregation too. We are always on the lookout for new members and welcome you to join us, no previous experience necessary. We meet every Thursday during school term times at 8.00pm at the Wilbrahams Memorial Hall. The new term starting in January is a good time to come along as we will be starting a new programme of songs to learn for events coming up in the early part of the year. Communal singing has many benefits for mental health and physical wellbeing and we have an excellent social aspect of making new friends by enjoying a drink or two in the Social Club next door afterwards! For any further information, please feel free to contact me, Malek Hyde-Smith, at malek.hs@btinternet.com, or our Choir Director, Gill Humphrey, at gillianhumphrey@icloud.com. Malek Hyde-Smith, Chairman.



'HRH the Duke of Edinburgh visits Wandlebury

On Tuesday the 5th November HRH the Duke of Edinburgh visited Wandlebury Country Park to help mark the occasion of 70 years since the charity acquired Wandlebury and turned it into Cambridge's first country park.

The Duke's visit began by meeting the charity's staff, volunteers and apprentices from the National Stud at the Godolphin Stallion Memorial located inside Wandlebury ring. Godolphin was one of three horses that were the founders of modern thoroughbred horse racing and is reputed to be buried at Wandlebury.



Cambridge PPF CEO James Littlewood and Countryside Manager Ed Wombwell accompanied the Duke on a walk past some of Wandlebury's iconic spots, including the beech woodland and the iron age ditch, introducing him to the 2000 year old history of Wandlebury, and the Charity's plans to expand the park and create new habitats.

The Duke visited Wandlebury's Education Centre where he met with volunteers from the Charity's wider projects, including Hinxton Watermill, Bourn Windmill, Coton Nature Reserve and the Blue Plaque scheme. He also met children from St Luke's C of E primary school visiting as part of one of Wandlebury's Iron Age education projects who presented His Royal Highness with a thumb-print picture they made of the autumn colours of the Wandlebury trees.

As a finale to the visit, The Duke planted a tree as part of a new copse of three trees - a new project to transform farmland into wildlife habitat.

The Duke then cut a special memorial cake to mark the occasion of 70 years of Wandlebury Country Park.

The Cambridge & District Blue Plaque Scheme, mentioned earlier, recognises people and events that have made a significant impact on the area, the UK or, indeed, the world. Tom Bacon's Blue Plaque, the 41st, will be permanently installed at 82 High Street Little Shelford

He developed the first practical working hydrogen-oxygen fuel cell. His fuel cells provided the secondary power for the Apollo Missions producing the electricity for the communications, air conditioning and lighting as well as drinking water for the astronauts. The Apollo 11 mission landed the first man on the moon in 1969.

For more information visit www.cambridgeppf.org

The Highwaywoman inspired by The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes. This is an excerpt from a longer poem.

The flowing trees a' whistling along the misty moor,
The moon, a restless child, staying up till dawn,
A horse galloping, galloping up to the old inn door,
The highwaywoman with her pistols
Patiently waiting till morning was nigh.

She'd a pair of navy breeches and down-trodden boots,
A coat of velvet fabric and gloves of black pig skin,
They fitted with never a crease,
Oblivious to her sins,
Sins, sins, sins.

By Christina Craig Year 6

The Paddling inspired by memories of my childhood and our chalk stream.

The smallest sticklebacks swam, reflected
light, dashed between dancing feet, through
and into bitter cress. It seemed hours then

standing still, patient as pedestals, until
signs showed, their heads dared break
cover slowly, took courage to explore.

Anxious not to strike too soon we waited,
posed heron style, torn stocking nets agape,
hungry, aware that one touch, one drip,

one ripple was enough to startle and
send them into hiding yet when we did
we were empty, beaten by angular illusions

of light and guile and the skill of schooling:
how they dispersed then reformed into
shoals, synchronised successfully.

Recently this poem was long-listed for a Chalk Stream Poet Laureate award.
Perhaps one day our chalk streams will flow again naturally.

Tony Goryn

A Good year for Swifts in the Wilbrahams 2024?



Swifts fly 7000 miles to arrive in the UK in late April/early May and are with us for just three months before they set off again to fly (non-stop) another 7000 miles back to Southern Africa. Nationally they are an endangered, Red-Listed species: for every 10 swifts which you might have seen in 1995, today you might hope to see three. This may be because of a lack of insect food but the loss of natural nest sites (usually small spaces/holes in or under roofs) when properties are renovated is a major problem. We need to provide artificial nestboxes designed especially for them – and an increasing number of us are trying to help in Great Wilbraham – and in Six Mile Bottom where Bob Windsor and his wife have had swifts breeding in boxes on their home for 2 years now – I am so jealous!

In Great Wilbraham there is one house in High Street which has multiple nest sites; In Angle End one house had four successful nest boxes; in Church Street at least one new box attracted residents; at the church one pair of birds nested again in a gap under the guttering; and others had a good look at the eight new boxes but did not nest – perhaps next year?

My own box in Chapel Meadows was ignored – again – and other enthusiasts in Angle End and Church Street keep hoping. Playing recorded swift calls increases the chances of success but can take time to work: if you walked through the churchyard in the summer, you may have heard lots of swifts "screaming" but it was mostly from miniature speakers mounted under the eaves!

We have, however, had large numbers of swifts over the village: I saw 30 – 40 at once on many fine evenings and listened to their joyful calls. I hope you too enjoyed them.

If you have seen swifts elsewhere in our villages, please let me know so that they can be added to a "swift mapper "database maintained by the RSPB. If you might have room for a nestbox and want some advice/info, please contact me.

Nick Toovey 07594 601205

Editor's Note

I mentioned to Bob Windsor that I had set up a bird box. He said that he had swifts nesting in his. He went on to say that he had set up a camera in the nesting box, so he could monitor the birds' comings and goings. It took 3 years before they took up residence in the box and 2 chicks fledged on 24/8 last year at 20:45 when it was pitch dark.

My Village Handyman Services

- DIY repairs and odd jobs
- Painting & Decorating
- Tiling, Flooring & Patios
- Gardening, Landscaping, Fencing & Decking
- Kitchen & Bathroom installation
- Brickwork, Dry Walling and Small Builds
- Carpentry and Plumbing
- Window and Gutter cleaning
- Jet wash and Patio cleaning
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- TV and Audio Installations
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Community Group Contact Details	
Great Wilbraham Common Rights	Steve Bartlett 881096 stephen.bartlett@mindworks.ltd.uk
Little Wilbraham Common Rights	Guy Mulley 812862 mulley.guy@gmail.com
Great Wilbraham Guild of Change Ringers	Peter Sims ptrs28@googlemail.com
Great Wilbraham Primary Academy School	Office: 880408
Gt Wilbraham Primary Academy School PTFA	Caroline Bird 07870695942 Carolinebird17@gmail.com
Oil Syndicate, Great Wilbraham	Chris Gurney webadmin@oil-club.co.uk
Over 60s	Carol Whitehouse Carolwhitehouse4@gmail.com
Transport Working Group	David Richer 880547 hgvs.wilbrahams@gmail.com
Friends of St John The Evangelist	Andrew Carter apc48@cam.ac.uk
Wilbrahams Bridge Club	Di Raikes, 881065 raikswilb@btinternet.com
Wilbrahams' Sports Club	Roddy Tippen, 880728
Wilbrahams' Football Club	Andy Goryn, 07949635085
Wilbrahams' Scrabble	Julia Cornwell, 881751 juliacornwell@gmail.com
Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall Bookings	Shirley Morley, 880723 wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com
Wilbraham' Community Choir	Tony Goryn, 07751281341 tonygoryn@icloud.com Gill Humphrey 811436
Weenie Warblers Baby & Toddler Group	Rachel Paine rachel1406@live.co.uk
The Well-brahams	www.thewell-brahams.weebly.com well.brahams@gmail.com
Volunteer Group	Pat Simpson pas49@cam.ac.uk

Notice Board

School Terms

Friday 20 December School Finishes
Spring Term
Monday 6 January School -Re-opens
Half term, Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February
Friday 4 April - School Closes
Summer Term
Tuesday 22 April School Re-opens

Mobile Library

The Library visits every 4th Thursday

Six Mile Bottom

Outside the shop, 10.30 – 10.55 am

Little Wilbraham

Bus stop on High Street, 4.10-4.25 pm

Great Wilbraham

Opposite the playground 3.20 – 4.00pm

Bin Collections

Wednesdays unless otherwise stated

Date	Black	Blue	Green
December			
Wednesday 4		√	√
Wednesday 11	√		
Wednesday 18		√	√
Monday 23	√		
Monday 30		√	
January 2025			
Wednesday 8	√		
Wednesday 15		√	√
Wednesday 22	√		
Wednesday 29		√	
February			
Wednesday 5	√		
Wednesday 12		√	√
Wednesday 19	√		
Wednesday 26		√	
March			
Wednesday 5	√		

LW & SMB Parish Council

Next Meeting
Check website for more details
Little Wilbraham Church
7.30 pm

GW Parish Council

Next Meeting
Check website for more details
Memorial Hall
7.00pm

Wilbrahams Memorial Hall Monthly Farmers' Markets

Held on the second Saturday of the month.
From 9.30-11.30 am
Next Market 14th December

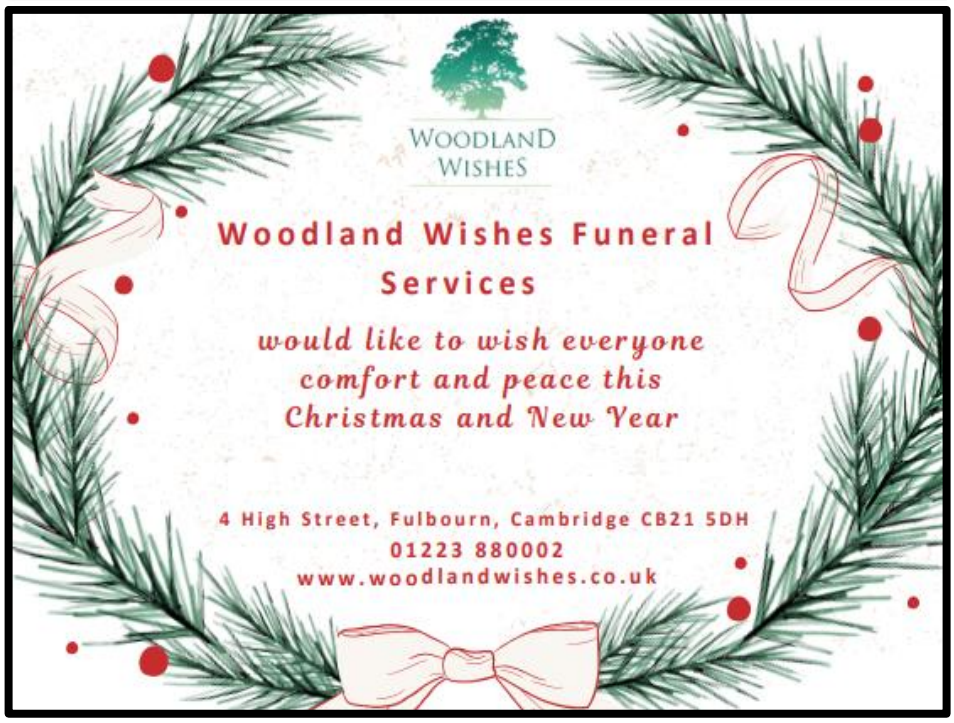
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The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust Chairman's Annual Report for 2023/24

The trust has made donations of £20,420 to the PCC over the past twelve months, to help cover the cost of repairs & maintenance to the church building fabric, comprising £5,570 for window repairs, £10,540 for Chancel wall repairs and £4,010 for rainwater goods repairs and painting.

We are advised by Jeremy Barnett, treasurer of the Church Fabric Sub-Committee, that all the urgent items of repair listed in the church architect's Quinquennial (5yrly) Inspection & report, last done in November 2020, have now been completed. So the PCC has agreed with the church architects, Archangel, that the 2025 Quinquennial Inspection will be brought forward and carried out in the first quarter of 2025. This will provide the summary of the next repairs required and their order of priority.

Tony Ryan, the trust's treasurer, is retiring as treasurer after 12 years of service (a BIG thank you to Tony!) and is being replaced by Jeremy Davis who is an existing trustee with a lifetime's experience in the world of finance. As at 14th November (the trust's AGM date), the trust's financial holdings comprised: £6,539.17 cash plus around £900 in Gift Aid yet to be received; plus the Legacy Capital Fund valued at £234,685 (from November 2017 the original donations have amounted to £211,273), so a slight increase in the value of the capital at +11.08%. compared to the FTSE All Share stock index that increased by +9.03% over the same period from £4,033 to today's £4,397. Meanwhile, by careful investments, the dividend income received from the fund since it's inception has amounted to £58,830, of which £10,320 has been received over the past 12 months.

We continue to be very thankful to the eight households, whose regular monthly contributions by banker's standing order to the Trust, currently produces a regular income of £101pcm or £1,212pa PLUS any Gift Aid Tax Refund .. all of which goes to maintaining and sometimes improving upon the fabric of St Nicholas church.

Turning to the trustees, I am pleased to report that all the existing trustees have offered their valued services for another year, so it is a warm thank you to them for their help & expertise over the past twelve months and looking ahead into 2025 we look forward to building on what has already been achieved.

For further information on how to make donations and how to contribute most efficiently to the Trust's Capital Legacy Fund, please contact our new treasurer, Jeremy Davis, who may be contacted via email: jeremy.davis3@btinternet.com

With my best wishes, Graham Clarke, chairman

Memorial Hall 100+ Club - an early Christmas Present?

We drew the tickets for the BUMPER CHRISTMAS DRAW at the Memorial Hall meeting on the 4th November.

You can watch the draw here: https://www.wilbrahamhall.co.uk/post/bumper-christmas-100-club-draw-results

Congratulations to our winners this month!

Guy Mulley won 1st Prize (£200); **Lisa Gifford** won 2nd Prize (£100); **Rebecca Lomas** won 3rd prize (£60)

The following each won additional prizes of £25: **Jane Fell**, **Rebecca Lomas**, **Peggy Chinnery, Elspeth Threadgold, Sue Lambton, Julia Cornwell, Steven McManus**

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Memorial Hall and bought tickets.

There are currently 130 numbers allocated in the draw.
Our next draw will be in February 2025. If you would like to buy tickets for the 100+ Club, please join at the new season in March 2025. Tickets are £20 and are entered to 4 draws through the year. 50% of the fund is distributed as prizes. You may be lucky! Please contact Shirley Morley, our Booking Secretary.

Clubs and Bookings

Did you know that we have lots of clubs and groups using our hall on a regular basis: Community choir; Table tennis; Over 60's; Film Club; Whist, Scrabble & Bridge Clubs; Weenie Warbler's Toddler Group; Wilbrahams' Environment Group; Patchwork; Sewing etc. If you haven't visited, or tried any – why not give something a go? Or set up a new club? Our website calendar is kept up to date, and on the same page is a list of all the groups / classes and their contact details: https://www.wilbrahamhall.co.uk/calendar. A good way to dip your toe in the water is to come along to one of the monthly Wellbrahams' 'Warm Mornings' on Thursdays from 10am-12.30pm. They are free and welcoming events, with plenty of tea, cake, games, and chat. The last date of this year is December 5th.

Bookings for the hall are going well, particularly in the run-up to Christmas. The hall is a popular and easy to use venue for a party, so please plan ahead and make sure that you book your family celebration or party well in advance. We will always try and accommodate you if we can.

Solar Panel Update

Our 60 panels and batteries have been installed since August and we are very pleased so far. Of course, the gain is weather dependent, but they still generate electricity on a cloudy day. Now that we are heating the building, we are able to

charge up the batteries with cheaper electricity at night and use that to help with the heating the next day. It will be interesting to see how much of a saving we make over the year.

Paul Lambton has kindly calculated our first 3 months figures:

Energy produced - 4.75MWH
Energy exported - 81%
Energy consumed - 1.93MWH
Energy imported from grid - 19%
CO2 saved 925.6Kg
Equivalent trees planted – 56.

Events

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Memorial Hall **FEAST** on 19th October, as most of the organising team came down with Covid in the few days before! Many thanks to all the 80 ticket holders who have been so understanding. We have re-scheduled the event for Saturday 8th February 2025 and most ticketholders have confirmed they can make that date. If you find you are unable to, please email mail@emma-adams.co.uk so we can reallocate the ticket and reimburse you.

The monthly **Farmers' Markets** will finish their run on December 14th and will start up again in April 2025. We are pleased that the markets are popular with villagers and visitors alike. We are always getting comments on how friendly everyone is, so thank you for being so welcoming! Our last market of the year will be Christmas themed and there will be hot snacks, beautiful wreaths as well as lots of great food and quality craft stalls so you can stock up for Christmas. For Farmers' Market news please follow: https://www.facebook.com/wilbrahamfoodandcraft . The **Wilbrahams' Produce Stall** will be run by the Memorial Hall in December. If you can donate Christmas bakes or produce on the morning it will be much appreciated. The markets have become an important part of the hall's finances – the money raised goes on regular maintenance and decorations. They also support many small local businesses who run the stalls. But most importantly, they help the Wilbrahams' social glue - they are a great place to meet with neighbours and friends and enjoy a coffee and a cake.

Family Table Tennis – Tony Goryn and Jo Helmy are organising a trial table tennis afternoon for families on Sunday November 30th (too late for this Warbler edition), we will tell you how it went in our next report. If it is a success and popular, hopefully it will carry on.

Memorial Plaques

Relatives and loved ones of Keith Precious, Derek Fabb and Leslie Fabb have gifted memorial plaques, to the Committee, for display on the Hall. Keith, Derek

and Leslie contributed a huge amount to the Wilbrahams' Community by fundraising, organising and taking part in activities at the Memorial Hall over many years, efforts which contributed significantly to our New Hall project in 2016. We are proud to have placed their plaques on the New Hall exterior wall adjacent to the recreation ground.

A polite reminder to dog owners!

Please can you clear up after your dogs on the recreation ground? There are too many instances of dog mess that needs to be cleaned up – really not pleasant for an area used by children and for sports matches. We have seen owners with dogs on long leads just not noticing what is going on at the other end of the lead – so please keep an eye on your dog!

If you would like to book the hall or have any practical queries, please contact Shirley Morley (Booking Secretary) booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com If you have any comments or suggestions for things you would like to see at the hall, please contact me: mail@emma-adams.co.uk

Emma Adams, Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee 01223 881609



Great Wilbraham Parish Council

Our November Parish Council meeting was a great run-through of many exciting areas. But it made clear issues on the horizon and opportunities that we could pursue if only we had more time. That brings me to our first important announcement. We were sorry to lose Parish Councillors Jens Kolind and David Crowther in the last couple of months. We thank them both, in particular Jens who was instrumental in developing our new IT systems and both for their wise counsel and commitment to the village.

Please consider becoming a Parish Councillor

We now have two PC vacancies, so please consider whether you would like to join the Council and help us make a difference. It is also a fantastic way to engage in village life, get to know people and learn about the locality. We promise not to push you too hard and to respect everyone's need to prioritise day jobs, family life and other commitments. **If this could be you, please get in touch with me or any other Councillor for a chat.**

Cemetery Working Group

Last time we reported on our new **Cemetery Working Group**. We have been consulting with various agencies, including Highways, on how best to drain the orchard area and are currently waiting for definitive advice. In the meantime, we have restricted burials to the upper area and have tidied up the top gravelled area. **Many thanks to Ollie Drake and his team** for removing piles of woodchips, green waste and the old compost heaps **all at no cost to the Council.**

Hedgerows and trees again!

We are doing better at keeping the village tidy, but there is still room for improvement. All residents have a responsibility to keep their own hedges and trees cut back and away from footpaths - **so please take action.** On our part, the Parish Council has recently commissioned Tree Audit on Parish Council sites. We now have a comprehensive record of our trees and their condition and a list of suggested actions to ensure both the safety of the public and long-term health of our trees. The audit is available on the Wilbrahams website.

Highways and traffic

We inch slowly forward on this, thanks to the work of Councillor Chris Page, County Councillor Claire Daunton and the Highways, Transport and Cycleways Committee. Firstly, the High Street/Mill Road triangle! This junction is extremely dangerous. Whilst we engage with Highways to see if the junction can be remodelled to improve visibility, you can do your bit. **Please do not park or allow your visitors to park within 10 metres of the junction.**

Thank you to the 130 people who responded to our recent **Highways Survey** and the 43 people who offered further help. Our report is on the website, but briefly there is strong support for actions: to improve safety at the school crossing point (we will be developing a Local Highways Improvement bid); tackle the problem of HGVs (we have been speaking to Fulbourn businesses); and improve the safety of pavements.

The decision to implement **the 20mph speed limit** throughout Great Wilbraham has now been taken formally by the County Council. Together with the agreed funding this allows work to proceed to install signs and lines at the intervals agreed with the Parish Council, hopefully early in the new year. The decision took account of the evidenced support of the Parish Council, the engagement of the wider community and earlier with the 20s Plenty campaign and the support of the local Member (county councillor).

The new **bus route** has been delayed whilst the Authority goes through the procurement process – possibly until the new year. Sorry – we will keep you informed. We are also making some progress on **cycle routes** to connect us with other villages in discussion with the County Council – but this is still very early days.

Winter Fuel Scheme

Ridge Clean Energy has generously offered funding to families in Bottisham, Little Wilbraham, Great Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom this winter. This is intended for 'individuals and families in need who are struggling to afford their heating and energy bills, whether due to low income, reliance on the benefit system, disability, or other hardships'. If this sounds like you, please get in touch with the Parish Council via our Clerk, Sam Chambers-Turner (Telephone 07369 248998 or find her at one of the Well-brahams Warm Mornings) and she can help you, in confidence, to apply.

Finally, we are looking forward to some excellent Christmas celebrations in the village, including the Christmas Farmers Market, the lighting of the village star and the PTFA winter advent windows. We hope you all enjoy the festive season, have a chance to re-engage with friends, family and fellow residents. And we will see you all in the New Year.

Hilary Burton

Chairman Great Wilbraham Parish Council

hilary.burton@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Over 60s

The Over 60's are doing well, with now over 60 members. This is due to the fact that Keith Precious worked so hard to keep things going.
He organised various events, outings and talks etc.

In August we all enjoyed an afternoon tea, with music and dance. Remembering what a lovely man he was and how he is missed.

In September we visited Rushdon lakes.

In October we had our members lunch, with coffee and cake at Seasons Garden centre, followed by lunch at Maypole Farm in Kemptins.

On November 28th we had a charity dance with Peter Day, followed by wreath making with Philip Ward. We also held a Tombola in aid of Macmillan.

December 12th Is our Christmas party with James Labec.

We start at 2pm in Great Wilbraham Memorial Hall.

Contact Carol Whitehouse: 07770 973702 carolwhitehouse4@gmail.com



News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Message from the GPs.

Do you live in Cambridgeshire? Yes.

Will you ever require NHS services now or in the future? Eg GP or A&E? Yes.

Then read on as this is VERY IMPORTANT

The local NHS team (the "ICS" - those who fund our local NHS services) are spending £10Million on a "digital front door".

What does this mean? Rather than go straight to A&E or call your local GP patients will need to login to a "digital portal" and you'll be told where to go. You won't be able to just book a GP appointment or just attend A&E like you can now.

Instead, you might be sent to a pharmacy or to an NHS website without speaking to or seeing a doctor or nurse.

Your personal health record will need to be shared more widely than your GP practice

It will become more likely you'll get access to NHS clinicians who aren't doctors, or NHS staff using artificial intelligence to advise you about your health.

How will elderly patients or those with learning disabilities access this? How will patients who don't have WiFi, smartphones, computer skills or good vision access this?

We don't know. And as your local GP surgery - we are very worried.

This feels like the end of a family doctor service on the NHS. It feels like your right to attend hospital in an emergency is under threat.

This Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS survey is about your views on these plans for digital access - and even this survey can only be accessed by those who already have digital access!

Please share with your elderly relatives and neighbours, help them complete it and help them have their say. Ask them their thoughts on the "digital front door".

This will affect each and everybody from cradle to grave.

Please feedback how the loss of access to your GP or walk-in access to A&E as you currently know it, would affect you and your family.

https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/form/improving-digital-access-to-heal

Were you a DNA – Did not attend your appointment?

In August and September 83 patients did not attend their appointment which is 21 Hours of clinicians' time. Numerous appointments were not attended by patients

who had only booked that day! Please call to cancel your appointment so it can be offered to others. In the dispensary 214 prescriptions were not collected. Although you only pay £9.90 or (nothing if you are exempt) some items cost the Practice hundreds of pounds.

2024 Vaccination Programme:

From September 75-79 year olds are being offered a one-off RSV vaccination (new this year) to prevent this infection which can cause pneumonia in adults and bronchiolitis in babies. If you have not had your annual influenza vaccination, then check with the surgery as to whether appointments are still available for them.

It is safe and recommended to have both Covid and flu vaccinations if you are in the at-risk group.

Covid vaccinations will be provided via the NHS vaccination hubs and not at the Practice.

Sight and Hearing Community Research National Study: This is being conducted by Professor Rupert Bourne. Patients will be picked at random from Bottisham and Lode and offered the chance to have their sight and hearing checked with a view to assessing the state of these in the community.

Physiotherapists: There are two Practice physios, Becky and Dominic, who are both skilled at assessing you for all kinds of musculoskeletal injury and symptoms. You can book to see them directly through the reception often with a wait of only a few days. They can refer to hospitals and book investigations as required.

Paramedic: The Practice paramedic, Ellie, has completed her prescribing qualification. She is highly trained and can fully assess acute symptoms. She has access to GPs every day should a second opinion be required, and also can request all the investigations and referrals that a GP has access to.

Please use any of the team members when advised by reception to free up the GPs to see complex cases.

The Patients' Group is looking for more patients to join us at our meetings. We meet every two months and would love to have your thoughts and feedback to help improve the facilities the practice may provide in the future. Why not come along to our next meeting or if you want to know more about what we do please contact our Chairman, Steve Gilson via email s.j.gilson@btinternet.com or leave your details with reception and he will contact you for a chat.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 23rd, 2025, at 6.30pm in the waiting room. All patients of the practice are welcome to attend.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group.

Winter Fuel Payment, the cost of living and rural communities

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough recognises that our rural communities are facing a disproportionate impact from the wider economic crisis. We have expanded the Cost-of-Living support page on our website to include additional resources which may be of interest to those affected by the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment.

Almost a fifth of England's population live in rural or coastal communities. Although countryside residents report higher feeling of wellbeing than their urban equivalents, in many ways they are disadvantaged. Rural authorities receive less per head than urban authorities, but residents pay more per head in council tax, despite it costing more to deliver the same services in rural areas. In general, rural populations are older, in poorer health, and receive a lower level of support from health and social care services. There are fewer dentists and GPs within reasonable travel distance, worse public transport, lower levels of broadband and network access, and more energy-inefficient detached, pre-1919 and off-the-gas-grid homes.

In July, the Government announced that future Winter Fuel Payments would only be made to those in England and Wales on low incomes who receive pension credit or other means-tested benefits [the Scottish government is doing the same].

This means that more than 10 million pensioners will no longer receive the payment designed to help with the cost of adequate heating.

At the same time, effective from 1 October, the energy price cap for a typical household that uses gas and electricity and pays by Direct Debit will go up from £1,568 to £1,717 per year. This increase of around 10% will add about £12 a month to an average bill. The only good news, for some, is that the cost of domestic heating oil has fallen from around 81p per litre in October 2023 to around 60p per litre on 1 October 2024 (Source: https://www.boilerjuice.com/heating-oil-prices/), but prices are notoriously volatile.

What has not been taken into consideration at all is that not only do rural consumers have to afford the high cost of oil, bottled gas, coal or smokeless fuel, but that they have to pay in a single advance payment. The pension increases coming into effect in April 2025 will be delivered in small payments in arrears, so they will not help in the slightest this winter.

In 2022 a new Cost of Living support page on our website (https://www.cprecambs.org.uk/cost-of-living-support.html) signposted resources to help with the cost of living, including: help and advice from local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; financial and energy-saving advice and support; food; and local warm spaces/hubs. We have updated this content for those affected by the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment:

- AGEUK (https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/winter-fuel-payment/) for advice on how to check your eligibility for Winter Fuel Payment and other benefits, and how to apply, plus staying well and warm in winter
- The Warm Home Discount (https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/warm-home-discount/), a one-off payment of £150 to help with the cost of energy during the winter (but dependent on eligibility)
- WHICH (https://www.which.co.uk/news/article/winter-fuel-payments-scrapped-unless-youre-on-benefits-atFfl5o4PfNA).

CPRE has joined the 'Warm This Winter' coalition calling for urgent action from the government, otherwise millions - particularly in rural areas - will be unable to pay their bills and heat their homes. To add your voice, go to https://www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/. For more information about CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough go to www.cprecambs.org.uk.



Great Wilbraham CE Primary Academy

It has been a busy term so far at Great Wilbraham CE Primary Academy. We have welcomed three new members of staff: Miss Steley, our Y4/5 teacher; Miss Roberts-Taira, our Y2/3 teacher and Mr. Lewis, our Y6 teacher. They have all settled in wonderfully. Mrs. Chaudhry has welcomed her daughter, Elodie, into the world and is enjoying her maternity leave.



In September, we launched our new vision for the school, 'With God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26) and we have been talking to the children about what this means for them. We have chosen and are exploring four core Christian values: love, thankfulness, courage and wonder and each class has thought carefully about how they can embody those values every day in their learning.

We are developing our school leaders and since September have elected a School Parliament, House Ambassadors and most recently Sports Ambassadors. We have been overwhelmed by how willing our children are to take on a leadership role and represent their class or school. We are hoping to develop more opportunities for our children to become leaders and support in running and making our school an incredible place to learn.

We have also enjoyed many events and activities so far this academic year. We thoroughly enjoyed our Harvest Service at St John the Evangelist in Little Wilbraham. The donations from our school community were overwhelmingly generous and Jimmy's Night Shelter were, '*very pleased with the number of items'* they received and sent their appreciation. Our choir did a magnificent job at the service and a huge thank you to Emily Lane for running our choir sessions and putting that piece together.

Our tag rugby team took part in a competition at Cambridge Rugby Club. They played in three matches in which they won all three. They went through to a semi-final and final match which they also won! We couldn't

be prouder of the team and their fantastic achievement. What a winning record they are creating!



This year, our School Parliament had lots of ideas for how we could support Children in Need. They wanted to stick with the theme of spots but take it to a new level by covering our Teaching Assistant, Charlie Brown, in spots! They also launched and judged an art competition - the entries were incredible. Everyone was extremely generous and we are excited to total up what we have raised.

Kim Holtby, Headteacher, Great Wilbraham C of E Primary Academy

Wilbrahams Weenie Warblers

Weenie Warblers is our village baby and toddler group, open every Friday during term time in the Memorial Hall.

There is always tea/coffee and biscuits available, a friendly listening ear for the adults and toys, crafts and friends to entertain the little ones. It is a great opportunity to get to know other families whether you are new to the village or have a new addition in your family and want to get out of the house.

Many a friendship has been started over the years that has followed through to primary school for both adults and children alike, so please come along and see what we're all about.

You will find us in the Memorial Hall on Fridays between 9.15 and 11.45, listen out for the noise of toddlers and you'll know you're in the right place.

Term time dates are matched with Great Wilbraham Primary School and can be found on their website. There is a small fee of £1.50 per family attending to help with the running costs for the group.

Rachel Paine


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What's Going On?

Answer to the question in the title: a lot.

Little Wilbraham has recently been treated to the visit of a large tanker and men in orange suits. They will visit Great Wilbraham in January. They are investigating (for the county council) the surface water drainage arrangements - pipes, gulleys, ditches - to uncover blockages, kinks, gaps – and recommend any changes for surface water drainage on the main routes in both villages.

Not to be outdone, Six Mile Bottom has been visited by other county officers as a prelude to having safety measures installed on the approach to the A1304, part of a successful bid for county funding from the parish council.

Back to Great Wilbraham, after quite a long wait, the implementation of a 20mph limit the village, funded by the county council, will be coming early in the near year. Much campaigned for, the parish council and transport working group will welcome this, as indeed do I! The next step in the road safety journey is a bid for county funding for a crossing at the school.

There will be a longer wait for the proposed new bus service, connecting Newmarket to the Wilbrahams to Fulbourn, Cherry Hinton, Hills Road and Addenbrooke's, since negotiations over the details on this are still taking place. There is hope that it will start early in the new year.

There should eventually be bus connection to Cambridge South Station, due to open in late 2025, but it's likely our main local station will continue to be Cambridge North. There is pressure on parking there; but any changes to the parking arrangements depend on larger decisions. The development area around Cambridge North, known as Cambridge North East, is on hold at present, waiting for the Secretary of State's decision, due by 12th January, on the potential move of the waste water treatment plant.

Meanwhile our villages' cycle -route group has been feeding information into the county council's feasibility study of possible routes connecting our villages to Fulbourn, Bottisham and Cambridge.

On the Addenbrooke's site plans are proceeding for new hospitals. The Children's Hospital is moving to the next stage and the proposed new Cancer Research Hospital is also under positive discussion. We've been hearing also of longer-term plans for a redevelopment of Addenbrooke's itself; but this would be linked to major strides in medical treatment and to more care outside a hospital environment.

Looking south eastwards, there is the potential development of a large (3,756 acres) solar farm around the villages to east of the A11 – West Wratting, Weston Covile, Westley Waterless, Brinkley - with a possible pylon corridor running close to Six Mile Bottom and fringe of Great Wilbraham. The information put out indicates it could power 175,000 dwellings. This is a potential major

development, discussions over which all might want to be engaged and on which our parish councils, along with district and county councillors, will be engaging. There's a chance to meet the developers on 25th November in the Memorial Hall.

We live in a fast-changing area, one of the busiest and most successful parts of the country and it can feel hard to keep up, to keep up in a questioning, constructive manner. The developments have to be managed and coordinated and to bring benefits: these are not easy tasks.

The county council is concerned to 'take the temperature' of the county's residents and does that in one respect by the annual 'Quality of Life' survey. 5,500 residents took part in the survey—1,100 in each of Cambridgeshire's five districts to give a representative view across the county. In addition to the survey, this year the council engaged with some specific groups including those with lived experience of homelessness, the criminal justice system and drug or alcohol dependency as well as those under the age of 18. A general online public survey allowed any resident to take part. The council will use the survey to increase its understanding of what is important to local residents and to inform council decisions.

- The average happiness score was 7.21, higher than the national average 7.0.
- Residents continue to feel positively about their local community; 85 per cent feel safe and 75 per cent feel they belong.
- Fewer residents report struggling with mental health this year (37 per cent down to 29 per cent) and a lower proportion report issues with physical health (40 per cent down to 31 per cent).
- Significant numbers of young people (43 per cent of 25–34-year-olds and 40 per cent of 18–24-year-olds) continue to be more likely to report mental health struggles.
- The proportion of residents reporting that they often feel lonely remains higher than national data, at 31 per cent of residents.
- Younger residents are again more likely to report loneliness (53 per cent of 18-24 year olds).
- Cost of living remains residents' highest concern, with 87 per cent of residents concerned this year.

But to end on a positive note: in answer to the question of the title: yes there is a huge amount going on, but as they sang in December 1965 'we can work it out'.

Claire Daunton, county councillor
Claire.daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
07905 473395

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What WEG has been doing, what is ongoing and what is on the horizon.

The Quy Hall estate. Ellen Francis and Henry Barbour were competing with a Quiz Night at one of our local pubs and a Curry Night at the other, but they more than held their own! A fascinated audience on 8 October was treated to a tour-de-force illustrated presentation about progress on the farmland of the estate, much of which is in Little Wilbraham. Henry's and Ellen's wish to farm in a nature-friendly way shone through and we were able to buy some of their Devon Red beef, fed naturally on the estate's own grass and hay and reared with minimal interventions.



Great Wilbraham Cemetery and Orchard. Have you visited this wonderful village asset, next to the School? We are represented on GWPC's Working Group which is tasked with tackling the surface water drainage problem there and improving the general appearance and amenity of the site. We played our part in a big effort recently to tidy up the land, e.g. by cutting back rampant brambles and big hedges, mulching the fruit trees (which did very well this year), etc. It already looks so much better – and there is a plan now for the drainage.

Wilbraham River. The chalk stream river which flows (sometimes) through Great and Little Wilbraham to the fen is fed partly by natural springs but needs augmenting with ground water pumped by the Environment Agency through a long pipe from Balsham. Wilbraham River Protection Society (WRPS) has campaigned for a long time for improvements to the river and the augmentation scheme. The Environment Agency (EA) and Cambridge Water Co frequently say that our river is important – but little seems to happen. Our new MP Pippa Heyling mentioned "our" river in her Maiden Speech in Parliament

Tony Goryn has brought together interested local parties, including WEG, WRPS, the several Parish Councils and others to put more pressure on the EA to improve augmentation (ie pumping): WEG inter alia is providing secretarial services.

Do come to our Winter programme's **next Open Event on January 20th** when we are showing the excellent professionally produced film "Fugolburna" which follows our river from one of its sources in Fulbourn down to Quy Mill. Look out for posters nearer the date.



Six Oaks Solar Park. This modest scheme between the A14 and the A11 already has planning consent. We have been co-ordinating the drafting of an Agreement by which the developers will make annual payments to GW, LW & SMB and to Bottisham for community purposes: as the Warbler goes to press the agreement is being signed.

Kingsway Solar. Many people are alarmed by this proposal for a 500MW solar farm ten times larger than the Six Oaks site mentioned above. The nearest panels would be to the East of the A11, (see map) around the chalk pit at the far end of Mill Road GW – but the route for pylons to take the power north to Burwell substation may be on "our" side of the A11. We intend to work with others to examine closely this mega-proposal

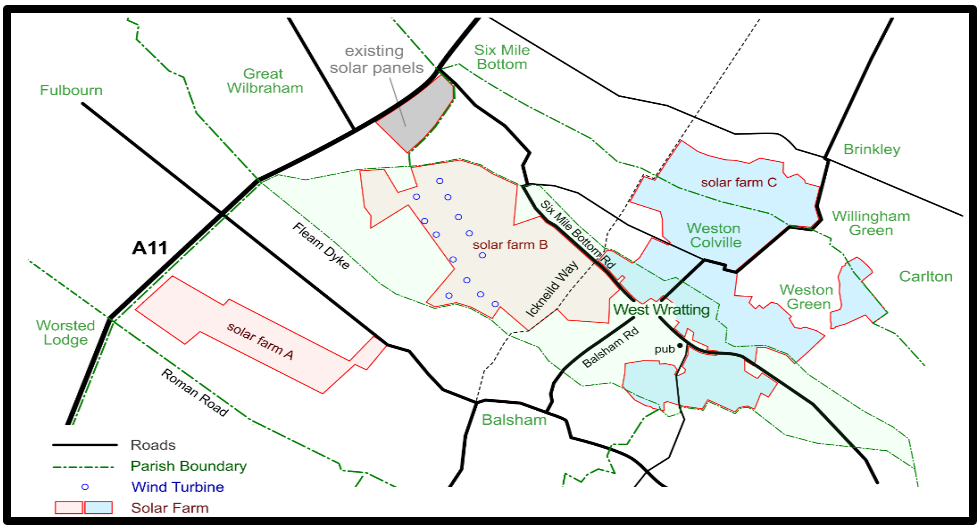
Nature Recovery Project. By this flagship project we aim to map all features of the local environment and to work with our Councils, local landowners, the school (and everyone!) to improve the natural environment. Progress has been slow but should now accelerate as lots of data has been loaded into a software programme used by our Parish Councils: Watch for more news from us soon.

GET INVOLVED!! We are keen to involve everyone, young and old, in what we do. Have a look at our section of the Wilbrahams website www.wilbrahams.co.uk/information/weg; or our Facebook site (Wilbrahams Environment Group) or contact us by email wilbrahamseg@gmail.com or ring 07594 601205 (Nick Toovey**)**


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Have Your Say on the Kingsway Solar Farm Proposal!

With the Kingsway public consultation events now complete, it's time for you to share your views. This feedback is your best opportunity to influence the solar farm's design, ensuring that if it moves forward, its impact on our community is minimised.



About the Kingsway Solar Farm

Kingsway Solar is set to be one of Europe's largest solar farms and battery storage systems (BESS), spanning 3,700 acres—an area larger than Heathrow Airport. While recognizing that solar energy is important in meeting climate targets, it's essential that a project of this scale is carefully designed to reduce its impact on the local community, land use, jobs, biodiversity, and overall quality of life.

In addition, the proposal includes an option to run overhead wires on pylons through parts of Great Wilbraham parish.

About KSCA

Kingsway Solar Community Action (KSCA) is a local group of people, whose aim is to provide clear and objective information to help you have your say. We are encouraging Kingsway to prioritise your feedback and address our concerns.

How to give feedback

You can submit your feedback online or using one of the methods detailed in Kingsway's leaflet or write directly to FREEPOST DOWNING KINGSWAY. Share your overall thoughts on the solar farm, but make sure to include specific

suggestions for the designs, e.g. mention a road, footpath or specific problem to be addressed.

Download the Consultation Feedback Form at https://kingswaysolar.participatr.io/, or pick up a printed copy at the post office in Balsham.

Submit your feedback by 12th December to make your voice count.

To find out more about the Kingsway proposal, visit: kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/proposals/

To find out more about KSCA, get support with your response, or join us, visit: kingswayaction.org. Alternatively find us on Facebook

Kathy Day
On behalf of Kingsway Solar Community Action

Wilbraham FC – 2024/25 Season so far….

As of 18th November we are now approximately a third of the way through the 24/25 season and it's been a mixed start to the season. In the league we are sitting in 6th place with 7 games played, we have won 4 and lost 3, with 2 of them being close affairs that could have gone both ways. We are through to round 2 of the John Ablett Cup (that we got to the final of last year) with the next round on 23rd November which will have been played when this comes out. In the Lower Junior Cup we lost in round 2 in another close game to Milton 'A' with some highly dubious opposition linesman decisions disallowing 2 goals for 'offside' apparently. The Cambs FA ongoing shortage of officials means home teams have to provide a ref should one not be appointed, which has occurred in 4 of our 6 home games so far, so don't be surprised if you see me with a whistle rather than a kit on this year!

So it's positive in the main as even the losses (apart from one) have been close and even winnable.

Our next fixtures (unless rearranged) are Away to Haverhill on 23/11 in the cup, then 2 league games, home to Bluntisham on 30/11 and then away to Kennett on 07/12. Then at the moment a break till new year starting back on 04/01/25 with a home game v Kennett.

We will also be looking at holding the Annual Boxing Day Marrieds vs Singles football match again on Boxing Day morning and further info about that will go out soon.

See you supporting us from the sidelines hopefully!
Up the Wilbrahams!!

Andy Goryn – Club Secretary.

More Cricket in the Wilbrahams

Well the 2024 season didn't quite end as well as hoped for. In my last report for the Warbler, with three tough matches to play, I faithfully recorded that we had won 10 of the 13 matches played, and lost three, with two cancelled due to rain. Since then we lost another to rain against league leaders, Old Monks, but also lost to Milton. This left the last match of the season at home against Audley End who were just behind us in the table. The winner was set for promotion to Senior 1 ….. but we lost to come 3rd in Senior 2.

Overall, played 18, won 10, lost 5 with 3 cancelled is a good season. We scored 2,994 runs at a rate of 4.77 per over against 2,553 runs conceded, and took 117 wickets at an average strike rate of 21.82 runs per wicket. Our batsmen made three centuries and our bowlers took two 5-wicket hauls.

Batting honours go to:
Toby Tippen (471 runs, 36.23 average, 179* highest score),
Ollie Drake (367/40.78/104)
George Moore (365/36.5/124).

Bowling honours go to:
Ross Craig (18 wickets for 204 runs, best 6 for 9),
Andy Goryn (14 wickets for 287 runs, best 3 for 39)
Tom Sweeney (14 wickets for 407 runs, best 3 for 21).

Undoubtedly the finest aspect of the season was the fun and camaraderie, which is what village cricket should all be about. We were by far the best supported team in the League, and there is nothing that gladdens my heart more than seeing 50+ people around the boundary, many with drink in hand enjoying the cricket on our fabulous village green on a sunny Saturday afternoon …. especially if we are winning! The good news is that such has been the positive reaction to our little cricket club, that we have attracted sufficient interest for the Sports Club Committee to enter a 2nd team into the Leagues next season. Captain Tom Sweeney in particular must be congratulated on his recruitment efforts in this regard. It is hoped this will give more playing opportunities to promising local youngsters, new players and those existing players who haven't been able to play regularly. Succession planning by bringing on youngsters for a future 1st XI is of course a priority, but spreading the joy to both players and supporters is also vitally important.

My appeal to all you cricket-loving villagers out there is to volunteer in some way to help us manage the extra burden a 2nd XI will undoubtedly bring. Our brilliant support team, which deals with the ground, teas and manning the bar, cannot be expected to double their workload so please contact me to offer your services in any small way you can. Let's keep the dream alive and make it happen in 2025 and beyond!

Roddy Tippen, Chairman, Wilbrahams Sports Club

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Newmarket Road, Park & Ride	**09.55**	**14.05**
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Fulbourn, Six Bells	**10.15**	**13.45**
Great Wilbraham, Church St.	**10.20**	**13.40**
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Six Mile Bottom, Tree Tops	**10.30**	**13.30**
Newmarket, Guineas Bus Station	**10.45**	**13.15**

The Wilbrahams – Cambridge (via Park and Ride)	Monday-Friday	Saturday
Six Mile Bottom, London Road	**06.58**	**07.58**
Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	**07.04**	**08.04**
Great Wilbraham, Carpenters Arms	**07.08**	**08.08**
Cambridge Drummer Street D2	**07.42**	**08.42**
Cambridge Drummer Street D1	**17.39**	**17.39**
Great Wilbraham, Carpenters Arms	**18.13**	**18.13**
Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	**18.17**	**18.17**
Six Mile Bottom, London Road	**18.23**	**18.23**

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Service of Lessons & Carols

Join us for our annual Advent carol service followed by refreshments.

3pm Sunday 22nd December
St John's, Little Wilbraham

All welcome!

Christmas at The Carpenters Arms



Check out page 8 for our festive offers, New Years Eve plans, and more…!