Wilbrahams' Warbler
Winter 2023



Great Wilbraham: Little Wilbraham: Six Mile Bottom



Top:

Collecting hay in the church yard

Middle:

Ellie Takes Disneyland Paris by storm

Bottom left:

MVAS Speed cameras

Bottom Middle

Pit crew Challenge

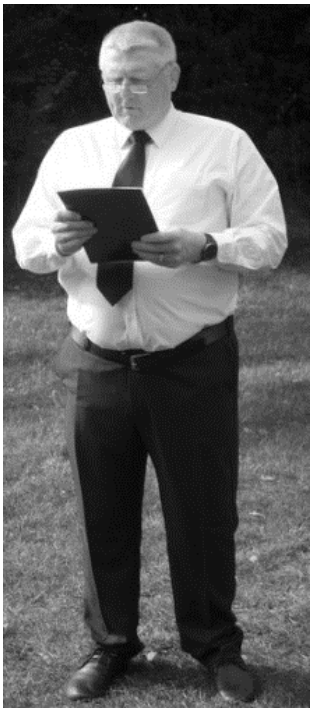
Bottom Right

Dave Humphrey









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Public Service Contact Details

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

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Out-of-hours / Urgent Care Cambridgeshire	NHS Direct 111

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Great Wilbraham Parish Council

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Clerk	Samantha Chambers-Turner 07369 248998 clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.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
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MP Lucy Frazer	lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the winter edition of the Warbler. We have got lots of interesting articles for you to read this quatre however, I think for the first time no one has sent us a letter. This is a shame as we like to think of the warbler as a means for you to communicate with the people of the villages.

Another first is that two of the editors have contributed articles this time as well. Enough though about us.

I don't know about you but when the Little Wilbraham parish council said they were going to organise a fireworks spectacular I was a bit sceptical, but they did and what a spectacle it was. Like most of you I have seen some firework displays, but this one as I think was one of the best. Well done to everybody involved.

Bob Windsor reported in the last issue on the good work that was being done by Richard Wilcockson in littler picking in Six Mile Bottom. Bob now pays tribute to him because as some of you may know Richard has since passed.

Roddy winds up the Wilbrahams cricket season with a report on how well the did or didn't do.

We also have a report from the Bottisham Airfield Museum. The open days in October turned out to be their best attended event ever with over 900 people going to see classic cars, military vehicles, military bikes, and other assorted bikes and scooters. Sadly, the sun has set on the Mustang for this year but while we are on the subject of thing military, David Richer talks about recently released photographs taken by the US air force in 1944. He looks at one in particular of Great Wilbram

We've also got a cautionary tale in parcel theft where Peter Murthwaite talks about household security and deliveries to your door.

Both our district Councillor and MP talk about road improvements whether it be simple drainage issues or major A10 improvements. It also looks as if the 20's plenty campaign has worked but you can read more about that later.

There is also our regular contributions from Nigel Start about his observations in the garden and James Kiddy about work on the farm.

We even have the return of Greta with a poem. I bet you can't guess how many hats she has?

All that remains for me to say is I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the warbler and please if you have anything to say please let us know preferably by email or letter

John Torode

In Memorium
Richard Wilcockson

In the Autumn edition of last year's 'Wilbraham Warbler' I wrote a tribute about Richard Wilcockson as being the unsung hero who would leave home most mornings adorned with his high viz jacket to collect litter. What a fine job he did in keeping Six Mile Bottom virtually litter free

It is now with a heavy heart that I have to report that Richard sadly passed away in Addenbrookes Hospital: his wife Helen, his family and everyone that knew Richard are still in shock

Richard would often call in to see us whilst out litter picking and during August he'd collect wild mirabelle plums on his rounds & deliver them unannounced to our front door, with us being none the wiser. We in turn would convert them into jam and when I took a couple of jars to Richard a month ago, I couldn't have envisaged that would be the last time that I would see him. It's still hard to come to terms with and we know that Helen will miss him.



Today, Thursday 26th October 2023, Richard's funeral was held at Cambridge Crematorium where his wife Helen and family were supported by a good number of friends from far & wide.

Richard's favourite time of the year was Spring and so as a measure of respect for him, and with Helen's approval, it is proposed that a communal litter pick will be arranged in Richard's memory. A reminder will be published in the Spring edition of the 'Warbler' and everyone will be welcomed to meet up at the War Memorial in Six Mile Bottom. All those wishing to attend should let John Torode of the Warbler editorial staff know and he will then contact me to make sure there are sufficient litter grabbers, gloves & bags.

Bob Windsor

Parcel Theft

On Friday 29 September, a parcel was stolen from my doorstep at 41 Frog End.

It was a parcel containing a laptop that I was waiting for a courier to collect. As I had to go out briefly, I thought I would leave the parcel on the doorstep (behind a plant pot) just in case the courier called whilst I was out (which is what Sod's

Law normally dictates!). Our front door isn't very visible from the street (it's the house with the large pebble driveway next to the huge barn conversion just by Toft Lane), I'd obscured the parcel, and I have a Ring video doorbell and a wireless video camera above the front door. I still felt slightly uncomfortable doing this, but there was no one around and I felt the risk was low. I actually work in anti-financial crime, so I'm more aware than most of the risks we face day to day. I was out for about 15 minutes. When I returned, the parcel was gone. I noted that my Ring doorbell app hadn't chimed on my mobile phone, indicating someone had approached the front door whilst I was out, so I checked all the security video. It showed me placing the parcel on the doorstep. It showed me leaving the house, and it showed me returning (and the parcel gone) - but nothing else.

After a little research, I discovered that any WiFi-connected device can be blocked with a signal jammer that you can buy cheaply from Amazon, amongst other places. The device has a 15m range and blocks all wireless signals - including mobile phones and 4G/5G networks. Whilst the signal is blocked, your surveillance devices are useless. They don't report that your WiFi was down, and they lost connection either, so you have no idea they have been disabled.

So, I think what happened was that someone parked out of the village (maybe up at the entrance to the common), walked into the village carrying the signal jammer concealed somewhere and carrying a rucksack or similar for stashing goods. They then checked every doorstep as they wandered up the road. Seeing my parcel, they strolled up the driveway probably unobserved as we have an eight-foot-high hedge and we are quite detached from neighbours. I imagine they then put the parcel into the rucksack and left again. Apparently, these types of thieves often carry something that looks like they might be making a delivery, etc. and if challenged by anyone, including the householder, claim they have the wrong address by mistake.

Ironically, that same afternoon, whilst walking my dog, I encountered someone coming into the village from the Fleam Dyke footpath. I didn't recognise him although he made a point of saying "Hello". He was wearing a wide-brimmed hat (it wasn't sunny), carrying a plastic carrier bag with the top screwed up and something quite heavy inside and he had a rucksack on. I saw him before I had added two and two together as I've outlined above and consequently didn't give it much thought. This is what they depend on though and is how they operate, so it could have been this person, but then again it might not have been.

So the message is

• Don't think your Ring video doorbell or other wireless surveillance cameras will record everything that happens within their field of view - they are *very* easily blocked and from a distance too. You can get wired systems

(expensive) or you can install motion-detecting cameras with built-in SD cards to record video.

• Don't leave parcels on your doorstep if you can help it!

• If you use a parcel box, put a combination lock on it and give the combination to trusted delivery people (like Barry the postman!).

• If you can afford it and have the space, install a secure parcel box (they are very expensive)

• Keep your car keys in a tin at night to prevent them from being scanned - the other readily available wireless device thieves use.

Peter Murthwaite

Pit Crew Challenge

This year's Silverstone Festival played host to an unlikely battle between a former dialysis nurse and a pit crew in a challenge of speed and efficiency.

I was that nurse. The challenge was simple, can I set up a dialysis machine in record time and beat a professional pit crew changing all four tyres on a racing car. I had one thing in my favour though it would be a reduced pit crew of three people. If I remember rightly a normal pit crew to change wheels is about nine two on each wheel and one on the jack

The challenge presented by host of the BBC programme Bargain Hunt, Danny Sebastian formed part of a kidney failure awareness campaign being run by the charity Kidney Research UK. The intention was to highlight the advances that have been made in motor racing technology, in contrast to kidney failure treatments such as dialysis.

As a car racing fan, I had never been to Silverstone, home of the British Grand Prix. So, I didn't hesitate when I was asked. I went back to the Addenbrookes Dialysis unit for a practice and was then set to go.



So how did I get on, well I came in second, about 5 minutes after the pit crew. Not surprising really as it takes over ten minutes to line and prime a dialysis machine. And a pit crew can change all four tyres in less than a minute. Part of the reason for writing this piece is that there are people within the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom who have or had kidney disease.

John Torode

All Souls Service

On the evening of Thursday 2nd November, the night the storm was passing through The Wilbrahams, a beautiful All Souls service was held in St Nicholas' Church. It was a short simple service with some very familiar hymns during which, the small congregation lit candles in memory of those who had died and that they wished to be remembered. These names were read out by Pastoral Assistant, Emma Bourne, but before her reading, the vicar read out the names of those from Great Wilbraham who had died over the comparatively recent past. It was very moving to hear so many familiar village names announced in this way, as many friends and acquaintances were honoured. Why not come next year, you will find the service and its content very rewarding.

John Beadsmoore

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A view from the garden

'Where have all the blackbirds gone?' is a comment that I've heard on several occasions during conversations this summer. The advantage has been that I've not needed to net gooseberries, blackcurrants or raspberries and we've had a bumper crop of blackberries, so the freezer is bulging with soft fruit. But from a more general perspective, the decline is a concern and has affected other common species such as robins, wrens, thrushes, and finches. I would hope that it's a temporary situation and that populations will eventually recover to a more normal level.

Fortunately, the British Isles avoided the extreme heat that has affected much of Europe this year, and many plants have put on a lot of growth during a wetter-than-normal July and August. I could have described the garden as 'lush' at times with many plants growing strongly, and it has resulted in the need for more pruning, trimming, and weeding. The unsettled weather pattern has continued into Autumn, and I've recorded 148 millimetres for October, making the ground really soggy. The mild conditions have also delayed leaf-fall for many mature trees.

The vegetable plot has been very productive, especially the cabbages, sprouts and broccoli which are unusually large, and a good crop of carrots and onions which I hope will see us through the winter. At this point I must mention my disaster(again) with leeks. For several seasons now Leek Moth has played me a merry game. Last season I used an insecticidal spray, which was partially successful, but I'd also read that using an insect-proof net was effective. This year, after putting out the young plants in July (as usual) I erected an elaborate frame and covered it with a fine mesh, carefully anchored to the ground. Everything looks good for a few weeks but come mid-September some of the plants began to bend unnaturally and sure enough, they were suffering from the dreaded moth. So, what to do next year? I'm open to suggestions!

The crop of berries has been spectacular on some species, especially pyracantha, Rosa rubra and berberris bringing plenty of colour into the garden. Even if it doesn't herald a cold winter at least there will be plenty of food for the wildlife. Don't forget that it's an 'El Nina' season out in the Pacific Ocean at the moment so we should expect some extra disturbance in our weather.

Seasons greetings.

Nigel Start

On the Farm

Since my last farm report back in February we have been very busy on the farms, not being helped by the changeable weather throughout the growing season.

Spring drilling started earlier than normal in February, and the spring barley went in in good conditions. Then the rain came and caused a lot of the fields to 'cap', which didn't help with crop emergence.

The peas and sugar beet went in, in late March, early April, which is a bit later than we wished for, but all emerged well. April is always a very busy month on the farm due to fertilising and spraying of the crops, and we are calving and lambing. Luckily this year there has been plenty of grass for the livestock due to all the rain.



Harvest, I think was one of the longest drawn out harvests that I can remember, taking approximately 2 months. Some crops have really surprised us, and some have been very average. All the winter barley fields had the straw baled, and then we drilled stubble turnips with fodder rape or a mixture of turnips, rye, vetch, fodder radish and phacelia for store lambs to graze during the winter. Not only do these crops make good winter food for the lambs the roots also help with the soil structure. You will see as you drive up Mill Road lambs grazing in three different fields. There are approximately 1500 lambs grazing the fields. Some of the lambs have come down from our friends' farms on the Borders and the Cheviot Hills of Northumberland.



A large area of the farm had Bio solids spread on it. This is a by-product from Cambridge water. By applying this natural organic product, it saves us from using as much artificial fertiliser and helps with the soil's organic matter.

The majority of the Autumn drilling is completed now but we are waiting for the sugar beet to be lifted so that we can drill the fields with wheat. Hopefully, this will happen in the next few weeks. Due to the wet Autumn, we have not planted as much winter cropping as we had hoped for. However, we still have some time left, but if it doesn't dry up, the rest of the fields will be spring cropped.

Over the last month, when we were unable to do land work we have been busy cleaning down machinery and making it is in good order for next year and then packing away under cover. We have also been very busy loading grain out. This has included wheat that we grow for Weetabix, feed barley which has either been used to produce animal food or to Ipswich Docks and exported. Beans that have been milled for the protein and Oats that have been bought by Richardson Milling in Bedford. We grow these on contract for them and they are processed

for porridge, biscuits and cereals etc. We have just heard some exciting news that the Countryside Stewardship Scheme that we applied for earlier in the year has been accepted. This means that you will hopefully see some changes on the fields around the village. We are going to be planting some new hedges, gapping up other hedges and grass margins along hedge rows. Some small areas of wildflowers and wild bird food will be strategically planted around the farm The fields behind the school are going to be planted with a special Herbal mix, fenced and our Red Poll cattle will be grazing them during the summer months. Also in this area, we are going to be digging some ponds and forming scrapes to encourage water plants and water loving birds. Hopefully, in a few years' time when these have all been established it will become a fantastic asset for the farm and the village.

James Kiddy



BOTTISHAM AIRFIELD MUSEUM

By the time you read this the sun will have seton our Mustang (see photo) and the museum will be closed for this year. And what a year it has been, with our Wednesday opening being a great success. Our events were also successful: Bottisham At War Forties Weekend in July drew in the crowds; the classic car show in August brought approximately sixty vehicles; and the show in October was our best attended event ever with over 900 adults and children to see 142 classic cars, 9military vehicles, 4 military bikes, and 66 assorted bikes and scooters. On other open days, 64 Hot-rods turned up and we had a number of motorbike clubs that used our museum and café as a pit stop on their trips around East Anglia.

We also opened for group bookings and hosted the Mighty Eighth Museum group from Savannah USA, a group of Canadians, the Scouts, and some school parties. We started helicopter pleasure flights, which will happen again next year.

The highlight for me was meeting 101-years-old Captain John Luckadoo, a B17Flying Fortress pilot who flew with the 100th Bomb Group at Thorpe Abbotts Airfield in Norfolk and meeting Norman, a 102-year-old Royal Engineer who worked at Bottisham Airfield laying the metal tracking on the runways in 1941.An honour to meet them both. The museum opens again on Easter Sunday, March 31st 2024.On behalf of the museum, I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and New Year and thank you for your support.

Charles Cook, Museum Volunteer

FROM HEAVENS ABOVE

Towards the end of the last war, in 1944, the US Air Force took aerial photos of much of England. These photos have now been made available online. The photo LW, GW and Fulbourn taken on 10 April 1944 can be accessed at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/record/US_7PH_GP_LOC267_V_5046

The definition in the original photos is remarkably good, far better than in the attached photo of Great Wilbraham, which has been limited by the available space in The Warbler. Even at this magnification, it is possible to see that Frog End, the western end of the High Street and the western side and the southern end of Church Street were all largely undeveloped. There is space for the new school. How the village has changed. For me, living close to the junction of Mill Road and High Street, there is a particular change of interest. There was no triangle here, just a single junction. Now there's an idea for the future.



Looking further afield, there were railway sidings by the Mill in Fulbourn when grain was unloaded from goods trains, and the Queens Farm industrial site did not exist. A combination that meant there were no HGVs and no car transporters on their way to Fulbourn. Happy days!

The archive is of course not limited to the Wilbrahams and Fulbourn. For those interested in family history or simply just interested, here is a chance to see how your old stamping grounds looked at the end of the war.

David Richer





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A message from The Kulakov Family,

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Dear community and villagers,

Our family are deeply grateful for all the help you have given us since we arrived in The Wilbrahams. We were not left alone in our difficult situation: we now call this village our home, and we feel safe and protected. This is not the first time we have experienced the start of war; but the last time - in 2014 - we didn't have this massive help from people we did not know. People in the UK are special: kind and friendly, people with big hearts and generous souls.



We want to thank the many families who have provided financial support to the Wilbrahams' Refugee Support Group; to those who have provided emotional support, English tuition and practice, help with looking and applying for jobs and the many other steps that are enabling us to become independent: we feel so much more confident. We made progress looking for jobs, including reaching the interview stage. Your support means we can survive here and can continue our lives. These are new, different and often difficult lives; but lives without war. Watching our children laugh and play in a world without tanks and sirens makes us so content: they now have a happy and safe childhood.

You have done a huge thing; you save people's lives. But other families need your help: if you are able, we hope you can continue supporting The Wilbrahams Refugee Support group so other families can be helped. One day we hope to contribute too. People must help each other and love each other. Then there will be no wars in the world.

With deep respect and gratitude,

Olena, Andrew, Nika, Lev, Max

Message from Wilbraham's Refugee Support Group

We continue to look for a new refugee family to support in the villages: if you know of any potential families, please contact us, in confidence, to discuss this further (Hilary Burton: hb384@cam.ac.uk).

We also draw landlords' attention to a generous financial incentive from South Cambridgeshire District Council: landlords willing to let their properties to Homes for Ukraine refugees can effectively double their rental income [search "SCDC Homes for Ukraine Landlord Incentive Scheme" or email

HFULiaison@Scambs.gov.uk]. If you are interested in letting your house to a refugee family, please get in touch so we can discuss the various ways we can support you if you go ahead (Hilary Burton: hb384@cam.ac.uk).

Finally, with the current cost of living crisis we imagine that there may be others struggling to make ends meet. Please be aware that there are sources of help available. The Parish Councils have information about small grants available in the village or can point you to other sources of support. Please contact the Parish Clerks on clerk@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk or clerklw@wilbrahams.co.uk

to find out more (this will be kept in strict confidence).

Thank you

Bottisham Medical Practice

Patients' Participation Group

News: Sadly, in September we had to say goodbye to Dr McGrath after 16 years as our GP and Rowena Pilsworth as Practice Manager. We were so sorry to see them leave. A new GP, Dr White, will be joining the Practice and we welcomed Victoria Hodges who has taken over from Rowena.

Donations: Thank you to patients who have sent donations or left them in the red bucket. This will help provide items for the surgery.

Appointments: In order to avoid wasting appointments, please inform the surgery if you are not going to attend your appointment so that other patients may benefit from using the slot.

Survey on Access to Primary Health Care: Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is launching a survey on 1st November 2023 to gather people's experiences of accessing Primary Care services, such as GP services.

This survey, which will remain open until 17th December 2023, is being conducted independently by Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with the support of NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough understand how important local access to health services are, such as your GP Practice, and are keen to hear your experiences, feedback and thoughts on ways in which you currently access local GP services and how these could be improved.

This valuable insight will be used to help NHS & Cambridgeshire & Peterborough to shape how our local services are developed for the future to ensure they continue to meet local needs.

https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/form/primary-care-access-survey

UK Health Surveillance Agency respiratory virus swabbing project: We have signed up to this project whereby any patient with viral or infective symptoms will be offered a nasal and throat swab. This is posted away, and results are sent to the patient. The aim of the project is to see what the prominent viruses are circulating to help assist in planning for future viral treatments and vaccines.

IMPORTANT: Patient access to medical records through the NHS app. The NHS wants to give people better ways to see their personal health information online. We know that people want to be able to access their health records. It can help you see test results faster. It also lets you read and review notes from your appointments in your own time. Since 31 October 2023 you will have beeen able to see all the information within your health record automatically. For most people, access will be automatic, and you won't need to do anything.

It's important to remember that these documents may, at times, contain information that could be upsetting, especially if they contain news of a serious condition. Some patients may prefer not to have access to their records. Some entries may cause distress surrounding recent or past medical events. Great care is also needed in case private details might cause harm at home, should people in a difficult or pressured relationship be forced to show their medical record to an abusive partner. Anyone in such a position should make this clear to us at the practice, so we can take steps to keep you safe. This might mean removing access through the NHS app for the time being, or through a careful process where we hide sensitive things. If you do not wish to have access please let us know. Either contact your GP or email via admin.bottishammedicalpractice@nhs.net.

Keep up to date on our latest information.

https://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Dispensary Christmas and New Year: There are still difficulties in getting delivery of supplies. Please continue to follow the 5 working day gap between ordering repeat prescriptions and collecting them. Remember to order in good time to cover the holiday period over Christmas and New Year and ensure you have sufficient medication to hand.

The Patient Participation Group: We are looking for new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved. We have postponed the next meeting from December. This will now be at 6.30 pm 25 January 2024 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meeting, please email our chairman s.j.gilson@btinternet.com. or speak to reception.

We hope you have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

NAAFI Break: Next get together is on 6 December at 10 am at Anglesey Abbey Cafe as usual. Gary will be wearing a new green Help the Heroes shirt.

The NAAFI Break coffee morning for Veterans and their families is almost one year old, and it would not have succeeded were it not for those who come along on the first Wednesday of each month for a brew and a laugh. I would like to take this opportunity to express my huge gratitude to all who have supported me and my fellow comrades, enabling us to feel connected within our community. Special thanks go to the Bottisham Medical Practice for allowing us to promote this in the Village magazines, to the Social Prescriber Chloe, who has provided support along with Steve and Jenny from the Patients Group

None of the above would have happened if it wasn't for Anglesey Abbey who allowed us to meet there so we veterans had a welcoming safe place to meet, all the staff have been kind and helpful and make us feel very welcome. So, a massive thank you to everyone and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to a successful 2024.

Gary

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The Children's Society

A Bridge Drive was held in support of The Children's Society where £744 was raised due to the generosity of all concerned. The bakers and sandwich makers came out in force to make sure that there were ample goodies for everyone, and I was told by one person that it was the best gluten-free spread they had seen at any of these events.

A huge thank you to Dru Goryn who not only came and made the tea but also did the washing up.

We were very lucky to have been loaned the vintage plates, cups and saucers for free by Toni at My Pretty Little Tea Party. They added elegance to the afternoon!

A big thank you also to Jacqueline Beadsmoore for helping with the sale of tickets while I was away on holiday.

The work that the Children's Society does is endless, but at the forefront of my mind is the work they are currently doing with the cost-of-living crisis. The support groups they run for victims of abuse, the demand for which rocketed during the pandemic, are still much needed as demand has not reduced as much as might have been hoped for since life returned to something like normality. Should you wish to find out more about their work, it can be found on their website www.thechildrenssociety.org.uk .

Thank you everyone who supported us and contributed to the money raised for this excellent cause.

Di Raikes

Over 60s

Over 60s continue to have a busy and varied programme. September saw us on a coach trip to Skegness, and a Tea dance later in the month raised £137 for the Macmillan charity. On Oct 26th we had a members' lunch at The Village Inn in Little Melton. With a stop before at Cherry Lane Garden Centre at Long Melford for some early Christmas shopping.

Daes for your Diary

November 30th. Dean Ward is giving a talk on Shepreth Wildlife Park.
December 14th Christmas party with James Labec.
All the above start at 2 pm at The Memorial Hall Gt Wilbraham.
Further details : Carol Whitehouse 07770 973702


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SOME CHICKEN



When walking along High Street past the recreation ground last August you, or more probably your children, may have noticed a strange yellow material apparently oozing from the base of a dead tree. It was a fungus known as "chicken of the woods" and it was growing not in the ground but on the decaying stump of the cherry tree felled two years ago.

Chicken of the woods is a fairly common fungus in England, and with its yellow colour and arrangement of 'plates' it is easily spotted. It can grow bigger than a football, and that one in the photo was still growing. Chicken of the woods may be found anytime from late spring to autumn, often growing on the trunks of old oak trees but also on sweet chestnut and, as here, on cherry trees. I have also seen one on a dying lime tree in the church yard. Two years ago, before the cherry was cut down, there was a very fine specimen growing on the trunk about 1.5m from the ground.

And that name? When I saw the fungus on the cherry tree two years ago, I thought that if there is a forager in the village, it will not be there for long. It wasn't. I am told that the fungus lives up to its name when young when it has a taste and texture reminiscent of chicken. But it can cause stomach upsets so do be careful. As it happens, I cannot confirm the eating qualities since I am one of those timid Englishmen who believes that if you cannot buy it in the supermarket, then you don't eat it.

More than that, chicken of the woods is a thing of beauty and I think is best left for us all to enjoy.

David Richer

Wilbrahams' Community Choir

As we head towards Christmas and the end of the year, the Wilbrahams' Community Choir can look back with pride over a busy schedule with participation in Church services, such as Harvest Songs of Praise, as well as weddings and funerals, and concerts at the Memorial Hall for national and community events.



We are already preparing for Carol services this Christmas and will add new songs to our repertoire for future community concerts. We are always open to new members, and you would be most welcome to join us at choir practice that we attend every Thursday during term time in The Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall. There are no auditions, and no previous musical experience is necessary. We are extremely blessed to have Gill Humphrey as our choir director who guides us through a wide range of musical styles, from contemporary pop, folk and world music to classical and traditional choral pieces. There is a small fee per term to cover expenses. Singing is great exercise for your voice and memory, and communal singing is an excellent spirit-lifter. Add to this an active social element with the option to stay afterwards for conversation and a drink or two - it's a winner of an evening! If you would like to join us or have any related questions, please contact Malek Hyde-Smith on 07801 419207 or malek.hs@btinternet.com or Gill at gillianhumphrey@icloud.com.

Malek Hyde-Smith, Chairman.'

WCC Down…..but given Not Out!

It has been a disappointing season for Wilbrahams' Cricket Club. Not on the scale of England's slump in the World Cup, but disappointing none the less. It was always going to be a challenge for this small club to take on the big boys in Senior One, but after the stunning success of last season, there was more than hope. In much more difficult playing conditions in 2023 and against better opposition, there were times when we showed our true skills……but sadly, not often enough.

In my last report we were sitting in the second of two relegation spots, with four matches to go. Despite a relatively comfortable win over Longstanton Grasshoppers, we followed this with heavy losses against Chatteris, Abington and Wisbech 2nds to finish up bottom of the table. Subject to a league re-organisation, this means we will almost certainly be playing in Senior Two next season. Disappointing, but if Senior 2 in 2024 mirrors what happened in Senior 2 in 2022 no-one will be complaining!

Statistically (and much of cricket is about statistics), there is little to shout about. The facts are that of the twelve matches completed, we won only four and lost eight. We only made 200+ runs on three occasions and only bowled four sides

out. No-one made a century (although there were 7 scores of 50+) and no-one took five wickets in a match. In 2022 there were 25 individual scores of 50 or more, albeit in very different conditions. A tough season, but against a better quality of opposition, and I am delighted to report that to their credit, captain Charlie Moore and the rest of the guys kept in good spirits throughout.



At our annual presentation evening (actually a lot of beer and a curry), a number of prestigious awards were given out. Ross Craig was the leading run scorer (312), and Joel Gawthrop took most wickets (17). Joel was deservedly voted player of the season, having also scored 198 runs, taken two catches and a stumping. Andy Goryn was presented with the Chris Ascroft Spirit of Cricket Award for his strong and regular



performances on the pitch, his remarkable and highly appreciated efforts off it……and above all, the matter-of-fact way in which he makes this massive contribution to the club.

The performance outside the boundary has of course been exemplary. The tea ladies, Goryn & Son (groundsmen), and you, the spectator, have all been superb. Traditional village cricket on the village green is alive in the Wilbrahams because of you, and we look forward to entertaining you all again next year.

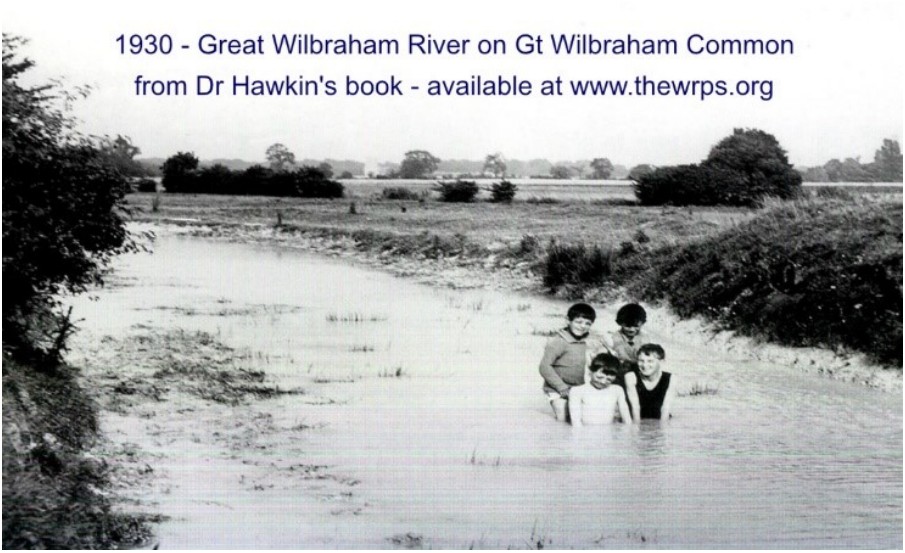
Roddy Tippen Chairman, Wilbrahams' Cricket Club

Wilbraham River Protection Society

Water Supply in Cambridge becomes headline news

Over the last year lack of water for both the environment (e.g. Wilbraham Rivers) and public water supply has become big news. The Environment Agency has finally started to block new developments around Cambridge because of the lack of a sustainable water supply and environmental damage caused by over-abstraction from our chalk aquifer. This has come as no surprise to the WRPS who have been campaigning for several decades on this issue. Michael Gove recently proposed a further 250,000 houses for Cambridge but has now realised there is a water problem! He has set up a Delivery Group to address the planning issues, and already they have formed a "Water Scarcity Group". Unfortunately, it is difficult to envisage any short-term measures to avoid further environmental damage as pipeline transfers into our region and new reservoirs

will take years to become operational. Their options will likely include compulsory water metering and other strategies to reduce demand. Another sensible strategy could be to stop water transfers out of our region – a less well publicised, but potentially important factor.



All these issues have been brilliantly brought together in a recent film "Pure Clean Water", by Tony Eva that premiered at the recent Cambridge Film Festival. This relates the background to Hobson's Conduit and its source at Ninewells – and how, after functioning continuously for thousands of years it dried up in 1976 damaging the wildlife and had to be "augmented" because of the effects of over-abstraction at Babraham. It is well worth watching, and we hope that it will be available for a local showing in the future – as well as to politicians and planners!

The better news this year has been that our local rivers have been flowing most of the year – mainly as a result of timely "citizen" feedback to the Environment Agency department controlling the augmentation system in dry periods. However, the pump they use is now old, inflexible and unreliable – when it trips out in hot weather, an engineer has to come from Bury St Edmunds and reset it. We are campaigning to upgrade this pump and replace it as it is difficult to see our rivers surviving into the future without improving this support.

This year's AGM and Annual Lecture will take place on Tuesday 28th November and will start at 7.30 pm with the talk at 8.15 pm by Mr David Smith on the Wildlife of the Wilbraham Rivers.

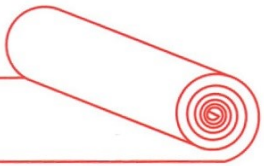
David Lomas for the WRPS

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UNTOLD STORIES 32 Alex and Joli Wright

For this edition I met Alex and Joli Wright over a hospitable glass of wine at The Temple. Twice – the recording failed the first time. Writing this series is not without perks.

Alex: I was born in Cambridge, at Rectory Farm in Madingley. My parents had built it, and then discovered that the M11 was going to go right through the garden. They sold it, and we moved here in 1980 when I was 5.

Did you have brothers and sisters?

I have a brother and two sisters, all quite a lot older than me. They had largely left home by 1980, so I was almost like an only child. I went to St. John's in Cambridge and then Eton.

Did you enjoy Eton?

Yes. You have the opportunity there to do almost anything you want. Whatever your interest, there will be a teacher who shares it, is expert at it and willing to help you to excel at it. The standard and range of everything is extraordinary.

Did you send your own youngsters there?

No, we didn't. We were living in Switzerland at the time, and things have changed a lot. Also we wanted them to have a co-ed experience.

You went to Newcastle University. Why?

I wanted to do history and they had a great course. Eton was boys only, this was mixed – that was a joy, and about as different from Eton as possible.

What did you do after that?

I went into publishing. My second job was with Sky Sports. I started as a runner, and worked my way up to live football, interviewing people and doing features for the half-hour build-up before a game. During the match I would be in one of those big broadcast trucks outside the ground doing replays. I was on the production side, but that was very anti-social: you are working every weekend and every bank holiday. After a few years, I did an MBA and went over to the business side of sport. After some consultancy work I went to Switzerland and worked for a company that sells the tv and sponsorship rights for the Champions League.

So you have always been in sport. What sports or games have you played yourself?

I play everything poorly….

Joli: Not true.

Alex:… cricket, tennis, golf – things with a bat and a ball.

Have you joined, or will you join, the village cricket team?

I don't think I will be creating any selection headaches! But I'd be happy to support in other ways.



How did you meet Joli?

A friend in the Swiss company invited me to a barbecue and her best friend was Joli.

So let's turn to you, Joli.

Joli: I grew up in a village in the Swiss mountains: it was all very idyllic. I skied to school in the winter and swam in the lakes in the summer. I lived on a proper farm with cows and other animals. I was very involved. We were three girls and one boy. I studied hotel management because I loved to entertain. Before I met Alex I was running a restaurant in Switzerland. I have always loved people and food. I think it was good training for living in The Temple! Alex was clear that, while his job was in Switzerland, his base would always be in the UK. I liked the idea of moving here. Switzerland was very expensive, and it was not run for young people. You were insured for sick pay for two and a half years over your lifetime. Over that, and you were out on the street. As a single mother, I found it really hard. It was not a pleasant place to live. I always thought that England was very welcoming. You embrace different cultures and different nations and favour innovation. My only concern about England was that I did not like beans on toast, and bread sauce did not appeal!

Have you found that we have lived up to your expectations?

Very much so. I have made more friends here, and much faster than in Switzerland. Brexit saddened me: it was not the England I had met before.

So let's come back to the house. What state was it in when it came to you?

Alex: It looked fine, but if you scraped a bit, it soon became apparent that it was in a really bad state. There were three main problems: subsidence, such that if you put a glass on the dining room table, it slid along it. The 19th-century extension could have collapsed at any time: it was dangerous. The house was sinking at an accelerating rate. Another problem was that the house had been encased in concrete render, trapping the moisture so that the vertical Elizabethan timbers were rotting at the bottom. The third problem was the resulting movement in the frame meant that the timbers supporting the first floor were all cracked, so it was only supported by the small cross timbers. We had to dig

down two metres to find chalk and put in multiple steel goalposts to support the structure, then concrete foundations under all structural walls, external and internal. The internal digging and foundations had to be done by hand: we could not get mechanical diggers inside the house. It had to be done in sections of about 80cm at a time. It took forever.



Joli: It was like a bomb site for many months.

Alex: The first thing we did was to rebuild the derelict stables as the site office where I could oversee the work. At the height of it, there were 25 people working there.

How long did it take from start to finish?

If you count the planning process, it has taken the best part of four and a half years. We started building in January 2021, and we haven't yet finished the terrace, so we are still going.

How much did all this cost?

Too much! In the end it was impossible to budget as we were constantly discovering new problems. Also, the costs of materials and energy kept going up because of covid and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Joli: We feared that the subcontractors might not come during lockdown, but everyone was keen to keep working and have stable employment. Also we installed four shipping containers so that we could store materials in advance and could keep the work going uninterrupted.

Alex: Costs were also higher because we had to replace like with like; for example, the new frame timbers had to be English oak.

We have two good managers here.

Joli: We both love building projects, and we complement each other. When I wake up in the morning, I have to pinch myself that we are finally here. We have not done Christmas or spring here yet: it is all so new and wonderful.

Alex: It would have been much quicker and cheaper to knock the whole thing down and start again. But this place will now stand up for another 200-300 years, and yet the work has preserved the quirks of age. Look at the ceilings and floors: they still dip and slope.

What are your plans for the future use of the house?

Primarily to enjoy it as a family home and to entertain with our children, their friends, Joli's family from Switzerland and others. We would love to hold some village events in the future once the last repairs are completed. My parents had open days for the garden and snowdrop walks which we would like to do again. However, the building work has taken its toll on the surrounding garden – it's a mud bath! - and it will take a while to recreate it.



Thank you both for sharing so much with us. We are looking forward to getting to know you better as time goes on.

TRAVEL SURVEY

The Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom have been invited to take part in a travel survey

being conducted by the AtoB1102 Group. This is a Community Interest Group concerned with transport, representing the villages along the B1102 from Fordham to Quy and here including the Wilbrahams and Bottisham. The survey takes *ca*.10 minutes to complete and you can find it online at www.atob1102.org/travel-survey/. Paper copies will also be available for collection and return to: the shop and church in Great Wilbraham; the church in Little Wilbraham, and the shop in Six Mile Bottom. While all the questions are relevant, there is text-box space at Questions 13 and 16 to provide specific information related to travel to and from our own villages. **Please complete and return by 15th December.**

The AtoB Group writes:

The survey is being conducted to enable us to understand the travel needs of our communities better, to build an evidence base to inform future decisions - to understand where people need to get to and when. We will use this information to lobby the various authorities who make decisions which affect our transport system, to safeguard and improve our existing (and potential future) bus services, to maintain vehicle access along our key routes, to build attractive transport alternatives.

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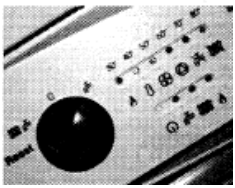
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Sounds of the Night

The sound of fireworks going off at about this time reminds me that in other parts of the world the sound of gunfire fills the night with everything that means. This surely puts another perspective on our own concerns.

If you live in Little Wilbraham or walk Fen Road regularly, you'll have noticed quite a change: the ditches have been dug, and water has appeared in both of them. This work is vital for drainage in the village and has been the product of cooperation with the Quy estate. It's all part of necessary plans by the County to improve the surface water drainage which has been a challenge for some time. The road will look different and perhaps quite stark and, for some, too bare, but the work has been done at a time of year which avoids nesting and growing seasons and allows the hedgerow to grow back.

Drainage has been an issue across my County division, with work needed in both Wilbrahams, as well as in Fulbourn, Teversham and Quy, to contain flooding and to clear ditches and gulleys. Every time it rains heavily there are many of us whose stress levels rise… But progress is being made…

There is good news on the traffic front: Great Wilbraham has been awarded County funding to bring in a 20mph zone. In the case of Great Wilbraham (as indeed Fulbourn), it will cover the whole village. There will be additional road signs and painting on the road to indicate the extent of the new zone, and the Motor Vehicle Activation Sign (MVAS) green flashing lights will also be adjusted accordingly. The village community wanted to make this change and thanks must go to those – parish council and transport working group – who spearheaded the work, as well of course, to the County for providing the funding. Preparations are now being made for the introduction of the new limit.

Alongside this we hope will come the introduction of civil parking enforcement, a joint venture between County and District Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership. This will mean that residents will be able to call out parking wardens to deal with infringements. In the near future – again at the request of the village – there will be double yellow lines at bends near the Carpenters' Arms to make this area safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

We hope also that an application for County funding for road safety improvements in Six Mile Bottom will come good. Parish councillors will be working on this for 2024, having been successful in 2023 with two MVAS machines to improve safety within Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom.

It's not all about highways, though and in the coming year, we'll probably need to try harder for those funds. The County – like all other local authorities – is battling huge funding pressures. With inflation and rising demand coming

together to create a specially challenging scene in the coming year, there is a current budget gap of £26 million to be closed or managed down. This will be particularly challenging with the rising demand for adult social care and the requirement to provide for children with very special needs. Set alongside this is the yet unmet demands of loneliness and its knock-on health effects, as shown in a recent survey undertaken by the county council.

While most Cambridgeshire residents feel happy and safe in Cambridgeshire, well connected to their local communities, and believe it's a great place to raise children, the news from the County's first 'Quality of Life' survey is less good for some specific groups. There is a stark finding that loneliness in Cambridgeshire is far higher than the national average. Loneliness was most likely to be reported by those aged 18 to 25, who also reported more struggles with their mental health.

Residents reported high concerns about the cost of living, and many said they were changing their behaviour because of it. 48 per cent have cut back on heating use, 27 per cent have cut back on nutritious food, eight per cent have used a foodbank and nine per cent have stopped using prescription medicines. The council intends to run the survey again next year.

84% feel safe in their local community

72% report high or very high levels of happiness

52% trust the council to make decisions about services

44% think the council delivers value for money (national benchmark 42%)

BUT

52% of 18-24s feel lonely—compared to only 18% of those aged 55+

86% are concerned about cost of living increases

37% have struggled with mental health (61% of 18-24s, 59% of 25-34s)

48% have cut back on heating use.

The findings of this survey will be taken very seriously by the County Council and will help shape services, even in a very challenging budgetary situation. Perhaps AI could come to the rescue in some way or other to help with budget crises.

To return to my opening sentence, if only AI were able to stop the gunfire and make for quiet nights in troubled parts. If only… But let's, at the very least, hope for a more peaceful end to 2024.

Claire Daunton, County Councillor Claire.daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk; 07905 473395

Lucy Frazer MP

Earlier this month, Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, launched a new approach to transport for our country.

As a result of the decision to scrap the extension of HS2, every UK region will now receive money for transport improvements, including East Anglia.

I am pleased Ely and East Cambridgeshire will be a key beneficiary of this investment, specifically:

Upgrading Ely Junction This transformative scheme will see an extra six freight trains per day to and from the Port of Felixstowe – the equivalent of taking 98,000 lorry journeys off the road every year. This will also see a doubling of passenger services on the Ely-King.s Lynn and Ipswich-Peterborough routes, helping commuters and leisure travelers alike. For a number of years, I have been working with MPs across East Anglia to make the case to Ministers for upgrading Ely Junction to get freight off the road and improve passenger services, so I am delighted this project has now been given the green light.

Upgrading the A10 .Ely Corridor The Government is also putting forward £610 million to fund road schemes in East Anglia, and I will press hard for funding to upgrade the A10, including dualling the road and a cycle route, which is something I have been campaigning for since before I became an MP in 2015. Most recently, I secured £2 million from the Department for Transport for a feasibility study to examine the options for upgrading the road. I will continue to meet regularly with officials from the Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council, who are responsible for preparing the study, to make sure this project is in the best possible position to secure the necessary funding when the time comes.

Keeping the £2 bus fare Buses are our most used form of public transport. The national £2 bus fare was due to expire at the end of October, but the Government has announced it will continue until the end of 2024 to help keep costs down for passengers.

Potholes The Government will spend an additional £2.8 billion resurfacing roads in East Anglia, South West and South East England to help end the scourge of potholes which I know are the bane of many drivers. lives.

This investment is great news for our area and underlines the Government's commitment to improving all parts of our transport infrastructure: road, rail and bus. My focus now is to work with all those involved to deliver the improvements we need as soon as possible.

Lucy Frazer MP

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Notice Board

School Terms

Autumn Term
18th, 19th, 20th December- Inset Day
Friday 15th, Christmas Holidays begin

Spring Term
Thursday 4th January - Term Begins
Friday 16th February – Spring Half Term
Monday 26th February - Term begins
Thursday 28th March – Easter Holidays

Sumer Term
Monday 15th April - Term Begins
Friday 24th May - School Closes
Monday 3rd June - Term begins

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Little Wilbraham
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13th
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January
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24th

February
7th
21st

Blue & Green Bins

December
6th
20th

January
3rd
17th
31st

February
14th

LW & SMB Parish Council

Next Meeting

Little Wilbraham Church
7.30 pm

GW Parish Council

Next Meeting Date
Tuesday 9th January
Memorial Hall
7.30pm

Wilbrahams Memorial Hall
Monthly Farmers' Markets
Next Market Saturday 9th December 2023
. They will then restart again in April 2024

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 School	Office: 880408
GW Primary School PTFA	Emily Oliver emilystar_uk@yahoo.com
Oil Syndicate, Great Wilbraham	Chris Gurney webadmin@oil-club.co.uk
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Transport Woking Group	Tim Page 881738 David Richer 880547 hgvs.wilbrahams@gmail.com
Volunteer Group	Pat Simpson pas49@cam.ac.uk
The Well-brahams	www.thewell-brahams.weebly.com well.brahams@gmail.com
Weenie Warblers Mother & Toddler Group	Sarah Fordham, 880698
Wibrahams' Community Choir	Malik Hyde-Smith 07801429207 malikhs@btinternet.com Gill Humphrey 811436
Wilbraham' Gardening Club	Jackie Beadsmoore, 880889 jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com
Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall bookings.	Shirley Morley, 880723 wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com
Wilbrahams' Scrabble	Julia Cornwell, 881751 juliacornwell@gmail.com
Wilbrahams' Sports Club	Roddy Tippen 880728
Wilbrahams Bridge Club	Di Raikes 881065 raikswilb@btinternet.com
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Great Wilbraham Parish Council

GWPC continues to meet every 2 months. We welcome members of the public to these meetings and encourage people to take an interest in village matters.

As well as discussing the immediate needs and concerns for Great Wilbraham, we also have reports from the district and county councillors, so our meetings are often varied and informative and consider the future of Great Wilbraham in the context of the big picture trends and changes impacting South Cambs. Hilary, our Chairman, keeps us on task and on time to prevent meetings from overrunning (as far as possible).

Our next meeting will be on January, 9th from 7.30 – 9 pm in the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall.

Following our mention in the last Warbler's GWPC report regarding village maintenance audits, the councillors reviewed 'key needs' over the summer. Although we have achieved 'ticks in boxes' for our most pressing village maintenance tasks, there is still work to do.

The clearance of drainage ditches may seem like a less exciting subject to focus people's attention on. However, these dedicated emergency overflow waterways lay in wait to divert and deal with heavy rains and goodness knows we had those through the Autumn! We identified significant overgrowth and blockages in some of the drainage ditches, that would have rendered them ineffective. Our Councillor, Rob, quickly commissioned Rory Newman to clear the ditch in the Parish Cemetery after Councillors identified this as an urgent need during their audit. Given the recent deluges we've had, (and we'd like to thank Rory for the hard work clearing the ditch), we are all a lot less soggy due to his fast work with the digger!

Whilst the Parish Council dedicates their time and energy to get things in motion we are now looking for someone willing to do the maintenance work on our hedges and overgrown verges around the village. If you would like to contribute to our village being safe and looking tidy (and getting paid for it), or if you know of a reliable gardener in need of extra work, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Providing villagers and visitors with the ability to admire the beauty of Great Wilbraham, and the incredible natural environment around the village, is one of the Parish Council's areas of focus. We were delighted to receive a little funding from the Platinum Jubilee fund; monies donated to build on the success of schemes to commemorate both Queen Victoria, King George and of course, the late Queen Elizabeth's legacy of the Monarchy and the preservation of our rural communities. At the time of writing a new "Jubilee Bench" is due to be

installed on 24th November at the top of Butt Lane. This was recognised as an exceptional 'village vista' and a great use of the funds to put a bench for weary walkers as there are none in this often-frequented location. So please stretch your legs and enjoy a rest, courtesy of the Jubilee Fund.

Over the past few years, the Transport Working Group and the Parish Council have been very successful in getting funding to address transport issues in the village. 40 mph zones were installed this year. Three speed monitoring devices (MVAS), with associated batteries and posts are now available to place them through the village. The most recent LHI application to address parking issues outside the Carpenters Arms has been successful and Highways are moving at pace. The consultation for installing double yellow lines on the corner of the High Street and Church Street will begin before Christmas, with the aim of painting on the ground early next year. Finally, we have been successful at getting a 20 mph restriction throughout the village, a result that 92% of parishioners supported in the most recent transport survey. Draft plans for implementation have already been provided to the Parish Council.

All this success means that the Parish Council, together with other interested groups, can now start to address broader issues of transport. This includes improving access to public transport, cycle paths, and community assets such as the SSSI at Great Wilbraham Common, as well as doing something about the volume of traffic coming through the village. Our aim is to draw up a five-year strategic plan so that we can continue our approach of accessing funds with the support of the community. We are starting to make wider links with other parish councils in the area and have therefore met with the AtoB1102, a community interest group campaigning for better transport along the B1102 corridor. We encourage all residents to complete their transport survey, which is available at https://atob1102.org/travel-survey. (see also the separate letter from the group elsewhere in the Warbler.

Our Parish Council Clerk, Sam Chambers-Turner will now be available in the Memorial Hall for one morning each month as part of our programme to improve communications with village residents. She is keen to get to know more people – and for you to meet her, ask questions or find out more about her role in the village.

To begin with we have planned Sam's mornings to coincide with the Wellbrahams Warm Mornings, so you can have a coffee and cake at the same time! Dates as follows: 7 December, 11 January, 15 February, 14 March.

James Harmer Parish Councillor

Ellie Dances her way to Disneyland

Notes from the half-term experience of Ellie Bird, Y6 pupil at GWPS, who performed four contemporary dance routines as part of a group of 36 students from Newmarket School of Dance in the Disney Performing Arts Programme at Disneyland Paris.



"I am Ellie and I am 10 years old. In October I went to Disneyland Paris with my dance group. We went on a Wednesday evening and arrived on Thursday morning. We were performing the next day at the Videopolis theatre. On the day, I had to get up at 7:00 am to get my hair and make-up on, and we had breakfast at 8:00 am. When we arrived there was another group practicing on stage, we had a view of the dressing rooms and did any touch-ups that were needed to do to our make-up. It was soon our turn to perform, everyone was feeling the nerves, but as they called our name (Newmarket School of Dance), everyone was so excited, and I suddenly remembered all of the steps to the dances. It was one of the best experiences I have ever had. I would recommend going there 100%, everything at Disneyland is amazing."

The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust

Chairman's Annual Report for 2022/23

The trust has made two donations to the PCC over the past twelve months, to help cover the cost of repairs & maintenance to the church building fabric. These have comprised £10,000 towards the cost of major repairs to stonework around the porch window and a further £1,350 towards a rolling programme of other window repairs.

We are advised by Jeremy Barnett, treasurer of the 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, and the planned repair works in 2024 are for external stone repairs on the Chancel and the repair & repainting of all the guttering and down pipes, for which the estimated cost is around £20,000 for the two projects.

Tony Ryan, the trust's treasurer, reported the trust's financial holdings as at 5th November 2023 were £11,853.59 cash plus around £1,100 in Gift Aid yet to be received. The Legacy Capital Fund was valued at £209,433 (from November 2017 the original donations have amounted to £211,273), a slight fall in capital value of -0.87% compared to the FTSEAllShare stock index that reduced by -3.17% over the same period. However, by careful investments, the dividend income received from the fund over the same period has amounted to £48,510, of which £12,038 has been received over the past 12 months.

We continue to be very thankful to those who are making regular contributions to the Trust via banker's standing orders, which currently produces a regular income of around £1,500 pa (including the Gift Aid Tax Refund if the donor is a taxpayer)…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 year, and into 2023/24 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 treasurer, Tony Ryan, who may be contacted via email: lyansan@btinternet.com

With my best wishes, Graham Clarke, Chairman

The Friends of St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham

Hi, let us introduce ourselves: we are the Friends of St John the Evangelist in Little Wilbraham.

For those of you who were at the Little Wilbraham Firework display on 5 November, you may have met us as we were running the refreshment stall, which raised £456.53. As a group we are very new, so do not have much more to report in this issue other than to say 'hello, thank you for purchasing our snacks, and we hope to see you soon'.

We are establishing the Friends of St John the Evangelist with one aim: to raise money to help to maintain the fabric of the church building and ensure it can remain open and in use by all of us within our villages, the wider benefice and beyond. Some of us are church goers, but others aren't and are getting involved because we think it is important to try to keep the building open for everyone and to cherish the history and people it commemorates.

As we all know, our churches are more than places of worship. They are spaces for our communities to gather together. The church of St John the Evangelist is

one of the parish churches of Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom. It is used for the services that one might expect to see in a church: Holy Communion, weddings, funerals, baptisms, Harvest Festival and Midnight Mass. As well as being the village church, it is also the only public building in the village and is open every day. It has recently been used to provide first aid training from the St John Ambulance Service. It is our polling station for local and national elections; the Parish Council hosts its meetings within its ancient walls. Walking groups and cyclists have been spotted sheltering in its shade. This summer the coronation of King Charles III was celebrated there.

Whilst the church may primarily be a space for congregation, whether spiritual or secular, it is also an historic building that many people love for its architecture and history, as well as its silence and solace when we need to take a pause from the everyday.

Our church is also old. And old buildings need looking after, and we all know that maintaining a historic building is expensive. It can also be hard work and time consuming; but we want to make it fun and sociable too.

If you want to keep up-to-date with what we are planning, want to become a member, or simply want to learn more, you can find us on Instagram and Facebook at @FriendsofStJohnLW

We will be providing more information on how to become a member of the Friends and what it means to be a Friend of the church soon. In the meantime, if you want further information, please email our Chair, Secretary or me:

Chair, Martin Daunton: martin.daunton@gmail.com

Secretary, Andrew Carter: apc48@cam.ac.uk

Holly Tilbrook: hollytilbrook@gmail.com

Holly Tilbrook, on behalf of the Friends of St John's

Pastoral Assistant



At the time of writing, I have been Pastoral Assistant at Fulbourn and the Wilbrahams for just over six weeks. This being the first time I have ever lived in a village, I have been struck not only by the welcome I have received personally from so many people (for which I am so grateful), but also by the welcomes exhibited so freely and frequently in many aspects of daily village life: friendly greetings on entering shops and businesses; the wonderful receptions I have had on my first visits to Great Wilbraham Primary School; simple smiling acknowledgements in the street. It is perhaps a cliché, but welcomes of this kind are often less apparent in city life.

The word 'welcome' comes from the Old English noun 'wilcuma' meaning 'welcome guest', or, literally, 'one whose coming suits another's desire.'

Christmas is when we welcome God Incarnate in Jesus Christ, the 'dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart' (as the Advent hymn 'Come, thou long expected Jesus' has it). It is also a time when we remember God's own desire, which was to come to us in the form of a vulnerable human baby, dependent on Mary and Joseph and other human beings for his care and nurture, and desiring t heir love. At Advent and Christmas, we remember that, in God's welcome, there is a shared delight and desire: just as we delight in the coming of Jesus Christ and welcome him to our hearts, so too we remember that Jesus Christ delights in us, welcoming us into his love.

We hope you will find a moment to experience this twofold welcome yourselves this Advent and Christmas in the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom. There are Carol Services on Saturday, 16th December, at 3 pm at Six Mile Bottom and on Sunday, 17th December, at 3 pm at Little Wilbraham. On Christmas Eve there are Carols by Candlelight at 3 pm at Great Wilbraham and Midnight Mass at 11 pm in Little Wilbraham. Finally, on Christmas Day there is a family service at 9.30 am in Great Wilbraham. May this holy season refresh in us a knowledge of the unconditional welcome open to all of us in the Christ-Child.

Churches Website

The Wilbrahams' Churches have a new page on this website under 'Local Information'. It will be regularly updated with news of forthcoming events and reports on recent activities concerning the care of the fabric of our two ancient churches.



Of particular interest to those of us keen on re-wilding our two villages will be updated on the valuable role St Nicholas' Churchyard is making towards the conservation and encouragement of wildflowers and fauna right here on our doorsteps. St Nicholas' is building on the work done to win its bronze award from Cambridge Wildlife Trust and gives its grateful thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with this endeavour. Particular thanks to the Wilbrahams' Environment Group who organised a very successful day of long grass clearance recently.

https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/st-nicholas-church-great-wilbraham/

Emma Bourne

Christmas Carols and Services

St Nicholas' Great Wilbraham
Sunday 24th December at 3:00 pm
Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 25th December at 9:30 am
Christmas Day Family Service

St John's Little Wilbraham
Sunday 17th December at 3:00 pm
Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday 24th December at 11:00 pm
Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

St George's Six Mile Bottom
Saturday 16th December at 3:00 pm
Family Carol Service with Nativity



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When: last Saturday each month 17.00 - 20.00

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Friday 9th February 2024

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johnboy_torode@hotmail.com

Carolinebird17@gmail.com

Hand-written or typed contributions can be handed in or posted to the editors

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Guy Fawkes Fireworks



A Huge Thank You
The weather was perfect, location divine and all of the fireworks went off on time.
Spectacular!
The inaugural celebration on November 5th was a special evening. Apparently, there was a black market for tickets. Based on the very positive feedback we will be back in 2024.

Dave H, with Adam and Richard L's help, got to play with their new toys and 1667 individual fireworks were suitably dispatched. It was a family affair with Catherine H and her friend Catherine helping set up the fireworks and welcoming the visitors.

It was great to work with the Friends of St Johns who made our visitors welcome with a stall at the entrance selling hot drinks, popcorn, toffee apples and yummy biscuits. Thanks to Andrew, Max, Eleanor, Holly, Juliet, Gill and others who together with their little helpers, made the fabulous decorations. The stall looked amazing.

A special thanks to all the residents of Orchard Close and neighbours in the High Street who generously provided power and also to Kathy S. who made sure the horses were out of earshot.



Let's not forget our sponsors, particularly the Little Wilbraham Commons Rights Holders, the Hole in the Wall and those generous individuals who sponsored a firework.

And finally a big thanks to the Little Wilbraham volunteer group for helping set up and clear up and Richard D. and Karen O., our first aiders.

Based on experience from this event, we will make a few changes for 2024, including probably increasing the number of tickets. This year we had 372 onsite, and we have an

event licence for 499. We will probably also have tickets for children next time so we know the exact numbers, and we may keep it to a Saturday evening so the kids get time to recover on Sunday. There will also be more time for our visitors to purchase refreshments and maybe even a bike rack!

Thank you for supporting our local village event and any suggestions or offers of help for 2024 would be really welcome.

Next major village event, "The Feast", June 2024.

clerklw@wilbrahams.co.uk Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

Farewell With a Bang - Thank You

A fitting way to say goodbye as Chair of the Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council. David Humphrey has announced he is stepping down from his role as the lead Councillor after six plus years of fabulous service to the residents of the parish. After a spectacular bonfire night, initiated and hosted by Dave there is not a better way he could have passed the baton to the next Chair.

As a long time resident of Little Wilbraham, Dave had the local knowledge that is crucial to managing a small parish council which under his leadership, has introduced some very special additions to the parish in the last few years. Think of the children's playground upgrade and paths, the fantastic multi use games court, local Highways initiatives the replanting of the triangles and the annual bulb "bombing. Add this to the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebration the Proclamation of King Charles the III the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla the reintroduction of the Feast and as a first, the inaugural Wilbrahams Fireworks.

Dave was also the Parish Council representative on the Wilbrahams Memorial Hall Committee and the Wadlow Windfarm Community Fund. Not a bad resume. We will miss Dave's measured management, his enthusiasm for local village improvements and above all his fierce loyalty to the residents of the parish.

Thank you, Dave you have overseen a great legacy, that will continue.

Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

Lighting the Star

It might still be a warm, calm day in October, but in my head I am thinking about cold, windy December nights. For our first Christmas in Great Wilbraham back in 2012 a passing joke from a neighbour got me thinking about the idea of putting some Christmas lights on the big cedar tree in our garden. I wondered if it was a bit OTT but gave it a go. It turns out that this joke keeps on giving and



quite a lot of people appreciate the lights I put up on the tree… which is a good thing given how much time and effort has to go into them!

The problem is that winter storms don't do any favours to wires and lights high up on a tree. As the wind blows the wires get twisted and pulled in all directions so if they don't just snap then water gets in the electrics and everything blows. A couple of years ago they only lasted an hour or two after initially turning them on! Each year I think I have cracked it, and it will all work perfectly but in no time at all I am having to put on my climbing harness and sort out whatever dodgy connection needs repairing.

Each year I like to try and do something a little different to the year before. This year I have got a new system, and I am quite convinced this is the one that will solve all my problems - start your sweepstakes now for how many days it will last! Because of the unique nature of the tree, it's all homemade so it takes many hours of work to put everything together. Luckily though, I love that sort of engineering problem, so I am quite happy tinkering away. Then there is the issue of putting all the lights up there. As a boy the only 'sport' I did was tree climbing and fortunately it appears I haven't grown up much as I still love doing it. The only difference is that for doing this I do use a climbing harness as this gives me the option of being able to use both hands whilst I rig everything up. This is especially needed for putting the star on the top of the tree. Although it is not particularly heavy it is quite cumbersome whilst also being quite fragile. Unlike the rest of the lights on the tree it is above the branches, so doesn't get whipped by them, so it doesn't need to be too heavy duty. However, the wires have an annoying habit of getting snagged as I try to hoist it into position. Fortunately, though the views from the top are fantastic! Although the satisfaction of standing on the other side of the green and seeing it twinkling away is great, one of the main reasons I do it all is for the kind comments. I get so thank you and Merry Christmas! The Lighting the Star event will be on Saturday 2nd December with mince pies and mulled wine on the green from 6.30 pm followed by fireworks at 7pm.



Ian Cumming

Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall

Bookings for the hall are going well, particularly in the run-up to Christmas. As ever, we are popular as a children's party venue, which is great. Don't forget there are lots of clubs and groups that meet regularly at the hall. If you haven't visited or tried any – why not give something a go? 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 Wellbrahams' 'Warm Mornings' on Thursdays: 7th December, 11th January, 15th February, 14th March from 10 am-12.30 pm. They are free and welcoming events with plenty of tea, cake, games, and chat.

Rental Rates

In the face of rising costs, the Trustees have had to review rental rates for 2024. They have not been adjusted in 7 years. Whilst we have been able to keep the discounted community/ club and village resident rates frozen, we have had to raise the non-resident rate and introduce a new commercial rate. We remain competitive or cheaper than other local venues, and I hope you will agree that holding an event at the hall is still good value for money.

Rates applicable from January 2024	
VILLAGE RESIDENTS	Per Hour
Main Hall & Kitchen	£20.00
Function / Meeting Room & Kitchen	£15.00
Community fund raising event (total cost)	£50.00
Wedding rate, whole building, 9am-midnight	£450.00
NON-RESIDENTS	
Main Hall & Kitchen	£30.00
Function / Meeting Room & Kitchen	£25.00
Wedding rate, whole building, 9am-midnight	£650.00
COMMERCIAL RATE	
Main Hall & Kitchen	£35.00
Function / Meeting Room & Kitchen	£30.00

Solar panels on the main hall roof

The project to put solar panels on the road slope of the roof is progressing and is a main focus for the Trustee Committee. We have swapped our plan from the

recreation ground slope to the road slope to minimise damage from cricket ball strikes. This will reduce generation by 15%, but should be less risk attached. We have applied for planning permission and have got through to the second stage of the Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund (as have lots of other applicants, so the competition for funding will be fierce). We will also be applying for other local and national grants. By the time you read this, we will have launched an online community questionnaire via the Hall, and Wilbrahams' websites and Facebook. Please take time to answer it and tell us what you think – about the solar project in particular and about your use of the hall in general. Feedback from the community is essential to our success in applying for grants. We have a good track record with grants – they enabled us to build our new hall and completely re-equip the play area – but it takes effort and needs a good response from the community to be successful. If you would like a paper copy of the questionnaire, please telephone my contact number below. If you have a neighbour who you think would appreciate help with the online questionnaire, please offer: it will make all the difference.

Currently we spend 20-25% of our rental income on electricity to heat and light the hall. Solar panels and batteries will reduce this substantially. Solar panels will generate renewable energy, free of fossil fuel consumption – it will be good for our planet, and good for our community too. If we are successful, the panels should be installed in the summer of 2024.

Events

October saw the return of the Hall Feast, this time on the theme of 'Harvest'. The evening was very popular and raised £1126 for hall funds. A magnificent spread of delicious dishes had been brought along by very generous village cooks, and there was entertainment in the shape of a quiz about Autumn and two fascinating talks. First, Ian Cumming gave an enlightening demonstration about wheat, from primitive bread to Bake Off 'Showstoppers'. He milled some grain grown by David White in Lt Wilbraham into flour and made flatbreads as we watched. He finished his talk with an amazing tower of profiteroles (Croquembouche), which unfortunately (and hilariously) started to collapse in the heat of the hall. Notwithstanding the collapse, it was delicious, and everyone tucked in at pudding time. Gavin Shelton of Cambridge CoFarm https://www.cofarm.co talked about the community market garden on Barnwell Road that he started on the ground in May 2020, with the help so far of 150 volunteers. It aims to "bring people together to grow and share nutritious



food and help build stronger communities and healthier ecosystems." His talk was very inspiring, and he told us about the next market garden that is planned for Fulbourn in 2024.



The monthly Farmers' Markets will finish their run on December 9th and will start up again in April 2024. Our last market of the year will be Christmas themed and there will be mulled wine and mince pies, 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 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. Please keep up the support for these regular events – we are lucky to have them - but they can only last as long as they are well attended.

Unfortunately. the Wilbrahams' Children's Christmas Party that we had planned has had to be cancelled. I am very sorry if that is a disappointment. Father Christmas and Rudolph will still be visiting the children with presents, popping into Weenie Warblers on the 8th December and visiting the primary school on their last day, on December 15th. Santa's visits are kindly sponsored by Great Wilbraham Parish Council and Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council**.**

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

Harvest Festival Celebrations in The Wilbrahams'



Both of our churches had wonderful displays of produce and flowers for their Harvest Festival celebrations, pictured here by Mary Painter. As usual our two Parishes contributed very generously to the Jimmy's appeal with a vast array of non-perishable

foods, toiletries, underclothes and socks. We are very grateful to all who contributed to two very happy, well attended, social events. St John's Little Wilbraham, which hosted the main event, was a special triumph with an awesome offer of delicious cakes and other treats.

Jackie Beadsmoore

Motor Vehicle Activated Signs MVAS



Our village now has three MVAS units - devices which flash up your speed each time you pass. They been in place for three months and have been warmly welcomed by everyone we have talked to.

Curious residents have posed questions to the Transport Working Group, such as:-

• Why are the MVAS units being moved?

• Why can't we have them permanently fixed (such as in Church Street by the playground)?

Each unit must be moved as County Council regulations require them to be relocated at least monthly. The reasoning behind this is that drivers will cease to notice the units if they are left in one position; even though many of us are still alerted by the MVAS units.

Each MVAS unit is powered by a solar panel. The solar panels are very fragile and difficult to move, and so they have been permanently attached to the fixed posts at the entrances to the village (called buffer zones). When the units are moved elsewhere within the village, they are powered by internal batteries and these have a life of only 2-3 weeks, which means that the units must be moved back to allow the batteries to be recharged by solar power.



TWG has a team of volunteers who have generously given up their time every few weeks to move the units; we are very grateful to them.

We have a working rota that captures the flow of traffic through the village – either entering or exiting. We can trace each vehicle's route and its speed. For instance, if someone was to come in on Mill

Road at a speed of 70 mph, we can see their route through the village (and the exit they have chosen to use) and the speed they have been 'clocked' at the buffer zone or at an internal MVAS. You might well be horrified at what the data is showing, see further down!



There is presently a problem with the permanent posts because they are not in the ideal positions for measuring speeds accurately. We have discussed this with the County Council, and it is likely that new posts will be erected in the near future.

As for the data produced by the units, perhaps the most worrying are the high percentages of vehicles which exceed the speed limit, particularly in the 40mph buffer zones at the entrances to the village. The MVAS in Mill Road, shown in the photo, records that nearly 40% of vehicles that travel through the village - nearly two in every five - are exceeding the 40mph limit. Far too many of them are travelling at speeds above 70mph, and some have been recorded at over 90mph! You will note from the picture, that this speed is picked up just before the houses a few hundred metres up the road, at the T Junction. Can you imagine the consequences if the driver concerned lost control?

In the Lanes, where the MVAS unit is mounted within the 30mph limit and close to the school, many vehicles are entering the village at over 60 mph. A handful were travelling at 73mph. Generally, over 35% are travelling over the speed limit, a real danger to our children who cross the road a hundred metres up from there! Perhaps the most worrying data in Church Street, near to the playground, was not that 61mph was clocked but two measurements of 50mph on a Monday and a Wednesday between 3 and 4 o'clock was captured, just when children would be about.

And at what times I hear you say… Well, most are not in the middle of the night but on a weekday, say between 5-6pm or 1-2pm!

As was mentioned in the last edition of The Warbler, the most important function of the MVAS units is to encourage vehicles to slow down. Here there is real success even if at first sight those speeding figures suggest otherwise. Vehicles do slow down when drivers are made aware of their speed. This is particularly true in the village, in Station Road, High Street and children Street. This gives us much encouragement for the future with the forthcoming introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the village.

Monique Bradley – Transport Working Group

Johnson Bede Lane Trust

Did 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

Trustees: Adele Helmy, Duncan Wells, Guy Mulley, Karen Ostenfeld, Juliet Carter, Holly Tilbrook, and Revd. Alice Goodman

Who is that man? Poem



Question: In the last issue on page 15 we included a poem, 'Who is that man?' purposely without attribution. Did you guess who the author was?
Answer: Roddy Tippen.

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Great Wilbraham Primary School

September

ACT MAT

We officially became an academy on 1st September and have joined the ACT (Agape Courage Thankfulness) MAT with Buckden Primary Academy. I have already led safeguarding training for both schools with my counterpart at Buckden, and we have also had joint training with them too. We look forward to working further with them and the other schools that will join the MAT in the near future with Alison Anderson as the CEO.

School Intents for 2023-24

As a new school, we do not currently have an Ofsted status, and we have a new DfE number. However, we are reflecting upon the progress made in the monitoring visit in May and have developed four key intents, which are:

Fully embed phonics teaching and development of reading.

Embed curriculum from EY – Y6 in all subjects.

Ensure robust leadership to develop the curriculum and outcomes.

Pupils with greater learning potential needs are met.

Personal Quality of the Week

Every week, children bring home certificates from teachers and from myself. The teacher certificates are related to the children's experiences and outcomes that week in the class. The headteacher awards relate to a personal quality of the week that is shared with the children during my Tuesday collective worship. These personal qualities are derived from the Values for Life, of which we have a different one each half term. There are eighteen values, and we rotate them over three years. We focused on 'Generosity' and 'Respect' during the Autumn term.

Class welcome mornings

These sessions were held as an introduction to the year by the teachers. It was great to see so many families attend.

Bottisham Airfield trip

Badger class visited Bottisham Airfield and had an excellent time learning all about the local history on our doorstep related to World War II. It was fascinating and the children learnt a huge amount, from throwing aeroplanes and riding in jeeps – it was an action-packed day.

Buckingham Palace trip

Both Hedgehog and Badger classes had the wonderful experience of visiting Buckingham Palace in September. From the seamless coach timings to the behaviour of the children, the day was perfect. We were dropped off outside the gates and had the staterooms all to ourselves and one other class from another school. This allowed children to really enjoy the experience, and the tour guides were able to provide interesting information about the paintings, the coronations and different rooms. Thanks to the staff and Mrs Helmy and Ms Laws (school governors) for ensuring the trip went so well; it was a great experience.

October

Harvest Service

The whole school made their way to St John's in Little Wilbraham for our annual Harvest Service. We were fortunate to miss the bad weather at the beginning and end of the day, and everyone got there and back in good time. The choir sang superbly, and the congregation were pleased to join in with the whole school classics of Cauliflowers Fluffy and Lord of the Harvest. Every year we are astounded at the generosity of the community collection, and we were not disappointed – a great collection, thank you so much. Jimmy's night shelter will be very pleased.

Environmental work, fencing and Early Years provision building work

There have been a number of physical changes to the school over the past few months. The environmental work has been completed, and the underfloor heating and solar panels are working really well. The fence at the front of the school has been installed and looks great. The work completed in Fieldmice class has made a huge difference to the experiences in the early years and has only been possible through the hard work and effort of the PTFA fundraising and, in particular Hannah Wilson (PTFA), who led a grant application which funded the vast majority of the work in the Early Years playground.

November

PTFA AGM

This took place early November and lots of great plans were discussed. The Wilbraham Winter Window Walk and a Christmas Film night (Friday 15th December – last day of term!) are planned this term and the Bingo night was held before half term. thanks to all the volunteers who do a wonderful job under the leadership of Caroline Bird. A huge amount was raised last year, and it has made a positive impact for the school to afford new iPads, transport for exciting trips, Early Years outside area work and our Giraffe (more to come on that later).

Remembrance Services

We held a remembrance service at school which children observed really well. Thanks to Mrs Chaudhry for organising this. Two members of the school also read at the Fulbourn Remembrance Day service and were great!

West Stow trip

Hedgehog class went to West Stow Anglo-Saxon village and learnt huge amounts about life during Anglo-Saxon times. They learnt about different houses, runes and how Anglo-Saxons lived.

Choir celebration

We had special visitors lead a special Choral Worship, which the children enjoyed enormously. Mr. Manning (from the music department of Liverpool Cathedral) and Mr. Poulter (who has been Director of Music at various cathedrals and is going to be leading St Vigor's choir) led very exciting (and quick!) singing activities. We know some children from the school have already joined the choir, I'm sure more will in the future!

Primary Science Quality Mark

I am really pleased to inform you that the school have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark. Not only that, but we have achieved the Gilt level award for the leadership, teaching, learning and wider outcomes of science at the school. I had to attend various training courses and complete a detailed presentation with evidence, but it was worth it, and have maintained our Gilt-level accreditation.

Science day

We had a science day to celebrate achieving Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt level award. https://www.herts.ac.uk/psqm

The whole school conducted experiments, recorded results and shared their learning with each other in a science assembly at the end of the day. Fieldmice shared their knowledge of magnets, Squirrel class shared their work on classifying materials, and Hedgehogs and Badger classes both talked about their work on light, demonstrating the different experiments they had been doing.

Frida 'La Vida' Giraffe

Ms. Chapman and Miss Maddison have been busy organising and preparing our school giraffe – Frida – for the Standing Tall Cambridge sculpture trail, which is happening in Spring 2024 (https://www.break-charity.org/cambridge-standing-tall/). This piece of artwork is inspired by Frida Kahlo's final piece of work Viva La Vida, and has been chosen particularly as the trail is about mental health. Every child (and adult) has added a watermelon to the giraffe, and we look forward to seeing where she will be in the trail!

Future events for November

At the time of writing, we still have many exciting events to happen in November. We have a Divali dance day, odd socks day, anti-bullying week, children in need and class assemblies. This is all before the exciting Christmas events, including parents being invited to Christmas Lunch (on Christmas jumper day!), Christmas service and, of course the Reception, Year One and Year Two Christmas production, which would lead me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Richard Brown and all the staff at GWP

The Lady in the Hat

Apparently, I am known as the lady in the hat
Well, I suppose I have been called worse than that
Twenty-five was the last count of this attire
But we're only halfway through the year
I have summer hats winter hats too
Of the cap types I only have two
I have to wear hats with a good wide brim
Hats that will not let the sun or electric light in
I have an eye problem which is painful if I get any light on them you see
No doubt by the time you read this the hat count will be up to thirty three

Greta



The Wilbrahams Bridge Club

At a recent event that I attended, there were about five hundred bridge players and amongst them were seven members from the Wilbrahams club. This was very pleasing to see as several local clubs have well over a hundred members.

We are a very small club of about twenty-two members but most sessions we only have 2 to 3 tables, so we were punching above our weight.

We have also been very lucky in that we have 2 members that have joined us and who play very well. They are also more than happy to pass on their expertise.

Quite a few members started playing with us, but as their confidence has grown have now ventured out to play in other clubs and are going from strength to strength. They still enjoy the sessions at our club. Indeed, we will be discussing playing more than twice a month at the next meeting.

Come and join us, everyone is welcome, both as new players and those who can help us to a better game!

ANGLIAN LEISURE BOTTISHAM BRINGS YOU THE FEELING OF LIVING FITTER, HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER!

Activities:

-Children's swimming lessons.
-Judo lessons.
-Fitness classes.
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-Fitness suite.
-Women's only football for wellbeing.
-Hardcourt bookings.
-Sports hall bookings.
-Gymnasium bookings.
-Dance studio bookings.
-3G bookings.
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Please see our website for more information!

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Phone: 01223 811121

Visit us: 1 Lode Road, Bottisham, Cambridge, CB25 9DJ





THE
CARPENTERS
ARMS

LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

OUR FESTIVE MENU

Available from November 23rd to December 23rd

Our three-course festive set menu, is perfect for family get togethers, catch-ups with friends, or the big work Christmas party.

Expect to find all of your yuletide favourites from turkey, to crispy roasties and cranberry sauce.

FESTIVE EXPERIENCES

Christmas Calligraphy
Talented Modern Calligrapher, Kirstie of Ink & Flow London, will lead you in a two hour calligraphy workshop that is suitable for beginners. Learn how to use your new calligraphy skills to make your own Christmas cards and tags.

Festive Wreath Making
This year we welcome back talented floral designer, Amelia Cornish, to The Carpenters Arms for our Festive Wreath Making experience.

Amelia will lead you through this festive experience, creating your own Christmas wreath to adorn your door this December, using fresh foliage and flowers.

BREAKFAST ALL WEEK

8.00am to 11.00am - Monday to Friday
9.00am to 11.00am - Saturday and Sunday

Pop in for a catch up over a fry up, or swing by for a breakfast bun and steaming cup of coffee to start your day. Whether you are staying with us or stopping by, everyone is welcome.

For more information and to make a reservation,
simply pop by or head over to our website: carpentersarmswilbraham.co.uk

Wilbrahams' Environment Group

A round -up of environmental news for our Parishes. What has WEG been up to – and what lies ahead?

Polar Ice. In Mid October 60 people were enthralled by an evening with Dr Robert Mulvaney, about to return to the Antarctic for his 40th season there. His work today is to drill deep down and analyse air bubbles trapped in the Polar ice for evidence of changes in levels of greenhouse gases. Meteorological records go back 170 years, Carbon Dioxide records go back almost 70 years – but the team already has from the ice 130,000 years of information – and he hopes to go deeper for evidence at least 800,000 years old!

Robert's work shows that rapidly rising levels of greenhouse gases are causing the planet to warm, sea levels to rise and weather patterns to change. For us we are already seeing and feeling the effects of this. Robert believes that the 1.5 degree target limit for temperature increase will be exceeded by perhaps as much as 100%. We came away well informed – and alarmed. You can see a recording of his talk at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK-iC-TqxhY

Many thanks go to Tom and Sanda Flores for doing the video.



Solar Farm. We have continued to work with our Parish Councils (and that of Bottisham) and Ridge Clean Energy to agree annual Community Benefits payments for the life of the Six Oaks Solar farm. After many delays the site was due for a Planning Decision in mid-November: if approved, work on the detail will continue for much, much longer!

Churchyard. Members of WEG and others worked hard as summer ended to clear the long grasses and flowers which had looked so beautiful in the churchyard at Great Wilbraham as part of the Conservation project there. Having set seed, the dying material needed to be cleared away: many hands made light work.

Circular Walk. In the coming months we hope to make progress, with the Parish Council in Great Wilbraham, to achieve a viable footpath from the village to the Common access track, as part of the circular walk which so many of us enjoy.

The River. Most of us have noticed that "our" river, properly known as the Little Wilbraham River, struggles because the flow of water in it varies so much – and indeed sometimes ceases altogether. The natural springs which used to feed the river sometimes fail because so much water is being abstracted from our region for human use. The Environment Agency tries to supplement the river by pumping water from elsewhere, but this is not always high on its list of priorities, despite our river being a Nationally important and rare Chalk Stream. WEG supports the Wilbraham River Protection Society and other groups and individuals in trying to raise the profile of the river and restore the river. Some co-ordinated effort is contemplated for 2024.

Fleam Dyke. One end of Fleam Dyke is right on our boundary and the good news is that the local Wildlife Trusts have bought the relevant section as far as the A11, with some adjoining land on "our" side of the Dyke on which to keep sheep and other animals which can graze the Dyke so as to preserve and enhance the rare plants which grow there. WEG gave publicity to the appeal to fund the purchase and we expect to work with the Wildlife Trusts on this site – and on our Nature Recovery Plan.

Nature Recovery Plan. Our major project for 2024 – and for years thereafter - is a Nature Recovery Plan for all the land in our two parishes. We are lucky to have a river (some of the year), an area of fen, two Commons and a number of SSSIs here, plus some nature-friendly farmers – but there is so much more that can be done to "Double Nature" here – that is the rallying cry of an organisation called Natural Cambridgeshire. We are seeking Grant funding from Natural Cambridgeshire and from our Parish Councils to create a detailed digital map of all today's landscape features and to involve as many Warbler readers as possible in recording existing wildlife and opportunities to improve habitats everywhere. The Wildlife Trusts are excited about the potential for our area and will be helping us "all the way". We intend to say much more about the project very soon and we will be seeking your help too.

Does your house lose too much heat? We are again offering to use thermal imaging cameras, borrowed from Cambridge Carbon Footprint. Last winter we helped a number of householders to see areas of heat loss, so that they could better insulate their homes. If you are interested, please contact us.

JOIN US! TELL US WHAT INTERESTS YOU!! We are keen to involve everyone, young and old. Have a look at our section of the Wilbrahams website or contact us www.wilbrahams.co.uk/information/weg or contact us by email wilbrahamseg@gmail.com or ring 07594 601205

Nick Toovey

The Well-brahams have had a busy time again, hosting three more days of Sports and Mindfulness activities for children, run by Charlie Brown and Rachael Cox, helped by funding from South Cambs District Council. As before, these were a huge success, with over 40 children attending each day. Many thanks to all the parents who made generous donations - this meant we could employ extra help from Chris and Debs, and also buy some new equipment. These days have been incredibly popular and are always oversubscribed, so keep a lookout for future sessions and book early!



Helen Clarke has run yet another successful watercolour painting workshop. Afterwards, it was generally agreed that these should be on prescription, as the atmosphere of quiet concentration and calm was very relaxing, and there was a real sense of achievement, even amongst those not confident in their artistic skills.

Our Warm Mornings have started up again, continuing right through the autumn and winter months. Warm, cosy, and welcoming are the order of the day - they've been universally popular, with a mixture of ages attending, and a vibrant and chatty atmosphere. Although the original intention had been to change the name to 'Thirsty Thursdays', the group eventually decided that this sounded a bit too much like a visit to the pub, so 'Warm Mornings' they are for the foreseeable future!



Sadly our planned event in the Orchard didn't happen due to a) lack of fruit on the trees and b) the weather… could we have had any more rain? The lack of fruit seems to have been a common experience for many gardeners in the village this year, but we will be monitoring this and hoping for a better harvest in 2024.

We're very grateful to Ariana Goryn, who has kindly agreed to give a talk in early January on the subject of habits and how these affect us. We're often completely unaware that we're in a habitual pattern of behaviour or thought, so

increasing our awareness is the first step to take in the process of change. The date will be publicised nearer the time, so look out for posters around the villages and on the website.

The subject of habits leads on to New Year resolutions at this natural time of change. But as we all know, we can be good at making resolutions but not necessarily so successful at keeping them. If we can't cut out the extra glass of wine, slab of chocolate or keep up with the gym routine, we're left with disappointment and a feeling of having failed. With this in mind, perhaps try spending some time reflecting on the past year and thinking about what can be learned from everything that has happened. Reflective practice is a great skill to have and is very common these days in education or in work situations. The practice is unique to each individual - everyone will approach it in their own way. It isn't about berating ourselves; it's more about being able to look back and honestly acknowledge events and our part in them and hopefully understand and learn from our real-life experiences. This is great for our own wellbeing but also for those around us, because if we can follow a clear process for thinking things through and gain understanding of our motives and behaviour, we're more likely to have healthy and positive relationships with others.



Here are just a few of the many questions we could be asking ourselves at this time of the year: What was easy? What was difficult? Was I kind to myself this year? Did I do my best? What was my greatest accomplishment? Was there a time when I had to be brave and step outside of my comfort zone? What did I avoid? What am I grateful for? Did I improve anyone's life this year? If I could rewind, what advice would I give myself, knowing what I know now? What did I learn? And so on! It's definitely worth keeping a journal and jotting down thoughts and ideas to look back on and to see what could be changed.

Wishing everyone in our three villages a time of peace over the coming festive season and a positive and hopeful start to 2024.

The WI logo reads "The WI - inspiring women " and we have now gone a stage further. As of April 2023, the WI is proud to be an active partner in the Rugby World Cup Legacy Programme and of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025. With this tournament comes an exciting opportunity for the WI to be bold, relevant, inclusive, flexible and inspiring by bringing "game-changing" and long-term opportunities to women of all stages of life around the community.

What an enjoyable afternoon we had with our September speaker, Kevin Boardman, a retired history teacher who came to tell us about Women on the Oregon Trail. Kevin and his wife have driven along the trail although in a bit more up-to-date transport than a small covered wagon having to sleep out under the stars. Most of the women did not want to go, but with their children, followed their husbands out west, tolerating much hardship along the way - Hollywood has a lot to answer for !!! Trust me, Kevin will be back soon.

Whilst in October, the author Susan Grossey came to tell about publishing her novels about Detective Sam Plank, a Magistrate's Constable during the latter years of the Regency period. All seven of the books are available in Fulbourn Library, and whilst Susan's career has been spent training bank staff and other institutions about financial fraud and how to spot it, this period in history is her passion, and now writing is her full-time career. The first book in the series is based on a true story, although there is a twist and the end, which is her own idea of how the story may have ended.

Speakers for the early part of 2024 are:

17th January 2024 - Andy Malcolm- back by popular demand with more tales about the Fishermen's Mission

21st February 2024 Kevin Pigney - "My Photographic Story - the first five years " and AGM

20th March 2024 - David Duker - " One of our Own- inspiring young people by sharing stories of our past.

All meetings begin at 2 pm at the Swifts, Fulbourn.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Marlyn Moyse (President)



Living Well Videos

Sometimes it's difficult to start conversations with loved ones, especially conversations about dying. Even though death is a certainty, few people share their wishes with their friends and family. Arthur Rank Hospice Charity has created a series of videos to support people to live well. Advance Care Planning, with Clinical Nurse Specialist, Katie Williams, is a really useful video to help you think about planning ahead. It's suitable for people with a long-term illness and those who just want to get organised so they can get on with living. Visit arhc.org.uk wellbeingvideos to view them.

Recycle your Christmas Tree for Charity!

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity have a Recycle Christmas Tree Scheme and can collect your Christmas tree from your door in January 2024. Just imagine no needles in your car and no fuel costs! If you don't want the hassle of getting rid of your tree let them collect it and recycle it for you for a small donation to the Charity. In January 2023 they collected over 3,500 trees in certain postcodes across Cambridgeshire. For more information or to register your tree, visit arhc.org.uk/trees or telephone 01223 675888.

Arthur's Shed

Arthur's Shed is a purpose-built studio set in the beautiful grounds of the Arthur Rank Hospice where talented volunteers run sessions on various topics. Sessions are open to the public; you do not need to have a connection with the Charity to attend. Sessions are free of charge, although a suggested donation of £5 is welcomed to cover the cost of materials. Some of the events include Astronomy on December 1st, Clay work on December 5th and 12th and Sugar craft with Brenda on December 7th and 14th. For their full calendar see https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/December-2023.pdf

Sarah Cawley

THE ARTS SOCIETY CAMBRIDGE



The Arts Society Cambridge is part of a national network of local societies founded in 1968 as the National Association for Decorative and Fine Arts. The Arts Society Cambridge was formed in 1971. Our purpose is to deepen members' knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the creative arts. We bring people together through a shared interest in the arts by providing monthly lectures on a wide variety of arts-related topics by internationally renowned lecturers. These take place at the lecture theatre in Churchill College in Cambridge on Thursday mornings. We also arrange regular guided visits to local exhibitions and places of artistic or historic interest, including an annual overseas art tour.

Our active and enthusiastic committee arranges interesting events and activities for our members. The committee includes heritage and arts volunteer representatives, who organise events to support local charities, such as All Saints Church in Jesus Lane and The David Parr House in Cambridge.



The Society's programme runs from October to the following June each year and membership is a modest £45 per year, or £90 for joint membership. It includes:-

Nine lectures with complimentary tea/coffee beforehand

A quarterly Arts Society magazine

The opportunity to attend Special Interest Days and Visits

For more information, or to join, please visit our website: www.tascambridge.org.uk or email us at cambridge@theartssociety.org

THE ARTS SOCIETY CAMBRIDGE

Mary Painter

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Bus Service 18 Tuesday & Friday	Lt. Wilbraham To Newmarket	Newmarket to Lt. Wilbraham
Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	**09.30**	**14.30**
Great Wilbraham, Church St.	**09.35**	**14.25**
Fulbourn, Six Bells	**09.40**	**14.20**
Fulbourn, Bakers Arms	**09.45**	**14.15**
Teversham, Ferndale	**09.47**	**14.13**
Teversham, Marshall's Close	**09.50**	**14.10**
Newmarket Road, Park & Ride	**09.55**	**14.05**
Newmarket Road, Park & Ride	**10.00**	**14.00**
Teversham, Marshall's Close	**10.05**	**13.55**
Teversham, Ferndale	**10.08**	**13.52**
Fulbourn, Bakers Arms	**10.10**	**13.50**
Fulbourn, Six Bells	**10.15**	**13.45**
Great Wilbraham, Church St.	**10.20**	**13.40**
Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	**10.25**	**13.35**
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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Harvest feast

Flowers at Harvest

Farming

Fireworks

Untold stories the Wrights reflections









