

# Wilbrahams' Warbler

Autumn 2021



Great Wilbraham : Little Wilbraham : Six Mile Bottom



Pubs Galore : page 47



St Johns Church  
Little Wilbraham  
Page 45

Bell Ringers : Page 27



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## Public Service Contact Details

Emergency	Police, Fire or Ambulance 999
Community Support Officer	PCSO Julie Hajredini 101 ext. 7113441
The Surgery, Bottisham Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments : 810030
Fulbourn Health Centre Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments : 880216
Out-of-hours / Urgent Care Cambridgeshire	NHS Direct 111
Anglican Church	Rev Alice Goodman 880337 Lay Minister: Steve Mashford, 882163
Baptist Church <a href="http://www.re-new.me.uk">www.re-new.me.uk</a> <a href="mailto:info@re-new.me.uk">info@re-new.me.uk</a>	Peter Wells, 812388, <a href="mailto:pandawells@cheerful.com">pandawells@cheerful.com</a> Rev Keith Morrison, 813055 Rev Alan Brand, 812558

### Great Wilbraham Parish Council

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cover photo by Chris Fell. Other photos by Chris Fell & contributors

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# Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Warbler. With the success of the vaccines, things gradually get back to normal, perhaps a different normality, learning to live with the Covid virus, as eradication of the virus looks like a long term project. The Covid 19 Support group have indicated that they plan to transfer responsibility for health and well-being to the Well-brahams group. Residents who have concerns can contact any members of the Well-brahams. They have named individuals who are responsible for well-being in specific areas and are able to provide a link to available activities and support within the villages and outside. Carrying on the same theme Bottisham Medical Practice have published the data for April which makes interesting reading. The Cambridge and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group have reported increased demand on Urgent and Emergency Care and GPs as we move out of lockdown. They are reminding people to Think 111 First. So, if you need urgent or emergency care, contact NHS 111 either on the telephone or online,

The Transport Working Group (TWG) has had a busy time. We have an article, a slogan and letters relating to speeding through the villages. The Speed Awareness Team in their final update, talk about the data they have acquired from the Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign and TWG update us on the £15k of funding for a Local Highways Improvement (LHI) for a 20mph zone between the school and the nursery in Church Street.

The Farmers' Markets appear to be going well, taking place on the Great Wilbraham Rec in front of the hall every second Saturday in the month. Following on from last year's event this year's Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show 2021 was a table-top event. Twenty-one tables featured in the event and all the winners are listed include on the back cover. What became of the paintings up for auction? Well, you will have to read on.

Our churches also feature in this issue. With the support of The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust, St Nicholas Church has now completed the installation of a new heating system. Over a hundred years ago a leaking roof became a problem St John's Church in Little Wilbraham would have been talking in the hundreds to repair it. Today the problem has reoccurred and the repair bill will be over a hundred thousand pounds

We have a poem about Six Mile Bottom from an American visiting the village in her imagination. There are family links with the village. The Over 60s club, the choir and the Bell Ringers make a return. Included as usual, reports from the Parish Councils and Councillor Claire Daunton, talking about the new Local Plan. Any comments about the 20mph speed campaign, the local plan or any other topics, then send us a letter.

John Torode

# Olympic Games

The Olympic Games held in 2021:

I don't know what's more exhausting,

Taking part or watching the Olympic Games.

Too many exciting moments,

Too many great contestants to name names.

Who would have thought we would see

Someone doing somersaults while riding a bike?

Beautiful horses dancing to music, well what's not to like?

The confident smiley thirteen year old girl

On a skate board made you hold your breath,

Her supportive parents sometimes must have been worried half to death.

Thankyou and congratulations all round for doing Great Britain proud.

After a stressful two years, it feels at last we are coming out of a cloud.

Greta Rees

## Letters

### Dear Editors

I am writing to highlight and support the recently formed "Transport Working Group" that is now campaigning on behalf of all of us to improve road safety in the villages.

I am sure they will have submitted articles to The Warbler that fully explain their objectives, modus operandi and progress.

Of great concern are the issues of heavy lorries and speed, these two issues are important as they directly impact us all and in particular the elderly and families with young children.

The Wilbrahams are very special places and we must support The Working Group so that they remain a pleasant place in which to live.

Although I am not directly involved in the working group may I also appeal to readers to actively support the "20 is plenty" campaign by obtaining the various posters and stickers and prominently displaying them.

Thanks

Tony Ryan



## Dear Editors

### Transport in the village

Great Wilbraham has many problems associated with traffic through the village and based on what was said by the Transport Working Group (TWG) and the subsequent open discussion at the last Parish Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July these issues include, HGVs, speeding cars, the state of our pavements and crossing Church Street particularly by the school. The TWG questionnaire, asking the village about their concerns seems to have fired up interest in finding answers.

The appalling state of our pavements, which forces pedestrians onto the road is surely a disgrace, which is compounded by cars and lorries seeming to have priority over pedestrians and other road users. This has to be reversed and the safety of people acknowledged. Our problems are not unique and are shared by other local villages. There is not one simple answer and multiple actions are needed but a good interim starting point is the excellent “20s Plenty” initiative.

The current energy and interest should not be lost and we have an excellent motivated group with the TWG and I urge the PC and the village to grasp it with urgency and gratitude. Success will require lots of effort, vision, and of course money. But they will need the continued support from us the villagers, the PC and our elected District and County Councillors. It will always be easy to say we cannot do that so it is up to us the village to say we can, and we will. They will all need our continued encouragement!

John Beadsmoore, 31 Temple End, Great Wilbraham

## Dear Editors

Re the HGVs, a considered (verbatim) response from Matthew Ward, age 9:

"I think the HGVs are causing lots of pollution. But it's hard because people need the lorries to deliver stuff. If they go slower it will be safer, but people's deliveries will be slower. But if they go faster, then more people might get hurt. Because there's lots of people crossing roads after school, then there's more chance of people getting hurt. The solution is I think the lorries should lower their speed limit to 20mph and for people crossing the roads to look out for lorries."

James Ward

## Dear Editors

I have an interesting story about my aunt Sylvia and an amusing poem about Six Mile Bottom that may be of interest to the readers of the Warbler.

Sylvia was brought up in Six Mile Bottom, her mother Ellen Adella Jacobs married Thomas John Brasnett on 26 December 1931 in the parish church of Little Wilbraham. They lived at 8 Six Mile Bottom in a cottage on the London Road. Two of Thomas' brothers, Archibald and Earnest, died of their wounds in the First World War and are commemorated on the war memorial at Six Mile Bottom.

Ellen and Thomas Brasnett are both buried in St Georges churchyard in Six Mile Bottom.

During World War 2, Sylvia Jacobs met and married Ed Harris, an American GI. In 1945 Sylvia travelled alone with her baby daughter Margret all the way to Portland Oregon to be reunited with her husband after he had been demobbed. She travelled on the Queen Mary from Southampton to New York and from there took the train right across America to Portland to start her new life.

In 1956 Sylvia, Ed and their 3 children moved into a new house in northeast Portland. The family attended the Presbyterian church where Sylvia met Janice Tallman, who became a lifetime friend. Jan loved to write stories and poems, and was fascinated to hear about what life was like in England especially in the oddly named village of Six Mile Bottom. Sylvia gave her a challenge to write a poem about Six Mile Bottom. Over the years, Sylvia had told her all about the village where she had grown up, so in 1996 on Sylvia's 74<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jan sent her the following amusing poem. Sylvia came back to the UK four times on holiday to visit family and friends. Jan is now 88 but sadly Sylvia passed away in 2002.

Roz Wright

The poem is on page 21

The author, Janice Tallman, did not visit Six Mile Bottom and the poem is a view of the village in her imagination.

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## **Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council**

Firstly, we hope you and all your families are keeping well. The council now meets every 6 weeks at the church in Little Wilbraham, dates for the rest of 2021 are 5th August, 16th September, 28th October, 9th December. All are welcome to attend. The council was successful in a bid to secure funds for the proposed Multi Use Games Area on the recreation ground in Little Wilbraham. This can be used for sports such as tennis and badminton. You can read about the proposal and survey at <https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/villages-multi-use-games-court-area/>. The council will be applying for further grants to raise the rest of the money needed.

Planting is happening around the villages, helped by the volunteer group and work is being done in the pits. There will be a new bench at the bus stop in the High Street Little Wilbraham as this is in a poor state. We are hoping that the Feast in Little Wilbraham, which was much enjoyed in 2019, will go ahead on the recreation ground in September.

Cllr Carter (Little Wilbraham) and Cllr Gill (Six Mile Bottom) have taken on the role of liaison between the Wellbrahams group and the Parish council. For any further information please contact them or visit the website <https://thewell-brahams.weebly.com>

For any further information on any of the above please contact the clerk at [clerklw@wilbrahams.co.uk](mailto:clerklw@wilbrahams.co.uk)

Best wishes to all. Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

## **Great Wilbraham Parish Council**

### **Parish Councillor vacancies –**

Come and contribute to the life and development of Great Wilbraham.

Due to the resignation of Emma Gant there are now two Parish Councillor vacancies. Members would like to thank Emma for all her efforts on behalf of the Parish Council.

Would you like to join us to help determine our village's response to our rapidly changing World? While Parish Councillors require energy and dedication to local affairs, the task would only require a few hours of your time. The Parish Council is the voice of the village concerning local government, the police and its views are sought on all issues affecting residents such as the Local Plan, environmental issues, planning applications, traffic management and attention to the regular tasks of village maintenance.

The Parish Council consists of seven members and main meetings are generally every two months, with a few additional meetings as needed. Free training is available.

The Council are keen to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. If you would like to learn more about the role, please contact the Clerk, Natalie Mulvey, [clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk](mailto:clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk) or any Councillor. To apply you will need to complete an application form and submit this along with a statement of why you wish to be a Parish Councillor and any relevant skills and interests you possess.

### **July Parish Council Meetings**

Thank you to all the residents and members of community groups who joined the Parish Council at their July meeting. It was good to be able to meet in the village once again.

Members enjoyed hearing about the activities and progress, the Well-brahams, Wilbrahams Environmental Group and the Transport Working Group were making, and they wish to thank them for their time and effort in supporting residents of Great Wilbraham.

### **Highway Improvements**

In conjunction with the Transport Working Group the Parish Council is looking at various options to improve the highways in the village. These include improving the pathway to the Primary School, investigating improving the flashing school signs and the possible option of a school crossing patrol. If you would like to hear about the progress on these activities, please join us at the next Parish Council meeting on 15th September.

### **Defibrillator**

This is a reminder that the village has a defibrillator situated on the wall of the Memorial Hall. It can be accessed in emergency situations concerning a heart related problem. Hopefully it will never be needed but please store this location in your memory bank and spread the word so that all are aware that this valuable life-saving machine can be accessed quickly and easily, instructions are on the outside of the casing, and you will be fully led through the procedure.

AEDdonate, the provider of the Defibrillator, offer online (via Zoom) free community awareness sessions on how to use the machine. If you would like to join one of these training sessions, please register via their website <https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/> or phone 01785 472224. The next session is scheduled for 21st September and will last an hour.

### **Community Support**

The Parish Council is always keen to support community activity in the village and is most grateful to anyone who has done things to foster community cohesion in the past year.

Great Wilbraham Parish Council has money available to be awarded in grants to organisations for projects that will be of benefit to the residents of the Parish. If you are a part of a community group or project and feel you have a funding need, please look at the policy, which can be found on the [www.wilbrahams.co.uk](http://www.wilbrahams.co.uk) site to see if you meet the criteria to apply for a grant from the Parish Council. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the parish clerk.

### **Overgrown hedges**

The Parish Council often receives complaints about overgrown hedges obstructing pavements and public footpaths around the village. These obstructions can be a real hazard to the partially sighted and users of wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Please can all residents in Great Wilbraham check their hedges, trees and other shrubs to make sure that they are not over-grown beyond your boundary. If your hedge, trees etc are, please take the time to cut back any overhanging sections, which do cause obstructions for pedestrians, or visual impediments to drivers and/or road signs. Thank you.

Please check the Parish website for regular updates - [www.wilbrahams.co.uk](http://www.wilbrahams.co.uk)

Clerk Great Wilbraham Parish Council



## **Well-brahams Mental health and Well-being Group**

As Autumn approaches, our villages find themselves yet again in a state of uncertainty. Some of us are beginning to have more confidence that we can socialise safely, although for many, this is still happening outside. But for others, there is little change, and many people are still extremely concerned and are limiting the contact they have with others.

The mental health charity MIND has done extensive research recently and has found that 'The Coronavirus pandemic will leave a deep and lasting scar on the mental health of millions in this country. The devastating loss of life, the impact of lockdown and loneliness, and the inevitable recession that lies ahead will affect all of us. Prioritising mental health has never been more critical than it is now. New mental health problems have developed as a result of the pandemic, and existing mental health problems have become worse.'

This is therefore a time when we must continue to support one another, in any way we can. The Well-brahams group was formed originally from the Mental Health First Aid course facilitated by Joy Bray, who has significant and lifelong experience in the field of mental health. The course was designed to teach individuals practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues and encourage them to have the confidence to step in, reassure, and support a person in distress.

We've evolved since then and have widened the group's remit to try and increase awareness of mental health issues within the community. We've arranged talks and discussions, have organised regular group walks open to all, and painting workshops. In addition, we have set up a twice monthly Youth Group for Years 6 and above. Since the beginning of the pandemic we've worked closely with the Covid-19 Support group acting as contacts or volunteers, and offering practical help, a regular chat on the phone, or some advice about mental health concerns.

Our group is a diverse mix of residents, of various ages and life experiences, and we've recently been joined by Drs Hilary Burton and Andrew Carter, who have brought their considerable medical and organisational skills to the group. Both have played a key part in organising the Covid volunteer group, which has been extremely successful at a very difficult time, and which has been highly praised. In addition, Andrew was also responsible for hosting the highly enjoyable and successful 'Know your Neighbour' zoom meetings which continued throughout the lockdowns. Please note their report and updated details in this edition of the Warbler, and be reassured that although the Covid -19 Support group has reduced its day-to-day activities, do remember that help will always be available if needed.

The relationship between Mental health and Nature is a subject our group have been determined to pursue, despite the pandemic having curtailed our activities over the last eighteen months. The benefits of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture have been well known for years, as evidenced by national charities like Thrive who aim to bring about positive change in the lives of those who are challenged physically or emotionally. They state, 'The therapeutic value and feeling of well-being that people get from gardening, growing food and being in the outdoor environment, has a strong and positive impact on physical and mental health.'

With this in mind, the Well-brahams will continue to pursue projects which focus on nature and community gardening into the foreseeable future. We've successfully planted a stretch of border adjacent to the new play area fence in Church Street, which has been very well received by villagers, and have planted groups of native species daffodils and bluebells on the village green by the churchyard. These were not heavily publicised events but resulted in a number of volunteers who have expressed a desire to be involved in future projects.

We are in ongoing discussions with the Parish Council about taking on some of the responsibility for the maintenance of the Community Orchard. There are currently several hundred Community Orchards listed in the East of England, and we would like ours to become a well-used, productive and beautiful green space. Our intention is to encourage biodiversity whilst providing a venue where we can host community activities such as maintenance and pruning work parties, blossom days, painting and craft workshops, summer picnics and apple days. The

emphasis will be on events where generations can mix, learn from each other, and hopefully enjoy some 'socially distanced' interaction with friends and neighbours. If the pandemic has taught us anything, then surely it must be that spending time outdoors and working co-operatively with others can protect us emotionally from the challenges we face. The Well-brahams are committed to working with all interested people, of any age or experience, to allow this to happen.

Lastly, a date for your diary. Helen Clarke will be hosting another of her successful painting workshops between 2 and 4 pm on Saturday 9th October in St Nicholas Church, Gt Wilbraham. No experience is necessary, and this is a free event, but places are limited, so get in touch with Helen soon!

01223 882882/07815105092, [helen@summerhouse-paintings.co.uk](mailto:helen@summerhouse-paintings.co.uk)

Website: [www.thewell-brahams.weebly.com](http://www.thewell-brahams.weebly.com)

Twitter: (@Wellbrahams) , Facebook: (The Well-brahams)

Julia A'Court

## The Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Table-Top Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show 2021



Well, what a superb day we had for the Show last Saturday! Thank goodness it wasn't a few days later with thunder, lightning and torrents of rain!

I would just like to say a massive thank you to all the participants who went to a huge amount of effort to construct their table displays on the Rec. A lot of time and energy was spent not

only with the creation of all their exhibits over the year but also the transportation of everything to and fro in the sweltering sun. There were 21 Table displays and every one of them a masterpiece. The judges had an extremely hard task to choose only one winner in each category and were all bowled over by the innovativeness, quality and skills demonstrated on each table.

Many congratulations to you all and especially to the winners:

The Stephenson Cup for best display of home - grown fruit and vegetables: **Roger Rayner.**

The Brian Fisher Salver for best display of flowers/foliage/plants from the garden: **Sue Lambton.**



The Rose Bowl for best flower arrangement with one or more roses: **Trish Davis.**

Social Club Cup for best display of Home Produce: **Fran Ellis.**

2012 Jubilee Rose Bowl for best Arts and Crafts: **Frances Toovey**

Les Potter Cup for best overall table display: **Sue and Paul Lambton.**



The Doris Franklin Cup for winner of the Photography Section: **Andrew Evans.**

The Show Helpers' Cup for best posy of garden flowers/foliage in a jam jar: **Veronica Atherton.**

Junior Cup for best Garden on a plate/tray: **Jack Wilson.**

The Thistle Tankard Under 12's for best posy of garden flowers/foliage in a jam jar: **Jessica Helmy.**

(As there were sadly no entries in the under12's Arts and Crafts category, we decided to have a separate class for the under 12's posies in jam jars and award the Thistle Tankard to the winner.)

The David Waters Memorial Cup for the Plug Plant Competition (Hardy Fuchsia): **Trish Davis.**

The Richard Wright Cup for the Spud in a Bucket Competition: **Christine Clewes** had the heaviest yield (1.28 kg) from the 'Swift' seed potato.



### **We had 2 new cups this year:**

The Show Helpers' Cup: very kindly donated by the Whybrow Family who have for many years helped with the running of the Show.

The Richard Wright Cup: very kindly donated by his son Alex and Family in memory of Richard's stalwart support and enthusiasm for the Show and he was a previous winner of the 'Spud in the Bucket'! We missed him greatly on Saturday, as we did Vivien Wilson too, who would always be ready and willing to help set up the Show.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID situation, the Primary School was unable to take part this year. Hopefully things will be 'back to normal' next July!

Despite the heat of the day, many of you came to the Rec on Saturday afternoon to have a look around the table displays, catch up with friends and enjoy some tea and cake....there was quite a buzz! Thank you so much for supporting the Show and for all the generous donations given for the Hall funds which amounted to £185. Many thanks to all of you who swiftly filled the Auction Table with very kindly donated items of fruit, veg and produce from the table displays along with

various other items and two watercolour paintings, very generously donated by Ian McManus and Helen Clarke. Unfortunately, Ian's painting of 'A view of the allotments along Toft Way' did not reach its reserve so will be auctioned another time.

Lots of thanks also to:

Chris Fell for his continued dedication in organizing the Show's Photography section and achieving a record number of 138 entries . . .

and for these photos of the Cup presentations! Also to the Judge, Ian, for very kindly examining all the photos and offer to give feedback on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30pm via Zoom. (More details from Chris in due course.)

The Judges who gave up their time to attend the Show and had the very difficult task of choosing the winners.

Charlie Raikes who, on behalf of the Hall Committee, kindly presented the Cups to the Winners as the President, Ray Tilbrook was sadly unable to attend.

Our Tea ladies, Jackie Beadsmoore, Sally Hames, Vivien Hussey, Kathy Mann and Di Raikes who cheerily and tirelessly slaved away in the boiling hot sun serving drinks and homemade cakes which were generously donated by several Village bakers ....thank you! They made £160 – that's a lot of tea and cake!

Judy Whybrow who magnanimously stepped into Nigel Start's place as Auctioneer as he sadly had to leave beforehand. She says she has learnt a lot from Nigel by assisting him with the Auction over the years which proved to be the case as she successfully managed to raise £165 from the generously donated items.

Richard Morley who kindly printed the Show Flyers and posters, Siobahn Hall for folding them all and Judy Whybrow and Emma Adams for helping deliver them. Many thanks also to Judy and Emma for their time and support with organizing the Show.

Shirley Morley and Dru Goryn for their guidance with COVID regulations and great help sorting out the Hall, floats, disposable cups for teas etc.

Tony Goryn for kindly erecting the very useful Gazebo before the Show and to all of you who took the time to help clear away the displays, tables, chairs and bunting etc from the Rec afterwards.

All in all, an amazing afternoon which made £510 for the Hall funds. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Show in any way at all!

Rosie White





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We are pleased to confirm that following the Stage 4 relaxation of Government Covid Guidelines on July 19th, the Memorial Hall is finally in use by hirers and regular groups! This is a huge relief, and we hope that we can remain open for the community going forward. There are no remaining specific Covid rules, save a slight restriction in numbers / capacity. However, we are relying on continued responsible communal behaviour in order to minimise risks of any transference of the virus and to respect others who may be more vulnerable / feel nervous using the building. We fully endorse the Government's advice to:

continue to wear a mask in crowded spaces,

to open windows and doors to maintain good ventilation,

to maintain good handwashing and cleaning of the equipment and premises.

Our rental agreements will stress these points and that groups should continue to look to their own professional / advisory body for any specific guidance. The hall is equipped with sanitiser stations and cleaning materials for hirers to wipe down surfaces. If you are looking to re-start your group again in the hall this Autumn, please contact Shirley Morley, our booking secretary.



In the meantime, we are continuing with the monthly Farmers' Markets as a social event that makes use of our lovely position on the recreation ground. The early summer markets were blighted by some 'unseasonable' weather, but the last few have been glorious and really well attended. The

Social Club now serve fresh coffee, so that is an added bonus. It is great to see so many people out and about chatting. After such a difficult year, this seems so important – and the ~£400 raised for Hall funds each month is welcome too. We plan to run the markets until Christmas, on the 2nd Saturday of the month. As usage (and revenue) of the Hall resumes, we can change the format of the markets.



From September, the 'Produce Stall' is going to be run by different community charities / groups, for their own benefit. In September this will be the 'Wilbraham Transport Group' (WTG) and in October, St Nicholas' Church will be manning the stall. If you have a group or charity that would like to raise funds by running the stall, please

contact me. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the stall to date with their glorious bakes and fresh garden produce – we hope that you will continue to do so for the new incumbents...!



It was a real shame to have to cancel the Memorial Hall Centenary Tea in June, but it just didn't feel safe enough to run it at that time. We have decided to wait until everyone will feel comfortable attending a large gathering in the Hall, whenever this may be – we will just end up celebrating 101 (or 102) years instead!

In July, Rosie White planned and managed the spectacular Flower & Produce Show outside on the Recreation Ground. She has written about this in a separate article. Our huge thanks to Rosie and her team for arranging such a wonderful day.

The Memorial Hall Committee have resumed their monthly meetings in the hall, whilst still enabling access for committee members through Zoom (I think they call this 'hybrid working'). At our AGM on 5th July, Paul Lambton of Gt Wilbraham was elected to be Vice Chair and is assisting with management and practical roles. If anyone has any suggestions or comments regarding the Memorial Hall, please contact me on 881609 mail@emma-adams.co.uk or Shirley Morley (Secretary) contact details: booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com

Emma Adams Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee

# Little Wilbraham Recreation Ground Tennis Court

The LW and SMB Parish Council are exploring the possibility of installing a tennis court on Little Wilbraham recreation ground. Following a consultation earlier in the year we raised seed funding thanks to the generosity of the Wadlow Windfarm Fund. The next phase is to finalise our plans and apply for grants to cover the remaining costs.

We have identified a potential supplier: Cambridge Courts (<https://www.cambridgecourts.co.uk/>). The quote is for a single tennis court (34.77m x 17.4m) with a netball hoop and markings at one end and a basketball hoop and markings at the other. This will allow for basketball or netball practice but not matches.

The plan is to locate the court in the top Northwest corner of the Ken Davison recreation ground. It will be far enough from the tree line to avoid damage to tree roots. We will use black fencing to blend into the background more easily and the court will not be floodlit. We selected the “Varsity” surface which is a coated tarmac and has both a good lifetime and is easy to maintain. The court will be 2 shades of green, with the tennis court marked in white lines, the netball markings in yellow and the basketball markings in red. Installation of the court will require removal of the earth mounds and moving the wooden football posts eastwards. In the future there is the possibility of installing a hard-core path, similar to that used in the play area, to link the court to entrance into Orchard Close.



The Parish Council would like the court to be an asset to benefit the health and wellbeing of residents. The court will be free to use to all those living in Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom and Great Wilbraham. We are thinking of an online booking system to allow slots on the court or games area to be reserved ahead of time.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Councillor Andrew Carter  
([Cllr.Carter@wilbrahams.co.uk](mailto:Cllr.Carter@wilbrahams.co.uk))



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## Six Mile Bottom

The poem included with Roz Wright's letter on page 8

The world is so full of strange sounding places,  
With all sorts of names, in all of our races.  
I often wonder about each name I do see.  
How was it chosen? It's a mystery to me!  
"Hole In The Wall" and a river called "Snake"!  
Now here is a place for you to think of,  
"Six Mile Bottom" and another called "Dove".  
When I sit and I think, as I read a big map,  
(My atlas I study as it sits on my lap)  
Oh "Six Mile Bottom", it's a strange one for sure,  
I think that's a mystery, That I'll have to cure!

Oh "Six Mile Bottom", it's a strange sounding name.  
Is it a valley, a village or all in the same?  
"Six Mile Bottom", it's a question to me.  
I really need an answer, don't you see?  
Who gave this place its title, so very long ago?  
Whatever does it mean? Doesn't anyone really know?  
This name is such a puzzle, bringing questions to my mind!  
Oh, I'll ask a friend 'twas born there, the answers she will find.

Oh Sylvia, dear Sylvia, I need answers by the score.  
Please tell me 'bout your birthplace,  
When I come knocking at your door!  
"Six Mile Bottom", it's a strange sounding name.  
Is it a valley, a village or all in the same?  
"Come in" says my friend Sylvia! "I'll put us on some tea"  
"Come sit and listen to me of my home beyond the sea"  
(For in England lies her birthspot in a valley all so fair)  
"I've old and some new stories of the village over there  
"It's a little English village, with its own zip code,  
And you can even walk where Romans trod upon its dusty road.  
Why, even Robin Hood and his band of merry men  
Stopped at the village pub (twas being built back then)  
A drink and then they left to go upon their way.  
"Six Mile Bottom" is old the people always say.  
Its name tell us a story of how it is so found.

One speaks of this small spot and then turns round.  
Six miles to the bottom or top of the hill  
Gives way to a theory of its name, if you will.  
It's home to many now over the years.  
Stand up at the top and you'll have no more fears.  
"God Save the Queen" is sung proudly on key,  
"The Union Jack" waves softly, while hanging from a tree.

You'll see no bank or big stores built in the grandest style.  
You'll never ever find them in the town called "Six Mile Bottom".  
(now Bottom Old Six Mile, it rhymes okay with me,  
but the town of "Six Mile Bottom" is a place you gotta see.)

One small quaint shop awaits you, to enter thru its door.  
Come and see the items sitting in boxes on the floor.  
No meat or fish for sale there on any given day,  
But cheese so ready to slice up right away!  
Old Mr Sharp, once the owner, kept his shop there nice and clean.  
He smiled a lot at strangers and was never mean!

The village is so peaceful, no dog would dare to bark!  
All farmers stay real busy for daylight to dark.  
The cats chase mice most daily in barns made out of wood.  
All forty old stone houses stand perfect as they should.  
A bobby or sheriff travels far from the next hill,  
In enforce the law when needed in this village with no mill!

Over in Newmarket township (it's the nearest place folks say)  
You'll to a doctor there, no matter what the day!

(Oh Sylvia, dear Sylvia, I need answers by the score,  
As I set and drink my tea, please tell me all much more)  
("Six Mile Bottom" doesn't seem so very far away,  
It sounds so very lovely, there's nothing else to say)  
(Then Sylvia continues as I sit and sip my tea,  
Listening and a learnin' of this place beyond the sea)  
The village children study at their schoolhouse made of brick.  
They get themselves in trouble and sometimes they even play they're sick.  
The little church of stonework, with its graveyard there for ever.  
Sees village folk attend both no matter what the weather.  
This hallowed land was given by a Lady long ago.  
A gift to my old village by this Lady I did not know.



Oh goodness sakes a mercy that's the place you gotta see  
Its name forever beckons and you might go for tea.  
It's a place with much real grandeur, its name is just The Hall'  
The Lady Delamere owns it with lands both near and far.  
Most folks still pass it travelling, by bike more than car.  
Her gardens show their colours and grasses so green.

I can see us there together, just close your eyes with me  
We'll pretend we're been invited to The Lady's for tea.  
Come hurry, don't you dawdle, one wouldn't dare be late.  
Oh see, the Lady's gardener, he's busy near that gate.  
Who's calling on the Lady? A butler soon will ask  
When he opens the doors widely (it's just his daily task)  
Then as you enter inward to a room most grand and wide.  
It looks more like a place once that you're inside.  
Thw butler returns in short order with something quick to say  
"I'm sorrybut the Lady isn't receiving folks today."  
So, cheerio and all that proper English stuff  
(Methinks that cleaning up this place must be a job real taught)

(Once again Sylvia continues to talk to little me  
All about Six Mile Bottom, her home across the sea.  
Some things are there now different, like sounds that went away.  
No more trains come daily or blow their whistles as they pass upon the way.  
But the circus and the fairs come with fun upon the green  
And when the sun is setting the village is serene.  
There's more stories and some legends to share another day.  
Thet tell us of this place so dear that often seems not far away.  
And if you were to go there tomorrow or before we both get dead,  
You could have tea and crumpets for breakfast in a bed.  
'Cause Swinford Estates has changed there from what it used to be.  
It's a bed and breakfast spot now, in this village beyond the sea.  
They used to raise some horses all for just to race.  
Now it's just for weary travellers, a pretty sort of place

My thanks to you dear Sylvia for the tea and all you've shared.  
Your Six Mile Bottom stories, told me how much you've shared  
Yes what adventures we'd have together, just you and little me.  
It's no longer a place to wonder or think a lot about.  
For you've made it real for certain on this there's not a doubt.  
Six Mile Bottom, a strange name indeed

But I know more of it, when I sit down to read.  
It's still a little ink spot on my big old paper map,  
Yet it looks a little different in the atlas on my lap.

Janice Tallman, friend of Sylvia Jacobs

## Wilbraham Church Ready for Winter

Pancake day at St Nick's will be a lot less chilly now the central heating system is installed.

The installation, at last, of a new green electric central heating system in St Nicholas' Church opens up an alternative year-round centre for village events - a useful back up for the Memorial Hall, which, in pre-Covid times, was so often fully booked. The Church already has an architectural award-winning kitchen and lavatory facility, installed some five years ago, but lack of efficient heating limited the usefulness of the building for much of the year. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is planning to attract musical events and concerts of all sorts, art exhibitions, etc. as well as encouraging the church's use for club meetings and talks. The ever-popular coffee mornings, afternoon teas and breakfasts will now be able to continue all year round as well.



Radiators have been unobtrusively installed throughout the Church, helping preserve the fabric of the building as well as extending the use of the Church for more events year-round. The PCC has put a huge amount of effort into sourcing the most suitable heating system that was also the greenest possible within the limitations of a Grade

2 star listed building and Diocesan approval. The contractor, Christopher Dunphy Ecclesiastical, is a church heating specialist.

St Nicholas's is fortunate in having a very effective Trust Fund, which raises money for the long-term preservation and maintenance of the fabric of the church identified as necessary by the Diocese in its five yearly inspections. In addition, the Trust has been a major contributor to the new kitchen/lavatory as well as this heating project. However, responsibility for opening up the Church all the year round to ALL its parishioners, not just church goers, is the concern of the PCC, something it takes very seriously alongside its ecclesiastical and spiritual role.

Jackie Beadsmoore

# Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom COVID-19 Support Group

The lifting of formal Government restrictions has marked an important change and paves the way for return to a more normal village life. At the time of writing, however, we are mindful that there are still Covid cases; people continue to be concerned and to have their lives disrupted by it. Whilst most older people are fully vaccinated, it is important to remember that many of those under 40 and almost all under eighteens still await this level of protection. Furthermore, while vaccination massively reduces the chance of hospitalization it does not make it impossible to catch the virus.

If you haven't yet been fully vaccinated, you are urged to do so as soon as possible. There are many options for this now, including walk-in vaccination centres – information is kept up to date on <https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme/information-regarding-walk-in-clinics/>.

For other services such as Covid testing for those with symptoms, rapid testing for people without symptoms or other forms of advice or support, go to the South Cambridgeshire website on <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus>.

We are all continuing to live with the virus. If you need help or have concerns or questions about Covid do please contact the village coordinators (contact details below) who will be able to advise or signpost you to support.

As we indicated in our last update, we plan in the longer term to transfer responsibility for health and well-being to the Well-brahams group which we have joined. Although residents who have concerns can contact any members of the Well-brahams, named individuals will be responsible for well-being in specific areas and be able to provide a link to available activities and support within the villages and outside.

To contact the Well-brahams please see their website:

<https://thewell-brahams.weebly.com/>

We would like to thank everyone who has provided care and support throughout the villages during this difficult time and to wish everyone well for the future.

Hilary Burton and Andrew Carter

## Coordinators contact details:

Great Wilbraham: Hilary Burton, tel. 07710787917 email [hb384@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hb384@cam.ac.uk).

Little Wilbraham: Andrew Carter, tel. 07749 046499 email [apc48@cam.ac.uk](mailto:apc48@cam.ac.uk)

Six Mile Bottom: David Gill, tel. 01638 572037 email [davidegill@mac.com](mailto:davidegill@mac.com)



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## Bell Ringing is back

The bell ringers of St Nicholas Church at long last have been able to return to the Tower and resume our weekly practices.

Bizarrely (you may think!) some of us have for many months been meeting on “Zoom” every week to practise existing skills and learn new sequences, generally called “methods”, with the aid of special software;

but doing this on a laptop keyboard is not much like the real thing!

Each of us had to face a bell handling test in the church in early August before being allowed to ring properly. We all passed - but some of you who live near enough to the church to hear us on Thursday evenings may think we need a lot more practice!

We plan to ring the bells for one or two Sunday morning services each month and we would love to welcome new people from our villages to join us to learn this special and ancient skill. Absolute beginners welcome – we have excellent tutors; it is less physically demanding than you might think – just as important is the ability to concentrate and keep in time! If you are even slightly tempted, please come along on a Thursday from about 1930 – or email our Tower Captain Peter Sims - [ptrs28@googlemail.com](mailto:ptrs28@googlemail.com)

Nick Toovey

## The Anne Ward and Benstead Trust Funds for Great Wilbraham

Last year the trustees for the Anne Ward and Benstead funds were extremely grateful to receive financial gifts from a local resident and the PCC. This enabled the trustees to increase the amount distributed just before Christmas. The sum gifted to each recipient is not great; the total amount distributed normally, each year, is about £220.

These are extremely unequal times and many problems have been exacerbated by Covid.

If you are about to consider which charitable organisations to support, please include these two local registered charities in your calculations. And if you feel you know someone who might benefit from a small financial gift, please let us know. For further information please contact our secretary, Tony Goryn on 07751 281341 or [tonygoryn@icloud.com](mailto:tonygoryn@icloud.com)

# **BOTTISHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE**

## **UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND**

### **Key Facts – April 2021**

**Number of appointments – 3373 (equivalent to 57% of our practice population)**

**Number of Face-to-Face appointments – 1392 (41%)**

**Number of patients seen the same day – 2807 (83%)**

**Number of patients seen in less than 3 days - 3043 (90%)**

**Number of patients seen in less than 7 days – 3263 (96%)**

**Only 1% patients did not attend their appointment – 99% attendance rate**

Like all GP practices across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, our GPs and staff team are working under unprecedented pressure to deliver care to our patients.

Since January 2021 our practice team has been helping deliver nearly 20,000 COVID vaccinations at East Barnwell Health Centre as part of the Cambridge City Primary Care Network; we also delivered vaccinations to our local nursing and residential home patients.

We have implemented different ways of working during the pandemic and are continuing to do all we can to provide care that is safe for our patients and protects our staff. To ensure that our clinical team can continue to offer safe and timely care to our patients in the face of this unprecedented demand, please consider whether an appointment is necessary, or if one of the services below may be more appropriate.

Pharmacies can provide over the counter medications for hayfever, insect bites, colds, sore throats and much more along with general advice for minor ailments.

The Minor Injuries Unit in Ely is available if you think you need an x-ray or have minor cuts and bruises which need dressing.

Please contact your local dentist in relation to dental issues, we cannot prescribe medications for dental problems.

Patients are also able to refer themselves to Physiotherapy Services and to the Psychological Wellbeing service without seeing a GP – details available on our website.

111 are available for general advice and will guide you to the right service if you're unsure where you need to go.

**Please support our GPs and staff at this difficult time.**

# Bottisham Medical Practice

## Patients' Participation Group

**Change to Appointment System:** The practice has experienced unprecedented demand over recent months and with the easing of lockdown restrictions now expected, it has been decided to change the diary availability in order to better manage the demand and be able to offer patients more choice in when they have a consultation. Routine appointments will now be pre-booked in advance along with follow up appointments. This will mean we can more easily manage acute and urgent appointments on the day and plan how and when we deal with routine appointments. It is hoped that this will provide more continuity for the patients and make it easier to get through on the phones.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Please see attached document from the Practice – Key Facts.

**Diabetes:** We are pleased to announce that the Surgery is linking with DIABETES UK to offer a Peer Support group for all those living with Type 2 Diabetes. Meetings which will be held monthly. Whether you are newly diagnosed or have been living with the condition for years, this gives you the opportunity to discuss your experiences in a relaxed and friendly manner; to offer and find support, and to perhaps learn more about the long-term effects of the condition. For more information and to reserve a place, please contact David.robinson@diabetes.org.uk Alison McCarthy Social Prescriber.

**Dispensary:** The prescription delivery service is in operation. However, if you have opted for delivery but do go to pick up your medication, please advise the staff of this when collecting as it will have been stored in a different place.

**Acute Prescriptions:** Please wait 3 hours after a prescription that has been generated via a phone or video consultation before collecting it. This will ensure that the prescription has been received in dispensary and dispensed. If you cannot pick up your medication, please let the GP know so they can put arrangements in place to get your medication to you.

**Repeat Prescriptions:** Please do not to attend the practice until 5 working days after ordering these. Self-isolation and social distancing are still a challenge in the dispensary and there are fewer staff working in the actual dispensary because of this, which is why they are continuing to work to a five-day turnaround time. This also means that if a certain drug has to be ordered it provides time to get drug supplies in. Please do not ring or attend the practice to see if the prescription is ready before the 5 days is up.

**New Staff:** Ali McCarthy is our new social prescriber. You can self-refer for an appointment with the Social Prescriber, there is a form on the website and you can also book via reception. There will also be a physiotherapist, Alex Tarrant,



available for Muscular Skeletal appointments, attending the surgery on a Wednesday.

**ABUSE:** Please show respect to the staff at the Practice, they will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse, of which there has been an increase recently. They are working under difficult circumstances and are doing their best to help patients. Please exercise patience.

**AGM:** This was held via Zoom on May 25th. The Chairman's report will be put on the surgery website along with the accounts and the notes. Chloe Baker and Ali McCarthy, Social Prescribers gave a presentation of their roles and work and Dr Keith spoke about Stress, Burnout and Depression with slides. Both of these very interesting presentations are on the surgery website.

**Flu Vaccinations:** These are being planned for September.

**Next meeting:** If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings, please email our chairman at [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com) who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting September 29 at 2pm.

Bottisham Patient's Participation Group.

## **Know Your Neighbour: Who would you like to hear speak?**

We are planning a new series of "Know Your Neighbour" talks this winter. As last year we plan these will be online talks, taking place at 8.00pm on Tuesdays and starting in November.

We are looking for people to give a 20-25 minute talk about their work or interests followed by about 30 minutes of questions and discussion.

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to do this.

We would also really like to hear suggestions of people you would like to hear talk that we can invite. For a list of last year's talks please see:

<https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/councils/little-wilbraham-six-mile-bottom/know-your-neighbour/>

Please let us know by email or text if you could volunteer or have any great ideas for speakers.

Andrew Carter: [apc48@cam.ac.uk](mailto:apc48@cam.ac.uk), 07749 046499

Hilary Burton: [hb384@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hb384@cam.ac.uk), 07710787917

Alan Cody

## Nature Notes

### Nursery Web Spider

In early July I spotted a spider's web covering a section of a lavender bush in our garden. I wondered if it could have any connection with Rosemary beetles which were rampant on the rosemary nearby as well as another lavender bush. A couple of days later I noticed that the web contained a ball of young spiders. When I got close to take more photos, a large spider appeared and sat on top of the web to protect her babies against this intrusive camera wielding stranger

The female nursery web spider carries a large egg-sac around in her fangs until they are ready to hatch. She then weaves a funnel shaped web

around the egg-sac and waits for them to hatch. When they hatch, she protects the young spiderlings from invasive photographers (and other predators) until they are old enough to fend for themselves.

They live on flies and other insects which they catch by stealth, only weaving webs for their offspring. Next time you see a spider in the garden, remember – she's your friend. She's not scary and she's a good mother!



### Leaf Cutter Bee

Have you ever seen leaves in your garden which have been apparently eaten like this?

This is the work of the remarkable Leaf-Cutter Bee. This industrious little bee takes discs of leaves (in my case rose leaves) which it carries away to its home where it rolls the leaves into a cone and places at the furthest point of its chosen nest. These are solitary bees, so they live alone; they like a rocky crevice or any tubular hole, so are often found in so-called Bee Hotels. When



they have put the leaf roll at the far end of their tube, they fill it with nectar and pollen which they have collected from flowers and then they lay one egg on top of this feast and seal off the front door of their home with more leaf material. The photo shows the bee as well as several already sealed compartments in the bee hotel. The green leaf seals are leaf cutters.



When the egg hatches (after two or three days) into a tiny grub the grub works its way through all of the feast left by mum, it pupates, wrapping itself into a silk cocoon where it stays until it emerges as a fully fledged bee. The whole cycle from egg to next generation bee lasts for about 24 days.

Leaf Cutter Bees are important pollinators in our gardens and the damage done to the leaves of your roses will not affect the health of the rose, so treat them as assistant gardeners and enjoy their industry.

Bee-hotels are a fascinating way to learn about these wonderful animals which help to keep our fruit trees productive.

Chris Fell

## Wilbraham River Protection Society

With summer slowly progressing the foliage along and within the river is becoming abundant. The water table is falling and the river levels dropping. The springs at the temple have ceased to flow. All of this is normal for our river's annual cycle. However, if the river becomes completely dried out wildlife and invertebrates are confined to deeper pools along its course and habitats are not preserved. To try to avoid this the Environment agency have begun supplementary water pumping to augment flow. Beady eyed committee members are charting the river levels so that pumping volumes are more responsive to water levels. If we can avoid the river bed drying out the life cycles dependent on it will be preserved.

The WRPS is putting together a new website and would be delighted to welcome any members who may wish to be involved.

The annual river walk has to be postponed to next spring when we hope to visit the as yet un-walked areas of the Fulbourn waterways.

As always, we welcome any interested support and wish you a happy summer

Rebecca Lomas. Secretary [bex@drcr.info](mailto:bex@drcr.info)



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Wednesday	09.00-17.00
Thursday	09.00-17.00
Friday	09.00-17.00
Saturday	09.30-15.00 (Private/Denplan)

## NOTICE BOARD

### DATES FOR AUTUMN 2021

Wednesday 1 September	School term begins
Monday 25 October	Half term
Friday 5 November	Bonfire Night
Thursday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Monday 30 November	St Andrews Day

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Six Mile Bottom

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Full page £43.00, ½ page £27.00, ¼ page

### BIN COLLECTIONS

#### Black bins

Monday 6 September  
Monday 20 September  
Monday 4 October  
Monday 18 October  
Monday 1 November  
Monday 15 November  
Monday 29 November

#### Blue and green bins

Monday 13 September  
Monday 27 September  
Monday 11 October  
Monday 25 October  
Monday 8 November  
Monday 22 November

### Club Contact Details

#### Choir

Vanessa Nichols [vanessajnichols@gmail.com](mailto:vanessajnichols@gmail.com) or 07876363707.

#### Bridge Cl

Diana Raikes. [raikswilb@btinternet.com](mailto:raikswilb@btinternet.com)

#### Gardening Club

Tel: 01223 880889, Email: [jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com](mailto:jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com)

#### Memorial Hall

[booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com)

#### Over 60's

Keith Precious. 01223 880832.

### Mobile Library

The mobile library stops at Great Wilbraham opposite the playground on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month 11.10 – 11.40am. It then moves on to Little Wilbraham 11.50am -12.15pm; 16 September, 21 October, 18 November.

For Six Mile Bottom, the stop is Delaware Close, every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 11.35am – 12.00noon; 7 September, 5 October, 4 November.

## **Bottisham Village College : Adult learning**

Thank you for your patience and support over the last few months where Covid-19 restrictions have made it difficult for us to provide some courses. We are now looking forward to welcoming you back in September when we will be offering:

Astronomy, Calligraphy, Cinematography, Dressmaking  
French Beginners, Spanish Beginners, Indian Cookery, Italian Cookery  
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## **Deadline for the Winter Issue Friday 12 November 2021**

Email contributions or adverts to;

**[bramwell@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:bramwell@globalnet.co.uk)**

**[martin@gienke.net](mailto:martin@gienke.net)**

**[johnboy\\_torode@hotmail.com](mailto:johnboy_torode@hotmail.com)**>

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

### **Great Wilbraham Parish Council**

Vacancies for 2 parish councillors are available. For further details see full report on page 8 or contact the Parish Clerk. The next meetings will be held on 16 September, 18 November

### **Bottisham Airfield Museum**

Open every Sunday,  
10.30am to 4.00pm from  
23 May until 31 October.

### **Wilbrahams Memorial Hall**

The next Famers Market meetings will be held on the following Saturdays;  
11 September, 9 October, 13 November  
Full details on page 17

### **LW&SMB Parish Council**

Report on page 8  
The next meetings will be held on  
18 September, 28 October

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## Councillor Claire Daunton

It depends on your mood (or character) whether you associate August positively, with ‘downtime’, a place away from home, reading or walking or swimming, or visiting castles and great houses – or indeed, negatively, with rain, traffic jams, sand in the sandwiches, searching for a seat in a café, soaking wet feet on a long walk ....

Well August 2021 is probably a mixture of all those, plus something else: people are still very busy, there is no let-up, pressure of work continues. Shortages make life difficult for trades and retailers; and for the District and County Council there is a massive programme of work.

### **Local Plan 2031-2040**

I’m not quite sure where to begin! Perhaps I’ll start with a date towards the end of the month: Tuesday 31st August will see the release of the first set of information concerning the Local Plan 2031-2040 for the Greater Cambridge area. This will determine the policies shaping housing development for that period and will also give an indication of specific recommended sites for housing. The document will help frame discussion and consultation. It will be based on the important theme of sustainability and the need to combat climate change. It will aim to reduce travel between home and work, increasing opportunities for walking and cycling, combatting pollution and congestion, and the need to retain as much green space as possible in the Greater Cambridge area. With these central aims in place and suggested sites put forward, a major consultation with all local communities will begin. I will be sure to let you know when and how to respond and hope as many of our own community of the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom will join in, in the spirit of ‘downtime’ rather than a ‘sand in the sandwiches’ spirit. Please do remember that, while we have central government housing targets to meet, we want to ensure homes are in the best places and homes that people can afford to live in.

### **Water Treatment Plant**

More locally, we have nearby development sites already in the pipeline. Let’s start by looking over towards Quy and Fen Ditton.

The detailed consultation on the relocation of the water treatment plant continued, in its second phase, until 18th August. In this phase we’ve been asked to comment on the landscaping of the proposed site, along with access for vehicles as well as walking and cycling access, biodiversity gain and the need for up-to-date technology both to reduce odour and to make the new plant carbon neutral. Anglian Water has a long way to go in all these aspects. The District Council has made a robust response, expressing its disappointment, and its concern at the lack of ambition and indeed the ignoring of District policies in the design. Of significant concern to the Wilbrahams will be the access to the relocated site, with

the need to avoid the route to the plant coming off the Quy roundabout. The District Council has come out firmly in favour of a dedicated access route directly from the A14.

### **Development Sites**

If we turn and look in the direction of Fulbourn and Teversham, there are five sites to be aware of, all market-led: Marleigh on Newmarket Road, the former Ida Darwin Hospital site, Teversham Road site, the extension of ARM along Fulbourn Road (known as the Cambridge International Technology Park), and what's known as 'Land North of Cherry Hinton (LNCH)' or the site on the edge of the airport. These have been under consideration for a long time, in one case eight years or more. Often the knee-jerk reaction to a statement like that is to blame the planners; and as often that is so wide of the mark. It just does take a long time for major sites to come to fruition in a system in which consultation happens at every stage. And 18 months of a pandemic do not help.

It's really important to remember that as yet only Marleigh has full planning permission; others listed above do not and in some cases there are still many issues to deal with. Also it's important to remember that sites like these take many years to build out fully so there will be no 'overnight' or even 'over months' changes. A long perspective is a good one to have in these cases.

Major issues for the planners (both at District and County level) to confront on all these sites include: sufficient water for the homes, but the prevention of flood water; traffic limitation and adequate transport; amenities for communities to grow and cohere; green spaces for leisure and for the increase of biodiversity; combatting climate change by sustainable living. We might inhabit one of the wealthiest and most successful parts of the country but, does that come with its challenges!

There is a need for more spaces for people to live and work. If the pandemic has shown us one thing it is that we actually need more space – more space at home for desks and shelves and quiet areas, more space in work so as not to be on top of each other or 'hot desk' or have crowded meeting rooms. How do we do this without encroaching even further onto the green spaces around the city, but still attract the jobs and the innovation we have seen contributing so much to combatting the pandemic? Those are the challenges for the policy-makers and planners, and not least squaring the circle between central government policies and demands, and our own carefully-crafted local plans.

### **Oxford Cambridge Arc**

This latter point is illustrated most clearly in local responses to the government's plans for the OxCam Arc. This is a development plan for the huge swathe of land between Oxford and Cambridge, taking in Milton Keynes and Bedford and areas in between.

In government -speak ‘A new plan aims to enhance the infrastructure, environment and new developments in the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. It will be developed by government, informed by engagement with local communities and stakeholders, and will have sustainability at its core.’

This public consultation is the first of three which will guide a new spatial framework over the next two years. A digital platform has been created to make it quick and accessible for people who live, work, and have an interest in the area to make their voices heard. Comments received in the consultation will help create the Spatial Framework’s vision for the area to 2050 and will help guide local planning and investment decisions in four areas; the environment; the economy; connectivity and infrastructure; and place-making.

Visit: <https://placebuilder.io/futureofthearea>

The consultation is also seeking views on the work the government has done to set the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal.

If all this makes your head hurt, welcome to our world! Planners, policy makers, councillors we are all overwhelmed by the amount of information, consultation, factors to be taken into account, the fast-moving scene of the pandemic, the recovery, the economy, climate change and its effects. So, spare a thought for district and county councillors, and indeed for parish councils which often have to respond at short notice to the very many consultations. But to respond, and to do so thoughtfully and judiciously, is important for the good of our communities. And there are good things to come out of all this.

## **Cycling**

I’ll end with an update on cycling. Thanks to all those who filled out the County questionnaire on walking and cycling. I’ll be sure to let you know the results of this consultation. I know that we made a great effort to make our voices heard. We are concerned about routes to Fulbourn and to Bottisham. Some of you will remember that a bid for government ‘quick win’ funding for ‘active travel’ (ie: walking and cycling!) for a cycle path to Bottisham encountered some objections last year. But now, opening up discussions again, we appear to be making progress, with everyone working together and a possible opportunity once more. We’re less concerned about a ‘quick win’ than having sustained success. I’ll describe the situation as ‘August reading or walking’ rather than ‘August, wet feet on a long walk’.

I’ll leave it there and wish us all at least a small amount of ‘downtime;’.

Claire Daunton, County and District Councillor. [Clr.daunton@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Clr.daunton@scambs.gov.uk)



## Wilbrahams' Gardening Club

The new look Wilbrahams' Gardening Club launched itself in June with a spectacularly successful stall at the Memorial Hall's Farmer's Market on the recreation ground, followed by a Summer Solstice welcome party for new members a week or so later. Despite sometimes torrential rain, thanks to Rosie, a good time was

had by all when she opened up her old farm buildings, allowing us to meet under open sided cover in compliance with COVID guidelines.

Why join The Wilbrahams' Gardening Club?

You will be able to:

Enjoy opportunities to exchange, buy and sell plants and gardening materials

Visits to members' gardens

Guided tours of local heritage gardens

Gardening discussions, help and advice

Occasional Professional Speakers



The club is appropriate for all levels of gardening experience and expertise and new members are very welcome.

Contact:

Jackie Beadsmoore, Secretary,

The Wilbrahams' Gardening Club

Tel: 01223 880889

Email: [jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com](mailto:jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com)

## Bottisham Carpet Bowls Club

Good news. We have had a meeting with Bottisham Village College and unless guidelines change we will be starting bowling on Wednesday 22nd September 2021. We do not as yet have any information regarding East Cambridge League restarting. We will keep members informed.

All equipment is provided, and anyone interested in joining us on a Wednesday evening, 7.15 pm at the Village College, please contact any of committee members : Peter Hofton 01223 811191 : Richard Nichols 01223 812158

Nora Watson 01223 812121

## Over the farm gate

Firstly, thank-you to everyone who came on the real live farm walk at Home Farm on 30th June, there were about 30 people who came to hear me prattle on about farming again, but judging by the many questions there was a lot of interest in hearing about the growing crops. Thanks to Zoe also for the refreshments based on the farms produce (Beer and twiglets mostly).

At the time I thought harvest was only a few days away, but thanks to our dear old dreary weather it didn't appear until we had a really hot weekend on 18th July, the latest start for several years. The crops are taking a long time to fully mature, due to the lack of sunlight energy which has also contributed, or not, to the very average yields this year. The quality is generally good, but the plumpness of the grains is poor leading to poorer yields.

Another weather factor I hadn't counted on was a massive hail and rain storm on 20th July part way through cutting our already thin and short crop of seed peas. Any pods that were not shelled out from the hail were dashed so low to the ground we could not retrieve them, even with our new combine. The yield pre rain was a disappointing 1.7 t/ha and after, an even worse 0.7 t/ha, losing £500/ha in one fell swoop. We are not growing that variety again and will revert to our normal mushy peas which usually stay upright.

The winter barley has all been harvested and sent to Norfolk for malting and being made into Adnams beers. The combine computer calculated we had 497 tons and we put 496 tons on the lorries, a great result. The Spring barley, although starting with a promising yield, also suffered from the rainstorms and we couldn't retrieve many of the ears knocked to the ground. With mainly wheat left to cut and a dry but dull forecast could mean late starts and even later finishes for the harvest team.

We have applied for the farm to be entered into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and if accepted we will be establishing some areas of the farm with either pollen and flower mixes of plants for insects or seeds to feed the smaller birds, we do get some compensation from the government for establishing these areas, but do have to forego crop production income so it is quite challenging to get the sites right to maintain a balance.

On the machinery front it has been an expensive harvest so far, a rear tractor tyre, engine waterpump and a brake issue have totalled over £7000 in repair costs, bearing in mind a loss of over £20,000 on the peas and things start to look a bit fraught. I know how Jeremy Clarkson feels now.

Chris Ascroft. Wilbraham Farms

## What's happened to the Wilbrahams' Spotted Flycatchers?

Readers of the Warbler may remember earlier articles from me about this increasingly scarce and red-listed summer migrant bird. Flycatchers are now very difficult to find in Cambridgeshire, but the Wilbrahams have until recently supported a remnant population of several pairs. After Turtle Dove, it is the second most declined UK species, having lost more than 90% of its numbers in the last fifty years. They are a long-distant migrant, wintering in SW Africa – Angola and Namibia. The decline is most likely due to poor survival, in the UK, in Africa or on migration, of young birds in their first year – insufficient to recruit enough new breeding birds into the population to offset the loss of older birds.



This summer, 2021, however is the first year since 2013 that I haven't found a nest locally, although one pair did breed successfully – I did find a single family group of adults and young birds in June. I don't know precisely where this lot nested, but it will have been somewhere in Great Wilbraham.

Are you familiar with the bird, and have you seen any this year? Or even had what might have been a nest in your garden – in some ivy or a creeper against the house, or in a shed? Flycatchers, a bit smaller than a sparrow, are best recognised by their characteristic habit of sallying off a bare branch, wire or clothes-line to catch flying insects, usually returning to the same perch.

More helpful photos at <http://cambridgeshirebirdringing.org/gallery/>

Reports will be most welcome. Please email [spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:spofl@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

Michael Holdsworth

## Wilbrahams, Six Mile Bottom & Fulbourn Over 60's Club

We will be restarting the above club on Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup> in the Memorial Hall, Gt Wilbraham at 2 o'clock.

For more information ring Keith Precious. 01223 880832.

Keith Precious

## Wilbraham Runners

The new Wilbraham Runners group is up and running. We are a friendly group open to all abilities from complete beginners, Couch, 2, 5K or seasoned runners who want some company! The more the merrier.



We normally meet on Great Wilbraham recreation ground on Wednesdays 7.00pm, Friday 7.00pm and Sunday's 9.30am.



We also have a Facebook group 'Wilbraham Runners' and the WhatsApp chat link is on there.

If you have any questions or want to join the WhatsApp group and don't have Facebook, please email me.

Emily Oliver [emilystar\\_uk@yahoo.com](mailto:emilystar_uk@yahoo.com)

## Bolt hole

I'm looking to find  
Some small peace of mind,  
A place I can go  
When I'm low...

A recess or snug,  
Where I can be smug,  
Indolent and still,  
Fits the bill

Not sleeping in bed,  
But inside my head,  
Portable and free,  
Just for me...

Muffling the senses,  
Living's adventures  
Suspended: a pause  
And applause

A moment in time  
Away from the grind  
Conscious and alive,  
I've survived!

Karen Redmund

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## St John's Church, Little Wilbraham



The parapet on the south side of the roof in St John's has been a source of worry to the PCC in Little Wilbraham for a few years now. The stonework of the parapet has split and has been letting water into the wall. About 150 years ago, our predecessors decided to render the outside of the church using the then new technology material, cement mortar.

Unfortunately, the cement mortar sealed the wall so that any water which got into the wall could never escape! The wall is made of clunch, a popular building material at the time (in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century). The wall has started to move because of the damp and now the water is coming out on the inside of the church causing the plaster to flake off. A side effect is that the south window (Victorian stained glass) nearest to the porch has moved and the glass frames are bending so that there is severe distortion of the window and it will eventually fall out.



After much work and a combination of private donations and grants from public bodies, a large enough proportion of the required £128,000 has been raised such that the PCC has instructed that those repairs should be started.



This means that St John's was closed at the beginning of July, and will remain closed until at least the beginning of November. Whilst St John's is closed, services on the second and fourth Sundays of each month are being held at St Nicholas in Great Wilbraham

The PCC have decided to go ahead as this phase of work can just about be paid for by existing funds, but only by

cleaning out all of the contingency funds for emergency repairs. The PCC is conscious that after this work is complete, there is much more work which is waiting for funding. We will therefore be appealing for further donations very soon.

The PCC is also aware that the church is the only community building in the village and will be making efforts to make it attractive as a venue for secular use, so any suggestions, however outlandish, would be welcome.

If you feel that you would like to make a donation towards this important project, please contact the PCC Treasurer, Sharon Mulley, at 43-45 High Street, Little Wilbraham CB21 5JY or [sharon@sharonmulley.com](mailto:sharon@sharonmulley.com)

Chris Fell

## **The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust**

As at 31st July the Trust's Capital Legacy Fund was valued at £259,000 including a recent generous and much appreciated donation of £4,000 from a parishioner. Since inception, and in volatile market conditions, the fund has performed well against the benchmark FTSE index.

The Trust has recently donated £20,000 to the PCC towards the net £33,000.00 cost of a new electric heating system for St Nicholas church. The system is now fully installed and ready for the winter.

Our available funds currently stand at £7,215, and it is anticipated that much of this sum will be required by the PCC to pay for making good and repainting the walls after the heating installation works. So any further donations however small or large (Preferably Gift Aided) will be most gratefully received.

Over the past few months, the trustees have been carefully reviewing the Legacy Capital Fund investment strategy, with the principal objectives of both protecting its capital value (by at least the Consumer Prices Index) and to maximise the cash available to offer to the PCC for work on the fabric of the church. To achieve this, the investments have been re-configured to create a Total Return Fund (was initially an Income Only fund), with a current minimum target of £10,000 pa or 4% pa, to be made available to the PCC each year. This can now be made up by both income (dividends) and capital growth, which has opened up a much wider range of stocks & shares to choose from, thus giving the opportunity for both further diversification (by sector & geographically) and to further reduce risk.

Meanwhile, 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 you are a taxpayer)...all of which goes to maintaining (and sometimes improving upon) the fabric of St Nicholas church.

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](mailto:lyansan@btinternet.com)

With my best wishes, Graham Clarke, chairman

## Pubs Galore in Gt Wilbraham

I found an old postcard of Great Wilbraham, of the triangle to be exact. It looks to be a photograph taken from Kennels Farmhouse, and a lot has changed. The stamp on the reverse suggests that this was



the triangle and High Street in the early 1950s, but I am sure the photo is pre-war. Just look at the old car in the distance and the state of the road which appears to be used more by horses than by cars.

Another striking feature is the presence of two pubs. The one on the right was called The Tallyho and the one on the left was The Kings Head. However, there are actually three pubs in the photo; you can just see The Carpenters Arms in the centre. That really is a lot of pubs in a very short walk. But it gets better. Pauline Munday told me that there used to be 5 pubs in Great Wilbraham. Five! Clearly those were the days before television and Covid.

The signpost - which I am assured is properly called a fingerpost - directs traffic to London Road and Six Mile Bottom.

There might be resistance to returning the High Street to this condition, although do note that strip of verge on the left. Could we ask for it to be re-instated? As to the restoration of the two pubs, there we could be pushing at a closed door.

David Richer

## A view from the garden

Part of the morning ritual is to take coffee out to the clematis. A daily dose of mild roast served cool and well-diluted, has, over the years, done wonders for the plants along the front wall of the house. It was only last week during one of these sorties into the front garden that I saw a sparrow hawk being chased by a pair of angry swallows. The noise alone was enough to alert me, and demonstrates that the predator/prey relationship doesn't always work one way. And those other acrobatic fliers, the swifts, were gathered in a group of 20 or more at the start of August, wheeling and screaming above the village green in the early morning before their departure to Africa. It seems to have been a successful breeding season for them, despite a later arrival than usual.

Back on the ground, it's been a good season in the vegetable garden. A more regular pattern of rainfall this summer has helped keep up the moisture levels to

produce a bumper crop of beans and topped up the water-butts. In the polytunnel the sweet potatoes have spread out a bit too much, but I hope that the tubers are growing well underneath. A few Mange-tout planted in the tunnel around a small frame have done really well by keeping out the pea-moth, and it's extended the cropping season by several weeks. I'm certainly going to do that again next year. The plan is to get the next crop of onion seed in the ground by the first week in September, and spring cabbage plants a week or two later, but these will have to be kept under fleece for a few weeks to avoid the leek moth and cabbage-white butterflies. Getting a row of autumn broad beans sown at the end of October is ideal for an early crop next year, but it doesn't always work out if conditions in the Winter are very wet or too mild. Summer pruning jobs should be completed in the next 2-3 weeks; plums, cherries, and blackcurrants should be cut back before leaf fall to help control size and form new fruiting spurs for next year. So, there is plenty to do. Let's hope the autumn weather is kind enough.

Nigel Start

## Wilbrahams Bridge Club



I have been asked by some of the members when the Bridge club is due to start again as several other clubs and societies in the village are now active. I have emailed

all the members asking for their opinion on how and where they want to play.

I know of two or three clubs that are playing face to face where members are fully vaccinated and others who are continuing to play online until September, October when they are intending to play normally.

Our bridge tables are 85 cm wide which is wider than the standard table. The cards could be dealt beforehand and kept in the boards and everyone could keep their own bidding box.

I am looking into the day that we play to try and avoid clashing with other activities. This is dependent on spaces being available in the hall. If this is possible, I shall email all members to find out how they feel about this as well as advertising the day and time online should there be any new members wishing to play.

I hope you are all continuing to play online but I am sure everyone is keen to be able to participate in the real thing.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Diana Raikes. [raikswilb@btinternet.com](mailto:raikswilb@btinternet.com)

## Gigabit project - What has happened since May 2021?

Since May, there has been quite a lot of activity regarding the Gigabit project although as residents of the Wilbrahams we have not necessarily seen much progress. Cambridge Fibre (CF) procured the material and has started laying the cable. Some of you may have seen some activity in Little Wilbraham quite recently, which is excellent news. A couple of photos were shared by CF and one is included here.

The photo of the man pulling the orange cable is taken recently, it is the cabling activity in Cambridge, heading towards the Wilbrahams.

The current estimate given by CF is “We intend to start connections this Autumn”.

CF has assigned a liaison for the Wilbrahams, his name is Jonathon Cross, and he can be reached on [Jonathon.Cross@cambridgefibre.uk](mailto:Jonathon.Cross@cambridgefibre.uk) in case you have any questions.

As always, any questions for the Wilbrahams team, please contact Sam Dhaliwal: 01223 880382 or [gwcouncillor@gmail.com](mailto:gwcouncillor@gmail.com)



Sam Dhaliwal

## Wilbraham's Community Choir

Due to COVID19 restrictions the Wilbraham's Community Choir was temporarily suspended. However, we had a number of outdoor socially distanced outdoor sessions earlier in the summer, which were a great success and very much enjoyed by all those attending. The great news is that we should be reverting back to normal choir practice in the Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham (on Thursdays at 8pm during school term dates) in September. Singing has very positive benefits to mental health and can be enjoyed by everyone of all ages, experience and ability. If you would be interested in joining us then please get in touch!

The choir is open to anyone and extends to those outside the Wilbrahams. Also, there is no need to be able to read music.

If you would like any further information my contact details are: Vanessa at [vanessajnichols@gmail.com](mailto:vanessajnichols@gmail.com) or 07876363707.

Stay well and keep singing!

Vanessa Nichols



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## Library Changes

By law customers are no longer required to wear face coverings or maintain social distancing in libraries. In common with many

large shops, we are encouraging customers to continue wearing face coverings and use the building in a way which puts the safety of other people first. Hand sanitiser and Test & Trace will continue to be offered at all library entrances. PCs can now be used as normal with no need to book in advance. Cleaning products will be available if customers wish to clean their PC station. In line with our focus on safety we will continue to manage the number of people in our buildings at any one time.

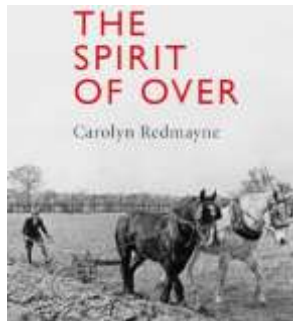
## Calling all Reading Groups

National Reading Group Day is on Tuesday 14th September. We are looking forward to launching our new quarterly Reading Group e-newsletter that day – a place for groups to share experiences, tips and reviews. Please make sure we have up-to-date contact details for your group so that you can receive it.

For the latest on National Reading Group Day activities and suggestions, check the news on this site: [Reading Groups for Everyone](#)

## New Book New Format

We are delighted to have our first ebook available as part of the Cambridgeshire Local Studies collection. In *The Spirit of Over*, local author Carolyn Redmayne has produced a book about local characters through the ages. With their tales of hardship and happiness, the farmers and landowners, and the families who made the village of Over 'a special something' - which it still is today. The lovely cover photo shows Percy Badcock ploughing with Bounce (grey) and Tinker (black) work horses.



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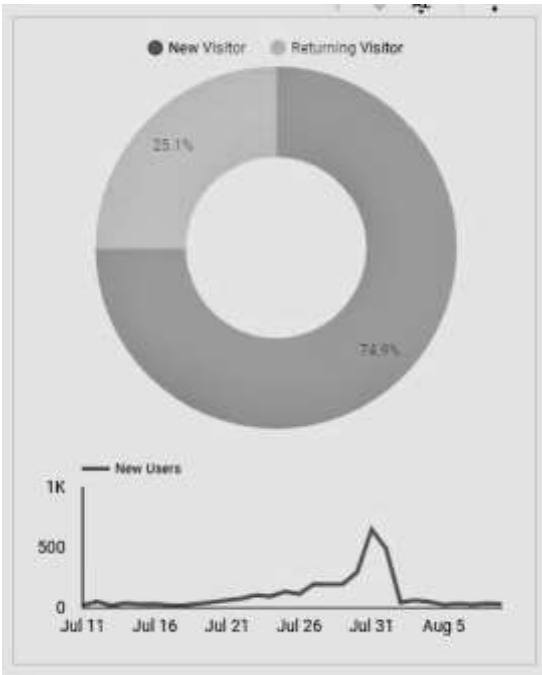
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[preheatingservices@gmail.com](mailto:preheatingservices@gmail.com)



# The Wilbrahams Website for Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom

Firstly, we apologise for any inconvenience experienced by our subscribers during July and August. An issue with the website caused the Notification to Subscribers functionality to stop working from 20 July to the 3 August. After several attempts, the technical support team eventually located and fixed the problem. We are not too sure what went wrong but were told an error in the SMTP Server caused the emails to freeze.



Most people should be getting notifications now, but I have heard from a few people who are still not receiving emails. If that is the case for you then it may be an idea to resubscribe at <https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/> and see whether that fixes the problem for you.

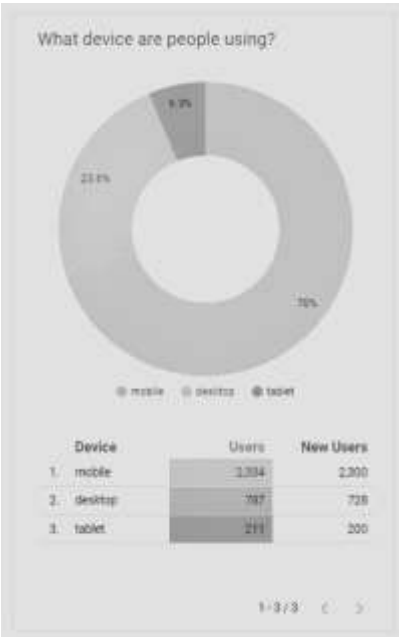
Sam Dhaliwal, Great Wilbraham Parish Councillor, is currently working on how the Great Wilbraham Parish Council can

better use the website to improve their reporting on their projects and activities.

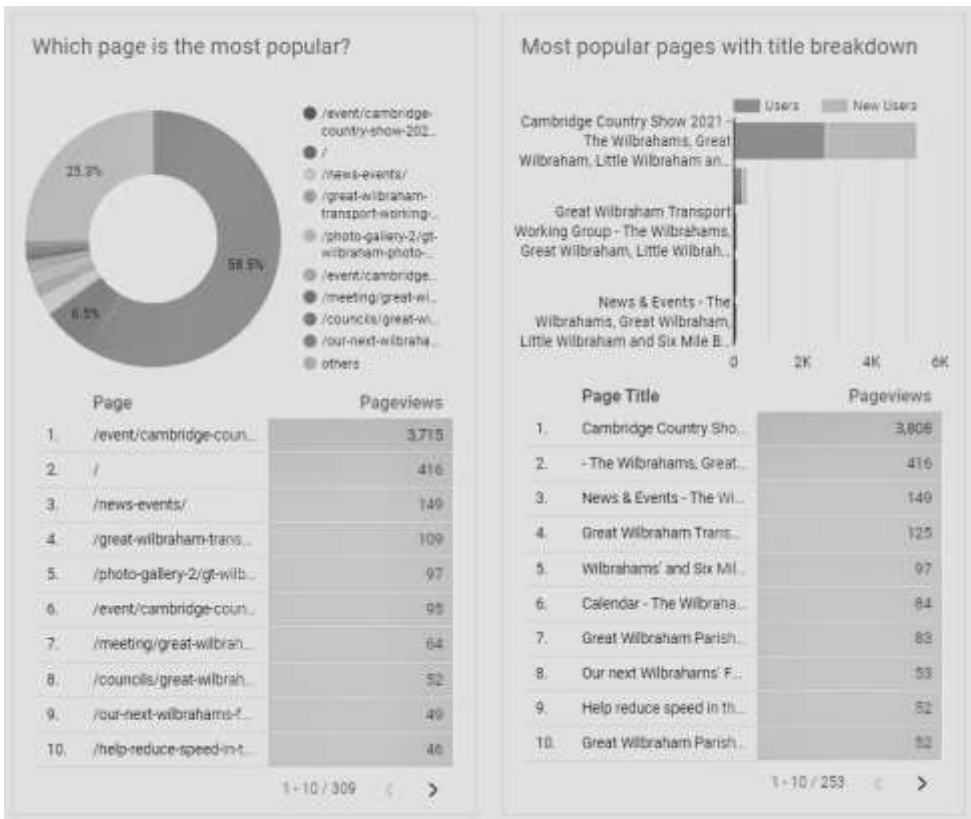
Here are some analytics for the last month

From 12 July to the 11 August the website had 3,375 users of whom 3,270 were new users. There were 6,352 page views in 4,380 sessions. 75% of visitors were new and 25% returning visitors. The number of new visitors was far higher than during previous months.

Most people access the site from their mobile.







These visitors to our site were viewing the Cambridge Country Show posted in the Events calendar. This post gained the top position on Google Search. The next most popular pages during this period were the Home and News/Events pages and the Transport Working Group post.

Organic search was the top acquisition channel with Google the leading channel.

If you have something you would like posted on the website, please email [hall.siobhangww@gmail.com](mailto:hall.siobhangww@gmail.com) and if you haven't subscribed for notifications, then please visit <https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/>



Siobhan Hall

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Through the Spring and Summer of 2021 we have realised a painful truth: coming up with ideas to improve the environment in the Wilbrahams is the easy bit; putting those ideas into practice is often much harder and seems to take

forever! Having said that, here is a round-up of some of our current projects – most of which are related in one way or another to Climate Change and the urgent necessity to reduce our Carbon footprint

Information Evenings on Climate Change. - and what you can do about it.

Frustratingly, as the Warbler goes to press we are still not quite able to announce the detail of these evenings to be held in the Memorial Hall. We will publicise them as soon as we can.

### **Cycle Paths**

Like buses, you wait for ages for one, then two come along together! While we were preparing our own detailed response and encouraging everyone to complete the on-line survey re the County Council's plans for cycling in the whole of Cambridgeshire –our villages did not even appear on the Council's maps – the Greater Cambridge Partnership launched another consultation survey on its own proposals for improving cycling into and around Cambridge. Again, working with our County Councillor Claire Daunton and representatives of our Parish Councils, we have argued forcefully that the Wilbrahams (and Six Mile Bottom) deserve safe cycle paths to connect us to existing "Greenway" routes to Cambridge from Bottisham and Fulbourn.

### **Electric Bikes**

With a commercial provider we hope to put a proposal to our parish Councils to fund a trial rental scheme here, like that already operating in Teversham.

### **Working with the School**

At the Head Teacher's invitation we have put forward ideas, and made introductions to relevant authorities and providers, to use Solar Power to reduce the school's dependence on fossil fuels.

### **A "Trod" from Great Wilbraham to the Common**

Our idea to create a simple, low impact footpath has, rightly, been set back somewhat by road safety concerns. The excellent work of the Transport Working Group may assist here, and we have not given up on the idea

### **Farming**

We have had another interesting visit to Temple Farm with Alex Wright to see how the farm is implementing its strategy to improve soil health and increase

biodiversity. We are soon to have another meeting with the Wilbraham Estate to learn how they are preparing for ELMS, the Government's Environmental Land Management Scheme. We will report back.

### **Triangles opposite the School**

We have presented to Great Wilbraham Parish Council a contractor's estimate for creating more car parking spaces, hopefully to reduce parking on the main road at the beginning and end of the school day. We want also to create a modest area of wildflower meadow on part of the triangles.

### **Bulb Bombing**

Although it is still summer it will not be long before the days shorten and the temperature drops. Perfect conditions to start planning your spring bulb planting for 2022.

In what will be a first, the Well-brahams, The Wilbrahams Environment Group and the Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Volunteer Group are proposing a collaboration for a mass planting of spring bulbs across the three villages in late November. The plan is to work with the two Parish Councils to identify areas that can be "bulb bombed" so that come the spring of 2022 we should have some real colour to banish those dark February days. This will be in addition to those areas that already contain a "spring collection".



The twist is we are looking for volunteers to plant bulbs and for donations of bulbs. If you would like to donate one bulb or one hundred bulbs we would love to hear from you.

In the first instance, we are looking at the daffodils/narcissus smaller spring bulbs like the Tête à Tête or

similar varieties that do not grow to a large height.

So, if you are interested in helping plant and/or donating some bulbs head over to the Wilbrahams Environment Group page for more information or just point your smart phone at the QR Code for a quick link.  
<https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/information/weg/>



Alternatively, send an email to the Wilbrahams Environment Group and we will take it from there. [wilbrahamseg@gmail.com](mailto:wilbrahamseg@gmail.com)

**The WEG Team 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](http://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/information/weg) or contact us by email [wilbrahamseg@gmail.com](mailto:wilbrahamseg@gmail.com) or ring 880093 (Tony Goryn)

## **The Carpenters Arms**

The new house built adjacent to the Carpenters Arms on part of the carpark has been sold and recently occupied. On the old stable block, which is to become the kitchen of the refurbished pub, new roof timbers have been installed and pantiles have replaced the original corrugated sheeting.

New tenders have been called for the refurbishment of the main pub building and its new extension to the rear, as original tenders called in the spring of 2020, at the start of Covid, were no longer valid. Tenders are expected to be returned in September, with a start on the outstanding works very soon thereafter.

The outstanding works are expected to take 6 or 7 months, which means that the Carpenters Arms is unlikely to re-open until spring 2022. Building materials supply chains remain disrupted after Covid lockdowns, so it is hoped that materials supply will not adversely affect the new construction programme.

BBD Co

## **Village Stories**

‘Grandma’ said Laura, who was staying with me in her summer holidays, ‘How are you getting on with collecting village stories?’ Laura lives in London and she had been intrigued to read a book called ‘Lark Rise to Candleford’ which is about an Oxfordshire village in the 1880s. Having done a project on local and family history at school she was interested to be in a small village where many people know each other, and some families can trace their ancestry back through several generations. When I came to Great Wilbraham in the 1980s I was asked to help write a history of the village for the WI book of Cambridgeshire villages and this set off my interest in the stories people told me about the time when they were growing up, when there were very few amenities in the village: no buses, no electric light and no main sewers – but there were five pubs and several shops!

The story that particularly set off this interest was one told by Pauline Smith about her grandmother’s treasured pewter teapot. It went like this:

When Pauline’s mother, Alice Piper, was a little girl, not much older than Laura, she caught scarlet fever, which at that time was a very serious disease, and she had to go to an isolation hospital in Oakington. Now in the early days of the last century there were no cars or buses for transport so when she recovered fetching her home from hospital posed quite a dilemma for her family. They would have to hire a horse and cart and they didn’t know how to get hold of the money to do that. The only thing they could think of was to offer for sale one of Pauline’s grandmother’s prize possessions, a pewter teapot. A kind lady called Ms Jaggard offered to buy it and so Alice was brought safely home. It must have been a very bumpy journey as the roads were not very good in those days and you had to go all the way into Cambridge and out again to get to Oakington. The teapot did

come back to the family as Mrs Jaggard kindly returned it when she was planning to move away from the village.

I am sure there are many other stories in the village which show how different life was in the past and I would be really grateful for any contributions which people might like to make to this collection, which could be circulated to anyone who is interested.

Judy Hanmer jhanmer789@btinternet.com

## Wordsearch

W	F	G	L	V	W	Z	R	B	E	R	N
S	B	E	P	A	R	I	S	O	R	V	O
D	O	L	S	O	D	L	D	R	L	C	T
J	G	R	M	I	M	D	I	T	E	O	G
C	A	I	R	O	F	L	R	C	S	K	N
W	T	R	S	L	O	N	D	O	N	F	I
L	A	C	W	I	N	S	A	U	E	I	H
A	O	G	K	S	L	I	M	A	H	P	S
W	R	D	H	B	D	N	L	S	T	T	A
T	O	K	Y	O	H	U	A	B	A	M	W
L	M	W	L	N	B	T	T	H	U	D	E
D	E	D	F	G	U	I	H	L	E	D	G

### Capital Cities

18 Capital cities with clues given to work out the list of names, or just search.

Names are left/right, right/left, upwards, downwards or diagonal.

Solutions to clues on page 66

John Bramwell

- (4) Sounds like a Scottish stream, but it is elsewhere in Europe.
- (4) This city comes from scrambled post.
- (4) Alone, broken.
- (4) You get more from this city.
- (5) Initially in and out, involved with a small vehicle.
- (5) I held revised version, sometimes prefixed new.
- (5) City for pairs.
- (5) City provides a child's plaything, but knockout changes the end.
- (5) Edible seed returned is to complete.
- (6) Hasten change for classical city.
- (6) Boy mostly, with Roman dress, altered.
- (6) Dub lines to include city.
- (6) Big cat swallows small beer initially.
- (6) Fifty to start and then continuation interrupted by five hundred.
- (6) Servant, including doctor.
- (6) Half of the cosmos attaches to bovine.
- (6) Used to be uncooked, but reversed.
- (10) Sounds like laundry with a heavyweight.

## 20mph : If Not Now, When?



A large majority of residents who responded to the TWG survey were concerned for their safety and the safety of the village's children because of the speed of vehicles in the village. While much of the traffic may not be exceeding the official limit of 30mph, our narrow roads, narrow or absent footpaths, corners, the school and the nursery make that an unsafe limit. Of the 116 of you

who replied, 63% wanted a 20mph speed limit. So why not now?

Cambridgeshire County Council governs the speed limits on our roads, and its present policy is that a 20mph speed limit will only be considered where the mean speed of traffic is 24mph or lower. Of course that is a nonsense. If all traffic came through the village at 24 mph or less, we probably would not need a 20mph limit, but that is not what is meant by a 'mean speed'. Fortunately, the new CCC administration has agreed that it will make the option of 20mph zones more widely available and easier to obtain. At the last meeting of the Parish Council it was agreed that the PC would write to the CCC Chair of Highways urging him to get on with making that change. In addition, we have the support of our County Councillor, Claire Dauntton.

LHIs. When TWG began, many of us, probably like you, did not know what an LHI was. The acronym stands for Local Highways Improvement and is a necessary requirement for almost any substantial work on village roads. In general, an LHI is financed partly by CCC and partly by the village. However, the LHI application process is far from simple, and our wanting a 20mph speed limit is not enough; the application has to be supported by evidence to justify it. We are allowed to make only one LHI application a year and, unfortunately, there is no guarantee that it will be approved. There is a limit to the money available which means that our LHI application is in competition with all the LHI applications filed by other Parish Councils who are just as anxious as we are to improve their roads.

TWG is already collecting evidence to support an LHI application for a 20mph speed limit and will propose that the Parish Council files an application at the earliest date which, on present rules, will be September 2022. Any application will depend on the agreement of the Parish Council and, more importantly, CCC changing its 24mph policy as it has promised.

But we hear the cries, "What about those 20mph limits in Cambridge"? And "What about those '20s Plenty' posters around the village?"

Cambridge has been able to introduce 20mph limits because responsibility for its roads belongs to Cambridge City Council, not to Cambridgeshire County Council. 'r 20s Plenty' is a nationwide campaign to introduce a 20mph speed limit in all villages. There is an argument that its target is too broad – not all villages need or want a 20mph limit – but it suits the wishes of our village and the campaign is providing TWG with very useful information. Sadly, success for 20s Plenty is likely to be some years away and we would rather not wait.

### 20's Plenty

There's a lot about 20's plenty these days. It is a national and even international campaign to get more 20mph speed limits. The Transport Working Group in the Wilbrahams are part of the campaign and are encouraging drivers to drive at 20mph in the Wilbrahams. Just because the speed limit is 30 doesn't mean you have to drive at that speed. It's not a target speed, but a limit.

The statistics show the benefits of driving at 20mph. there is significantly less risk of serious injury especially for vulnerable road users; less fear and intimidation from motor vehicles for

all road users and especially those walking and cycling. There is reduced vehicle emissions and noise due to lower speeds and traffic volumes. 20mph is half as noisy as 30mph. Introducing a safer system by reducing speed will reduce casualties and save everyone money

(less time off work for instance, social care costs) as well as pain and suffering. 20 mph limits are like any other speed limit and are enforceable by the police. Even in the absence of regular enforcement, research shows that 20 mph limits reduce speeds, collisions and casualties.



You can make it happen now, even before there is an official speed limit change. Collect a free 20's plenty bumper sticker or window sticker from the pillar outside 46 Church St. or the village shop. Put it on your car and drive at 20mph or below whenever in the village. Other drivers will soon get the point. We'll all be safer and the Wilbrahams will be an even more enjoyable place to live.

Please do feel free to contact us at [hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com](mailto:hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com)

Great Wilbraham Transport Working Group



# Great Wilbraham Transport Working Group

As I write, a small TWG group is walking around the village to look at possible traffic calming measures that might form the basis of a 'local highways improvement' (LHI) application to Cambridgeshire County Council. Later this week there will be a meeting of the group with the LHI Officer from Highways, our County Councillor Claire Daunton, and members of the Parish Council to discuss what might be possible. The LHI application must be filed by 30th September, which may sound a long way off, but in the nature and complexity of these things it is very little time. We hope that in our next update we can report success.



Traffic surveys are on hold at the moment because of the school holiday, but the results from the first scrutiny of the year are now in. The survey, carried out by a group of stalwart volunteers organised by Gareth Burton, counted vehicles coming past the Mill Road triangle on a July day, starting at 5.30am and finishing at 10.00pm. The triangle was chosen because all vehicles entering and leaving the village drive past there. This was a

relatively quiet day, but 2026 vehicles still drove by, considerably up on the last time a survey was undertaken.

In the first 12-hour period there were 85 HGVs, which is an average of 7 an hour. Given that during some periods there were fewer than 7, other periods saw between 10 and 12: one every 5 minutes. A total of 310 vans were recorded, a large increase on previous counts, no doubt a result of Covid and the increase in deliveries to our homes.

The volunteers noticed a significant number of cars driving along the High Street at speeds which were almost certainly in excess of 30mph. In any event, they were going too fast. That comes as no surprise to those of us who live nearby.



There have been queries as to why cars in Station Road are often parked on the pavement. One reason is that if they are parked in the road, they stand a high risk of losing their wing mirrors to passing lorries. That problem is not unique to Station Road. Here is a wing mirror lying in Church Street, having been knocked off by a passing school bus. Confirmation, if confirmation were needed, that the road is too narrow for the traffic and the traffic is too fast for the road.

The destruction of verges on the approach roads to Great Wilbraham is a problem which seems to be getting worse. This photo taken in Wilbraham Road will tell you why. The road is not wide enough for two lorries to pass. Unfortunately, apart from lobbying the County Council, there is not a great deal that TWG can do because these roads are their responsibility, and although they may be sympathetic they clearly have other priorities.

And finally, not everyone agrees with TWG. One of us was stopped recently by a gent on a bicycle who forcibly disagreed with "the campaign to stop HGVs coming through the village". Although many of us would like to stop HGVs coming through the village, there is no chance of our achieving that in the short term, so it is not actually a current TWG campaign. Nevertheless, it is good for us to be challenged and a reason why we hope that you will keep us informed of your views and news at [hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com](mailto:hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com).



Stay safe. TWG

PS. During their LHI walkabout, TWG members noticed that the bollards on the traffic calming at the school were damaged and missing reflectors, and the road markings need repainting. They had a planned meeting with Parish Councillors and Highways later in the week, and can report that the problems are now receiving attention.

## Speed Awareness Team - Final Update

In the spring edition of the Warbler, we reported that we had applied for £15k of funding for a Local Highways Improvement (LHI) for a 20mph Zone between the approach to the school through to the nursery in Church Street. This initial project was Phase 1 of a traffic calming scheme which, we hoped in time, would extend throughout the village. The scheme was designed based on the data collected from the Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) and with input from Highways. We proposed our scheme to the Parish Council, and they decided that it should be submitted as an LHI application. It was also supported by County Councillor John Williams. The total estimated cost was £25k, and our PC offered £10k as our village contribution towards the cost as part funded schemes have a greater chance of success.

About 50 villages also applied for funding from this Local Highways Initiative so there was serious competition for monies from a limited pot.

Unfortunately, the Committee which made the decisions on the allocation of the monies, decided that other settlements had a more urgent need for funding than us.

There is opportunity to make further applications to the LHI. The Speed Awareness Team have decided to step down to allow the HGV Group to interface with our PC without interference and make any future applications for future funding. Other factors include the illness of Mike's wife Penny, battery charging risks outlined below and also because we believe that we have done all we were asked to do in the gathering and recording of factual speed data at numerous points throughout the village.

Now, some background on The Speed Awareness Team which was set up in the Autumn of 2018. At this time our PC had purchased a MVAS and appealed for help to locate the sign on various lamp posts throughout the village, change the batteries every 2-3 weeks, and relocate the unit on a regular basis. Alister McFarquhar, Mike Smith and Chris Hanson (who has been unable to participate for some time) were the only volunteers responsible for the operating the device. We attended a training session with SWARCO the Manufacturers and instructed on locating the device, charging?changing the batteries and collecting speed data. During the next 18 months or so, the MVAS was located at 13 different approved locations and the batteries were changed on a regular basis. The Covid lockdown made this task rather difficult as it was a 2-man task to move the MVAS to different points around the village, so to comply with lock down rules, Alister took over the battery charging and relocating on his own. However, there was a serious issue as during charging, the batteries exploded and did serious damage to Alister's building. The manufacturers were contacted about this issue. They checked the two spare batteries and deemed them safe for use. However, a few months later, these batteries also exploded during charging, but fortunately this

time they were being charged in an external fireproof housing, so no damage was done. As a result of these battery issues, the MVAS is currently inoperative and will be stored until a solution has been found on the battery safety issue.

Prior to the battery issue, we had gathered enough data to show where the speeding issues were in the village, and we were also able to identify where there were no speeding issues. This data formed part of our application for LHI funding that we mentioned earlier. All the data is safely stored in the PC Drop-Box. It is possible that driving habits might have changed since our data collection exercise, but any speed changes are likely to be insignificant. The mix of vehicle types, such as more white vans and HGVs probably has changed. However, we do not have any historical data on this mix as the MVAS does not record the various vehicle types.

We thank our PC for all their support during our project and we also thank Natalie, our PC Clerk for sorting the risks analysis, work processes and lamp post approvals.

We wish the HGV Group every success in reducing speeds through our village.

The Speed Awareness Team ; Alister McFarquhar and Mike Smith.

*Editors :Unfortunately, due to a lack of space we could not include the data and we will arrange for it to be put on the website.*

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# Community Group Contact Details

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Great Wilbraham Guild of Change Ringers	Peter Sims ptrs28@googlemail.com
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Great Wilbraham Oil Syndicate	Chris Gurney chris.gurney@tylers.net
Little Wilbraham Oil Syndicate	Sue Lee, lwoilgroup@gmail.com
GW Primary School PTFA	Eleanor Laws eleanorlws@gmail.com
Volunteer Group	Pat Simpson pas49@cam.ac.uk
Weenie Warblers Mother & Toddler Group	Sarah Fordham, 880698
The Well-brahams	www.thewell-brahams.weebly.com well.brahams@gmail.com
Wilbrahams' Bridge Club	Di Raikes, 881065
Wibrahams' Community Choir	Gill Humphrey 811436
Wilbraham' Gardening Club	Jackie Beadsmoore, 880889
Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall	Shirley Morley, 880723
Wilbrahams' Scrabble	The Harmers, 880934
Wilbrahams' Sports Club	Roddy Tippet 880728

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<b>Bus Service 18 Tuesday &amp; Friday</b>	<b>Lt. Wilbraham To Newmarket</b>	<b>Newmarket to Lt. Wilbraham</b>
Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	<b>09.30</b>	<b>14.30</b>
Great Wilbraham, Church St.	<b>09.35</b>	<b>14.25</b>
Fulbourn, Six Bells	<b>09.40</b>	<b>14.20</b>
Fulbourn, Bakers Arms	<b>09.45</b>	<b>14.15</b>
Teversham, Ferndale	<b>09.47</b>	<b>14.13</b>
Teversham, Marshall's Close	<b>09.50</b>	<b>14.10</b>
Newmarket Road, Park & Ride	<b>09.55</b>	<b>14.05</b>
Newmarket Road, Park & Ride	<b>10.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>
Teversham, Marshall's Close	<b>10.05</b>	<b>13.55</b>
Teversham, Ferndale	<b>10.08</b>	<b>13.52</b>
Fulbourn, Bakers Arms	<b>10.10</b>	<b>13.50</b>
Fulbourn, Six Bells	<b>10.15</b>	<b>13.45</b>
Great Wilbraham, Church St.	<b>10.20</b>	<b>13.40</b>
Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	<b>10.25</b>	<b>13.35</b>
Six Mile Bottom, Tree Tops	<b>10.30</b>	<b>13.30</b>
Newmarket, Guineas Bus Station	<b>10.45</b>	<b>13.15</b>

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

## Solution to Wordsearch

BERN, LIMA, OSLO, ROME, CAIRO, DELHI, PARIS, TOKYO,  
TUNIS, ATHENS, BOGOTA, DUBLIN, LISBON, LONDON,  
MADRID, MOSCOW, WARSAW, WASHINGTON



Nature Notes  
Page 31

Village Flower &  
Produce Show  
Page 13



Back cover : Produce Show Winners



