

Wilbrahams' Warbler

Winter 2021



Great Wilbraham : Little Wilbraham : Six Mile Bottom



School's birthday : page 18



Untold Stories
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National Dahlia
Society show
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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 www.re-new.me.uk info@re-new.me.uk	Peter Wells, 812388, pandawells@cheerful.com Rev Keith Morrison, 813055 Rev Alan Brand, 812558

Great Wilbraham Parish Council

Chairman	Sally Ramus chairGW@wilbrahams.co.uk
Clerk	Natalie Mulvey 07887813702 clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk

Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

Chairman	Dave Humphrey 07775 764 988 chairLW@wilbrahams.co.uk
Clerk	Hayley Livermore 07725080631 clerkLW@wilbrahams.co.uk

County Councillor	Claire Daunton 07905473395 Claire.Daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
District Councillors	Claire Daunton 07905473395 Cllr.Daunton@scamb.s.gov.uk Graham Cone 07595361285 grahamcone@aol.com John Williams 01223 880940 john.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
MP Lucy Frazer	lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk

Cover photo by Ian Cummings.

Other photos by Chris Fell, Martin Gienke, contributors

Editorial

Welcome to this winter edition of The Warbler. Its good to know we are consistent although we didn't win any National awards for the Warbler this year, we're still in the top 15% of A5 sized publications. So, we must be doing something right.

Yet again in this issue there is a lot to do with Climate change and the environment. It's quite clear that people in the villages are becoming more vocal and indeed active in supporting Climate change and the environment. The Wilbraham's Environmental Group (WEG) has been very busy, everybody is invited to a meeting on the 24th January to discuss climate change and the Wilbrahams. In November they did some bulb bombing.

In the Memorial Hall it looks as if groups are beginning to start up again; Gardening Club, Scrabble, Bridge, Community Choir and Film Club to name but a few. They are also looking at replacing some trees.

Both Parish Councils have vacancies and are looking for one person for each so if you think you may be that person, they both list their contact details. It can be interesting and fulfilling I know because I did it for about 3 years. Gt Wilbraham parish council are also looking into Privately funded Highways initiatives as well as local highways initiatives to make our roads safer particularly around the school.

Robert McCubbin is after your support. He has mapped out three routes from the Wilbrahams, one to Bottisham and one to the Newmarket Road both from Little Wilbraham and one to Fulbourn from Great Wilbraham. Hopefully we can get all of these through the red tape cutting cycling time into Cambridge by about 20 minutes. Even if you don't cycle your view will be beneficial

There are two other consultations concerning transport proposals. Together they are for schemes proposing to help ease congestion for those travelling into and around Cambridge city, to provide better active travel (walking and cycling) options and to provide regular bus services for our rural area. See Claire Daunton's Stop Press for more information. There is also room for optimism as the 20mph speed limit wanted by many of you will be looked into in either December or January as part of the proposals above.

The Chairman's Annual report for St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust includes interesting facts showing the spending over the last ten years (£340,000) to maintain and enhance the fabric of the church.

Included are articles and reports from the Gardening club, Over the farm gate and the Wilbraham's River Protection Society.

Please keep your letters and articles coming in, we do read them all.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Torode

Sitting Comfortably



The poor old seat at Little Wilbraham bus stop had really had its day.

It was covered in verdigris looking at the point of decay.

One morning Dave Humphreys came by while we were waiting for the bus.

We asked him what could be done hoping that he would take pity on us.

A great surprise we had on arriving to catch bus number eighteen.

A lovely new seat had appeared on the scene.

So grateful thanks to all concerned for providing the seat.

It's good to sit and rest a while taking the weight off our weary feet.

Greta Rees

Letters

Dear Editors

I want to thank the Wilbraham Warbler staff for printing the Six Mile Bottom poem written by my mother's best friend Jan Tallman.

My cousin Roz Wright mailed two copies of the Warbler to me in September. One copy was for me and the other was for Mrs Tallman. On September 24th 2021 I personally delivered that copy to Mrs Tallman.

What joy, tea and eating lunch, she told of writing a poem for a high school English class and the teacher was so impressed, that she submitted it to the school newspaper. Jan was so surprised to find her poem on the front page

Over the years she has written many poems and stories and a monthly column in the church newsletter. Her hands are now arthritic and writing is painful.

Mrs Tallman and my mother became widows a year apart and this shared experience deepened their friendship. They sat in the same pew at church every Sunday and spoke to each other by phone daily.

Mrs Tallman is of Welsh heritage and has a long time pen pal in Wales. It was April 1946 when my mother Sylvia May Jacobs Harris left Six Mile Bottom for America with me, a one year old toddler in her arms.

Once again thank you

Yours Sincerely Margaret Ann Harris Pearson. Astoria. OR

Editors note

Looks like another two copies will be going over to Oregon USA

Dear Editors

We would like to thank everyone in the local community who sent cards, flowers and other messages of sympathy following the death of our daughter Nicola. Thank you also for all your support and help with kind words. Many of you knew her as a child growing up in the village, attending the local schools before going on to pursue her career in nursing, and moving to Ely where she lived with her husband and three children. She will be missed by many.

Daphne and Nigel Start

Dear Editors

Through the Warbler, I would like to say thank you to the Fabb family, Lesley, Derek and Carole for all the years of organizing the country and western dances. I have many happy memories and made new friends. I miss our monthly get togethers and listening to good music. I wish you all the best and thank you once again.

Greta Rees

Dear Editors

In March 2020 you published an item submitted by the Bottisham Patients' Participation Group about plans for a major expansion of Hilton Park Care Home. They were of the opinion that it would compromise the Medical Practice, which serves our local villages. Bottisham Parish Council and East Cambs District Council agreed with their argument and rejected the application.

This rejection is now being contested by Bottisham Farming Ltd, presumably the owners of the land in question, and a Government Inspector has been appointed to consider the application. Most significantly, Axis Land Partnership (Axis LP), a land promotion and development company specialising in achieving planning consent, has been appointed to fight the refusal. I am sure the Patient Group and

The District Council will do a good job of representing their case, but they will be up against specialist, highly paid barristers.

Few will disagree that our medical practice in Bottisham serves us very well, giving excellent care to all ages. No property developer should be allowed to jeopardise this, especially when it has already been rejected by our elected representatives and local communities. An influx of a large number of very vulnerable old people with complex needs will badly damage the current patient mix. We need a well-balanced practice, staffed, as it is now, by enthusiastic, multi-skilled GPs, not specialist geriatricians.

As an octogenarian myself, I am only too conscious that older people take up far more of a GPs time than earlier in life. The Government continually tells us much of the pressure on the NHS comes from the increasing number of old people. This expansion of care home capacity in our area, already served by two large care homes, can only exacerbate the problem here.

If you accept the logic of this objection to the appeal, please write to Patients' Participation.

John Beadsmoore, 31 Temple End, Great Wilbraham : 01223 880889

*Editors' note : contact details for the Patients' Participation Group,
Bottisham Medical Practice, Tunbridge Lane, Bottisham, CB25 9DU.
patientsgroup@outlook.com*

Wilbrahams, Six-Mile-Bottom and Fulbourn Over 60's

Meetings are on the last Thursday of the month in the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall at 2 o'clock.

We have started the club up again in September with about 20 members. We have a new President, new Chairperson and two new members of the committee. At the October meeting we had seven games of Hoy and five games of Bingo. The November meeting on the 25th had Nigel Start giving a talk on gardens followed by Bingo and Hoy.

The December meeting will be on Thursday the 16th which will be our Christmas party with music by Phillip & Loraine and tombola. The January meeting will be on the 27th which will be a film show.

For more information ring Keith Precious on 880832.

Keith Precious

Great Wilbraham Parish Council

Changes in the Parish Council Membership

The Parish Council was disappointed to receive a resignation from Stephen Bartlett in August. Along with chairing the Parish Council for many years, Stephen was fundamental in supporting the village with the management of village trees and maintaining green areas. Although no longer a member of the Parish Council, Stephen has kindly offered to continue to support the village.

Following his resignation, Cllr Sally Ramus was elected as chair, having been part of the Parish Council for over 30 years, Sally has huge amount of experience. Members are grateful to Sally for taking on the role.

The Parish Council recently welcomed two new members. Alister McFarquhar re-joined the Parish Council in August. During his time working on the Parish Council and alongside it, Alister has gained a good understanding of highways issues and members look forward to utilising this knowledge.

In September, Christine Page was co-opted as a Councillor. Christine has lived in the village for almost 10 years and is pleased to now have the time to be able to contribute to the community. Christine was Headteacher of Bourn Primary School for many years and in this and other roles she has held is accustomed to both leading and working in committees. Her strong listening and problem-solving skills will help the Parish Council in their work supporting the village. The Parish Council are looking forward to working with both Alister and Christine.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council still has one vacancy and are keen to fill this as soon as possible. If you would like to learn more about the role please contact the Clerk, Natalie Mulvey, 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.

Flooding

Should you suffer with flooding in the coming months, it may be possible for the county council to investigate the cause of flooding and/or offer advice. Any flooding issues can be reported through the website link below. All reports are assessed against the eligibility criteria and Cambridge County Council will advise you on whether a formal flood investigation will be undertaken.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood#:~:text=To%20report%20river%20flooding%20you,warning%20information%20for%20your%20area.>

To report flooding on roads and footpaths (the highway), please use the separate highways reporting system. This system should also be used to report any defects on the highway including potholes and blocked gullies.

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/HighwaysReports/Highways/ReportProblem1.aspx>

Defibrillator

This is a reminder that the village has a defibrillator situated on the wall of the Memorial Hall in between the main hall and social club. 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 machines can be accessed quickly and easily, instructions are on the outside of the casing, and you will be fully led through the procedure.

If you would like to learn more about the defibrillator, AED Donate, the manufacture offers free Awareness Talks via Zoom. The next scheduled date is 1.00pm Wednesday 15th December 2021 to sign up for the session please visit <https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/> or telephone [01785 472224](tel:01785472224).

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 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.

Keeping our village safe and tidy

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 and other shrubs to make sure that they are not over-grown. If your hedge is, please take the time to cut back any sections, which do cause obstructions for pedestrians, or visual impediments to drivers and/or road signs.

Councillor Claire Jackman is taking the lead in managing the village grass cutting, maintaining trees and hedges. If you have any problems, please let the Parish Council know and Claire will try and help.

Next Council Meeting

The next scheduled full council meeting will be held on Thursday 20th January at 7.30pm. All residents are very welcome to attend.

Please check the Parish website for regular updates - www.wilbrahams.co.uk

PHI : Privately Funded Highways Improvement

So what is a PFHI ? There are basically two Highways improvement schemes run by Cambridgeshire County Council. They offer Parish Councils the opportunity to make improvements to highways, within the parish, based on local knowledge, in addition to the general maintenance by CCC Highways. They are generally referred to as PFHI and LHI. The L in LHI means Local. Each parish is allowed to make a single LHI application per year. Up to £15,000 of funding is available for highways improvements, with the balance of the cost of a project being met by the PC, (minimum 10 %). LHI Schemes proposed by Parish Councils undergo a robust feasibility study and are then put forward to a committee for scrutiny with the successful schemes attracting an allocation of the limited funds. There is a lot of competition for the LHI money available and more applications fail than succeed.

A PFHI is completely funded by the PC and there is no limit to the number of applications. As with an LHI, Highways provide a feasibility report to enable the PC to decide whether the highways improvements required justify the cost. When spending public funds, all PCs find that a challenging decision to make, as most works to highways are very costly.

Great Wilbraham currently has an LHI application in the system this year for traffic calming measures, which will be considered by the CCC committee in January 2022.

The PC also has a PFHI application for a range of improvements and upgrades to the road narrowing feature outside the village primary school. A feasibility study has been completed and the works fully evaluated by Highways. As the total cost of all the works suggested exceeds the original budget, GWPC is carefully considering advice from CC officers together with the school before making a final decision which must be well thought out and cost effective.

School Crossing Patrol

We have just heard back from CCC following an assessment for a funded School Crossing Patrol, and unfortunately we do not meet their measured criteria. As the cost for funding this ourselves would cost in excess of £21,000 p.a. this regrettably greatly exceeds the funds available for a small village like Great Wilbraham.

Safety outside the school will continue to be discussed within the PC, in conjunction with the school who are keen to engage in addressing parental

behaviour and in educating children and parents to be more self-aware. We are continuing to seek guidance from Highways professionals to find sensible, considered choices on how to deal with the issues in this area, as many of the quotes so far have proved very expensive and may not fully address the specific problems.

Great Wilbraham Parish Council

St. Nicholas' is applying for Churchyard Conservation Award

A joint initiative has been launched by Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust and Ely to improve local churchyards and increase the flora and fauna within them.

Conservation won't mean neglect and wilderness but sensitive, careful management.

Lowland flower meadows have decreased by 97% since the WWII, an almost unbelievable statistic, and churchyards are special in conservation terms because most have not been subjected to fertilisers or weed killers.

When, during Lockdown last year, some of St. Nicholas' gallant band of grass cutters were isolating, more areas of grass were left to grow longer than usual.

During this period Jonathan Shanklin from Cambridgeshire Natural History Society visited the churchyard to record wildflower species and identified over 90, 2 of which are on the near threatened in England list.

The churchyard was visited a few weeks ago by a lady from Ely Environment Task Force who explained that there needs to be a mosaic of grass of varying lengths to help wildlife flourish. This will mean that areas where graves are visited, the aim will be to keep close mown grass. There will be areas of medium length and tall grass as well as areas rarely mown at all, to allow for the full lifecycle of some insects like butterflies and moths.

We are hoping to provide an information board and include WEG, the school and anyone who is interested. It will be a learning process, but let's see how we get on.

Glebe land update

While the Ely advisor was in the village I took her to visit the glebe land off Toft Lane. She said it had been discussed at a number of meetings at Ely and there is, as promised, a desire to reinstate some shrubs and trees and allow access. The agents, Carter Jonas, still seem worried about how to ensure the area is considered safe for public access. We are hopeful this concern can be overcome.

Lorna Carr

Wilbrahams Cycling Routes – We Need Your Support

Cycling in Cambridge is improving. In the latest traffic survey, Cambridge had the slowest traffic in the UK at just 13mph, with urban speeds of just 7mph; both slower than the typical cycling speed of around 15mph. Driving is often less direct, less convenient, more polluting and more expensive! New cycle routes are being built: the Chisholm Trail between the main train stations and the new Greenways dedicated paths, allowing more people and the environment to benefit from faster, safer and more convenient routes. The introduction of electric bikes has allowed for much longer ranges and for less able people to make cycling the transport of choice.



Fulbourn and Bottisham have dedicated cycle paths connecting to the main cycle networks, however there are still no committed plans for safer cycle routes from the Wilbrahams. With limited public transport, many of us feel that this is long overdue, but we need your help and voice for this to happen. To attract funding, there needs to be enough evidence of support and demand by our villages that the paths will be used.

The Wilbrahams are only 6 miles east of Cambridge and less than

30mins cycle ride from the main stations, but with our smaller population, we have always been overlooked for funding. Please can you and your household help by completing the survey we have put together and encourage as many other local people as possible to add their voices. This will help us identify the most popular routes, the frequency of journeys people might cycle and build support to improve our sustainable transport links.

The cycling survey can be found at:

<https://cyclewilbrahams.wixsite.com/cycleway>

Please email: cyclewilbrahams@gmail.com for any suggestions or to help.

Thank you!

Robert McCubbin (LW&SMB Parish Council)



Tutor



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Fully qualified former primary school
teacher and home educator based in
Little Wilbraham

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History & Geography

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For information and to arrange a free
meeting/consultation contact:

Anne-Marie McCubbin BA(Hons) PGCE
email:

info@wingstoflyeducation.co.uk

tel: 01223 811939

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E: camupholsterybarn@outlook.com

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COP26 has closed and we all wait to see whether the world's nations and big corporations will begin to honour the promises they have made to us. But we cannot just leave it to them: we all have to do our bit to Save the Planet.

What can we in the Wilbrahams do, collectively as a community and individually or within our families, to reduce our Carbon Footprint? “Climate Change, Biodiversity, Waste: what can we do together in the Wilbrahams? “ This is the working title for our first Information Evening, on 24th January at 7.30pm in the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall. We are very grateful to GW Parish Council for some funding to help stage this free event, the first in a planned series. Put the date in your diaries now.



We have been busy on other fronts too – here are some of them. In October we supported the Well-brahams Group's Orchard Day when lots of people turned out to plant Bluebells and Daffodils – and to eat cake - on a beautiful afternoon.

In November, working with volunteers from the Well-brahams and the Little

Wilbraham and SMB Volunteer group, thousands (yes, thousands) of bulbs were planted around all three villages on our “Bulb-Bombing” Day.

Continuing the green theme, would you like to help plant trees on Saturday 4th December? We would love some volunteers to come forward – contact details below - to help plant a dozen trees in various locations in Great Wilbraham.

We have been lobbying the Ely Diocese to re-establish access of some kind to the land off Toft Lane, but we have nothing positive yet to report.

We have continued our dialogue with local farmers. On Wilbraham Temple's farm many people have enjoyed seeing sheep grazing the nature-friendly planting between Great and Little Wilbraham and seeing (and hearing!) the Aberdeen Angus cattle grazing in the park. . At Home Farm the Wilbraham Estate is giving over more of its land to nature-friendly planting and we are hopeful that our



farmers will be able to grant more public access when the Government finally publishes the detail of its long-awaited Environmental Land Management Scheme. By the time this article appears we may at last have launched our Cycling Survey, working with both our Parish Councils. Do, please, take part – even if you have no interest in cycling - so that our results will give a true representation of the desire/need – or not – for safe cycle paths to and from our villages.

JOIN US! TELL US WHAT INTERESTS YOU!! We are keen to involve everyone, young and old. Have a look at our section of the Wilbrahams website or contact us www.wilbrahams.co.uk/information/weg or by email wilbrahamseg@gmail.com or ring Tony Goryn, 880093 or Nick Toovey, 882371

Nick Toovey

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 and the next meeting will be held on 6th January 2022 (venue to be confirmed). All welcome to attend.

The council held an event on Little Wilbraham recreation ground in August about the proposed Multi Use Games Area on the recreation ground in Little Wilbraham. Thank you to all those that attended. The feedback was mostly positive. The council is still in the process of raising the remaining funds needed via a grant application, in the meantime if you have any comments or wish to discuss please contact the Clerk.

Planting is happening around the villages, helped by the volunteer group and work is being done in the pits. There is a new bench at the bus stop in the High Street, Little Wilbraham as this was in a poor state. There will also be a new disabled access bench on the recreation ground. At Little Wilbraham we have a new allotment tenant who together with the parish council has worked to make the allotments look tidier.

Cambridge Fibre have installed a new chamber on parish council land in front of the church in Little Wilbraham to house equipment which will help serve houses to the east and west of the church with faster broadband.

We have a vacancy on the Parish council. If you are interested, please apply to the clerk before 2nd January 2022.

For any further information on any of the above please contact the clerk at clerklw@wilbrahams.co.uk

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

Christmas : It can still be a good one

Charles Dickens has a lot to answer for at Christmas. Leaving aside for one moment his Christmas books, principally *A Christmas Carol*, he gave us Christmas at Dingley Dell in *The Pickwick Papers*. My father used to read it out loud every year, with different voices for the different characters, and I'm convinced that the ideal of an English family Christmas has percolated down from that novel, by way of a century and a half of illustrated magazines and half a century of television advertisements. The nip in the air, the excitement, the ghost stories, the tables groaning with comestibles, the dancing, the drinking, the flirting, the generations smiling at each other across the polished floor, and even the drive down to the country. They're all there. This is the Christmas that the newspapers promise us will be saved for the nation. This is the Christmas you feel guilty if you're not providing for your family.

Dickens complicates matters a little in *A Christmas Carol*. Ebenezer Scrooge is, well, Scrooge-like until the three ghosts bring him to repentance. We see into the grief, want, and meanness that wait in the shadows. But then there is time for the situation to be saved. Tiny Tim will live! And get better! And the turkey's as big as he is, by gum!

Let us suppose for a moment that our Christmas this year isn't quite all that Dickens, *Good Housekeeping*, Lidl, Marks & Spencer, and John Lewis would have us desire. Can it still be a good one? Well yes. Of course it can be. It can be a good one because of the kind words of a neighbour—and the Wilbrahams are full of good neighbours. It can be a good one with things we make ourselves. It can be a good one, even in these dark and stormy times. We tell the story of the birth of Jesus every year to remind ourselves that God comes among us unexpectedly. Between the Roman occupation of Judea and Herod's murderous rage, and the cold of winter, and the NO VACANCY sign up at the inn, it's no time for bringing a child into the world. And yet here he is. Jesus, Emmanuel. Heralded by angels, worshipped by shepherds, visited by the wise. Here in solidarity with us, to show us, as nothing else can, the love of God. There's no need to save Christmas. It comes every year, and nothing can stop it, to remind us of God's saving grace in the midst of our lives.

Do join us as we welcome Christmas at the churches in the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom this year. St John's is still under repair, so we won't be able to have services in Little Wilbraham this year, but there will be a Family Carol Service at 2.30 on the 4th of December at St George's, a Service of Lessons and Carols at 3 on Christmas Eve in St Nicholas', and a service on Christmas Day at 9.30. All followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Alice Goodman



Great Wilbraham CE (VC) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Richard Brown BED (Hons) NPQH

It has a delight to welcome back the children in September, all of whom looked refreshed and ready to learn after the summer break. We have had a change in staffing since last year and welcome Mrs Holtby who joins us as Senior teacher with Mrs Francis and both of whom teach the year five and six class. They have made a great start and the children are already learning lots in their class and having a great time. Our new Reception children have also quickly settled in and are progressing really well.



Another new addition to our school family is Cowdinsky who had been on display as part of the Cows About Cambridge sculpture trail over the summer. She is currently in our foyer awaiting a new home which we are hoping to achieve this academic

year as we would like to redevelop our Spiritual Garden into an all-weather quiet area to house art and sculptures. We have raised £500 so far but hope to raise more in the future.

At the end of September we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the school building. Sadly, we weren't able to invite the wider community in to celebrate with us but the staff and children formed an enormous 25 on the school field which Ian Cumming kindly photographed for us using his drone. The children also brought in silver coins to make a huge silver 25 in the hall and they enjoyed guessing the staff members from photos taken 25 years ago. The different classes took the theme of 25 and/or silver to influence their lessons that day and we were very pleased that Rev. Alice Goodman was able to make a socially distanced visit to bless each class.

The PTFA have been creative with their fundraising. We promoted the Piece of Cake Marathon over the summer and the matchbox challenge was well received this term! There are plans for a repeat of the Wonderful Wilbraham Winter Window Walk during December – albeit a socially distant one and considerations for the latest regulations will of course be adhered to.

At the time of writing COVID-19 is still an issue we are always aware of but not yet enough to trigger an Outbreak Management Plan, which is ready in case it is needed. The one-way systems have been adapted, cleaning measures are still in effect, children and adults are washing their hands regularly and classrooms are well ventilated. We even have wall mounted thermometers to check temperatures and CO2 monitors in classrooms to measure levels. We have also requested that parents wear face masks when on site and visitors are not allowed in the building unless they wear a face covering.

Before half term we were pleased to have a Harvest Festival service in the Church with all classes sitting in separate areas and our assemblies have been either individual, two classes, remote or outside. Being together has been so important so whilst we are all outside with coats on, we are together and can share celebrations. Badger Class and Hedgehog Class have recorded sharing assemblies this term which their parents are able to view on Teams.

School trips are due to take place soon – Hedgehog class visiting West Stow as part of the Saxon topic and Badger Class are going to Stibbington for an evacuee experience (the childrens’ reactions to spam sandwiches are always interesting).



The school marked Armistice Day yesterday with a gathering on the playground. Pupils from Badger Class did readings and one pupil played the Last Post following which everyone observed 2 minutes silence. It was also good to hear the Church bells ringing.

Lastly, I would finally like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Richard Brown, Headteacher

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Is village life getting back to 'normal'??

It is such a relief that many of the community groups are able to use the Memorial Hall again this autumn and residents are confident to make bookings for private parties and special occasions. So far, we have back:

Gardening Club: Mondays, as advertised

Scrabble: Wednesday afternoons, as advertised

Bridge: Wednesday, 1st and 3rd Wed pm each month

Patchwork & Quilting: Wednesdays, monthly 9.30am as advertised

Well-brahams Coffee Mornings, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 10.30-12.30

Table tennis: Wednesday pm every week

Community Choir: Thurs 8pm every week in the school term

Over 60s: last Thurs of the month 2pm except December which is 16th

Film Club: Friday or Saturday pm, monthly as advertised

Whist drives: 7.45pm Fri or Sat depending on other bookings

Weanie Warblers Toddler Group: Fri 9am every week in school term

Craft circle: Friday 1.15pm 1st Fri of the month

Unfortunately, 'Colours of Dance' Children's ballet, Youth Group, WI and Yoga are not resuming for the foreseeable future.

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 before their session.

We have decided to wait until Covid risks are over / minimal before resuming our social fundraising events in the hall. We are hopeful that this might be possible

from Spring 2021. Please put Sunday 5th June 2022 in your diaries – we will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee either indoors or outdoors, on the Recreation Ground.

In the meantime, we have been running the monthly Farmer's markets, with one more date before Christmas: Saturday December 11th 9.30am -12 noon. There will be lots of beautiful craft stalls indoors in the hall, so come prepared for some timely Christmas shopping! Our regular food and produce stalls will also be selling treats for the



Christmas table. It may be cold, raining, or windy, but there will be a warm welcome for everyone, with festive bakes, fresh coffee, and mulled wine to keep you going!



Other news:

We have been successful in applying for a £1000 South Cambridgeshire Community Chest grant to buy a new table for the table tennis club. Tony Goryn ordered it promptly and it is already in use!

We will be removing the two diseased cherry trees between 'Lufters' and 'Iceni Cottage' on Church Street in the next month

or so and replacing them with new cherry trees, planted slightly further into the Recreation Ground (they have been somewhat bashed by passing HGV's).

We have started a programme of redecorating the exterior of the Hall over the next year and are repairing / replacing the glazed doors.

If you would like to book the hall or have any practical queries, please contact

Shirley Morley (Booking Secretary)
booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com



If you have any comments or suggestions for things you would like to see at the hall, please contact me.

Emma Adams Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee mail@emma-adams.co.uk



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Over the farm gate

I wasn't really bothered about the publicised lack of CO² in a fizzy drink, it slightly worried me that some beers might not be as fizzy and the backlog of pigs and chickens waiting to be slaughtered was a concern, but I wasn't prepared for such a price rise in Nitrogenous fertilisers caused by the increase in Natural gas prices, along with a fertiliser plant temporarily closing. I normally buy the years supply sometime during Harvest, but the price was quite high at around £300 per tonne having paid about £280 the previous year. and I was advised by the broker to wait because her price was sure to come down especially if there were no buyers at that price. The price continued to rise and to ensure at least part of my requirements I was forced to buy at £650 per tonne OUCH. I still have some to buy and I predict a £60,000 bill will now be about £134,000.

I am using several tactics to reduce the use of this input mainly by trying to improve the efficiency of the plants uptake by ensuring healthy roots and plants, applying the fertiliser at critical times, and reducing the total amount applied, all strategies we normally use but a doubling of the cost concentrates the mind to get these things spot on.

Whilst on costs, the rising machinery repairs from harvest time continued, with the main tractor requiring a visit to the dealers for some major repairs to the four-wheel drive system and the GPS system on the sprayer needed some software updating. Luckily, we had finished sowing and spraying the winter corn when all this happened so the downtime wasn't too costly in terms of timeliness just cash. I had planned to change the seed drill this autumn, but that has had to be put on hold sadly until the outcome of all these issues becomes clearer. On a positive note, grain prices are up and staying firm with prices for next harvest also looking promising at just under £200

The winter barley variety this year has been changed and will now be a heritage variety, bred in Cambridge and a massive favourite of the craft brewers especially in the USA, Maris Otter, which I grew here 40 years ago. There is such a premium for this that it should return a better margin than its higher yielding modern cousins, I hope. Anyway, it is in the ground and not looking too bad. We have also been accepted into The Countryside Stewardship Scheme, so I am planning to plant some flowers and bird seed mixes for the Spring. We are just about to start the winter ploughing campaign as well as the sugar beet lifting so hope for some dry crisp winter days and judging by the amount of fruit on the hedges, we are due a hard winter according to folklore. However, my trusted harvest predictor the dog rose was nearly 2 weeks adrift so maybe the seasons are slipping.

Chris Ascroft. wilbrahamfarms@gmail.com

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

Masks: The guidance from PHE is for both staff and patients to continue to wear masks in healthcare setting. We would ask that all patients please continue to wear a mask when they attend to the surgery in order to protect them, other patients and our staff.

Blood Samples: Due to a shortage of equipment your GP may discuss with you postponing routine / non urgent blood tests.

WAITING FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT ADDENBROOKES HOSPITAL?

If your GP has referred you to Addenbrookes Hospital there are a number of ways you may receive your appointment.

If there are available appointments for GPs to book into at Addenbrookes Hospital, we will provide you with a letter confirming your appointment. This letter will include a reference number and a password so you can change or cancel your appointment online or by phone directly with the hospital.

If there are no available appointments for GPs to book into at Addenbrookes Hospital or you have been referred to a triage service for further assessment, you will either receive a letter direct from them confirming an appointment or a letter from the hospital asking you to phone to make an appointment.

Due to increased demand on all services there are longer wait times to receive routine appointments. Should you be concerned you have not received an appointment at the hospital when the GP has confirmed they will refer, please contact the Appointment Team at Addenbrookes Hospital:-

New appointments - 01223 274593 : Return appointments - 01223 274900

Alternatively, please email: callhandling-patientcontact@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Covid Booster Jabs: These are being arranged nationally and you will receive an invitation letter when yours is due. You will need to book an appointment either via 119 or online for a local site such as the Grafton Centre or Chesterton Bowls Club. Do not ring the surgery for an appointment.

Calls into the practice: The practice has seen a significant increase to the number of calls being received in practice. On Monday 11 October the practice received over 1,100 calls. The usual call rate for a Monday is approx. 350. This means 1/6th of the practices' patients tried to call in one day.

In order to ensure that the practice's clinical team can continue to offer safe and timely care to all 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 hay fever, 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 the surgery website bottishammedicalpractice@ .

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

Please note the practice is offering pre-bookable appointments for routine appointments; on the day appointments now only for acute and emergency care.

The practice has seen an increase in aggressive behaviour towards staff. This will not be tolerated under any circumstances. All staff are doing their very best to help all patients who make contact with the practice.

Funds: We have contributed to the purchase of the new ECG machine. Thank you to all who have donated.

Better Health and Self Care: With winter on the way it is important to keep as fit as possible with a healthy diet, exercising and not smoking. Most winter ailments, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, 'flu are viruses for which antibiotics are not effective. Remedies can be obtained from pharmacists. It is useful to buy these before you become unwell, so you have them to hand. Examples of useful medications to have at home would be paracetamol, ibuprofen, gaviscon, dioralyte or similar rehydration solution salts. Lemsip and other cold and flu remedies are also useful. Self-care for common conditions can help free up GP time making it easier to get an appointment for a more serious condition. 111 is now available online as well as via phone: <https://111.nhs.uk/> 111 online will review your health condition and advise on the best appropriate service.

Minor Eye Conditions Service: This is available free on NHS with several optometry practices. These include acute red eyes, irritated or inflamed eyes, sticky discharge, ingrown eyelashes, or foreign bodies. If found to be urgent requiring prompt treatment these will be redirected to A & E. See website www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/other-local-services/minor-eye-conditions-service/.

Next meeting: If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at s.j.gilson@btinternet.com who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting January 26th 2022 at 2pm.

Bottisham Patients Participation Group



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Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Covid Support and Well-brahams update

As reported before, the Covid Support group has now merged with the Well-brahams. We are focused on helping the community get back to normal and, going forward, to promoting physical and mental health and providing support to anyone with health-related problems.

Whilst there are still many people being affected by Covid, by making sure we get booster vaccinations (and flu vaccinations) when offered and continuing to take reasonable precautions, we can stay as safe as possible, whilst beginning to venture out and socialise.

So, in the spirit of 'reconnection', the Well-brahams and Covid support group held the first of our Coffee Mornings in the Memorial Hall on 10 November. It was great fun, and we hope everyone felt very safe: we had the doors wide open, we were well-spaced, the Hall was double cleaned, and we wore masks in crowded spaces (though not whilst drinking coffee!)



And, more importantly, we had real coffee (thanks to the expertise of Dru and Cheryl in the kitchen), delicious homemade cakes (thanks to all the cake makers!) and a lovely opportunity to relax, chat, catch up with friends and make new ones. There were more than 30 people, from the very young who demanded that the play mats and toy cars be produced – to the not so young! – and the whole event reminded us of the close community in which we are so lucky to live.

There are two more Well-Brahams coffee mornings still to come before Christmas – the dates to look forward to are Wednesday 1 December and Wednesday 15 December (a chance for an early Christmas celebration). Do put them in your diaries.

The event was funded through the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Covid recovery funds and the Parish Councils who are all very committed to supporting the communities. Thanks are also due to the Coop who provide financial support to the Well-brahams as a local cause within the members' dividend scheme.

We continue to be available for help or to provide information if people run into covid-related, or other problems. Do contact us via the Well-brahams website.

Hilary Burton (Tel 07710787917, hb384@cam.ac.uk)

Andrew Carter (Tel 07749 046499, apc48@cam.ac.uk)

Joy Bray (Tel 07707 816467, joy.bray@talktalk.net)

Success at the National Dahlia Society Show

Congratulations to Peter Wilson of Little Wilbraham for his success at the National Dahlia show.

Growing dahlias requires much preparation, dedication and determination as well as the ability to cope with the vagaries of the weather, parasites and other pests to obtain and maintain blooms in peak condition. Peter's preparation began early in the year planning, potting and nurturing his young plants to healthily develop to maturity with lots of potentially prize-winning flowers. Daily attention to the growing plants enabled Peter to decide and select the plants that may be 'winners'.

As the event approached, decisions were finally taken and in the evening before the show 14 potential blooms were cut and prepared for transport to RHS Wisely.

Peter with his precious cargo left in a taxi at 10.00pm arriving at 12.30am.

Between 12.30 and 5.00 in the morning, Peter chose and prepared 9 blooms for presentation. The special category Peter was entering (Miniature Decorative Class) required 9 identical blooms of the same variety presented in three vases. He chose a yellow variety with the name 'Willowfield George'.



All those entering the competition had to leave the marquee by 7.30 am, so in the intervening hours, Peter had time to assess the 'competition' and make any final tweaks to his display. With the marquee cleared, judging began at 8.15 am and results were available at 11.00. Peter was ecstatic when he realised he had won 2nd place in his category at the National Dahlia Show. All the hard work and the oppressive heat in the marquee throughout the

day were forgotten in his excitement at getting the recognition.

Our congratulations to Peter for putting Little Wilbraham on the National Dahlia Map!

Christine Clewes



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Tuesday	09.00-17.00
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 WINTER 2021

Friday 17 December	School term ends
Saturday 25 December	Christmas Day
Sunday 26 December	Boxing Day
Monday 27 December	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 28 December	Bank Holiday
Friday 31 December	New Years Eve
Saturday 1 January	New Years Day
Monday 3 January	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 January	School term begins
Monday 14 February -	
Friday 18 February	Half Term

GW Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 January at 7.30 pm
See full report on page 9

LW&SMB Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 January and Thursday 17 February at 7.30 pm
See full report on page 16

Wilbrahams Environment Group

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 January at 7.30 pm

Mobile Library

The mobile library stops at Great Wilbraham opposite the playground on the 3rd Thursday in the month 11.10 – 11.40am. It then moves on to Little Wilbraham 11.50am -12.15pm; 16 December, 20 January, 17 February.
For Six Mile Bottom, the stop is Delaware Close every 1st Tuesday 11.35am – 12.00 noon; 7 December, 4 January, 1 February.

BIN COLLECTIONS

Black bins

Monday 12 December
Wednesday 29 December
Wednesday 12 January
Monday 24 January
Monday 7 February
Monday 21 February

Blue bins

Monday 6 December
Monday 20 December
Thursday 6 January
Tuesday 18 January
Monday 31 January
Monday 14 February
Monday 28 February

Green bins

Monday 6 December
Monday 20 December
Tuesday 18 January
Monday 14 February
Monday 28 February

Wilbrahams Memorial Hall

Farmer's markets, with one more date before Christmas: Saturday December 11th 9.30am -12 noon.

See the report on page 20 for a full list of the activities resuming in the Hall.

Queen's Jubilee

Sunday 5th June 2022

Community Group Contact Details

Great Wilbraham Common Rights	Steve Bartlett 881096 stephen.bartlett@mindworks.ltd.uk
Great Wilbraham Guild of Change Ringers	Peter Sims ptrs28@googlemail.com
Great Wilbraham Primary School GW Primary School PTFA	Office: 880408 Emily Oliver emilystar_uk@yahoo.com
Oil Syndicate, Great Wilbraham	Chris Gurney chris.gurney@tylers.net
Oil Syndicate, Little Wilbraham Over 60's	Sue Lee, lwoilgroup@gmail.com Keith Precious. 01223 880832 kprecious@btinternet.com
Volunteer Group The Well-brahams	Pat Simpson pas49@cam.ac.uk www.thewell-brahams.weebly.com well.brahams@gmail.com
Weenie Warblers Mother & Toddler Group Wilbrahams' Bridge Club	Sarah Fordham, 880698 Di Raikes, 881065 raikswilb@btinternet.com
Wibrahams' Community Choir	Vanessa Nichols 07876363707 vanessajnichols@gmail.com
Wilbraham' Gardening Club	Gill Humphrey 811436 Jackie Beadsmoore, 880889 jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com
Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall	Shirley Morley, 880723 booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com
Wilbrahams' Scrabble	The Harmers, 880934
Wilbrahams' Sports Club	Roddy Tippen 880728

Deadline for the Spring Issue Friday 11 February 2022

Email contributions or adverts to;

bramwell@globalnet.co.uk

martin@gienke.net

johnboy_torode@hotmail.com

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



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Wilbrahams' Community Choir

The Wilbrahams' Community Choir is back and we would like to encourage new members to join us!



Choir practice takes place again in the Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham (on Thursdays at 8pm during school term dates). We have COVID precautions in place to help keep everyone safe, which include asking choir members to have a negative

lateral flow test prior to attending choir practice, wearing a mask on arrival/leaving and socially distanced seating. This Christmas we are looking forward to singing in the local church carol services and are planning to do some carol singing around Great Wilbraham.

The choir is open to anyone and membership extends to those outside the Wilbrahams. We sing a wide range of music from pop to classical and there is no need to be able to read music. 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!

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

Stay well and keep singing!

Vanessa Nichols

Scary Faces

Frightening faces and artistic designs lit up the streets of the Wilbrahams on Halloween as trick or treaters took to the



area collecting their treats. They visited houses with Jack-o-lanterns out in front of the houses

where there were also treats. Sadly a few pumpkins were vandalised and smashed and the treats taken, but most had an exciting and adventurous evening.



Martin Gienke

Wilbrahams Bridge Club

Bridge club has started again on the First and Third Wednesday evening of the month at 7.30pm.



It was very good to see several of you who I have not seen since the beginning of lockdown-almost two years which is a long time. We are all fully vaccinated and most of us by now have had a booster as well. We are all happy to wear a mask if there are others on the table who wish to do so. Charlie and I do have to prepare the cards beforehand as well as sanitise the tables and chairs etc but are quite happy to do this.

I would like to thank Trish Davis and Veronica Taylor for holding the fort while we were away for the second session.

We have explored playing on a different evening but have kept to the usual plan as this appears to be the evening when most people are free.

Judging by the amount of happy chatter in the last session everyone is happy to be back playing again.

Please feel free to join us.

Diana Raikes. raikswilb@btinternet.com

The Library Presents

Cambridgeshire residents are invited to help select The Library Presents' Spring 2022 Season of arts events.

Selection is open until Midnight on 26 November 2021

Visit <https://www.library.live/the-library-presents-blog/choosing-the-library-presents-events-for-spring-2022-in-your-nearest-libraries>

Or pop in to one of the participating libraries: Arbury Court, Barnwell Road, Cambourne, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge Central, Clay Farm, Histon, Northstowe, Papworth, Sawston, Ramsey, St Neots, St Ives, March, Chatteris, Wisbech, Whittlesey, Ely, Littleport and Soham.

The Autumn Season of events is also live right now, all information is online at www.library.live/the-library-presents

Rupert Woods

Fulbourn Bingo

Fulbourn Bingo has been able to start up again on Fridays at The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn. Doors open at 7.30pm. Eyes down at 8.0pm. Everyone is welcome to come and join us. For more information call John Shepherd 880713

The Well-brahams Mental Health & Well-being Group

As we approach the end of the year, it seems that gradually the country is making a move towards opening up – more people are back in their offices, at least part time, and pubs, restaurants and theatres are starting to fill. Certainly, the booster vaccines roll out has resulted in more confidence for many, but there is also perhaps more anxiety amongst those who are less sure about mixing with groups or being in crowds. As the colder weather is approaching, we must still make some difficult decisions about socialising indoors. Some venues locally have invested in ‘tipis’ (like the homes of American Indians) and tents and they seem to be busy so there is still a clear demand for fresh air when out and about!

The Well-brahams are hoping to resume our series of talks and workshops when the opportunity arises, but will only do this when it is considered safe to do so.



There have been a few requests for some safe social interaction, so three coffee mornings are planned in the Memorial Hall between now and Christmas, the first having taken place before this Warbler reaches your letterbox. Please be reassured that stringent safety and cleanliness measures are employed during these events to minimise any risk to those hosting or attending.

Thanks to many of you who are Co-op members, The Well-brahams have benefited from over £2,700 in community funding, a staggering amount which will go towards future free activities and events for local residents.

Meanwhile, we have organised some very successful events over the last few months – Helen Clarke’s ever-popular watercolour workshop, a bulb planting Saturday in Great Wilbraham in conjunction with the Wilbrahams’ Environment Group (complete with delicious hot soup and cheese scones to warm the stalwart planters who worked so hard), and a well-attended and gloriously sunny Open Day at the Community Orchard on the 24th of October.

One of the great environmental success stories of the last 30 years has been the establishment and regeneration of community orchards; hundreds have been established throughout the country and are increasingly found in towns and



cities, schools and hospitals. They are many and various, providing an education in horticultural skills as communities share their knowledge; venues to rediscover customs and enjoy festivities; refuges for all manner of wildlife, and just as importantly, they provide places for quietness, reflection and contemplation.



The inspiration to promote these green spaces came initially from the small grassroots charity Common Ground, set up by Sue Clifford, Angela King and Roger Deakin. They have been at the forefront of community conservation and environmental education since 1983 and their initial aim was to help reconnect people with nature (particularly with the wildlife and

landscapes on their doorstep), and to inspire communities to become responsible for their local environment. They recognised the importance that familiar and locally distinctive places, plants and wildlife can have to a community. They also understood the emotional investment that people make in their surroundings - not only do we appreciate our local environment in the current moment, but also, we can acknowledge its valuable links to the past, as well as gaining a sense of hope as we envisage that environment flourishing into the future.



For those who attended the Open Day in our own precious green space, we hope you were able to imagine how this wonderful resource can be used in years to come. We are working closely with the Parish Council to regenerate what was originally a well-planned orchard and have consulted with renowned ‘Orchard Expert’ Bob Lever about the best way forward.

Work has already begun on long term plans for renewed planting of trees and hedges, bulb planting and wildflower sowing. Bob has also agreed to run a pruning workshop on Wednesday 12th January 2022, the details of which will be publicised shortly. We hope to soon

provide some picnic tables and benches to encourage families to make full use of the area and signs will be placed to identify each tree, with varieties named and advice on the best time to harvest and eat! Ideas are already popping up for seasonal events which could be held amongst the trees – concerts, workshops in art, horticulture, exercise or meditation. So plenty to look forward to as we approach the end of one year and the promise of the new.

In the words of Common Ground, ‘To save an old orchard is to inherit a place of richness and promise, to hold true to knowledge and value systems that understood nature better than we do now.

Orchards of tall trees are a wise way of sharing the land

A positive gift to those who follow.’

Julia A’Court

Website: www.thewell-brahams.weebly.com

Twitter: (@Wellbrahams)

Facebook: (The Well-brahams)

Wilbraham River Protection Society

Sharp eyed walkers may have noticed that this year the river has maintained flow ...sometimes a little tenuously...throughout the year. This is no accident.

An unusually wet winter helped but thanks to Tony Goryn and the Environment Agency river flows have been maintained. The river has retained water and the ecosystem has not been disrupted.

As you may know the Environment Agency pumps supplementary water into the river when the levels fall but the feedback loop has been fragile and often less water has been pumped than is allocated and is needed. Tony has fed back river levels to the Environment Agency throughout this year on a weekly basis. In turn the EA have pumped up to 100% of our allocation at times. It seems simple but due to variables such as groundwater levels, soil saturations, riverbed porosity and leaks pumping does not always equal flow.

The WRPS AGM will be held by zoom on November 25th at 7.00 pm . I will circulate the link to all current members for whom I have an email address. If you do not receive the link please contact me on my email or phone and I can update or register your mail.

Don’t forget that we have a new website with details of the river history, relevant reports, videos and links to other groups that are working to maintain our endangered chalk streams. Keep in touch with us at - www.thewrps.org

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The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust

Chairman's Annual Report for 2020/21

The past twelve months have seen the country gradually come out of its Covid lockdown slumbers, during which time the trustees have continued to review its profile and to improve upon the services that it offers to maintain & enhance the fabric of St Nicholas Church in Great Wilbraham.

This is done in two parts, firstly by following the recommendations of the church architect in their quinquennial (5yrly) inspection & report, last done in November 2020, which prioritises all the necessary repairs & maintenance; and secondly by enhancing the facilities offered within the building such as the recent installation of a wc & new kitchen in the tower and an upgraded electric space heating system (the most recent and completed just a few months ago).

To give a snapshot of the works done on the church over the past 12 years, that the trust has contributed towards, these include:

2009	- Nave reroofing	- £101,943
2010	- Chancel roof repairs	- £1,098
2011	- Audio system loop	- £5,688
2013	- Bell Tower repairs	- £3,345
2014/15	- Tower project planning	- £18,129
2016	- Tower project (wc & kitchen)	- £135,446
2017	- Vestry window repairs	- £5,844
2018	- South window repairs	- £21,610
2019a	- Adjusting sound of bells	- £2,280
2019b	- Re-rendering north transept	- £11,712
2019c	- Replastering parts internally	- £2,803
2021	- Installing new space heating	- £30,990
TOTAL		- £340,888

It should be noted that the church PCC & Fabric Sub-Committee & particularly Jeremy Barnett (treasurer) have also been very much involved in raising extra finance, including generous grants in 2015/16 to fund the Tower and Kitchen project.

Turning to the trustees, it is with great sadness to record that earlier in the year we lost Richard Wright, one of our longest standing trustees. His kindness and generosity will be much missed by the trust and all the villagers in Great Wilbraham and beyond. His place as a trustee has been taken by Alex Wright his son, who has kindly offered to follow in his father's footsteps. In the summer, Jeremy Davis became a trustee to supplement the trust's financial asset management skills (in particular to help manage the Capital Legacy Fund).

Regarding the Capital Legacy Fund, it's value in stocks/shares/cash as at 31 October 2021 was £271,053.10, and under the guidance of Jeremy Davis its assets are now all part of a "Total Return Fund", which provides income by both dividends & capital growth, so as to reduce risk and to maximise the overall return of the investments. All the capital gifts & donations are "protected" to ensure that the full sum donated plus an annual uplift in line with the CPI remains within the fund for the benefit of future generations.

The trust's cash holdings, comprising both cash in the bank and surplus capital gains held in the Capital Legacy Fund (over and above the CGI protected donated capital and a two year guaranteed income reserve of £10K pa), is more than sufficient to cover the budget cost of £13K to make good and repaint the internal main walls of the church, following the recent new space heating installation works, which are scheduled to be done between now and Christmas.

During 2021, an individual parishioner made a very generous donation of £4,000, to be specifically added to the Capital Legacy Fund, which is now protected and in place for the benefit of future generations.

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 tax payer)...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

With my best wishes, Graham Clarke, Chairman



20 MPH Limit in Great Wilbraham

The two recent village surveys carried out by the Transport Working Group (TWG) revealed an overwhelming desire for a 20mph speed limit through the village, and this has become a principal objective for TWG. Unfortunately, there is a major obstacle. The existing policy of Cambridgeshire County Council is that to be eligible for a 20mph limit, we must be able to show an average speed through the village of 24mph or lower.

That policy has been in place for some time but the new administration in the County Council has undertaken to revise it. At the suggestion of TWG, the Parish Council lobbied CCC in August for an early change, and TWG recently learned that the policy was being discussed by CCC's Transport and Highways

Committee on 4 November. Following the meeting, our County Councillor, Claire Daunton, put TWG in contact with Cllr Peter McDonald, Chair of the Committee

Mr McDonald has confirmed that the policy is under active review, and that it will come back to the Highways and Transport Committee as a 'Key decision' either in December or January. The 20mph limit will be part of a wider strategy on HGVs, Civil Parking Enforcement and Active Travel – that is cycling, walking and the like. There is room for optimism. TWG will keep residents informed.

For TWG. David Richer hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com

A view from the garden

The morning sun creeps over the horizon in angry mode. Briefly, the churchyard wall glows deep pink in harmony with a thin veil of cloud in the eastern sky. It quickly morphs into a dreamy yellow colour reflected high on the lime trees beyond. Rain is on the way.

Autumn has stretched itself, to the delight of many plants that have kept their leaves green well into November. Short spells of heavy rain, at intervals so that the soil remained nicely moist but not too wet, combined with unusually warm temperatures have made this a very long season. A false sense of security maybe, as no doubt winter will assert its presence in due course to precipitate an overdue leaf-fall.

We seem to have had more bird-strikes on our south-facing kitchen windows this year. Typically, it happens on a bright morning when I'm sitting in the lounge having a coffee break. A dull thud will startle me when reading the newspaper, and outside I would discover a stunned starling or blackbird. Probably a learner-flyer or maybe it was startled by a sparrow-hawk on its regular sortie through the gardens, but unlikely to be due to an improvement in my window-cleaning skills.

The vegetable garden has done well and the brassica patch should provide us with plenty of greens. I've just sown some Aquadulce broad bean seed in the hope of an early crop next May, with a space for another possible sowing between Christmas and New Year as insurance against a hot, dry Spring.

Winter pruning jobs however, should wait until the trees and bushes are properly dormant, and this puts a squeeze on getting it done before the sap starts to rise again in early Spring. One of the effects of global warming is more cloud generation due to greater evaporation from the oceans. Combined with higher CO2 levels, it will probably increase plant growth in many species. The main beneficiaries so far are evergreens. So watch out for the Ivy. Blink, and it will take over!

Nigel Start

Two different aspects of councillor life to share with you...

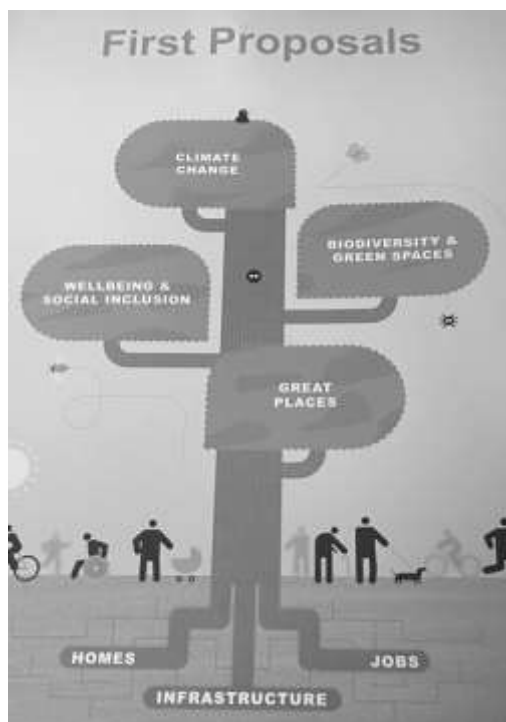
There are some things about which one just has to be outspoken: good bread and marmalade from the farmers' market, to name but two. And in the Wilbrahams, of course, HGVs. It's a serious point! It's also a serious point right across the County: many villages are affected by HGVs of various kinds passing through tight corners.

The County Council's HGV Working Group has been meeting monthly to look at the problem in the round, to hear evidence and gather statistics so that it can report to the County Highways committee with recommendations. A representative from the police is part of the group and we have asked questions recently of representatives from the haulage industry as well as from National Highways

(formerly Highways England). We also receive information from groups across the County and are able to feed in our own experience: one member told us recently of really constant heavy traffic (tens of movements a day) throughout the day going to a nearby commercial facility.

Legitimate facility, public road: what can be done? This is the kind of issue which we are probing. I do not yet know what the Group's recommendations will be, but I will keep you up to date. The Wilbrahams are by no means alone!

Minimising traffic and working for sustainable development is a major aim of the joint South Cambs and Cambridge City emerging Local Plan. We are hearing a good deal now about the 'green agenda', but the current administration in South



Cambs has had 'Green to the Core' as one of our objectives from the outset. The emerging Local Plan is fully aligned with this. Here is the link

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-preferred-options/about-plan>). Closing date for comments is 13th December.

There's a huge amount in the Plan and it is worth getting to grips with, I promise you. After all, it's about this area and how it might develop and change. This is

our opportunity to give our view and exercise our influence. The document is long, but it's broken down into themed sections: climate change, wellbeing and social inclusion, biodiversity and green spaces, great places. I find taking one of these at a time is the best approach.

You will have your own particular areas of interest. They are all important, but as a historian interested in buildings I was drawn first to the 'great places' section.

Policy GP/QD: Achieving high quality development. This includes the protection of heritage assets and buildings of community value. It also includes a section on making such assets fit for the 21st century, requiring proposals to take a 'whole building' approach when undertaking works to heritage assets, enhancing environmental performance and giving consideration to reducing carbon emissions and assisting with adaptation to our changing climate (for example external shading or property level flood protection).

There is an excellent section examining the subtleties in the different landscape and settlement forms of our area and how important it is to respect these. Here is a short quotation from this section:

'Greater Cambridge is a place of varied and subtle character, from the historic core of the Cambridge urban area to emerging business clusters, the biodiverse fen landscapes to the north and rolling countryside to the south, the historic villages and new towns. The policy will require all planning applications to include a comprehensive design and access statement that address this context. '

There is also a lot of good stuff on housing numbers, location of new housing, the need for appropriate infrastructure, for healthy and sustainable communities.

The plan has at its heart green, sustainable development and to that end it has, in large part, eschewed developments in villages where car transport is necessary. However, the plan does recognise that some village communities want and need small, sustainable developments, or 'exception sites. There is a policy supporting exception sites in appropriate locations, typically adjoining existing settlements, proportionate in scale to those settlements where there is an identified need. Community-led housing will also be supported on exception sites where it meets a clear need for affordable housing.

All this depends, however, on having a reliable, robust water supply. None of this development can go ahead without a commitment from national government and water companies that a sufficient and reliable supply will be in place.

I could go on... The Plan is well written, well laid out and really worth a read: to steal a phrase from another place, 'readers, I commend this document to you'.

Cllr Claire Daunton. Cllr.daunton@scambs.gov.uk 07905 473395

Proposed New Transport Options for Our Area

Have your say

Making Connections consultation (www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021)

Cambridge Eastern Access consultation
(www.greatercambridge.org.uk/NewmarketRd2021)

These two consultations concern transport proposals. Together they are for schemes proposing to help ease congestion for those travelling into and around Cambridge city, to provide better active travel (walking and cycling) options and to provide regular bus services for our rural area.

Both consultations are open from now until mid-December. Follow the web links for information and response forms.

Cllr Claire Daunton. Cllr.daunton@scambs.gov.uk 07905 473395

Churchyard Trees

Seeing the lime trees in the churchyard being pollarded the other day, I was reminded that when my family moved to the village some 40 years ago, one of the elderly residents told us that in the past villagers had the right to take the cut branches for use as bean poles. It also reminded me that somewhere I had an old postcard showing the trees around the church, and here it is.

The view of St Nicholas' is from The Lanes. At a guess, and judging from the size of the trees around the church and by the nature of the roads, the photo dates from before the Second World War, probably in the 1920s or '30s. That would make the trees some 90 years old. How splendid they still are.



The lane off to the left is of course Angle End, and there was no junction opposite where the school now stands. The state of the roads confirms that they were used more by horses than by HGVs – and there looks to be no problem with parking.

David Richer

Untold Stories 25 : John Torode

For this edition I met John Torode, and asked him first about his beginnings.

My mother is Norwegian. She came over here as an *au pair* and met my father who was in the RAF. I was born in Chatham, and my childhood was spent moving from one Air Force base to another.

An unsettled childhood.

It was, but it did not bother me. As a nurse I have moved around a lot, working in many different hospitals, but it has not affected me.

Did you go straight from school into nurse training?

No. I worked in a hostel for disabled people. After six months the nurse in charge suggested nurse training, but I had visions of working in the Forestry Commission or other work outside. As it turned out she was right. About a year later I applied and was accepted for training. I failed the State Registered Nurse (SRN) exam but qualified as a State Enrolled Nurse (SEN) and worked on renal units at several hospitals including St. Thomas's.

I met Helen at a Ball at the Princess Royal hospital in Haywards Heath. A mutual friend was very sceptical at the time, saying I had had a lot of relationships that only lasted about 6 weeks. Helen and I dated until she said Well, are we going to get married or what? We married in 1995, 26 years ago, and lived in Haywards Heath. Michael and Kristoffer came along in 1996 and 1998. Helen had trained as a nurse at Addenbrookes and in 2001 she was offered a job back at the hospital, in theatres. I got a job on the transplant high dependency unit and so we moved. Initially the four of us lived in a one-bedroom flat in Exning for six months. It was a tricky time with both of us working shifts. The boys meanwhile had started at First Steps nursery. We moved into our house in Little Wilbraham in 2002.

About 2005 the boys, along with others, were very keen to start a football team,



so the Wilbrahams Warriors was formed. Tiziano Caldera, Dave Adam and I took on the management and training. We had a mixed team, including girls. Tiziano arranged tours in Italy for a few years, and one year we even won the trophy. Some of the team stayed

with families and others stayed in hotels. We stayed with the Ronzoni family and we're still in touch with them.

What about the nursing?

I qualified in 1980 and then went on to do the renal course. I then did the conversion course in 1999. I am now a Specialist Dialysis Nurse in the Home Therapies department overseeing patients do their dialysis at home.

So you go to people in their own homes?

Yes. We're a team of six and cover an area that stretches from Hunstanton, to Stevenage and Kettering to Diss and Stowmarket in the east.

You must do a great mileage.

Not really. We arrange to do bloods, samples and tests all in one go. We also do outreach clinics, so we have to travel for them as well. We are not out in the car every day. One of us would be out in the car once or twice a week.

How has Covid affected all this?

Everything takes twice as long, with masks, visors, aprons and gloves for every visit. We have been lucky as most of our patients have been isolating.

You have been settled in this house since 2002. That is the longest time you have been anywhere. Do you ever get itchy feet now?



No, not really. There was a time in my life when the only constant was a house on an island off the West coast of Norway. My grandfather would summer there and winter in Kristiansand on the mainland. I would spend time with him on the island during the Summer.

Are you still involved in football?

No. When Wilbrahams Warriors eventually folded I gave up. I went on to do Cubs, until the boys were old enough to leave then I left that as well. I joined the Parish Council in Little Wilbraham for about three years. And during that time The Warbler was going through a rocky patch so John, Martin and I took over as editors. As a threesome it works well as I seem to get the casting vote.



So what is your particular role?

I will fill in for the others, and I write the editorial. You get two pages, I only get a page! Martin gathers everything, articles and ads, and John formats it.

How long do you spend on each issue?

It generally takes us over two weeks from the deadline for articles. The editorial might take me a couple of hours. I have known John work on an issue for over a week. I do not know how long Martin spends as he is collecting material all the time.

Have you any other social involvements?

I help behind the bar in the social club on most Fridays. I almost gave it up in the summer – I even got the key out to hand it back – but I could not do it. It's a very friendly place, and very relaxed, with people happy to stand and wait for their drinks.

What plans do you have for the future?

Helen is retiring in March next year. I am thinking of this time next year or early '23. I might then do a couple of days in the unit if they will have me back. My brothers and I would like to upgrade the house in Norway. It has no running water but has electricity. We need to sort out family ownership with my Norwegian cousins first

Is there anything you would like to say to the world?

Two things. First: keep wearing masks in public places. The NHS will continue to do so for months if not years. The second thing is climate change: if we do not look after the planet, there will not be a planet to look after.

John, thank you for sharing your life with us.

John Tanburn

Editors' note : John's references to timings relate only to some of the work of the editors.. Considerable time and effort is put in by many people in the preparation, printing, administration and delivery. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their help and support.



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Poulters in the Poor House



This is a photo of John and Alice Poulter who lived in the Poor House of the village which belonged to the Parish Council.

This cottage was opposite the old school in Church Street, Great Wilbraham. It had three bedrooms, a sitting room and kitchen, all very small. Also, built-in brick on each end of the cottage was a coal shed and

pantry and at the other end was a place for the copper. The toilet was outdoors in the back garden as was the well. Water was drawn from the well originally but later on, a cold water tap was installed in the kitchen. The garden was well kept with beautiful flowers each side of the front path.

John was the gardener for Mr. Philip Brown at the “Ivies” in Church Street, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nutbourne. He grew flowers at the “Ivies” for Covent Garden which he would box up, then load up the pony and trap and transport them to the station to go by rail to London. Alice had been a children’s nanny before marriage. Both John and Alice came from local families.

The cottage was pulled down and replaced by the block of flats we have today.

Fulbourn Winter Festival : Sunday 5th December Manor Walk from 1pm to 7pm

Manor Walk will be closed to traffic and festively lit for the duration of the Festival to allow a safe space for you to enjoy all the **stalls** (crafts, gifts, food, charities, local organisations). There will also be a **big marquee** on Pound Green opposite the War Memorial to house both a **bar** and the **musical events**, performed by local musicians throughout the afternoon

Lots of preparation has been taking place for the **Lantern Parade** involving school children from all of Fulbourn's schools which will end up outside the Church for the **lighting of the village tree** around 4:30pm. Look out also for the **Festival christmas tree** that will be erected in the Cambridge Car Sales yard to brighten up the High Street.

Don't forget to decorate your house with lights and get on the **walking tour map** for the big 'turn on' on Dec. 5th. Contact sesmason@hotmail.com to get on the map (which will be published for downloading on our website www.fulbournarts.org)

We still need **volunteers** to help on the day and be (at least part-time) Marshals. If you think you can offer some of your time on the day, drop us an email to fulbournarts@gmail.com with info on when you can offer some help.

Judge's Comments

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

This was meant to be included in the Autumn edition and the editors apologise for the oversight.

With the highly successful Doorstep Show 2020 format still fresh in our memories, the slight easing of COVID restrictions meant that arrangements could allow the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show 2021 to return to Great Wilbraham. The format of the show had been revised whereby giving exhibitors the chance to show their display on safe and socially distanced Table-Tops. On the day of the Show, the weather was set fair; well, it was very fair with blue skies and a hot summer sun. The twenty-one table-top stands were set out in an arc on the verdant green grass of the recreation ground.

The lack of Show Schedule provided the opportunity for families and friends to think creatively about how they could fill their space with home grown veggies, flowers, and fruits, home-made yummy looking cakes and loaves, and with arts and crafts produced within the last year. Seeing a scaffolded displaying trimmed with vines, and benches with the progenitors of "Ratatouille" showed there is no lack of imagination when it came to interpretation. To judge a display table, with such a variety of items, was a delightful challenge.

Trying to decide which exhibits on tables were up to being awarded a prize was indeed difficult. As may be expected, the veggies and fruit are to be big, blemish free and as uniform as possible. As a grower, I understand the difficulties that these standards present. Talk at the tables about the growing season showed what determination and planning the exhibitors have with some plants being germinated in the first few weeks of the new year.

As visiting judge, the produce displayed did not disappoint. All exhibitors are warmly and sincerely thanked for their displays and congratulated for making the event so much fun. The afternoon just whizzed by.

The Fruit and Veg Judge



Wilbrahams' Gardening Club

A pleasingly extravagant range of established plants and split perennial divisions for swapping and divvying up launched the Club's first venture back into the Memorial Hall since the covid pandemic began. With wine on tap and plenty of chat, this first event in our 2021/22 programme worked out very well indeed and we are looking forward to equally successful future events:

The 2021/2022 programme has been planned with the

assumption that winter may find more of us reluctant to meet indoors, especially as Covid infections are continuing to rise. Therefore, the next two meetings will be on Zoom.

Monday 20th December 19:30 - 20:30: End of year social via Zoom, as last year with quiz, photography competition and other activities. The photographic submissions will be on the theme of wildlife in my garden - so get snapping now.



Monday 21st February 19:30 - 20:30: Our Guest speaker, via Zoom will be Sally Greggson, discussing Practical Propagation. Sally lectures widely both here and abroad and writes regularly for local and national press. he has written a number of gardening books.

Monday 18th April 19:30 - 21:00: Memorial Hall (Main Hall) - Short AGM, followed by plant exchange, mostly seedlings.

June: Garden visit to heritage garden with guided tour by member of garden staff. Yet to be arranged. We also hope to have a stall selling plants at the Wilbrahams' Farmers' Market during this month.

August: Members 'Open Gardens

Jackie Beadsmoore

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400 Trees Planted for Jubilee



Over 400 trees have been planted at Coton Countryside Reserve to help the planet and celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Twenty volunteers had fun planting the trees on Saturday 13 November, which took them two hours.

The new woodland is being created by local independent charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future and was led by James Allsop, Senior Warden "The area where we have planted the trees was once farmland. When the trees grow up, they will create a new area of woodland that will provide wildlife habitat, reduce air pollution and store carbon. The trees will also form part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. We are really grateful to the volunteers who did a fantastic job."

Cambridge Past, Present & Future will be planting a further 4,000 trees this winter as part of its effort to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. Volunteers are needed to help plant the trees and tree planting events are being organised throughout the winter at Coton Countryside Reserve and Wandlebury Country Park. Tools, instructions and trees are provided. The next tree planting is on Sat 11 Dec near Coton village, details can be found on the events page at www.cambridgeppf.org

Wordsearch

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

Islands

19 Islands from around the world 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 57

John Bramwell

- (3) Main crop lettuce?
- (3) Odd spirit here
- (4) Young bear with a tail
- (4) Initially go to the reorganized zoo
- (5) Hundred with different pair
- (5) After initial loss secret can reveal this island
- (5) Sounds like an island lacking colour
- (6) Skimpy outfits required here?
- (6) Initially resting in centre of skeletal item with nothing to follow
- (6) Pullovers required?
- (6) Sounds like this island is covered with tarmac
- (6) Also includes carrier
- (7) Shorts required
- (7) Air made different here
- (7) No shortage of wisdom here
- (8) Hole and pile of stones come together
- (8) Specialists in small horses?
- (8) Did train change to get here
- (9) Changed pairs go NE

The Wilbrahams' Social Club

At last we have been to return to some normality and welcome members and their friends to the Club. However, we encourage everyone to remain cautious and respectful of others.

We reopened the Club last April on a very limited basis, but it was so good to meet with friends again. We served drinks from the door, initially on Saturdays, when the Cricket matches were as always, a big bonus, the cricketers and their supporters sitting round the Rec again with a drink or two but sadly no delicious cricket teas.



From the end of May we also opened on Wednesday evenings (table tennis), Friday evenings (c/o John T) and a few weeks later, Thursdays (Choir). Early in September we reopened inside the club with a few rules for people to follow. We are now attempting to recoup the £6,000 loss in the last financial year!!



On August 29th Nick Barraclough and the Federales entertained us on the rec, and it was a great afternoon - even line dancing in the back row! Unfortunately, the planned concert from the Tofties was cancelled due to the weather, we hope a new date will be confirmed in the New Year.

The football season is well underway and the Club has been very well supported by our team and the away teams with some very busy Saturdays!

We had our first coffee morning in October which went really well, and we think was very welcome.

The next coffee and cake dates (with raffles) are:

Saturday, November 20th, and December 18th 10.30 - 12

Current opening hours:

Wednesdays - 7pm, Thursdays - 8pm, Fridays - 6.30pm

Saturdays - if football at home 3.30pm, otherwise 6pm – ish

Join us on Boxing Day after the annual Married v Singles Football Match which kicks off at 10.30. Everyone welcome - to play or just a cheer and a drink, followed by the quiz in the Memorial Hall at 2.00pm.

These hours are subject to bar staff availability. If anyone would like to help with the bar rota we would be very grateful!

We look forward to seeing you and wish you all a good Christmas and a Happier New Year.

The Social Club Committee

Wilbrahams Cricket Club Season 2021

A return to success!

After the last couple of seasons of very little and mixed cricket it was great to finally see a return to a full season (well nearly) of cricket at our glorious ground. So I thought I'd put together a season review, I just hope I don't lose you all before the finish!



A return to Senior League cricket at last for us brought some games with familiar teams from years past. Sadly, Fordham pulling out of the league after a few games meant another old cricket club being lost.

So, it was a great start for the season opener, with an away win at Chesterfords restricting then to 190 all out (Charlie Moore 3-35, Alex

Goddard 3-35) and chasing it down in just 35 overs (George Moore 102no)

Then came three weeks of horrific rain, wind and general rubbish weather, actually suited to real ducks rather than the cricketing sort! And 3 cancelled games, 2 home to Saffron Walden and Barrington and 1 away to Yelling.

Then May was completed with a home loss to Takeley, comprehensively beaten only managing 129 all out when chasing 220. (Sam Charman 2-27, Ross Craig 30)



So May was 1 win, 3 cancelled and 1 loss, not quite the return to cricket we had all been excited for!

So to June – The winning month, played 3, won 3.

Away vs Isleham, a day for Joel Gawthrop, 56no with the bat, 2-9 with the ball, a stumping and a fielding catch after swapping wicket keeping duties.

Away vs Ramsey, a day for Captain Charlie Moore, 121no with the bat, 4-40 with the ball and 2 catches

Home vs Girton, a team we've had our differences with, in previous years, we welcomed a new young lad, about who all we knew was "likes to bat a bit...", thrown in to open the batting and promptly smashes 104, welcome Wade Pettican! Taking us to 231, we then bowled Girton out for 106 (Charlie Moore 4-29) which was rather satisfying!

July – a collection of very close losses...

At home to Chesterfords, we started the month with a massive win, by 140 runs, we batted first accumulating 268 runs, with Wade Pettican getting 131 and Charlie Moore 60. The bowlers then being very mean and restricting the runs (Tom Sweeney 3-28)

Then the losses, and just too close to not be very annoying....

Away vs Saffron Walden, loss by 11 runs (Tom Sweeney 2-14, Wade Pettican 39)

Away vs Barrington, loss by 8 runs (Tom Sweeney 2-21, Joel Gawthrop 41)

Home vs Yelling, loss by 8 runs (Ross Craig 2-41, Ross Craig 31)

Away vs Takeley, loss with 2 overs left (Ross Craig 67, Tom Sweeney 3-31)

Fortunately for us (thought it didn't feel like it at the time) our closest rivals in the league were also taking the opportunity to lose games also....

August – The finishing straight, and a positive one.

Andy Goryn



Wilbrahams' Football Club Season 2021-22

Another new season started on 11th September with a keen young team (bar a couple of us who refuse to quit...) and it started well with a close win over Alconbury Reserves, this was then followed by 4 more wins, including progression to the next round of the cup and with 3 hattricks in 3 games from our star striker, Kyle Hodson, followed by another hattrick by out normally goal-shy defensive midfielder, Shane Seddon. The season had begun well! Sadly, a couple of losses followed another win and a bitter loss decided by a penalty that was heard by the ref rather than seen, his words, you work it out!! Hearing boot on boot was reason enough....

So, at the time of writing, it leaves us 5th in a close table with 5 wins from 8 and the next round of 2 cups to play. So hopefully with some more luck our way and the continued good form making a comeback we will rise and be a contender come may....



Also, we were very fortunate to have a new kit bought for us by our new sponsor Wilbrahams Social Club, with updated team badge and kit, what could be better!! Fingers crossed and we look forward to seeing at our games, a fixture list will be added to the Social Club windows and we will update the village website as it is changing around at the moment!

aspiring striker (now we have a proper goalkeeper!), Andy Goryn, Club Secretary

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4 issues per year

Spring (March), Summer (June), August (September), Winter (December)

Over 500 copies distributed to

Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham

Six Mile Bottom

Rates per issue : Full page £43.00, ½ page £27.00, ¼ page £16.00

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