

# Wilbrahams' Warbler

Spring 2022



Great Wilbraham : Little Wilbraham : Six Mile Bottom

## The Community Orchard

Page 29



## Winter Wonder Walk : Page 18



## Flower and Produce Show : Page 37

## Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall : Page 21



## A Little Piece of History Page 25

<b>Contents</b>	<b>page</b>
Public Service Contact Details	4
Editorial	5
Letters	7
Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group	8
Great Wilbraham Parish Council	11
Highways Matters: Limits & Zones, Lines & Signs	13
Little Wilbraham Parish Council	15
Over 60's	15
Great Wilbraham School	16
Wilbrahams' Winter Wonder Walk 2021	18
Wilbrahams' Choir	19
Wilbrahams Memorial Hall	21
Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	23
A Little Piece of History	25
Over the farm gate	27
Wilbrahams River Protection Society	28
To the memory of Pauline Waters	29
The Community Orchard	29
Patchwork & Quilting Group	31
Wilbrahams' Gardening Club	31
Great Wilbraham School Early 1900's	32
Notice Board	34/35
Flower and Produce Show 2022	37
Photography at the Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show	41
Well-brahams	43
Bruce Springsteen and Other Matters	45
Red2Green land Co-op Community Fund	47
Wilbrahams' Social Club	48
Tilly	48
The Carpenters Arms	51
Wilbrahams Environment Group	51
Wilbrahams Cricket Club	52
Time to get walking again!	53
A view from the garden	55
The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust	55
Highways Code changes	57
Wordchain	59
Wilbrahams' Transport Working Group	60
Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Application	62
Maggies	63
Advertisers	65
Bus Timetable, 3 & 18	66

## Public Service Contact Details

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

### Great Wilbraham Parish Council

Chairman	Sally Ramus <a href="mailto:chairGW@wilbrahams.co.uk">chairGW@wilbrahams.co.uk</a>
Clerk	Natalie Mulvey 07887813702 <a href="mailto:clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk">clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk</a>

### Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

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Clerk	Hayley Livermore 07725080631 <a href="mailto:clerkLW@wilbrahams.co.uk">clerkLW@wilbrahams.co.uk</a>

County Councillor	Claire Daunton 07905473395 <a href="mailto:Claire.Daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Claire.Daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>
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MP Lucy Frazer	<a href="mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk">lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk</a>

Cover photo by Chris Fell.

Other photos by Chris Fell, Martin Gienke, contributors

# Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Wilbrahams' Warbler. We have all the usual things you've come to expect in this edition; letters, articles and reports. There's an update on the Carpenters Arms, about when they are hoping to open and pictures of the work being carried out, including what sounds like it's going to be a spectacular dining area.

It is also quite a sad edition. As you may already know Chris Ashcroft, one of our longest serving contributors sadly died recently following an accident on the farm. His insightful and informative 'Over the Farm Gate' articles explained what it was like to work and manage a farm today. Chris first did 'Over the Farm Gate' in Spring 2013. It was just after we as editors had taken over on the winter edition of 2012. He will be sadly missed not only by the editors, but by the wider community as well. Chris's daughter, Clare, has provided the 'Over the Farm Gate' for this issue.

As we were going to Press we were saddened to hear that another of our long term contributors, Keith Precious died on 21<sup>st</sup> February. You will have seen his regular Over 60's Club reports. He was very active in the village and always had time for a friendly chat from his motorised transport. We shall miss Keith and his articles in the Warbler.

We also have tributes to Pauline Waters, Rob Wicket, Tony Nutbourne and Nichola Start.

David White shows us that he is not only a farmer but a miller, baker and consumer in his article 'A little piece of history' when he talks about milling again at Hawks Mill farm.

In all of my time doing the editorial I would never have thought that you could include Bruce Springsteen and roads in the same breath but Clare Daunton has managed to do just that.

And just to put things right we finish Andy Goryn's Cricket report from last season and wish them well for the coming one.

According to David Richer, a member of the transport working group, we are now waiting to see what happens regarding 40mph Buffer Zones in Mill Road and Station Road, and Village Gateways again in Mill Road, Station Road and The Lanes. As the County Council will let the group know later in the spring we will hopefully be able to bring the news to you in our summer edition.

I would like to finish on a happier note and say that there are plans to stage two events in the Wilbraham's to celebrate the Queens platinum jubilee. A beacon in Little Wilbraham on the evening of Thursday the 2nd June and The Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June. These events as you can appreciate take a lot of organising so if you can help, please do.

John Torode

## Thankfulness

This poem was given to us by Greta. It was written many years ago by her mother-in-law. Apparently, it was included in a published book of poems.

At evening hour, when the day's life  
And all its varied tasks are done,  
When wearied souls seek rest from strife  
And welcome the quiet hours to come.  
Then men of high and low degree,  
Look up, in trust, O lord to Thee  
We thank thee for the morning hours, when daylight brings  
New hopes, new thoughts, new strength, on eager wings.  
Lord, help the nervous mind to grasp the truth of things.

The coward, who though o'erwhelmed with shame  
Through hours must face  
The taunts of men, the sneer of those who see disgrace.  
Give him the heart to stand erect, his conscience brace.  
We thank Thee for the hours of ease,  
When we can see the beauty of the countryside  
Of flower and tree,  
The stretch of ocean's rolling tide,  
The mountains and the desert wide.

We thank Thee too, for that hour of true pride  
In some dear one, who at our side,  
Has won or tried to win, some game of life,  
Or come victorious through some path of strife.  
The hours fly quickly by we cannot with time race,  
Or e'en with it keep face.  
And while we cannot cross the line  
Which now divides our hours from Thee,  
There is no time in which we can  
Evade Eternity.

Dora Steward Rees

# Letters

## Dear Editors

As milkman to the Wilbrahams and SMB, for 36 years [1977-2013], I have many valued memories of the villages. One of these, is of a small girl greeting me at the door, with her mother, on a Friday morning, always cuddling her pet rabbit. She struck me as such a happy child.

I would like to express my condolences to Daf and Nigel for the loss of their daughter Nicola.

Edwin Webb

## Dear Editors

I would like to thank all our friends and neighbours in the villages for their kindness and support to Rob and to me during the last years and months when Rob was suffering from Alzheimers disease. Rob loved living in Great Wilbraham and taking part in village activities. He was a keen member of the Gardening Club for many years. Rob was always delighted when there was a knock on the door on a Thursday evening and an invitation to join a group for a pint at the Carpenters Arms. He very much enjoyed going to the Scrabble afternoons in the Hall and looked forward to them. Rob especially liked walking around the village and meeting and chatting with friends, and their dogs!



I would personally like to thank friends who were able to come to the celebration of Robs life at the Crematorium. I am also so grateful for all the kind words of sympathy, photographs, flowers and cards that I have received since Rob died. I appreciate your kindness very much. We miss him greatly.

Shan Wickett

## Dear Editors

The village has been forbidden to put up 20's Plenty signs on Highway's land whilst attempting to protect private properties and residents who are threatened by speeding cars ,vans and HGVs, yet our area is littered with such signs and has been for many years.

Many signs object to the new Sewage Farm at Honey Hill and we can, for example, all still visit Santa in his Grotto at The Missing Sock if the signs are to be believed.

We have apparently been told we villagers have to put ourselves at risk and tidy up our footpath edges and maintain them even though the land belongs to the

Highways and our rates pay for this. SCD are responsible for grass cutting but charge householders even when they do not carry it out.

Are we being singled out because the TWG is highlighting the dangers from which we should all be protected from as a matter of course?

Please keep supporting our TWG.

Roger Burton

## **Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group**

**Thanks:** Thank you to all those who supported the Practice in their objection to the Retirement Village appeal. The hearing is currently under way.

**Red Bucket Funds:** We have contributed to the purchase of the new ECG machine. Thank you to all who have donated. Our current balance is now £49.31.

**Better Health and Self Care:** Although Spring is on its way it is still important to keep as fit as possible with a healthy diet, exercising and not smoking. Most ailments, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, and 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, ingrowing 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/](http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/other-local-services/minor-eye-conditions-service/).

**The Pod:** With a grant from the Federation the Practice is planning to purchase a Pod machine to be sited in a cubicle where the playhouse currently stands. This machine will enable patients to weigh, check blood pressure and enter urine sample results which will all be downloaded onto their records on System 1 so the GP can note issues and make best use of the appointment time. Patients report finding home monitoring of their blood pressure difficult.



## **From The Practice:**

**Appointments:** The same number of patients are now being seen face to face as pre-pandemic.

**Dispensary:** Please be aware that dispensary continue to have a five-day turnaround time for repeat prescriptions. They are continuing to offer a delivery service for medication. Please pick up a leaflet in practice or go online in order to register for this service.

**Staff Changes:** Dr Bouzedi and Dr Kanagasabapathy left the Practice at the end of January. Dr Harrison will be returning to the Practice from 1 April. The practice is pleased to announce the appointment of a very experienced paramedic who started on 7 February. Ellie will be doing home visits and minor illness clinics.

**Ear Syringing:** Appointments for this are available at the surgery between 10am and 1pm

**Our Patient Participation Group** is a member of the National Association of Patient Participation, whose aim is to enable patients and their medical practice to achieve high quality and responsive care. The Association's aims are as follows:-

- To act as 'critical friend' to provide a patients' perspective ensuring services, plans and activities respond to patients needs and priorities.

- To foster communication with the wider patient population building stronger patient-doctor relationships.

- To provide practical support to practice teams e.g. conducting and analysing patient surveys, organizing health awareness events etc.

- To encourage those with long term and/or multiple health conditions to gain confidence in managing and taking control of their health and care.

- To help other patients take more responsibility for their health and make informed decisions.

As our current committee is such a tiny representation of the wider patient group we are not able to fully achieve all these aims.

**The Patient Participation Group** is looking for new members to join. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved.

**Next meeting:** If you would like to join one of our Zoom meetings please email our chairman at [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com) who will send you a meeting invite. Next regular meeting March 23rd, 2022, at 2pm. AGM to be held on 27th April 2022 via Zoom at 2pm, details of the speaker will be in our article next month.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group

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For details see page 67

# Great Wilbraham Parish Council

## Great Wilbraham Parish Council Election on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The Parish Council is up for election this year. Publication of the Notice of the Election will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The deadline for receipt of nomination is 4.00pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Do you want to make a difference to your village?

Get involved with your community.

Have a say about the local issues people care about.

Influence local service delivery.

Decide how local money is spent to improve your community.

If elected, Parish Councillors sit on the council for four years. If they then want to stay in post, they can stand for re-election. This does not mean that they must stay for four years. If they find it's not for them it is possible to stand down. There is already one vacancy on the Parish Council, therefore, this will be an opportunity to apply for a position through the election process. Please note the election will only actually take place if more than seven people submit nomination forms.

If you would like more information on what is involved or the application process, please visit the [www.wilbrahams.co.uk](http://www.wilbrahams.co.uk) website or contact the Parish Clerk.

## Precept Set for 2022 – 2023

At the January Parish meeting a precept of £31,627 was agreed for the year 2022-2023. The precept will give a Band D equivalent for 2022/23 of £110.70. This is an increase of £7.49 or 7.26% to the Band D equivalent charge in 2021/22. The precept requested is £1439.00 higher for 2022/23 than the previous year. The tax base has decreased from 292.5 to 285.7 this results in an increase to the Band D equivalent cost.

## Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 21st April 2022

It is hoped that this year's Great Wilbraham Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Memorial Hall, subject to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting will include a brief report from the Chairman and a summary of Parish finances from the Clerk. Local community groups are welcomed to come to the meeting and promote their activities. This is one of the best ways to let the Parish Council know your views so please come along. If you have any items that you think should be included on the agenda, please speak to one of the Parish Councillors or email [clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk](mailto:clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk).

## **Thank you**

The Parish Council would like to thank all the volunteers in the village who helped the local community during the pandemic. The contribution which volunteers have made to support their community has been extraordinary and it is important that this effort is recognised and appreciated.

## **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. It is hoped that householders will take responsibility for their own boundaries as required by law and to support the health and safety of all villagers.

Councillor Claire Jackman is taking the lead in overseeing the verge grass cutting, and general maintenance of village trees and hedges. The Parish Orchard and Cemetery boundaries have been cut back and the ditch cleared to promote healthier growth and try to help the flood protection of parts of the village. Further work is planned on the trees in the village that are the responsibility of the Parish Council. As requested, on behalf of the Diocese, Carter Jonas has cut back overgrowth along Toft Lane and cleared the ditch making the pathway clearer.

## **Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Vacancy**

The council is seeking to appoint a committed and enthusiastic person to fill the post of part-time Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, working from home. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have experience in administration, financial accounting and budgeting.

For a detailed job description or an informal chat about the role please contact the Clerk on [clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk](mailto:clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk) or one of the Parish Councillors. The Parish Council welcomes all applicants. Applicants should have an interest in the local community and in upholding the positive reputation of the Council.

## **Next Council Meeting**

The next scheduled full Council meeting will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. All residents are very welcome to attend.

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

Great Wilbraham Parish Clerk

## Highways Matters: Limits & Zones, Lines & Signs

Great Wilbraham Parish Council has been active in making applications for financial support from Cambridge County Council for a number of Local Highway Initiatives (LHI) over recent years, although we have not always been successful. A joint scheme by Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham for a 40 MPH buffer zone between Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham and associated markings was achieved recently but there have been several others that have not, including our application for 2020/1.

Other traffic calming initiatives in past years have included a 'Safer Routes to School' footpath through the Parish Church and traffic calming measures in The Lanes with a road-narrowing feature and flashing hazard warning lights that operate during school drop off and pick up. The Parish Council has traffic calming and other road safety initiatives frequently on the agenda and traffic management in the village is an ongoing process of continual improvement. Some villagers have established an independent Transport Working Group (TWG) to help support this.

In January, after careful consideration, the Parish Council unanimously approved another new LHI application. The scheme as proposed by TWG was considered by Highways and revised to deliver features that would be most effective for our situation and also bring the cost much closer to our original budget. It includes new 40 MPH buffer zones in Mill Road and Station Road and entrance gate features at all access points to the village. This comprehensive scheme, if successful, will make it as clear as possible to drivers of all vehicles before they enter the village 30 MPH limit, that additional caution is required.

The new 40 MPH buffer zone in Station Road will extend all the way to the entrance to Wilbraham Common. This should help to moderate traffic speeds on a section of road that is used by many pedestrians to access the village footpath network.

Great Wilbraham could benefit from £22,000 of traffic calming measures for an investment of £7,000. Jens Kolind and David Richer from the Transport Working Group, presented the new LHI scheme to the panel on-line, on behalf of the Parish Council. We are very grateful to them and TWG members for their work on this application. In addition, we have had full support for our proposed scheme from our County Councillor so we are hopeful that it will score highly enough to attract funding. It should be noted that there is competition from other Parish Councils so there are no guarantees we will receive the funding.

Nevertheless, whatever the outcome of the LHI application, fully costed plans, with money put aside, are already in place for a Parish Council Funded Highways Improvement scheme to upgrade existing traffic calming features in The Lanes close to the school. A range of options are currently being considered at this

important location in collaboration with the school. One of the considerations is that the danger caused by additional parked vehicles at school drop off and pick up times is for a very short time on weekday mornings and afternoons, term time only. The final scheme, when decided, will complement the existing features enhanced by the recent repainting of the signs and lines road markings by Highways. The line painting work was long awaited and completed as part of the on-going Highways maintenance programme.

Another traffic calming initiative is the village mobile vehicle activated sign (MVAS). For safety and environmental reasons the MVAS has now been returned to the manufacturer for a solar power conversion and it will soon be redeployed around the village. A comprehensive survey of traffic speeds and volumes will be completed to compare the current situation with the historic data recorded during the 1st survey some years ago. This MVAS was brought into service with the assistance of many volunteers and has been very helpful in identifying trends in traffic velocity and volume. Future data from the MVAS could be used to design further traffic calming features as and when required.

The 20 MPH topic is widely discussed and is mentioned elsewhere in the Warbler. Last year our Chair wrote to various people about this including our MP and Government Ministers and received interesting responses. It is not yet clear where this debate will go for villages such as ours.

A lot of work is currently being carried out at various locations around the village to improve the condition of the footpaths. This work includes, siding out to remove the overgrown turf at the path edges to reveal the full width of the path, resurfacing and also cutting back hedges and trees where they have overgrown the path. This will hopefully aid wheelchair and pushchair users especially. We would be grateful if parishioners could be mindful of this and keep their vegetation well clear of footpaths and signs.

If anyone has any observations or comments to make about these subjects or any other issues in the village, do please get in touch with our Clerk or any Parish Council member.

Great Wilbraham Parish Council

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

The council now meets every 6 weeks. All welcome to attend meetings currently being held in the memorial hall in Great Wilbraham whilst work is ongoing at Little Wilbraham church.

The council has now raised the remaining funds for the Multi use games area for Little Wilbraham recreation ground and this will be built during the summer and hopefully available for all to use by September.

Planting is happening around the villages, helped by the volunteer group and work is being done in the pits. There is now a new bench at the bus stop in the High Street, Little Wilbraham and highway gates in Six Mile Bottom will be replaced soon. There will also be a new disabled access bench on the recreation ground.

We will be working with Great Wilbraham Parish council on events for the Queen's platinum jubilee and hope to be able to celebrate with everyone.

We have a vacancy on the Parish council. If you are interested please apply to the clerk.

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

Best wishes, Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

## **Wilbrahams, Six-Mile-Bottom and Fulbourn Over 60s Club**

December 16th - The Christmas party was held in the hall. We were entertained by Philip and Loraine with some songs and the two carols and a pass the parcel. Then we had sandwiches, cakes and tea and coffee.

We started 2022 with a film called Fisherman's Friends. I would like to thank Paul Lambton for picking and showing us the film.

February 24th – we had Ian Cumming who gave a talk on cooking. In May we will be going to Rutland Water for a boat trip and afternoon tea. The cost is £35. If you would like to go please let me know at the February meeting with a deposit of £10.

March 31st is a music afternoon with Brian Ray. We will be having a tombola so if we could have some better prizes for it.

April 28th is the A.G.M. of the club.

For more information ring Keith Precious on 01223 880832.



# Great Wilbraham CE (VC) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Richard Brown BEd (Hons) NPQH

When I last wrote, we were looking forwards to school trips, Christmas and the associated festivities. I spent half my week teaching in Badger class in November and December and thoroughly enjoyed being part of some of these activities.

## November

In November we were pleased to provide the opportunity for children in Hedgehog Class to visit West Stow. The weather was perfect, and they learnt a huge amount about Anglo-Saxon life and had a wonderful time. The following week children in Badger Class went to Stibbington and participated in an evacuee experience day. It was a trip I was fortunate to join them on and I was not disappointed. Learning about being an evacuee was amazing for the children to experience; they learnt so much and there was not one Spam sandwich left after lunch! Both trips inspired some wonderful pieces of writing and great discussion and understanding. Thank you to all the staff who supported the children and those who helped organise them.

*"We really enjoyed our visit to Stibbington. One of the things we liked most was experiencing how it felt to go through an air raid. It was also extremely fun to try out using pen and ink. It was great seeing those old-fashioned toys – especially the iron hoops."*

Lyra and Henry (Badger Class)

## December

We had a tree planting ceremony and our oak tree has been carefully planted in the field – hopefully to grow there for generations! Thanks to the Wilbraham Environment Group (WEG) and the Parish Council for providing it and well done to all the staff and children who helped plant it. We are also hoping to plant 30 smaller trees around the school later this Spring term and aim to work towards making our school as carbon free as we can.



Instead of a combined pantomime this year we had a whole day working with a theatre group with every class having a drama workshop based on the Christmas



Carol. Thanks to the PTFA for funding this activity – the children really enjoyed themselves.

*“It was exciting, creative and fun. We thought about different characters from the Christmas Carol, acting how they moved and retold the story.”*

Chloé and Harry (Hedgehog Class)

Christmas lunch was a real success, and we were able to host a Christmas service with both Rev Alice and Tim Brown in attendance with Squirrel class and being beamed to the other classes. This service was recorded and placed on MS Teams for families to watch. Families were also able to watch and enjoy the fantastic Squirrel class production ‘An Alien Christmas’ and the wonderful Fieldmice nativity. The children and staff have worked really hard to produce such wonderfully professional performances and it is great for them to be able to do this – thank you to all the staff who have made this happen and Ian Cumming for recording the production and Tim Brown for playing the piano.

## **January**

An area of concern raised by residents and the Parish Council has been parking around the school at drop off and pick up. I am setting up a working party to develop a travel plan for the school and promote safe driving and school transport decisions.

Since returning from the Christmas break the challenges of running the school and the prevalence of Omicron in the local area have meant we have had to consider additional measures and segregation of classes again. Despite regular testing of staff and visitors, ventilating classrooms, monitoring CO2 levels, diligent cleaning processes and changes to routines, the last couple of weeks of January were affected by the emergence of the Omicron variant in our community. Covering staff has been a challenge but I have to thank parents for their kind and considerate messages of support. I was in regular contact with PHE and the Local Authority for their sage guidance and we are certainly not alone in facing the challenges, some schools have had to close due to staffing levels and I know of some that are open that have 2/3 of children off.

## **Lastly**

I sincerely hope you are keeping safe and well in the community. The positive comments and support from parents and those in the community is incredibly welcomed. The current situation is really hard on all the staff at the school and your help, support and positivity for what the staff are doing is really valued. We also understand the strains everyone is going through so if you need anything please reach out and we will do what we can, in the meantime stay safe and well.

Richard Brown, Headteacher

# Wilbrahams' Winter Wonder Walk 2021

## Another year of beautiful windows and competitive children

For the third year running the Wilbrahams' Winter Wonder Walk took place in December running up to Christmas in Great and Little Wilbraham. On each day from 1st to 24th at least one decorated window could be visited by the winter walkers. Once again, the creativity and variation in styles of the windows was truly impressive!



A first-time window decorator wowed the walkers with her immaculate hand drawn window displays and child friendly motifs on Dec 12th. Well done



Dawn who won a voucher from Shoegarden for her efforts! Once again, the Ward family with their LEGO display winter scenes, proved popular with the children. A big well done and chocolates for their efforts.



Among highly commended windows were the serene installations made by paper and light: the colourful display at 76 Angle End and the serene black paper and light display at 5 Benstead end. Other highly appreciated windows were the phone booth display decorated on Dec 14th only, in an array of innovative paper craft: Christmas wreath, candle, even greetings cut out of old books. Even my own attempt to replicate Ellie Evans

beautiful advent calendar artwork rendered many votes, thank you! A huge thank you to all the window decorators for your great efforts. It's what really makes the walks such a pleasant experience. Some more photos will be uploaded



on the village webpage (<https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk>).

Those walkers that visited 7 or more windows were welcome to enter the prize draw, of which 12 people submitted proof of visiting all windows! Special congratulations to Emma Goodchild and Hetty Brown, who won prizes (A bottle of Sparkly and a beautiful Children's book) for visiting the most windows and providing the best winter words, Sleigh and A new goose Christmas jumper respectively. A big thank you to those who kindly donated prizes for the prize draw and for all your generous donations for our charity Jimmy's Night Shelter.

Despite the Advent sheets being provided free of charge to all households in Great and Little Wilbraham and could be printed off from the village webpage, we found it disappointing that not more seemed to take the chance to enjoy the great effort of the window presenters this year. While the individual donations given to the school were greatly appreciated the overall number of donations were also very limited. The PTFA will consider the future of this event and will try to gauge interest outside the school community before organising a 2022 event.

Donations for the school could be kindly accepted through <https://great-wilbraham-primary-school-ptfa.square.site/>

Lotta Holm and the PTFA committee. Email: [wilbrahamptfa@gmail.com](mailto:wilbrahamptfa@gmail.com)

## 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 requiring choir members to be fully vaccinated against COVID and having a negative lateral flow test prior to attending choir practice. We also ask everyone to wear a mask on arrival/leaving and have socially distanced seating.

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

Vanessa Nichols



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Saturday	09.30-15.00 (Private/Denplan)



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With 'Omicron' rates high in our villages and local schools, it has been a very quiet start to 2022 in the Memorial Hall, despite there being no legal restrictions on use. We are hoping that this will ease soon - we can see bookings for private parties and events through March and April looking healthy, which is great. For the immediate future, we would ask that you continue to wear a mask in crowded spaces, open windows and doors to maintain good ventilation, and maintain good handwashing /cleaning of the equipment and premises.

Our regular clubs and groups are as follows:

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, Thursday 10.30-12.30 as advertised

Table tennis: Wednesday pm every week

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

Over 60s: last Thurs of the month 2pm

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

### **Other news:**

After a welcome rest, we are restarting the Farmers' Markets from March 12th onwards, on the second Saturday of the month from 9.30-11.30. The market will run, whatever the weather, using the hall as well as our recreation ground. We aim to have an interesting and varied selection of craft stalls, together with our regular food and produce stalls. So please support this local initiative



– it is a great way to shop locally, reduce food miles and support Cambridgeshire's small businesses. Come and catch up with neighbours and friends and treat yourself to a fresh cup of coffee and a home baked treat! For Farmers' Market news follow:

<https://www.facebook.com/wilbrahamfoodandcraft>

Thanks to everyone who answered the online Play Area Survey – we had an amazing 128 family responses! We are applying for grants to replace the 50-year-old red swing set and this level of support will have a significant impact. We will let you know how we get on. We are also examining your helpful comments as ideas for possible future improvements.



We have replaced 2 diseased cherry trees between Icen Cottage & Lufters on Church St.

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

Shirley Morley (Booking Secretary)

[booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:booking.wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com). If you have any comments or suggestions for things you would like to see at the hall, please contact me: [mail@emma-adams.co.uk](mailto:mail@emma-adams.co.uk)

Emma Adams, Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee



## Deadline for the Summer Issue Friday 13 May 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.





## Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations : June 2022

On 6th February this year Queen Elizabeth II became the first British Monarch to reign for seventy years. In one thousand years of the crown, Queen Elizabeth II is the only monarch to have served so long, making the Jubilee Celebrations not just a “once in a lifetime”, but possibly a “once in forever,” event. After two years of pandemic, this is a chance for the residents of the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom (Monarchists and Republicans alike!) to join together joyously to celebrate not only the Jubilee, but also the kindness, strength and unity of our community, by holding two events that our children will remember for the rest of their lives.

### **The Platinum Jubilee Beacon: The Evening of Thursday 2nd June**

Over 1,500 beacons will happen in the UK and, for the first time, beacons will also be lit in each of the capital cities of the Commonwealth. We are currently hoping for our three villages to celebrate with a beacon in Little Wilbraham. As well as the beacon itself, early ideas could include music, hot snacks, and drinks, and even a torchlight procession. Our community can only make this magical and historic event happen if we build a crack team of volunteers. It would need organisers, beacon builders, stewards to help with health and safety, cooks and whatever else you feel you can contribute. (We also need a bagpiper if you know one!) We hope everyone will help, and we especially welcome those involving themselves for the first time with a village event. All ideas and offers of assistance gratefully received at [rcsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:rcsinclair@gmail.com). This cannot happen without you!

### **The Big Jubilee Lunch: Sunday 5th June**

The Memorial Hall & the Recreation Ground Trustees, supported by the Parish Councils, will host a lunch and party afternoon for all residents of Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham, and Six Mile Bottom. A communal bring and share feast will be followed by music, games, and activities on the recreation ground.

We welcome input from everyone in the three villages and from different village groups, especially those with young families and others who have ideas about events and activities that children will enjoy in the afternoon. We need your imagination and help to build a unique event that our children will never forget. Please contact us to form a planning team or to help (in advance or on the day) and send any ideas to [mail@emma-adams.co.uk](mailto:mail@emma-adams.co.uk)

More details of both events to follow when plans are finalised.





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## A Little Piece of History

This edition's piece from my farm is published with thoughts of a dear friend and colleague, Chris Ascroft, RIP.

There was a watermill recorded at Hawk Mill Farm in the Domesday book of 1086. It was also recorded in the *Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis* (*The Inquisition of the County of Cambridge*), value 5s.4d. That's 27 pence in "new money"!!!

A controversial (and the subject of a court case, White & others vs Chesterton RDC) watercourse diversion to alleviate flooding resulted in a lack of water to drive the mill meaning it fell into disuse in 1937.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022, for the first time in 85 years corn grown on the farm was milled in that building again, history spanning over 936 years. The tabletop Mockmill I used clearly has a much lower output than the original mill apparatus and uses electricity instead of waterpower, but importantly to me for tradition uses stones for the grinding process.

The wheat being milled has of course changed over the decades as new more productive varieties are bred. However, the wheat I grow is a blend of the three varieties Solstice, Zyatt and Skyfall that have been "grown on" (seed from one crop resown the next year) for four years and there is a thought that this blend adapts itself to the soil and conditions it's grown under on the farm. This results in our own local population, or 'landrace'. Therefore, I'm now claiming it as my own variety! I'm working on a name.

The flour I produced is wholemeal and requires sieving to remove the larger bran element to produce a purer whiter flour more similar to that which we are used to purchasing. The modern commercial milling process uses a series of mills with steel rollers which "shear" the grain and the resulting flour is milled and sieved several times to get it fine and pure enough to market, and suitable for commercial large-scale baking. Homogeneity is therefore important.

I have a small flour hand sieve to remove some of the bran element, but it only seemed fair that the first loaf I baked (well our Panasonic baked!) was HMF wholemeal.

We recently bought a Panasonic bread maker (recommended) and have been experimenting with blends of different flours sourced for our excellent local Darwin Farm Shop. My thinking was that these are a sure way to reliably make some good loaves before getting too experimental.





However, I can report that my first loaf of Regen Agriculture Hawk Mill Farm 100% wholemeal bread was absolutely delicious. The sugar ingredient in the mix is replaced by honey from the hives on the farm managed by Jack the Bee Man. This honey will have been produced from the cover crops which can flower late into the autumn. This gives the bees and other pollinators a late season nectar food source.

My *really* experimental milling/baking will have to wait until after harvest as this is when I'll have some heritage wheat grain to use. I've planted a small area of a blend of 20 old varieties some from the 1960s, that have been crossed (interbred) 190 ways. These seeds have then been further subjected to natural field selection over at least 15 generations. Each year the crop continues to naturally select the grains that perform best on the soil that they are being grown on. The resulting wheat blend has huge diversity and I'm looking forward to seeing this "Heinz 57" crop at harvest.

I also have a plot of Millers Choice which is a population of long straw wheats selected to have a dominance of red wheats (Lammas varieties) rather than the more modern Squarehead wheats which should offer flavour, good milling qualities and disease resistance. Some of these varieties were grown as early as 1650!

Modern wheats are bred and selected to perform well under the husbandry of regular inputs of fertiliser and plant protection products (PPPs). Farmed like this they can reliably produce big yields (given normal weather conditions), and this has contributed to agriculture's ability to feed an ever-increasing population with grains that have become much cheaper in real terms over the decades.

However, weather conditions have become less "normal" the availability (armoury) of PPPs has reduced, and the cost of these has escalated, e.g. nitrogen now 300% more expensive than a year ago, so farming is having to change. The aim of my style of farming (Regen-Ag) is to grow crops that are more naturally resilient and are supported by healthy soil biology. They have to fend for themselves more, so this is where my interest in older varieties stems from.

I will be planting some Spelt (a type of wheat) next year, this has a much longer heritage and has been cultivated since approximately 5000 BC. I have baked with Spelt flour and blended with strong white bread flour it makes a very flavoursome loaf. Spelt also grows very tall like other old wheats but has the disadvantage that once harvested it need de-hulling to remove the outer husk. This is a process used on oats to remove the groat from the husk before they are

milled or flaked, so a common process but not one that is often done on farm. I've yet to work out how to do this but researching it will be fun. The kitchen Molinex may be employed.

Final thought.

**In the general economy of any land, the more widely and perfectly the animals and plants are diversified for different habits and life, so will a greater number of individuals be capable of their supporting themselves.**

**Charles Darwin.**

David White; Farmer, Miller, Baker, Consumer

## Over the farm gate

Unfortunately the agricultural acumen in this edition of 'Over the farm gate' may be rather limited and not quite up to par, but we're sure you can bear with us....

Since your last update we can tell you that all of the sugar beet at Home Farm has been lifted, loaded and transported to the beet factory at Bury St Edmunds and will be transformed into numerous bags of 'Silver Spoon' sugar – Sadly we can't tell you exactly how many! Always a busy and rather smelly time of year, Bartlow Estates were instrumental in the harvesting and loading process.



Many of you also enjoyed the four-legged additions to the farm over the Christmas period and latterly their rather interesting 'walk' up Mill Road, from Home Farm to Mill field – They certainly enjoyed their time at Wilbraham and did a cracking job of eating down the cover crop.

Other than this it has been a typically quiet time on the farm, but with the days getting longer, and the faint glimmer of spring things are now starting to ramp up with one of the busiest seasons looming ahead.

Whilst we can't talk of plans of purchasing expensive items of equipment for the farm and bemoaning the cost, we can tell you that Chris did purchase a "new farm" complete with brand new tractors, combine and the odd

cow.....for his beloved grandchildren, Henry & Hattie.

As a family we would like to thank everyone for their incredibly kind thoughts, wishes and memories – He will be missed.

The Ascroft family

# Wilbrahams River Protection Society

Those of you who have walked along the river regularly may have noticed that there has been consistent flow throughout the last year. Several factors have contributed to this but regular monitoring by Tony Goryn and his close liaison with the Environment Agency (EA) have been major factors. The EA have been more responsive to augmenting the river water at times of low flow.

The improved flow has improved the river's prospects. We are hoping that the Wildlife Trust will look more favourably on projects to enhance the river habitats and to improve the diversity of the flora and fauna. A spring meeting has been scheduled to discuss this with the Wildlife Trust.

There is a longstanding scheme (The Lodes Granta Groundwater Scheme) managed by the EA to pump supplemental water into the river. This was devised to permit increased abstraction from the aquifers by the water companies and "compensate" the local rivers by pumping extra water into them. Water supply, for the ever-growing population of Cambridge, and the



environmental effects of abstraction from the aquifer are major issues in the recently published Water Resources East "Emerging Plan" for the future. This plan now includes proposals for reducing aquifer abstraction and increasing the water supply through regional transfers and the creation of two fen reservoirs. This planning is at a crucial stage of development and the WRPS have been involved with the planning as well as engaging directly with Cambridge Water in the development of their next Water Resource Management Plan.

The WRPS has also been active in trying to promote the interests of the Wilbraham Fen SSSI and has responded to consultations on the various Cambridge Eastern Expansion plans – including the proposed relocation of the Newmarket Road Park & Ride close to the Fen. The Society is trying to protect the river and fen to keep this area as a natural wildlife site for us all to enjoy.

More information is available on our website [www.thewrps.org](http://www.thewrps.org) and a recent talk on the history of the Wilbraham Rivers and Fen in the "Know your Neighbour" series is also available through a link on the Wilbrahams website.

Please consider joining the WRPS if you would like to help us. This can easily be done by subscribing via our website or phoning or emailing

Rebecca Lomas. 01223 811189

[bex@drcr.info](mailto:bex@drcr.info)

## **To the memory of Pauline Waters who died on 5.11.21**

MY FRIEND PAULINE and what a wonderful friend she was. She was so kind, caring and generous, with a great sense of humour.

We met in 1976 when my husband and I bought the shop and Post Office in Great Wilbraham which we ran for 12 years. We started chatting one day when she commented on the fact that I was always singing as I went about my tasks. Having decided to join a Ladies barbershop Group in Cambridge, I persuaded her to come along with me and our friendship developed from there. We had great fun attending the singing conventions all over the country and continued with the group for over 20 years.

When my husband and I retired, we stayed in the village, moving to a cottage on the High Street with a gate at the bottom of the garden giving me easy access to Pauline (on the right) in Church Close. After we were both widowed, we became even closer, were regular “Ladies who lunch”, and holidayed together almost every year. We



usually rented a cottage, or on occasion used B&B accommodation. Wherever we were there had to be gardens to visit. One year we joined my son and his husband on a narrowboat, and although Pauline was initially nervous about being on the water, she voted it the best holiday ever. It was such a happy time.

Even though I had moved away to Wales in 2019, we still visited each other when we were able and thankfully I spent ten days with Pauline just a few weeks before she died. She was quite poorly but we were able to reminisce about times past and I shall always be grateful that I had a friend like Pauline.

Patricia (Prigmore) – ex High Street, Great Wilbraham

## **The Community Orchard Well-brahams January 2022**

We have pruned the apple and pear trees in the Community Orchard!

January is the perfect time for pruning apples and pears – and so on a beautiful morning, with a clear blue sky and a heavy dew, 8 prospective pruners and our Well-brahams support team arrived for an orchard workshop with expert Bob Lever. This was a first step in our plans to revitalise the community orchard – a quiet area hidden away down the end of a track beside the school. Groups of fruit trees including apples, pears, plums, and greengages, were planted about seven years ago. They have grown well but are now in need of pruning to help shape them and gradually correct some problems that have arisen from a few years of neglect, nibbling from muntjac deer, and overshadowing from the large trees on the boundary.



Bob Lever ('Orchard Bob') is an orchard expert and enthusiast from North-West Norfolk. His interest in orchards started in 1986 when he moved from a busy career in stage management to a site he had bought for growing cut flowers near Wisbech. His new land included an old commercial orchard – and Bob set about learning the skills to rejuvenate and look after these trees. He is now an expert orchard educator – holding special workshops for community groups such as ours, as well as other enthusiasts and even tree surgeons.



After an introduction to some of the general principles we set to work in pairs on each tree. We made an initial survey - looking for problems such as overcrowded or broken branches, branches mingling with neighbouring trees or low branches that would be damaged by grass-cutting. We then planned how we might shape the tree to achieve an open 'goblet shape'. Once discussed and approved by Bob, we made the necessary cuts and gradually the newly shaped and tidied trees emerged. The day was punctuated by Bob's call to gather round because he had something interesting to show us: where the trees were grafted (or even double grafted) onto quince and other root stocks; the 'coral spot' on some twigs (a sign of damage), and how water shoots (straight whip-like shoots) can be pegged down to form a new branch.



At midday our lunch arrived in a wheelbarrow! Thanks to Well-brahams members Joy, Julia and Alison for the welcome hot soup, scones and banana cake.

It will be exciting to see how the trees respond to our pruning. We did the apples and pears this time, but the plums and greengages need to be left until the summer. With our new skills and instructions from Bob, we now feel confident to take this on!

The orchard was such a lovely peaceful place that January morning with the sun shining, the shelter of the hedgerows, the magnificent spectacle of the black poplar and the spring bulbs just coming through. Please take the chance to get to know it, see how it changes during the seasons and look out for wildlife. There are now quiet places to sit, or you can meet up with friends over a coffee at our new picnic tables. Let us know how you get on, what you see, and any ideas you have for the future. There is lots for us all to learn together as we take this special place forward.

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

## Patchwork & Quilting Group

The monthly Patchwork & Quilting Group restarted at the Wilbraham's Memorial Hall at the end of September 2021. Despite the Covid prevention measures of mask wearing and having windows and doors open to keep good ventilation, it has been joyous to all to be together again doing what we love - creating with fabric and sharing our ideas and work.



Credit must be given to Shirley Morley (Hall Secretary) and the hall committee for keeping us Covid free at each session. A special 'Thank You' also to Alex for setting out the tables each month.

The ladies have been most productive – a wide variety of excellent projects have been undertaken and completed. Very touchingly there have been a few memory quilts made to celebrate the lives of loved ones. The act of creating a tangible object, imbued with the person no longer

here, by using their clothes and fabrics can be such a comfort when grieving. It is a privilege to be involved in creating such heirloom treasures.

I can report that the group is currently full but if you are interested do drop in and say hello, I can put you on the waiting list. We are currently meeting on the last Wednesday of the month.

If you would like to join in our monthly session contact Niki Chandler:

[niki.chandler@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:niki.chandler@hotmail.co.uk)

[Niki Chandler](#)



## Change to date for April Gardening Club

The April meeting of the Wilbrahams' Garden Club has been changed to **Monday 11th April - 19:30 to 21:00**. Our original date clashed with Easter Monday. All being well, the meeting will be in the Large Hall. We

will begin with a short AGM, followed by a Spring plant exchange along the lines of the very successful Autumn plant exchange we held in October last year. Ideas for future club activities for discussion at the AGM will be very welcome.

## Great Wilbraham School Early 1900's

When I came to live in Great Wilbraham in 1987 I could see that the school was an important part of the community so was surprised to learn that there had been a move to close it a few years before. Determined campaigners in the village prevented this and the school seems to have gone from strength to strength since then, attracting many young families to the village.



So when Veronica Atherton gave me some old copies of the village newsletter, which she edited at one time, I was interested to read George Beeton's description of the school in the early 1900s.

George, who lived in Toft Lane, joined his elder brother Sam at school in 1907. The school was lit by paraffin lamps and heated by two coke fires. The children sat on long wooden forms with 'turned down fronts' for writing. Most of them were able to go home for their midday meal; only the children who lived outside the village at Hall and Heath farms and Fleam Dyke stayed in school to eat their packed lunches. There was no piped water in the school, so a canister of water was placed in the porch for them to drink.

George had difficulty seeing the blackboard in his lessons and a visit from the school medical officer resulted in his being sent to Addenbrooke's for an eye test. He and his mother caught the 8.30 train from Fulbourn (they must have walked to the station) and then took a horse-drawn tram to the hospital. Glasses were ordered, costing sixteen shillings, and a village collection was made to pay for them. George said that he could not describe the beauty of the world which he was seeing in detail for the first time. As he moved up the school he became interested in astronomy and what he described as 'the unseen power of our wonderful world' which he saw very much in terms of God's creation.



In his sixth year George was awarded a First Prize for Writing, General Knowledge, Spelling, Dictation, Good Conduct and General Merit. Sadly, he knew that only manual labour awaited him, so when there was a temporary school closure in 1915 due to an outbreak of scarlet fever, he was advised that as he was nearly thirteen, he might as well leave there and then and begin his life as a drover for the local cattle dealer, Mr Phillip Brown. He seems to have been reconciled to this life and enjoyed walking the country lanes and footpaths all over Cambridgeshire. He sounds like a really nice man who was contented with his life and one

hopes that he was able to pursue all his other interests in his spare time.

George's Walk near to the play area is named after him.

Judy Hanmer





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# NOTICE BOARD

## DATES FOR SPRING 2022

Tuesday 1 March	St David's Day
	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 2 March	Ash Wednesday
Thursday 17 March	St Patrick's Day
Sunday 27 March	BST starts
Monday 4 April	Easter school holiday begins
Friday 15 April	Good Friday
Sunday 16 April	Easter Day
Monday 17 April	Easter Monday
Wednesday 19 April	Summer Term starts
Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 5 May	Parish Council elections
Monday 30 May	
-Monday 6 June	Half Term

## BIN COLLECTIONS

### Black bins

Monday 7 March  
Monday 21 March  
Monday 4 April  
Tuesday 19 April  
Tuesday 2 May  
Monday 16 May  
Monday 30 May

### Blue bins only

Monday 14 March

### Blue & Green bins

Monday 28 March  
Monday 11 April  
Monday 25 April  
Monday 9 May  
Monday 23 May

## Mobile Library

The mobile library stops at Great Wilbraham opposite the playground on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month 11.10 – 11.40am. It then moves on to Little Wilbraham 11.50am -12.15pm; 17 March, 21 April, 19 May.

For Six Mile Bottom, the stop is Delaware Close every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 11.35am – 12.00 noon; 2 March, 5 April, 3 May.

## GW Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm

Annual Parish Meeting  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30.  
See full report on page 11

## Wilbrahams Memorial Hall

The next Farmer's Market is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30-11.30, and then every second Saturday in the month.

See page 21 for the report and a full for a full list of the activities resuming in the Hall.

## LW&SMB Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30 pm  
See full report on page 15

## 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
Transport Woking Group	Tim Page 881738 David Richer 880547 hgvs.wilbrahams@gmail.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
Wilbrahams' 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

### Queen's Jubilee

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

See page 23 for details of proposed local celebrations to mark this event.

### The Wilbrahams' and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Full details and schedules on page 37



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# The Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show 2022

The date for this year's Show is **SATURDAY 16th JULY** and all being well and COVID – depending, it will be back in the Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham!



Although it is only early February, these last few warm sunny days have felt almost like summer and working in the garden has been such a pleasure but no doubt we will be in for a cold snap before long which will be a shock for us all and for those over enthusiastic tender shoots which are appearing.

Hopefully  
COVID

will allow us to use the traditional Schedule this year....3rd time lucky! We are, as usual, publishing a list of the Classes for the Show in this Spring edition of the Warbler so that you can plan your entries in advance. Have a look through and see what you could enter....there are 12 cups to be awarded!



As usual, your paper copy of the Schedule will be delivered to your door in early June.

Just a few things to mention:

I can't believe it's already time again to be sourcing the seed potatoes for the "SPUD IN A BUCKET" Competition (Class 22). We now have the Richard Wright Cup for the winner of this Class! For those of you who are not familiar with this competition, you plant a potato tuber (which is provided) in a 14 litre/3-gallon bucket and then bring the whole bucket along on the morning of the Show between 09.00 and 11.30 where the bucket will be emptied, and the potatoes weighed – the heaviest crop of potatoes produced from one tuber will be the winner! Help will be on hand to collect your bucket if necessary.

We are also running the "PLUG-PLANT COMPETITION"(Class 41). The idea being, that you nurture a plug-plant (which is provided) and then enter it into the Show. This year it will be a pelargonium plant, and the winner will be awarded the David Waters Memorial Cup.

So ... only the plug plants provided will be considered for this class!

The potato tubers and plug plants will be available mid – late March from Rosie White at 13, High Street, Great Wilbraham (1 per person) and will cost 20p each (to cover the 'entry fee'). There will be a notice in the window of the Post Office,

Great Wilbraham and a post on the Wilbrahams' website when they are ready for collection, or please contact Rosie White (see contact details below). If you need a



14-litre bucket for growing your potato in, there will be some new ones available at £1.50 each.

Don't forget, you are allowed 2 entries per person for all the other classes. Show rules apply and are as listed.

\*\*\*If you still have the fuchsia you 'grew on' for the competition last year please do re-enter it in Class 42.

**PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION** – please submit your photos electronically by midnight, Wednesday 13th, July (3 days before the Show) to: [chris.fell@me.com](mailto:chris.fell@me.com) so that he can prepare them for the external Judge to view and display on the large screen in the Hall on the afternoon of the Show.

Please see Chris Fell's article enlarging about the Classes.

The **CHILDREN's CLASSES** will be circulated by the School after Easter, posted on the Wilbrahams' website and will also be listed in the paper Schedule in June.

For any newcomers to the Villages, the format of the Show is that we welcome entries at the Hall, 09.00 -11.30, from anybody living in the Wilbrahams' and Six Mile Bottom. The Hall then closes for judging and re-opens at 15.00 when all are welcome to come and view the entries, see who has won which class and enjoy some tea/coffee and home-made cakes.

At 16.30 the cups are presented to the winners, followed by an Auction of donated produce etc. and then the Show finishes with a Raffle.

Happy gardening, planting, growing, flower - arranging, preserving,

baking, crafting and photographing – we look forward to seeing you at the Hall (fingers crossed) with all your entries on Saturday, 16th July.

If you have any queries about the Show, would like more information or be involved in anyway, please contact Rosie White:

**Tel: 01223-881293/mobile: 07757982934/email: [rosiewhite77@hotmail.com](mailto:rosiewhite77@hotmail.com)**



The Hall will be open for receiving entries on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 9.00 am to 11.30 am. No exhibits will be accepted after 11.30 am and all exhibitors **MUST** leave the Hall by 11.45 am.

**Exhibitor's entrance fee: 20p per item (adults) & 10p per item (Under-16s)**

**Vegetables**

1. 5 pods of broad beans
2. 5 pods of peas or mangetout
3. Bunch of 5 radishes (one variety)
4. 1 lettuce, root intact (any variety)
5. 3 potatoes (same variety)
6. 5 salad onions with tops on
7. 1 cucumber (any variety)
8. 3 carrots, tops trimmed
9. 5 French or dwarf beans
10. 3 bulbs of garlic
11. 3 beetroot, tops trimmed
12. 2 courgettes (4-8"/10-20cm)
13. 3 tomatoes with stem on (same variety)
14. 5 shallots
15. 5 runner beans
16. 3 onions, tops trimmed and tied
17. The longest bean!
18. 5 cherry/baby tomatoes on the vine
19. Tray, trug or basket of mixed vegetables, at least 5 different varieties
20. 3 stems each of any 3 varieties of herbs, displayed in water
21. Exhibit of any vegetable not included in the schedule
22. 'Spud in a Bucket' Competition (see Warbler for details)

**Fruit**

23. 7 raspberries
24. 5 strings of blackcurrants
25. 5 strings of redcurrants
26. 7 gooseberries
27. 3 sticks of rhubarb
28. Longest stick of rhubarb
29. Exhibit of any fruit not included in the schedule

**Flowers**

30. A specimen rose (Rose Bowl Award)
31. 5 stems of garden flowers – each different
32. 3 stems of roses, large flowered
33. 5 stems of sweet peas, single colour or mixed
34. 3 stems of cluster-flowered roses
35. 3 stems of flowering shrub (mixed or the same)
36. 3 stems of herbaceous perennial (mixed or the same)
37. 3 stems of foliage plant (mixed or the same)
38. 1 dahlia bloom (any variety, any size)
39. A rose – chosen for scent
40. 3 stems of dahlias (mixed or the same, any size)
41. 1 pelargonium **grown from plug plant supplied** (David Waters Memorial Cup)

*\* See Warbler for details and also see both notes in 'Rules' section (41 and 42-45)*

42. A potted fuschia (you can use last year's if you still have it)
43. A flowering pot plant (not a fuchsia)
44. A foliage pot plant
45. Cactus/cacti or succulent(s) in any container

**Flower Exhibits (Arrangements)**

*\* See note in 'Rules' section*

46. "Rainbow of Colours"
47. 3 floral cupcakes

48. Flower/foliage arrangement to resemble a "Window Box" Max length 14"/36cm
49. Vintage-style flower arrangement in a vase
50. A wreath/ring of fruit and flowers

## **Produce**

*\* See note in 'Rules' section*

51. 6 hen or 6 bantam eggs
52. 1 jar of jam or jelly (any variety)
53. 1 jar of lemon/lime/orange curd
54. 1 jar of marmalade (any variety)
55. 1 jar of chutney/pickle
56. 1 loaf of bread or 4 bread rolls (any type)
57. 4 squares of flapjack
58. 4 plain scones
59. 5 biscuits (any variety)
60. Victoria sandwich (your own recipe) – jam filling only
61. Cake as per recipe (to follow in printed schedule)
62. Cake as per recipe (to follow in printed schedule)

## **Arts and Handicrafts**

*\* See note in 'Rules' section*

63. A drawing or painting (any medium)
64. An item of patchwork or quilting
65. Any sewn/stitched item
66. An item of knitting
67. An item of crochet, lace, knotwork or beadwork
68. An item of tapestry, cross stitch or needlepoint
69. An item of hard handicraft (e.g. woodwork, pottery, metalwork)
70. Any other craft item not included in the schedule

## **Photography**

*\* See note in 'Rules' section and as per printed schedule/Spring Warbler article*

71. "Yellow"
72. "Night or Low Light"
73. "Movement"
74. A portrait
75. "Beauty in Nature"

## **Children's section**

Classes to follow in Summer Warbler

## **RULES**

Number of entries in each class limited to two per exhibitor (except Class 41 which is limited to one per exhibitor).

If there is only one entry in a class, the prize will be left to the judges' discretion. The judges may withhold awards if, in their opinion, exhibits do not reach reasonable standards.

Please read and interpret the meaning of the schedule to avoid disappointment or disqualification. The judges' decision is final.

### **Notes:**

All exhibitors are on trust that their entries are **MADE BY THEMSELVES OR GROWN IN THEIR OWN GARDEN IN THE WILBRAHAMS OR SIX MILE BOTTOM, except flowers in classes 46-50.**

Classes 42-45 must have been owned by the Exhibitor for at least 8 weeks.

Classes 56-62 are to be exhibited on a white paper plate and covered with cling film or a polythene bag.

Classes 63-70 must be Exhibitor's own work and not previously shown.

Classes 71-75 may either be exhibited as printed photographs (maximum size 10" x 8") or preferably sent electronically by email to [chris.fell@me.com](mailto:chris.fell@me.com) – deadline midnight Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> (3 days before the Show) – to be displayed at the Show on screen.



## Photography at the Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show - July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The photography section at the Annual Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show becomes more popular every year. This year we are releasing the subjects earlier than usual in the hope that participants will find inspiration for more beautiful images over the intervening months.

The first subject is **Yellow** - try to ensure that yellow is the dominant colour in your photograph whether it is a daffodil or a racing car or a glass of eggnog!

The second subject is **Night or Low Light**. Try to make something of the darkness in your photo - night skies or a candle-lit subject for instance

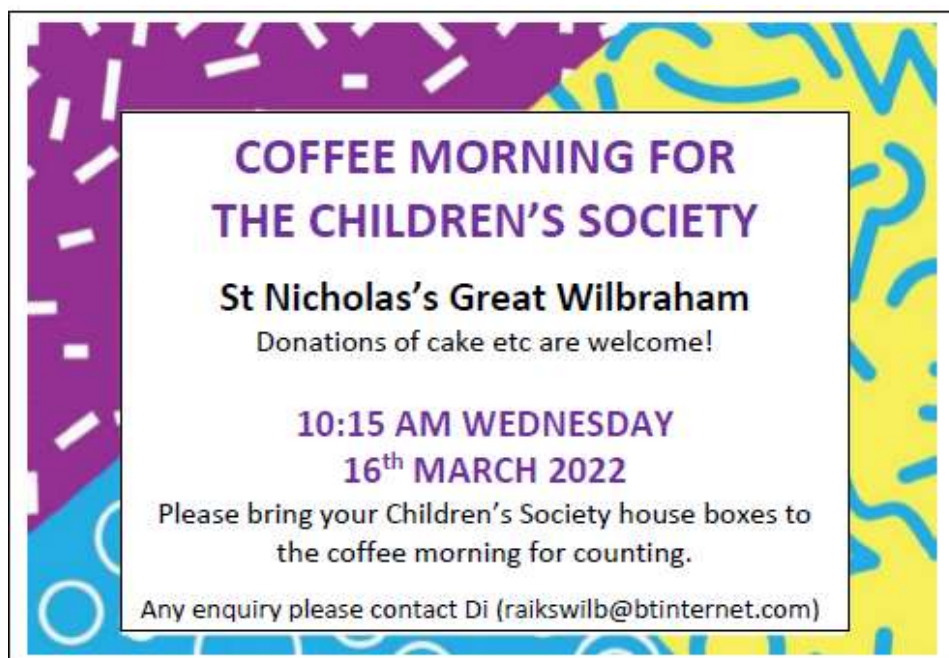
**Movement**. For this we will be looking for something which shows movement - a passing car, or bicycle, a waterfall or a bird in flight?

Next, we would like a **Portrait** - your dog or your mother-in-law, but not a selfie!

And finally, **Beauty in Nature**: this should give you lots of scope, but remember that wild flowers and animals will score better than cultivated or domestic ones.

So, there it is - 5 subjects and four and a half months to find the perfect images! You are allowed 2 images in each category, so get out and get snapping!

Chris Fell



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## The Well-brahams Mental Health & Well-being Group

A new year begins and with it the hope that we might at last be finding a way through the pandemic. Due to popular demand, we were able to hold two more successful coffee mornings in December. Hygiene was strictly observed, and the face coverings and social distancing didn't seem to deter all those who attended – the cakes didn't last long and there was a lovely buzz of conversation as people chatted together and caught up with news of neighbours and friends. There are several more planned in the next few months - look out for the posters or check the Wilbrahams' website.

Work is gathering momentum down in the Community Orchard. Some new trees have been planted to replace the original ones which didn't survive, and plans are afoot to create a new noticeboard with a plan of the orchard, showing the variety of the trees and to publicise any events that are due to take place. See News from Community Orchard article for a report on our pruning workshop. We didn't need reminding how fortunate our villages are to have this wonderful green space – a fine day spent in nature is like a tonic, warming to the heart and calming to the mind.



Jill Suttie Psy.D. has written extensively about the psychological effects of spending time in nature and has documented many research studies that confirm what so many of us already instinctively know – that it's good for us! She writes, 'Scientists are finding evidence that being in nature has a profound impact on our brains and our behaviour, helping us to reduce anxiety and stress, and increase our attention capacity, creativity, and our ability to connect with other people.'

And researcher David Strayer of the University of Utah says much the same, 'People have been discussing their profound experiences in nature for the last several 100 years - from Thoreau to John Muir to many other writers. Now we are seeing changes in the brain and changes in the body that suggest we are physically and mentally healthier when we are interacting with nature.'

It's odd that we need scientific proof, but that's the reality of the modern world – we rely on hard data and evidence because we've lost touch with the actual experience of being in the here and now, using all our senses.

Have you ever noticed how engaging in a creative activity of some kind can help us to relax? It doesn't matter if we're painting, sculpting, playing a musical instrument, sewing, or even mowing a lawn, planting out seedlings, or painting a fence; all these activities can take our thoughts away from our everyday concerns

and allow us to focus quietly and be mindful about what we're doing. The same effect can be found by watching something being made or mended - hence the number of TV shows like 'Repair Shop' currently scheduled!

There's been a lot of talk and publicity about Mindfulness and Meditation over the last few years and unfortunately, when the press get hold of these ideas, the real meanings behind them often become distorted in a morass of soundbites and populist quotes, and the ideas behind them start to lose their integrity.

There is not enough space here to go into depth about these subjects but the Wellbrahams are working on some ways to explore these ideas, for children and adults alike. We hope that soon we will be able to offer some activities to find out more, gain some insight, and hopefully reap the benefits.

In the meantime, Spring is on its way and by now we're beginning to notice the changes around us, the lighter evenings, spring bulbs making an appearance and the busy bird behaviour as territories are created and protected, and nests built. As a taster to increase awareness and find some quietness, try this gentle and life-affirming March garden meditation from 'The Almanac. A Seasonal Guide' by nature writer Lia Leendertz:

'Though the weather is still cold and the trees are still almost bare, there is so much happening in the garden that five minutes of reflection will reveal. Not least of these is the light – there is indeed a grand stretch in the evenings, and so dusk would be a good time to stand outside and feel the difference.

Think about the equinox – the equality of night and day – and about the fact that the spot where you are standing on earth is gradually tilting back towards the sun. The birds feel it too, and this month they start to warm up for the great crescendo of the dawn chorus in April and May. Early evening is a good time to hear blackbirds and robins testing their little lungs. As March is a breezy month, you may find yourself being buffeted by the wind. Don't resent it, it's only for five minutes – instead, close your eyes and feel how much it swirls around you and plays with your hair.

Look to the delicate fuzz of green that is starting to appear on the trees and think about the sap flowing up those gnarled and toughened trunks. It is waking them from their winter slumber, bringing the tips to green life so that they can unfurl and tilt themselves towards the sun's ever-increasing energy.'

Lia has created a wonderful podcast called 'As the Season Turns' which you can find on Apple Podcasts, and which was made in collaboration with natural fragrance maker Ffern. Each episode, released on the first of every month, is a guide for what to look out for in the month ahead, from the sky above to the land below. It has been described by one reviewer as 'chicken soup for the soul'! Hope you enjoy it.

Julia A'Court

## Bruce Springsteen and Other Matters



When notification came through that the next showing at the Film Club, ‘Blinded by the Light’, would include music by Bruce Springsteen, I thought I would google the latter to find out more about his music (best to go in prepared I thought). Well, to my delight I found a theme tune for much of my days ‘Working on the Highway’. I even played the YouTube clip in the hope of some cheeriness. Yes, highways take up a quite a lot of time, but perhaps that’s because I’m not a trained Highways Officer and can’t pretend to know their job, so I try to be careful. At least now I know that Highways are responsible for roads and

footpaths and byways and bridleways and for verges and other roadside green spaces (and for what is put on these) and for road signage, for repairs and maintenance and for safety. We’ve had some attention lately with footpath repairs and with the marking of white lines and the marking up of potholes for repair. Work to be completed... I hear you say. That has been heard. I rejoice in what gets done, worry over what does not and get rather cross when things do not go to plan. But, actually, isn’t that what we all do about many things? And often keeping a sense of perspective is the best response.

The County Highways and Transport committee has been busy and will be busy in the new financial year. You might be interested to know that its programme of work will include: a new HGV policy (don’t get too excited!), a programme of work on active travel (walking and cycling), continuing improvements to highways repair and maintenance and to flood defences, and establishing a new process for the possible consideration of 20mph schemes. There are two types of 20mph schemes which can introduced by the council – 20mph limits and 20mph zones. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or a small number of streets and requires signs only, while 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings. There are a number of issues to be worked through in detail before whatever new policy is agreed can be operational; and a working group has been set up to provide a detailed brief for the committee. It’s anticipated that a report setting out how applications from parish councils for proposed schemes (not all will be feasible or eligible) can be dealt with, will be brought to a committee meeting later this year.

When I’m not ‘working on highways’ what else has been consuming time, well quite a lot, not all of which you’d want to know about, so just a few points.

Naturally, both District and County Council are working on projects and events to commemorate the Queen’s platinum jubilee. You’ll have heard of the Queen’s Green Canopy project. There are many others. Across the District parish



councils and constituted community groups will be able to apply for a sum of money (up to £700) towards commemorating the jubilee in a permanent manner, such as a bench, a tree, a garden etc. Bunting and cakes need not apply, not even platinum puddings. Platinum cookery books perhaps? As a historian I hope the commemorative events will produce a lot of good written and photographic material for the County Archives so that 70 years and 170 years on people can look back and see how we celebrated and commemorated. Over to Chris Fell and the Camera Club.

Recently the Grants Committee has funded projects to support young people, a group particularly affected by Covid. In addition, the Community Chest Fund provides regular support for cultural and sporting activities, alongside general community activities and dedicated zero carbon projects. Here's the link.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>.

I've written before about the work of the Joint Development Control Committee (the JDCC as it is commonly known) which sounds rather like something out of the novel *1984*, but I think it's worth another mention. The committee deals with major developments that straddle the boundary between the city and South Cambs, and of these there are many. At present they include: the biomedical campus and Addenbrooke's site, the area around the airport and fringes of Cherry Hinton, and areas to the west of Cambridge, along Huntingdon Road and Histon Road, to name but some. There is a huge amount of work going on. None is in or near the Wilbrahams, though there will of course be some indirect impact. We need housing: young people are crying out for it and older people want housing for them to downsize. Thankfully, emphasis now is on the quality of design and energy standards and on the provision of green open spaces for play and general enjoyment.

Bringing these major schemes to committee is the work of the Strategic Planning Delivery team which works across the city and South Cambs. I and others locally know that the experienced and dedicated planners on this team work exceptionally hard. It is not easy to make public presentations and take questions under pressure, as they do; and the detailed preparation that goes into those meetings is really significant.

The District Council is playing its own part by increasing year by year the number of council houses it is building on both rent and shared ownership schemes. It remains on track to double the number of new homes it builds every year to 2024.

Finally, if you are – or know of – a local business wanting help or advice in this post-pandemic period, do make contact with the South Cambs Business Support Unit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/> and sign up for the Visit South Cambs website <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/visit-south-cambs-tourism-website/>

Claire Daunton 07905 473395 [Cllr.Daunton@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Daunton@scambs.gov.uk)  
[Claire.daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# Red2Green land Co-op Community Fund – How You Can Help

Red2Green are excited to announce a new Community Fund partnership with the Co-op branches in Bottisham and Fulbourn. Now, members of the community can raise money simply by doing their regular shopping. Funds raised will be used to support the cause, including the purchase of Silent Disco Equipment, to allow all learners to access gatherings in an autism-friendly and sensory-friendly way.

Silent discos were cast into the spotlight when featured on Netflix comedy *Atypical*, which follows the challenges, comedy, highs and lows of a young autistic man approaching adulthood. While gatherings are currently not in place at Red2Green due to pandemic restrictions in the social care sector, it is hoped that when things return to normal, this equipment will make the gatherings the highlight of the year for all in attendance, making them accessible to everyone. CEO Liz Taylor said “COVID-19 has provided a number of challenges in the charity sector, including a highly competitive fundraising market. More organisations than ever are competing for the same pots of money. We are therefore incredibly grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with the Co-op community champions over the coming months.”

If you are a co-op member, you can nominate Red2Green as your cause. Visit [www.coop.co.uk/local-causes](http://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes) to find out how.



**Red2Green**  
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a range of handmade items, including dog biscuit, bird houses and keyrings. Visit Red2Green Community Café and Garden, Lode Road, Bottisham, CB25 9DL.

It's been a busy winter at Red2Green, but we are proud to say we are operating as usual under the current challenges. Over at the Red2Green garden in Bottisham, learners have been bundled up and tending to our beautiful winter plants, many of which are late flowering and so are coming into flower now. All plants are currently on sale, £1.50 for cyclamen, and £1 each for all other winter plants; a fabulous opportunity to brighten your hanging baskets ready for the Spring season. You can also grab

Stephanie Ward



# **The Wilbrahams' Social Club**

Once again we have had a very quiet spell at the club. Coffee mornings and Christmas events had to be cancelled. We have been opening on some Friday evenings and Saturdays after football plus the evening when our volunteers were able to man the bar. Hopefully things will steadily improve.

We are commencing the coffee mornings again and are really looking forward to seeing all our regulars and welcome anyone who would like a good cup of coffee and lovely cakes!

## **The coffee morning dates are:**

Saturday, February 26th

Saturday, March 26th

Saturday, April 16th (Easter)

From 10.30am - 12.

## **Current opening hours:**

Wednesdays - 7pm (from February 23rd)

Thursdays - 8pm (from February 24th)

Fridays - 6.30pm

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

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

The annual membership fee of £5 is due from March 31st, we welcome new members.

The Social Club Committee

## **Tilly**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> January we said our final goodbyes to the large, loving, cheeky bundle of joy that was our beautiful gold retriever, Tilly. She knew and loved lots of people in the village, and I know lots of people loved her, and will miss her smiley face and her leaning cuddles, so I thought I would share my reminiscences of her with you all.

Tilly joined our family as a three month old puppy back in May 2010 and caused chaos from the word go!

She was my first puppy; I had dogs as a child and had been helping friends out by borrowing their dogs for a few years, waiting for my children to be old enough and the situation to be right before committing to the massive responsibility that comes with dog ownership.

I had always yearned for a golden retriever, having fallen in love with the one at my riding school. He was a big, orangey retriever, with a big, square, gentle face called Rusty. He had free rein of the stables and his favourite game was to play amongst the hay bales with us. We would call “Rats, Rusty, rats!” and he would dive into the sweet smelling haystack, woofing, wagging his feathery tail. My heart was lost and my fate sealed!

We picked Tilly from a litter scampering about a big house and garden in Tilbrook (hence her name). There were two girls left. The owner stood with them one under each arm and I hesitated, needless to say, I wanted both. But I knew that would be a mistake given my lack of experience. We chose Tilly because she had the lightest ears (an indication of her adult colouring). The over run owner couldn’t get rid of her quickly enough. She gave us food and a blanket and she came home on my lap that day. I’ll never forget how excited the children were, running around the house “We’ve got a puppy, we’ve got a puppy!”

Thus began a long journey of late nights, early mornings, puppy socialisation and training. I carried her everywhere with me until she had her injections (no mean feat, she was heavy even at three months) to make sure she had a good amount of human contact and a wide variety of experiences as early as possible. We crate trained her as advised and the first morning I got up to find her covered in her own poo! Thank goodness she was still small enough to fit in the sink. Apparently the crate was too big so she spent the next night in the cat cage. It did the trick and she was soon able to move to the big crate without further mishap.

She was boisterous and indefatigable, bowling the children over in her enthusiasm to join in their games. We taught them to respect her need to learn to play gently and she was soon safe around them and other children. Without direct supervision she would chew and eat anything (one of her favourites was flip flops) so the crate kept her safe and our belongings (mostly) intact, although our dining room chairs still bear her teethmarks. She was a terrible food thief and could side swipe a mince pie or a piece of pizza in the blink of an eye. One Christmas she ate half the salmon mousse starter from the kitchen counter right in front of my mum and at one of the Choir Christmas parties she inhaled a guest’s chilli (sorry, Mary Painter!).

Her other memorable trick was escaping. She could push, dig and climb out of anywhere. I once saw her climb a five bar gate like a ladder! One of her favourites was escaping out of the front door when guests arrived. Many a time my friends and I were seen running about on the allotments in our glittery ball gowns and high heels to catch the recalcitrant mischief maker. I’m sure it was because she wanted to come with us, but other times it was just because she knew where the neighbours had left scraps out for the birds!



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# The Carpenters Arms, re-opening in April



You may have noticed that work has started in earnest at The Carpenters Arms.

The East Anglian hospitality group, Chestnut, bought the pub in November last year and have some very exciting redevelopment plans.

Making sure that the traditional village pub feel remains, the main pub will retain a lot of its original features, however there will also be new elements, such as communal tables and log

fires to keep the community feel that The Carpenters Arms is known and loved for.

A new glass fronted restaurant at the back of the pub will be the most dramatic change, with bright and modern interiors throughout and a large open plan kitchen serving modern British food all day, every day.

The new Carpenters team have bundles of hospitality experience, are full of energy and are very much looking forward to welcoming guests new and old.

The pub will be opening with a locals event in April, where local residents can have a first look around and enjoy complimentary tasters from the menu.

Please contact [marketing@chestnutgroup.co.uk](mailto:marketing@chestnutgroup.co.uk) if you would like to be on the invite list.



Tori Dexter

## ***The Climate Crisis & the Wilbrahams What can we do about it?***

Wilbrahams Environment Group invites you to an  
***Open Evening 7.30pm Monday 14 March in the Hall***

- Short illustrated presentations
- Discussion
- Your own ideas
- Refreshments



*For info contact [wilbrahamseg@gmail.com](mailto:wilbrahamseg@gmail.com)*

# The Rest of Cricket

*Editor's note: We inadvertently cut off Andy's cricket report in the winter edition. So here, to get you in the mood for the coming season, is the rest of his excellent report starting in August 2021. Apologies to Andy.*

August – The finishing straight, and a positive one

Home vs Ramsey, a much-needed return to winning ways, Joel Gawthrop with 76 runs and Andy Goryn with 2-17 ensured we got back on track with our season nearing the end.

Home vs Isleham, one for the spectators this one! With us batting first getting to 193 for 8 (Ross Craig 55) we set out to try to restrict the run chase, which we very nearly did. With a required 5 runs off the last over, chaos ensued, desperate scrambled runs, 2 fingertip dropped catches (which, to be fair, would have been amazing catches if taken), another close one dropping just short till the scores were tied, and then only losing on the last ball of the match! It was a sickener after being so close (And I know all too well as I was the one bowling that last over!).



It was great to watch for the many spectators, I'm sure; just didn't feel like it at the time!

And so, to our last game of the season, Away vs Girton. Going into this knowing that we were sitting in 2nd place in the league and that teams below us had another game in hand, we would be in control of what we did and have to wait for other results.

And another game that got uncomfortably close at one point, we batted first getting 204 for 8 (Ian Crocombe 60, Toby Tippen 51) on a pitch with a lightening outfield! Not being sure if that would be enough, they replied well, 134 for 1 after 28 overs, we then got a couple of wickets, but the runs still came. 154 for 3 off 35 overs, leaving them needing 51 to win from 10 overs. Then with some great bowling pressure from Andy Goryn, Tom Sweeney and Ross Craig to finish those overs, we got some quick wickets, slowed the runs and they ran out of overs, getting to 195 for 9 at the finish! Another close one to finish our season and bookend it with wins!

We had done all we could and then to wait for the other results, which thankfully didn't take long! Our closest rivals had lost!! Which meant that we could not be caught in the race to finish 2nd!!

**PROMOTION!!! And celebration!!**



So, this year we will be back up in the dizzying heights of Senior League Division 2 for the first time since 2012. And hopefully, fingers crossed, cricket teas will be back!!! A win for all.

A few thanks now. To all those that have helped during the season to get everything up and running again and all the many spectators (often

remarked upon by the opposition how good it is) that have come along to support us. To the Social Club Bar staff who have kept us all suitably hydrated. To Ian Orford for attending all our games and scoring for us, a great help we all agree! To Charlie Moore as Captain and Ross Craig as Vice Captain to steering us to promotion. To the players who under their direction, have played with a great spirit and worked hard all year to get us over the line. And to my dad, Tony Goryn, for all he does in preparing the ground ready for us to play on, I only follow his lead, do what he tells me and help him really.

All the season's final table and stats will be posted online and at the social club, for those interested that is! Bring on the New Season and new league!

Andy Goryn

## **Time to get walking again!**

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Buckinghamshire <http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cambridge> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cambridgeshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)



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Healthcare Homes

[www.healthcarehomes.co.uk](http://www.healthcarehomes.co.uk)





## **A view from the Garden**

Since the New Year, winter has played a merry game with us. Like a Jack-in-the-Box, the daytime temperature suddenly jumped into double figures for a few days and just as quickly plunged to bring an icy morning with a cold northerly wind. This time of the year should bring ice on the surface of the pond and a sharp frost that stays on the ground in the shadows of bright day. But that weather pattern doesn't often hold nowadays. Snowdrops in December, Primroses in January were seen before their traditional flowering time. The upside for households is that we will be saving on winter heating bills. Certainly the garden birds are getting ready for an early season and the late afternoon often brings out the robins and blue tits to sing out their boundaries. I even had one of my hens go broody and took a risk in setting her with a few fertile eggs. To my surprise she hatched successfully, despite the cold conditions, which will be a real advantage when the new pullets (I'm counting my chickens again!) start to lay as the older ones go into moult in September.

January was a very dry month, just 14mm of rain that I've recorded in my garden gauge. Unusually, soil conditions were ideal for cultivation in early February, and I've chanced sowing more broad beans and a couple of rows of early peas. Onion sets will be next to get planted but I will hold back until late February/early March to reduce the risk of them going to seed. Perennials will soon be on the move, and there's a narrow window left for splitting and moving clumps of things that you want to increase or move. There is still time to do a bit of late pruning on roses as the new seasons' buds appear. To avoid the shrubs from getting too leggy, cut down to the lowest strong bud with a clean sloping cut. One of the best bits of advice I had regarding roses, was from a very experienced grower from Beales nursery who told me that he'd never killed a healthy rose yet by pruning it back hard. Climbing roses should be trimmed by choosing a strong stem from last year's growth and bending over onto a frame or wire towards the horizontal. It should maximise the production of new flower buds by slowing the flow sap. Buddelia also benefit from a late cut. The leaf buds will be growing well now, but to limit the height cut the stems down to a strong shoot.

Nigel Start

## **The Saint Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust**

### **Chairman's Quarterly Report as of 31 December 2021**

Last year was another challenging year for all charities trying to raise money for their causes, and Great Wilbraham's church trust has been no exception.

The Capital Legacy Fund was set up in 2017 (the trust was set up in 1988) with an initial minimum target of achieving a return of dividend & capital amounting to £10,000pa or 4%pa, to be made available to the PCC each year. So as donations

are added & the capital sum grows, the amount transferred can be increased to make sure that the fabric of our beautiful church continues to be properly looked after for today and for future generations.

The principal objectives of the Fund are to maximise the cash available to offer to the PCC for work on the fabric of the church, whilst always protecting its capital value (by at least the ever-rising Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) index), both of which I am glad to report were successfully achieved during 2021, as follows:

As at 31st December 2021 the Fund was valued at £265,352, as compared to its value of £191,870 as at the beginning of the year, representing capital growth of £73,482 (which included a donation of £4,000 from a generous parishioner), or an uplift of 38.3% compared to CPI of 5.4% over the same period, bearing in mind that the fund had decreased in value during 2020 due to the onset of Covid; so the nett increase in value of the fund (adding to the total amounts of £211,273 donated), now stands at reserves of £34,148 or +18.06%, having offset all the inflation costs of CPI (£19,931) since the fund's inception during 2017.

Last year all the dividend income of £10,673 plus £5,000 of capital gains total £15,673 was transferred into the trust's current account, most of which was then passed on to the PCC.

The trust's available cash now (as of 6 February) stands at £3,482.

The trustees continue to be very thankful to those who make one off donations and to those who are making regular contributions to the Trust via banker's standing orders, which currently produces a regular income of around £1,500 pa (including the Gift Aid Tax Refund, if you are a taxpayer).

We hope to start up again some fund-raising events later this year, and we will let you know with as much notice as possible.

For further information on how to make donations and how to contribute most efficiently to the Trust's Capital Legacy Fund, please contact our treasurer, Tony Ryan, who may be contacted via email: [lyansan@btinternet.com](mailto:lyansan@btinternet.com) or myself via email: [graham@clarkesresidential.co.uk](mailto:graham@clarkesresidential.co.uk).

With my best wishes, Graham Clarke, chairman



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# Highways Code changes and Great Wilbraham



The Government recently announced some important changes to the Highway Code.

Three new rules introduce the concept of “a hierarchy of road users”. This places those most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of that pyramid. Drivers of vehicles, such as HGVs, that can cause the most harm now bear the greatest responsibility to take care and reduce the danger they pose to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

All drivers should now give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from the driver is turning. That is an important change, but pedestrians, please do make sure that drivers are aware and have stopped before you walk in front of them. Vehicles must give way to pedestrians on a zebra crossing or parallel crossing.

Our village is on a route used by ‘sport cyclists’. The new code says that those cycling in groups should be considerate of the needs of other road users. Cyclists should take particular care when passing parked vehicles, leaving enough room for someone to open a car door, and watch out for people walking in their path.

Drivers are now advised to leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists and 2 metres when overtaking horses, or pedestrians walking on the road. Cyclists may overtake slower-moving or stationary traffic on their right or left but need to apply caution when doing so.

In our village, where so much of the through-route is reduced to a single carriageway by the need to park cars on the road, this new guidance is helpful, provided the principle of “hierarchy” is applied. It is clear that the interests of pedestrians and cyclists have never been a priority in the past.

Limited space means that we have been able to highlight only some of the more important changes. For full details of the 50 rules that have been added or updated in the Highway Code, go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/updates>. We recommend this for all but particularly for cyclists who are more affected than most. To assist the Transport Working Group with its campaign to reduce the danger and disruption caused by traffic passing through Great Wilbraham, contact us at [hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com](mailto:hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com).

Tim Page

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**Bottisham Village College**  
Sports Centre

Bottisham Village College has a widely important role in the local community. We would like to apologise for the disruption the closure has caused you and we are very excited to have reopened Bottisham Sports Centre as of the 4th of January 2022. We would like to welcome our new Sports Centre Manager Harry to the role!

Currently, the Sports Centre has lots of clubs covering swimming, football and many other sports, so please get in contact with us if you would like to know more of what is on offer!

### **Our Opening Times are:**

**Monday to Wednesday 4:00pm - 10:00pm**

**Thursday 6.30am 9.00am and 4.00pm - 10.00pm**

**Friday 4.00pm - 10.00pm and Saturday & Sunday 8:00am - 4:00pm**



facebook.com/BottishamSportsCentre

For more information call **01223 811121**

or e-mail: [sportscentre@bottishamvc.org](mailto:sportscentre@bottishamvc.org)

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The clues are for the combinations

- Solution on page 67

# Wilbrahams' Transport Working Group

## Worra lorra lorries!

Standing by the side of the road at 5 o'clock in the morning, counting vehicles, may not appeal to everyone. For the members of the Transport Working Group however, doing so is an important part of the campaign to reduce the impact of traffic on the residents of Great Wilbraham. For some people, the 'dawn chorus' of early morning HGVs makes it impossible to sleep anyway.

For 5 days at the end of January, the TWG and its supporters surveyed traffic from 5am to 8pm: capturing details of vehicles and, in the case of commercial vans and lorries, their owners or operators. With 3 people available for most of the 'shifts', a huge amount of data was captured about the volume of vehicles using the



village as a through-route and the ratio of cars, light (LGVs) and heavy (HGVs) goods vehicles. Every day, the total number of vehicles passing in each of the 15-hour periods exceeded 2,000; these included, on average, more than 350 vans and almost 100 HGVs. As Cilla Black would have said: "Worra lorra lorries"!

The information gathered in this, and future surveys will be used as evidence in support of 2 different activities. Firstly, to enable the TWG to demonstrate to companies the number and frequency of vehicle movements through the village resulting from their business activities. We hope to persuade the companies to sign up to a 'Covenant': a voluntary agreement that will hopefully reduce the danger, nuisance and disturbance caused to residents and other road users.

Secondly, in pursuing a reduction in the speed limit to 20mph, we will demonstrate that both the volume and nature of the traffic are inappropriate for our village given the road widths, number of parked cars and proximity of houses along the main through routes.

After appealing for help from our supporters, we were inundated with offers of assistance. Many of those who took part in the surveys live away from the main routes - yet wanted us to know that the issue of traffic affects everyone in the village: drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. The data collected is now being loaded into a database, which will enable us to analyse it in a variety of different ways.

We will continue to run surveys on a regular basis, certainly until we achieve a reduction in the speed limit. If you would like to participate, do contact us at [hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com](mailto:hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.com) or by dropping a note through the letterbox at either 18 Church Street or 52 High Street.

Tim Page



## White Lines Through the Village

The Highways Department suffers a lot of criticism, so let us say "Thank you" for its recent work renewing the white lines through the village.

It was particularly pleasing to see the work by the school. The markings on the road there will make clearer the priority of traffic leaving the village over traffic coming in.

Unfortunately, this does not resolve the confusion for many pedestrians crossing the road outside the school gate.

The painting of the "Look Both Ways" warning does not give pedestrians priority over vehicles. The narrowing of the road, pinch point or traffic calming measure, call it what you will, is not a zebra crossing. Many motorists do stop to allow pedestrians to cross, but many do not. There is still uncertainty in many peoples' minds as to who has the right of way, so this remains a high-risk area. Please walk, cycle and drive carefully.

## 20's Plenty Banners and Posters

When the TWG surveyed residents last year, 95% of respondents said they would support a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph. The introduction of that limit remains TWG's most important campaign for this year. The 20's Plenty banners and posters around the village are an important part of the campaign, as well as being a reminder to through-traffic that 20mph is fast enough in Great Wilbraham.



Many residents remarked on the recent loss of the 20's Plenty Banner on the Lanes. Sadly, the Highways Department claimed that piece of the verge as theirs so TWG were obliged to take the banner down. It can now be seen on the side of the barn at the end of Mill Road, but that is not such a prominent site.

Similar objections have also been made to the 20's Plenty posters erected on some of the verges around the village. Fortunately, many residents have also planted posters in their gardens or stuck a poster on their wheelie bins. There is no objection to those: well, none yet.

It is ironic that Highways is reluctant to help a road safety campaign. But perhaps you can help. If you are able to find a home for a banner, or perhaps more likely, a place in your front garden or on a bin for a poster, please contact TWG at [hgvs.wilbraham@gmailk.com](mailto:hgvs.wilbraham@gmailk.com). TWG can also provide you with 20's Plenty car bumper stickers.

Richard Bray



## **Supporters' Meeting 22<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm**

The Transport Working Group (TWG) is holding a public meeting for all its supporters on 22<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall and you are invited. Speakers will include 20's Plenty national organiser, Anna Semlyen, Cambridgeshire's 20's Plenty organiser Diane FitzMaurice and chairman of our local Transport Working Group, David Richer. You may be a long standing or new supporter or just interested in the HGV's and other traffic problems in the village. This is your chance to learn more, meet like-minded villagers and lend your support to a very active group engaged in improving our village. Bumper stickers, signs and even balloons will be available. Grab a drink at the Social Club and a snack in the Hall for an enlightening evening.

Martin Gienke

## **Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Application**

Many of your readers will remember that last October, the Parish Council filed an LHI application with the County Council, seeking various traffic calming measures for the village. If that application were approved, the County Council would meet the first £15,000 of the cost; the Parish would pay the excess which, was estimated at £3,000.

In December, the County Council's Highways Officer provided advice in the form of 2 "Feasibility Summaries" which were quite different from the application, but still worth pursuing. The more extensive of the two summaries proposed:

- a. 40mph Buffer Zones in Mill Road and Station Road.
- b. Village Gateways in Mill Road, Station Road and The Lanes.
- c. Posts for speed indication devices (SIDs) – in Mill Road, Station Road and The Lanes.

The excess to be met by the PC was increased to £7,000.

Our proposal for SIDs had been deleted. Although it would have been possible to argue for their reinstatement, the costs would have increased and, because of time pressure, the proposal would have been put at risk. At its meeting on 11 January, the PC agreed to proceed with the revised application.

The remaining step in the process was a presentation on behalf of the Parish Council to a County Council 'Panel'. On 31 January, TWG's Jens Kolind and David Richer attended an on-line meeting with the Panel. They had exactly 3 minutes to make a short presentation and another 12 minutes for a question-and-answer session. The Panel appeared to be particularly interested in the data from TWG's survey of residents' concerns about speeding, and the recent traffic survey showing over 2000 vehicles a day driving through the village, many of them using the roads through the village as a rat-run between the A11 and the A14.

As far as we can tell the meeting went well, but there are no certainties. Our LHI application is in competition with proposals from 25 other Parish Councils, all similarly eager for a grant from the County Council. The applications will be scored by the Panel and those with a score above a cut-off line - still to be determined - will succeed. The decision will be some time in spring. Until then, all we can do is wait!

David Richer

## **Do you need a support with your or your family's cancer diagnosis?**

At Maggie's we can help. We provide free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends, from diagnosis throughout living with the affects after cancer.

Maggie's has been providing high quality, evidence-based support since 2013 in the local area. We help over 8,000 people a year to achieve the best possible state of psychological and physical health during diagnosis, treatment and throughout their cancer journey. People across Cambridgeshire and beyond can come to Maggie's at any stage, for as long or as little as they like. We believe that the built and natural environments in which people are cared for have a direct impact on wellbeing and how a person responds to the challenge of cancer.

Our Centre is staffed by Cancer Support Specialists, Benefits Advisor, Nutritionist, Counsellors, and Psychologists who can support people in whichever way is best suited to their needs. Maggie's is a place to find practical advice about benefits and eating well; a place where qualified experts provide emotional support; a place to meet other people or simply to sit quietly with a cup of tea.

You don't need an appointment - just come in for a chat to find out more about the support offered to them. Our centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Find us at:

21 Milton House, Puddicombe Way, Addenbrooke's, Cambridge CB2 0AD  
Tel 01223 249220 : Email [cambridge@maggies.org](mailto:cambridge@maggies.org)

Facebook: @maggiescentrecambs

Instagram: @maggiescambridge

Twitter: @maggiescambs

Website: [www.maggies.org](http://www.maggies.org)

# Fulbourn Forum for Community Action

We hope that we will be able to reintroduce some of our usual activities this year. For now, three events to report - the Nature Reserve Work Party on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March, and a planned Repair Cafe for 23 April 2022, and a Litter Pick on Sunday 3 April. Looking forward to seeing you!

## **Community Litter Pick**

Sunday 3 April 2022

As usual, we will meet between 2.00 and 2.30pm outside the Fulbourn Centre for the collection of pickers, hoops and bags. We can also provide equipment if you wish to pick at another time or on a different day - just let us know by phone or email. With more people out and about, there is a lot of litter to be cleared on some of the roads, so do please help if you can. Further information will be sent in March, but meanwhile, please make a note of the date.

## **Fulbourn Repair Cafe**

Saturday 23 April 2022

The Townley Hall has been reserved for the afternoon. Once the list of repairers has been confirmed, we will send out full details so that you can book a place, hopefully from around mid-March.

David Cottee on behalf of Fulbourn Forum for community action 01223 880616



## **BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB**

Why not come and enjoy the sporting and social pleasures derived from bowling?

The Bottisham bowling club has been on its present site since 1998 and offers an

excellent clubhouse, a professionally maintained green, adjacent to the Community Sports and Social Club which is licensed and used for teas, meetings and other events.

**THE GREEN OPENS ON 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT 2pm**

**BOWLS ENGLAND - BOWLS BIG WEEKEND 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**INFORMAL 'ROLL UPS' TUESDAYS AT 2pm**

Just come along and give it a try! Without any obligation the Club is offering

**FREE TRIAL MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE MONTH**

Come along for a roll up!

OR CALL Jim Carswell 01223 812857 or Keith Gibson 01223 811049

## List of Advertisers

Advertiser	Page
Andy's Fulbourn Garage	20
Bottisham Sports Centre	58
Chapel Dental	20
ColourFence Cambridge	50
Ernest Doe	42
Fisher Carpets	24
Fulbourn Cat Sitting Company	24
J & J Drake	36
Healthcare Homes	54
My Village Handyman	33
PRE Heating Services	56
Rothwells	10
Secure Storage	58
Tutor	10
Wheelie Fresh Bins	10
Wilbraham Boiler Services	14
Woodland Wishes	36

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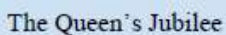
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Great Wilbraham, Church St.	<b>09.35</b>	<b>14.25</b>
Fulbourn, Six Bells	<b>09.40</b>	<b>14.20</b>
Fulbourn, Bakers Arms	<b>09.45</b>	<b>14.15</b>
Teversham, Ferndale	<b>09.47</b>	<b>14.13</b>
Teversham, Marshall's Close	<b>09.50</b>	<b>14.10</b>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

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

### **Disclaimer**

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Page 23



Great Wilbraham School : Page 32



Red2Green

Page 47

Patchwork & Quilting  
page 31

TWG : Page 60

Back cover : An Alien Christmas



