# Wilbrahams' Warbler Summer 2022







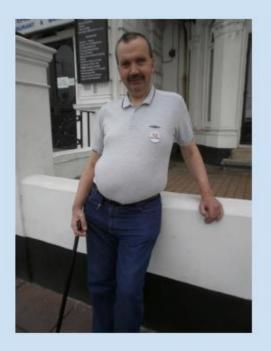
Great Wilbraham: LittleWilbraham: Six Mile Bottom



Meeting Royalty: Page 27



Untold Stories: Page 39





In Memoriam

Keith Precious : Page 7 Derek Fabb : Page 6

Contents	page
Public Service Contact Details	4
Editorial	5
In Memoriam Derek Fabb	6
In Memoriam Keith James Precious	7
Letters	9
41 Years in Wilbraham	10
Over 60's	11
Great Wilbraham Parish Council	13
Great Wilbraham Parish Council Election Results	15
Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council	17
Cycle Paths Update	17
The Children's Society	18
The St Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust	19
Great Wilbraham School	21
Wilbrahams' Choir	23
Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group	24
Meeting Royalty	27
Notice Board	34/35
St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham	37
RENEW	38
Untold Stories	39
Bottisham Bowling Club	42
Wilbrahams Memorial Hall	43
Flower and Produce Show 2022	47
Local Highways Improvement (LHI) for Great Wilbraham	49
Wilbrahams Environmental Group	51
Well-brahams	53
Counting Lorries	55
Feet : Claire Daunton	57
From our MP Lucy Fraser	59
Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre	61
Cambridge Nature Festival	61
Homes for Ukraine	62
Down to Earth on the Farm	63
Advertisers	65
Bus Timetable, 3 & 18	66

Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Centre pull out by Emma Adams and Chris Fell

### **Public Service Contact Details**

Emergency	Police, Fire or Ambulance 999		
Community Support Officer	PCSO Julie Hajredini 101 ext. 7113441		
The Surgery, Bottisham Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments: 810030		
Fulbourn Health Centre Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments: 880216		
Out-of-hours / Urgent Care Cambridgeshire	NHS Direct 111		
Anglican Church	Rev Alice Goodman 880337 Lay Minister: Steve Mashford, 882163		
Baptist Church www.re-new.me.uk info@re-new.me.uk	Peter Wells, 812388,  pandawells@cheerful.com  Rev Keith Morrison, 813055  Rev Alan Brand, 812558		
Great Wilbraham Parish Council			
Chairman	Sally Ramus chairGW@wilbrahams.co.uk		
Clerk	Samantha Chambers-Turner 07369 248998 clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk		
Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council			
Chairman	Dave Humphrey 07775 764 988 chairLW@wilbrahams.co.uk		
Clerk	Hayley Livermore 07725080631 clerkLW@wilbrahams.co.uk		
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District Councillors	Claire Daunton 07905473395 Cllr.Daunton@scambs.gov.uk Graham Cone 07595361285 grahamcone@aol.com John Williams 01223 880940 john.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk		
MP Lucy Frazer	lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk		

Photos by Chris Fell, Martin Gienke & contributors

#### **Editorial**

Welcome to this very special Summer edition of the Wilbrahams' Warbler.

There are many tributes to Derek Fabb, Keith Precious and Chris Ascroft, all regular contributors to the Warbler for many years, who died recently. Derek with country music, Keith with the Over 60's and Chris providing 'Over the Farmgate'. Chris Ashcroft's daughter talks about his three great loves, farming, rugby and cricket. When talking about cricket he always said he wasn't a batsman or a bowler but always stated he was selected for his fielding prowess, They will all be missed.

In this issue we have all the usual things you've come to expect: letters, articles and reports from clubs, groups and both Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom and Great Wilbraham Parish Councils.

The significant event this summer is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and in celebration, local events have been organised. Full details are included in the centre pull-out sheet. In a run up to the events we thought we would ask residents about their encounters with royalty. In Meeting Royalty several of our residents have written short pieces about their meetings with members of the royal family.

Local elections took on added interest as, for the first time in recent memory, there was an election for members of the Great Wilbraham Parish Council. Further up the political spectrum we hear about our County Councillor's feet and hare coursing from our MP.

With the lifting of Covid restrictions, the Flower and Produce Show in the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall will be back to 'normal' format in July.

In Counting Lorries the transport working group (TWG) gathered hard data about vehicles going through Great Wilbraham in January, because saying "There are too many lorries," or "The traffic is going too fast" is not enough.

The Cycle path update following the Christmas survey seems to suggest that if there were safer routes out of the villages more people would cycle.

The clerk of a parish council is often thought of as a thankless job. So, we would like to change all that and express our sincere thanks to Natalie for her sterling work for the Parish Council. She has been methodical and thorough in her clerical tasks and very approachable by residents She was involved in the successful revamping of the village website and in posting material. In particular, the editors would like to add their thanks for her help with her regular parish reports and assistance with our financial management. Natalie, your time with the parish council and our community is much appreciated.

Please send in any contributions or suggestions.

Happy reading John Torode

#### **Derek Fabb**

For many years folk came from miles around, To come to Great Wilbraham For the great Country Music sound.

People arrived once a month,

To dance or to sit and join in and sing.

Soon the evening is going with a swing.

Numerous happy memories
And new friends have been made.
I know these memories will never fade.

Thanks to Derek for his years of hard work, And I just must add; Derek, you were F, A Double B – FABB

Greta Rees



#### In Memoriam Derek Fabb

Derek passed away on 11th March in the same house he was born in on 28th March 1954, when it was No. 7 Frog End. Derek didn't move house, but the address changed to No. 14 Station Road. Derek loved the village of Great Wilbraham and where he lived in the village.

He went to Great Wilbraham Primary School until he was 11 years old. He was a shy little boy. He would meet Susan Ewers, Alison Taylor and his sister Carole at Toft Lane and walk them to school. They all loved him.

School holidays were spent playing in Station Road and in the "Two Trees" it was called, along Fulbourn Road making camps and in farm fields in the summer. He played on the building site of the new bungalows in Frog End; he'd be out all day and home for tea.

Derek went to Bottisham Village College until he was 15, then started work. When he was old enough, he went to the pubs in the village with his Dad, brothers and friends. Derek liked a pint or two of beer, until he had heart problems and had to stop drinking beer at age 40.

Derek loved the village, so he put on a Country Dance for people in the Memorial Hall. It brought in a crowd of 200 people from all over. So Derek started the F A Double B Country Music Club, holding between six and ten Saturday night dances in a year. Country bands and singers from all over



the country helped to put Derek's Great Wilbraham on the map. So many memories and many friends made in the 34 years of running the club.

Derek had lots of health problems over the years, but in December, Derek fell and fractured his hip and was in hospital for 8 weeks. He was very poorly. He came home for just two weeks before he passed away.

Derek loved Great Wilbraham and he didn't want to live anywhere but in Station Road.

Derek loved writing letters and reports from the country music nights for the Wilbrahams' Warbler.

Carole Fabb



# In Memoriam Keith James Precious

Keith was born at 9 Station Road, Great Wilbraham and never moved from the house that was home for his Gran and Granddad and his Mum, Dad and sister Vera. He was as solid as a rock.

He was jovial and never downhearted, and we all knew him very well from his response to the "how are you" question, which was "it's not me - it's them

others", with a laugh in his voice.

Keith was into sport from his childhood playing in Flacky's meadow, close to home, or on the rec' all of a quarter mile away. He was keeper for both village cricket and football teams and for him sport was all about having fun, a recreation, with not too much bother about winning or losing.

In his teens he was one of those with the idea to start a second football team to give his mates a game when we couldn't get a regular one with the first team. He

bought season tickets to support Cambridge United football club and sold scratch cards for them around the Wilbrahams. His personality was such that he would always give his time to help and support everything in which he became involved.

Keith became a skilled bricklayer while working for Crisps the Builders of Quy and his many friends made sure he was always in demand on building projects at weekends as well as during the working week. When he became self-employed he never had to look for work - it came to him.

In his spare time Keith also helped when Wilbrahams' Social Club was formed and he served on the bar rota. Keith ran Bingo in the Memorial Hall for several years. He understood the value of community.

Around the same period of time the Village Primary School stopped holding an annual Sports Day for its pupils. Keith was utterly dumbfounded. Having none of it he instigated a Sports Club fun and fund-raising Sports Day in its place.

This continued for many years even after the School's Sports Day was re-instated.

On 7th June 1977 villages and streets across the country held parties to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Celebrations in the Wilbrahams included a fancy dress competition and parade. Keith turned out in a beautiful black one piece lady's swimsuit and a lady's blond wig. Plus, of course, his handsome moustache.



He helped the Fabb family's FABB promotions set up stage for their very popular Country and Western evenings in the Memorial Hall back in the days of stetsons and guns in holsters.



Still keeping busy over the last 10 years Keith was treasurer and chairman of the Over 60s Club during which time he organised day trips out by coach and arranged many other functions, sometimes jointly with other Over 60s groups.

More recently Keith needed a mobility scooter, and we all became used to seeing him tootling around the village. He still helped out if he could. When the benches

on the new patio outside the Social Club were being placed Keith was passing by and decided to manoeuvre around all of them to make sure every inch of the patio was accessible.

Keith was a dear, caring friend and will be missed by many.

#### Letters

#### **Dear Editors**

I would like to thank everyone who left donations at Keith Precious's funeral. His wishes were for any money raised to be donated to Bottisham Medical Practice who had taken care of Keith over many years. The total amount donated came to £600. Again, a big thank-you to everyone. Keith would have been incredibly proud.

Beryl Smith

#### **Dear Editors**

David and Rebecca would like to say a huge thank you to the many people who supported us in April when we had a fire at the Windmill.

So many people brought very welcome gifts of wine and cheese and cake ... what does that say about our main needs! - offers of help accommodation and hard physical labour.

We were so lucky that Richard Lane was passing and called the fire brigade. Thanks to his efforts and those of the always helpful David White the fire was contained and prevented what could have been a much worse event. Barry the postman, who thought he was only feeding the cat, became chief emergency family coordinator and did a grand job. The fire crews who arrived were amazing they effectively extinguished a fire that had in a very short space of time had taken hold. They did an incredible job of salvaging much of our endangered contents and personal items from a deep and sooty flood.

Thank you also to those who responded to a plea for help in finding our cat who turned up hungry and a bit shaky three days later. We are also grateful to Keith Bartlett and colleagues who at very short notice provided us with a watertight roof to prevent further damage.

Fortunately, the Mill tower was not affected and our plans for restoration works we hope will coordinate with repairs to the damaged roof during this summer.

We were overwhelmed with all your kindnesses in a situation where we felt unusually vulnerable.

David, Rebecca, Rosie and Charlotte Lomas

#### 41 Years in Wilbraham

My mother always said, dad had three loves in his life, Farming, Rugby and Cricket. Whilst Rugby may not be the most relevant to his life in Wilbraham, Farming and Cricket certainly were, having managed Wilbraham Farms for the past 41 years and being involved with the Wilbraham's Cricket and sports club for almost as many.



Dad arrived in Wilbraham on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1981. At that time the farm was 650 acres in hand with a number of tenancies across the estate. Phil arrived 7 years later, following some probing questions at interview (which mainly revolved around sport) and they have been working together ever since. We celebrated dad's 40<sup>th</sup> work anniversary last summer with a surprise party that left him

speechless. For those of you who knew my father, that was a very rare He would always acknowledge people when driving through the village even if he didn't know them and would always find time to speak to people walking around the footpaths of the farm and engage and educate them in what was going on in the fields. In the height of Covid he contributed to the 'Know your neighbour' talks and hosted a Zoom farm walk which was so well received that once lockdown restrictions were lifted he was able to do another one in person. Explaining what was growing in the fields, the farming process and where the final product ended up.

With retirement looming he was asked relatively recently if he had any thoughts of retiring, however his love and passion for the job and the farm was as strong as ever, and although he was starting to feel age catching up with him he was definitely not ready for retirement.

Cricket, was another love of dads and filled the summer month's pre and postharvest, turning out for Yelling, Shuttleworth, and Wilbraham. He wasn't a batsman or a bowler but always stated he was selected for his fielding prowess, the village version of Johnty Rhodes. My brother Jonathan was lucky enough to play a number of games alongside Dad over the years, with many memorable moments to be had, including his legendary underarm throw (just ask some of the older members of the team)! He was subsequently Chairman and then President of the Sports Club supporting the club as much as he could and even watching the football team on occasion. As life went on it is fair to say he gained more loves that just Farming, Rugby and Cricket. He loved socialising with family and friends and valued all of these relationships highly, always looking for an excuse for a party. My ginger spaniel (Tiggy) was a secret favourite of his and whilst he pretended he didn't like her, she could often be found in the truck with him. The most recent love of his life was when he became a grandfather, and he fully embraced all grandfather duties. Henry and Hattie adored him, with Henry always insisting that he wasn't a farmer, he was a grandpa.

I can't sign off this piece without mentioning my mother, Zoe. 46 years together, 38 of them married, is testament to their relationship and I know I speak for Jonathan as well, when I say that we're both immensely proud of our parents and our upbringing.

My family and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their incredibly kind words and support over what has been a very difficult few months and has meant an awful lot to us all. Thank you.

Clare Ascroft

## Wilbrahams - Six Mile Bottom - Fulbourn Over 60s Club

We hold our meetings in Wilbraham Memorial Hall, on the last Thursday of the month starting at 2pm. At present we have 45 members and a new committee, due to the death of our much-loved chairman Keith Precious, whom we all miss greatly.

We had an enjoyable Tea Dance on 31st March with Bryan Roy providing the music.

April 28th is our AGM

May 12th we have scheduled an afternoon tea & boat trip at Rutland Water. May 26th Rob Marden (olive man) will give a talk on olives ,with a chance to purchase.

#### Some upcoming activities

June 16th Day coach trip to Great Yarmouth.

June 30th Talk by Mrs Scoles all about America.

July 14th Visit to the Gardens at Great Easton Lodge.

July 28th Defibrillator talk & practice

August 25th Talk by Gary Matthews about the plants in Great Easton Lodge.

As you can see, we have quite a varied diary planned. New people are most welcome, so don't be shy come along.

Carol Whitehouse, carolwhitehouse4@gmail.com

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# Deadline for the Autumn Issue Friday 12 August 2022

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johnboy\_torode@hotmail.com

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

#### Great Wilbraham Parish Council

#### Appointment of New Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

We are pleased to report the appointment of our new Parish Clerk / Responsible financial Officer Samantha Chambers-Turner. Sam has extensive experience in the workings of Parish Councils. She started her career as a Clerk in 2020 for Stow-Cum-Quy. Since then, has taken on the role as Clerk/RFO for Swaffham Bulbeck and now Great Wilbraham. Sam enjoys the challenges of the role and is looking forward to supporting Great Wilbraham Parish Council and its residents moving forward. If you need to contact Sam please contact her via clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk

#### Farewell from previous Clerk Natalie Mulvey

Since being appointed as Clerk back in 2014 I have enjoyed my time working with Great Wilbraham Parish Council enormously. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the support they have given me and the effort they put into making Great Wilbraham such a lovely place to live and work. I have been constantly amazed by how much time the Councillors I have worked alongside have been willing to give to support their community. I wish you all the best for the future.

#### **Parish Council Elections**

On the 5th May Great Wilbraham held its first election for members of the Parish Council for many years. Eight candidates stood for the seven places. We welcome the return of five re-elected members, Sally Ramus, Roddy Tippen, Claire Jackman, Sam Dhaliwal and Christine Page, and two new members James Harmer and Hilary Burton. Unfortunately, Alister McFarquhar was not reelected. The council is very grateful for all Alister has achieved for the village, especially for Highways matters and many other issues in the work of the Parish Council. We would like to thank him for his time and professional dedication. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on the 12th May.

#### HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council decided that all children living in the village should be presented with a coin to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The coin and accompanying certificate have been designed and are currently in production. All children living in Great Wilbraham aged 16 or below on 31st August 2022 are eligible to receive them. A letter was sent to all households, inviting families to nominate their children as recipients. If anyone failed to do this and would like to apply now, they should contact the Parish Clerk at <a href="clerkgw@wilbrahams.co.uk">clerkgw@wilbrahams.co.uk</a>, providing their child's/children's names, date of birth and address. The coins and certificates will be delivered to families before the end of June.

#### **Update regarding Gigabit voucher scheme:**

Cambridge Fibre has connected most home that had vouchers from the government, both in Little and Great Wilbraham. They have reported that some additional homes that did not have a voucher also requested connections, which they are completing. A more detailed report on total homes and businesses connected shall be forthcoming.

#### Parish Accounts 2021 - 2022

The 2021/2022 accounts have been prepared and will be audited internally by Canalbs Ltd. Each year, the body's annual return is audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission. This year it has appointed PKF Littlejohn. Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounts and accounting statements. The documents for year ended 31st March 2022 will be available on reasonable notice by application to the clerk.

#### Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 26th May

This year's Great Wilbraham Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th May. 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 and join us. 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.

#### Road and Street Maintenance

Please be aware that you can report problems on the highways including potholes, kerbs, verges, flooding, hedges and trees, public rights of way, road markings and signs and traffic signals on the County Council's website <a href="https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/">https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/</a>. You can also use the highway reporting tool to track progress on a fault you have already reported. Enter the reference number for your fault or the location into the top right-hand box on the map to view updates. Alternatively, the PC Clerk or any Councillor are very happy to be notified of any concerns.

#### **Community Support**

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

Great Wilbraham Parish Council has money available to be awarded in grants to organisations for projects that will be of benefit to the residents of the Parish. If you are a part of a community group or project and feel you have a funding need, please look at the policy, which can be found on the www.wilbrahams.co.uk site

to see if you meet the criteria to apply for a grant from the Parish Council. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk.

#### Overgrown hedges

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

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

Please check the Parish website for regular updates - <a href="www.wilbrahams.co.uk">www.wilbrahams.co.uk</a>
Clerk Gt Wilbraham Parish Council

#### Great Wilbraham Parish Council Election Results

The results of the election on 5th May 2022 are as follows:

Name of Candidate	Description	Number of votes
BURTON, Margaret Hilary (commonly known as BURTON, Hilary)		187 elected
DHALIWAL, Simarjit Singh		161 elected
HARMER, James Stephen		134 elected
JACKMAN, Claire		155 elected
MCFARQUHAR, Alister John Neil McAlister		125
PAGE, Christine Ann		146 elected
RAMUS, Sally Anne		130 elected
TIPPEN, Roderick George (commonly known as TIPPEN, Roddy)	Independent	155 elected



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# Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

Firstly, we hope you and all your families are keeping well. The council meets every 6 weeks and we are back meeting in the church at Little Wilbraham now that maintenance work is complete. All welcome to attend.

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.

A successful litter pick took place in both Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom producing 40 bags of rubbish; thank you to all that helped with this. New highway gates in Six Mile Bottom are soon to be installed and we have applied for a bench to commemorate the Queens jubilee for the old cricket pitch in Six Mile Bottom. There will also be a new disabled access bench on the recreation ground in Little Wilbraham.

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 all. All children whose parents have applied from our villages will also be given a commemorative coin for the jubilee.

For further information on any of the above please contact the clerk at <a href="mailto:clerklw@wilbrahams.co.uk">clerklw@wilbrahams.co.uk</a>. Best wishes,

Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council.

Hayley Livermore

# Cycle Paths Update

I would like to thank everyone who completed the cycle survey at Christmas as well as to those who helped make it happen. We had a great response rate which provides a good insight into the journeys that people could make by cycle and the amount of support in our villages for safer cycle paths. This is valuable information in helping reinforce our case and understanding the likely demands for the different routes. Here is a summary of the findings.

The survey received responses from 94 households in Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom. This represented 249 people, 98% of whom wanted safer cycle paths.

92% do not currently cycle because parts of the route feel too dangerous and unsafe with narrow, unlit, fast roads and passing HGVs. Many mentioned the restrictions this brings, particularly for children cycling to school and seeing friends in neighbouring villages.

97% said that safer cycle routes would increase their cycling with most expecting to use the routes to Fulbourn, Quy & Bottisham several times each week, or more frequently for their daily commute.

Most trips undertaken are to local amenities, schools and places of work that are within easy reach for cycling, including Bottisham, Fulbourn, Cherry Hinton, Addenbrookes and Cambridge.

45% of people relied on other household members to drive them when they could cycle the journey and 90% of those surveyed already had access to a cycle. There were many expressions of the important and urgent need for safer cycle paths and the frustrations felt with having to use a car when a cycle journey was easily possible and was the preferred option in most cases.

Thanks again for your support.

Robert McCubbin - LW & SMB PC

## The Children's Society

The coffee morning for The Children's Society was enjoyed by many. We are indeed fortunate to have the most wonderful and generous cakemakers so there were many delicious cakes which we all enjoyed at the time; and quite a few of us were able to buy some to enjoy later at home. The coffee and tea makers were kept busy along with those doing the washing up. A fantastic job, thank you.



We were very lucky to be given a set of Haiku books to sell where the Haikus were written by Renee Tanburn and illustrated by Helen Clarke. They are very beautiful and unsurprisingly they made £120 on the day. A big thank you to Renee and Helen.

Lots of the boxes had been handed in for counting and the small team of counters consisting of YIn, Tim, Nick and Charlie were kept really busy showing their bean counting prowess. Now that I have all the remaining

boxes in, I can confirm that we collected £1066.88. This is a very pleasing result so a big thank you to everyone. The money should go some way to helping The Children's Society with all the work that they do especially as they need every penny at this time to help with their refugee programmes.

Should anyone wish to have one of The Children's Society collecting boxes don't hesitate to ask me for one.

Di Raikes raikswilb@btinternet.com

# The Saint Nicholas Great Wilbraham Trust Chairman's Quarterly Report

To remind those who are not yet familiar with the aims & objectives of this charitable trust (founded in 1988), they are: "To provide capital and income for the preservation repair, maintenance, improvement, upkeep, beautification and restoration of the Church and of any monument fitting, fixture, stained glass, organ or bell in the Church but excluding the churchyard adjoining the Church".

Today the trustees' strategy is to preserve all capital donations (and grow their value by at least Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year), and from the preserved capital to generate £10,000+ income pa. Some of this income is passed on to the Church's Fabric Committee to help meet the Church Architect's Quinquennial Report (5 yearly) on all the repairs and maintenance required on the upkeep of the building, plus raise funds for improvements; such as the recent conversion of the church tower into a ground floor kitchen area & disabled wc raising the bell floor to first floor for the bell ringers; the electric space heating and the interior redecoration of the walls. The remainder is added to any "special" donations & grants for major repairs and improvements to the church.

Today there is the maximum of five trustees responsible for the running of the trust, made up by local parishioners living in the village of Great Wilbraham plus our Reverend Alice of Fulbourn, The Wilbrahams & Six Mile Bottom.

As at 31st March 2022 the Trust's Legacy Capital Fund was valued at £259,782, showing a slight fall of around 2% from it's value of £265,352 as at 31 December 2021, which was broadly in line with market sentiment following the commencement of Russia's war in Ukraine and the general downturn in the global markets.

Over the past quarter the fund has generated £3,145 dividend income, which has been transferred into the trust's current account.

The trust's available cash now as at 24th April stands at £6,889.

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 an extra regular income of around £1,500 pa (including the Gift Aid Tax Refund, if you are a tax payer).

We hope (post Covid) to start up again some fund raising events later this year, and 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, via email: <a href="mailto:lyansan@btinternet.com">lyansan@btinternet.com</a> or myself via email: <a href="mailto:graham@clarkesresidential.co.uk">graham@clarkesresidential.co.uk</a>.

With my best wishes, Graham Clarke, chairman





# Great Wilbraham CE (VC) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Richard Brown BEd (Hons) NPQH

The first half of the Spring term was spent ensuring the school stayed open despite the pandemic and the second half was spent moving the school forwards to reopen and hold events not seen in person since the pandemic began two years ago.

#### March

World book day was a great occasion and children and staff dressed up as book characters as is tradition on this day. They were also invited to take part in a potato book character competition which was judged with Rev Alice and produced some amazing results. We also had Keith Gatton, an author, come in to talk to the children and Mrs Francis deserves a lot of credit for organising all these events.

Badger class went to Cambridge Regional College for a careers fair and learnt all about the different roles in society they could aspire to be. Later in the month, Badger class also attended a rugby tournament and came second overall which was a fabulous success.

"After we had played last matches, we had won three games, drew one and lost two. We had scored 33 tries and had 21 tries conceded so our team expected to come fourth or possibly third but we ended up coming second! We were super happy, and we were given medals. Isabella also received the games award for honesty and teamwork. We had good honesty and great understanding of the game." Isaac

Play equipment was installed in March on the field and has been greatly used already, thanks to the PTFA this was purchased in collaboration between successful grants and PTFA. Outdoor working party has been working hard over the past few weeks and months to clear our outdoor area and it has been a fabulous effort – thank you so much to all those involved.

#### April

The Spring Concert was the first of our big events to return, just before the Easter holidays. Parents of musicians and singers were able to witness some superb musical talent on show and it was a great experience for the children to perform, and my goodness did they rise to challenge. Huge congratulations to everyone who sang and/or played instruments ranging from piano, guitar, ukulele and violin. The performances were



excellent but thanks should also go to all the music teachers and to Mr Few who brought it all together and did a wonderful job – sadly his last Spring Concert but an excellent way to bow out!



During the first week back after Easter, Badger class were able to finally have their postponed trip to the Institute of Astronomy. They spent the whole day learning about the vastness of space and had a great day. They behaved impeccably and learnt loads! Thanks to Dr Matthew Bothwell at the institute of Astronomy for such an engaging day and also to Lisa Taylor at Cambridge Launchpad for organising the trip and accessing funding for the whole day, including the travel.

'We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Institute of Astronomy. During our stay we had the privilege to gaze at Venus through a mechanical telescope, we learnt how large our solar system is and the distance between all the planets. The class were amazed by what really goes on outside our atmosphere. I'm sure we'll all agree that this was an unforgettable experience.'

Isabella, Lexie and Henry

We also have a change of staffing for next year as both Mr Few and Mrs Turner leave us after nearly six and seventeen year's service respectively. In April, we recruited Miss Maddison who will join us in September and I know will be welcomed warmly.

#### May

We are currently completing the statutory assessments with children and they are making us very proud of their achievements. Looking forwards, we hope to host Sports Day with parents in attendance on Tuesday morning 24<sup>th</sup> May. We would also like to host a Jubilee Tea Party on the 26<sup>th</sup> May which would replace our annual picnic. We also have class assemblies, productions, leaver's assembly booked in and hope to invite parents to all of these events. From a whole community aspect, we look forward to also sending out details about the summer fair which will return on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 3.30-6.00pm and have plans to enter lots of artwork for the Food and Produce show in July.

#### Lastly

I sincerely hope you are keeping safe and well in the community. This is a wonderful school to work in as the children are fabulous to work with and the community is so supportive of what we are achieving at the school

Richard Brown



# Wilbrahams' Community Choir

The Wilbrahams' Community Choir encourages new members to join us! Choir practice takes place in the Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham (on

Thursdays at 8pm during school term dates). 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. Songs we are currently learning include "Both Sides Now" by Joni Mitchell especially arranged by Gill Humphrey, our choir conductor, "I got rhythm" by George and Ira Gershwin and "California Dreamin" by Phillips and Gilliam.

Choir members are a sociable, friendly group, who often enjoy drinks together in the social club after choir practice. Every year we have a party (COVID permitting) to which all present and past choir members and their partners are invited. This year we are having an afternoon garden party on 22/05/23.

We are looking forward to singing at the Beacon Ceremony on the evening of 2/6/22 on the Church Green in Little Wilbraham and at the Queen's Jubilee afternoon celebrations at Great Wilbraham Recreation ground on 5/6/22. Normally we would have an annual summer concert but due to COVID this has been postponed this year, hopefully we'll get this event up and running again in 2023.

If you would be interested in joining us, then please get in touch! Singing has very positive benefits to mental health and can be enjoyed by everyone of all ages, experience and ability.

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

Stay well and keep singing!

Vanessa Nichols

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# Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

**Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend:** The surgery will be closed for the four days bank holiday weekend so please remember to ensure you have sufficient of your medication to cover this period and also allow for the 5 working day turnaround for repeat prescriptions.

**Covid Spring Vaccination Boosters:** The Practice are only doing these for patients at the Nursing Homes. Eligible patients will receive an invitation to book an appointment at a walk-in centre.

**Retirement Village:** We are pleased that the appeal has been dismissed so that the Practice will not have the extra pressure that the development would have brought. Thanks to Dr Keith, who made a very eloquent statement to the enquiry.

**Health Pod:** This has now been installed in the waiting room to enable patients to take their blood pressure and weight and these are recorded automatically to their GP records. It will be in use once staff have been trained and a screen provided for privacy.

**Staff:** Dr Harrison has returned to duty and Dr Ramsden, a salaried GP, is due to start at the beginning of May.

**Paramedic:** Ellie works alongside the duty doctor with minor illnesses and on home visits.

**Red Bucket Funds and other Donations**: Thank you these now total £374. 40 after our contribution to the purchase of the new ECG machine.

**Dispensary:** There continues to be a five-day turnaround time for repeat prescriptions. We 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.

**Appointments:** These will continue to be a mixture of face to face and phone consultations. Whilst patients will still need to queue for the dispensary there will be now be more seating allowed in the waiting area.

# Choose if Data from your Health Record is Shared for Research and Planning (GPDPR)

Patient data from GP medical records kept by GP practices in England is used to improve health, care and services through planning and research, helping to find better treatments and improve patient care. The NHS is introducing an improved way to share this information – called the General Practice Data for Planning and Research data collection.

You can:- choose if your confidential patient information is used for research and planning,

change or check your current choice

Your choice will be applied by:

**NHS** Digital

all other health and care organisations by 31 July 2022 (delayed from March 2020 to allow organisations to focus on the COVID-19 outbreak).

Any choice you make will not impact your individual care.

You can make your choice online here (or via link from the Bottisham Medical Practice website), by email or post

https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/

Email to enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk

Or write to this postal address:

National Data Opt Out Contact Centre NHS Digital HM Government 7 and 8 Wellington Place

Leeds LS1 4AP

You can also make or change a choice for yourself by phoning the NHS Digital Contact Centre.

The phone number is 0300 303 5678 – Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays).

The Practice Manager wishes to extend thanks to patients for their help and support over the last difficult few months.

#### The Patient Participation Group:

We are looking for new members to join. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved

**Regular Meetings:** Please note that we are returning to 6pm and on Thursdays as we used to do before the pandemic. However, we will continue on Zoom for the time being.

So next meeting is Thursday 28 July 2022 at 6pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting, please email our chairman at <a href="mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com">s.j.gilson@btinternet.com</a> who will send you a meeting invite.

Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group



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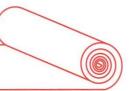
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# Meeting Royalty

#### **Ruth Sinclair meets Prince Charles**

In 1993 I was lucky enough to be accepted on the first RSC Shakespeare School for secondary teachers at the RSC, which was sponsored by the Prince of Wales, the RSC's patron. That fortnight was the most useful training of my career, and I used a lot of their techniques in my Drama and English classes. We saw different Shakespeare performances and worked with the directors, actors and designers. A highlight was working with the Director of Voice, Cicely Berry, who was a world authority on voice and Shakespeare.

One day the rehearsal rooms were swept by sniffer dogs, and Prince Charles came to talk with us in small groups about the course. He said he had loved the theatre from a very early age, "as my granny used to take me to the pantomime." He had acted in many Shakespeare plays at Gordonstoun, and had wanted to play the lead in Henry V. However, the school thought it would attract too much publicity. Instead he played the title role in Macbeth, and recollected hearing his father in the audience laughing at his performance. Perhaps it was the beard...

He revealed a deep love, knowledge and appreciation of Shakespeare, and had sponsored the course because he wanted children to grow up enjoying Shakespeare. He also hoped Shakespeare would help them learn wisdom and empathy. He surprised us by revealing that he had already seen the current King Lear production at the RSC four times, which had opened only three months before. We were due to see the production the following day and asked him what he had learned from it. He replied, with a wry smile, "NEVER to abdicate..."

Ruth

#### Martin Gienke meets the Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh was appointed as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and although many academics thought he would be a silent partner he took an active role in the university officiating at honorary degree ceremonies and frequent visits to Cambridge.

I was Director of the Audio Visual Aids Unit and shortly after the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 we opened a new television studio for producing educational videos. I was also involved with the Cambridge Talking News for the blind having provided the technical recording facilities for its production since its inception.

One of the Duke of Edinburgh's many visits included one to our new studio. I had asked the university to ask the palace if we could conduct an audio interview with him for the Talking News and he agreed. The questions to be asked had to be submitted to the palace six weeks in advance and one of these was to him about a memorable moment of the jubilee.

The Duke of Edinburgh duly arrived at the studio on the selected day and was shown around the facility, but without the normal press corps. We then conducted the interview and came to the question about the memorable moment. He replied to describe his view from the balcony of Buckingham Palace and the 'shadows in the crowd'. I asked him to explain further. He said the crowds were immense and that the area as seen from the balcony was a continuous sea of people with one exception. Because people in the crowd who found themselves behind a lamppost couldn't see the balcony there was always a gap in the crowd. To him these gaps appeared to be like a shadow in the crowd. This was a very appropriate and fitting image for our blind audience and reflected the special thought he had given to the interview.



#### Martin Gienke meets the Queen

In the Audio Visual Unit in the University we made audio recording masters for the University Press; such things as German love poetry and the Canterbury Tales. We also did a video about 800 years of Bible printing. In 2009 the Press celebrated 800 years with a garden party at the Press which the Queen attended. Gill and I were amongst the invitees. When the Queen came down our aisle she came to

speak to me and asked me about my connection. After a quick curtsy and bow I told her briefly about the audio recordings. She commented "Is there nothing they (The University Press) can't turn their hand to?"

#### **Martin Gienke meets Prince Charles**

I was very fortunate to have an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace in my position as Information Officer for the US Air Force at RAF Alconbury in the late 1960's. The Wing Commander had an invite as well. I took Gill as my wife, but this was before we were married, and I was reluctant to say a lot for fear of deportation. The Wing Commander was to take his daughter, but on the day he was involved in an inspection and couldn't attend. However, we three had a staff car to take us to London and a place to change in the Columbia Club for USAF officers.

Each Royal took a different route through the guests and people were selected and pulled out of the crowd to meet them. We weren't selected, but there was I between two very lovely and very attractive young ladies who caught Prince Charles' eye and he came over to greet us. He asked about my work in the Air Force and community relations. In answer to his question about any problems, I replied that noise complaints were frequent, especially from those in St Ives who lived beneath the flight path of the Phantom aircraft with their loud whistle as they approached the runway. His comment was that he too had noise complaints from his trainer Chipmunk aircraft. A good chuckle and he was off.

#### John Beadsmoore meets the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh



Royal visits to the bastion of privilege and influence that is Cambridge University are far from unusual. What is uncommon for Cambridge is that Her Majesty should accept an invitation to lunch, not at one of the University's ancient and venerable colleges, but in the dining room of the City's relocated new Regional College of Further Education. It was at this event in the mid 1990's that I found myself sitting next to the Queen in my role as Chairman of Cambridge Regional College at that time run by a group of local businessmen who had set out some years earlier to do something about the disgraceful neglect of technical and vocational education in the City.

Her Majesty, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, opened the new college. Thankfully everything went according to plan. A team from Buckingham Palace, schooled us in Royal protocol and timings and we were well prepared. The students who cooked and served the meal were wonderfully confident and professional and seemingly a lot less nervous than some of the guests. The new Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire for instance, who dressed in full regalia, had a lot of trouble keeping his sword under control. The ultimate professional was naturally The Queen herself who, noticing his predicament, discreetly warned him that he was in danger of tripping up the waiters. A helpful tip on ceremonial sword discipline followed, before Her Majesty steered the conversation around to our hopes and ambitions for the future of the new college!

The Duke, on another table, impressed everyone with his wide knowledge of practical, vocational skills, talking easily to the apprentice crafts students he met on the tour of the college about brick laying, plastering and building technology, for instance.

John Beadsmoore

#### Official openings of Buildings

As an architect, several projects had official openings, frequently by politicians probably looking for the photo opportunity, especially with healthcare buildings. I was the director for our Cambridge office and architect for the Maternity and Paediatric project at Bedford General Hospital. In 1996 the building was officially opened by the Queen. All the design team (architect, engineers, quantity surveyor) were invited. On the day we were instructed on the correct procedures. During her tour of the building we were presented. I don't recall any comments and it was all over very quickly. Quite rightly the emphasis for the visit was to meet hospital staff. The event was successful and enjoyed by everyone.

Two other projects with official openings were Aldeburgh Hospital, opened by the Duke of Gloucester and the Papworth Village Centre opened by the Duchess Of Gloucester. 'Minor royals' and lower key events but they were very enjoyable as there were opportunities to chat more informally. Both events went well and were much appreciated by staff and local people.

John Bramwell

When working for the Hundred Houses Society, I was involved in a project providing new bungalows for elderly residents in Cambridge. I helped to organize the official opening. As it was windy that day, I put a small piece of sticky tape to secure the curtain over the plaque and I remember that it stuck to the Duke's fingers during the ceremony. He appeared to find it very amusing. It unexpectedly snowed, but this did not deter the Duke of Edinburgh and the residents from enjoying the event. Despite the snow falling, the Duke of Edinburgh insisted on visiting each resident in their new bungalows and I acted as guide. Everyone enjoyed the Duke's visit and his genuine interest in the people and the project.

Later when I was the Housing Development Manager at the Papworth Trust, the patron of the trust, the Duchess of Gloucester, was always keen to be involved whenever possible. I project managed developments providing appropriate accommodation for people with disabilities, and several of these were officially opened by the Duchess. I helped to organize these and also attended. The Duchess seemed to enjoy the events and the opportunities to chat afterwards with residents and staff.

Diane Bramwell

#### Chris Fell meets the Duke of Edinburgh

In 1962 my school was celebrating its centenary and many events were arranged to mark this throughout the year. The culminating event was a visit by the Queen and Prince Philip in October.

Instructions came from Buckingham Palace that all of the pupils should be doing exactly what they would normally be doing on a Wednesday afternoon and that their majesties would tour the school accompanied by a senior boy.

When the day arrived, we had all been practising our 'normal activity' for weeks and those doing Portrait Art (normally Monday early evening) or choir practice (that was me, and our rehearsals were usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays) were ready for their arrival.

The beautiful Rolls-Royce swept up the drive and the Cadet Force (usually Fridays) provided a guard of honour. The Queen and Prince Philip stepped out of the car accompanied by a lady in waiting and hundreds of schoolboys clapped in awe. The headmaster then introduced the head boy and said that he, Nick Hawker, would take the Royal party around the school and that he, the headmaster, would follow at a respectful distance. Prince Philip responded, "What for? To pick up the bricks?"

We all scuttled off to do our 'normal' Wednesday activities. When the party arrived at the choir rehearsal I, being a treble, was seated in the front row. Prince Philip came straight up to me and asked what we were singing – I replied: "The Russian Kontakion for the Departed". He looked at me and said: "Will they be singing that when Khrushchev finally dies?" Little did he know that it would be sung by the choir of the Chapel Royal at his funeral 69 years later. As the royal party left after talking to one or two boys, our conductor picked up his baton to show what we had been practising for months, Prince Philip turned to the choir and said: "Please don't sing. We've had the Luton Girls' Choir all morning!"

If you wonder what this mysterious piece of music may be, it used to be sung at Russian State Funerals before the Revolution and may be heard at the beginning of the film Dr Zhivago as the opening credits are running. I have sung it twice since at funerals where music was important to the departed person.

Chris Fell

#### **Rosemary Pratten**

I met HM the Queen in 1974. I was a physiotherapy student at Guys Hospital in London. The Queen opened the new tower block. The students formed a guard of honour, and the Queen stopped and had a few words with me.



#### **Ian Cumming with Prince Charles**

The photo was taken in June 2012 when the Dalai Lama was on a visit to the UK. As his photographer in the UK I always went with him and this particular afternoon he was visiting Prince Charles & Camilla at Clarence House in London. There was only one other photographer allowed and one film crew. We were given very strict instructions not to ask questions and to

keep a respectful distance from the Royal couple. As can so often happen with the Dalai Lama he blew the official protocols out of the water and holding Prince Charles by the arm he guided him over towards us until we were backed into a hedge and had no chance of keeping what was deemed to be a respectful distance. The Dalai Lama then chatted away praising Prince Charles and saying what a nice chap he was. Afterwards the other photographer said he had never seen anything like that before, but that's what the Dalai Lama does! From my point of view I had seen the Dalai Lama with politicians from all the major parties (Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Nick Clegg) but none of them came across as genuine as Prince Charles.

Ian Cumming



#### Emma Gant and Pony, Sweet Sherry meet Princess Anne.

I did meet Princess Anne when I was at boarding school in Felixstowe. She was patron of our school and of Riding for the Disabled. I was volunteering for Riding for the Disabled with my



pony, Sweet Sherry and she came to inspect us.

Emma Gant

#### Julia Baysham meets Princess Anne

The only time I've met royalty was at my degree graduation ceremony. Princess Anne was the patron of my university and handed out our degree certificates. We practiced our curtseys before performing them on stage whilst trying to accept the certificate from the Princess without falling over in front of HRH as well as our families and friends!



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### **NOTICE BOARD**

#### **DATES FOR SUMMER 2022**

Monday 30 May

-Tuesday 7 June Half Term

Friday 3 June & Queen's Jubilee Monday 6 June Bank Holidays

Friday 24 June School closed

Friday 22 July Summer Term ends

Monday 29 August Bank Holiday

### Mobile Library Revised timetable

The mobile library schedule is every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday:-

23rd June, 22nd July, 25th August

Six Mile Bottom,

Delaware Close, 11.35-12.00.

Little Wilbraham

Bus stop on High Street, 4.10-4.25

**Great Wilbraham** 

Opposite the playground, 4.30-5.00.

#### Wilbrahams Memorial Hall

Regular monthly Farmers' Markets are held on the second Saturday of the month from 9.30-11.30 am See full report on page 43

#### Queen's Jubilee

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

Programme of events celebrating the Jubilee in the village is enclosed as a centre pull out.

#### **BIN COLLECTIONS**

#### **Black bins**

Monday 13 June Monday 27 June Monday 11 July Monday 25 July Monday 8 August Monday 22 August

#### Blue & Green bins

Tuesday 7 June Monday 20 June Monday 4 July Monday 18 July Monday 1 August Monday 15 August Tuesday 30 August

#### **GW Parish Council**

Next meeting dates 16<sup>th</sup> June 21<sup>st</sup> July August – No Meeting For the next meeting date. See full report on page 13

## Bottisham Air Museum Bottisham at War 1940's weekend

June 18/19 10-30am – 4.00 pm

#### LW&SMB Parish Council

Check the village website for the next meeting date. See full report on page 17

# **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 Office: 880408 GW Primary School PTFA Emily Oliver

emilystar\_uk@yahoo.com

Oil Syndicate, Great Wilbraham Chris Gurney

chris.gurney@tylers.net

Over 60's

Transport Woking Group Tim Page 881738

David Richer 880547

hgvs.wilbrahams@gmail.com Pat Simpson pas49@cam.ac.uk

The Well-brahams www.thewell-

brahams.weebly.com

Volunteer Group

well.brahams@gmail.com

Weenie Warblers Mother & Toddler Group Sarah Fordham, 880698 Wilbrahams' Bridge Club Di Raikes, 881065

raikswilh@btinternet.com

Wibrahams' Community Choir Vanessa Nichols 07876363707

vanessajnichols@gmail.com

Gill Humphrey 811436

Wilbraham' Gardening Club Jackie Beadsmoore, 880889

jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com

Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall Shirley Morley, 880723

booking. wilbrahams memorial hall @gmail.com

Wilbrahams' Scrabble Julia Cornwell, 881851

juliacornwell@gmail.com

Wilbrahams' Sports Club Roddy Tippen 880728

## The Wilbrahams' and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Rosie White Tel: 01223 881293 mobile: 07757982934email:

rosiewhite77@hotmail.com

Full show details on page 47 & Leaflet delivered with the Warbler



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# St John the Evangelist, Little Wilbraham

Recent work at St John's has been made necessary by general wear and tear requiring replacement stonework and the use of inappropriate materials by previous generations.



The parapet along the south elevation is made of clunch which, when exposed to the elements, absorbs water and is easily eroded. It had been noted over the past two decades that the parapet was being worn away from the inside and was reduced to a quarter of its original thickness in places. It was then seen that the inside of the south wall was becoming damp near the top and some of the lime wash was flaking off inside the church. About five

or six years ago it was seen that the stone tracery on the south window closest to the porch was badly eroded and was even disintegrating in places. Closer inspection revealed that the window was sinking, and it started to become bowed outwards about one third of the way up from the bottom.

The Victorians had rendered the south wall, which is quite right for a clunch wall, but they had used concrete rather than lime mortar. Concrete does not "breathe" like lime mortar, it forms a watertight seal. This meant that over the years the wall had been filling with water from the eroded parapet and this water could not escape except inside the church.

In 2020 Father Miles Pateman, then a curate in the benefice, undertook the monumental task of raising funds to effect repairs estimated to cost £120,000. Miles raised £95,000 in grants by the time that he left the benefice in early 2021 and we shall always be grateful for his work on the project. By June 2021 we had bridged the gap by public appeal and a number of substantial private donations and we were in a position to start work. The church was closed on July 11 2021 and the team moved in. It was quickly discovered that the damage to the parapet was worse than we had dared to believe and that further stonework was required.

Removing the lead gutter behind the parapet revealed that the wooden gutter beneath the lead was so rotten that handfuls of the timber could be picked up and water squeezed out.

The window was removed and shipped to the glazier's yard where it was painstakingly reassembled into new stone tracery. The south pitch of the outside of



the roof on the south aisle needed to be re-covered with copper laid by a specialist coppersmith. The gutters were redesigned and built to meet modern standards and then relined with lead. In February 2022 the window was returned and the building was once more sealed. The internal and external scaffolding was removed and (after a thorough clean-up operation) the church reopened for services on Mothering Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The only task remaining is to re-render the stonework around the window with lime mortar, but this cannot be done until the chance of frost has passed.

Chris Fell

#### **RENEW** and Inclusive Church

#### **Building a Bigger Table**

At RENEW Church we are committed to following through with our claim that, 'there is a place at RENEW for you'. This is true, whoever you are. We dream of being a church family that represents well the amazing diversity of humanity that God created. We are part of the Inclusive Church Network (<u>inclusive-church.org</u>). If this resonates with you and you would like to hear more or support our vision in any way, please get in touch with Rev. Alan (see below).

One of our core values is 'Hospitality'. We love to gather round a big table and share a meal together each Wednesday evening\* 6.30pm at Lode Chapel. Each week we have a choice of meals, including vegetarian option(s), and some lovely desserts. We have been so blessed to have colleagues, friends and family of current church members join us. You would be so welcome, and we will cater for any dietary requirements we are aware of, please get in touch (as below) to let us know your needs.

It is good to eat together. I believe this invitation will connect with several people who read this; if you are one of them, we'd love to see you. If transport is an issue we can arrange for someone to pick you up and take you home.

RENEW Church meets each Sunday Morning, 10.30am at Lode Chapel. Refreshments are available before and after the service. We are an inclusive and LGBTQ+ affirming Christian community. You would be so welcome to join us. Thank you for reading,

Alan

Contact Rev. Alan Brand 4 Mill Road, Lode, CB25 9EN. alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk t.01223 812558 m.07896 000796.

\*Except the first Wednesday of the month when we meet for a drink and conversation in one of our local pubs. Send Alan a text for details of where we're gathering.

# Untold Stories 26 Mick and Lorna Carr

For this edition, I met Mick and Lorna Carr. I asked Mick how long they had lived in Great Wilbraham.

About 11 years now. We were in Fulbourn for about 22 years before that. I was born and bred in Cherry Hinton. I went to the Cambridge High School for Boys when it was still a proper school - it is the Hills Road Sixth Form College now. I left school at 18 with no idea what I wanted to do. I trained as a butcher at Sainsbury's but then joined the Civil Service. I worked in various departments for 35 years. I have been privatised, market tested, abolished, closed down, and was finally made redundant about 11 years ago. I work for the university now.

Is there a thread that runs through all that?

Football has always been a passion. I played for all my school teams. I went to see Cambridge United when I was 13: we won 9-0 and I was hooked. I am still a season ticket holder. I used to play 6-a –side for Fulbourn, known by the wives as the Fulbourn Old Farts, until I was diagnosed with cancer in the neck three years ago. I had the whole chemo - and radio-therapy, and had to be fed through a tube. I seem to be clear now.

Is music a part of your life?

I have always loved music. I go to the Latitude festival with a couple of fellow old farts. I used to be a drummer. I am still waiting for that phone call... but I got rid of my kit because it takes up too much space. I used to play in Fulbourn church in a little band put together by Rhiannon, Alice's predecessor. It was fun. I have done a few quiz nights: I like to make people laugh.

That takes us across to you, Lorna, with the church connection.

I was born and brought up in Baldock, went to school in Hitchin, scraped a few A levels and started work in a bank. I hated being locked behind a counter all day and went to a teacher training college where I met Mick. We both love music.



The same kinds of music?

We both like popular music but I have always loved classical music as well. We used to follow bands around.

You became a teacher?

No. I found the teaching practice very stressful. It was open-plan teaching with about 75 children in a big area, with 3 teachers team-teaching. I am passionate about education, and later, when we were living at Fulbourn and had children, I volunteered at Fulbourn Primary school. They offered me a job as a teaching assistant, which I loved, helping children who were dyslexic, had Asperger's or were autistic. You get lots more time with individual children.

Mick: You self-funded a course in dyslexia.

Lorna: I got some qualifications in dyslexia specifically. Our education system is far too academic, especially in the early years. We started a gardening club. We grew vegetables, and then cooked what we had grown.

You don't get paid so much as a teaching assistant.

No. But the work-life balance has been a really important part of our lives. We wanted to be with our children. We had three girls. You (Mick) did not go to London.

Mick: No. You were almost guaranteed promotion if you worked in London, but I always said no. I wanted to be here, where friends and family were. My career was not as high-flying as it might have been, but I was content to be here, with people I knew, rather than be stuck on a train with lots of people I didn't.

So contentment has always been more important to you than promotion and success?

Absolutely.

Lorna: In this modern age you are judged on your income and possessions, and we do not feel like that.

Mick: We had three children who are now grown up.

So you were able to enjoy your children.

Lorna: Yes. They played lots of sport, and learned to play two instruments. It was a delight to go to concerts at Bottisham College and Hills Road Sixth Form College. The standard there was amazing.

Mick: Really professional-sounding. They played in a competition at the Royal Festival Hall.

Grandchildren?

Lorna: Yes, we have two granddaughters.

Lorna, you are a churchwarden at St. Nicholas. What does that involve?

It is very varied. You are supposed to defend the vicar. That is why there are churchwardens' staves half-way down the nave, so the wardens can defend the vicar if necessary. I don't think Alice needs defending! I feel passionately about the history of our English churches. We are supposed to think of the church as



people, but the building is a part of the community and I love that. For 800 years the churches have marked the births, marriages and deaths of the people in these villages. Some of the older families in the village may not come to church, but they feel very passionately about the church. And village funerals are something to behold. People still need something the church has to offer. When you consider the church not as people or as a building but as an institution, does it rather disappoint you?

Yes. I think the institution is very flawed. You have to carry on despite it. In an active church you can do that. And we are still a part of it.

There are supposed to be two churchwardens, but you carry the whole burden.

It can be hard to find churchwardens! Sometimes it is a burden, with safeguarding and such, partly because of the church's terrible history. These policies have to be in place and up to date.

So there is quite a lot of paperwork. Do you visit people as well?

Yes, I take communion to people at home who cannot get to church any more. We have coffee mornings and try to help children to feel at home in a church. The school is a church school and is very supportive. I believe the church still has something to offer.

So, Mick you are not involved in the church?

I am not involved-involved, but I am involved because I support Lorna. I will cut the grass, or repair something, change the altar cloth, put out some more chairs - just another pair of hands.

Lorna: We have a whole team of people to keep the churchyard mown and tidy. There are others who clean the church. They may not come to church, but they have enough affection for it to look after it.

Moving on from that, do you have other enthusiasms?

I have always loved singing. I think the community choir is wonderful. I am interested in the environment, and we are trying to rewild parts of the churchyard to help biodiversity. I love gardening.

And you, Mick?

Not apart from the beer. I brew my own.

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

Lorna: I would like to thank people for welcoming us. We have only lived here for 11 years, and we have always felt welcome. I would like to thank Yasir and Rabia for running the post office.

Mick: It is really nice to go to a local shop. It is an essential part of a local community. It was the same in Fulbourn. I used to be chairman of the Fulbourn school PTA and of the Friends of St. Vigor's, doing a lot of fund-raising.

Lorna, you have to do that for the church?

Yes, we have to pay the diocese £12.000 a year, and that is just Great Wilbraham.

How on earth do you do that?

With great difficulty. At least we now have the rent from the old vicarage in Benstead's End.

Mick and Lorna, thank you. It is lovely to meet people who are happy and content.

John Tanburn

# **Bottisham Bowling Club**

The Bowls England Big Weekend is a national event, and we are taking part in Bottisham on Saturday 28th May from 2.00pm providing the opportunity for you, your friends and family to give bowls a go. Up and down the country bowls clubs will be opening their doors to people who want to try a new sport, have some fun and meet new people. With the Commonwealth Games coming up later this summer, why not come along and see what makes this sport such an accessible and vitalising option for everyone!

- **1. Playing bowls is very doable.** Whatever your physique, bowls is a sport for everybody, and it will help improve your fitness levels and mental wellbeing.
- **2. Bowls is not expensive.** To get going you don't need lots of new kit and our club is putting on this taster session for free.
- 3. After football, bowls has the second highest number of clubs in the country.
- **4.** Compared to most sports, age and gender differences have less of an effect on a game of bowls, so it's a perfect sport to spend time and enjoy a bit of friendly competition with your family.
- **5. Bowls clubs are sociable places full of people looking to have fun**, so bowls is a great way to relax, make new friends and feel part of your local community.

Bottisham Bowling Club, 33 Downing Close, Bottisham CB25 9DD

Stuart Field www.Bottishambowlingclub.co.uk

# Wilbrahams' 🛼 Memorial Hall

# Angle End, Gt Wilbraham www.hall.gtwilbraham.net

It is wonderful to see the Memorial Hall confidently back in use by the community and private hirers over the last few months. Unfortunately, there is still some Covid within the community - so please 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.

We start with the very sad news that we have lost two long standing and loyal members of our committee – Great Wilbraham residents Derek Fabb and Keith Precious both died this Spring and will very be sorely missed by the committee and the community. Derek had been the staunchest supporter of the Memorial Hall for decades, serving on the committee for 28 years. He, Leslie & Carole Fabb



together launched the F.A. Double B Country Music Club at the Hall over 30 years ago. The Country & Western dances were known for miles around and



raised thousands of pounds for local charities, the Memorial Hall and the Play Area. His funeral collection has been donated to Hall funds and we thank Carole & Leslie for their kindness.

Keith had served on our committee for the last few years as the representative for the Over 60's Club. He helped out with building repairs in and around the old hall building, and also helped Shirley Morley with her Hall Christmas Draw for many years by calling out the winning numbers.

#### Hall Website

Calling any tech / social media savvy villagers! We would like to refresh and redesign our Memorial Hall website, so that it is more informative and useful to hirers. It has got a bit clunky by now and needs an upgrade. If you have the skills to help design a simple website for us, we would really appreciate it. All offers of help allow our hall funds to stretch further to benefit the community. Please get in touch if you can help with this.

#### Play Area

We are waiting for the results of two grant applications to replace the old red swing set. We should receive news soon....fingers crossed!

#### **Events**

Pre-pandemic, (and with the help from our fantastic volunteer 'Events Team') I used to organise a series of community fundraising events and entertainments throughout the year – quizzes / themed



feasts / dances / bingo etc. Unfortunately, due to work and caring commitments, I don't have the time to restart this. I am sure that many of the loyal group of volunteers would still be willing to help, but it needs new coordinator(s) to re-boot it. If you or a group of you would like to get this going again, then please get in touch. Or if you would like to organise a one-off event for Hall / Play Area funds or for your own charity, then please contact Shirley Morley for available dates. It would be great to have the community social calendar getting back into the swing again soon!



In the meantime, the monthly Farmers' Markets are held 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: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wilbrahamfoodandcraft">https://www.facebook.com/wilbrahamfoodandcraft</a>.

The Wilbrahams' Produce Stall is run by a rotating set of village charities for their own benefit. In April, the Transport Working Group ran the stall with an impressive array of bakes. The PTA will run the stall in May and the 'Churches Together' group will host the stall in June. If you are involved in a local charity and would like to raise money for it by running the Produce Stall, please get in touch.

#### EVENTS COMING UP (see separate detailed announcements)

Sunday, 5th June from 12 noon

Platinum Jubilee Bring & Share Lunch & Celebrations

#### Saturday, 16th July

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

The Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall Trustees and the Committee own and manage the Memorial Hall, Recreation Ground & Play Area for the benefit of the communities of Great & Little Wilbraham. It is a popular, central facility. What we do here and the projects we initiate, all have a big impact on how our communities feel to live in. If you would like to find out more, or join the committee to make a real difference to your community, then please come along to our AGM in June, we will be advertising the AGM through the village website and Facebook Community Page.

If you would like to book the hall or have any practical queries, please contact Shirley Morley (Booking Secretary)

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

Emma Adams, Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee

#### Wilbrahams' Cricket 1st XI Fixtures

28 May	AWAY	<b>Buntingford Ists</b>
04 June	HOME	Cambourne 2nds
11 June	HOME	Milton Ists
18 June	HOME	Ramsey 2nds
25 June	AWAY	Fulbourn Institute Ists
2 July	AWAY	Bluntisham Ists
9 July	AWAY	Saffron Walden 3rds
16 July	HOME	Newport, Essex Ists
23 July	HOME	Bluntisham Ists
30 July	HOME	Wilburton Ists
06 August	AWAY	Cambourne 2nds
13 August	AWAY	Milton Ists
20 August	NO GAME	
27 August	HOME	Fulbourn Institute Ists
03 September	AWAY	Ramsey 2nds

All matches start at 13.00



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# The Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show Saturday, 16th July 2022

So far, so good ....it's looking like this year's Show will be held back in the Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham after a 2-year break due to COVID restrictions! We will be able to use the normal Schedule again which you've hopefully received along with this edition of the Warbler – have a look through as there's a large variety of classes to enter and lots of trophies to be won which are listed on the back.



Please bring your entries and completed entry form (inside the schedule) along to the Hall on the morning of the Show between 9.00am and 11.30am. You will be issued with a numbered ticket to attach to each of your entries so that they can be judged anonymously. Unfortunately, any entries arriving after this time cannot be accepted and we ask you to kindly leave the Hall by 11.45am so that we're able to prepare for the judging which begins at 12 midday. Just as a REMINDER, you can have two entries per class, apart

from Classes 22 and 41 (The Spud in the Bucket and the Plug plant competitions). \*\*\*NOTE: All ingredients required for the baking section are available from the shop in Great Wilbraham.

There are several classes for children in the UNDER 12's SECTION so please encourage them to enter. Class 77 is "Grow a plant from the seed provided" – if you are not at Great Wilbraham Primary School and would like to give this Class a go just let me know and I'll get a seed and a pot of compost to you (contact details below).



\*\*\*A few notes for those of you who have entered the following competitions SPUD IN THE BUCKET COMPETITION: Please deliver your bucket intact to 13, High Street, Great Wilbraham by WEDNESDAY 13th JULY, clearly labelled with your name and phone number. Please cut off the tops and do not water the bucket for 2 days before as it will be heavy to carry and very messy to empty out when the potatoes are weighed! The RICHARD WRIGHT CUP will be awarded to the heaviest yield. If you need help transporting your bucket please contact me.

PLUG PLANT COMPETITION: Hopefully the Pelargoniums are thriving and you are having fun nurturing them. Please bring your plant to the Hall on the day

of the Show between 9.00am and 11.30am. The winner of the 'best' plant will be awarded the DAVID WATERS MEMORIAL CUP.

NB If you still have your fuchsia plant from last year's competition you could enter it in Class 42!

For all those entering the PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION: please send exhibits electronically, by email to: chris.fell@me.com by midnight WEDNESDAY, 13th JULY. Chris will organise a digital display of all the photos for the external judge and then for all to see in the afternoon at the Show, projected on a wall.

If you prefer to enter printed photographs (max size 10'x8') please bring to the Hall on the morning of the Show by 11.30 am. Please see Chris's article in the previous Warbler for more details.



In case you haven't been to the Show before, once the entries have been received in the morning, the Hall closes at 11.45am until 3pm whilst judging takes place, the winners identified, prize cards written and the prize money calculated. At 3pm the Hall is open for ANYONE to come and view the entries and check out the winners! Just to mention that the children at the Primary School and First Steps Nursery enter the Show so please come and see their displays. Tea/coffee and soft drinks are served along with a variety of delicious home-made cakes! Come and catch up with your friends and with village life, after

all that time of being in lockdown! Raffle tickets are on sale in the morning and until 4.30pm when the Prize-giving takes place followed by the very popular Auction of kindly donated produce and handicrafts. The day finishes with a raffle.

We generally set up the Hall during the afternoon/evening before the Show (Friday, 15th July) so if you would like to help then or 'on the day' please don't hesitate to get in touch. We always need lots of help with serving teas and selling raffle tickets. If you feel like baking a cake for the teas that would be great and very welcome!

Any donations for the Raffle would be gratefully received - please either bring along on the day of the Show or drop off at 13, High Street, Great Wilbraham.

Looking forward to seeing you with all your entries at the Hall on Saturday 16th July. In the words of one of the Judges...they are Your Villages, Your Show and Your Fun!

Any queries at all please contact

Rosie White

Tel: 01223 881293 mobile: 07757982934email: rosiewhite77@hotmail.com

# Local Highways Improvement (LHI) for Great Wilbraham

The Parish Council and the Transport Working group are very pleased to report that the LHI application filed for traffic calming in the village has been successful. Cambridgeshire County Council will contribute £15,000 towards 40mph buffer zones at the Station Road and Mill Road entrances to the village, slowing traffic down before it reaches the 30mph limits and the blind bends on those roads. The Station Road zone will also slow traffic driving by the unmade footpath along the road to the Common.

The approval includes gates to mark the beginnings of the buffer zones, and three permanent posts for speed activated devices.

The total cost of the work is estimated to be close to £22000, and the Parish Council has approved the additional contribution of £7000 from parish funds.

The story began last July when the PC agreed that TWG should look at possibilities for an LHI application to be filed in 2021. There was little time before the deadline for filing applications and TWG formed a working party under Richard Bray which came up with traffic calming proposals. Our County Councillor, Claire Daunton, set up a meeting with the LHI Officer from CCC and representatives from the PC and TWG, at which the working party's proposals for the LHI were further explored and the scope of an application agreed.

TWG drafted the LHI application, with assistance from PC members and LHI Officers and last October it was filed on behalf of the PC. The original application included solar-powered mobile vehicle activated signs (MVAS like the one recently re-erected on Station Road), but these were taken out by CCC, we believe, due to cost implications. No explanation was given, but in the interest of progressing the application, the PC agreed to continue with a revised application. In January, TWG's Jens Kolind and David Richer represented the PC before a panel of County Councillors to make the case for the application. That was a 3-minute presentation on a stopwatch and then 12 minutes of questions. The panel were particularly interested in the data which TWG had just collected in its recent traffic survey.

The total amount of money available from the CCC for LHI applications is limited, and the competition for those funds is fierce. There were 42 LHI applications from villages in South Cambridgeshire, and the GW application – we say with pride - came fifth. It was a terrific team effort, and we can be justifiably proud of an achievement which will be of considerable benefit to the village.

Great Wilbraham Parish Council

Transport Working Group Bottisham



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The Warbler will no doubt contain other tributes to Chris Ascroft, so cruelly taken from us in February. He was a keen and knowledgeable member of our Committee, always ready to help get things done. We miss him.

We continue to be busy in our efforts to improve the environment here in our three villages. Most of our activity to date has been in and around Great Wilbraham: we would love to do more in Little Wilbraham (although LW does have its own active volunteer group) and in Six Mile Bottom. If you have an idea for a project there, do please get in touch.

PLANTING Last Autumn some of our members supported the Well-brahams group in its bulb planting work and it has been great this Spring to see "a host of



golden daffodils." One of our own projects was to source and then plant six substantial Oak trees around Great Wilbraham, funded with a Grant obtained by our Parish Council from the District Council's Zero Carbon Communities scheme. One tree was planted with the children of the school and the other five are up Butt Lane/Street Way and on the footpath out from Frog End. All have survived thus far but have needed extra watering in this dry Spring.

We have also planted – and watered - ten smaller tree saplings along the verge between Great and Little Wilbrahams, funded partly by our Parish Council and partly by SCDC - thank-you both!

**CYCLE SURVEY** Thankyou to the 94 households from our villages who completed our Cycling Survey just before Christmas. We are grateful to Councillor Robert McCubbin (Little W) for collating the results. 98% of the replies want a safe cycle path – or paths; 89% enjoy and are keen to use a bike at least some of the time but do not do so because sections of the roads from our villages just feel too dangerous. As if to prove the point, very sadly a Wilbraham cyclist died earlier this year at the junction near the Missing Sock.

All our statistics have been passed to our County Councillor Claire Daunton who is doing everything she can to influence the County Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership. One or other of these bodies surely HAS to find the money to connect us to the cycling "Greenways" which have been built from Cambridge out to Bottisham and to Fulbourn.

**SOLAR FARM** We are paying close attention to the proposal to build a Solar farm on a triangle of land where the A11 meets the A14 on the outskirts of Six

Mile Bottom. Our Committee visited the exhibition in the Hall, asked questions and has opened a dialogue with the energy company promoting the site. We very much support the principle of building solar farms to reduce dependence on fossil fuels but need to look at the detail of a forthcoming Planning Application.

**PONDS and GREAT CRESTED NEWTS**. We are in contact with Farm Wildlife Advisory Group East which is actively looking for sites in Great Wilbraham (sorry, not Little W or SMB) where ponds can be restored or new ponds dug to provide more habitat for newts. Most parts of Great Wilbraham are in their target area, and they are offering to create/restore ponds <u>at no cost to the landowner</u>. It is not essential to be near an existing watercourse

If you have a large garden or a plot of land which might be suitable, please get in touch with us at wilbrahamseg@gmail.com and we will give you more information and put you in touch!

**CLIMATE CRISIS** Our biggest project so far this year has been our Open Evenings on aspects of the Climate Crisis and what everyone can do to help. The first, well attended event was in March at which, inter alia, we learned about how to measure our own carbon footprints and about the damage being done by Methane – CO2 is not the only threat to the Planet.

In April Our brilliant Guest Speaker was Dr Robert Mulvaney from British Antarctic Survey (B A S). He entertained – and frightened us - on his subject "Frozen in Time: the long-term climate archive from the polar ice sheets."

The entertainment was a beautifully illustrated introduction to the work of B A S and stories of his own experiences in the Antarctic (and the Arctic) which began more than 35 years ago. We were able to compare photos of his heroes Scott and Shackleton on the ice with images of Robert and his colleagues out there in 1985, still using dog teams, sledges and tents. Even today he works in hostile conditions out "in the field" i.e. far from Base Station - as leader and scientist of the ice drilling team.



Memorably he passed around samples of Antarctic ice 80,000 years old which contain the frightening proof – yes, proof, that CO2 levels in the atmosphere, which trap heat around the Earth, rose naturally at the rate of 20 ppm (parts per million) in each past period of 1000 years; but now are rising at the rate of 24 ppm every TEN years. If you missed the Talk you can see a recording at https://youtu.be/3M7oaWx8Qyc

"YOUR HOUSEHOLD ENERGY- save money, save energy and help the Planet" Our next Open Evening will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. A local celebrity (guess who?!) will

talk about/demonstrate how to save energy when cooking; we will hear about insulation of your home; and from local people who have installed Heat Pumps, Solar panels, electric batteries.

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

**Nick Toovey** 

### Well-brahams News

Exciting opportunity for children and young people!

The Well-brahams have been concerned about the mental health of children and young people during the pandemic, so our focus will be on them, in a series of activities over the summer months. Mindfulness practitioner Rachael Cox will be offering 6 free creative sessions on self-compassion, kindness, management of worry and anxiety, gratitude, and positivity. Full details will be announced soon, but the sessions will be divided into age groups of 6-10 years, and 11- 15 years, and are likely to be held in either the school or the church.

On a more active note, local resident Charlie Brown, who used to play for Cambridge United Youth team, and who teaches at the school, will be offering some sporting activities over the summer holidays for a variety of age groups, concentrating on cricket, football, and rounders. Again, all sessions are free. Please look out for more information on local websites, Facebook, and posters which will appear around the villages.

Both Rachael and Charlie are brimming with energy and enthusiasm and we're sure will bring some much-needed positivity to our local youngsters. In fact, we wonder if they offer sessions for the over 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond!!

And more positive news - we're also delighted to report that Helen Clarke is kindly offering another of her popular watercolour sessions in her wildflower meadow on Saturday 18th June, 2pm-4pm. The session will be free and all materials and refreshments will be provided.

After two years of concern and anxiety over the effects of the pandemic many of us are beginning to welcome some much-needed positivity into daily life. But the appalling news of the Russian invasion into Ukraine has quickly diminished our sense of relief, presenting us with a tragic situation which seems at times to be utterly beyond belief. What appeared until recently to be a world with at least some small level of security, has almost overnight transformed into something few of us could have imagined. Suddenly, the world seems a more threatening place

and a bewildering one – how is it possible for people to behave like this, showing no kindness or compassion for the suffering of millions of others?

In his superb book 'The Compassionate Mind', Professor Paul Gilbert describes compassion as, 'a basic kindness, with a deep awareness of the suffering of oneself and of other living things, coupled with the wish and effort to relieve it. Although humans can engage in intensely cruel and callous behaviour, compassion has been understood to be one of the most important and distinctive qualities of the human mind.'

Professor Gilbert describes how building self-compassion is a necessary first step to changing behaviour, by trying to understand our negative thoughts and emotions. Anger, self-criticism, anxiety, and shame can deprive many people of happiness and a sense of well-being and purpose, and he proposes a series of mind-training exercises to help build a compassionate self. Added to this, compassion operates in and through social relationships, through schools, families, and places of work. All these areas can be challenging because we live in often non-compassionate societies of great inequality. As Professor Gilbert admits, 'there's nothing easy in following a compassionate path . . . but the evidence is overwhelming: feeling love and compassion for ourselves and others is deeply healing and soothing, and helps us face the many challenges that will come our way.'

On a positive note therefore, it's really gratifying to know that Hilary Burton and her team have been galvanised into action again with the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom community support for the Homes for Ukraine programme, and are already planning ways to help those refugees who find themselves in this area. For more information contact Hilary at hb384@cam.ac.uk

Without doubt this community has its fair share of good and thoughtful souls, who are prepared to join with others who have the same goals, and to work with them to create a sense of community and belonging. None of us has chosen the world we live in, but we can choose through our common humanity to work together to make it a more compassionate place.

At the end of his book Paul Gilbert writes

'May you be well.

May you be happy.

May you be free from suffering.

And may you bring these things into the world for others.'

NB. If anyone would like to borrow a copy of 'The Compassionate Mind' please get in touch with Julia at jacourt@btopenworld.com

Julia A'Court

# **Counting Lorries**

Many of your readers - whether walkers, cyclists or drivers - will have noticed clusters of two or three people with pens and pads by the Mill Road/High Street triangle during a week in January. They were TWG volunteers and were counting vehicles coming through the village. Why?

In the last year, TWG has often found that residents' statements such as "There are too many lorries," or "The traffic is going too fast," are dismissed as unsupported. TWG needs hard data, not just to deal with the doubters, but to give us support in approaches to the owners and users of HGVs travelling through the village, and to add weight to our proposals about ways of making the village a safer place.

The survey took place between 5:00am and 8:00pm over five working days. There was an average of over 2000 vehicles entering the village on each day, of which 110 were HGVs. The number of vans, around 350 a day, now coming through the village was a surprise, as was the direction of travel of all the commercial vehicles:

1039

541

625

Between Fulbourn and Little Wilbraham
Between Mill Road and Fulbourn

Between Little Wilbraham and Mill Road
The last figure is particularly significant. It shows that 30% of commercial traffic is using Great Wilbraham as a rat run between
Newmarket Road and the A11. And yet there

Newmarket Road and the A11. And yet there is an excellent alternative route via Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom which does not have a concentration of housing along its sides.

TWG has already used the data in its discussion with the County Council concerning the successful LHI application,

which is described elsewhere in The Warbler, and has begun discussions with the Mill in Fulbourn. This is only the beginning.

There was a feeling amongst the surveyors that the traffic in that week in January was relatively light, but we will need more data to see if that was so. TWG's plan is to carry out further surveys on a random day basis to get a clearer picture. If you would like to help for a one- or two-hour session, please let us know at <a href="https://hgws.wilbraham@gmail.com">https://hgws.wilbraham@gmail.com</a>.

Happy and safe driving to all your readers.

David Richer and Tim Page Co-Chairs, Great Wilbraham Transport Working Group



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#### Feet: Claire Daunton



One of the best and worst things for me about school summer holidays was the buying of school shoes. It meant a whole afternoon shopping in the nearest big city, including a stop at the Kardomah café for a toasted tea-cake – all good – but also the purgatory of finding shoes that I could bear to wear (and my mother would allow) but also fitted. Then of course they had to be cleaned and polished regularly. I have thought about these times often recently as I have trudged the streets knocking on doors and been grateful for shoes that fit, never

mind whether they are stylish or not. And, in a nod to those school days, they have been cleaned regularly.

There's more to feet than meets the eye, so to speak: they move one along, but also they force one to stop and think. If I take away anything from these past weeks of the election period for District Council seats, trudging the streets of this large District Ward of eight villages, which runs from Clayhithe to Cherry Hinton and from Six Mile Bottom to the western edge of Fen Ditton, it is the personal

and from Six Mile Bottom to the western edge of Fen Ditton, it is the personal encounters. On occasions the door has been opened by someone who has just experienced a family death and been overwhelmed by it; on other occasions I have been told that I have been recognised by my hair; several times I have had amusing and instructive conversations with children; and on some occasions have actually had genuine political discussions.

Unusually, this time I have had only one instance of abuse and two instances of having the door shut in my face. Those encounters stay with one. One realises that life can deal really heavy blows and that daily living can be very tough for many people. One also appreciates the kindness of strangers: the times one is offered a cup of tea or glass of water, even though these can hardly ever be accepted for press of time and duty. One learns, too, of the jobs to be done, where one might not have paid enough attention to a problem; and one sees where one's work has borne fruit. On occasions, one even receives words of thanks. They mean a lot! And, most importantly, one's feet cannot keep going without the support of the team, those wonderful colleagues who turn out to help and keep on going. There is no superlative good enough for them.

Running an election, even at District Council level, is a huge operation. The role of Returning Officer is very important, carrying with it a significant burden of responsibility. In the case of South Cambs this role is held by the principal

council officer, the Chief Executive. She is supported by the Monitoring Officer (a lawyer) and the person who does a lot of the leg work, the elections officer who, in our case, runs a brilliant team. The people behind the desks at polling stations, those who do the counting and checking and running around, all report to and are known by the excellent elections officer, many of them very experienced. I commend them very highly for their hard work, dedication, patience and good humour and their determination to do things well. Then there are the candidates who once the polls close at 10.00pm and are completely exhausted, those important feet hurting, head off to what is called 'the verification'. This is the operation of opening the ballot boxes and tipping out the slips onto a large table then verifying that the number of slips is identical to the number on the box and the number of people voting. This sorting exercise is very important and goes on into the early hours. Back again next morning for the count - feet complaining, back hurting, eyes half open, but good shoes doing their work – with nerves jangling as one waits for the results. The poor vote-counters being the centre of attention just have to get on and do their job carefully and methodically – candidates not allowed to distract them.

Turn-out was high this time for local elections, which historically see low levels of voting. Across the District it varied between Wards from 37% at the lowest to well over 50% at the highest. The overall turnout was 43%; in this Ward it was 44.7%. There were issues of local concern across the Ward; all candidates worked hard to bring out the vote; and there were issues of significance wider than the Ward.

Now at the end of it all in South Cambs we have a District Council of 45 councillors, made up of 37 Liberal Democrat councillors and 8 Conservative councillors. In this Ward we have two Liberal Democrat District Councillors, Carla Hofman and John Williams, and one Conservative Councillor, Graham Cone. As a County Councillor I am also part of our local team (Liberal Democrat).

And just in case anyone is still confused:

South Cambs District Council (SCDC) deals with housing, planning, bin collections, road-sweeping, community support and community projects.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) deals with roads, bridges, pavements, public footpaths, speed restrictions, traffic, along with adult health and social care, education, environmental issues, and much more.

This coming week I will be contemplating the purchase of new shoes and thinking ahead to the Farmers' Market next Saturday for the purchase of bread amongst other good things, as well as doing some work of course.

Dr Claire Daunton 07905 473395 Claire.daunton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

# From our MP Lucy Fraser

Residents in Six Mile Bottom have contacted me with their concerns about hare coursing, so I wanted to update you on some recent government actions.

The Police, Crime and Sentencing Bill was recently passed by the House of Commons. This bill cracks down on illegal activity including hare coursing. I have spoken to many constituents whose lives are affected by this activity - last year there were 794 reported incidents of hare coursing across Cambridgeshire - and it is right that we are taking further action.

Currently, hare coursing offences are handled as poaching offences, carrying a fine of £1000, but more often than not, a lower fine is issued. Under measures now approved under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill I am pleased that the punishment for hare coursing will now include an increase in the maximum penalty for trespassing in pursuit of game to an unlimited fine, introduce for the first time, the possibility of up to six months' imprisonment and introduce two new criminal offences - trespassing with the intention of using a dog to search for or pursue a hare, and being equipped to trespass with the intention of using a dog to search for or pursue a hare.

Additionally, the courts will be given new powers to order on conviction, the reimbursements of costs incurred by the police in kennelling dogs in connection with a hare coursing-related offence giving the courts new powers to disqualify an offender from owning or keeping a dog.

These steps build on practical work I know that Cambridgeshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has been taking in response to this sharp rise. He has boosted funding to Cambridgeshire Countryside Watch by £25,000 and county borders have been removed, making it easier to use certain tactics to apprehend and prosecute offenders.

This is really welcome news and I know it will bring some relief to constituents who have raised their concerns with me.

Lucy Fraser, M.P.



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# **Anglian Leisure Bottisham**

Bottisham Sports Centre has officially rebranded as Anglian Leisure Bottisham! As part of this we are working with Sawston, Netherhall and Linton, providing affordable services and facilities for our local community and our huge catchment area.

As the summer season merges, we have our Tennis and Netball Courts open for hardcourt activities. We also have our 3G pitches, Gymnasium and Sports Hall. Whatever you are looking for, we will be able to provide the spaces. We also boast a heated indoor 25 metre length swimming pool with availability for a Lane Swim, Public Swim and Floats and Fun. Please visit our website for the timetable or get in touch with us.

Don't forget, we have an online booking system with a membership option so that you can book your activities in advance from the comfort of your own home.



https://bottishamvc.org/sports-centre/

#### The Mikado - Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre is proud to present 'The Mikado' by Gilbert & Sullivan in June 2022.

As in previous years the productions will be staged in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW; dates as follows:

Wednesday 15th June 2020 at 7.30pm - £9

Thursday 16th June 2020 at 7.30pm - £10

Friday 17th June 2020 at 7.30pm - £12

Saturday 18th June 2020 at 2.30pm - £8 and 7.30pm - £12.

On-site parking; facilities for wheelchair users; licensed bar

Tickets will be available after 1st April via our website,

www.sbsummertheatre.com or by e-mailing sbst.tickets@gmail.com or telephoning 07708 577570. For further information about the show please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

After two postponed years, we are delighted to be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's ever-popular operetta 'The Mikado', which featured in the 1999 film about their lives 'Topsy-Turvy'. Colourful and witty, this show includes many well-known songs, such as 'I've got a little list' (brought up to the 21st century!), 'Tit-willow', 'The flowers that bloom in the spring' and, of course, 'Three little maids from school are we'.

We look forward to seeing you!

Ruth Dennis

# Cambridge Nature Festival

A new festival is coming to the Cambridge area in June, which aims to get us all more in touch with the nature on our doorsteps. The first Cambridge Nature Festival will include over 50 events and activities with something for all ages, abilities and interests.

There will be BioBlitzes, guided nature wanders, live music, wildlife ID workshops, art exhibitions, hands-on creative activities and much more. Most of the events will be free or low cost and will take place in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside.

The festival is being organised by local charity Cambridge Past, Present and Future, in collaboration with The Wildlife Trust BCN, The National Trust, RSPB, Cambridge City Council, Cambridge Sports Lake Trust, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Magog Trust and Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

Festival organiser Natalie Lambert says, "The idea is to provide fun activities that encourage people to find out more about their local nature. Research shows that

spending time in nature helps improve people's emotional as well as physical well-being, so we hope lots of people will come along and get involved."

The Festival will kick-off with a Wildlife Day at Wandlebury Country Park on 28 May with free events and activities for all the family.

Natalie Lambert, Cambridge Nature Network Officer, Cambridge PPF. 01223 243830 (Ext. 209) <a href="mailto:nature@cambridgeppf.org">nature@cambridgeppf.org</a>

#### Homes for Ukraine



The terrible situation in Ukraine shows no sign of resolution. It is hard to believe that we are facing a land war in Eastern Europe again with millions fleeing conflict and in need of new homes. We are looking to see if we can provide a place of refuge in the Wilbrahams.

Since late March, when the Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched, we have contacted all

households in the Wilbrahams to find out what homes might be made available and what collateral support residents could provide. The response has been fantastic – nearly 50 households want to be involved. A small number of people are already offering to be hosts, whilst others have offered accommodation either for the full 6 months, or for shorter periods. There are many offers of social support, including friendship, cooking, shopping, help to access services, interpretation, English teaching, lifts, and respite accommodation. In response to the suggestion that we might be able to rent a property, we also sought financial pledges; responses were extremely generous and it seems that such a venture is a real possibility, although contractual obligations would still need to be clarified.

I am now in touch with local organisations who might be able to help with matching refugees and host families. One possibility would be to identify a group of people, maybe related individuals, who want to be near Cambridge and who can manage the relatively rural location. We are also in close contact with the relevant officers at South Cambridgeshire District Council. They are providing a raft of services to help refugees settle in and can also help hosts with problems that arise down the line.

Unfortunately, we do not envisage an early end to this crisis and so a coherent Wilbrahams support programme will hopefully be a great contribution. There is still plenty of time to be involved. You can continue to complete our questionnaire online at <a href="https://forms.gle/rMgeffHMixiVgrMi7">https://forms.gle/rMgeffHMixiVgrMi7</a>, use the paper version put through your door, or simply email or call Hilary Burton (<a href="https://forms.gle/rMgeffHMixiVgrMi7">https://forms.gle/rMgeffHMixiVgrMi7</a>, use the paper version put through your door, or simply email or call Hilary Burton (<a href="https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7">https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7</a>, use the paper version put through your door, or simply email or call Hilary Burton (<a href="https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7">https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7</a>, use the paper version put through your door, or simply email or call Hilary Burton (<a href="https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7">https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7</a>, use the paper version put through your door, or simply email or call Hilary Burton (<a href="https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7">https://forms.gle/rMgeff-MixiVgrMi7</a>).

Also, if you are in contact with Ukrainian individuals or families needing homes, please let us know. We may be able to help.

Thank you for being such a generous and kind community and for working together to extend a welcome from our wonderful villages.

Hilary Burton

#### Down to Earth on the Farm

This edition's piece is not about what is happening on my own farm but a look at the bigger picture around food supply. It's not a happy story as you will see but a perfect example of what can happen if we don't support local business and production. It's so easy to rely on just-in-time national or international "providers" to supply what we want when we want it. The whole Covid19 lockdown situation has got too many of us into the habit of ordering online and stuff arriving from an anonymous provider at the expense of locally sourced supplied things in season. It's fine until we rely on the biggest proportion of what we use coming in from abroad; steel, anything manufactured, energy and food! Farmers are never happy, or so the saying goes.

I try to be a glass half full person but it's difficult at times. "But corn prices are at an all time high", I hear you say. Well, yes they are but unless we get some significant rain very soon yields will be low - again. It's very rare that you get high prices and a good harvest, "the market" seems to sort this kind of thing out.

However high prices aren't just high on the back of UK crop prospects this year alas but the invasion of the Ukraine by Russia back in February has thrown global commodity markets into turmoil.

The Ukraine (and Russia) is a very productive area of the globe producing harvests that dwarf that of the UK and are responsible for supplying less productive (due to climatic conditions) poorer parts of the globe with their staple diet ingredients of wheat, maize and sun oils. These are the very countries that can least afford food inflation and will be hit the hardest.

It is predicted that the Ukraine's maize production will plunge 54% on last year with exports down 61%. The same goes for wheat, down 35% with exports set to fall 47% and this assumes the infrastructure in still in place to move the grain. Cargo ships usually move 90% of Ukraine's exports from Black Sea ports which clearly won't be happening.

Nobody wants to profit at the expense of others, especially those suffering atrocities as the people of the Ukraine are, but the markets are the markets and sadly don't take sentiment into account!

Elsewhere the weather is having an influence with soaring temperatures in India of up to 50°, turning their hope of a record harvest with an exportable surplus into something less sure, China is expecting its worst wheat crop in history and the

US winter wheat crop is rated at just 29% good/excellent with spring plantings at 27% compared to 67% last year.

Food inflation is just around the corner. We've seen an increase in the cost of energy with an increase cost of gas, used in the production of nitrogen, causing the price to treble. With grains costing more than twice what they did a year ago, our supermarket bills can't stay where they are for long. Bread, cakes, biscuits, beer, eggs and all meat products have grain as their major input with oils, mayonnaise etc being similarly affected. Add to this the cost of energy in the production process plus transport and it's not a happy picture.

So difficult to be glass half-full but at least it is now raining as I type this. Thoughts are with the people of the Ukraine and nations less able to be self-sufficient and afford food inflation at this time.

### These countries spend the most on food

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

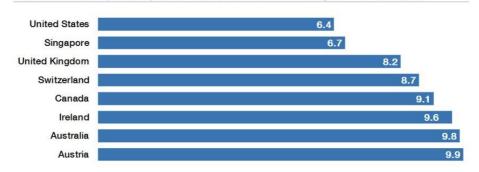
Percent of consumer expenditure spent on food that was consumed at home, by selected countries, 2015



Source: ERS, USDA calculations based on data from Euromonitor International

# These countries spend the least on food Percent of consumer expenditure spent on food that was consumed at home, by selected countries, 2015

ECONOMIC FORUM



Source: ERS, USDA calculations based on data from Euromonitor International

David White

#### List of Advertisers

Advertiser	Page	
Andy's Fulbourn Garage	16	
Anglian Leisure	60	
Chapel Dental	16	
ColourFence Cambridge	46	
Ernest Doe	20	
Fisher Carpets	26	
Fulbourn Cat Sitting Company	26	
J & J Drake	36	
Healthcare Homes	56	
M&I Healthcare Solutions	50	
My Village Handyman	33	
PRE Heating Services	59	
Rothwells	12	
Secure Storage	60	
Tutor	12	
Wheelie Fresh Bins	12	
Wilbraham Boiler Services	23	
Woodland Wishes	36	

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St Johns Little Wilbraham: Page 39



Flower and Produce Show: Page 47



WEG: Page 51



Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall

Page 43

Back Cover Great Wilbraham School



