

# Wilbrahams' Warbler

## Summer 2023



**Great Wilbraham: Little Wilbraham: Six Mile Bottom**



The Bakers Dozen page 63



Hedgehog class visit to the Raptor Foundation page 23

| <b>Contents</b>   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| Public Service Contact Details  | 4           |
| Editorial   | 5           |
| Letters   | 6           |
| New Editor  | 6           |
| In Memorium Ian Everitt   | 7           |
| A View from The Garden  | 7           |
| On The Farm   | 8           |
| Allegiance  | 11          |
| Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council                   | 13          |
| Ring for the King   | 15          |
| Escaping the Horrors part 2   | 15          |
| Bottisham Medical Practice  | 19          |
| Great Wilbraham Primary School PTFA                                   | 21          |
| Great Wilbraham Primary School  | 23          |
| Great Wilbraham Annual Parish Meeting                                 | 26          |
| Great Wilbraham Parish Council  | 28          |
| They are back!  | 31          |
| The Village pond  | 33          |
| Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall   | 38          |
| The Wilbrahams' Social Club   | 39          |
| St Nicholas Trust   | 40          |
| Community Choir   | 43          |
| Cambridge Open Studios  | 43          |
| Untold Stories  | 45          |
| Well-brahams  | 47          |
| Fulbourn WI   | 48          |
| The Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show | 50          |
| Over 60s  | 53          |
| Swaffham Bulbeck Theatre  | 53          |
| How to protect our green spaces                                       | 54          |
| Speed Awareness   | 56          |
| Why Keep our Churches standing  | 57          |
| Potholes  | 58          |
| River Protection Society  | 59          |
| Wilbrahams Environment Group  | 61          |
| Running the London Marathon   | 63          |
| Dementia  | 64          |

## Public Service Contact Details

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

### Great Wilbraham Parish Council

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Chairman | Hilary Burton<br><a href="mailto:chairGW@wilbrahams.co.uk">chairGW@wilbrahams.co.uk</a>                            |
| Clerk    | Samantha Chambers-Turner<br>07369 248998<br><a href="mailto:clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk">clerkGW@wilbrahams.co.uk</a> |

### Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Chairman | Dave Humphrey 07775 764 988<br><a href="mailto:chairLW@wilbrahams.co.uk">chairLW@wilbrahams.co.uk</a>  |
| Clerk    | Hayley Livermore 07725080631<br><a href="mailto:clerkLW@wilbrahams.co.uk">clerkLW@wilbrahams.co.uk</a> |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| County Councillor    | Claire Dauntton 07905473395<br><a href="mailto:Claire.Dauntton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">Claire.Dauntton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a>   |
| District Councillors | Carla Hofman 01954713000<br><a href="mailto:Cllr.hofman@scambbs.gov.uk">Cllr.hofman@scambbs.gov.uk</a><br>Graham Cone 07595361285<br><a href="mailto:cllr.cone@scambbs.gov.uk">cllr.cone@scambbs.gov.uk</a><br>John Williams 01223 880940<br><a href="mailto:john.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk">john.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</a> |
| MP Lucy Frazer       | <a href="mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk">lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk</a>  |

Photos by Chris Fell, Martin Gienke & contributors

## Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Warbler. As ever we have a packed edition for you.

If you didn't already know Caroline Bird joined our ranks as a third editor following the departure of John Bramwell. She introduces herself in this edition.

Times, as we all know, have been difficult but I think at this time we all have "Reasons to be cheerful". I was astonished at the number of people who turned out, in Little Wilbraham, in the pouring rain, to celebrate the King's coronation and in fact all the festivities over the coronation weekend. It really was a coming together of the villages. Thanks to both Parish Councils for organising the events over the weekend.

The Well-brahams article touches on how good sport is and as a result you only have to look at how the Wilbrahams are doing to realise that sport is good for all. As Roddy Tippen put it, "If you believe, like me, that for many, sporting success is a major contributor to community fulfilment, then our football and cricket teams are doing us proud. Wilbrahams' FC won 15 of their 26 matches in a challenging league to finish 5th and are playing the best football seen around these parts for years. Wilbrahams' CC are promoted to Senior 1 and this summer are taking on much bigger clubs from Ely, Royston, and Wisbech. We wish them continued good fortune."

We have the second part of the Horrors of War looking at the war in the Ukraine from a very personal point of view.

There is also an extended report from the school which looks back over the last six months. It looks like the children have been busy with school trips and world book day.

There is also an update from the organisers of The Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show being held at Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham.

Untold Stories this quarter is about Ray Cochrane a Derby-winning jockey and would you believe we are up to instalment 30.

What else is there for you? Well there are reports from the parish councils, Claire Daunton our County Councillor as well as a view from the garden and on the farm.

John Torode



# Letters

## Dear Editors

It's those Muntjacs again!

You probably all know them from your gardens - eating your prized flowers, well they have been eating the flower heads from bouquets left on graves in the churchyard too. So, when you are out walking in the village and see the churchyard gates open, please close them. This will help prevent Muntjacs getting in and spoiling flowers left in remembrance. I have noticed rose heads seem to be a favourite.

Thank you, Lorna Carr

## Caroline Bird is Our Third Editor

We are very pleased to welcome Caroline Bird as our third editor. She brings much-needed expertise to our team as well as her youth and energy. Here's what she says about herself.

I moved to Great Wilbraham with my family almost six years ago into our long-running building project, which still requires many finishing touches! My journey here started in Glasgow, where I was born, brought up and educated.

After studying Law with German, I moved to the Cambridge area in 1998 to train as a chartered accountant. I have since worked in medical device and media companies, but am now back in practice with my own accountancy business, helping small business owners. Working from home luckily allows flexibility to accommodate the demands of bringing up our three children, currently aged 9, 7 and 4. I chair the school PTFA and help run the Weenie Warblers baby and toddler group and now, to top up the busy schedule, I am assisting Martin and John in managing the advertisers and finances for the Warbler! I do enjoy it all but one day, I hope to get back to the golf course more often, where in a former life (ie. BC before children!) I enjoyed a competitive amateur career, including national and county honours.



## Apology

Richard Bray wrote an excellent, well-researched article about the Wilbrahams Causewayed Camp for the Spring edition of the Warbler. This was wrongly attributed, and we apologise for this.

The Editors

## In Memoriam Ian Everitt.



Sadly, another great character of the Wilbrahams has passed away. Ian Everitt of Little Wilbraham otherwise known as Ali-shine or Ali from his wheel polishing day passed away on the 30th of April 2023 in hospital after many health problems. This didn't seem to stop him from doing all sorts of things including standing on his roof to put a chimney liner in for his wood-burning stove only seven weeks before he passed away.

He was well known to many of the pubs in the area, but originally came from the Hemingford Grey area 40-odd years ago. He was always well dressed, usually with pink trousers unless he was under a car or Fire engine. You would have seen him trundling around the area in his Green Goddess fire engine and in some cases further afield to country fairs despite it only managing to achieve 5 to 6 miles to the gallon. (Petrol) We had many happy days out to country fairs, and at least he was in the dry, unlike the earlier days when he used to drive to them in an old grey Fergy tractor. He was very nearly banned from the Quy country fair for accidentally dropping the plough on the way out of the display ring.

You could quite often find him in the beer tent, which may have had some bearing on that. He was always keen on his bar billiards at the Carpenter Arms until it was removed and lately playing at the Bottisham club. He had a good heart and will be sorely missed by many people, and the world will be a smaller place without him.

Mike North

## A View from the Garden

It's turning out to be a slow, wet Spring. After a cold, dry winter the tables turned with the arrival of Spring. March rainfall was 3 times the monthly average at 105mm (4 inches in 'old money') the record for April was 47mm, and now into the start of May we've already had 55mm, with some falling as very heavy downpours.

Surrounded by the scent of cow parsley and may blossom, trees bursting with new leaves and the sound of the Cuckoo, the countryside is a glorious reminder of a classic English Spring. It's a welcome

change compared to previous years which have been much drier and warmer at this point. Ground moisture levels are promoting plenty of lush green foliage and will help to sustain plant growth into the next few weeks. I've taken up most of the casualties of last December's cold period, which has allowed for a bit of redesign, although I would welcome a cure for the invasive ground elder. It seems to have come back even stronger this year despite my efforts to conquer it during last season's drought. I am now considering cutting everything down in the affected border and covering it with a thick black-plastic membrane for the whole of this coming growing season. I use this technique frequently in the vegetable garden in the autumn after digging in compost or manure. It leaves a good weed-free seedbed that hasn't been too pummelled by intense rain and keeps the soil a bit warmer to help microbial activity. The food-producing bit has had a slow start but looks good from a February sowing of broad beans, peas and onion sets, but the smaller-seeded parsnips, carrots and beetroot haven't done so well in the cold wet soil, so I will have to do some late sowings. However, the sheltered conditions in the polytunnel have given their occupants a good start, and we are already harvesting mangetout and look forward to the first fresh garlic by early June. Hopefully, there will be something for the village produce show in July.

Nigel Start

## On the Farm

Since my last article in February, things have been very busy on the farms in the Wilbrahams.

Hedge cutting was completed and although in some places you may think it has been quite aggressive, hopefully we can all see the benefit from it over the next few years.

We experienced some dry weather in February and the beginning of March and so we were ahead with our fieldwork, meaning that all spring barley was drilled in good conditions and the first of the fertiliser had been applied.

Mid-March came along when we had planned to drill sugar beet. However, things had started to deteriorate and so this wasn't completed until the end of April (a month later than we needed!). So, we have to hope that with plenty of moisture and warmth, things will soon catch up. This isn't new for us though; last year's yields were some of the worst we have ever experienced with beet, all due to the dry weather. Pea drilling was also delayed by several weeks, but fortunately these are now catching up.



The majority of last year's grain has now all gone to the mills and so we are now beginning to clean grain stores ready for this coming harvest. This means that by having the stores empty in good time, we can focus our attention on any repairs required and check on vermin control too.

We made our first Grey Partridge count of the season in March, providing numbers that have increased on the farms, which is encouraging. This shows that the hedgerow management, cropping, and wild bird mixes that we are growing in certain areas are succeeding to help the wildlife colonies. Please do remember when you are walking your dogs around the farm that many birds are ground nesting. Loose dogs can very easily disturb the birds, with some not returning to their nests!

Lambing commenced at the end of March and is now complete. Once again, with poor weather, it has not been easy turning young lambs out, and we have had to supplementary feed the ewes for longer too. This was mainly due to the cold weather holding grass growth back, which in turn means the ewes don't milk as well to feed their lambs. Calving is also three-quarters of the way through now and we have just turned cows and calves out last week, but it has rained every day since doing so! Typical! The store cattle are still to be weighed and will too be turned out for the summer onto grass in the next few days.

Now we are into May, the last of the fertilising is being finished, spraying is ongoing to protect the crops from disease and weed control, and the conservation areas we manage are now being prepared to be planted with a wild bird mix. This mix will provide seed for the birds during the winter, with the main aim being to encourage help for the finches and hedgerow birds throughout the cold months. There are also some grass areas that we will plant with wildflowers in order to help the bumble bees and invertebrates.

In the next couple of weeks, sheep will be sheared, and silage making will commence to use for feed for the cattle during the winter.

Harvest is only around the corner and so when we are not busy working on the fields, machinery will be checked and repaired ready to go.

Finally, you may have noticed in March that we had a digger working on the fields below the school. We have started work on this area to rejuvenate, and so we have pulled the old poor hedges out that were of no use to wildlife and these will be replanted in due course. We have also cleaned the ditches out, which will hopefully help with the water issue that the village has had on Little Wilbraham Road. This is an ongoing project which will take a few years to complete, so I will share more of what we are hoping to achieve at a later date.

James Kiddy



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## Allegiance

Sausages, beacon, magician and jazz on Saturday; treasure hunt on Sunday; scones, choir and Tofities on Monday, not to mention ringing bells and picking litter. Not at all bad for three coronation days in our three small communities of the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom. It's worth pausing for a short while and taking a look at the meaning of 'community,' here and more broadly. One of the words and concepts repeated in the coronation service was 'allegiance' or binding together, as its root suggests. It also suggests competition. Was there perhaps a frisson of friendly competition, or competing allegiance, between the two Wilbrahams and their respective coronation events?

Local allegiances and the fostering of community are beginning to play a significant part in one of the important areas for which the County Council is responsible, namely adult social care. It is such an important responsibility; one which is always under severe resource pressure; and one for which improvements are always being sought.

A new approach 'Care Together' is underway in the area around Ely and we hope to extend more widely across the county, in due course. Local teams, based in their localities, are working with local community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises, as well as the NHS. Working together, in a community as a community they are looking to provide a more personalised home care for the elderly who might require different levels of support at different stages, from a variety of sources. One important aspect of 'Care Together' is making it much easier to find the right support to help people remain active and stay socially connected. This means having more and better options for homecare in which local services – both paid-for and voluntary – are known, easily contactable and quickly available. To make this work means having county officers based locally who really know their communities, know what is available, what could be available, and what funding is needed to allow local care businesses or 'micro enterprises' to get started and to flourish. The range of places and people involved include libraries, lunch clubs, pharmacies, GPs, home support, community living rooms, transport, and small local care-support businesses.

On a visit to Ely to learn how it is working in practice I heard of the importance of libraries not only as places to read and gather information, but also as warm places to meet and talk to people and deal with loneliness and isolation, as places to find out how to get help.

I also learned of the challenges of negotiating 21st-century life with insufficient digital skills and with poor transport and with little money; and heard of new ways of tackling these problems and those of dementia and the mental health strains caused by poor physical health. ‘Care Together’ cannot tackle all these problems but it appears it can make a difference by maximising resources locally, making sure that all concerned work together effectively.

This is community in action, local allegiances being used to good effect, and there’s more trialling of these new ways to come.

In the meantime, community groups in South Cambridgeshire (our own district) have been given a funding boost thanks to grants from the District Council. Supporting local people with their mental health, helping families with young children, supporting the elderly, tackling poverty and disability transport are among the community groups to share more than £148,000 in grants. A total of 11 voluntary sector groups have received funding for the coming financial year as part of the Council’s Grants to the Voluntary Sector scheme.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/funding-boost-for-voluntary-groups-in-south-cambridgeshire/>

This piece would not be complete, though, without a word about another community concern. No surprise that I was asked about potholes and drainage at all the coronation-weekend events. The Warbler editors have asked us to keep our pieces short, so I will be brief. Highways work is one of the major calls on the council’s funding, along with social care. We need both to be well funded, but we will, it now appears, have to wait until 2025 for a better national settlement for social care funding. In the meantime, we have had an injection of government funding (£3.61 million, or 1.8% of the national total) for pothole repair. On our roads more crews are out more, repairing potholes, and they will be doing so throughout the summer. For sure, we need to be quicker, smarter and better about the repairs; but we can’t deal with the underlying problem – the need to rebuild many of our local roads – without a very much larger injection of cash. I’ll leave you with one statistic from an analysis by the cross-party Local Government Association: last year the funding of repairs on motorways was 31 times higher per mile than that made available to local councils for local roads.

Claire Daunton, County Councillor

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

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

## **Rain – Sax – Magic – Fire – Fun**

A big thank you to all those residents who braved the rain on Saturday the 6th May to mingle in St John's Little Wilbraham in celebration of the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. The trusty beacon on church green was lit to welcome our visitors who entered St John's via an archway of a twinkling crown. It was great to see so many familiar and not so familiar faces come together in an atmospheric space lit by candles. A rough head count of around 170 on the night was a great compliment to all our volunteers.

Music was provided by the fantastic Cambridge Sax Quartet and magic by our roving magician, Matthew Le Mottée. An impromptu rendition of God Save the King – including a second verse – was vigorously supported by some co-opted Wilbrahams Community Choir members and David, our council chair, spread a little mischief.

Ian as usual, produced a superb sugar lump that disappeared as it was cut and the compliments were many. The secret by the way, for the zing in the taste, is lemon oil.

Sadly the fireworks were kept in their box – it was too wet and the clouds were too low. However, we are thinking another event at the appropriate time of the year, might solve this problem.

A big, big thanks must go to Ruth, the Little Wilbraham Commons Rights Holders, Beaumonts Butchers in Fulbourn, St John's and especially all the volunteers that made this event so successful.

And thank YOU again for coming.

Look out for our next event which will be the Feast - our salute to midsummer which will be held on the 17th of June. There will be games, the opening of the multi-use games court, the beacon (again) and other fun stuff. Recreation ground Little Wilbraham, where the new court now lives.

Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council.

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## “Ring for the King”

On Coronation Day the bellringers of St Nicholas’ Church Great Wilbraham were vying for attention with the bells of Westminster Abbey! At 1 pm, as the service there ended, our ringers began with straightforward Rounds, in the



pattern 1 2 3 4 5 6, then continued with an extended sequence of Queen’s, King’s and Plain Hunt: each of these means ringing in different patterns or orders of bells (called “methods”) and requires careful timing and lots of concentration. We then changed the members of the ringing “band” and repeated some sequences so that everyone could “ring for the King.”

Photograph on back cover left to right are: Louise Dobson, Paul Lambton, Rachel Paine, Peter Sims (Tower Captain), Richard Daniel, Allan Painter, Karen Ostenfeld, Nick Toovey, Susan Tilbrook, Madhu Davies and David Nicholls

Nick Toovey

## Escaping the Horrors of War in Ukraine Part II

*[Editor’s note: This continues the story written by Andrei Kulakova in the Spring issue of the warbler. Andrei, his wife and his family had just decided it was too dangerous, and they must leave Ukraine. And so began their journey to Great Wilbraham.]*

*So you stayed in Kyiv. Can you tell us what life was like?*

Miserable. There was no heat, no water and no light in the city. I developed a routine. Wake up - be grateful I'm alive - look for the TV standby light. If the light was on, the generator was working, and we had power – I could work on my laptop that day: this was good news. My boss had ceased operations when the invasion began, but I persuaded him to re-open the plant and let the office staff like me work from home. Otherwise, the drivers and factory workers wouldn’t get paid. I was working as much as possible to build up as much money as I could for the unknown period ahead. For example, I bought 6-months of provisions and stored them in the basement of our apartment block.

But if the TV standby light was off, I knew a bad day was coming. I could not work, so I would log in to a local messaging service, similar to WhatsApp. This gave live updates on the number of missiles crossing the border into Ukraine, and an approximate time when they would arrive. I would hear the sirens many times per day, each one lasting many hours. I saw fragments of downed rockets flying over me, saw explosions and bombed buildings. But I tried to focus on the family. We had been fortunate many times: the building

next to where Olena worked was hit by a rocket, and a downed rocket fell near our house.



While I was in Kyiv, the hardest thing was when I spoke to Olena and Lev. They had been placed with a host family in the UK who were incredibly kind. It soothed me as I listened to Olena's stories about the family they ended up with. They were very lucky, as the family were incredible people, with big hearts and bright souls: they accepted them with great kindness and generosity and treated them like their children. Wendy and Ron Haynes live in Bottisham. They are a lovely couple; when I first met them, I immediately

understood what Olena meant. We became like one family with them. We are so grateful. It's incredible how completely unfamiliar people can intervene and change life, providing support in difficult times. It was a huge success! Seven months passed so much more easily with Wendy and Ron's help. I am eternally grateful to them for taking care of my family and thank God I am now close to my wife and children.

Olena, Lev and Nika recently moved to Great Wilbraham. They were safe. But, every day, when I spoke to Lev, he would cry and ask me one question: when are you coming? This was harder than the bombs.

*Tell us about your journey from Kyiv to Great Wilbraham.*

I was on the road for 36 hours. It was a difficult time, and I was still coming to terms with the fact that we had lost everything for the second time. But now we had two children.

First, I had to take a bus to Warsaw. When I was there Olena helped me find a flight to London. There was only one seat left and it was so expensive. I sat alone in the airport for 10 hours overnight. I'd had to leave almost everything in Kyiv, but I was happy, and I had a suitcase full of Lego for Lev.

*How are you finding living in The Wilbrahams now?*

I am so surprised by how kind everyone is: people in The Wilbrahams are particularly kind. In the short period of time that I spent here, I have fallen in love with this village: the people are incredibly generous and helpful. They are always ready to help! By the way, this nature is very similar to the people of Ukraine: sometimes it seems that I am at home. Lev is very happy in the excellent village school and the teachers have been amazing. We are so happy that Lev likes the school and has many friends there!

All this help has meant we can make plans and work towards becoming independent again. Nika has a part-time job, and Olena and I are both looking for jobs now; we are all taking English classes. Thirteen years of no English has left me a little rusty!

*Is there anything else we can do to help you?*

Just keep doing the same. We are so grateful. And if you can help more refugee families to become independent, that would be great.

Andrei Kulakova

*From the Wilbraham's Refugee Support Group*

Can you help?

Andrei's account of life in Ukraine following the Russian invasion last year, with its passing reference to the first in 2014, is both modest and understated. In common with so many others, the Kulakovas have suffered unimaginable disruption to their lives and the loss of so much of what we all take for granted. The 'Wilbrahams Refugee Support (WRS)' group has been providing assistance for our first refugee family since they arrived in Great Wilbraham in November. We intend to help others and also to help local households who volunteer as "host families" under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The conflict in Ukraine is unlikely to end for the foreseeable future, so there is a continuing need for local people prepared to act as hosts - whether to an individual refugee, a couple or a family. Many of us would like to do so, but are concerned about our ability to provide support over an extended period. In some cases that is because our houses are too small; in others it's because we're working or have other commitments that would prevent us from meeting the needs of people traumatised by their recent experiences. WRS can help by taking on a share of the responsibility for helping refugees to settle in and, in time, develop to the point where they are largely self-sufficient.

We are in close contact with other local refugee support groups and with South Cambridgeshire District Council, which needs homes for refugees already here, for those who must move on from their original host families, or for others seeking to leave Ukraine because their homes have been destroyed and/or because they continue to be in terrible danger.

WRS has received many pledges of support from people who responded to our first appeal: both financial donations and practical offers of assistance. These have enabled us to set up the organisation not only to help refugees progress from staying with host families to living independently, but also to assist other residents who would happily act as hosts if only they had time to meet the refugees' needs - particularly in the first few weeks and months after their arrival in the UK.

If you think that you and those with whom you live could host a single refugee or even a couple or a family, please contact us. We can support you with information, links to suitable families, help with the application process and, for those receiving refugees, with your own support group - providing a range of practical assistance. Alternatively, if you cannot make that commitment but would like to help in some other way, please become either a volunteer for or supporter of WRS. Please contact Tim Page, the WRS Secretary, at 18 Church Street or by email at [tim21page@gmail.com](mailto:tim21page@gmail.com)

Tim Page



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**Deadline for the Autumn Issue**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

Email contributions or adverts to;

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

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

**[carolinebird17@gmail.com](mailto:carolinebird17@gmail.com)**

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

# Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Participation Group

## "NAAFI Break"

*ALL veterans are welcome to come along and meet like-minded veterans. 10 till 11 am at Anglesey Abbey Cafe. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Next date to meet: 7 June 2023. Come along, for a good old chin wag, meet new faces and feel connected within your local community. Gary looks forward to welcoming you. He will wear a grey Help for Heroes T-Shirt.*

**Needing a blood pressure (BP) check:** Please do make use of the BP machine in the waiting room. It uploads your results straight to your patient record and is reviewed by a clinician. If there is anything of concern the GP will contact you.

**HRT and prescription charges:** The Government announced a few weeks ago a change to charges for Hormone Replacement Treatment (HRT) medication. Instead of paying for monthly prescriptions, women will be able to access their HRT by paying a one-off charge, the equivalent of two single prescriptions, currently £18.70, for up to a 12-month supply of HRT. This will be done through a Prescription Prepayment Certificate. Once the system has been set up we will contact patients currently on this medication to advise about how to apply for the prepayment certificate.

**Outpatient Appointments:** Unfortunately, there is a delay on outpatient appointments with long waiting lists.

**Paramedic:** The Practice paramedic is seeing housebound patients early in the day to try and avoid long ambulance waits and delays at A & E, when this is necessary, as the GPs are busy in the clinic in the mornings.

**The Patient Participation Group:** We are happy to have new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved.

**Regular Meetings:** The next meeting is Wednesday, July 26th, 2023, at 1.30 pm. If you wish to join our Zoom meeting please email our chairman at [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com) who will send you a meeting invitation.

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## **Great Wilbraham Primary School PTFA**

It has been a busy spring for the PTFA. The return of 'Quiz & Chips' proved popular, the reigning champions picking up where they left off before the pandemic; a great night was had by all and the huge support from the village was much appreciated. A sponsored skip at school was also well supported; the children practising hard over the Easter holidays to produce some amazing efforts in the 'Big Skip'. Who knew that 128 skips were possible in 60 seconds?

This year's Summer Fete is just around the corner. A giraffe theme will prevail over some of the fun activities, inspired by World Giraffe Day falling close to our event and with a nod to the school's intention to take part in the forthcoming Cambridge Standing Tall art trail. The fete will include school music and dance group performances, food and drink, a fantastic prize raffle and much more. We hope many will join us at school on Friday 16th June from 3.30 pm for our most important fundraising event of the year.

Caroline Bird & The PTFA Committee

email: [wilbrahamptfa@gmail.com](mailto:wilbrahamptfa@gmail.com)

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Great Wilbraham PTFA Presents

# Summer FETE

Friday 16th June  
3.30-6.00pm  
Great Wilbraham  
Primary School

Giraffe  
Surprises  
in store!

Tombola Games

BBQ  
Raffle Cake Stall

All Welcome



# Great Wilbraham CE (VC) Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Richard Brown BEd (Hons) NPQH  
Great Wilbraham C of E Primary School, Church Street, Great Wilbraham,  
Cambridge, CB21 5JQ, 01223 880408

Hello everyone!

Our last article wasn't published in the most recent Warbler so I will summarise that article succinctly and update you on our latest activities.

## **December**

There was a huge amount going on during the final few weeks of the autumn term. On the last day we sang carols accompanied by Tim Brown playing the piano and then had some Christmas stories around the tree, we also had an amazing Christmas service at St Nicholas's and the choir performed superbly. The Christmas lunch and Pantomime were wonderful and a special mention for Squirrel and Fieldmice class production which was fabulous.

## **January**

I have been involved in a number of meetings with the Parish Council and local transport groups over improving provision for children crossing the road to the school. We want to avoid a serious incident occurring and therefore will be working with the children in school on reinforcing messages about how to cross roads carefully and continuing to support external agencies to find alternative solutions to create safer routes to school. Mrs Forshaw is leading the travel ambassador scheme and will be working with the County, the Parish Council and school to promote safer routes to school and this work has already started.

We were able to officially open the Lilibet Garden this month. Representatives from Cambridge Community Fund and the Diocese of Ely joined parents, governors, staff and children to look on as Rev Alice and myself officially opened the garden. It has been used with great enthusiasm by the children and will be a welcome resource.

## **February**

The PTFA were really busy in February, firstly with the winter disco, which was a great success and then, just before half term, was the latest film night. Both events were really successful, and the children enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Children in Badger class attended a friendship games initiative and had a great morning with other schools playing a wide variety of different sports. Children in Hedgehog class were treated to a great experience and the opportunity to show off their knowledge of volcanoes and earthquakes. Having experts from the NHM in London beamed into the classroom was wonderful for the children and I was really impressed with the energetic way the session was delivered.

Parents attended a meeting to discuss the Ofsted inspection report which was held with representatives from the Local Authority and the Diocese of Ely. The action plan is updated monthly and placed on the school website.

I also met with parents through our reinstated parent forum and hosted a session to discuss homework with parents, whose thoughts and opinions were much valued and have been able to shape the future of homework at the school.

## **March**

Every class this term welcomed parents in to share the learning in their respective classrooms and to look at the children's books and learning journeys. Each one brought a different aspect of learning, and it was wonderful to see so many parents coming in to celebrate their children's learning.

Parents also came in for a class lunch whereby each class had a session that parents could attend and have lunch in the hall with their children. These were very successful, and we hope to repeat them next year.

Quiz and Chips was another tremendously well attended PTFA event with teams from school staff, parents and across the community in attendance. The trophy is sat proudly in the school trophy cabinet as the staff retained the title, but the main achievement was the huge £700 raised during the event. Massive thanks to the PTFA for organising the event and special thanks to Mr and Mrs Crocombe who compered and ran the quiz, a great night was had by all.

We had a plethora of school trips and visits this month. Badger class had a wonderful time on their residential trip to Aylmerton, they learnt a huge amount and comments upon their behaviour and inquisitiveness were made by many of the instructors – they represented the school brilliantly. Many thanks to Mrs Francis, Mrs Plumb and Mrs Holtby who looked after the children throughout the residential trip; it takes a lot of commitment, and it is much appreciated.

Hedgehog class had an educational visit to the Raptor Foundation. They were treated to an indoor flying show and learnt a huge amount about the adaptation of animals and the incredible feats the birds can achieve. I was fortunate enough to accompany Squirrel class on their trip to Wimpole. There was a lot of walking, and the children

thoroughly enjoyed the treasure hunt learning a great deal about farming as well as seeing a range of different animals. On the same day as Squirrel class and Hedgehog classes were out, the reception year group had a wonderful visit to Shepreth Wildlife Park. The red pandas and the bat cave went down very well!

The above visits were linked to two weeks with a big focus upon science. We are applying for the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) Gilt award and have really focused upon science teaching and learning both as a staff and with the school. Last Friday, we held a longer celebration worship than normal for the classes to share their science learning to the whole school. The children were then able to walk around the class tables to look at the science each class had been learning.

The school raised money for Comic Relief and Mrs Francis organised some great activities and competitions for World Book Day. Volunteers from St Nicholas Church and the community (including Mrs Noble) came in to work with Badger class and create posies for every child to take home and then a couple of weeks later we attended Easter Service where the choir sang beautifully, and the children read confidently.

Our final event of the term was the spring concert which was another great success. The children were magnificent – piano, ukulele, guitar, trombone, solo singing and choir showed what a talented bunch of children we have at the school, and it was great to be able to showcase their work.

## **April**

Four children from year five represented the school at the annual maths challenge; this year we attended a heat based at Histon and Impington Park Primary. The children were excellent and enjoyed the experience of competing against twelve other schools, some of the questions were really tricky!

The PTFA also started the term with instant impact with the sponsored skipping challenge, it was amazing how many skips a primary aged child can do in one minute – some children did over 100!

As you may have seen, the solar panels have been installed and work near the plant room has started. A lot more will be happening over the summer term, but the groundwork has been completed, connecting up the different components is next, and everything should be in place by June.

## **May**

We celebrated the coronation of King Charles the day before by dressing in red, white and blue and having a tea party – this was supposed to be on the field, but the British weather meant we needed to improvise – the children had a great time though.

We are currently completing statutory assessments with the children, and they are making us very proud of their achievements. Looking forward, we hope to host Sports Day on Tuesday afternoon 23<sup>rd</sup> May – hopefully without the thunderstorms that cut it short last year – and also hosting our family picnic on 25<sup>th</sup> May. From a whole community aspect, we look forward to the summer fair which will return on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 3.30-6.00 pm 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

## **Great Wilbraham Annual Parish Meeting**

Great Wilbraham Parish Council held its Annual Parish Meeting on 30 March in the Memorial Hall. We were delighted that more than 40 residents took the opportunity to meet and chat to the Parish Council and to interact with those many organisations in the village that contribute to our lives in so many ways – including the Primary School, Church, Memorial Hall, and groups concerned with wellbeing, the environment, transport and travel and many others.

Reports providing an update of the Parish Council activities for the previous year – and the achievements and hopes of the various organisations can be found on the Wilbrahams website at

<https://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/meeting/gwpc-annual-parish-meeting-2/>.



Our interactive discussions focused on four main themes that had arisen out of the organisation reports and Parish Council concerns: village life; wellbeing; transport, highways and cycling;

and environment and biodiversity. The meeting generated many exciting ideas about how to improve life for our residents:

Village Life: we talked about the importance of supporting and strengthening our current facilities and services such as the shop, recreation ground and



playground, Memorial Hall and associated activities such as the Social Club and the problems of lack of affordable housing and public transport.

**Well-being:** we heard about the popular Well-brahams coffee mornings and the need to try and continue regular coffee mornings – possibly also developing a ‘Community Café’. We noted the absence of facilities and activities for young people and started to think how a new Youth Group could be developed, possibly using a trained youth worker.



**Transport, Travel and Highways:** we talked about the lack of safe crossings for pedestrians, absence of safe cycle routes and the problems of HGVs. The Parish Council and others are addressing some of these priorities, but many will be hard to resolve. A priority that came out of the meeting was to develop a safe pathway ‘Trodd’ on the verge towards Wilbraham Common.



**Environment and biodiversity:** We heard about our many assets including Wilbraham Common, the Chalkpit on Mill Road, Brimstone Fen, Little Wilbraham River, verges on land around village, and gardens. Residents were enthusiastic about the idea of developing a new ‘Coronation Wood’ on land owned by the Parish Council up Butt Lane.

The Parish Council will take these and other ideas forward and develop them into an Action Plan for 2023/4. All proposals will require close working with village groups and individuals, and we will be approaching relevant organisations to get involved.

**IMPORTANTLY – IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH US ON ANY OF THESE VENTURES, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.** We have changed our email addresses. If you want to bring anything to our attention or ask a question it is best to do so by contacting our Clerk, Samantha Chambers-Turner, who would be able to contact the relevant Councillor. Her address is [clerk@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Hilary Burton

## Great Wilbraham Parish Council News

Great Wilbraham Parish Council meets monthly and has a busy agenda. Looking forward, we expect to pick up many of the ideas discussed in our Annual Parish Meeting (see separate article). If you see anything that interests you – that you would like to work on with us, please do get in touch. We can meet informally and chat about how you could contribute.



### Highways Transport and Cycleways Committee (HTCC)

Great Wilbraham received a grant from a local company to purchase three 'Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs' (MVAS). The Parish Council would like to thank Monique Bradley and Tim Page from the Transport Working Group (TWG) for their efforts securing the grant, researching the MVAS units and organising

training for volunteers. (see Article on the Speed Sign) You will probably already have seen one of the MVAS units deployed on High Street and others will soon be sited at various locations around the village.

We applied for a village 20 mph speed limit via the new County Council annual 20 mph funding programme. The overall purpose of the programme is to make streets safer, encourage active travel and reduce pollution. We have asked for a reduced speed limit through the entire village starting on each entry road where the current 30 mph signs are sited. This application is strongly supported by village residents: the village survey carried out in March 2023 received a large response (169 households responded, 63% of the total) of whom 88% were in favour of the 20 mph speed limit and just 13 (8%) against. Our application was only possible because of the hard work and commitment of many groups and individuals. The Transport Working Group (TWG) and their many volunteers collected traffic data, surveyed residents to understand their safety concerns and their preferences for speed limits and gathered compelling photographic evidence about the main danger spots. We would especially like to thank Tim Page and David Richer for preparing the draft application. Thanks are also due to all the residents who took the time to answer questionnaires and submit photographic and written evidence. Finally, our County Councillor, Claire Daunton has been supportive of our bid,

and we thank her for her advice. We all have our fingers crossed that we might be successful in this year's round, but if not, our submission can go forward to subsequent years.

The HTCC has continued to monitor the problems of parking outside the Carpenters Arms and we were pleased to welcome Henry Fairbanks of the Chestnut Group to our April Parish Council meeting to tell us about the changes they have made, including new signage, demarcated parking spaces, and messaging for patrons on the website. We also continue to be aware of the dangerous crossing at the school (this was a key danger area noted in our 20 mph bid) and hope to work further with the school on this.

### **Trees and Biodiversity Committee**

We were pleased to work with Eastern Tree Surgery to manage the dead elms at the bottom of Toft Lane. These have now been felled and the hedgerow made safe for walkers and nearby residents. However, we were sorry that we have not yet been able to resolve the issue of the very large bird cherry trees on the verge at Frog End that are causing severe problems to nearby homeowners. We are seeking further advice on how this situation can be managed in a way that responds to the needs of the affected residents, whilst recognising the concerns of villagers who wish to retain the trees.

### **The Coronation Celebrations**

Finally, in May we were pleased to help with the celebrations in the Wilbrahams over the Coronation Weekend. Our thanks go to Little Wilbraham for the Beacon Lighting and entertainment, all those who turned out for the Litter Pick and to the Memorial Hall Committee, Community Choir and Tofties Band who entertained us on the Bank Holiday Afternoon. We were delighted with the enthusiastic response to the Parish Council 'How Well Do You Know Your Village' Quiz organised by Tim and Christine Page and Jens Kolind. Hopefully participants found some interesting, but previously unnoticed corners!

### **Get in touch with us!**

We have changed our email addresses. If you want to bring anything to our attention or ask a question it is best to do so by contacting our Clerk, Samantha Chambers-Turner, who would be able to contact the relevant Councillor as necessary.

Her address is [clerk@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatwilbrahamparishcouncil.gov.uk).



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## Wilbrahams Memorial Hall



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2023

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## They are back!



“Our” swifts - they are very loyal to their breeding sites – are back from Africa and will be with us until early August. Swifts spend their lives almost entirely on the wing and only land when nesting, so these birds will have been airborne since they left the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom in August last year! They feed, sleep (when not nesting), collect nesting material and mate in flight, and they never perch on wires, trees or fences. Swifts in the UK mainly nest in

buildings above 4 metres up - under the eaves of older buildings and increasingly in nest boxes and specially made nest bricks for new housing.

Tracking studies around 10 years ago on a few UK swifts, including two from Cambridgeshire, indicated that ‘our’ swifts spend most of their time away from the UK over the rain forest of the Congo basin area in southern Africa with the journey from and to the UK taking around a month, with stopovers in West Africa. Also, during December and January they were seen to move as far south and east as Mozambique, and it is thought that they were following seasonal abundance of airborne insect food.

Numbers of swifts in the UK have been falling dramatically: we can – must-help them by providing new nest sites.

At St Nicholas’ Church we are installing boxes - like this one - under the eaves on the north side. A new electrical supply has been provided – Thank you very much Steve Drake and J & J Electrical – to power a swift calling system to attract the birds. This and the boxes should be in place very soon now.

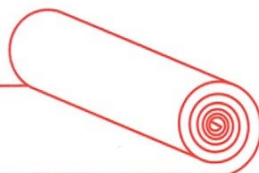


If you think you have swifts nesting near you anywhere in our villages, or if you want more information about these magical birds or about putting up a box or two, please get in touch!

Nick Toovey 07594 601205 [thetooveys@gmail.com](mailto:thetooveys@gmail.com)

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# THE VILLAGE POND



Did you know that Great Wilbraham once had a village pond in its centre? It was at the corner of Church Street and High Street, which was known as Pond Corner. This photograph, looking along Church Street, is from a postcard carrying a 1923 postmark.

Here is another photo from the photo archive on the Wilbrahams website. Given the date, it is not surprising to see evidence on the road of horses having passed by, but of course, they would also have stopped. A pond is a good place to water horses and soak the wheels of a cart. Most carts then had wooden wheels with metal rims, and the horse would pull the cart into the pond and let the wheels stand in the water. This caused the wood to swell and made the rims fit more tightly.

Many years ago, an elderly resident told me that the pond froze over in winter and made a skating rink for the local children. At the time of writing, late January with an outside temperature of  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$  (or  $21^{\circ}\text{F}$  as he would have thought it), I can see the possibilities.

There is another photo dating from the early 1950s which shows that the pond had gone by then. However, there are still traces of it to be found today on the corner where there is a very deep ditch at the back of the verge.



Last November Peter Ladbrooke and Councillor Claire Daunton investigated it as part of their research on storm drains. According to Peter *“Rainwater is taken from the road and piped into the ditch in the verge outside the Gants’ house, whence it is in turn conducted into the stormwater pipework. To my mind at least, the term “extraordinary” is justified as the ditch, understood to be a surviving part of the one-time village pond, naturally accumulates dirt, leaves, rubbish and decaying matter – all of which is then carried by stormwater into the drainage system. . . .As it stands it is an effective provision for blocking the 6” pipework.”*

Readers can find other photos of the village in the photo archive on the village website. [The archive is worth a look even if you are not interested in ponds.]

David Richer





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## NOTICE BOARD

### Dates for Summer term 2023

Half-term holidays Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

End of Term: Wednesday 19th July

### Autumn term

Term begins: Monday 4th September

Half-term holidays Monday 23th October 2023 to Friday 27th October 2023

### Mobile Library Timetable

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

22<sup>nd</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> Aug, 28<sup>th</sup> Sept

#### Six Mile Bottom,

Outside the shop, 10.30-11.00.

#### Little Wilbraham

Bus stop on High Street, 4.10-4.25

#### Great Wilbraham

Opposite the playground, 3.20 -4.00.

## BIN COLLECTIONS

### Black bins

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 12th June

Monday 26th June

Monday 10th July

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July

Monday 7th August

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August

### Blue bins

Monday 5 June

Monday 19 June

Monday 3 July

Monday 17 July

Monday 31 July

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August

Monday 28 th August

### Green bins

As above for Blue Bins

### LW&SMB Parish Council

Next meeting date

Wednesday 28th June

Tuesday 12th September

See full report on page 13

### GW Parish Council

Next meeting date

Thursday 15th June

## Community Group Contact Details

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Great Wilbraham Common Rights           | Steve Bartlett 881096<br><a href="mailto:stephen.bartlett@mindworks.ltd.uk">stephen.bartlett@mindworks.ltd.uk</a>                                      |
| Little Wilbraham Common Rights          | Guy Mulley 812862<br><a href="mailto:mulley.guy@gmail.com">mulley.guy@gmail.com</a>  |
| Great Wilbraham Guild of Change Ringers | Peter Sims<br><a href="mailto:ptrs28@googlemail.com">ptrs28@googlemail.com</a>   |
| Great Wilbraham Primary School          | Office: 880408   |
| GW Primary School PTFA                  | Emily Oliver<br><a href="mailto:emilystar_uk@yahoo.com">emilystar_uk@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Oil Syndicate, Great Wilbraham          | Chris Gurney<br><a href="mailto:webadmin@oil-club.co.uk">webadmin@oil-club.co.uk</a>   |
| Over 60's                               | Carol Whitehouse<br><a href="mailto:Carolwhitehouse4@gmail.com">Carolwhitehouse4@gmail.com</a>   |
| Transport Working Group                 | Tim Page 881738<br>David Richer 880547<br><a href="mailto:hgvs.wilbrahams@gmail.com">hgvs.wilbrahams@gmail.com</a>                                     |
| Volunteer Group                         | Pat Simpson <a href="mailto:pas49@cam.ac.uk">pas49@cam.ac.uk</a>   |
| The Well-brahams                        | <a href="http://www.thewell-rahams.weebly.com">www.thewell-rahams.weebly.com</a><br><a href="mailto:well.brahams@gmail.com">well.brahams@gmail.com</a> |
| Weenie Warblers Mother & Toddler Group  | Sarah Fordham, 880698  |
| Wilbrahams' Community Choir             | Tony Goryn 07751281341<br><a href="mailto:tonygoryn@icloud.com">tonygoryn@icloud.com</a>   |
|   | Gill Humphrey 811436   |
| Wilbrahams' Gardening Club              | Jackie Beadsmoore, 880889<br><a href="mailto:jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com">jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com</a>  |
| Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall               | Shirley Morley, 880723<br>booking. <a href="mailto:wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com">wilbrahamsmemorialhall@gmail.com</a>                              |
| Wilbrahams' Scrabble                    | Julia Cornwell, 881751<br><a href="mailto:juliacornwell@gmail.com">juliacornwell@gmail.com</a>   |
| Wilbrahams' Sports Club                 | Roddy Tippen 880728  |
| Wilbrahams' Bridge Club                 | Di Raikes 881065<br><a href="mailto:raikswilb@btinternet.com">raikswilb@btinternet.com</a>   |



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# Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall

Angle End, Gt Wilbraham

[www.hall.gtwilbraham.net](http://www.hall.gtwilbraham.net)

It was wonderful to use the Memorial Hall to its full potential on Monday 8th May for our village's celebration of the Coronations of King Charles and Queen Camilla. The weather was not good enough to run the event outside, but even so, the recreation ground was full of kids running around and groups



chatting. Inside, we were full to the brim, listening to great music from local band, 'The Tofties', and the Community Choir. I reckon everyone else was full to the brim too - with copious amounts of free scones, cakes and tea on offer, courtesy of Gt Wilbraham Parish Council and a fabulous group of volunteer bakers and washer uppers. Thanks to all who made

such a memorable occasion possible. For the Chair of the Memorial Hall, one of the most heart-warming things was seeing so many guests joining in the clear-up afterwards. That tells me that the community value their hall, and they are willing to help when needed - to keep it in good order and with the running of events. It belongs to the community, and it is up to us to use it to the full, and for the benefit of as many local people as possible. So please keep supporting it – hiring it for private parties or special occasions, attending groups/classes or coming to the monthly market – it really makes a difference!

In June our monthly Trustees meeting will be the AGM (Monday, June 5th at 7.30 pm). Please come along to show your support, and also to let us know what you would like us to do or do differently. The Trustees and committee members meet monthly to organise the nitty gritty of the hall management, but the AGM is the chance for the community to give us feedback or make suggestions. We are also keen to involve others in the running of the hall and would welcome new committee members (some of us have been doing it rather a long time). Getting involved in the hall, the recreation ground and the play area is a great way of having a positive impact on village life. The next



big event will be The Wilbrahams' & Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower & Produce Show ('The Village Show') on Saturday, July 15th. This is always a great day – with the cream of local horticultural, baking, photography and craft talents on show for all to see, and plenty of tea and cake to enjoy with family and friends. Or why not enter – there is a schedule being delivered with this edition of the Warbler.

Don't forget the monthly Farmers' Markets, held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from Spring through to December at 9.30-11.30 am. It is a great place to meet up with friends, shop locally and support small producers and crafts people. The income from the market is now an important part of our annual



fundraising. So please keep supporting this - we have a reputation as a friendly and vibrant market that we need to keep up! The Produce Stall will be run by the hall and various village charities throughout the year. A huge thanks should go to all those who bake and donate such wonderful produce. If you are involved in a village charity and would like to run the

produce stall for the benefit of your charity this year, then please get in touch.

Please visit our website [www.wilbrahamhall.co.uk](http://www.wilbrahamhall.co.uk) to use the calendar or find out how to make a booking. Please also send us news of items (fundraisers/group info etc.) that you would like posted, so this can reach the community. You can sign up for email alerts of hall news on the website.

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

Shirley Morley (Booking Secretary)

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

Emma Adams, Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee

## **The Wilbrahams' Social Club**

The Cricket season is underway, and the bar will be busy with supporters and players enjoying beverages and lovely cricket teas throughout the Summer. The fixture list is on the club door.

Now that Spring is here the club committee is very keen to open the club more frequently. However, to achieve this we desperately need some more volunteers to work on the bar, e.g. this could be once a week/fortnight/month, please think about this as the club is a great resource for our community.

Our regular Saturday Coffee Mornings are a chance to catch up with friends. With a good selection of homemade cakes, including some very popular bakes!

### **Next dates**

June 24th, July 22nd, September 30th - 10.30 - 12.00

Current opening hours

Wednesday: from 7 pm

Thursday: from 8 pm

Friday: 6 pm - 10 pm or later  
(most weeks)

Saturday: 6 pm - 10 pm or later  
and 1 pm onwards when cricket is home

New members are always welcome, the annual membership is £5, the renewal date is April 1st. Membership forms are available at the bar. Junior members can join at 14.

We also would like new committee members to bring ideas, enthusiasm and help us with the routine management of the club. We look forward to seeing you soon.

**AGM -Tuesday, June 20th 2023, 7.30 pm TBC**

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

Since my most recently published report in November last year, the trustees have remained focused on delivering the aims & objectives of this charitable trust (founded in 1988), which 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 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.

The trustees' strategy is to preserve all capital donations (and grow their value by at least the Consumer Prices Index each year), and from the preserved capital in the Legacy Capital Fund, to generate £10,000+ income pa. All of the income is passed on to the Church's Fabric Committee, by way of donations, to help meet the Church Architect's Quinquennial Report 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 Trust was able to make a grant of £45,000 towards the total cost of £135,000. Similarly, the trust made a grant of £20,000 was made for the electric space heating total cost of £31,000, and the interior redecoration of the walls costing £13,000 which was paid for by the trust in full. Earlier this year, a donation of £10,000 was made to cover most of the costs of external stonework and rendering identified as works requiring urgent attention in the current quinquennial report. The remainder of monies collected are added to any “special” donations & grants for major repairs and improvements to the church.

As at 30th April 2023, the Trust’s Legacy Capital Fund was valued at £233,637, showing a rise of £10,111 or around 4.5% from it’s value of £223,526 on the 7th November 2022, which was broadly in line with market sentiment.

Some Good Investment News is that by the year’s end, the dividend income received had amounted to £10,251, so our target was just achieved by the end of what had been a very difficult year.

The trust’s available cash as at 30th April 2023 was £5,965.

The church building works scheduled for 2023 include the general overhaul and repairs to the lead & glass to the windows and some interior & exterior masonry repairs, as per the Church Architect’s Quinquennial Report in 2020 (5 yrly) .. most of which have now been completed (see above).

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 taxpayer).

Looking back over the past 12 years, the building has required in excess of £350,000’s expenditure on repairs & improvements, which has averaged at a cost of almost £30,000 per year. So, even allowing for "one off" improvement costs such as the tower conversion (£135,000), our mission is to at least double the Legacy Fund's protected capital to £500,000, to make sure that the building is preserved to a very high standard for all future generations.

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

Graham Clarke, chairman

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## Community Choir

Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall was filled to capacity on St George's Day, Sunday 23rd April for the choir's annual concert. As well as choral music choir members performed five other musical masterpieces and two members read relevant poems.

Huge thanks are due to Cheryl, Linda and Teresa for serving coffee, tea and lots of cake after the performance and everyone else who made those cakes. A significant sum will be donated to the Memorial Hall. Conviviality reigned.



Celebrating the start of King Charles III's reign the choir sang again on "Musical Monday" 8th May in the Memorial Hall. This was another successful event and many thanks are due to all organisers and helpers. But who were the couple in the back row?

We thank our Choir Director Gill Humphrey for her enthusiasm and expertise and for sharing her solo voice

with those in the room on St George's Day. If you would like to join or try out the choir please contact Gill Humphrey, Tony Goryn or any choir member.

Tony Goryn, Acting Chairman, 07751 281341

## Comberton Ramblers

If you like walking and enjoy the countryside we are the walking group for you.

Comberton Ramblers walk an average of 5-6 miles every fortnight on a Sunday.

To view our walk programme + photos please go to our webpage.

<https://www.combertonramblers.org.uk>

So why not give us a try, you'll have the benefit of an exhilarating walk plus the companionship of a group of like-minded people .

For more information please contact the Secretary Stella.

Tel. 01954 210049 Email. [stella.hardwicke2274@hotmail.com](mailto:stella.hardwicke2274@hotmail.com)

## CAMBRIDGE OPEN STUDIOS FIRST FOUR WEEKENDS IN JULY

It won't be long before artists around Cambridge will be opening their studios again to visitors and there are four different artists on your doorstep, ready to welcome you and show you what they have been working on since last year.

**CAMBRIDGE**  
**OPEN**  
**studios**



Weekend 1 JULY 01 – 02  
 Weekend 2 JULY 08 – 09  
 Weekend 3 JULY 15 – 16  
 Weekend 4 JULY 22 – 23  
 10am to 5pm



Look out for the yellow flags displayed outside their venues and the Open Studio Guide listing every participant this year in and out of Cambridge. You can pick one up from the Village Shop.



148 Mark Jackman. Weekends 2, 3 and 4. Chairs, stools, benches. I make comfortable chairs, settees and benches to fit the sitter. Both traditional steam bent and modern designs. Please drop by to see how I do this.

The Chapel, 84 Angle End, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge, CB21 5JG [markjackman@icloud.com](mailto:markjackman@icloud.com)  
07885 505768

149 Richard Bray. Weekends 1 and 4. Sculpture and drawings. Garden workshop and drawing space showing sculpture in wood for interior and exterior spaces and drawings in coloured Indian inks.

62 Angle End, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge CB21 5JG  
[richardbray.org](http://richardbray.org) [richardbray515@gmail.com](mailto:richardbray515@gmail.com)

01223 880415 07849642876



150 Helen Clarke. Weekends 2,3 and 4. Watercolours / mixed media. Fresh, uplifting paintings inspired by the beauty of nature- flowers, landscape, wildlife and still life. Beautiful wildflower meadow.

Summer House Studio, 1 High St, Great Wilbraham, Cambridge, CB21 5JD [www.summerhouse-paintings.co.uk](http://www.summerhouse-paintings.co.uk) [helen@summerhouse-paintings.co.uk](mailto:helen@summerhouse-paintings.co.uk)

01223 882882 07815105092

151 Mel Fraser Weekends 2,3 and 4. Contemporary stone sculpture for house and garden, corporate settings and commissions are undertaken.

Herring's House, Wilbraham Road, Fulbourn, CB21 5EU  
[www.melfraser.com](http://www.melfraser.com) [melfraser.sculpture@gmail.com](mailto:melfraser.sculpture@gmail.com)

07729774145



## UNTOLD STORIES 30 ! Ray Cochrane



*Who knew we had a Derby-winning jockey living in Little Wilbraham? I didn't – until I met Ray Cochrane.*

We lived out in the middle of nowhere in Northern Ireland. There were seven of us children and we ran wild. Nearby farms had shire horses which wandered, and took washing off the line which infuriated our mother. One day when I was about five I had climbed a tree, and as a horse walked by I dropped onto his back. He ambled off back to

his field, and from that moment I knew I wanted to be a jockey. But from his back it was a long way down! The horse was 17 hands.

*How did you take it on from there?*

There was a riding school about two miles away. They had 15 or 20 horses, and I would go there after school. I became head groom and was taught how to ride properly. Later, when I was 14½, I was an apprentice to Barry Hills at Lambourn. I lived in digs with a Scots lad called David Cochrane. I was there for five years.

*How did you get on at Lambourn?*

I learned a lot by being around racehorses rather than ordinary horses or ponies, but you had to put yourself forward. No one there had ridden a



winner before me. I was ambitious and competitive. At 16 I asked for a chat with the boss: he told me to do what I am told, and “get out of my office before I kick your arse”. But the next day he said I could ride a fine 2-year-old called Nagwa who had won 3 races. I rode 10 races on her and won 9.

*Did you have to keep your weight down?*

All jockeys are on a really hard diet all the time. I jogged 5 miles every morning to maintain a weight of 8 stone 4 or 5 lbs.

*There are a lot of tactics in racing?*

You plan out how a race will go – and it is always different. I rode Nagwa – she always seemed to know whether it was 5 or 7 furlongs and pace herself accordingly.

*Your big triumph was winning the Derby in 1988, wasn't it?*

Yes. The horse was called Kahyasi. It was owned by the Aga Khan.

*Was this when you met Frankie Dettori?*

Yes. He was a cheeky monkey of 14 and bone idle but a nice kid. He was always going to be good. We became good friends, and after I retired I was his manager for 21 years.

*What was involved in being his manager?*

Anything to do with him riding racehorses was my job. He left it all to me.

*Before that, you saved his life in an air crash, didn't you?*

It was a gusty day at Newmarket.. The pilot was killed and I was knocked unconscious for a few seconds. If I had been unconscious for five minutes we would not be having this conversation. The plane was full of aviation fuel and could go up at any moment. Luckily the luggage hatch was open so I grabbed Frankie and threw him out. I got out and tried to go back for the pilot but it was not possible.

*And you were hurt yourself. You received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery for that.*

It's up there. (Ray showed me the framed Commendation).

*How many winners have you ridden?*

About 1600. That's all over the world: Australia, Canada, America, Barbados, all over Europe. It was nothing to be riding here at Newmarket on a Saturday, go straight to Heathrow, fly overnight to the United States, ride there on the Sunday afternoon, and be back here to ride on Monday. I flew to Melbourne twice in three weeks. Nothing to eat or drink on the way: the first thing you do is find the nearest sauna.

*This seems to have been an all-consuming passion in your life. Do you have a home or family life?*

We play golf, and I am big into cycling and cyclocross. I have a big allotment at Six Mile Bottom and sell some produce for cancer research. We use the camper van for various trips.

*Do you ever see a horse nowadays?*

No. I'm too busy. I am quite happy with my cycling, especially the cyclocross. I am slower than the younger ones but I am still competitive.

*You have moved on. Is there anything you would like to say?*

I like living in this village. I have lived here for 25 years. And there is too much hate and war in the world.

*Thank you, Ray, for sharing a part of your life with us.*

*Search online for Ray Cochrane and you will find much more information about Ray's many wins and other matters across several websites including Wikipedia.*

John Tanburn





The Well-brahams (our local well-being and mental health group) have had another very busy spring. We have carried on our popular warm mornings, tidied up the community orchard with a group of volunteers, ran two sports and creative

mindfulness days and had a practical talk for 'nervous gardeners'. Our events are for all age groups and are always free as we try and encourage villagers to be aware of their mental health and how to look after themselves and others.



The orchard volunteer morning was both great exercise and fun led by our local expert Nigel Start. Go down to the community orchard, take a picnic and sit on

the benches enjoying the lovely view and peaceful environment. We carried on running our hugely successful warm mornings in the Memorial Hall, over the seven mornings we had regular attendees, we met new villagers, learnt new games and importantly had chats and laughter. It was also a time when we could talk about more



serious matters with friends. Our lovely attendees were very grateful and presented us with chocolates and flowers on our last morning. We're hoping to resume these in the autumn, so watch this space as we'll be publicising them in the Warbler and posters round the village.





We ran two sports and creative mindfulness days in the Easter holidays, these proved very popular as usual with the brilliant Charlie Brown and Rachael Cox running the show. Many thanks to the social

club for letting us use their clubhouse. Being part of a group combined with being outside, alongside creative mindfulness is so beneficial to children's mental health. Again we're hoping to run these in the summer holidays.



Phillip Ward (well known to many) and Sarah Mansfield ran a session for 'Nervous Gardeners'. Again this was very popular with forty attendees of all ages. They are very experienced professional gardeners and generously gave their time and expertise, a great session and as we all know planting and nurturing those plants is so good for our mental health. That's why people love gardening, and after this session we had a few new converts. We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and we can all enjoy the cricket!

The Well-brahams

## Fulbourn WI

Since the last copy of the Wilbrahams' Warbler we have had a demonstration of homemade chocolates, a talk about the work of the Trinity Lighthouse charity and another about the history of bridalwear. Coming up we have our members only 'strawberries and cream' afternoon on June 21st to get us in the mood for Wimbledon and on July 19th a talk about "Molly Dancing" which we hope will be enjoyed by both members and visitors.

Early in March most of our members were able to meet up for a friendly lunch at the Six Bells, Fulbourn, to celebrate our 102nd birthday.

Now for more of our campaigns in the last 100 years. This time I will write about the 1960s-70s.



Socially- during this period the WI urged the government to introduce stronger deterrents, to counteract the upsurge in crime and vandalism. There was real alarm amongst members about the continued under-manning of the Police Force throughout the country and we asked the government to take

steps to improve the conditions and prospects of the police service to attract more men and women of the right calibre. We also requested the government to investigate the present state of separated mothers and the difficulties and hardship they often had in obtaining maintenance money for themselves and their children..

Similarly we also endorsed in principle the provisional proposals of the Houghton Committee with regard to adoption of children in long-term foster care and urged the government to bring in the necessary changes as soon as possible, In order that people be discouraged from smoking the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) asked that strong measures be taken to restrict the amount of smoking in public places such as tops of buses, places of entertainment, cafes and restaurants and also on television. As a result of the Brain Report on Drug Addiction the WI urged parents and those responsible for children to make themselves aware of the very grave danger of habit-forming drugs and drug addiction. We supported the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill at the same time highlighting the problems of battered wives and urged that immediate action be taken to provide alternative accommodation for these women and their children in at least every county if not in every town. The NFWUI believes in the equality of opportunity and legal status for men and women and pledged itself to work to achieve this. We asked that all persons who care for elderly or special needs dependents should be credited with Class 1 National Insurance contributions in order that their retirement pension should not be reduced by the fact that they have not been in contributory employment. Likewise, we asked that all widows should receive a Widow's pension on reaching the age of fifty irrespective of their age when widowed.

Health - The W.I. drew the attention of the government to the shortage of physiotherapists, radiographers and occupational therapists in the

NHS and asked them to offer better financial and other inducements to encourage entry into these professions. We urged that there be improved arrangements for organ donation for transplant purposes (yes, we really did get the kidney donor card scheme started). We campaigned for sufficient daycare centres and adequate aftercare to be provided for patients discharged from hospitals for the mentally ill. We asked the government to make it mandatory for all local authorities to provide a free Family Planning Service. We urged that all regional hospital boards treat as a matter of urgency the provision of comprehensive facilities for routine smear tests for cervical cancer and for breast screening services, as well as increasing awareness of osteoporosis.

All meetings are held at the Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn between 2-4 pm.

Hope to see you there.

Marilyn Moyse. President, Fulbourn WI

## **The Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show Memorial Hall, Great Wilbraham Saturday, 15th July 2023**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

*We have made a few changes to the timings of the Show. This will hopefully give younger families the chance to get home in time for tea and also help us get the Hall cleared up before the start of the evening whist drive. The times are:*

*9-11 am for receiving Entries at the Hall*

*2.30 pm Show opens for public viewing and refreshments*

*3.45 pm Prize giving*

*4 pm Auction of donated exhibits followed by the Raffle.*

You should have received a **Show Schedule** with this edition of the Warbler – take a look through it as there's a large variety of classes to enter and lots of trophies to be won which are listed on the back.

*Entry is restricted to residents of the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom, apart from any children who live outside the Villages but attend Great Wilbraham Primary School.*

Please complete the entry form, inside the schedule and bring along with your entries (**apart from the Spud in the bucket and Photography entries - see**

**details below)** and you will be issued with a ticket to attach to each entry. Judging is anonymous.



**Entries arriving after 11am cannot be accepted and we ask you to leave the Hall by 11.15 am** so that we're able to prepare for the judging which begins at 11.30 am.

**REMINDER:** You may have two entries per class, apart from Classes 22 and 41 (The Spud in the Bucket and the

Plug plant competitions).

**UNDER 12's SECTION:** There are several classes for children so please encourage them to enter. There is nothing to stop them entering the main Classes if they wish! Just to mention that the children at Great Wilbraham Primary School and First Steps Nursery all have entries in the Show so do come along and see their colourful displays in the afternoon.

**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 12th JULY**, clearly labelled with your name and phone number. Please cut off the tops and do not water the bucket for 2 days before or it will be heavy to carry and also very messy to empty out when the potatoes are weighed! If you need help transporting your bucket please contact me. The **RICHARD WRIGHT CUP** will be awarded for the heaviest yield.

**PLUG PLANT COMPETITION:** Hopefully the Begonias are growing well - please bring your plant to the Hall on the day of the Show 9-11 am. The winner of the 'best' plant will be awarded the **DAVID WATERS MEMORIAL CUP**.

**PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION:** Please see Andrew Evans's notes for Class subjects. Entries to be submitted [vfpphotos@gmail.com](mailto:vfpphotos@gmail.com) by midnight on Wednesday, 12th July. A digital display of the photos entered will be projected in the Hall on the afternoon of the Show.

**ORDER OF THE DAY:** In case you haven't been to the Show before, once the entries have been received in the morning, the Hall closes between 11.15 am - 2.30 pm whilst judging takes place, prize cards are written and the prize money calculated. **At 2.30 pm the Hall is open for ANYONE** to come and view the entries and check out the winners! Tea/coffee and soft drinks are served along with a variety of delicious homemade cakes! Come and catch up with your friends and with village life... and join in with the very popular Auction. The day finishes with a Raffle.

**RAFFLE:** Tickets are on sale in the morning and until 3.45 pm and **DONATIONS** for the Raffle would be gratefully received - please either bring them along on the day of the Show or drop them off at 13, High Street, Great Wilbraham.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you would like to join our band of helpers, we would love to hear from you so please get in touch (details below).

Looking forward to seeing you with your entries at the Hall on Saturday 15th July. In the words of one of the Judges..."These are Your Villages, Your Show and Your Fun!"

**Any queries at all please contact: Rosie White**

**Tel: 01223 881293 mobile: 07757982934**

**email: [rosiewhite77@hotmail.com](mailto:rosiewhite77@hotmail.com)**

## Photograph Entries for the Show

As a reminder to all PHOTOGRAPHERS, there will again be a photography competition as part of the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Vegetable, Flower and Produce Show. This year the subjects are as follows:

Class 70) A Wheel or Wheels - a car, a waterwheel, a bike. The wheel should be the main focal point of the image.



Class 71) The Seasons - something that captures the essence of one of the four seasons.

Class 72) History or Vintage - a historical building, a re-enactment or a photograph of something

retro/vintage.

Class 73) Food - images of ingredients, produce or fancy dinners. Try to capture something symmetrical, bold or colourful.

Class 74) A reflection - a tree reflected in water, or something reflected in a mirror (hopefully not the camera though).



You may use any digital camera or camera-phone and each entrant may enter one or two images in each class. Entries should be E-Mailed to [vfpphotos@gmail.com](mailto:vfpphotos@gmail.com) by Midnight on the 12th of July to give time for our external judge to cast his eye on all your creativity. Wishing you all the best of luck!

Andrew Evans

## Over 60s

On 30th March Amanda Sutherland gave us an informative talk on Costume and Fashion. During the break we were able to purchase some of the clothing, accessories and jewellery she had made.

27th April was our AGM. Carole Fabb our president welcomed everyone and thanked the committee for their continued support.

The committee were re-elected, John Shepherd chairperson, treasurer Helen Deller, and secretary Carol Whitehouse.

### Upcoming meetings

29th June: Jason Middleton Talk on Jewellery

6th July: Mystery coach trip

27th July: David Caulifield: 60/70s music

New members are welcome. Meetings start at 2.00 pm in the Wilbrahams Memorial Hall. For more info contact Carol Whitehouse 07770 973702

## Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre



Members of Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre are hard at work rehearsing for June's show 'The Sorcerer' by Gilbert and Sullivan in the barn before its spectacular transformation into a theatre!

Performances will be Wednesday 14th – Saturday 17th June 2023 with evening performances at 7.30 pm and a Saturday matinée at 2.30 pm. It all happens at

Downing Farm, Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW. Ticket prices Wednesday £9, Thursday £10, Friday and Saturday £12, matinée £8 On-site parking; facilities for wheelchair users; licensed bar.

The Sorcerer is based on a story written by Gilbert called 'The Elixir of Love'. A young man, Alexis, is betrothed to Aline and is so obsessed with the idea of love levelling all ranks and social distinctions that he promotes his beliefs by inviting the proprietor of J.W. Wells and Co., Family Sorcerers, to brew a love potion.

At a party in Sir Marmaduke's Garden the potion is dispensed in the tea by Dr. Daly, the vicar. This causes everyone in the village to fall asleep and then to fall in love with the first person they see on waking, resulting in the pairing of comically mismatched couples.



In the end Wells must sacrifice his life in order to break the spell.

Visit their website [www.sbsummertheatre.com](http://www.sbsummertheatre.com); e-mail [sbst.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:sbst.tickets@gmail.com) or call 07708 577570

For further information (not tickets) contact [Ruth](#) Dennis on 01638 730659 or by e-mail via the website.

The Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre has been in existence since 1982, staging a show every year apart from the two years of the pandemic. We have used three different barns within Swaffham Bulbeck, starting in The Long Barn and then moving to Mitchell Hall Barn in 1989. We then moved on to David Turner's barn at Downing Farm in 2007 where we have remained. However, for various reasons, the 2023 production of 'The Sorcerer', our 40th show, will be the last one there and they are looking for any viable option for 2024 – watch this space!

Ruth Dennis

## How To Protect Our Local Valued Green Spaces

We present a brief guide to four specific land designations: Local Green Spaces, Assets of Community Value, Village Greens, and Local Nature Reserves.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is your local branch of CPRE, The Countryside Charity. We've produced a brief guide to landscape designations which we think may be of use to local community and amenity groups. The guide explains four specific land designations: Local Green Spaces, Assets of Community Value, Village Greens, and Local Nature Reserves. We explain what the different designations mean legally under planning policy; the implications of one form of designation versus another; and how local communities can achieve one of these designations. The guide is available at <https://www.cprecambs.org.uk/cpre-news/2023/04/05/how-local-communities-can-protect-green-spaces/>. For a PDF copy of the guide or for more information about CPRE please contact Tracey Hipson at [administrator2@cprecambs.org.uk](mailto:administrator2@cprecambs.org.uk). Please let me know if you need any further information. Tracey Hipson [www.cprecambs.org.uk](http://www.cprecambs.org.uk)

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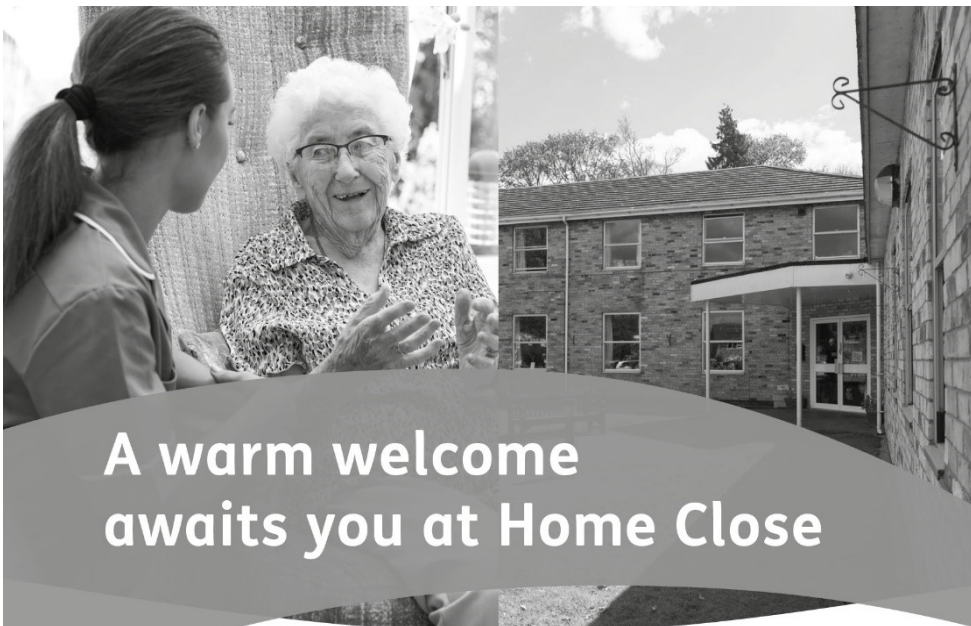
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## Speed Awareness Sign Installed

As the Parish Council mentioned in their Spring report in The Warbler, Great Wilbraham received a grant from a local company for the purchase of three new speed awareness devices - known as MVAS.

Over the last year or two, the Transport Working Group and the Parish Council have consulted with residents through a series of surveys on traffic issues. The main concerns voiced by respondents were the speed of traffic entering the village on each of the approach roads and the tendency of some drivers to accelerate along the two 'straights' within the village.

Something needed to be done, but how - and how could we access the necessary funding?



We reached out to Low Carbon - a privately-owned UK investment company who project-managed the solar park at the end of Mill Road. It is a reputable and environmentally responsible company who are committed to making a positive impact on the causes of climate change through the development of renewable energy power production.

Their approach to local engagement is strong – striking a careful balance between the environmental, economic, and social impacts of sustainable energy production.

Following our presentation to Low Carbon, we were delighted that they agreed to help us with our work to reduce the speed of traffic through the village. Their generous donation has now allowed us to purchase three MVAS solar powdered units, the first of which you may have seen in the High Street (near the triangle and Mill Road).



The MVAS does not only alert drivers to their speed, but it also records the speeds. This MVAS has not been up for very long, but it has already confirmed that one vehicle in seven on this stretch of High Street is exceeding the 30mph speed limit, and it has already recorded vehicles travelling at over 55mph.

A small team of volunteers has completed training and will help

move and rotate the MVAS units to various locations around the village. These will include mounting on the new fixed posts in 40 mph buffer

zones that are to be erected shortly as a result of the village's successful LHI application.

We would love to include you in the work of our group. Please contact us at [hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.co.uk](mailto:hgvs.wilbraham@gmail.co.uk) if you are interested.

Monique Bradley-Irish

## **Why should we bother trying to keep our village churches standing?**

I love holidaying in Great Britain – there is so much variety within a relatively small area. But something unifies this land of ours – our medieval churches. They are an integral part of the British landscape and have been, in many places, for nearly 1000 years. They offer a unique public space of spirituality, peace and tranquility, symbols of our culture and heritage.

It is hard to imagine what life they have witnessed during that time –

*The Norman invasion, 1066*

*The Black Death, 14th century*

*The Dissolution of the Monasteries, 16th century*

*The British Civil War including the beheading of Charles 1, 17th century.*

*The Reign of Queen Victoria, 19th century*

*The First World War 20th century*

*The bombing of The Second World War –*

But – 1000 churches have closed permanently in Britain over the last 30 years.

Does this matter? Well, obviously I think it does. They are an amazing local historical resource, each different with special features in their own right.

Over the preceding centuries the churches have had to be maintained and brought up to date. Local inhabitants have managed this but now with increasing costs of restoration and demands of Health and Safety, the cost can be great. All churches will now pay thousands of pounds every year for insurance alone.

Locally, St. John's Church, Little Wilbraham, is in crisis. It bares a Templar cross on its outer wall as a witness to the Wilbrahams' association with The Knights Templars. What an image that conjures up – as they worship before heading off on crusades.

We must decide, as communities, if we still value our local church enough to help support it with our time and money. The average attendance on a Sunday will be less than 20, so regular worshippers cannot save our churches alone.

Please think about what it means to you to keep our churches standing and whether you could give a small regular contribution, join the cleaning rota or support fundraising events like the Churches Together stall at the Food and Craft Fair.

A previous Churchwarden, Graham Pye, summed it up much better than I could –

“It is tempting to believe that over the centuries as villagers have worshipped, been baptised at the font, married at the altar, and buried in the churchyard, the stones have absorbed some of the spirituality and devotion.

We owe it to future generations to care for our church as our predecessors have done.”

Lorna Carr

## Potholes

It is important that our roads are kept in good condition to ensure the safety of road users, cyclists and pedestrians. Over the past several months, the combination of heavy rain and freezing temperatures has led to several new potholes, which I know have caused concern for many of you.

I am pleased that in the Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced that the Government will place an extra £200 million towards the Potholes Fund. This takes the total pothole budget for UK local authorities to £700 million in the 2023/24 financial year. The uplift will mean an additional £4.1 million for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Although it is the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council to repair the highways in my constituency, I have always been happy to report problems on behalf of my constituents and follow up with the authority if any issues remain outstanding. If you have recently noticed any potholes, you can use the Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Reporting Tool,

here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>, or you can write to me on [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk) and I will do what I can to assist.

Lucy Frazer MP

# **Wilbraham River Protection Society**

## **Guided River Walk Sunday July 16th 2023 at 2 pm**

Dear Friends of Wilbraham River,

We will be holding our next river walk on Sunday 16th July at 2 pm.

The walk will start at Hawk Mill Farm, Little Wilbraham and follow the river footpath towards Quy and then back to Hawk Mill Farm along the Long Drove. The walk will be on public footpaths and permissive paths.

We will meet at 13.45 at Hawk Mill Farm and expect that the walk will take about 1.5 – 2 hours finishing around 4 pm. Refreshments will be available on return. Parking is available at Hawk Mill Farm. A map of the route will be made available on the Wilbraham village and the WRPS websites.

### **Walk Guidance**

It is also possible to park at the lay-by at Quy Waters should you wish to join or leave the walk. Dogs are welcome on leads. The walk will be guided and we ask you to keep to the route at all times. You will be walking in open countryside and farmland on marked tracks... some may be boggy and can be overgrown with nettles. Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing to suit these conditions.

There may be cattle in the fields that we cross. Care is required and dogs and children must be supervised. Committee members will be available to help.

Please try to keep close to others on the walk. Please stay a safe distance from the river at all times. The walk is not suitable for buggies, small toddlers or those with restricted mobility.

We are sorry that there seems to be such a list. However, walkers must accept that they come, at their own risk.

If you would like to join us, please contact Rebecca Lomas, [bex@drcr.info](mailto:bex@drcr.info) or telephone 07718899471.

We would be pleased to see you all for what is usually a most enjoyable afternoon.

Rebecca Lomas (WRPS Secretary)

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**Wilbrahams'  
Environment  
Group**

WEG is active on a range of environmental issues affecting our villages. Here are some current matters:

## **Solar Farm**

We have continued to work hard to influence aspects of the solar farm which, if East Cambs DC gives permission, will be built on the rising land where the A14 meets the A11 beyond Six Mile Bottom – visible from but not close to the road from Little Wilbraham to Six Mile Bottom. We have met the developers several times now:



*They need a new cable all the way to Cherry Hinton (near Tesco's) and expected to lay it right through Great Wilbraham and Fulbourn! With some expert Industry help we put to them another route which completely avoids our villages. Ridge now agrees that it is practical and cost-effective. We cannot, however, relax until Ridge makes another planning application to South Cambs DC for the cabling itself.*

*We and others have lobbied Ridge to do much more to improve Biodiversity on the site.*

*Community Payments (like that from the Wadlows Wind Farm site) are often offered but are not compulsory in the Planning process. Ridge has offered a modest annual sum to be shared between Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham (with Six Mile Bottom) and Bottisham, in whose parish the site lies. We are pushing for this to be increased and are talking to the three parish councils about how the money should be shared.*

## **Farming**

Continuing our dialogue with local farmers, we recently met up again with Malek Hyde-Smith, Bidwells and James Kiddy who is now the contractor farming the Wilbraham Estate, with continuing support from Phil Baynes who knows the farm (and its wildlife) inside out. James is making subtle but important changes which are improving the farm's already substantial environmental credentials – e.g. by creating grass margins around fields,

drilling new crops direct rather than first ploughing the land, and replacing much artificial fertiliser with natural sewage sludge.

Later this year more of the land will become part of a Countryside Stewardship scheme and, if all goes well, the fields adjoining the river on your left as you go from Great Wilbraham to Little Wilbraham will be improved. Starting in early 2024 and continuing through the year there will be changes so as to make a better habitat for many forms of wildlife - and for livestock too: the estate has plans for ponds and scrapes, and new hedging and fencing.

### **Litter Pick**

As part of the Coronation's Big Help Out day we organised a Litter Pick in Great Wilbraham; Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom had already "done" their areas. The village itself was commendably clean but the approach roads were filthy with rubbish thrown from vehicles. A big thank you to those who turned up to help – and we will be repeating the exercise.

### **Nature Recovery Project**

We cannot say too much about this yet – but we are putting together an idea to map all types of habitat and landscape features in our parishes to help landowners, from farmers down to the level of individual householders, to think about changes to help wildlife, e.g. by creating wildlife "corridors". The Wildlife Trust has already done some of the work and we will be building upon this. Needless to say, we shall need help from residents – we hope to have more to say in the next Warbler.

### **Other matters.**

We have not forgotten the issue of a cycle path. The County Council is due to adopt its Active Travel Strategy soon, the current draft of which includes the prospect of a cycle path of some kind across to Bottisham – which would be a start. We are also supporting the plan for a "Coronation Wood" on Parish Council land up Butt Lane Great Wilbraham; and the Wilbraham River Protection Society which has a walk along the river planned for July 16, principally for members but open to all interested in the river – contact Rebecca at [bex@drcr.info](mailto:bex@drcr.info) if you would like to attend. More details are available elsewhere in this issue of the Warbler.

**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 [www.wilbrahams.co.uk/information/weg](http://www.wilbrahams.co.uk/information/weg) or contact us by email [wilbrahamseg@gmail.com](mailto:wilbrahamseg@gmail.com) or ring 07594 601205 (Nick Toovey)

## Running the London Marathon

I had unfinished business from back in 2018. That was the year that a baker's dozen of us got together to do the London Marathon for the first time. It was a great experience getting to know bakers from other series of Bake Off and I loved being a part of it all. However, I came away with one little niggling issue - that I had failed in my attempt to do a sub-3-hour marathon. 2018 was the hottest ever London Marathon with the mercury topping 24 degrees and relentless sun throughout. I also had a bad starting position that meant I spent much of the race weaving in and out of people. After crossing the line, the London Marathon app on my phone told me I had overtaken over 10,500 people and just 4 people had overtaken me!

At the end of last year, we started to get another team of bakers together again. I always think that running and baking go very well together - the excessive calories of having lovely baked goods around can be offset by a good run! However, not many of the Bake-Off alumni shared that idea so we struggled to get another baker's dozen together. Eventually we had a good lineup of 13 of us. But the stresses and strains of trying to run a marathon started to show and a few people had to drop out so in the end we only had a team of 9 of us.

I started building up my training back in November. Normally I would head out for 4 runs a week which would be a mixture of a couple of normal paced 6-mile runs, a speedy slightly longer run and then a long one at the weekend. I gradually increased the long runs from about 12 miles up to 25.

By the time April 23rd came around I felt as ready as I could ever be. I knew it was going to be close, but my dreams of sub 3 hours were looking possible.



Luckily this time the weather gods were on my side with cool temperatures and light winds. I had a perfect starting position, so everything was looking good. The support along every single mile of the marathon was just incredible and really helped buoy you along. At 20 miles it was all

looking good and I had 40 seconds to spare. But then at about 22 miles my legs just died on me, and the seconds started to slip away so by the time I crossed the line I had gone over my 3-hour dream by 2 minutes. Sure, I was a bit disappointed but it was 7 minutes quicker than I managed before. But most

importantly the bakers team raised over £10,500 for Great Ormond Street Hospital - part of which was raised at the coffee and cake morning I hosted at The Carpenters Arms so a big thank you to all who contributed to that.

Ian Cumming

## **Dementia Care**

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| M&L Healthcare Solutions       | 10          |
| The Hole in the Wall           | 18          |
| Tutor, Wings to Fly            | 14          |
| Wilbraham Boiler Services      | 32          |
| Good Technology                | 32          |
| Ernest Doe                     | 20          |
| Woodland Funeral Services      | 37          |
| SCR Recovery Transport & Scrap | 42          |
| Bottisham Sports Centre        | 60          |
| Full Circle Holistic Therapies | 30          |
| Nindy Dhaliwal                 | 21          |

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

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

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Ring for the King. Page 15



Sing for the King. page 29