

# Great Wilbraham organisations and societies

## Survey responses 2025



In preparation for the Annual Parish meeting, organisations and societies operational in Great Wilbraham were approached to ask if they would like to provide information, including filling in a questionnaire about their activities and achievements in the past year and their plans for the future. Replies were received from 19 organisations, including four supporting organisations, special interest groups, and clubs. Table 1 includes information on membership numbers.

Table 1: Responses received and membership.

<b>Organisations, interest groups and clubs Focusing on well-being, social, sport and special interests</b>	
Wilbraham, Fulbourn and Six Mile Bottom over 60s	65
Bridge Club	12
Wilbrahams Social Club	140
Transport Working Group	8 committee and further volunteers and interested members
Wilbrahams Film Club	91
Wilbraham River Protection Society	140
Wilbrahams Environment Group	100 approx.
Wilbrahams Football Club	30
Wilbrahams Sports Club	50+
Great Wilbraham PTFA	10-15
Well-brahams	10
Weenie Warblers Baby & Toddler Group	6 regular families
Wilbrahams Community Choir	37
Table Tennis	20 approx.
Great Wilbraham Patchwork and Quilting	32

<b>Supporting organisations</b>	
Wilbrahams Memorial Hall	13 Management Committee and 54 further volunteers
Dungate Farm Augmentation Scheme Stakeholders	Cross agency, cross parish multi-stakeholder group
Anne Ward Charity, Benstead Charity	6 Trustees
Common Rights Holders	25
Wilbrahams' Warbler	

## 1 Achievements

Asked what achievements the organisation was most proud of – these have been broadly mapped into six main themes: Village Organisations, Social, Well-being, Sport, Environment and Biodiversity, and Interest. However, it is acknowledged that there is considerable overlap between them. There has been steady achievement across the board – many enabled by the Wilbraham’s Memorial Hall Committee’s management of the Hall and Recreation Ground. It was good to see the Citizen Science Project mentioned by the Wilbraham River Protection Society and the provision of Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award support through the Table Tennis Club. Whilst provision of activities and clubs spanned all ages from the Over 60s, to the Weenie Warblers, it was notable that there is still no youth group.

### A) Village organisations

Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall	Maintaining & improving well-resourced and easy to use facilities for the community
	Applying for grants and achieving full funding for 64 solar panel and battery installation. This has been operation since August '24 and we hope it reduces our electricity bills to 25-33% of their previous level whilst also exporting surplus renewable energy to the grid.
	Maintaining a prudent financial position whereby rents to local users have been kept affordable and are supported by fundraising events that also benefit the village social scene (eg Famers' Markets, Produce Show and Annual Feast). Last year we set up the 100 Club draw which has contributed 20% to our fundraising total.
Wilbrahams Warbler	
Great Wilbraham PTFA	Successful summer fete raising over £3000 despite significant rain.
Anne Ward Charity, Benstead Charity	We continue to keep these charities running
	Help up to 10 recipients each year

### B) Social

Wilbraham, Fulbourn and Six Mile Bottom over 60s	We have managed to increase the number of people attending
	We have secured monies from the local wind farm to help pay for outings
	Made peoples' life more enjoyable
The Wilbrahams Social Club	Staying viable - just
	Supporting table tennis club and choir
	Supporting cricket and football
Wilbrahams Film Club	Being a successful village club

### **C) Well-being**

Well-brahams	Continued month Welcome Mornings
	Sports and Mindfulness days for children in the summer holidays
	Painting morning and lectures
Weeny Warblers	Successful fund raising at the farmers market
	Taking part in the PTFA winter window walk

### **D) Sport**

Wilbrahams Football Club	Keeping the team going at a good level again
	Reorganising to hand over management for next season
Wilbrahams Sports Club	Many local cricket teams have folded in recent years, but such is the enthusiasm and support for Wilbrahams CC that we have bucked the trend by entering a 2nd team into the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association Leagues.
	With one game to go, Wilbrahams FC are currently 5th in the league and holding their own.
	The Cricket team finished 3rd in CCA Senior League 2 in 2024 and entertained a decent following.
Table Tennis	Building membership, maintaining membership
	One member through providing D of E silver level support
	Helping potential formation of a 'family' type session

### **E) Environment and Biodiversity**

Wilbrahams' Environment Group	Presentation on Quy Hall farming estate
	Completion of Community Benefits agreements with Ridge Clean Energy
	First public showing of "Six Inches of Soil" about regenerative farming
Wilbraham River Protection Society	Project Citizens science project on phosphate monitoring of the river. Flow monitoring and recording on the river now available in real time on the website.
	Increased involvement in collaborative organisations involved in the future of Cambridge's waters and rivers.
	Community activities such as Farmers Market and annual summer walk.
Dungate Farm Augmentation Scheme Stakeholders	This is a newly formed group in which Great Wilbraham PC are represented and with other PCs, environment groups and riparian owners. It is single purpose. to lobby and work with the environment agency to keep DFAS functioning to support our chalk stream, Fulbourn SSSI, other SSSIs and important geographic features as far as Quy water and Bottisham Lode. There is potential for this group to develop further if members see fit. The group has active support of MP Pippa Heylings and has delivered a formal letter to the EA requesting a meeting with the area director and other relevant staff.

Common Rightsholders	Confirmation by Natural England and the Wildlife Trust that the site is well managed to provide a unique glimpse of neutral grassland in Cambridgeshire.
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**F) Interest**

GW Transport Working Group	20mph limit through village. Relocation of MVAS units and collection of new data concerning 20mph limit
	Assisting with survey and the application for LHI for a formal crossing outside school
	Developing relationship Herba concerning HGVs.
Wilbrahams Community Choir	Wilbrahams Community Choir
	Improved standard of performance
	Attracting a good audience for Summer Concert
	Being invited to take part in two musical events outside the village
	GT Wilbraham P&Q Group
Great Wilbraham Patchwork and Quilting Group	Charity quilt making day for Addenbrookes Hospital, John Forman Ward (end of life).
Bridge	Managing to keep the club going
	Referring members to lessons
	People who have moved on to play competently

## 2 Plans and challenges

Many organisations focused on wider recruitment, especially to committees, widening their programmes, improving their resources and strengthening the infrastructure of their organisations. There were also ambitious plans from several organisations around biodiversity, wellbeing, and improvements to the traffic problem in the village. It was pleasing to see that many plans involved close working either between groups or with outside agencies, such as the Environment Agency, The Wildlife Trust and outside funders.

Challenges, as previously, were centred on the difficulties of recruiting volunteers, especially for committee roles so that succession planning can be secured.

Help from the Parish Council was sought in raising visibility, making connections with outside organisations, showing an interest, providing information, and grants and generally showing an interest. Some specific help was requested for website development for some of the smaller organisations.

### A) Village organisations

Wilbrahams Memorial Hall	
Action plan	Streamline and future-proof supporting administrative roles by setting up a digital booking system.
	With advice from Cambridgeshire ACRE regularise our Trust Deed so it reflects the organisations represented on the Committee (it dates from 1949) and then complete our application for the Hallmark scheme for Village Halls.
	Agree on next projects and grant applications. Currently a choice between window / door replacement and a covered link to the Social Club.
Challenges	Keeping the community supportive, engaged and contributing (financially or by volunteering) to the efforts of the Committee to maintain and run the facilities.
	Increasing participation from younger members of the community in the Committee, as many of us have served for a long time. This is improving.
	Keeping down rising costs, streamlining etc. so that we can remain financially stable
Help from PC	The help with grass cutting established over the last year was welcomed and we need this to be maintained. There will be costs to repair / replace the mower that need to be factored in over the next few years. Generally being supportive and making clear how the relationship of the PC to the Memorial Hall works.
PTFA	
Action plan	Obtain grant funding to improve the school outside area
	Deliver another successful school fete in June with community engagement
	Continue to raise funds for the school and deliver enrichment activities for the children

Challenges	Meeting with all members due to being busy parents of young children
	Changes of leadership in school
Help from PC	Support community run events such as Quiz and Fete.

### **B) Social**

<b>Over 60s</b>	
Action	Have more trips if we can secure funds
	Invite more people to attend
	Listen to people's views as to what they would like
Challenges	Keeping meetings lively/ interesting
	Finding new interesting people to give talks
	Keeping people coming/ interested
Help from PC	Promote us in the village
<b>Social Club</b>	
Action	Succession planning
Challenges	Need volunteers for committee and bar
	Breaking even at year end

### **C) Well-being**

<b>Well-brahams</b>	
Action	To continue our initiatives
	2 lectures in summer any more educational opportunities
	Work with children in the orchard
Challenges	Enough manpower
	Money
Help from PC	Would like help with children's initiative otherwise probably won't happen.
<b>Weeny Warblers</b>	
Action	Advertising and growing the group
	Fundraising to keep the group growing whilst numbers are low. Farmers Market if possible.
	Adding activities to our group, for example one day a month arranging for craft activities or messy play to encourage attendance
Challenges	Decreasing numbers, we need a minimum of 5 families each week to cover costs.

### **D) Sport**

<b>Wilbrahams Football Club</b>	
Plans	Keeping the team going at a good level again
	Increase player numbers
	Rise up a league
Challenges	The FA
<b>Sports club</b>	

Plans	Integrate the revived 2nd XI into the club by giving playing opportunities to both young and old alike.
	To enable the new management team for Wilbrahams FC to continue to develop the club.
	To continue to recruit volunteers and sponsorship to support the Club off the field and in the bar.
Challenges	We are a small but growing Sports Club and we need more volunteers to help run it if we are to continue to provide this valuable asset to the community.
	Embracing and meeting the increasing demands from sporting bodies and insurers.
	Continuing to run the club on a shoestring so that so that no members are are discouraged by cost.
<b>Table tennis</b>	
Plans	Keep going as we are- a recreational group
Challenges	Keep numbers as they are
	Keeping equipment in good order - but fine at the moment
How can PC help	Being aware of what we do

### **E) Environment and Biodiversity**

<b>Wilbraham River Protection</b>	
Plans	Three monthly river walks.
	More work on the monitoring and phosphate projects .
Challenges	Our ongoing challenge is attracting more people onto the committee.
PC Help	Publicise our cause.
<b>WEG</b>	
Plans	Continue to educate residents re environmental issues
	Further work with Wildlife Trust BCN and landowners on a Nature Recovery Plan
	work with Parish Councils to negotiate Community Benefits and Mitigation measures re Kingsway Solar
Challenges	Increasing strength of our committee
	increasing involvement of our members in practical steps for the Environment and Climate Change
PC Help	Join us!
<b>Common Rightsholders</b>	
	Continue managing the site effectively in accordance with Natural England's agreed management plan
PC Help	We would be grateful if the Parish Council will keep us information of Regional and County Environmental initiatives



## F) Interest

<b>Bridge</b>	
Action	To try and find new members
	Work on securing the viability of the club
Challenges	Seeking out people who are interested in learning to play
PC help	Members of the Parish council could learn to play!!!
<b>Transport Working Group</b>	
Action	Formal school crossing.
	Develop action plan for Mill Road and triangle.
	Work with businesses in Fulbourn concerning responsible and considerate driving of vehicles using their sites.
Challenges	Having achieved much in the last 3 years, TWG needs to maintain momentum.
	Making use of Mill Road triangle safer and more considerate.
	Establish relationships with all businesses on this side of the crossing in Fulbourn.
PC help	Co-operation of PC and CCC with TWG to enable TWG can help meet the aims of making traffic using GW roads more responsible and safer for all, but particularly residents.
<b>Community Choir</b>	
Action	Buy more music when/if funds allow
	Set up a website if we can find someone to help us do that
	Recruit more members
Challenges	Lack of funds to pay for an accompanist and new music
	Attracting new members
	Finding someone to help us set up a website, which would help our publicity
PC help	If anyone could help us set up a choir website that would be helpful Help with funding would be much appreciated.
	We will have another group session for Addenbrookes
<b>Patchwork and Quilting</b>	
	We will have another group session for Addenbrookes
	Continue to challenge and push all the members to learn new skills