

Wilbrahams Environment Group Brief Report for 2024

We are a volunteer group whose aim, briefly, is to Promote Maintain and Improve the Natural Environment of the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom for the people of the villages by:-

- (a) Working with individuals and existing organisations in the villages
- (b) Ourselves organising and carrying out projects in the villages with voluntary labour and local expertise.

We do not have a membership fee. We have more than 90 members/supporters registered on our database and we aim to make our events free to all. We promote ourselves through regular member newsletters, articles in the Warbler, postings on the Village Website, the Villages Community Facebook page and our own Facebook page.

Our small Committee (six in number) worked hard during the year on many ideas and projects. In the year 2024 we worked with both of our Parish Councils, the Wilbraham River Protection Society and the Wildlife Trusts BCN. Here are details of just some of our activities:-

- Solar Farm - Ridge Clean Energy. We have always supported this project which was granted Planning Consent late in 2023 for land between the A11 and A14. During 2024 we worked hard with our two parish councils and that of Bottisham to negotiate the detail of a Community Benefits agreement – and we took the leading role in documenting the Agreement. A cabling route to avoid our village settlements has just been agreed, subject to planning & other consents
- Liaison with Farmers. We have continued to foster relationships with more local farmers so that we and residents generally have a better understanding of their practices as they move towards more sustainable, regenerative use of their land.
- Open Evenings. We showed two inspiring films: “Pure Clean Water” about Cambridge’s water supply and threats to it; and “Six Inches of Soil” about transition to regenerative farming. We ran a presentation with the Wildlife Trusts entitled “Gardening with Wildlife in Mind”. Finally the owners of the Quy Hall Estate gave a brilliant presentation of their own transition to nature-friendly farming on their land in Little Wilbraham
- Thermal Imaging. We borrowed a thermal camera from Cambridge Carbon Footprint and used it to help a small number of homeowners to identify areas in their homes which would benefit by more insulation.
- Helping Great Wilbraham PC: We organised a litter pick in Great Wilbraham; we planted more trees; we helped draw up a new Maintenance regime for the grass verges in Great Wilbraham; we were a member of the Cemetery & Orchard Working Group and participated in a major work party to improve the site; we assisted re the Community Benefits Agreement mentioned above
- Little Wilbraham River. The Wilbraham River Protection Society is now represented on our Committee. WEG is a member of the Dungate Farm Augmentation Scheme Stakeholders group which is lobbying the Environment Agency to improve the augmentation scheme
- Nature Recovery Plan. Cambridgeshire is recognised as a nature-depleted area and, as part of an area-wide push to change this and working with the Wildlife Trusts, we aim to record all aspects of Nature and land use locally and to suggest changes, many of them small, which could make a big difference. During 2024 we used grants from the two parish councils to

acquire existing data and load it into "Parish Online" software. Rather slowly we have been acquiring more information from major local landowners and we expect to make significant progress in 2025, leading to proposals to help nature within our parishes.

In 2025 we have already organised a Litter Pick and hosted for a large audience another film show "Fugolburna" about Fulbourn Fen and the Little Wilbraham river. We are planning more Open Events. Our objective is to engage with, educate and inform everyone in our communities on environmental issues and to involve people in practical action. We would like opportunities to be more active in Little Wilbraham!