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## **Public Service Contact Details**

#### **Police**

Emergency	Police, Fire or Ambulance 999
Community Support Officer	PCSO Julie Hajredini 101 ext. 7113441

#### **Doctors**

The Surgery, Bottisham Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments: 810030
Fulbourn Health Centre Mon-Fri: 08:30 am to 6.00 pm	Enquiries/Appointments: 880216
Out-of-hours / Urgent Care Cambridgeshire	NHS Direct 111

#### Faith

Anglican Church	Rev Alice Goodman 880337 Lay Minister: Steve Mashford, 882163
Baptist Church	Peter Wells, 812388,
www.re-new.me.uk	pandawells@cheerful.com
info@re-new.me.uk	Rev Keith Morrison, 813055

Great Wilbraham Parish Council www.gt-wilbraham-pc.org.uk

Chairman	John Beadsmoore	880889
	chair@gt-wilbraham	n-pc.org.uk
Clerk	Natalie Mulvey	07887813702
	clerk@gt-wilbrahan	n-pc.org.uk

#### Little Wilbraham Parish Council

Chairman	Chris Tebbit	811009
Clerk	Diane Bramwell	812426
	bramwell@globalnet.c	o.uk

#### Councillors

County Councillor	John Williams
	john.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
District Councillor	Robert Turner 813437
	cllr.turner@scambs.gov.uk

Front cover photo by Kim Crisp

Other photos by contributors, Martin Gienke and John Bramwell
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#### **Editorial**

Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2015.

With winter drawing in and days getting shorter it's time to get out your winter clothes and start wrapping up warm. It's also time to order your oil for Christmas if you haven't already. Contacts for both oil syndicates are in the contacts at the back of this issue.

As you are no doubt aware there's been a lot of activity in the villages recently, superfast fibreoptic broadband is on its way. As we have mentioned in previous issues there have been green boxes popping up at the sides of the roads into the villages. It would appear that both Little and Great Wilbraham should have faster broadband by the end of the year. Little Wilbraham's service coming from Bottisham and Great Wilbraham's from Fulbourn. However if you want superfast broadband that will cost you more.

As we are talking about the internet and access to it, I thought I would tell you that we, that is the two Parish Councils and the Warbler are looking at setting up a joint website. Things are very much in the early stages, but it would be the place to look at for anything to do with the villages of Little and Great Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom. It makes a lot of sense to do something like this as the parish Councils have common goals and the Warbler covers all three villages.

Then, there has been the laying of the electrical cable for the solar farm, from Tesco all the way out to Six Mile Bottom close to Wadlow Wind Farm. Holding up traffic every day for the last month. Thankfully there are just a couple of places left now that are holding traffic up. At its peak I counted 5 sets of traffic lights.

The other piece of news that you may not be aware of is that our long standing PCSO John Coppard is leaving us for pastures new. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him from all of us for his work over the years. He has always been approachable and has been very good with the children at the school and in the villages themselves.

I am also pleased to report that the Wilbrahams' Youth Group is back up and running. They started back in October. Over recent weeks they have had activities such as apple bobbing and, on bonfire night, they had hot dogs and sparklers. In the next few weeks they are going Ice skating on Parkers Piece. The Youth Group is open to year sixes and above. So if you know any youths that fit the age group please let Helen Torode know. Her contact details are towards the back of this issue.

John Torode

#### Pete's dahlias

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August a garden was open at no. 17 What a glorious sight there was to be seen. Pete's dahlias in full bloom what a scene to behold Some delicate colours, others deep and bold. Peter has had many anxious moments, When the weather was at its worst.

Gale force winds, heavy rain, next came earwigs They really are a curse.

Hours and hours he diligently worked to keep them together.

All we heard was dahlias; we were driven to the end of our tether.

What a result he's got for his hard work and dedication.

He raised £860 for Arthur Rank, what a splendid donation.

Greta

#### Letters

#### **Dear Editor**

One of the buildings that the plan displayed on the Hall notice board does not include is the new machinery shed. This is a wooden structure with a pitched roof. Of all the places it could have been sited, the Hall Committee have put it just the other side of my western fence, so shading that area which happens to be the best piece of vegetable garden I have. I have objected to this to both the planning Committee and the Hall Committee but my objection has fallen on deaf or unconcerned ears.

I built this house in 1957 and at that time all my vegetable garden was open to the sun. Over the years six foot fences have been erected on my boundary together with a large pitched roof garage, and a tree planted which is now of such a size that it darkens my kitchen and it's roots make gardening impossible near that fence.

I guess it is a sign of the times that the views of individuals count for very little.

**Brian Armstrong** 

#### **Dear Editor**

A BIG THANK YOU....for supporting The 'GREAT WILBRAHAM COUNTRY FAIR 2014'

We would like to thank all the people who supported the Great Wilbraham Fair on Sat 4th October 2014. Despite the constant rain and other setbacks, we managed to raise a huge £820! This will be split 3 ways between Macmillan Cancer Care,

The Great Wilbraham Memorial Hall and The Great Wilbraham Primary School PTFA (Parent, Teacher, Friend Association).

It was an incredibly steep learning curve for us as we had never organised an event like this before but it kept us out of mischief all summer, taught us never to give up and raised money for terrific causes. We had a great deal of support from many local people, friends and family and are very grateful for all that they did before, during and after the event.

Thank you, you lovely folks, you are stars!

We are very grateful to CAMGRAIN who so generously sponsored the event and FOOTPRINT Signs & Graphics who provided the signs.

Thank you

Lisa Long & Hannah Jakes.

#### **Dear Editors**

Through the Warbler, I would like to say grateful thanks to all friends and family who helped me on August 16. I opened my garden to raise money for Arthur Rank Hospice. I have a variety of Dahlias, which I am very proud of. The weather was kind to us on this day. Visitors started to arrive at 10.30 am and continued throughout the day. A grand total of £860 was raised. I hope everyone enjoyed their visit. Once again, thanks to all.

Peter Wilson

People travelled from far outside the village to view the dahlias. BBC TV's Gardening World have been in touch with Peter and it is highly likely that they will come to film in his garden next August.

**Editors** 

## Hello to you All

I wanted to let you all know that I will be leaving the Fulbourn/Teversham Beat as from this Sunday 23rd November and moving to Cambourne to carry on my role in another area.

I would like to thank you all for the support and commitment that we have made in making your villages some of the safer places to live in over the last four years compared to other areas of South Cambs.

Keep up the good work with Neighbourhood Watch and now Speed watch coming together. I know you will get the support from Julie Hajredini who will take on my villages when I have gone as she has been a constant face in your community's over the last 11 years and knows the areas well.



# Wilbrahams' Christmas BAKE OFF!





# SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2.30 PM Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall



COME & SPEND THE AFTERNOON & ENJOY THE FESTIVE BAKES & STALLS

Christmas craft & produce stalls • tea & cakes • mince pies & mulled wine • children's gifts / children's cookie decorating • auction • raffle

### ENTER 1, 2 OR ALL 3 CLASSES

- SIGNATURE BAKE A Traditional Christmas bake from a European country
- TECHNICAL CHALLENGE 6 perfect mince pies
- SHOWSTOPPER- Decorated / iced Christmas cake (traditional / Yule log / snowman etc.)

#### CHILDREN'S CLASS

Decorated gingerbread men / animals / house etc.

Children may enter the adult classes, but adults cannot enter the children's class. Please bring along your entries between 9.00 and 9.45 am to the Hall, when doors close. Judging begins at 10 am

Entry fee for each class

Judging by Alex Rushmer

Masterchef Finalist & Chef, The Hole in the Wall, Little Wilbraham

Star Baker prize

A meal for two at The Hole in the Wall

# My Tale



On Easter Sunday, 2010, I flew into a garden in Church Street, Great Wilbraham. Where I came from, I don't know. All that I remember was a much older cockerel called Halibut who scared me every hour on the hour, until I escaped. The people in the house didn't chase me away and I soon found a good perch for myself high up in a fir tree in the front garden,

and I roosted there every night, summer and winter from dusk to a very late dawn. At dawn itself, if not long before, I crowed in concentrated bursts of sound to warn any passing cockerel that this was my patch.

In the deep winter it was dark by 3.30 p.m., so by midnight I had had my eight hours of sleep, and I crowed for the rest of the night. My people said that it was just a country noise, but visitors to the house were less tolerant, and there was some alarming talk of chicken for supper.

If I was given some corn near the back door, a pigeon and a robin would fly down to help me eat it all up. A black poodle called Druk (Tibetan for dragon) often came out of the house on the way to his exercise pen and he would pass me by without even looking at me, so I soon realised that he was no threat.

Unfortunately I got heavier and heavier as the years went by, and the flight to my roost got very difficult. I had first to fly onto the rim of a tall garden pot, and from there up to the top of a sweet pea octagonal frame that was close to collapsing. Then the really hard bit: I had to psyche myself up to launch skywards towards a tall holly tree and hope to hang on while I walked up another ten feet into my fir tree. This manoeuvre could take as long as twenty minutes, and sometimes a small group of people would gather to cheer me on my way. Very unnerving!

In the Spring of this year, people in the house at the other end of the garden bought six hens. Now I had never seen a hen, so I was delighted when they invited me to join them. When they cackled to announce the laying of an egg, I cackled too, until one of them said that this was not good form, and that I should stick to crowing. It boosts a chap's morale when he gets an instant harem, and my feathers got a better lustre, and I walked tall in the stinging nettles and the cow parsley.

But one disastrous day, my people bought another poodle called Zo (Tibetan for milk, because of his creamy colour) and he bounced about in the garden enough to frighten me stiff. My favourite hen, Pauline, the chief of the harem, persuaded me to give up my fir tree, and come to live much closer to them. I slept at the top

of a woodpile near the hen house, and that was my undoing. I knew it was a risk and surely, one night, a passing fox got my scent, and that was that, dead. Too low to the ground. But I did get to have five chicks, two hens and three cocks. You can tell they're mine by their feathers.

Buster

# Up date Superfast broadband in the Wilbrahams

Connecting Cambridgeshire is rolling out superfast broadband to over 90,000 premises across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which would not get it otherwise.

New green cabinets in Great Wilbraham are going live with fibre broadband by the end of December 2014, which means many homes and businesses will soon be able to upgrade to faster Internet services.

The green cabinet that serves Little Wilbraham has already gone live. A number of premises connected to it are too far away to be able to order a fibre - based service at present. However, Little Wilbraham is included in the superfast extension programme intervention area, where additional government funding could be used to further extend coverage. Planning for this is underway and more information will be available early in 2015.

You can find out when your postcode area is expected to be connected and if your nearest fibre cabinet has gone live by visiting the 'my area' pages on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website at **www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk** <a href="http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk">http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk</a>

Click on the 'my area' button on the home page and select your parish or area from the A-Z list. Each page has links to the coverage map showing the status of new fibre cabinets serving each postcode area and useful information about how to get superfast broadband.

You can also register your contact details to be kept updated.

Meanwhile, look out for Openreach engineers installing new green cabinets in your area. Connecting Cambridgeshire 'Fibre broadband is here' stickers will be applied when they go live.

Need help using the Internet? Your local library can link you up with someone to show you how, or call Cambridge Direct Contact Centre on 0345 045 5200 to find your nearest access point.

Tony Harper, Connecting Cambridge

# Supper & Sax

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The Cam Sax Quartet

with a swinging programme

At The Hole in the Wall

Tuesday 3 February 7.00 for 7.30pm

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Numbers are limited - early booking is advised

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Cash or cheques payable to Little Wilbraham PCC please send to

Sue Lee, The Bell House, Rectory Farm Road Little Wilbraham

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## Robert J Barnes appoints apprentice

Sixteen years old Scarlett Petty has become the first ever apprentice to be employed by this growing vehicle repair business. Scarlett who's family is in the automotive business said "Cars have been a part of my life and this is something I have always wanted to do, my ultimate aim is to focus on body repair but at the moment I am enjoying being involved in all aspects of the vehicle repair process so that I gain knowledge of every aspect".



Scarlett who attends Bedford College one day per week studying for her NVQ level 2 Panel qualifications also enjoys playing hockey and football, but has given up racing stock cars and now prefers just to watch.

Her supervisor, Senior Technician Chris Thexton, himself a former apprentice, added that "Scarlett is enthusiastic and very willing to learn". He

looks forward to seeing her complete the three year course.

Operations Director, Matthew Cooper, said that helping people fulfil their ambitions is part of our responsibility as an employer and Scarlett will be a growing asset and complements the experienced team of eleven staff.

# Parish Council News Great Wilbraham Parish

Much has happened since the last edition of the Warbler:

#### Resignation of Parish Councillor - Sarah Fordham

In October the Council sadly accepted the resignation of Sarah Fordham. Sarah, a Parish Councillor for the past 10 years, has decided to focus more of her time on her family and other commitments. The Council will miss her hard work, dedication and extensive knowledge. The members of the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the enormous contribution she has made to the village during her time on the Parish Council.

This resignation has left a vacancy on the Parish Council, which we hope to fill early in the New Year.

The Parish Council is the voice of the village concerning local government and police. Its views are sought on all issues affecting residents including being consulted on both planning applications and tree work applications. As well as attending to the regular tasks of village maintenance, there are many additional projects underway. These include the issue of speeding between Great and Little Wilbraham along with the excessive speeding through Great Wilbraham itself. The question of the provision of affordable housing is an important subject and will be discussed further. A new website is being worked upon which will provide important community links between the Parish Council and local groups, services and amenities.

If you think you may be interested in this role, feel free to come along to a meeting or contact us for more information.

#### Memorial Hall

Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall committee continues to work hard to raise the profile and funds for their renovation project. However, there remains a gap between their current funds, what they believe is achievable from grants and other fundraising activities compared to the full cost of the project.

They have approached the Parish Council to see if, in addition to the £25,000 that is held in reserves to support this project, the Council would take out a public works loan to bridge the gap in funding. The Public Works Loan Board scheme (PWLB) provides long term low interest rate loans for councils to build or rebuild community infrastructure. PWLB are the Government body responsible for such loans.

Members of Great Wilbraham Parish Council, members of Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Council and members of the Memorial Hall committee all met with Ian Dewar, CEO Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC); to discuss the possibility of the Parish Councils taking a public works loan, and what would be involved.

Ian Dewar is also the representative for the PWB and was most impressed with the project. Given the evidence provided, he believed that a full consultation had been taken with the community and no further confirmation of support would be required from the residents. The likely precept cost premium for Great Wilbraham per household would be comparatively small.

The Parish Council will meet shortly to vote on whether they should support this project in the form of a public works loan and to what level the loan should be made if the loan is agreed. If you have any views that you wish to be considered by the Council please forward these to clerk@gt-wilbraham-pc.org.uk.

#### **Affordable Housing**

Thank you to the residents who completed the recent housing needs survey. It received a 31% response rate which is considered a good level and better than comparable surveys.

Affordable housing is housing made available for either rent or shared ownership, based on the evidence of need, to those unable to afford market prices. One approach to delivering affordable homes in rural areas is through Rural Exception Site Policy. A rural exception site is a site used specifically for affordable housing in a small rural community that would not normally be used for housing because it is subject to policies of restraint.

To be eligible for rental properties, applicants must complete an application form to join the local Housing Register and they would then be able to bid for properties through the choice based lettings scheme. To be eligible for low cost shared ownership properties, applicants must apply to the local Housing Register and then apply directly through the local Homebuy Agent.

Housing questionnaires are commissioned with three objectives in mind; canvas opinion, establish the scale of need and to get a better understanding of the need. All respondents to the survey were asked if they would be in favour of a small development of affordable homes for local people within the Parish. 73% supported the principle of such a development, 20% were opposed and 2% did not state an opinion. This level of support is quite high compared to similar surveys in other parishes in Cambridgeshire where support is typically in the range of 55-

75 %. The report identified a small but significant affordable housing need. It identified seven households in need; two of these were on the housing register and five in addition to the register. The recommendation is that to fulfil all current and immediate housing needs, 15 new affordable homes would have to be built. The scale of need would typically justify a scheme of about ten dwellings. However, the scale, design and location of any scheme will need to adhere to the planning policy contained with the Local Development Framework for South Cambs District Council on rural exception sites.

The full report is available on the website <a href="http://gt-wilbraham-pc.org.uk/">http://gt-wilbraham-pc.org.uk/</a> under village life. The Parish Council will continue to work with Mark Deas, Cambridgeshire ACRE and Tim Walker, Cambridgeshire Housing Society, to explore all available options and when appropriate, Bidwells, the agents for the local land owners who gave the informative presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **South Cambs District Council Important Bin Collection Changes**

Green bin collections – These will be moving to a monthly collection during the winter months when far less garden waste is put out by residents. The change is being made for December, January and February collections only, with fortnightly collections remaining in place for the rest of the year.

Christmas collections – Residents are being asked to make an early note of Christmas bin collection as changes this year will affect all residents, with some collections moving forward as well as back. Collections will be made up until 27<sup>th</sup> December, break until 4<sup>th</sup> January and return to normal on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Excess blue bin material will routinely be collected when placed alongside the blue bin in a returnable container or cardboard box. Excess black bin waste will be collected if placed alongside the bin on the first scheduled black bin collection after the New Year <u>only</u>.

For more information visit www.scambs.gov.uk/bin-changes.

#### **Parish Cemetery**

The Parish Council is pushing ahead with their plans for the Parish Cemetery. This includes improvements to the boundary hedge, weed control and the creation of an Orchard on the bottom two thirds which will be made up of approximately sixty fruit trees and ten flowering cherry trees for the entrance.

#### **New Line Markings & Additional Bins**

The Council has commissioned improvements to the road markings in Church Close to assist with the parking problems that have been reported. In addition, they have arranged for a litter bin to be installed outside the Post Office along with a new dog litter bin in Butt Lane. It is hoped that these will all be in place by the end of the year.

#### **Council Meetings**

The next meetings will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> April (APM Annual Parish Meeting) and 21<sup>st</sup> May (Annual Parish Council Meeting). All residents welcome.

# **Cambridge Chord Concert**

Advertised as a "Fun-draising" concert for both The Memorial Hall and Little Wilbraham's St. John's Church an audience of locals and the groups supporters were at St John's eagerly, if somewhat quizzically, awaiting to be entertained.



We were not disappointed, with a wide ranging selection of a-Capella songs all brilliantly produced and presented, with The Group, solos and The Barber Shop all featuring in the promised wide selection of songs.

An excellent buffet was enjoyed by us all in the interval and the highlight of the second session was the group's famous rendition of "The Teddy Bears Picnic".

Tony Ryan



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# Carol Singing in Great Wilbraham for The Children's Society

We are hoping to carol sing around the village again this year. Meeting at 6.30 pm on Friday 12th December at 20, Angle End, and finishing around 8 pm. It would be great to have a few more children, so please get in touch if you would like more information.

Email harmermarilyn@gmail.com or telephone 01223 880934

Look out for posters in the village early December. We raised £133 last year, so thank you to everyone who gave or sang. Money raised will be used to fund the many Runaway Projects in our cities in the U.K. Visit the Society's website www.childrenssociety.org.uk for more information on the work of the Society.

Marilyn Harmer, Coordinator for Fulbourn and The Wilbrahams

## Wilbraham River Protection Society

The Society has met on four occasions through the year in order to further the key aim of the Society....." to safeguard the future of the Wilbraham River and its dependent flora and fauna".

#### In addition:

The Chairman presented a report on the previous year's activities at the Parish Council AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

A group of some 20 Friends of the Society walked from the Fulbourn Nature Reserve along the river to Hawk Mill Farm on 6<sup>th</sup> July. The walk has now become an annual event.

The Chairman continued to represent the Society on the Cambridge Water Company Local Water Forum; a Customer Challenge Group with the task of challenging the contents of the Company Business Plan before submission to Ofwat, the Government Regulator.

Following an invitation to join the Cam Valley Forum, the Chairman attended a recent meeting in order to see if further involvement would be appropriate for our Society. It is clear that the problems in the Wilbraham River, principally low or no flow during dry periods is not unique to the Wilbraham River and the Forum acts as a focal point for the dissemination of relevant information to the several other Societies with similar concerns.

For 2015 we are reviewing the prospect of updating the River Corridor Survey (first surveyed in 2002) principally to establish if there are changes in the river but

also to provide an up to date survey from which observations can be monitored in the future.

We are keen for additional Friends to join our Committee. There is no subscription and the four general meetings per year are the main commitment. Our key activity is to monitor the status of the Wilbraham River and report our concerns to the responsible authorities.

If you are interested please contact the Chairman, Brian Jackson on 01223 882362.

# Country Music in the Memorial Hall

September 13th, we had a double bill of country music with two solo singers Andy Smith, and multi award winning artist, Darren Busby and these guys did two 45minute spots each. They sang together at the end of the evening, and pleased the many people who filled the hall with some lovely country tunes. What an atmosphere was created, plus a nice raffle, and many prizes donated on evening. October 11th we had Jonny Williams and Lynnette Marie making their first ever visit to Great Wilbraham, and The Memorial Hall, and



oh what a night they gave us, and



nobody wanted this memorable evening to end, plus another super raffle. It was nice to welcome representatives from other Country Music Clubs too, plus as always it gives one a nice feeling bringing these top artistes to Great Wilbraham.

Dates for the diary 2015: Saturday January 10th, Pure Country, Saturday February 14th, The Tall Guy, Saturday March 14th, Chris James,

Photos: Andy Smith & Darren Busby: Williams & Lynnette Marie.

Derek Fabb

### Little Wilbraham Parish Council

#### **Parish Council News**

The last Little Wilbraham Parish Council Meeting was held at St John's Church, Little Wilbraham at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 October 2014.

#### **County Council News**

Since 22 July 2014, when Park & Ride sites began to charge £1 for each parked car, there had been a drop in use. Additional payment machines were due to be installed at the 5 Park & Ride sites. Information on how to pay in advance could be found on the CCC website. The Environment Agency had to shut down the Vessel Composting Facility at the AmeyCespa Waste Management plant so Cambridgeshire's household green waste had to be taken to other plants across the country. This facility was now back in use but with a backlog of waste.

#### **District Council News**

Through the South Cambs Local Plan, there was now a Memorandum of Understanding between Cambridge City Council and South Cambs District Council to be called Greater Cambridge. This was to ensure that, following the signing of the City Deal, National Planning Practice Guidance and the recent Waterbeach appeal decisions, the two Local Plans from both councils could be considered together for purposes of housing supply, including a 5 year land supply. It was anticipated that the Local Plan would be approved by Easter 2015.

#### **Local Police Team News**

PCSO John Coppard agreed to contact Derek Crosby from the police concerning the lack of road markings in Six Mile Bottom. John Coppard had set up a Speedwatch Group and Great Wilbraham already had a co-ordinator. Speed guns could be manned by volunteers and patrol local roads (30-40mph only) every 6-8 weeks. It was suggested that Rectory Farm Road (30mph) and Little Wilbraham-Great Wilbraham Road (once changed to 40mph) could be targeted. Volunteers were required from Little Wilbraham to help with this project. If anyone is interested, please email the Parish Clerk at <a href="mailto:bramwell@globalnet.co.uk">bramwell@globalnet.co.uk</a>.

### Housing Needs Survey in Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom

The Housing Needs Survey has now been completed and Cambridgeshire Acre are due to present the results at the next Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday, 3 December 2014 at 7.30pm in St John's Church, Little Wilbraham. Thank you to all those who took the time to complete and return their survey forms.

#### Connecting Cambridgeshire Roll-out Phase 3 for Superfast Broadband

The Roll-out appears to be moving ahead with the Bottisham Exchange on the list for Phase 3 (December 2014).

#### **Next Parish Council Meeting:**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 December 2014 at 7.30pm at St John's Church, Little Wilbraham.

All residents are welcome to come along.

Diane Bramwell, Parish Clerk



# THE WILBRAHAMS' WI

Thank you all those who came to the WI Ploughman's and Produce event held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 18 October 2014. The cake stall was sold out and the Ploughman's Lunches were equally successful. The stalls of hand-made and bespoke items for Christmas were also popular. We will be able to donate some of the proceeds from this event towards the Memorial Hall Rebuild Project.

On the 11 November 2014, Christine Page from Great Wilbraham gave us an interesting talk at our monthly meeting. She is Headmistress of a C of E Primary school in Bourne which became an Academy in 2011. She gave us lots of useful information including the recent grants awarded to provide much needed facilities for the school.

Our Christmas meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9 December 2014 at 7.30pm. It will be a 'Cheese and Wine' event with a Quiz and a Beetle Drive.

At our 13 January 2015 meeting, we will have Horry Parsons who will tell us about the Bury St Edmunds Cathedral Project.

New members are always warmly welcomed at our meetings so why not come along to our December meeting to find out more?

For more information, please contact:

Christine Clewes (President) 01223 811668 Diane Bramwell (Social Secretary) 01223 812426

#### A View from the Garden

I find it hard to get motivated this time of year. Dark mornings, cold winds, heavy clouds, frosts and fogs, all conspire against me. If it weren't for the festive season, I would be joining the natural world and slip into dormant mode, quietly conserving the accumulated energies of the summer. Sometimes I envy the creatures that can hibernate, and pass the time just staring out of the window absorbing the surrounding landscape with its cold beauty in leafless trees. A sunny December afternoon throws back a soft clear light just before sunset. Flocks of migrant fieldfares appear noisily during the first cold plunge to scan the hedgerows for berries and other morsels of fallen fruit. Gardens transform. Contrasts of darkness and light form in winter sunlight and change the mood of the home plot. Evergreens and ivies come to notice with welcome greenery, both to please the eye and provide shelter & sanctuary to wildlife, providing a place for small birds to seek refuge when the cold penetrates.

Every garden should play host to a hardy native evergreen. Holly, yew, box, juniper and climbing ivies will all withstand the ups and downs of our climate and thrive in small and large gardens alike, adapting well with shaping and pruning to control their growth.

Even after a cold snap the soil is still relatively warm, particularly when covered with a thick blanket of leaves or compost. It's better to plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs now rather than in the early spring. Keep the roots warm and moist if conditions outside are unsuitable. Careful planting with plenty of compost and a handful of bonemeal will encourage root growth to start, giving them an advantage at the beginning of the new growing season.

In the vegetable garden parsnips and leeks can be harvested as, but keep an eye on the weeds that grow between the September-sown onions and garlic. Cut the tops from the asparagus bed and skim the soil to remove any persistent weeds before adding a generous layer of compost. Winter *brassica* should remain covered with netting if you suffer with pigeon damage, but stake and tie sprouting broccoli plants that have become top heavy to prevent sagging and splitting later on. Sow rows of broad beans between Christmas and New Year for an early harvest. I've just ordered the bulk of my seed requirements for next year to take advantage of early order discounts, but still find it worth browsing a range of specialist providers to try something new. I rather fancy some new F1 varieties of sweet pepper for the polytunnel and some different chrysanthemums to extend the autumn flowering season in the borders. When the weather gets bad, make sure the bird feeder is well stocked, while giving a thought to different possible sites for a nesting box.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Nigel Start

#### UNTOLD STORIES

Our untold story in this issue is that of Tony Goryn of Great Wilbraham.

**JT** *Tell us about your father.* 

**TG** He was born in Poland, about 200 yards from the Russian border. He and his brother made their separate ways here, and once met by chance in Lyons. My uncle was in the Air Force, but neither of them liked to talk much about the war.

**JT** He met your mother, Sybil, who still lives in the village, while he was encamped here. Was that why he did not return to Poland?

**TG** Yes, although in 1944 he returned to Normandy with the 1st Polish Armoured Division.

**JT** What memories do you have of him? How do you think of him now?

**TG** With huge admiration. When I think what people had to go through... and building a new life in a foreign land, facing discrimination and prejudice. But there was a lot of good will too: Squire Hicks helped Mum and Dad to buy a house.

**JT** *Did* you have a happy childhood?

TG Idyllic.

**JT** *In those hard times after the war, with food still rationed?* 

**TG** A lot of people grew much of their own food. Mum and Dad had a smallholding which grew in time to about 200 pigs plus 4,000 chickens. There was a lot of bartering.

**JT** What was the school like then?

**TG** The Headmistress was very left-wing. She did not believe in grammar schools so children were not usually entered for the 11+. One girl, Janet Grainger, and I showed signs of being able to add up properly, so we took the 11+ and passed. I went to the County High School for Boys.

**JT** Were you happy there?

**TG** The first year was a struggle because I'd hardly been out of the village before. But we had some of the best teachers I could imagine. We were not allowed to play football: it had to be rugby. I was in the first team most years. The year ahead was much better. I played fly half.

**JT** From school you went to work?

**TG** Yes, locally. I am parochial: I like to be where I am. I went to Spillers to their new R and D centre, working on convenience food; pizzas, cook-in-sauces

etc. I was the lackey. I had nine years of fun there. It was managed by old-fashioned gentlemen who would have a chat, and treated everyone as equals. Eventually it got repetitive. At the same time new pollution control and waste management legislation was introduced, which was the responsibility of the County Council, so I went into that. It was fascinating.

**JT** What was fascinating about waste management?

**TG** I got to meet so many people. There were big companies, and some that were just one man who might have a scrapyard and be unable to write. Then there was the technical side: I had to learn about geology. Around here it is fairly straightforward, but beyond Peterborough there are faults, and that was quite challenging. A solid understanding of the law also helped.

**JT** You seem to have enjoyed your working life.

**TG** Yes, until waste regulation was moved to the Environment Agency. The bureaucracy didn't suit me. I tried to ignore the negatives and my final post was leading a team that monitored water quality in the Great Ouse catchment area from Milton Keynes to Hunstanton. That was worthwhile.



**JT** Somewhere along the line you met Dru.

TG Yes. Dru moved to Wilbraham when she was 12, and we started going out together when I was 16. It's worked out OK. Plus our children and their children all live close by.

JT Let's move on to sport now. Sport has been a big part of your life. You played rugby at school.

TG Yes, and cricket. The village had a football and a cricket team at the time and I played in those. I also played table tennis: Glyn Meyrick and I would hire the village hall sometimes to play, and we played local youth club teams. I also played a lot of squash. Dru trained as a nurse and worked at Addenbrookes, where she managed the operating theatres for ten years, and through her, I could use the courts there, meeting many interesting people. I played squash at county level, whereas the other games were purely recreational.

**JT** You put a lot of time in voluntarily caring for the rec, cutting the grass and tending the cricket pitch. How many hours a week does that take in the season?

**TG** It could take a lot, and take away from other things I want to do, and then I might stop doing it, and I want to avoid that. So I am careful how much time I put in.

**JT** A great contribution. You have always been very much involved in the life of the village. What are some of the things you have done?

**TG** The cricket aspect led to involvement in forming the Cambridgeshire Youth Cricket Association, and I was chairman for about ten years. Fresh in my mind, and slightly different, but last year I was president of the Old Cantabrigians' Association of the High School.

JT A special honour.

**TG** I cannot help getting involved. When the children went to the village school I became a governor. I was chairman of the Parish Council for about 14 years.

**JT** You were one of the founding members of the St. Nicholas Trustees.

**TG** Yes. I was asked to be a trustee because I was a heathen, to represent the people who were not in the church.

**JT** A token heathen.

**TG** We also set up an independent working party to save the school. I was working at the County Council at the time, and that gave me useful contacts and advice.

**JT** I think music and literature are important to you?

TG In the 60s almost every village had a band. I was in ours with 3 boys from Fulbourn. We called ourselves "the Wilful Ones"! Barry Ward was our manager. I still enjoy playing guitar in the privacy of my own home, and Dru and I still go to concerts. We try to keep up. I've always loved reading. Mum says when I was young they had to kick me outside to get fresh air. But I am catching up now. And I've taken to writing, mainly poetry but a few short stories, and sharing them with a couple of close friends. It's extremely satisfying. Unfortunately the next bit, the editing, is hard work and I procrastinate. Maybe tomorrow.

**JT** Tony, I think that is all we will have space for. The Wilbrahams owe you a huge debt for all you have done, and are still doing, in the community. Thank you too for consenting to be interviewed.

John Tanburn

## The Wilbrahams' Gardening Club

#### **Great Fen Restoration Project**

The controversial Great Fen Vision was the subject of our October meeting and generated a lot of questions on the wisdom of sacrificing farming land for nature conservation. These were expertly fielded by our speaker, Kate Carver, Great Fen Project Manager. Her enthusiasm for this ambitious, fifty-year, fen restoration scheme in the North West of Cambridgeshire was very infectious. She explained how the vision started to evolve at the end of the 1990's when

conservationists recognised the need to save what was left of only two remaining areas of fenland in that part of Cambridgeshire. They were at at Woodwalton and Holme. The Great Fen was officially born in 2001 and named after a large area of wild fen, identified on local maps, before the land was drained for farming.

Since then, major milestones have been achieved and more than 50% of the land of the Great Fen is now owned by the Great Fen Partnership - some 3750 acres (1519 hectares) in total, all managed for nature conservation.



The Great Fen also delivers a comprehensive education and community service, has ten members of staff working on the ground, and is supported by more than a hundred active volunteers.

More information at:: http://www.greatfen.org.uk/

#### **Christmas Dinner - All Welcome**

We shall be holding our Christmas celebration dinner at The Carpenter's Arms on Monday 8th December at 7:30pm. Non members are very welcome too - email jackiebeadsmoore@icloud.com or telephone her on 880889. Price per head is £17.50. Raffle prize donations would be very much appreciated. Please indicate when you book whether or not you will be bringing a prize on the night of the dinner.

Future Club Meetings, all at 7:30 in The Memorial Hall are as follows: 2014

November 17<sup>th</sup> Christmas Wreaths – Speaker Simon White December 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner 2015

January 19<sup>th</sup> Peter Thurlby to speak about 'Drugs in the Garden' February 16th Garden Ponds. Speaker to be introduced by Tony Ryan

Jackie Beadsmore



# GREAT WILBRAHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



During the Autumn Term, children in Key Stage 2 were investigating World War I. As part of the project children were asked to study war poetry as a stimulus for their own compositions. The outcomes were all of a high standard but one poem was particularly emotive and we have included this for you to read (see the back page). The school also held a themed day and children came to school dressed in World War I attire. They made trench cake, which they cooked on an open fire, attempted to crack a range of codes, created newspapers and postcards and learned how to make a Thomas splint.

Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage children looked in detail at the topic 'Once Upon A Time' and, as the title suggests, learned a great deal about the genre of fairytales. Also, Miss Milner kindly organised a poetry festival so that children could have a formal opportunity to commit a poem to memory.

Next term we are studying 'the circus' as our whole school theme, and so the children will be learning about the ethics of a circus as well as developing their juggling skills! If you have any circus skills that you would be willing to share, please contact the school as we would love to see them.

We now have an after school provision called 'Discovery Club'. It runs from 3:15 to 5:15 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and each session costs £7.50. We are happy to accommodate any children from the local area but unfortunately cannot provide transport to the club. For further information - including booking - please contact Mrs. Kim Crisp on 01223 880408 or at office@greatwilbraham.cambs.sch.uk.

As this is the winter edition of The Warbler, it seems appropriate to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and to thank all of those people who have volunteered their time during this year.

Mrs. Kate Coates, Headteacher

We are pleased to include on the back cover the poem by Oliver Fordham.

Editors

#### **PTFA**

I was pleased to be elected chair person to the PTFA recently. There has been a number of exciting changes made to the school this year, including the redevelopment of the old pre-school area. We are making every effort to transform this into a quiet playground, somewhere away from footballs, hoola hoops and the usual chaos, where the children can play quiet games and interact in a different way. Using money already raised, the Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) has bought some strong wooden tables and benches for the area, but we would like to buy more. Some of these benches have games tops and a street map incorporated on to the top, making them more interactive. This equipment provides a haven of peace and outdoor fun to many of our children and that is why we are asking if anyone would like to contribute to the cost of the benches and tables and provide a lasting gift for the children of today and the future.

If you are interested please contact either myself, or Kate Coates at the school. On behalf of the PTFA, thank you.

Carolyn Hull, (Chair person of the PTFA), gwilbrahamptfa@gmail.com

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	$\mathbf{W}$
BPG: Bottisham Patient Group BR: Bell Ringing CA: Carpenters Arms CM: Country Music GWPC: Great Wilbraham Parish GWSSI: Great Wilbraham Con LWPC: Little Wilbraham Parish SMBSSC: Six Mile Bottom Spo	BPG: Bottisham Patient Group BR: Bell Ringing CA: Carpenters Arms CM: Country Music GWPC: Great Wilbraham Parish Council GWSSI: Great Wilbraham Common SSSI Volunteer Days LWPC: Little Wilbraham Parish Council SMBSSC: Six Mile Bottom Sports and Social Club WCC: Wilbraham Cricket Club	Volunteer Days	WGC: Wi WHSC: W WO60: W WW: Wee WWI: Wi WYG: Wi	WGC: Wilbrahams Gardening Club WHSC: Wilbrahams Hall Social Club WO60: Wilbrahams Over 60s WW: Weenie Warblers WWI: Wilbrahams Women's Institute WYG: Wilbraham Youth Group W6MBBG: Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom Book Group	Club al Club nstitute pp ix Mile Bottom Boc	ık Group	INTER 2014
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<b>∞</b>	9 Black Bins WWI	10	11	12 WW Carol Singing	13 SMBSSC Xmas draw	14	MBER
15	16 Blue/Green Bins	17	18	19 WW Mobile library	20 SMBSSC Xmas party	21	
22	23 Black Bins	24 SMBSSC Disco	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	<b>26</b> BOXING DAY	27	28	
29	30 No Bins Collections	31 SMBSSC Disco GW Memorial Hall New Year	1	2	દ	4	2015

**JANUARY** 

**FEBRUARY** 

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16 Half Term begins	17 Blue Bins	18	<b>19</b> GWPC	20 Mobile library	21	22
23 Spring Term continues	24 Black Bins	25	26	27 ww	28	



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# Launching the Fundraising Drive at the Great War Commemoration Day - 24th August 2014

### Village residents show their support for the New Hall Project

A local printing company wishing to help with our fundraising campaign provided our banner at cost price, saving us £100. The banner will be moved and sited on the road-side of our Hall to help raise awareness for our project.

This year's annual Bank Holiday event was dedicated as "The Great War Commemoration Day", and raised just over £1,100 for the New Hall Project.



Events were held throughout the day, beginning with a period of reflection held in The Memorial Hall, where residents talked to us about their relatives who had played a part during the Great War.

Memorial Hall Trustee. Stephanie Rodbard and her brother Tim Flack, talked about the life of their grandfather Ernie Flack who is listed on The Roll of Honour in The Memorial Hall. They told us that he had been involved in the building of the first village hall which stood before our current building and this is one of the reasons why Steph is so determined to help build a new hall for future generations of her family and village residents to enjoy.

Little Wilbraham resident Wallace Wells and Great Wilbraham resident Tony Goryn also spoke of their family members who had served. As the service ended and music played, everyone was able to lay a flower under the Roll of Honour, in memory of their loved ones. The St. Nicholas Bell Ringers then rang a peal of bells that was heard throughout the village.

Thanks must be given to Martin Genkie for organising such a fitting tribute to all of our local War Heroes.

As in very year, Barry Ward looked through his vast photograph collection and made an excellent display for our event. Older folk love to reminisce over their old school photographs, and recount stories of their younger days growing up in our villages. The children are fascinated to see photos of their grandparents when they were young!





Great Wilbraham resident, Barry Ward (checked shirt), displayed old local photographs from his private collection.

Organised by Sarah Fordham, several residents collected information about the men from Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom, who served in the Great War. Working through the various census returns and service records, a great deal of detail was found relating to the men, their families and where they lived. This information then formed a splendid display with documents, maps and photographs.

Sarah Fordham and Stephie Rodbard

### Other activities during the day;



Spot the scarecrows!



Some residents will go to extreme lengths to support us!

Tom Sweeney completed the Ice Bucket Challenge and raised £50 for the Memorial Hall Redevelopment Fund plus £50 for ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).



# Weenie Warblers Baby & Toddler Group

Weenie Warblers meet in the Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall on Fridays during school term time from 9.15am – 11.45am.

#### PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EARLIER OPENING TIME!

The next dates are:

5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014

9th, 16th, 23th, 30th January 2015

6th, 13th, 27th February 2015

We are a small and friendly group. Just drop in any time during the session. Refreshments provided. £1.50 per family per session.

We look forward to seeing you.

Alison (882483) and Sarah (880698)

# Update: the New Memorial Hall Project

We are pleased to announce that we have been successful with 2 grant applications. Firstly we received a grant of £10,000 from Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund, which has been specifically allocated to our Eco heat pump heating installation. The second grant was also for £10,000 from The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation. We have three national grant applications that are pending decisions over the coming weeks. We will let you know how we get on as soon as we have news.

Don't forget to visit our website at www.hall.gtwilbraham.net for information about the project, news updates, events and booking procedures.



We are aiming to raise £400-420,000, and we are getting there. We have been busy over the last year gearing up the project, and hope that if further grant applications are successful, it will become a reality over the next few months. We are unusual in our villages that our Hall is independently owned by the Trust and is not managed by the Parish Councils. We have been in discussions with our Parish Councils about how they can support the project by taking out a Public Works Loan (a Government loan over an extended period at a low interest) at a level that will not make a significant impact on the Precept.

We also launched a personal appeal to each household in October to make any contribution that they feel they can make to turn this long dreamed-of project into a reality and not pass the millstone of a decrepit building onto the next generation.

Our current hall was built in the 1970's and is un-insulated, not accessible to wheelchairs and the roof leaks (despite frequent repairs). We have looked into refurbishment, but it is not structurally feasible. It is definitely time to replace this outmoded building.

If you have not received a leaflet through your door, please telephone or email

Tony Ryan 01223 880593 or email him at <a href="mailto:lyansan@btinternet.com">lyansan@btinternet.com</a>.

There are several ways to donate outlined in your leaflet. You can also click on the button 'Donating to the New Hall Project' on our website www.hall.gtwilbraham.net.

Also, please remember that some of the larger employers in the region offer 'Matching Employee Giving' - corporate schemes that will either match your charity donations or offer to match the amount raised at a fund-raising event at which you volunteer. This is available to employees at some Banks, Hi-tech companies etc. So please look into this if you work for a larger employer.

We have been extremely heartened by the warm reaction and generosity of Wilbraham residents. To date we have received donations and pledges of approximately £47,000. If you would like one of the Trustees to come and spend time talking to you, and explain the project, then do not hesitate to contact us. We welcome all donations, whatever the size. However, we need to raise even more to prove local support to Grant Givers and to make this project a reality. Showing that you care about our villages and that you want to help strengthen our community is the most important thing. So please give your time, energy or a financial donation to help us thrive.

Assuming we are successful in this latest push, we will be looking at starting the project in early 2015 and have started the drawings for the first phase in preparation. It will take place in four phases;

- Building a replacement groundsman and tractor store at the rear of the Play Area.
- Refurbishing the ground floor of our two storey building to provide sports / accessible toilets and a club room / bar (to allow sports and club functions to continue during hall demolition);
- Demolition of the brick toilet block and the timber framed hall and bar building
- Construction of a replacement hall, meeting room and improved toilet and kitchen facilities. Landscaping & car park alteration.

Obviously this will cause some disruption to village life for the duration, but we aim to keep this to a minimum by phasing the project. You can't make a cake without breaking eggs..! As we approach the final go ahead, we will discuss the practical implications with each regular hirer of the Hall.

With thanks again for all of your support.

Emma Adams

On behalf of Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall Trustees; mail@emma-adams.co.uk



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#### Church Alterations and the Bells

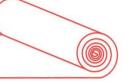
The Great Wilbraham bell ringers are maintaining an active programme of ringing with a good number of regular ringers at Thursday practice evenings and ringing before Sunday services at St Nicholas's. We have also rung at weddings during the Summer/Autumn and have hosted a number of visiting bands, including a successful peal on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The planned alterations to the tower to create a raised ringing floor over a new lavatory and kitchenette are progressing well. These changes will inevitably result in a temporary disruption to ringing activities but will, when completed, improve the ringing, especially for beginners. These major alterations and the associated need for faculties and funding are obviously the immediate priority but once commenced we can move on to other improvements. These can include looking at possible alterations to the sound reduction system to ensure that villagers can hear the bells when the baffles are open whilst still enabling us to control the volume at times when the disturbance might be less welcome. We will keep everyone updated.

As always, we appreciate the support of the village and would welcome any new recruits!

Graham Pye

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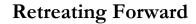
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We held the fourth in the series of "Retreating Forward" half-day retreats on 25th October at the URC Church in Fulbourn. Sixteen folk from various villages, Cambridge, and a range of denominations, met together.

The retreat was organised by Stephen Harmer. After a continental breakfast we moved into two one-hour quiet periods which were introduced by the Rev Ian Randall.

As part of the event slides were shown, reflecting how nature adapts with the change from autumn into winter.

We are very grateful to Fulbourn URC Church for the use of their premises for these retreats, it is a great location with excellent facilities. Feedback from this event was very encouraging, a common theme was gratitude for the opportunity be quiet and to step back from busy lives.

We are planning 3 further events to be held in 2015 on February 28th, May 9th and October 17th.

Stephen Harmer

## **Church Service Changes**

From Advent 2014, there will be a slight change to the timetable of services in the churches in the Wilbrahams. Holy Communion will take place at 9:30am in Little Wilbraham on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, and in Great Wilbraham on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. There will continue to be Holy Communion at 9:30am in St George's, Six Mile Bottom on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, and at 11am in St Vigor's, Fulbourn every Sunday (with Sunday School). For December, the service schedule will be as follows:

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>: 9:30am Communion at Six Mile Bottom

9:30am Come and Join at Great Wilbraham

9:30am Matins at Little Wilbraham

11am Communion with Sunday School at Fulbourn

Sunday 14th: 9:30am Communion at Little Wilbraham

11am Communion at Fulbourn

Sunday 21st: 9:30am Communion at Great Wilbraham

11am Communion at Fulbourn

Sunday 28th: 9:30am Communion at Little Wilbraham

11am Communion at Fulbourn

#### What Child is This?

Oh, how we loved Christmas when we were children! The scent of pine and spice! The carols on the radio, and the silly secular Christmas muzak in the shops! The Salvation Army man with his kettle! The business of making lists, sending cards, keeping secrets! Taking down the corrugated cardboard box with all the beloved old decorations, and adorning the tree, which stood in a little reservoir of water in an enamelled steel stand downstairs. Hanging our stockings from the mantelpiece—and then the wild excitement of waking up at 4 am on Christmas morning to see what Santa Claus had left for us.

I know for a fact that my parents envied the Christmases of their Christian neighbours: they made no bones about it. Our mother told the story of how our grandfather insisted that she not be exposed to Christian religious music, and so she was shut in a broom cupboard whenever the other children in her Canadian school were singing carols. Our father carefully explained how the customs associated with Christmas: the cookies and cake, the tree, the presents, all had pagan origins, and could be considered as folk customs, to be enjoyed by all.

And so we three Jewish children, growing up in Minnesota, adored Christmas. Hannukah was our religious holiday, and we celebrated it with prayers and the lighting of the menorah, spinning the dreidel, singing the traditional Hannukah songs and eating latkes, the traditional potato pancakes of Ashkenazic Jewry. We still adored Christmas.

When the National Secular Society and the various atheist bloggers mock (as they do every year) the Church's reminders that 'Jesus is the reason for the season,' and urgings to 'put the Christ back in Christmas,' they assure their followers that Christmas can be a hugely enjoyable as a secular holiday.

I know this to be true. It's possible to come to church at Christmas without believing, understanding, or even knowing what it is that is being celebrated. The first church service I ever attended was the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College Chapel, in the deep midwinter of 1962. I can still remember the huge dark windows, and the beautiful shadowy ribbed vaults of the roof, as well as the treble soloist beginning 'Once in royal David's city.' 'Royal David,' I thought, 'I know who he is, anyway.' Of course I knew about King David. But who's Jesus?

The seed was sown, but it took me another twenty-five years to learn the answer to the question and flip the switch on my own personal Christmas illuminations.

Who is He? What child is this? This is the question we prepare to answer every Advent, and whose answer we celebrate every Christmas. The question can be

asked by anyone, of any faith or none. The answer is what draws us into the crowd of carol singers who make up the Church.

He is Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.' God has come among us in the mystery of a human being, born into human history and the suffering all flesh is heir to.

He is Jesus, which means 'Saviour,' the one come to reconcile us to God our Father, to show us what it means to be truly human and to show us all that we can take in of the mystery of the Almighty.

He is the Christ, the Messiah, the man born to be king: born in a shed, laid on straw, rushed into exile, a manual labourer, a travelling preacher.

He is the King of the Jews, nailed on a cross between two thieves.

He is the Word made flesh, the light of the world, risen, ascended, glorified. And we believe that he will come again to judge the world, and that we will share in his resurrection. For faithful Christians, the wonder of Christ's birth is always seen through the lens of Easter.

For all who come to our Christmas services, to hear the familiar story of angels and shepherds, Joseph and Mary, and the first-born son wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, to sing the beloved carols by candlelight, to sip mulled wine and eat mince pies, or to trudge home under the stars after midnight mass, there is a moment of promise and possibility. A door is opened on the greatest of mysteries: who we are, why we're here; what we're made for. May we all catch a glimpse of it this year. May we find it growing in our hearts and minds as we see the faces of our family and neighbours and know the peace and the joy of Christmas.

A blessed Advent! A joyful and peaceful Christmas to everyone in the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom!

Alice Goodman

### Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

The club is now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year and continues to attract new members who are always welcome.

During October 2014 several members of the club attended a photography competition at Bishop's Stortford organized by the ICON group. Six clubs from the Eastern Region were invited to take part - Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club, Cambridge Camera Club, Chelmsford Camera Club, ICON, Upminster Camera Club and Ware & District Photographic Society. Each club submitted 8 prints which were judged by Paul Radden LRPS DPAGB AFIAP of Harlow

Photographic Society. Paul is also the Judges Officer for the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies (EAF). The competition was won by Ware & District, second, Bottisham & Burwell, with Chelmsford in third place. Only one mark separated the first two places.

This was the last event organised by ICON which was formed in 1997 from members in a club who had issues regarding the introduction of digital cameras! They decided to form a separate group for about 5 years to see how the new cameras would perform. Now seventeen years later and all much older the group has decided to disband. The President of the EAF Bob Norris EFIAP APAGB stated that they will be greatly missed by the photographic community in the Eastern Region as their work was always of a consistently good quality. In the coming weeks we have the following events taking place:

#### **Tuesday 2 December**

**'The Art in Photography'** A Workshop with audience participation led by Adrian Stone, of Peterborough.

The year ends on **Tuesday 9 December** 2014, with a 'Quiz Night' led the Chairman Gerry Metcalfe.

#### **Tuesday 6 January 2015**

**'PAGB Inter-Federation Print Exhibition Portfolio'** Recorded DVD of prints exhibited throughout the United Kingdom in 2014 from the 15 Federations.

#### Tuesday 27 January 2014

'Jpeg-vs-Raw'. Ian Wilson ARPS of Cambridge CC delves into the pros and cons of capturing images in both genres.

In the following weeks there will be a varied programme of events that may, if wished, be attended by guests. Further details are available on our website see below.

Guests are welcome to attend any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel CB25 9EW on Tuesday's from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm. Fee: £3.00, including refreshments, refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40.00, Joint Membership: £67.00, Student: £21.00. Refreshments 50p. New members joining now will receive a pro rata rate. Lastly we would ask guests attending the club not to **double park** in the vicinity of Lode Chapel, as there is local concern regarding access for emergency vehicles.

For further details contact: **Mrs D Hanson**: 01638 741106

Barry Coles, Publicity Officer

Welcome in the New Year



With friends and family at the

Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall

DISCO

FINGER BUFFET CHILDREN'S PARTY GAMES

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# Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 7.30pm – 1.00am

# **Tickets £6 per person Under 14's FREE!**

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#### **Bottisham Airfield Museum**

We would like to thank everyone from the local community and further afield who visited us on our Open Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and helped to make it such an outstanding success.

The Museum, which was originally housed in wartime buildings off Tunbridge Lane in Bottisham, had been facing an uncertain future, after that site was sold for development in 2012. This summer, however, thanks to the great generosity of a local benefactor, we were able to secure the future of the only remaining wartime buildings on the airfield itself by making them the museum's home. These buildings were until recently the River Farm Smokery. During the war, they were the operational buildings for the 375<sup>th</sup> USAAF Fighter squadron.



The museum group moved into the site on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and ten frantic days of clearing, cleaning and repairing ensued to enable the Open Day to take place. The former latrine and kit drying room was used to display some of the major parts of our Mustang Cockpit project, as well as a collection of the Museum's artefacts relating to the RAF and USAAF in

Bottisham. The main building which housed the squadron offices, crew room, and locker room is our major renovation project and is, for now, not open but we were able to give our visitors an idea as to our vision for the site.

Elsewhere, we had a comprehensive collection of WW2 military vehicles together with their very enthusiastic owners, a Mk IX Spitfire cockpit section, live music and many stalls including a tombola and detailed display of our plans for the future. Period costumes were also very much in evidence and we were very lucky that the Home Guard could attend to keep us safe in the event of an invasion! The day was rounded off beautifully by the appearance of some WW2 aircraft, most notably Maurice Hammond's Mustang 'Janie' which thrilled the crowds lining the perimeter of the Museum with an air display which made everyone nearby stand still to watch. Coincidentally, the return of the Mustang to the skies over Bottisham marked 70 years to the day since the USAAF left the airfield.

We were very happy to welcome so many local people to the new museum site and were amazed when several donated items for the museum, including photograph albums, personal belongings of people connected with the airfield and other artefacts which we will be honoured to exhibit when the buildings are ready. Since the Open Day, work has continued apace to remove many of the 'modern' alterations to the large building and see what remains of its original wartime features. At the time of writing we are planning to reinstate the Nissen Hut on the south side of the main building, which was taken down soon after the airfield closed. The hut will initially house our exhibits while work continues to restore the other buildings on the site. In the future we hope the Nissen hut will be a venue for educational and social events, hosted both by the museum and the local community, set on a site with plenty of character.

One other significant development since the Open Day is that after a lot of hard work the museum is now a registered charity, which will be a real help for securing future funding.

Please keep an eye on our website for more information <a href="http://bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk/">http://bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk/</a> search for us on Facebook and also follow us on Twitter @BottishamAirMus.

Simon Reeves

# Six Mile Bottom Sports and Social Club

A reminder to everyone that we have a mobile post office here at the Club on a Thursday. We are hoping to add more books to the Club's library. So please let us have any books

Saturday 13 December - Our annual big Xmas draw.

Saturday 20 December - Xmas party for members' children and grandchildren.

Wednesday 24 December - Xmas eve party night with disco.

Wednesday 31 December = New Years eve party night with live band and disco.

#### **Regular openings:**

Sundays - Club and bar open at midday all day until 9 pm.

Bingo in the evening and starting at 7.45ish

Mondays - Club and bar open at 8 pm if we have Bar Billiards otherwise the Club is closed.

Tuesdays – Similarly, with Darts.

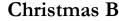
Wednesdays - Club is closed.

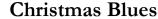
Thursdays - The Club is open at 2 pm for the Mobile Post Office and everyone is welcome to use it. (At present the bar is closed, but this could change if more people were to use the post office).

Club closed in evening if there is no Pool.

Fridays and Saturdays - Club and bar open at 8 pm.

G. Wood





As I write this there are six more weeks until Christmas. Why does that thought give me a sinking feeling in the pit of my

stomach? Am I alone in that? What have we done to Christmas? It all seems to have got out of control somehow. For many it has become the

most stressful time of the year. Every year I seem to hear more and more people saving how much they dislike Christmas.

'Peace and goodwill' has a hollow ring to it.

And all those cheery, sentimental Christmas songs just make it seem worse.

The lonely feel even lonelier.

The depressed feel even more depressed.

The poor get poorer.

Those in debt get even further into debt.

Those who already have plenty want even more.

Many of us spend far more than we need on food and drink and frivolity.

We and our children are bombarded with advertising whose sole purpose is to make us feel dissatisfied with what we have and to want something bigger or better

Whilst a majority of people agree that Christmas is about spending time with family and friends, and a smaller majority feel that it is a time when we should be generous to people less fortunate than ourselves, a survey taken before Christmas 2013 found that 18 million people were worried about how they would afford Christmas. Many people expected to start the New Year in debt and many were still paying for the previous Christmas in November. Surely this is not how it was meant to be?

The true meaning of Christmas is simple. We remember, and celebrate, that God came as a new-born child to live among the people he created. Yes, I find that mysterious and difficult to understand. But I believe it. One of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel. It means 'God is with us'. He came to be with us in this world, to show us how to live a fully human life, and to give us a hope and a future. The real peace and joy of Christmas are to be found in this Jesus. He is still with us amid all the hype and superficiality of our modern Christmas. He is here to be found among the tinsel and the trimmings; the loneliness and depression; the poverty and extravagance.

Why not try to find a guiet space in the midst of it all to think about who Jesus really is and why he came, and whether it ought to mean something to you? Throughout Advent there are churches near you where people will be meeting to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Why not come and try it out for yourself?

We at RE:NEW wish you all a truly happy and peaceful Christmas.

#### RE:NEW Services in December 2014.

7 December 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School) With Holy Communion

14 December 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

14 December 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

21 December 10.30am – RE:NEW Carol Service (at the School)

25 December 10.30am – Christmas Day Service (at the School)

28 December 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

28 December 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact Rev. Keith Morrison on C.813055 or Peter Wells on C.812388.

Email: pandawells@cheerful.com Or visit our website at www.re-new.me.uk

#### Solar Park Cable



The main site construction will begin in earnest shortly. "While taking one of the photos one of the workmen came up to me and said "Thank the public for their understanding."

By the time this is published the Solar Park cable installation, from the electricity substation near the Fulbourn Tesco to the Solar Park on the other side of the A11 should be virtually complete. The cable will take the power generated into the national grid. Stuart Homewood of Inazin says "In order to minimise the disruption to local residents we have increased the speed of this work by adding another installation team on the route, making 4 in total.



Martin Gienke



# Colours of Dance

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#### Wilbrahams Cricket Club 2014 Season

In the previous edition of the Warbler I wrote with trepidation as at that time the First XI were threatened with relegation from the Senior League with two matches to go . . .I should not have worried. Four sides from the bottom seven in a league of ten were going down, but not our boys who won their last two games in style and rose to a magnificent fourth in the league with a record of 8 wins and 7 losses. Happy days! The highest run scorers were captain George Moore (538), vice captain Matthew Morley (476) and Toby Tippen (394) with George being the only centurion in the club this year with a magnificent 104 not out at Girton. The leading wicket takers were Jonathan Ascroft (28), Sam Charman (26) and Alex Negus (25).



The Second XI season was remarkable for three reasons. Firstly, it happened without the availability traumas of the past two seasons, although we did have to default one match. Secondly, and importantly, it really was, by general consensus, great fun; and thirdly (as previously reported) by winning the Lower Junior Cup we got some glory! In Junior League 5 South we missed out on promotion but came a comfortable

third with a record of 7 wins and 4 losses. Captain Simon Plumb was the highest run scorer (387) followed by Martin Potter (339) and new recruit Damien Rigden (201). Martin Potter also plundered 33 wickets at a remarkable average of 8.82, ably supported by Andrew Goryn (13) and Ronnie Cameron (12). A special mention also goes to our youngest team-mate Charlie Cook, aged 14, who in his debut season took 8 wickets off 56 overs at a very creditable average of 25.38 and also took five catches. Watch this space!

All in all a great season which hopefully has put Wilbrahams CC back on track. Many thanks to the captains George Moore and Simon Plumb, both of whom fulfilled their roles with distinction, and of course to the loyal band of tea ladies (who are always top of the league) and to Tony Goryn for his many hours of dedication to the cricket square and outfield.

Roddy Tippen, Chairman, Wilbrahams Sports Club

#### Over the Farm Gate



Well we have saved the Bees, but at what other cost to the environment?

A group of chemicals called neonicitinoids has recently been banned by the EU because they probably harm bees when foraging among the flowers of treated crops, the most prevalent one locally being oilseed rape. This chemical is usually applied at drilling time to the seed and protects the new plant from insect attack at it's most vulnerable growth stage, instead we have had to apply up to six sprays of insecticide to the new crop and still not controlled a major pest, Cabbage stem flea beetle, a small shiny black bug which nibbles little shot holes in the rape leaves until they drop off. Combined with some dry weather in late August and early September, this has seen my first crop failure in thirty years of farming and about 100 acres will have to be replanted in the spring with peas.

On the positive side Autumn drilling has progressed very well and the fields are now looking nice and green again having transformed very quickly from golden yellow to brown in August. Harvest was reasonably easy and above average in yields and quality and marketing of some of the wheat has been taking place recently, unfortunately almost the whole world has had a good harvest and this is reflected in the price due to supply and demand.

Speaking of reflections, we have been granted permission to install some solar panels on two of the least productive fields on the farm to the South of the A11 and the road works through the village at the moment are to connect this electricity source to the National grid for which I can only apologise. The scheme will be in place for about 25 years and the land can then easily be returned to crop production.

Sugar beet harvest too has commenced and is looking very promising with above expected yields and sugar content of the roots. Nearly 2,000 tons was harvested and loaded from the two fields along the Fulbourn road and they are now sown with Winter wheat. There is a world oversupply of sugar at the moment and so next year we will be growing only half our normal area of beet because British sugar have reduced our quota (the tonnage we are allowed to grow) and also the price, so if you have a choice, please select" Silver Spoon" sugar which is made from locally produced sugar beet.

Chris Ascroft

## Burglars don't go away at Christmas

Detectives are urging people going away this Christmas not to advertise their holiday on social media. Officers are concerned that burglars scan networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to find out when homes will be unoccupied.

Last December, about one in six burglaries in the county were at properties where the residents had been away for two days or more. The worst affected areas were Cambridge, Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire, which all had around 60 burglaries in the month. Police issued the same warning in July when a number of homes in the Werrington area of Peterborough were broken into while residents were on holiday.

Detective Inspector Fran Jones, force-lead on burglary, said: "It's understandable that people will be excited about going away, even if it's just for the weekend, but our advice would be not to advertise it on social media. Unfortunately, as well as your genuine friends, criminals may also be looking and take the opportunity to break into an unoccupied home. My advice would be to only tell relatives and trusted friends and neighbours". In addition, residents are advised to keep Christmas presents out of sight as much as possible. DI Jones said: "Before presents are placed under the tree, they should be kept out of sight, such as in closed wardrobes or under beds. Ideally, they should not be put under the tree until Christmas morning, particularly if it's visible from outside". And don't forget that burglars can target homes where they see discarded packaging from expensive gifts. Cardboard boxes and packaging should be properly broken down so they fit into a bin".

Residents who want advice on protecting their home are urged to visit the force's new crime prevention tool. The interactive house allows users to visit key areas around a home where security could be improved.

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**Burwell Print Centre's first ever** 

# **Christmas Fayre**

Mandeville Hall, Burwell Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 10am to 4pm

Santa's Grotto

15+ craft stalls - Mulled wine - Cakes and refreshments School choir - Local singing group Tombolas - Face painting And more ...

Please come along to help us celebrate the festive season

Support one of your local Social Training Enterprises
Free admission - Plenty of parking

Burwell Print is a Registered Charity 1053026 supporting adults with learning disabilities in a work and training environment.

# Healthwatch Cambridgeshire

#### Listening to peoples experiences

Our Outreach Volunteer role is all about listening to people telling us about their experiences with local health and social care services. We were asked to find out what people who might have problems using health. We wanted to talk to people who wouldn't usually take part in this sort of consultation, in particular people with disabilities, long term health conditions or caring responsibilities. The Care Quality Commission inspection of Hinchingbrooke Hospital gave us and our volunteers the opportunity to listen to what local people had to say about the hospital. Our Listening Event was well attended by local people.

#### Having a say on local maternity services

We recently published a report that found local women don't all have the same chance to feedback on their experience of maternity care, due to inequalities in funding local Maternity Service Liaison Committees (MSLCs).

MSLCs were developed to improve pregnancy care and childbirth. The requirement to fund MSLCs ended with the Health & Social Care Act 2012. In Cambridgeshire, this has led to inconsistencies in funding local MSLCs. We are currently talking to local health care commissioners about our findings, with the aim of securing a long term commitment to the future of MLSCs.

#### Working with you to improve health screening

Some local women told us that it was difficult to rearrange mammogram breast screening appointments. We thought this could be linked to the low uptake of breast screening by women in Cambridgeshire, detailed in the Annual Public Health Report. We told the local Director of Public Health about our concerns and they are now working to make sure improvements happen. We informed the people who provide breast screening services about this issue and they have made it easier to change appointments.

#### **New volunteering opportunities**

We are launching some new volunteering opportunities this autumn, as we try to find more ways to involve volunteers from across the county in our work.

Our Research Volunteers will help us research local health & care services, helping us to find out about local health & care services. Our Street Reporter's will help us investigate local health & care issues that are important to people in Cambridgeshire and report back on them.

We still need more Outreach Volunteers, to help us promote Healthwatch and talk to local people about their experiences.

Call us on 01480 420628

Email us at: enquiries@healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk

#### Barn Conversion, Great Wilbraham

I purchased the barns in June 2013 with the benefit of planning for a 3 bedroom dwelling. I thought there were a number of improvements that could be made to this consent and with the assistance of specialist planning consultants, we worked closely with SCDC and Grand Design award winning designer/architect Toni



Moses to arrive at the listed building consent we have today to convert the barns into a 5 bedroom single dwelling incorporating the cart shed Dutch barn on the Southern elevation. We were required to conduct extensive bat surveys and ecology reports resulting in the incorporation of a very large bat loft on the Eastern elevation. A temporary hibernation box has been positioned on site during works under a Natural England licence. Contamination surveys were also carried out following the agricultural use which came back without the need for any specialist remediation.



Following written representations from 3 independent thatchers (Including retired local Thatcher Doug Leader) and a robust case from the National Thatchers Association we were particularly pleased Water Reed as opposed to Long Straw was considered an appropriate material for the rethatch by SCDC. This will be carried out in season next

February. A specialist approved fireproof membrane and tarpaulins currently protect the building until then. The frame has had many repairs throughout the years but generally it is in good condition considering, although we have replaced a number of key elements with green oak.

As far as possible we will be replacing the external cladding with timbers carefully removed and replaced once insulation and building regulations have been met

Simon Gusterson

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#### Advertise in The Wilbrahams' Warbler

March June September December

Over 500 copies distributed to

Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Rates per issue

Full page £40.00, Half page £25.00, Quarter page £15.00

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## **Community Group Contact Details**

Weenie Warblers Mother & Toddler Group Great Wilbraham Primary School

Primary School PTFA

Cubs/Scouts Rainbows Brownies

Wilbrahams' Memorial Hall Wilbraham Gardening Club Great Wilbraham Common Rights

Volunteer Group

Great Wilbraham Guild of Change Ringers Great Wilbraham Oil Syndicate Little Wilbraham Oil Syndicate

Six Mile Bottom Sports & Social Club Wilbrahams' Youth Group Wilbrahams' Sports Club Sarah Fordham, 880698

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# Deadline for the Spring edition of the Warbler is 13 FEBRUARY 2015

Email contributions to <a href="mailto:submissions@warbler.gtwilbraham.net">submissions@warbler.gtwilbraham.net</a>
Email adverts to <a href="mailto:adverts@warbler.gtwilbraham.net">adverts@warbler.gtwilbraham.net</a>
Hand-written or typed contributions can be handed in or posted to the editors.

#### Wilbrahams' Warbler Editors

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13.300	11.00	Newmarket, Guineas Bus Station	17.33	1	Chesterton, Bourne Road
13.450	10.45	Six Mile Bottom, Tree Tops	17.45	1	Cambridge, Emmanuel Street
13.50	10.40	Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	-	08.36	Cambridge, St Andrew's Street
13.55	10.30	Great Wilbraham, Church Street	17.53	08.26	Cambridge, Grafton Centre
14.00	10.30	Fulbourn, Six Bells	18.00	08.19	Cambridge, Retail Park
14.05	10.25	Fulbourn, Bakers Arms	18.03	08.16	Cambridge, Beehive Retail Park
14.09	10.210	Teversham, High Street	18.12	08.07	Cherry Hinton, St Andrew's Church
!	09.30.	Teversham, High Street	18.25	07.54	Fulbourn, Six Bells
!	09.25	Fulbourn, Bakers Arms	18.33	07.46	Great Wilbraham, Church Street
1	09.50	Fulbourn, Six Bells	18.41	07.38	Little Wilbraham, Manor Close
!	09.45	Great Wilbraham, Church Street	18.51	07.28	Six Mile Bottom, London Road
!	09.40	Little Wilbraham, Manor Close	19.03	07.16	Stetchworth, nr Church Lane
AFTERNOONS Newmarket – Teversham	MORNINGS Little Wilbraham–Newmarket	Bus Service 18 Tuesday, Friday and Saturday The morning service starts at Little Wilbraham, and goes to Great Wilbraham, Fulbourn and Teversham, then returning to Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham, and then to Newmarket, via Six Mile Bottom.	<b>EVENINGS</b> Fen Estate – Stetchworth	MORNINGS Stetchworth – Cambridge	Bus Service 17  Monday to Saturday  The service operates between Stetchworth and Fen Estate once each way. During the rest of the day the service operates between Fulbourn and Fen Estate.