

REPORT FROM TRUSTEES OF THE WILBRAHAMS MEMORIAL HALL TO GREAT WILBRAHAM PARISH COUNCIL FOR ANNUAL MEETING

This has been an extremely busy year for the Memorial Hall as the rebuilding project which has dominated the last few years has finally been begun and finished to time and to budget. The refurbishment of the ground floor of the existing brick building was begun in May 2015 and was completed for occupation during August. That was immediately followed by the demolition of the old hall and the construction of the new Hall. Construction was completed and the building handed back to the trustees on 4 March 2016. The opening ceremony took place on Easter Monday, 28th March. That was in itself a wonderful occasion attended by more than 200 people.

This has been a wonderful communal effort by the villages of Great and Little Wilbraham, including donations from individuals to the rebuilding project of more than £67,000, continuing contributions from the inhabitants of the villages for the next 30 years in the shape of repayments to the National Loans Fund of borrowings by Great Wilbraham of £80,000 and by Little Wilbraham of £30,000. In addition, there have been significant contributions from the annual flower and produce show in Great Wilbraham over a number of years and from a number of other successful fundraising events.

It now remains for all of us to make the maximum use of this fine new facility. Some of our old groups have returned to the new Hall and we hope to see more of them and also new groups formed in the villages.

The new Hall should cost far less to maintain bearing in mind that heating is now provided by heat pump and we no longer have to maintain a decaying and rather dilapidated wooden structure. Next year we will be able to report on our first year's experience of the running of the new Hall.

Charles Raikes

Chair, Trustees of the Wilbrahams Memorial Hall

14 April 2016