

# Great Wilbraham organisations and societies

## Survey responses 2023



In preparation for the Annual Parish meeting, 20 organisations and societies operational in Great Wilbraham were approached to ask if they would like to provide information, including filling in a questionnaire about their activities and achievements in the past year and their plans for the future. Replies were received from 16 organisations. Where these are membership organisations, the number of members is given.

Well-brahams (10)	Scrabble (16)
WEG (60)	PTFA (8 Committee)
Memorial Hall	Wilbrahams Community Choir (35)
Transport Working Group (TWG) (11 committee and 14 volunteers)	Sports club (50)
Wilbraham River Protection Society (90)	Common Rights Holders (30)
Over 60s (70)	St Nicholas Church (50)
Weeny Warblers (10)	Wilbrahams Refugee Support (WRS) (7 Committee and around 40 supporters)
Social Club (150)	Wilbrahams Warbler
Great Wilbraham C of E Primary School (96 children, 13 staff)	

## Achievements

Asked what achievements the organisation was most proud of – these have been broadly mapped into four main themes: Village Life, Well-being, Environment and Biodiversity, and Transport, Highways and Travel. However, it is acknowledged that there is considerable overlap between them; for example, work by volunteers from the Well-brahams in the Community Orchard is good for wellbeing as well as for biodiversity; involvement in sport is good for well-being as well as village life.

### Village Life

Memorial Hall	Re-opening after covid and rebuilding the usage of the hall to an (almost) sustainable level.
	Installing the new swings / completing the Play Area project
	Monthly Food & Craft markets
	Ongoing maintenance / redecorations / management of running costs.
Wilbrahams Warbler	Publication of four issues of the Warbler
	Appointed replacement editor
	The Warbler remains in the top 15% of village magazines nationally
Over 60s	Great club has been going since 1954. Monthly meetings with about 50 people attending.
	Organised a coach trip to Cromer with grant from the Wadlow windfarm
	Offer lots of outings, some free, and interesting talks
Scrabble	Our numbers have increased
	New members from Fulbourn
	Friendly competition, we don't take ourselves seriously
PTFA	Bringing back a full schedule of regular events, in particular the Summer Fete in June, our biggest fundraiser and more recently Quiz & Chips. Many other events, some with primary fundraising aims and others with children's enrichment in mind, have returned successfully over the past year
	Meeting the funding expectations of the school, which cover a variety of costs including school trip transport subsidy, KS2 fruit, author/expert visits and other <i>ad hoc</i> resource requests
	Establishing an expanded and enthusiastic committee group, adding parents from younger year groups, who all play to our strengths when running events
Wilbrahams Community Choir	We have been asked to sing at two weddings
	Lt Wilbraham PC and the Wilbrahams Memorial Committee asked us to sing at their Jubilee Celebrations
	We have recruited new members to keep our numbers stable after the reduction caused by Covid

Sports club	The relatively recently reformed Wilbrahams' Football Club is currently in third place in their league having won 12 of 16 league matches so far.
	A superb performance by Wilbrahams' Cricket Club in 2022 to gain promotion to Cambridgeshire Cricket Association Senior League Division 1 where our little village club will be competing against very much bigger clubs like Ely 1st XI and Royston 1st XI.
	Both the football and cricket clubs continue to be well supported away as well as at home.
St Nicholas Church	Providing a well maintained, welcoming building, open every day for the use of villagers and visitors, be it for a service, a quiet few moments, or a family christening, wedding, or funeral.
	Continuing to maintain the Grade 11 listed, medieval church building. This has included everything from keeping the church clean and tidy to organising and paying for repairs. This last year these included repairs to the exterior stonework costing around £15,000.
Social Club	Opening the club for cricket and football games and welcoming the Sports Club's players and supporters which is both enjoyable and beneficial to our income
	Organising and running events such as coffee mornings, for members and guests to enjoy regular sociable mornings, the Music afternoons on the Rec and also supporting the Memorial Hall's Saturday Markets by providing refreshments
	Managing the finances to enable the club to at least break even at the end of the financial year without increasing membership fees and maintaining very competitive prices
Wilbrahams Refugee Support	Built a group of Volunteers to help support Ukrainian families; increased understanding of the issues and culture; introducing them to the village and informing the wider community through newsletters and Warbler articles

## Wellbeing

Well-brahams	Sports Days and Mindfulness for children aged 4-11 during summer and Easter holidays.
	'Warm Mornings' throughout winter
	Volunteering events in the Community Orchard
Weeny Warblers	Continuing to run every week during term time
	Providing a warm welcome and space for local families
	Running self-sufficiently while still offering refreshments for all and suitable resources and activities for pre-school children
Wilbrahams Refugee Support	Providing comprehensive support to a Ukrainian family living in Great Wilbraham

## Environment and Biodiversity

Well-brahams	Volunteering in the Community Orchard and learning how to prune and manage fruit trees.
WEG	Open evening held to inform parishioners about Climate Change and its effects locally
	Liaison with developers of proposed solar park and lobbying for changes to the plans
	Continued work to press for safer cycle routes for the Wilbrahams
River Protection Society	Society noticeboard.
	Committee meeting with Environment Agency.
	Introduction of telemetry monitoring of water levels.
St Nicholas Church	Maintaining the churchyard for the use of visitors to graves as well as managing different areas to encourage more wildlife.
Common Rightsholders	Confirmation by Natural England and the Wildlife Trust that the site is well managed to provide a unique glimpse of neutral grassland in Cambridgeshire
Great Wilbraham School	Developments towards becoming a Zero-carbon school, with the help of WEG

## Transport, Highways and Travel

WEG	Continued work to press for safer cycle routes for the Wilbrahams
TWG	The successful application to Cambridgeshire County Council for 40mph zones and traffic calming on each of the entrances to the village
	Securing a grant from Low Carbon to enable the purchase of 3 speed awareness devices (MVAS), to be used to slow traffic driving within the village.
	The drafting of a further Highways Improvement application to CCC for double yellow lines outside the Pub, and preparation for an application for a reduction of the speed limit within the village to 20 mph

## What can people expect if they join the organisation?

Organisations were asked what new recruits could expect if they joined – comments overwhelmingly focused on a warm welcome, friendly environment and interesting activities. To give a feel for this, comments were summarised into a WordCloud as follows:



## Plans for the future

Many organisations focused on wider recruitment, especially to committees, widening their programmes, improving their resources and strengthening their organisations. There were also ambitious plans from several organisations around biodiversity, wellbeing, infrastructure and improvements to the traffic problem in the village.

### Village life

Memorial Hall	Widen the age profile of the committee
Wilbrahams Warbler	Publish four issues of the Warbler maintaining the award-winning quality of editorial content and layout
	Investigate upgrading of the quality of printing of text and photographs
	Maintain advertisement financial support of the magazine
Well-brahams	Support villagers to carry on Warm Mornings.
Over 60s	Would like to recruit more people from Wilbrahams and SMB
	Continue programme for over 60s
	Maintain solvency without raising subscriptions
Wilbrahams Community Choir	More concerts in the community
Sports club	The cricket club to survive in CCA Senior 1
	The football club to achieve promotion in 2022/23
	To attract new members, especially to the cricket club where we have a lack of youth
Great Wilbraham School	Liaise with and support the village Church of England Primary School whenever possible
St Nicholas Church	Having updated the church in recent years so there is heating and a toilet, we would like to see the church used for more community events e.g., concerts, plays etc
Social Club	Recruit more volunteers for the committee and bar staff to enable more regular opening hours and to bring ideas enthusiasm and help with the routine management and succession planning for the club
	Replace patio furniture outside the Social Club
	Plan for a corridor link to the Memorial Hall
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Wilbrahams Refugee Support	Continue to strengthen the village understanding of refugees and further development of a refugee support group.

## Wellbeing

Well-brahams	Further Sports Days
	Lectures on diet, working to maintain maximum mental and physical health
Weeny Warblers	Providing more craft and music content for children on a regular basis
Wilbrahams Refugee Support	Begin supporting new refugee families in the villages and provide assistance to local households who volunteer to host families
	Enable the existing supported family to achieve financial and practical independence

## Environment and Biodiversity

WEG	Develop a 'Nature Recovery' plan for our Parishes
	Hold more Open Evenings to inform/educate and influence our behaviour
	Expand our membership and the size of our committee
Memorial Hall	Look at reducing running costs by potentially installing solar panels
Wilbraham River Protection Society	Recruit enthusiastic new members to the committee.
Common Rights Holders	Continue managing the site effectively in accordance with Natural England's agreed management plan
St Nicholas Church	Expand the potential for biodiversity in the churchyard by planting a hedge, putting up more bird boxes etc.

## Transport and travel

TWG	Introduction of a 20mph speed limit
	Safe ways for children, their parents and grandparents, to cross the road, outside the School and the Play Park and in other places where pedestrians are at risk of being hit by vehicles.
	A weight restriction on HGVs using the village as a cut-through, as compared to those servicing local businesses, in recognition of the mismatch between the amount and nature of the traffic and the capacity of the roads.

## Organisation, communication, and fund-raising

Memorial Hall	Work on a 5-year cycle of maintenance / prudent financial management
	Look to increasing business rentals to cross fund community rentals.
Wilbraham River Protection Society	Help with contributing to the WRPS website and consultation responses.
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Weeny Warblers	Finding continuity with new parents/carers who can take on the opening, closing and basic administration duties, as parents of older children move on from the group
	Continuing to run self-sufficiently with the help of the subsidised hall hire
PTFA	Continuing to achieve fundraising in line with school expectations, likely to be increased with the return of a very busy schedule of school trips, all of which include transport to be subsidised by the PTFA
	A successful Summer Fete, being the principal fundraising event of the year
	Addition of new parents/friends from younger year groups, ensuring continuity of depth in the committee
Wilbrahams Community Choir	A better website presence/either or both a standalone one or an easily accessible one from the Wilbrahams website
	Wider publicity to attract and build our membership
WRS	Complete charity registration with The Charity Commission

## Help wanted from Parish Council and others

Organisations also noted areas where they needed help, from the Parish Council and others. These centred around funding, support for grant applications, publicity and websites, logistics, mutual support from other organisations, and help to keep informed about regional and national initiatives.

Wellbrahams	To continue to fund work in the Community Orchard.
	To fund further Warm Mornings or games mornings -eg via a Community Cafe
	Publicise our mental health initiatives widely.
WEG	Parish Council could provide some continuing funding
	PC could help us to identify other sources of funding
	PC could use Parish Land and cash to improve our local environment



Memorial Hall	Financial/practical support for Solar Panel project. support for these things (and provision of Hall) within their remit and that the Hall Committee pick up a significant load that would otherwise fall to the PC.
	Ongoing funding for hall maintenance and groundworks and the play area.
	Understanding and acknowledgement that most Parish Councils would have direct support for these things (and provision of Hall) within their remit and that the Hall Committee pick up a significant load that would otherwise fall to the PC.
Wilbrahams Warbler	We would welcome the Parish Council's support and input into the magazine. We seek to keep the production costs to a minimum. The financial underwriting of the costs by the parish councils is essential to the preservation of the quality of communication and the continuance of the publication.
TWG	We are delighted to be working with and for the 'new' Parish Council, not least because the councillors share our concerns about the danger, damage and distress caused by the huge number of vehicles that pass through our village every day. We will continue to represent the many residents who would like action to be taken to reduce the impact of traffic on their wellbeing and their properties.
	New volunteers are very welcome, as are any residents who might wish to join the Group as members. The TWG aims to be an enduring force for good within the village.
Wilbraham River Protection Society	Publicise the WRPS and its local environmental role.
	Support the WRPS interacting with local and national organisations which influence our local rivers and their wildlife flora and fauna.
	Assist with funding for the website.
Weeny Warblers	The duties of opening and closing fall to a small number of regular attendees who also have older children at school which sometimes makes it difficult to open on time every week - for example there have recently been parent attended assemblies at school which has meant late openings for Weenies, and lack of consistency leads to lower attendance. Finding ways of engaging with the wider community who could help support the group on either an ad hoc or regular basis would be an enormous help to ensure the group is steered through the inevitable peaks and troughs of attendance. It is a group highly valued by those who attend so we hope we can keep it going.

PTFA	Recently it was brought to our attention that an initiative to consider the road crossing immediately outside the school was thought perhaps not to be of interest to parents or the PTFA, when I believe the opposite to be the case. This has highlighted how important interaction between community groups and the Parish Council could be so we are very keen to explore how such concerns can be communicated going forward and how the Parish Council can otherwise support our aims
Wilbrahams Community Choir	Consider funding the purchase of sheet music and payment of an accompanist for performances and practices immediately prior to performances.
	Note - it isn't practical for Gill our director to play piano and conduct at the same time. We have Jeremy as a choir member who accompanies when available but there are occasions when he is not.
Sports club	GWPC has already contributed to the Sports Club in recent years with grants towards both the football goals and the cricket scoreboard. The Memorial Hall Trustees and the Social Club have both also been very supportive. Long may this continue. Our greatest challenge is to ensure that sport is still played in the Wilbrahams in ten years time, and that is largely dependent upon our youth wanting to take it up, and others being prepared to coach and organise. If we have the volunteers we can arrange the rest.
Over 60s	Would like more help over the carpark at the Memorial Hall – older people often cannot park nearby which is a problem if they have mobility issues. There was a particular problem over the Christmas Dinner event when the ice was not cleared, and many people could not get to the Hall.
Social Club	Contribute to the purchase of the new patio furniture which is used frequently by many in the village and by groups/people hiring the village hall often when the club is not open.
Common Rights Holders	We would be grateful if the Parish Council will keep us information of Regional and County Environmental initiatives
St Nicholas Church	The members of The Parochial Church Council and other church goers would like to see more dialogue and mutual support with the Parish Council. The church and churchyard are spaces open and used by the public daily. The maintenance of both is a great burden from a time and financial viewpoint.
	Specific help with the cost of maintaining the churchyard would be greatly appreciated. All maintenance is done by volunteers, but the cost of the equipment is rising all the time.
	Also, we have 44 lime trees that need regular checking, pruning and pollarding. Many of these border a path used daily as a route to school. The cost of this is about £3000 every 3 years.

Great Wilbraham School	Continued support for community events
	Join volunteers group to help with maintenance of the site
	Supporting the school and what it is trying to achieve
Wilbrahams Refugee Support	<p>You can support us by any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-becoming a volunteer of the Wilbrahams Refugee Support Group.</li> <li>-making a one-off (or even regular) donation.</li> <li>-hosting a single refugee, or even a couple or a family (we can provide extensive support before and during this.)</li> </ul> <p>Please contact Tim Page, the WRS Secretary, at 18 Church Street or by email at <a href="mailto:tim21page@gmail.com">tim21page@gmail.com</a>.</p>