



Wilbarston

Spring Chronicle



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Parish Assembly will be held on Thursday April 30th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and it will be a chance to quiz the parish council candidates a week before the election. The evening will include:-

- Chairman's report – the work of the parish council over the past year.
- The budget – spending over the past year and plans for the next year.

Below is an article that we would rather not have had to publish. However it is felt that we need to put the record straight and to support all those in Pipewell Ward who are unhappy at what has happened.

PIPEWELL

On December 17th over a century of local government was destroyed without a second thought or even a first thought by Kettering Borough Council in full session. It followed a final survey, indeed the only known independent survey, when fewer than 15%, fifteen percent, of Pipewell residents indicated that they wished to move to Rushton parish. However as far as the borough council was concerned 15% was enough and from February Pipewell became part of Rushton parish.

How on earth in a supposedly democratic process could such a thing happen?

When just over a year ago Kettering Borough Council introduced a LIGHT TOUCH review, a change in the number of parish councillors; an alteration of parish boundaries if there were strong evidence that such a change was needed. Wilbarston Parish Council decided, as far as it was concerned, nothing needed to change. The village had had an election with ten candidates for the eight places in 2011 and although Pipewell's member on the council had been elected unopposed, the parish council,

including the ward member for Pipewell, recommended unanimously that no change was needed.

When the results of this initial consultation were circulated by the borough council there were minor changes mainly in the number of councillors on some parish councils. However Wilbarston Parish Council was somewhat surprised to learn that Rushton had put in a bid for Pipewell, citing a medieval connection which preceded civil parishes by some centuries. Initial enquiries by the ward councillor for Pipewell and by other Wilbarston councillors, who had conversations with Pipewell residents, also indicated that there was no strong movement to join Rushton. Wilbarston Council informed Kettering Borough that this was the case.

However despite the fact that she was a member of Wilbarston Parish Council the ward councillor from Pipewell embarked on an aggressive campaign to engender support for a move to Rushton.

Petitions were produced and many people pressured into signing. All requests to her from Wilbarston Parish Council about survey results were refused, despite the fact that she had been asked to report back. Information provided by the ward member to Kettering Borough Council was inaccurate (to put it kindly) and her position in all this was falsely presented.

Despite clear inconsistencies, Kettering Borough Council decided to mount a final consultation on the proposal to transfer Pipewell to Rushton. Wilbarston Parish Council provided a strong argument for maintaining the status quo, which was totally ignored and not even presented as an option.

So how do the principals in this affair emerge?

Rushton Parish Council made the initial bid and it might have been courteous to have contacted Wilbarston before doing so. It also was aware of the campaign being waged in Rushton village in favour of the move.

The parish councillor representing Pipewell has much to answer for:

- ❖ She was part of Wilbarston's Council unanimous decision for no change.
- ❖ After Rushton's bid she was mandated to conduct an objective survey and report back to Wilbarston. She refused to do so. Instead she mounted an aggressive campaign for Pipewell to join Rushton by –
- Producing loaded petitions, which she pressured people into signing.
- Exaggerating statistics; less than half the electors in Pipewell ward asked to move.
- Failing to attend Wilbarston Parish Council meetings where she would have been questioned about her activities. Wilbarston Parish Council could well have mounted a properly constructed petition.
- Choosing to deliver the Chronicle only to selected addresses.
- Claiming a status within Pipewell which is not supported by any objective vote.

Kettering Borough Council's officers and councillors have not covered themselves with any glory. They have ignored completely representations from an elected parish council in favour of an individual, who at best was representing a small group i.e. less than 15% of Pipewell residents. They failed to authenticate or validate a petition which was poorly constructed to say the least and fell well below any expected standard.

If 'light touch' means transferring chunks from one parish to another on such flimsy evidence, heaven only knows what will happen if Kettering Council really gets its teeth into something.

Wilbarston Parish Council has been at worst naïve. It really believed 'light touch' meant just that and that firm incontrovertible evidence would be required if any change were proposed.

It found the possibility that a councillor would agree something in a council meeting, and then would do the exact opposite the next day difficult to believe.

It was astonished that Kettering Borough Council did not seek to question the evidence presented by the ward councillor for Pipewell and ignored representations from Wilbarston Parish Council.

The parish council discovered that Kettering Borough Council believes that consultation means we've made our minds up and nothing you say will make a blind bit of difference. The meeting of Kettering Council on December 17th was a mockery of local government.

Wilbarston Parish Council is sad to lose Pipewell. We feel we have done well by it over the years and have represented its views faithfully. It was Wilbarston Council that took the initiative for Pipewell to become a separate ward. Kettering Borough now contains a parish of about 450 electors with 10 councillors and a parish of 550 electors with 8. An anomaly surely.



PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS



You may have missed it, with the media focusing on other tiers, but on 7th May

2015 all places on Wilbarston Parish Council will be up for election. Having said farewell to Pipewell (see elsewhere) there will be 8 seats to be filled to constitute a parish council representing Wilbarston village and the countryside round about which includes the airfield site, The Pastures and Laurels mobile home parks and a number of dispersed farms and other dwellings as well as a large block of Rockingham Castle Estate land.

At the last election we had 10 nominations for the 8 places, creating the need for a vote, and that was a healthy situation which we want to repeat this time. An elected council has a better mandate, and probably more potential, than a group of volunteers, however willing, who are there because not enough others put themselves forward.

Each council has its own style. Ultimately that is a product of those who make it up but historically Wilbarston has not been amongst the stuffiest. There are one or two individuals who have been around for a bit but every encouragement is given to newer members to speak freely and get involved. In this respect change is a good thing.

At its minimum the commitment is to one evening meeting of approximately 2 hours each month. The nature of the council is for some work to be done in smaller committees and groups so opportunities do arise to get a bit further involved. Generally parish councils are not the setting for party political activity.

This is the formal paragraph. Anybody who, for the whole of the past year, has lived in or within 3 miles of the parish, or has worked in the parish, or has occupied as owner or tenant land in the parish, may stand for election, unless they are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order, or have received a prison sentence of 3 years or more (even if suspended) in the past 5 years, or have been disqualified from standing by a court or tribunal.

If you are interested but would like more information please speak to any member of the current parish council.

For those who wish to go ahead the timetable for the election has been set. Formal Notice will be published on 30th March and candidates will have until the afternoon of 9th April to deliver their completed nomination forms to the Council Offices in Kettering. Details will be on the parish council notice board opposite the shop.

Nomination and other papers will be available from the borough council. We shall also have a supply locally and in the first instance please contact the clerk to the parish council, James McKechnie, at wilbarston.clerk@yahoo.co.uk or the current Chair, Nick Richards on bramhallnick@yahoo.co.uk (770351). You will need to get two local electors to sponsor your nomination. You will need their electoral roll numbers and these can be obtained by reference to Kettering Borough Council or James McKechnie.

If more than 8 nomination papers are delivered an election will be called for 7th May. Campaigning is optional, subject to financial limits, but last time a special edition of The Chronicle was organised to carry addresses from the candidates and this could be repeated. There may also be the opportunity for candidates to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly, provisionally organised for 30th April.

Please consider standing. Any existing parish councillor will be happy to give more information



LENT LUNCH

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25TH

THE VICARAGE, 28 RUSHTON ROAD

12.00 – 2PM

Homemade soup, roll and cheese enjoyed among friends

£3.00

Proceeds to Christian Aid



PROPOSED SOLAR FARM, DESBOROUGH AIRFIELD



In January the parish council submitted comments to Kettering Borough Council on the proposed scope of the environmental impact assessment, the first stage of consultation on this scheme. The comments submitted are repeated below.

On 11th February an exhibition was held at Wilbarston Village Hall to enable residents to gather information on the proposals and to encourage them to make their own comments to the developers before an application for planning permission is submitted, probably in March.

The developers were pleased with the numbers who attended the exhibition but if you were one who did not make it please go to the website www.airfieldsolar.co.uk where you will find all the information which was on display. They are seeking comments from all and you can e-mail them at contact@airfieldsolar.co.uk or write to them at Northfield UK Solar, 46 New Broad Street, London, EC2M 1JH.

Parish Council comments on the scoping report were:

Settlements. Reference is made under various headings to settlements, including Wilbarston and Stoke Albany to the north and Desborough to the south but no mention is made of The Pastures Mobile Home Park. This site is immediately adjacent to the suggested area of the array. Although a gypsy and traveller location it is not a transit site. The 15 plots at The Pastures are effectively settled and 7 more are currently being occupied on the adjacent 'Laurels' site. These are family units so there are 50/100 residents living adjacent to the subject location and we recommend that this should be regarded as a settlement in all aspects of the application.

Access Road. The report refers to the existing access road already being used by agricultural vehicles and other HGVs. The applicants should be aware that in the case of non-agricultural use this has caused problems from time to time due to breaches of restrictions preventing heavy vehicles from travelling south through Pipewell or directly north to Wilbarston - the only permitted route is to the A427 at East Carlton. We should like to see this specifically addressed, particularly in relation to the construction phase, in the environmental assessment.

Wintering birds. We note that the value of the site to over-wintering birds is still being assessed. Advice we have received from time to time is that it is of significant value and this can no doubt be confirmed by specialist organisations such as The Wildlife Trust.

Security - Lighting. We assume proposals in this respect will be included in later detail but this is certainly an aspect which should be considered in relation to The Pastures and various dispersed dwellings close to the site.

Security - Boundary. Again this is detail which will no doubt emerge later but we assume that there will be a buffer zone to nationally agreed guidelines within the perimeter fence.

Public Access. We note that the public rights of way across the site are to be retained, possibly with some re-routing. However for a number of decades it has been the custom for people to exercise on the old runway and service road locations and we recommend that some provision remains for a circular route on the airfield site accessible by the public.



UPDATE FROM DAVID HOWES YOUR BOROUGH COUNCILLOR!

There has been a fair amount going on at the Borough Council recently. For the local area of Wilbarston you might have been aware the Borough Council decided to review and take a 'light touch approach' to parish boundaries. This has resulted in Pipewell now being under the control of Rushton.

I was delighted to use some of my Ward Initiative Fund recently to pay for the water connection at the Wilbarston Allotments. After being asked by the Parish Council if I could help, I was pleased to cover the full amount to get this up and running for the people who have allotments.

Street lighting in the village is something that is continually being monitored. I have been working closely with residents and Cllr Rosalind Willatts over the recent months. We feel it is an important factor in keeping residents safe and I am pleased that when faults have been reported to me, I have been able to get them dealt with quickly at the Borough Council.

I have recently provided dog-fouling sprays to the Parish Council, which will be used to shame the dog owners into picking up their dog mess. This is something that the Parish council are eager to address.

During my time as your Ward Councillor, I have been very impressed with all the hard work that goes into 'The Chronicle'. I feel this is a valuable tool for keeping parishioners informed with what's going on locally. It has therefore been my pleasure to use some of my Ward Initiative Fund to contribute towards costs.

On a personal note, I am pleased to let parishioners know that back in September I became a father for the first time, my wife Sophie and I welcomed our son William Francis into the world!

I have been contacted by various residents and I am pleased to be able to assist with various matters. If you have any questions or concerns, please see my details below.

Cllr David A Howes – Welland Ward, Kettering Borough Council.- Mobile 07968 348369

davidhowes@kettering.gov.uk - - **Follow me on Twitter** [@CllrDavidHowes](https://twitter.com/CllrDavidHowes)

THE PIPEWELL HEDGEROW. – KEITH WALKLING



Last year planning application was received to remove 310 metres of hedgerow just north of Rawhaw Wood in Pipewell (KET/2014/0217). The reasons given for wanting to remove the hedgerow were very weak and after examination both Wilbarston Parish Council and The Wildlife Trust objected strongly. It was clearly a very old hedgerow and appeared on maps dating back 150 years at least and was aged using Hoopers Rule as 300 years+/- old. Kettering Borough Council agreed with us and not only rejected the application but also applied a Hedgerow Retention Notice prohibiting removal in the future.

We thought that would be the end of the matter but it was not. Some time latter a ditch was dug along the hedgerow so close to it that many of the above ground stems and all of the root systems of the hedgerow shrubs and trees were damaged. So much so in some cases that some of the shrubs fell over. KBC were informed and engaged with the landowner to replant parts of the hedgerow that were damaged. Discussions are ongoing and the landowner is 'considering the request' from KBC to put the damage right. It should be noted that a further 100 metres of this hedgerow was grubbed out approximately three years ago and KBC were not informed.

Meanwhile and despite a personal visit to discuss the application because of a failure to attend the relevant parish council meeting the ward councillor took no part in proceedings. Preferring instead to embark on a personal campaign on more destructive and divisive matter showing a level of commitment and passion to this cause previously not noted. Wilbarston P C will continue to monitor the issue and liaise with Duncan Law at KBC to whom thanks are due for his efforts and guidance.

PARISH CONSTABLES – A NEW AND EXCITING ROLE WITHIN THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE!



In my previous contribution, I provided a brief outline on what my role as the Police and Crime Commissioner entails and alluded to some of the priorities that I have set the Force in my Police and Crime Plan.

It is clear to me that one of the things that people want to see from their police force is more visible policing. On my appointment I pledged to maintain the number of frontline officers at 1,220 - indeed we are one of only four Forces in the country not to have reduced the number of frontline officers in the face of the challenging financial climate.

Therefore, in order to increase visible policing and increase resource, one of the priorities that I have set the force is an ambitious increase of the Special Constabulary to 900 officers to support the work of the 1,220 full time officers. This will result in 900 more warranted officers on our streets and would make Northamptonshire's Special Constabulary the largest outside of London, contributing vital policing to our communities.

Special Constables possess all the same powers as full time warranted police officers and are provided with full training and equipment. They work with their full time colleagues, on a voluntary, part-time basis, performing duties ranging from supporting specialist teams within the force to making arrests on the streets. This really is one of the most exciting and dynamic voluntary roles available and is a unique and fulfilling experience.

Moreover, the expansion of the Special Constabulary has brought about a range of new and exciting roles and opportunities. One recently developed role is that of the Parish Constable. A Parish Constable is a Special Constable that is dedicated, through choice, to policing a specific area, for example Wilbarston and surrounding areas.

Parish Constables will undertake a wide variety of policing duties whilst linking in with both the local Safer Community Team and Parish Councils to ensure effective policing of the area and becoming a pillar of the community.

This is an ideal role for anybody who is interested in really making a difference where they live and I want you to be part of our journey to make Northamptonshire the Safest Place in England.

So if you or anybody you know interested in becoming a Special or Parish Constable in Wilbarston or any other area, or if you would like further details, please contact me at commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk.

PANTOMIME QUIZ FOR CHILDREN - ANSWERS

*In which pantomime would you find the character 'Window Twanky' - **ALADDIN***

*In Snow White which of the seven dwarfs wears glasses - **DOC***

*In which pantomime would you find Caisimir the camel, Pippo the parrot and Tinbad - **SINBAD THE SAILOR***

*Who was awakened by a kiss from a prince? - **SLEEPING BEAUTY***

Which pantomime is set in the village of Pumpnickel and has a Gingerbread house

*Who became Lord Mayor of London in a pantomime - **HANSEL & GRETEL***

*Who let down her hair to let the King's son climb into the tower - **RAPUNZEL***

*In which pantomime would you hear the words 'open sesame' - **ALI BABA***

*Who did the slipper fit and went on to marry a prince - **CINDERELLA***

*Who arrives in the merry kingdom of Hackneyonia E8 to gain wealth and power for his master - **PUSS IN BOOTS***

**DESBOROUGH AND DISTRICT GROUP OF
THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS, UPCOMING
MEETINGS AND EVENTS.**

Indoor meetings held at Desborough Heritage Centre, Station Road, Desborough, NN14 2RS. Meetings start at 7.30, entrance fee £1, light refreshments available for a small charge.

Tuesday 10th March: 'Birds of Blatherwycke', an illustrated talk by Joe Whitehead, head gardener at Blatherwycke Walled Gardens.

Tuesday 14th April: The groups AGM (starting at 7.00) followed by an illustrated talk entitled 'Marine Conservation' given by Oliver Burke the Wildlife Trusts Living Landscape Director.

Outdoor events, for Tuesday events meet at 7.00 pm in Station Road, Desborough (by Barclays Bank) for Sunday events meet at 10.00 in Station Road or at the venue. Bring stout footwear and waterproof clothing and for Sundays also bring packed lunch and a drink excepting the Loddington visit. Outdoor events are free unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 12th May, visit to one of the Wildlife Trusts newest reserves at Wickstead Park.

Sunday 17th May, visit to The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trusts Allerton Project at Loddington with Dr Alastair Leake, Director of Policy for the Trust and head of the project. Visit to include a guided walk and buffet lunch for £12.00 per person. Pre booking and payment (one month in advance) is essential. To see the Allerton project in more detail go to gwct.org.uk .

Tuesday 9th June, Rectory Farm, Great Easton, home of Eyebrook bird feeds and conservation farming by Phil Johnson, visit lead by Bob Freeman, group secretary and treasurer.

For further information contact Keith on 771121 or Bob Freeman on 760770.



SHEEP



Regular users of Brig Lane, the concrete road and footpaths in that area will have noticed newcomers - after decades of 'arable only' sheep have appeared during this winter.

No long term decision has yet been made, but after problems in that area in recent years, including protracted flooding and blackgrass, something new is being tried by Rockingham Estate. Instead of winter crops the land has hosted sheep. They will be there until early spring and will return in the autumn.

The system involves a certain amount of flexibility, with the animals moving between fields quite frequently and being penned by electric fences rather than permanent barriers. This does mean that there will be areas where dogs will need to be kept on leads and that these areas will tend to change from week to week so please look ahead.

This will be an experiment for Rockingham Estate and will require a bit of adjustment on the part of the recreational users of the land. No doubt all will settle down, but in the meantime if anybody spots any woolly escapees or any other problems with the livestock please call the shepherd, Jamie, on 07843 098761 and he will sort things out.

STREET LIGHTS

The parish council has been made aware that Northants County Council is reviewing its street lighting responsibilities. At the moment Wilbarston Parish is not a lighting authority, most of the lights in the parish are maintained by Kettering Borough on our behalf, but it seems that there may be movement to change this.

Kettering Borough has mapped all the street lights in the parishes, including detail of existing responsibilities. This information is being circulated and will lead to discussions on future responsibilities. We are advised that the county council will not 'force' any parishes to take on the responsibility but we shall have to wait and see. Currently we make no direct payment for street lighting in the parish and change can only mean one thing. This is an area with potential costs and the parish council will keep a close eye on it.



THE FOX INN.

The only pub left in the village (there were 5 in the 1881 census) was recently listed by Kettering Borough Council as an Asset of Community Value following an application to do so by Wilbarston P. C. Much concern had been expressed by many in Wilbarston following the sale of the building by Greene King to Hawthorn Leisure and it was thought that we should make a statement to the new owner that the village indeed considered The Fox an asset. An explanation, taken from Kettering Borough Councils website, of the legislation is:-

"The Council is required to maintain a list of assets in its area that are of community value. A building or land is of community value if in the opinion of the Council its main use furthers the social well-being or social interests of the local community, or has recently done so and is likely to do so in the future.

The Purpose of the legislation is to protect the continued use of assets such as village shops, pubs, post offices and other assets with a value to the community by allowing qualifying voluntary and community bodies and Parish Councils to nominate assets for listing. The right applies to both public and privately owned land.

The council must consider and accept the community nomination if the asset is in the Councils area and is of community value. The provision relating to Assets of Community Value are set out in part 5, chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012. The Department of Communities and Local Government has also produced a non-statutory advice note to assist local authorities to implement the scheme.

The provisions do not place any restrictions on what an owner can do with the property, once listed, so long as it remains in their ownership. Also, the provisions do not restrict in any way who the owner of a listed asset can sell the property to, or at what price. It is also not a right to buy or a right to first refusal. However, when the asset comes up for sale the legislation gives community bodies time, by way of a moratorium, to put together a bid to buy the asset on the open market."

In order to put together a case for registering the pub we used the template found on the CAMRA website which has been successfully used to register over 600 pubs. As we proceeded with the application it became clear the The Fox is used extensively by the community, for example we were able to list 28 different clubs, groups, organisations and teams who meet there. What would they all do should the pub close? I know this is a cliché but 'use it or lose it' springs to mind, if we lose it then the village would be a much less attractive proposition for people looking to move here and the social hub will disappear.



At present Sam and Stella have brought some much needed continuity to the pub and hopefully they will be able to stay on but this is very much in the hands of Hawthorn Leisure. It appears that the tenancy is still available and the rooms at the back of the building may be sold off which seems unhelpful. Regrettably it is not permitted in the regulations relating to assets of community value to register bed and breakfast rooms although we did try. Thanks are due to Guy Holloway of Kettering Borough Council for his advice in this matter.

Wilbarston P. C. will continue to monitor the situation and if necessary liaise with the owners and in the meantime we hope to see you in the pub.

Keith Walkling

**Articles for the Summer Chronicle
to be submitted
by 20th May 2015**

**Lawrence Dale: 23a Rushton Road
janet.mackintosh@btinternet.com**

Centenary Programme 2015

- 21st January Social. Guests of the Breakaways at East Carlton Cricket Club. Lego competition, cheese skittles and quiz. Bar open with quiche and salads for supper. £4.00 Contact by 12th Jan to be put on the list.
- 4th February "79 Years at Rectory Farm." Philip Johnson will be delighting us with the history of his farm through the last century. Philip will also bring along some of his farming artefacts and will provide a quiz.
- 4th March "The Great British Sewing Bee and Beyond." Heather Jacks, winner of the Great British Sewing Bee, will be telling us the story of her famous win and her ambition and ideas now to encourage children to sew with her project, "GoSew."
- 1st April "United in Rhythm." One not to miss!! Echo Fox Events will lead us in a Samba/Reggae drumming night and EVERYONE will play some kind of percussion instrument. Dressing up prize to be won and suitable refreshments to follow the drumming. We have a limited number of tickets that will be offered to other WI's at the end of January so, if you would like to bring a friend or neighbour, please contact committee ASAP for a ticket for them - £3.50. Women only.
- 6th May Resolutions with fun to follow.
- 3rd June "Lace Making in the East Midlands," with Barbara Potter. History and have a go on the evening.
- 4th June Centenary AGM showing at the Harborough Theatre.
- 1st July "Spires and Squires." A tour of the county, its spires, stately homes and villages with Derek Blunt. Talk and slides.
- 5th August Garden Meeting.
- 2nd September OPEN MEETING -Astronomy with Dr Ann Bonell of the Leicester Astronomical Society. Dr. Bonell will guide us through the solar system before looking at the New Horizons mission. New Horizons is the first mission to the Pluto system and is due to make contact with Pluto on July 14th this year. Topical as ever!
- 7th October AGM followed by Leicester Craft Centre leading a paper crafting session.
- 4th November "Pickled Village." Camille Ortega McLean will be explaining how her one woman business venture has now become a Midlands Waitrose hit. The highs and lows of the journey, followed by tastings with wine and cheese.
- 2nd December Christmas Dinner

Visitors welcome, £3.50 to include refreshments

For any information, please contact

wendy10ecp@gmail.com and check us out on our web page www.ashleyvillage.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary 2015 - Wilbarston Village Hall



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| Sunday 8 th February | Quiz Night |
| Saturday 25 th April | Pamper Party |
| Saturday 30 th May | Table Top Sale |
| Saturday 20 th June | Race Night |
| Saturday 4 th July | Summer Fayre |
| Sunday 20 th September | Wilbarston Quiz Walk |
| Saturday 28 th November | Christmas Fayre |
| Thursday 31 st December | New Years Eve Party |



WILBARSTON PARISH ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

The Allotment open day in September last year was a huge success with good weather, large numbers of people and plenty of food and drink. We were very pleased to have James and Lizzie Saunders Watson of Rockingham Castle there to officially open the allotment site. This rounded off a really successful first year of the allotment project.

Sadly, not such good news in December. About half the sheds were broken into with a number of fairly valuable and some quite trivial items stolen. This follows the senseless theft of two magnificent Halloween pumpkins earlier in the year. Security and surveillance has been stepped up, but it is so sad that we have had to do that; I would love the site to be open to anyone who would like to see what we are doing. There will be a chance to do this in June as the allotments will be open during the village 'open gardens' weekend.

Rockingham Estates have erected a fence on the field side of the site which has enabled us to plant 400 hedgerow saplings obtained from the Woodland Trust. We will need to plant more next winter, and it is good to know that this will develop into over 150yds of new hedgerow in the countryside.

We have received funds from Kettering BC Welland Ward Community Fund for the installation of a water supply. Thanks to Cllr David Howes and Wilbarston Parish Council. There are still two plots available to anyone in the parish. One is 650 sq ft and was worked all last year (potholders' moved to a bigger plot) and one 1300sq ft (could be split). Please let me know if you are interested - 07729868192 or use the contacts page on our website at www.wilbarstonallotments.btck.co.uk. If you park at the top of Brigg Lane to visit the Allotments please mind the daffodils that are coming up in the grass.



John Hooper - Chairman, Wilbarston Parish Allotments Association

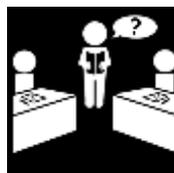


Not quite allotment business, but can anyone tell me the logic of picking up dog poo and then leaving the plastic bag in the hedge or on a grit bin to moulder away for months; am I missing something?

WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We have planned a full and exciting schedule of events for 2015 which we hope you will all make the effort to participate in and enjoy (see the 'Save the Date' list). These are all fundraising events for your Village Hall. Although Christmas seems a long time ago, I am pleased to let you know that the Christmas Fayre was a huge success and raised a fantastic £1180 for the hall.

Whilst in the past the money we have raised has gone to the general running and upkeep of the Village Hall, we have decided that it would be good to see some improvements to the hall itself. Therefore, going forward, we will have specific areas where fundraising money will go, starting with the redecoration of the lounge. I'm sure you will agree this is much needed and will support us in our endeavours to achieve this.



We have recently held our first event of the year, a Sunday Night Quiz, which was unfortunately quite poorly attended.

Nonetheless, £50 was raised

which will start off our new project. The next Wilbarston Pamper Party is scheduled for Saturday 25th April and is a fun girl's night out for ladies of all ages. There will be a variety of stalls and therapists and at only £2 entry on the door there is no reason not to pop in and have a look at what is going on!

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee and indeed all of us fellow villagers, many thanks to all Social Committee members for their continued support and hard work trying to make our village a better place. Volunteers are very much needed. Please call Diane on 01536 771216 if you are interested in joining the committee, helping at events or can offer assistance in other means such as skilled labour.



SPRING TERM NEWS FROM WILBARSTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Hello from all at school. Since our last article we have had a really busy time in school. Here is a taste from each class!

Class 1 have been learning about our Local Area. This included a walk around Wilbarston looking at the different types and styles of buildings. The second topic was 'Space'. We are focusing on 'The Weather' at the moment. We have also been thinking about Chinese New Year and enjoyed a Chinese Meal with Class 2. This was very popular! Coming up over the next few months we will be looking at 'Growth of Plants and Animals', 'Transport' and 'Under the Sea'. Our Transport topic will include a trip to the transport museum in Coventry.

Class 2's topic this term is China. The children were given the opportunity to carry out their own research as a starting point for the topic. This was extremely effective as the children developed a deeper understanding of the country and some of its customs. The children now understand some of the similarities and differences within China. They have been able to locate China on a map and make links between a village in China and England. As part of the topic we have looked at animals and adaptation. The children are able to form simple food chains and are beginning to identify carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We also joined Class 1 for a Chinese New Year celebration. Children made their own spring rolls. It was a great opportunity for the children to discuss healthy and unhealthy fillings and look at how ingredients change when heated (learning about Science with food). The children in Year 2 are also taking part in a Singing festival with other Year 2 children which will be exciting.

Class 3 studied Ancient Egypt in topic lessons and pupils learnt how to write diaries and newspaper reports based on Howard Carter's discovery. Our DT work was limited to Egyptian cooking and building an Egyptian shaduf. At the start of January, we bought a Quick Sticks hockey kit so we have been focusing on hockey this half term. The children have also been studying Lowry in Art and have been attempting to recreate his style. Most recently pupils have been writing stories in the style of "Flat Stanley" which have been very entertaining!

Class 4: The New Year saw us begin our topic of 'Wilbarston Travel Tours', which had us touring Europe and learning more about the different countries. We even learnt some European dances including the Paso Doble! As part of our art work, we looked at the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh and will be attempting to create our own in a similar style. At the moment children are learning about creating healthy meals e.g. pasta and meatballs from scratch and finding out how to live healthily. We also joining with the rest of the juniors and learning more about our local history. You might see us about the village!

Class 5: Children have been exploring the Rain Forest and South America as their topic recently. They created art in the style of Rousseau and also sewed beautiful bold images of South America on felt – they look very effective. The children also studied and learnt to recite the poetry of Lewis Carroll. Our children have also been looking at the ecology of the South American area and the "big" environmental issues. Their literacy work has included writing scary stories about turning into dolls and also writing and taking part in debates. We have squeezed a lot into our time in school!

The whole school enjoyed a visit from award winning author Stuart Reid who performed readings from his very amusing books and then worked with Classes 4 and 5 on top writing tips. A very busy time! We hope you have enjoyed this flavour of our work in school. Please come and see us at our Easter Service on Friday 27th March at 2.30pm in our church.

Andrea Green

WILBARSTON P.C.C



Two sad events affected us in the weeks leading to Christmas. Firstly our organist, Russell House, died suddenly and quite unexpectedly. For a number of years he played our church organ and was very supportive and a good friend to us and he is very much missed. Now we are left with no regular organist. If anyone knows someone who could help us we would love to know; our church organ is regarded as one of the finest in this area.

Just before the end of November we sadly lost Gill Bradley; she had been an active member of more than one village organisation and was a very faithful member of our congregation; for quite a few years she was a most conscientious secretary to the P.C.C, keeping us on our toes. Latterly she had been unable to take an active part in church activities but maintained her interest up to her final illness. No members of her family lived near enough to help her from day to day and it is so very heart-warming to know that a number of neighbours were such good friends to her and cared for her in every possible way. Happily Gill has left behind many successful examples of her long career – she was a mid-wife!

As we are now in the season of Lent there will be a Lent Lunch at the Vicarage, 28 Rushton Road, from 12.00 – 2pm on March 25th. These events are always very sociable and enjoyable with a meal of homemade soup, roll and cheese costing £3.00 per person and proceeds going to Christian Aid.

We are very pleased to be holding Open Gardens again this year on June 21st – an excellent way to celebrate Father's Day! There will be a variety of attractive gardens to visit and various activities – all we need is good weather! There will be more details nearer the time.



FRIENDS

Friends, as its name implies, is a monthly meeting of ladies, all of whom you can be sure, are friendly! There is a different topic each month, sometimes a talk, sometimes a practical demonstration and, twice yearly, outings.

The next meeting is on March 18th and will be a talk with slides about Fairtrade and Ethical Trading and there will be some lovely fairtrade items on sale.

April 15th will be a demonstration on handmade chocolates and truffles. Samples!? There better be!

Members from Wilbarston are always happy to provide a lift when there is room. Do come for a visit – you will be made very welcome.

WILLIE WILBAR WRITES

Many songs and verse have Nonsense Lines built in. Here are some; can you add a preceding or following line to each?

Mairsy dotes an dozey dotes
Hey down, ho down, derry derry down
Miron-ton, miron-ton, mirontaine (fr)
Hip-hip, hip-hip hooray
All mimsy were the borogroves
Nina, nana, la Befane, (ital)
Chi baba chi babna chi wah-wah-wah
Der-der, der-der, der-der, der-der,
He went galumphing back
Once upon a time.....
Good Luck