

Wilbarston AUTUMN Chronicle



PARISH NEWS

HOW ARE THINGS FINANCED?

Some of you will already be aware that the roof of the village hall, at nearly 40 years old, is getting tired. The management committee are looking hard at repair options and possible funding sources, no doubt covered elsewhere in this issue, but at the end of the day this is a major community asset and some level of contribution from the parish council will be in the mix.

This raises the question '***Where does the parish council get its money from?***'

The initial answer is that it doesn't have very much. Under historic arrangements with the borough the parish council received a grant to cover its running costs (clerk, meetings, insurance, etc.) to enable it to discuss and monitor things whilst services such as grass cutting, playing field maintenance and refuse collection were provided direct by the borough. The parish council was not really a fund holding body beyond having some small accumulated reserves to provide modest grants towards local activities.

To some extent this is still true, although the grant is no longer available towards the parish council's running costs - those are now paid for by the community in the form of a precept collected through the council tax system. You may have noticed this on your council tax bill in recent years.

Wherever possible grants are obtained from elsewhere towards specific costs, such as the website, but in general, any significant funding of anything by the parish council effectively is funded by the community. It is not the role of the council to hold reserves beyond those needed to maintain its own existence.

Being completely transparent, should you wish to look at this in more detail, the amount your household pays towards the parish council's activities will depend on your council tax band. These range from A to G and appear on your council tax bill. The median band is D and parishes are compared in size by the number of band D properties which would together generate the total council tax raised therein - the tax base. It is always changing slightly but in Wilbarston we have a good mix of properties generating the equivalent of about 270 band D properties. Properties in that band currently pay £31.61 through the precept. This is how we are meeting an amount slightly over £8400 needed by the parish council this year.

Based on the above at current levels an increase of £1000 in planned expenditure by the council would add £3.70 to next year's council tax for a band D property - less for lower bands and more for higher bands. This sort of information should be widely known as it helps quantify the stake which households have in local activities or planned works. If the parish commits £5000 towards the village hall roof repairs (which will cost much more) that will be £18.51 per band D household to keep this major asset weatherproof and safe, which you might not think is too much even if, at the moment, you are not a regular user.

HOW ARE THINGS FINANCED? – Cont.

Equally there may be activities or services which have never been considered for the village because of the likely cost but which residents may actually be prepared to pay for if they know the arithmetic.

One respondent to the 2010 Parish Plan questionnaire suggested an Olympic sized swimming pool - that may be a bit ambitious but no doubt there are other ideas out there. The parish council would like to hear them. The discussion about the village hall roof will come out of necessity but it's also good to initiate creativity. If you've got an idea and the cost per household seems reasonable to you, please contact any Parish Councillor (details on the notice board or website) to discuss it or just come along to one of the regular advertised meetings to test the water or put the case forward. Nick Richards. Chair of Wilbarston Parish Council



Over 80's Summer Event

The Wilbarston and Stoke Albany Christmas Party Committee arranged our second summer event for senior citizens from both villages.

Sharon from the Post Office kindly offered her garden and cake making expertise to host a complimentary tea party for the over 80's in our community. The weather was warm but windy, so with the marquee firmly strapped to the ground and the side panels in place, we were able to provide a sheltered garden environment. The bunting was hung and the table cloths, cups and saucers, cake stands and flowers all added to the ambience. Sandwiches, scones and cakes were enjoyed by 16 guests.

Our fund raising for the Seniors Christmas Party continued throughout August with high tea being available in the post office garden on Sunday afternoons to the paying public. The popularity of this event has grown and this year we made a profit in excess of £700. Many thanks to the community for supporting us and many thanks to the committee members, friends and family who worked behind the scenes moving tables and chairs, erecting the marquee, making sandwiches and washing up! An extra special thank you must be given to Sharon for giving up her garden for a month and making all those delicious cakes enjoyed by so many.

Georgina Royle.

CHURCH ROOF

As most readers of the Chronicle will know that over the years and very recently, the church suffered not one, not two, but three separate attacks by thieves taking metal. Temporary repairs have been made but water is still getting into to the church damaging the unique ceiling.

The church council is urgently putting plans in place for the roof to be replaced. This means going through the planning process which could be longer than we would like. The other problem is that the insurance company will only provide a fraction of the cost of replacement and the council will be seeking funds to meet the cost of the replacement roof thus preserving the church, the oldest building in the village which has provided comfort over the centuries.

FOOD BANK

Many thanks to everyone who has so kindly left donations of food in the church to be taken to the centre in Corby which organises the scheme. For those who would like to give, there is a box just inside the church where donations can be left. The need for the food bank is just as urgent as ever and everything that is given will be put to good use. Once again thank you very much.



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

Indoor talks held at Desborough Heritage Centre, Station Road, Desborough, NN14 2RS commencing at 7.30 pm. Price per talk is £2 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Tuesday 12th September

An illustrated talk by Brian Laney entitled 'The Changing Face of Botany in Northamptonshire'. Brian shares his encyclopaedic knowledge of plant species in the county with us. As our local environment changes so do the plants in our area.

Tuesday 10th October

In illustrated talk on the wildlife of the Falkland Islands by David Langridge. An insight into the wildlife that can be found in these South Atlantic Islands.

Tuesday 14th November

Robin Gossage delivers an illustrated talk entitled 'A journey into Insects'. Robin shares his experiences of getting to know and identify insects in their varied forms.

Details of these events and others run by the Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust can be found on the wildlifebcn.org website.

ALBANY SINGERS

We are a friendly bunch who love singing and take any opportunity to perform our ever-increasing repertoire (pop, classical, folk, rounds) at village festive events!

We rehearse on Monday evenings 7.30-9.00 at Stoke Albany Village Hall. Rehearsals will run for two terms a year (autumn and spring) though there will be a couple of 'one off' workshops in the summer term, which are great fun.

Rehearsals start on 11 Sept with an open/social evening for anyone who would like to come along and meet us and join in!



Community Bus Trips

The first Community Bus trip took place on Tuesday 22nd August. 14 residents from Wilbarston and Stoke Albany went to Wistow Rural Centre and enjoyed the café, garden centre, model village, maze, deli, gift and clothes shops. The trip cost just £5 return and a good time was had by all. Bargain!

We are booking the Community Bus for a trip every month.

In **September** we are going to **OAKHAM** on Wednesday **27th September**. You may be interested in visiting the street market, shops, cafes, museum, Church? Cost £6

In **October** we are going to **RUSHDEN LAKES SHOPPING CENTRE** on **Thursday 26th October**.

This brand-new complex has Marks and Spencer, Phase eight, Primark etc. Cafes and lakeside walks. Cost £6

The bus leaves Wilbarston Village Hall at 11am and Stoke Albany bus shelter, opposite the White Horse at 11.10 am

16 places available for anybody who wishes to use the service - Residents, friends, family.

If you would like to join us, please sign up and pay for the trip at the post office.

For further information contact Georgina Royle 771428

FRIENDS – SEPTEMBER 2017



The summer tends to be a fairly quiet time for Friends, with more 'in house' events. In June, we had a barbeque at Bobbee's house. The weather was kind and a very pleasant evening was spent by those able to attend, even though we ended up cooking the food in the oven due to a misbehaving barbeque.

In July, we had planned to go fruit picking at Geddington. Eight of us made it to the Dovecot Buttery at Geddington, where we had reserved a table for lunch – and there we stayed!! The weather was not very conducive to being outside and it seemed far more pleasant to stay inside, eating good food and having a good chat. We then bought our fruit in the Buttery shop!

Friends has a break during August and there was no meeting. We start again in September when David James is coming to talk about his work as a Blacksmith, something which is much anticipated by members of the group. In October Mike Goldsmith is coming to give a music talk and in November the Northamptonshire Beekeepers Association will give a talk and bring some bee products to sell.

We will end the year as usual with our Christmas party in December, ready to start again in January 2018. (Where on earth is the time going?) We have already booked speakers and events for most of 2018 so, by December, we should have the year fully mapped out. If anyone would like a 2018 programme to look the projected events please ask Bobbee Mellor or any member of the committee. We would be pleased to welcome new members to the meetings.



SOMETHING TO GET YOUR BRAINS WORKING

Who were the "Compagnons de la Chanson"?

Who was Haille Salasse?

What was Hitler's father name?

The full name of sodium chloride

The Latin name for lead (the mineral)

Where in France did the Popes live?

The other name for Ulysses (as in the Iliad)

The name of the material of nails and hair

Above which county raged the 'Battle of Britain'

The French name for butter

AND ONE FOR THE CHILDREN *FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE*

Destructive and despicable, the crew cruised towards the duel that governed their dual destinations, a scene they had foreseen, in which they saw two sore witches practising at slaying any crew that would do.

They docked within sight of the site of the haggis-eating hags, where their fire was a pyre for poor old Ron who was cold in the cauldron.

The scintillating stitches in the breeches of the witches were enough to bedazzle such seafarers on the razzle and their hopes were rash when they tried to dash from the fate they would hate. Soon they were caught and their hopes came to nought, for in a very short time they were told to climb into the boiling pot like it or not.

But they tried to fight and struggle as they might, there wasn't any chance against the many. The hags could run like the wind and if their hopes were pinned on reaching their old ship their nasty dash was rash.

Back into the pot, which by now was very hot, the crew included Hugh, who used to know old Ron (who now looked pale and wan), and as their screams died down the witches' renown almost split their sides in half as they found they had to laugh.

WWW WRITES



REMEMBRANCE AND THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION IN WILBARSTON AND STOKE



No one from Wilbarston died in The Great War in 1917, but at least one went over the top on the first day of Passchendaele. We must still remember them and whilst honouring those who fought and those died in the wars of the 20th Century we must all work to reducing strife in the world.

Wilbarston and Stoke Albany have had a branch of the Royal British Legion for ninety years. The branch is responsible for the ceremonial on Remembrance Sunday and keeps an eye on local people who were once members of our armed forces and on their dependents. But the Royal British Legion today is not just for former members of the armed forces as it was 90 years ago, but for people of all ages who care. Sadly, the numbers of the local branch have declined such that its viability is questioned and it is very close to being wound up. Were it to close, the branch banner, kept in Stoke Albany Church would have to be surrendered and there would be no band, no bugle calls and no marches for the public on Remembrance Sunday. The branch hopes to be represented at Ypres next August for a Grand Pilgrimage to leave a wreath from the people of Wilbarston and Stoke at the Menin Gate.

Please consider becoming a member of the Royal British Legion and thus support its national work; by doing so you will automatically become a member of the Wilbarston and Stoke Albany Branch and so contribute to the branch continuing. You can do so online

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/become-a-member/>

Otherwise contact John McHarg 01536

or Rosalind Willatts 01536 770875

This year Remembrance Sunday is on Sunday 12th November and the Service is at Stoke Albany war memorial on the Green 10.45am 'Remembrance tide' is the fortnight leading up to during which poppies will be sold around Wilbarston and Stoke Albany to support the British Legion. Last year over £1600 was raised from the two villages. Over the last 10 years the two villages have raised over £14400. If you would like to sell poppies around the village this October, please contact Rosalind Willatts 7708875

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

We have been active now since 2014 and the allotment plots are looking well established. The site is very tidy with mown paths, parking for vehicles (weather permitting) and our great bunch of plot holders grow a variety of veg, fruit and flowers in what was challenging soil conditions at the start. The recent open garden event saw a lot of visitors who were interested in the concept of allotments and were quite impressed with our progress.



We have water on site and the hedge planting on the field side of the site is beginning to grow well.

There are still a number of plots available either whole plots or half plots. Please contact any member of the committee if you wish to join us. Fees are - rent £20 per year for a whole plot and £10 for half plot and allotment association fees are also £10 per year.

Thanks to Alison Smith for the continued supply of horse manure which certainly, helps with the clay conditions. Also thanks to Keith Langdon for the provision of water which we take for granted and to Martin Dalton, Mike King and Robin Ward for all the mowing.

Our website has been updated Website page link here <http://www.wilbarstonallotments.btck.co.uk/>

Committee members are Keith Langdon, June Pocock, Martin Dalton and Mike King. John Hooper continues to support the association as secretary after stepping down as Chairman after the first setup years. We also thank the Parish Council for their continued support.

Linda Ward - Chair Linda.ward24@gmail.com



WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL

Website: www.wilbarstonvillagehall.btck.co.uk

Also on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/wilbarstonvillagehall/>

Work continues on updating the faded décor and installing energy/cost saving features to both enhance the appearance of the hall and to save money. The corridors have now been redecorated and there's a touch of homeliness with some lovely new pictures adorning the walls (Mike's touch!) The toilets and corridors have been fitted with delayed action LED lighting which have made everything much brighter but also now prevent the lights being left on overnight and during the daytime, as has happened previously. The new curtains and blinds have proved to be a popular addition, particularly with weddings, thanks to Diane, Judith, Keith, Mike and June for purchasing and installing them all and a special thanks to Jennie Childs for her professional guidance.

Whilst we continue to make improvements to the structure and fabric of the hall a much larger issue is looming, that is the replacement of the roof. As we have previously stated the hall is now over 40 years old and during the storms of 2015/2016 we had some serious leaks in the main hall with a partial collapse of the ceiling. This prompted the committee to seek professional advice. The resultant survey that was carried out revealed that the roof is nearing the end of its useful life with an estimated 2-3 years left before major works are needed. To this end Mike Doyle, our Chairman, assisted by John Hooper, have been completing application forms for grant funding over the last few months in an effort to raise the bulk of the estimated £50K that is needed. We have had some initial success with Kettering Borough Council awarding us a grant for £5K and, with some contributions from our own resources, we now have our "roof fund" underway. We are working closely with the Parish Council and hopefully, we will know by the end of the year what the funding situation looks like and therefore have a better picture of what we are facing.

The Summer Fete, organised by the "Fete Committee" plus volunteers, was once again a great success - raising over £800 for the hall and an equal amount for the Church. Thanks to all those who put in an enormous effort to make this such a profitable event. However, after serving on the Fundraising Committee for many years, and making a huge contribution in that time, a number of people have decided to retire. Our sincere thanks go to Sue Stevenson, Freda Morgan and Judith Farr for all their help over the years in making both the Summer Fete and the Xmas Fayre such a success for our village. The funds raised by this group have enabled us to refurbish the hall and its décor in recent years.

But with these retirements, the future of the forthcoming Xmas Fayre is being called into question. As things stand, we do not have sufficient volunteers in place to run it. Whilst we have an active Management Committee, the work involved in the day-to-day running of the hall takes up most of our time. Without additional help, we are struggling to organise large events such as the Xmas Fayre. If anyone feels they could take on the task of organising the Fayre it would be much appreciated. There is a structured plan for organising these events and the Committee would be more than willing to help and give advice and support where needed. Give Mike a call on 01536 770036 if you can help

After over 30 years, sadly, the Mums and Tots group has had to close. Jess Strutt, who has managed the group for the last 2-3 years is leaving the village and unfortunately has not been able to find a replacement. The equipment is still stored at the hall and will be for a couple of months before being disposed of so, again, if you feel you could take over the helm, or know somebody who might be interested, contact Diane Atter on 01536 771216.

Good news is that the hall will once again have a football team playing after several years break. Welland Valley Panthers are returning to the hall and will be playing in the Sunday League. So, if you're free on Sundays, pop up and watch a game of local football and encourage the boys on.



Youth Brass 2000, who base themselves at the hall, continue to go from success to success. The band won the British National championships in April and finished runners-up in the European championships in May. An additional accolade for the band was that they were invited to play at the Menin Gate one evening whilst on tour - a poignant honour to be involved in the year we celebrate 100 years of the Battle of Passchendaele,

WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL - Cont.

There are still days during the week when the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates (currently Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays all day and during the evenings). If you have recently moved into the village or have never visited the hall, please come and have a look at the facilities we have available should you need a venue to celebrate a wedding, party or similar. The hall is particularly popular for children's parties at weekends but we need more regular bookings in daytime such as keep fit, clubs, etc.

If you or anybody you know might be interested in hiring the hall for clubs, keep-fit, dancing etc please contact our caretaker, Keith Langdon on 01536 771501 or email keith_langdon@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Finally, a plea for more help! Our current Secretary & Booking Secretary, Glennys Potter, is leaving the village after many, many years involvement in the running of the hall. The management committee would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Glennys and Barry for their unstinting efforts and service over many years – both at the hall and around the village. They will be sorely missed but hopefully will be keeping in touch!

Keith Langdon has kindly agreed to take over the role of organising the bookings at the hall, but we need a new Secretary in order to continue to comply with our Constitution and maintain our charitable status. Can you help? If so, contact Mike Doyle on 770036 or email mikedoyle429@btinternet.com.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE HALL IS A GREAT ASSET FOR THE VILLAGE AND IF WE DON'T USE IT, WE'LL LOSE IT!!

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE WEBSITE/FACEBOOK PAGE AND ADVERTS IN THE SHOP AS WE HAVE A MUSIC EVENING PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 7TH AND ALSO YOUTH BRASS WILL BE GIVING A CONCERT TOWARDS THE END OF OCTOBER.

Wilbarston Village Hall Management Committee
August 2017



WILBARSTON BELL RINGERS

So, what's going on in the belfry then?

We received the official faculty for our bell project from the Peterborough Diocesan at the beginning of June which is the equivalent of having both building regulations and planning consent all rolled into one. All we need to do now is raise the remainder of the not inconsiderable sum we need to have the bells rehung and have a sixth bell added.

I am really pleased to tell you that we passed the half way mark at the beginning of August thanks to the hard work of all the ringers and indeed the villagers as well.

I reported on the plant sale we had in conjunction with the open gardens in the last issue of the Chronicle and gave an indication of the sum raised. The final count was a truly remarkable £884:00.

So, what's next from the intrepid ringers I hear you say?

Siobhan Lovell is running her first half marathon with husband Jonathan and son Harry on Sunday 15th October in the Leicester Half Marathon. Proceeds from sponsoring Siobhan will all go to the bell project. You can sponsor her by going to her "just giving" page www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Siobhan-lovell. Siobhan would like you to know that any sponsorship you can give will help keep her going and *finish* the run.

We are in the throes of organising a prize draw which will take place towards the end of November. Tickets will be on sale shortly and there are lots of great prizes up for grabs full details of which will be available soon, they do include an iPad, a four-ball round of golf, a day at a one-day cricket match at NCCC, a family day ticket at West Lodge and many more. Following the remarkable reaction to the Rock for the Bells event last year I have been persuaded to organise another one. Due to other commitments, this unfortunately won't happen this year but I'm aiming to arrange it for around March time, I'll keep you updated in the next edition of the local press.

Peter Chilton for the Wilbarston Bell Ringers



Northamptonshire Police

To report a crime in progress phone **999** - For anything else phone **101**

Wilbarston is in Police area **Kettering Rural**

You can contact the police online at www.northants.police.uk/contact/online to provide information, to report suspicious activity and much else.

Kettering Rural is working with the NFU on local hare coursing crimes and hare coursing incidents. Please report suspicious activity including off road bikes looking at farm buildings or remote locations. Report to Kirsty.Ellerby@northants.pnn.police.uk or www.northants.police.uk/contact/online

SCAMS

It is very easy, unwittingly, to become a victim of scams on the internet, on the doorstep, having money taken from your bank account by card fraud, or from representatives of firms who speak to you in your own home and promise you much.

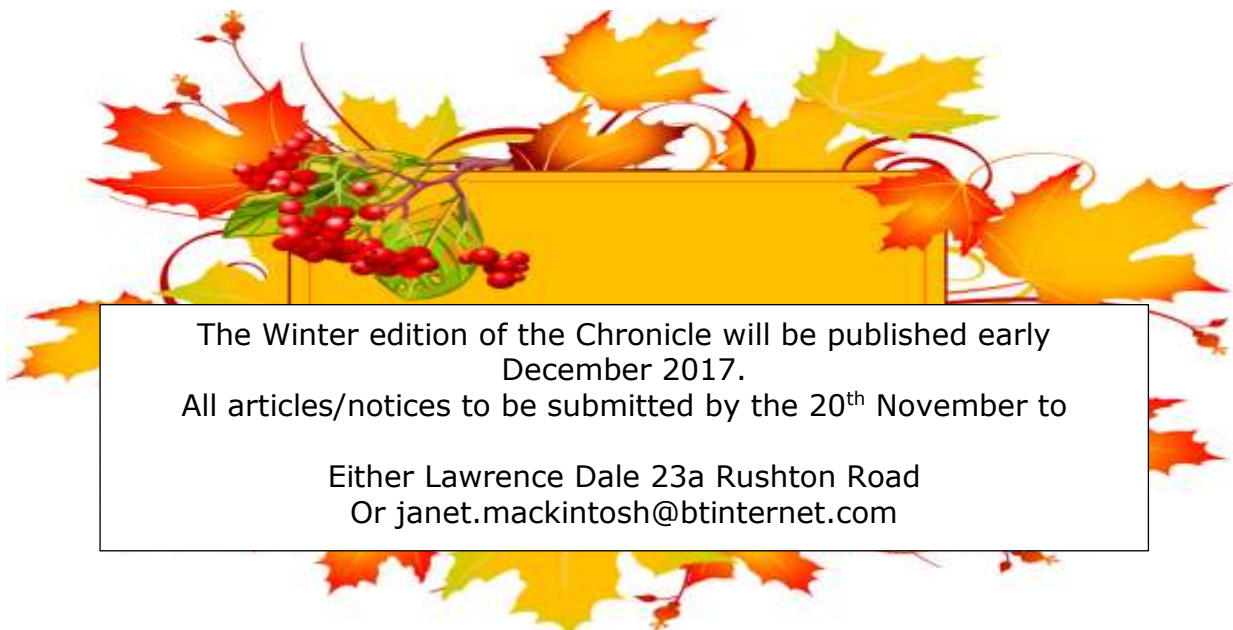
So, everyone must be on the alert.

Report scams and fraud to: Action Fraud 0300 123 2040 www.actionfraud.org.uk and to your bank. Report crimes and people who may be involved to www.crimestoppers-uk.org or 0800 555 111

Several firms such as *Green Planet Advisory* are contacting people asking to "inspect" solar panels controls and then inform them that they are not working effectively and that for £3000+ the firm can fix them to create 40% more electricity. They even offer to take the money on the spot. DO NOT do business with firms which cold-call or phone you for your custom - however plausible they may appear. Go on **your** initiative to a firm you trust.

Report Scams to NCC Trading Standards 0300 126 1000 or to Citizens Advice **03454 04 05 06**

Use these numbers to report any dodgy activity or trading.



The Winter edition of the Chronicle will be published early
December 2017.
All articles/notices to be submitted by the 20th November to

Either Lawrence Dale 23a Rushton Road
Or janet.mackintosh@btinternet.com



Wilbarston CEVC Primary School

In July some of the pupils took part in the village 'Operation Spring Clean'. Children from Classes 4 and 5 went to

support this important initiative by litter picking in the village. We do impress upon the children taking care of their environment. As part of the children's

curriculum we do focus on ideas of conservation and look at the "Wonders of the World". In geography units we talk about features of areas and what is desirable in a "nice" place to live. In personal and social

education (which includes the Government citizenship focus) we also encourage pupils to consider the consequences of their actions and how they can influence the world they will grow up to live in. We also discuss environmental themes in our collective worship (assemblies) such as taking care of God's world. Sadly, it does seem that nowadays there is more litter and less care in general for our lovely countryside and in our towns/cities.

Here are some photos of our children taking care of their local environment.





WILBARSTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

As always the end of our school year was a busy time. The Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed "Shakespeare in a Day" with staff from the Ferrers School. They performed an abbreviated version of Macbeth to the rest of school at the end of the day. It was a great experience for the children to be able to work with specialist staff from a secondary school. Children had also enjoyed an architectural project with a design teacher from

Montsaye, Mr Partridge. He worked with Classes 4 and 5 on a theme of designing and building a town (in miniature). They learnt many skills from this.

Class 3 pupils had fun building rafts and working in teams on their trip to Rutland Water. Class 2 ventured to Foxton Locks and enjoyed a boat trip there. They learnt about the history and geography of canals and the staff from Foxton Locks came to school before the trip to introduce the key ideas to pupils. Class 4 pupils visited Conkers in Leicestershire and were able to construct shelters and learnt "bush craft" skills. They had a great time. Our Class 1 pupils visited Coventry Transport Museum and Class 5 went to Warwick Castle as part of their "Crime and Punishment" unit – they did all return safely!

In other news, the annual Parents Association BBQ was earlier than usual this year to try to avoid the rain that had impacted on it in recent times. The older children again ran stalls and games such as name the teddy, beanbag target games and a form of apple ducking. There was a bouncy slide this year and the adult volunteers put on the usual great disco and BBQ. The event raised over £1400 for our IT needs. We are so grateful to all who helped or came to support the event as "every little helps" in these difficult times with school funding.

Also in the last half term all classes enjoyed an hour with a specialist dance company. Children all had a go at different national dances including Greek, Irish, African and South American. It was great fun and children performed to one another at the end of the day.

We had our annual Sports Day picnic with families then races and our fun "potted sports" event in the last week with pupils from all year groups divided into house teams to gain point towards the House Cup, which was awarded on the last day of term. Springfield House won with almost 3000 house points awarded to the house in one year.

One of our final events was the annual Leavers' Service held in the church. The children shared a very moving Leavers Service of talents, fun memories and hopes for the future. Prior to the service these children had voted for the winners of our annual trophies and awards for one another such as the Peach Endeavour Trophy and the All Saints Award for our Christian values. It is very special to see the children receive these awards. The Year 6 pupils who left us were a particularly theatrical group and wanted to put on an end of year show. They performed "Shakespeare Rocks" to their families at the end of term and it was a fabulous event. The children were outstanding and we were very proud of them as they left us ready for the challenges and experiences that await them in their new schools.

We also said goodbye to Margaret Madams and Ailish Avery (a former pupil as well as member of staff). Margaret has been at our school for almost 10 years and worked with our younger children. She was also part of our school's leadership team and was the driving force behind the school's improvement in mathematics over the years. Her sense of fun will be greatly missed as she retires. Ailish had been at the school for almost 15 years as a staff member and was the font of all knowledge for all the Wilbo traditions. The younger staff will miss her support with Midsummer dance teaching too. Ailish knew them all! She will be coming back to us in her new role as a supply teacher. But she will be greatly missed on a daily basis for her dedication and her wicked sense of humour. From September Miss Victoria Burgess joins us from a school in Wellingborough and will be teaching Class 1.

In September our junior classes will be studying different aspects of local history and will create a display in All Saints Church. Perhaps you could have a look at it to see some of their investigations.

All best wishes,
Andrea Green and all at school.