



Wilbarston

AUTUMN Chronicle



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

WILBARSTON PARISH WEBSITE

www.wilbarstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Going live early in September!

Building is underway and plenty of content is already on there. Please have a look and feedback your comments and ideas.

PARISH PLAN

The review group met early in the summer. Based on the evidence gathered beforehand it was clear that some of the objectives of the original Parish Plan (Published 2010) had been achieved, some needed modification or had lost relevance and others were still current, whilst in one or two instances new objectives were needed to reflect progress. It was decided that the existing plan would be retained and that an updating overview would be published alongside it explaining the thought processes leading to the new sets of objectives, which would be listed. The accompanying action plan should also be updated.

At the time of writing the overview is in course of being written. It will be published in draft form on the new website (see elsewhere) during September, with availability being advertised elsewhere with an 'order' phone number for anybody preferring a hard copy. The plan is then to hold a public meeting to which all will be invited in order to comment on and discuss the content. This will lead to a finalised version for publication.

It is not felt that another five years will elapse before the next review. The overview comments on the emergence of Neighbourhood Plans and how these compare with Parish Plans, for instance. Things are changing and the parish council is going to need to keep monitoring developments in the wider world and keep our local planning under almost constant review. – N Richards

SHEEP



Last year we were treated to the sight of sheep grazing in the valley to the north of the village, as part of an experiment by Rockingham Castle Estate after some problems with their usual arable crops in previous years. At the moment we understand that the exercise is unlikely to be repeated this autumn. If it is we'll make sure that relevant information, particularly for dog walkers, is published on the parish notice board.

WILBARSTON PARISH ALLOTMENTS VACANCIES

We currently have a small number of full plots (145 square yards) and half plots (72 square yards) at the Church Street site available for immediate occupation. Annual Rental from 1 October is £20 per plot or £10 per half plot. The site is made available by Wilbarston Parish Council and managed by Wilbarston Parish Allotments Association and is generally operated in accordance with the guidelines recommended by the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. These allotments are available for use by residents of the parish of Wilbarston. For further information or to make an application please contact:
John Hooper (Chair, Wilbarston Parish Allotments Association)
johnbarbarahooper@btinternet.com tel. 01536 770888
Or Nick Richards (Chair, Wilbarston Parish Council) bramhallnick@yahoo.co.uk tel. 01536 770351



ROADS AND PAVEMENTS AND PUBLIC PLACES

The spring survey of the roads and pavements in the village showed that any imperfections fell in general above the county criteria for repair. Nevertheless the worst patches - in Rushton Road and Church Street - were repaired as were several failures around storm drains. The storm drains have all been cleaned. Parts of the footpath in Main Street East, and in Rushton Road and lower School Lane are still giving concern. The NCC Highways have looked after Wilbarston so well that roads and pavements compare favourably with any village in the county. Look critically at other places when you visit and then appreciate home. – R Willatts



AIRFIELD FOOTPATHS

RAF Desborough Ltd, the applicant for the proposed solar farm for 250 acres (116 ha) of the airfield held a public consultation and exhibition in the village hall in February. At this oral comments by the public made the applicant very aware of just how much people used all the airfield tracks and perimeter road. Only part of the perimeter road is a designated public footpath. The proposals would have compromised people using all the perimeter road circuit and the cross routes. Subsequently there have been discussions as to how to keep them open for the public. The Rockingham Castle Estate, the land owner, is minded to grant *permissive path* status to some or all of these routes. After the planning application for the solar farm was submitted a DMMO, definitive map modification order, (The Definitive Map records all the legal public footpaths and rights of way,) was applied for pedestrian and bridleway status for all the cross routes and the rest of the perimeter road. This has been preliminarily assessed by Northamptonshire County Council, which has now ranked the airfield DMMO applications as no 4 out of 15 in the county for consideration. NCC Highways Planning engineers are currently in discussions with both the Rockingham Castle Estates and the solar farm developers with a view to obtaining permissive use of the airfield perimeter roads for the duration of the solar farm (25 years). The Planning application, KET/2015/0297, is due to be considered by Kettering Borough Council Planning Committee on 25th August with a recommendation to approve, subject to 20 conditions. – R Willatts

STREET LIGHTING

Now that winter will soon be on us the streetlights in the village will assume importance for everyone. All our 60 street lights are the responsibility of Kettering Borough Council. Aon, who have the contract for maintenance, visit the village once a week with a cherry-picker vehicle to replace / repair faulty lights. If a light is faulty or not working it should be reported to Kettering Borough Council. This may be done by phoning it with details, Tel **01536 410333** or emailing customerservices@kettering.gov.uk stating exactly where the faulty streetlight is by giving the road and number of nearest property. If you prefer you may always tell me about the fault and I will contact KBC. Last year if faulty lights were not repaired I managed to get KBC to repair them promptly. – R Willatts



EASE OF USING PAVEMENTS

Gardens are lovely and we all enjoy each other's from the road, but please think of pedestrians and those in buggies, and make sure that YOUR garden plants and hedges are not inconveniencing them. Cut back hedges to the inner edge of the pavement, and cut back ivy and other plants growing over the walls which impede the movement of pedestrians and sometimes slap them in the face. – R Willatts

BROADBAND

Many of you will have seen the new BT cabinet on Carlton Road proclaiming Superfast Fibre Broadband has arrived in Wilbarston. Well almost, it's arrived at the cabinet but from there onward we still have the old copper and/or aluminium cable. Initial indications are that those closer to the cabinet are getting speeds of over 30 mbps whereas further away 20 mbps is more the norm. Having said that there were some in the village, pre-fibre, who were not able to access broadband at all so this is a major step forward for everybody in the community, especially those running businesses from home. – K Walkling





THE 67 BUS SERVICE TO CORBY AND MARKET HARBOROUGH

This route is not subsidised by the County Council and is barely viable for Centrebus to run a service on a commercial basis. In September 2013, after months of a poor service the service improved, became more reliable and was used much more. Nevertheless on 31st March this year Centrebus reduced the service by half, giving effectively only two buses a day allowing for a return to Market Harborough. After a dodgy period the service now appears to have stabilised into reliability.

Please let me know of any problems, incidents or failures of the bus service – giving date and timetabled time- or fill in the form at the post office. Remember that the bus tickets give the time at which they were issued; if the problem is lateness of arrival it may be helpful to leave the ticket with the form as proof.

The parish council wrote to Centrebus in May expressing concern at the inconvenience of the reduction in service and asking for justification. The long response basically blamed the Northamptonshire County Council for not subsidising the service *"The County view was that there was insufficient patronage in the service going forward particularly as it ran across the county boundary into Leicestershire and that for most customers the train would provide an alternative"* I wrote to the Centrebus operations director on 16th June concerning the unreliability of the service. He responded:

I was sorry to hear that you have experienced deterioration in the 67 service during June. I have not heard from you for a while, and that has been pleasing because I have taken it to mean that the service had become much more reliable in the last couple of years. That said, clearly the reduced service needs to run reliably. I have therefore highlighted your concerns and detailed report to the operations management team within Centrebus, so that they can take any action that is needed to provide a reliable service. I am sure they will act quickly and appropriately.

There were then changes in Centrebus management so on 23rd July I wrote again concerning the unreliability of service with the response:

"We are committed to providing a reliable service . . . we certainly need to ensure the service operates reliably and to the timetable we have published . . . Corby depot has experienced staff shortages over recent months I have also given an instruction to the depot to prioritise service 67 when there is disruption on the basis that it now operates on a much reduced frequency. Please rest assured that we are working to improve the situation and I would hope that you will see an improvement in the reliability of the service."

[Dave Brookes Operations Director](#)

It now appears to be reliable again.

PLEASE use the bus service we have, otherwise we will lose it. If its usage increased greatly the County Council MIGHT feel justified in returning the subsidy. Buses give us two or four hours in Market Harborough, enough for shopping and other needs.

Bus 67 Leaves Wilbarston for Market Harborough 10.04, 12.15, 14.24

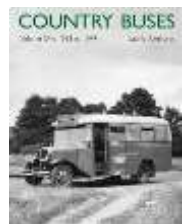
Returns from Market Harborough 10.30, 12.30, 14.30

Leaves for Corby 10.42, 12.50, 2.42 Returns from Corby 9.51, 12.01, 14.10.

COUNTY CONNECT SERVICE.

This is provided by the NCC to cover Wilbarston. Please let me know with dates of any problems with this such as inability to provide a service, failure to respond to phone calls and unreliability. If it can be proved in this way that the County Connect Service does not work for Wilbarston, then that might be justification for a bus subsidy. Anecdotal information - of which there is much - is not accepted by the County Council.

Rosalind Willatts (2 Barlows Lane, Tel 770875 mwillatts@uwclub.net)



DESBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE TRUST PROGRAMME



Indoor programme of talks held at Desborough Heritage Centre, Station Road, NN14 2RS unless otherwise indicated. Talks start at 7.30 pm and admission is £2.00 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Tuesday September 8th:- An illustrated talk by Nigel Slater on bird migration.

Friday 2nd October:- 'Autumn Breeze', a celebration of music and words featuring musical group Sirocco. Held at Brampton Ash Church starting at 7.30pm. Admission £7.50 for adults and £4.00 for children, includes wine/soft drink and finger buffet.

Tuesday October 13th:- Dr Robin Field will give a talk on wildflower meadow restoration.

Tuesday November 10th:- Mary Matts will give an illustrated talk entitled 'Wildflowers and Waterways'.

CHANGES AT THE FOX INN

Good news for the Fox Inn. Two local businessmen have recently taken over the tenancy at the village pub and Sam and Stella remain as managers ensuring continuity behind the bar. As you will have seen some refurbishment is already underway to the exterior of the building and when this is completed work will start inside. Patronage continues to increase and it is really good news for the village that we are beginning to get back a thriving community pub. The successful nomination of the pub as an Asset of Community Value has now been acknowledged by 'The Campaign for Real Ale' who have presented Sam with a framed certificate.



THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CHRONICLE WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER 2015

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ARTICLES/NOTICES BY THE 20TH NOVEMBER

LAWRENCE DALE 23A RUSHTON ROAD
janet.mackintosh@btinternet.com

DEFIBRILLATOR.

The Parish Council has applied for a Community Grant from Kettering Borough Council toward the purchase and installation of a defibrillator in the telephone box. The grant will not cover the whole cost of the project as it was on a matched funding basis only but should it be successful it will go a long way toward the amount required. We will be informed of the result of the application at the end of September. Should the application be successful it is hoped that we will be able to install the equipment, with the assistance East Midlands Ambulance Service, within a couple of months.



DOG FOULING

You will have noticed that a new dog waste bin has been installed in Brigg Lane. After a slight organisational hiccup the bin is now being emptied regularly along with the others. The level of dog fouling has greatly reduced in Brigg Lane but perhaps not so in Rushden Road from the underpass onwards to the airfield. The situation is being monitored and should it be necessary Kettering Borough Council has offered to involve its enforcement team to assist in further reducing the incidences of fouling. Let's hope that this will not be required and the few dog walkers that have not been picking up do so in the future.
K Walking

THANK YOU

*Just a few words to say a big thank you to everyone who sent get well cards and enquired about my health while I was in hospital. Putting faces to names helps you back to reality sooner than later. Passing someone in the street and saying something is easily taken for granted but is something very precious and better taken time over.
Kind regards - Tony Hill - Stroke survivor and very lucky*

TAKE CARE OF YOUR PETS



[Microchipping](#) is going to be a legal requirement for all dogs from April 2016. For other species it is just good pet ownership.

A microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted in the scruff of the neck in dogs, cats and rabbits. It does look a big needle, but it is over with quickly and does not sting afterwards. Most pets easily cope with this without any problems. Sometimes it may bleed from the site briefly; but this is minor vessels in the skin and nothing to worry about. If you are worried about having it done in a young animal, we can do it when they are asleep being neutered or do it at one of their later puppy/kitten checks. But the younger the better. If you get all those horrible needles over and done with, then the rest of the vet visits can be made fun with all the staff making your puppy or kitten realise that they get a lot of fuss rather than just sharp needles!

Although it is not a legal requirement in cats, I can't recommend it strongly enough. I have worked at practices where the cat has turned up in a different county a year after it went missing and was reunited with its distressed owners. Then there is the worry for those cats that go outside, what about the awful situation if they get hit by a car. I have seen so many cats over my career, unchipped, no collar. Never to be reunited with their owner and their owner never has closure on what happened to their pet. If they had a microchip we would have been able to contact an owner instantly. What about those dogs that are escape artists, those that get spooked on a walk and just run, or a dog that gets stolen? A microchip means if they get taken to a vet/dog warden/animal charity/police; they can be reunited with their owners.

So how does it work? Well the microchip contains a barcode, which is linked to a long number. This number acts as the 'pin' to access the animal's details. But your 'average Joe' can't access these details. The places mentioned above will each have their own unique pin number they will need to give to the company – they can then log who called and when, to ask about this animal.

So please microchip your pet. It is inexpensive and lasts their lifetime.

But most importantly... If your pet is already microchipped, are your details on the database correct? Your pet may as well not have a microchip if they are not...

Jo Oakden FdSc RVN BVNA Regional Coordinator – Veterinary nurse

THE PLAYING FIELD

The Parish council undertakes a check of the play area and the playing field once or twice a month to pick up on problems. The Play area is checked by RoSPA twice a year for Kettering Borough Council (the standard is once a year) to look out for potential hazards. Dave Lane the officer from KBC in charge of playing fields and play areas visited Wilbarston and in July to meet a representative of the Parish Council. Dave is of the philosophy that knocks are part of growing up; that play equipment should offer challenge; that play areas should not be so benign that they stifle the benefits of play. He questioned whether the half pipe was not used much because it gave easy facilities. He discussed the mound and slide. The steps up and the slide are considered as two separate items. The steps are fine because they are fixed /concreted in. But they are not necessary as there are alternative routes up the ground over the grass. Should they become faulty then there is justification for removing them totally and perhaps providing a haul rope instead, all to stimulate more fun and adventure. The Parish Council will keep an eye on the playing fields and the play area and the mound steps. Rosalind Willatts, 01536 770875, 2 Barlow's Lane.



WILBARSTON TOTS

So, it's September again and Wilbarston Tots is looking for new members. Every year there is a natural transition of our older children leaving us for either preschool or school combined with a new influx of younger ones starting out. We have had several new babies in the village of late and we look forward to welcoming them along with their mummies or carers for our weekly play and chat. We are at the village hall every Monday morning in term time from 10am to 12pm and everyone with a little one to entertain is very welcome! We are a small friendly group, we don't mind if you turn up late with baby sick on your clothes, we are mums ourselves and understand! Equally, if you need some adult company to simply stay sane or just fancy a coffee and chat with some other local mummies, do feel free to come along. Everyone's first session is free so there is no excuse not to give us a try! Hope to see you soon, Diane and Rose.



WILBARSTON SCHOOL

Back to School



Here we are at the beginning of another school year. We had a busy end to last term with successful and fun sports days and Leavers Services for our outgoing pupils. It was a hectic time! We also said a fond farewell to Mandy Horton, our Y3/4 teacher who is now married and relocated to her home county and to Michelle Coe, our Y4/5 job-share teacher, who is now working in a more specialised role in another county school.

Earlier in July we celebrated the best SATS results at age 7 and 11 that we have ever had - all subject areas were well above national standards at all levels from level 2 to level 5. Our results reflect the broad based and stimulating learning enjoyed by our children and the continued hard work of our staff team in supporting the pupils to reach their potential. Our Foundation Stage team also exceeded the national standard for children aged 4.

At the end of last term we were visited by an OFSTED inspector as part of the five year inspection cycle and we were pleased that the hard work and enthusiasm of staff and pupils, and the support of our families, was recognised. The report will be published shortly.

This September we are joined by Lucy Sheen who will be teaching in Y4/5 and Rebecca Fortnum teaching Y3/4. We also have 5 new pupils joining across the school and 21 in our Foundation Stage class where Mrs Madams and Mrs Avery are now teaching. The Class 1 area had extensive renovations to the toilet and cloakroom area this summer. We were finally granted the funds to do this much needed work and the results are superb! The opening areas feel much brighter and larger, not to mention modern. It is very exciting for us as we start this academic year.

This term we will hold our usual Harvest Festival Service in the church and our Christmas shows are again in our final week of the term. Please join us at our events.

Best wishes, Andrea Green and all at school.

WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are planning a Christmas Fayre for Saturday 28th November in the village hall from 12 until 3pm. We will have stalls to help you with your Christmas shopping plus refreshments, raffle, games and entertainment. Wilbarston school choir will be singing and Father Christmas will be there. Please put the date in your diary and come along for a fun afternoon and help to keep your Village Hall running.

Free entry - 771579

We look forward to seeing you



FRIENDS

Having had a very enjoyable visit to Bosworth's Garden Centre in July where we had lunch and browsed happily for an hour or two, after our usual August break, 'Friends' will meet up again on September 16th. We will be visited by Jane and Dave Derosa who will give us a taste of the dancing they enjoy and possibly encourage us to get up and 'shake a leg'. In October Dave Thomas will visit and talk about making homemade chocolates – we are hoping for a taster or two! In November David Madams will come to talk to us about his work as a Corby Street Pastor and in December we will have our usual Christmas Party with mulled wine, nibbles and a carol or two.

'Friends' are a group of like minded ladies, mostly from Wilbarston and Stoke Albany, which meets at 7.30 on the third Wednesday of each month at Stoke Albany Village Hall. Visitors are welcome to come and see what we get up to. We would really welcome new members.

WALKING FOOTBALL AT HTFC

The New Fun Way for Over 50's to keep fit

The Barclays Bank TV Advertisement has helped Walking Football to rise to prominence across the UK and has in the last few months been embraced by Harborough Town FC. This vibrant Football Club, which was brought together as one club for all ages, gender and abilities now has 42 teams playing regularly.

Walking Football for over 50's, the fastest growing area in terms of numbers within football has now been added. A recent national tournament had 58 teams participating! The Group has a local sponsor backing it and kit is currently being produced. The aim is to build numbers and for all to play recreationally whilst at the same time allowing those that are interested to form a team or teams to play against other clubs in friendlies or possibly in a league or cup.

The rules are exactly the same as in 5 a side football but played at walking pace on a 3g astro turf pitch. It is largely a contactless sport for those concerned about injury. Whilst it is an enjoyable way of meeting likeminded people and getting fit, it is under the control of the FA and supervised by a qualified coach. As at any age we warm up properly, practice skills and play. We welcome anyone of any age over 50, please don't feel embarrassed at all – it is for all at any standard of football / fitness.

And of course to spend some time together afterwards discussing important issues of the week like how the football teams that we support are performing!!



We really would appreciate you joining us at Harborough Town Football Club on a Wednesday Evening between 6pm to 7pm to try it out and see what you think. You don't have to join straight away – we are allowing two trial sessions for anyone new free of charge.

To find out more please either contact any of the following
Peter Oppenheimer on 07770 607674

Matt Wright 07572718983

Marion Hayton 0116 284 4950 - We look forward to welcoming lots of new participants

W.illie W.ilbar W.rites – Unusual names

Do you know any infants under 12 months, who have been given any of the following names?
Or have they fallen out of fashion?

Boys: Algernon, Bartholomew, Finbar, Kermit, Oswald, Ponsonby, Romulus, Vesty, Webster, Xavier.

Girls: Bridie, Constance, Euphemia, Hermione, Iona, Leticia, Mitzi, Tallulah, Violet, Williamina,



BELL RINGING IN WILBARSTON

YOUR TOWER NEEDS YOU

Over the last 18 months or so, thanks to the concerted efforts of Nick and Helen Churchman in particular, and the patience of the people of Ashley, a band of 12-15 people have been learning to ring the bells at Ashley and that has included one or two ringers from Wilbarston. As a result of this effort, well sort of, we were able to muster a band of Wilbarston villagers to join in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of VE day, with the help of Nick and Helen for guidance, on the 9th May. I would like to see if we can continue this in a fairly regular basis.

I rang bells from a relatively early age in Leicester but hadn't done so for well over 35 years until we moved to Wilbarston about 18 months ago. That's when I saw the notice in the Signpost about ringing and thought it would be a great way to put something into the village community. With the help of Nick and Helen I have found it's like riding a bike and have been helping them with the teaching at Ashley. So I thought could I help get things up and running in Wilbarston. If you would like to learn this ancient art I am hoping to start lessons for beginners around the middle of September and I would also very much appreciate the company of any seasoned ringers.

One or two experienced ringers that live in the village have shown an interest in helping and indeed taking their skills a little further and Nick and Helen have kindly offered to help get things off the ground. There are almost certainly other ringers who could be called on to make a full team on occasion.

I was thinking of Tuesday or a Thursday evening.

If anyone is interested in learning or helping to teach please get in touch with me, Peter Chilton, on 01536 771478 or 07894 697779

I am hoping we can get enough people to ring before the Harvest Festival and people can then get a first-hand appreciation of what this ancient art is all about.



NEWS FROM WILBARSTON CHURCH

Two most enjoyable and successful events have been held recently and it was great to see our village become a hive of activity and focus for a time when there are so many similar events held in neighbouring villages, raising money for their facilities as well.



The aim of any event should always be enjoyment and fun whilst fundraising for our facilities and I am hopeful that both our events fulfilled that. Open gardens was a memorable day, blessed with fine weather; a wide variety of gardens were open and welcomed visitors to wander at their leisure. Tea and homemade cakes in the hall were very popular with the opportunity to view some outstanding art work by our local artists. Hot dogs went like hot cakes and music at the The Fox was an added attraction. Everyone was very welcoming and hospital and I want to thank them all for their support and help. £1298... Was raised which will be used for the upkeep of our historic and beautiful church. Special thanks to the organizers, Sue Tozer and Sandy Childs.

The second event was Wilbarston Summer Fayre – an occasion requiring and receiving wholehearted co-operation between village organisations with the money raised being divided between our village hall and church both of them a focus for community activities. Again we were blessed with lovely weather and there was a very happy atmosphere with plenty of attractions and lots of time to catch up with friends not seen for a time, sitting in the sun and enjoying the views over the Welland Valley.

An event like this is not achieved without forward planning and support and I want to record my personal thanks to everyone concerned with making sure everybody had an afternoon to enjoy – it was a pleasure to be working with them. The afternoon raised over £1,708 – a super result. Special thanks to Diane Apperley who bought it all together.

On October 4th there will be a harvest lunch in the Village Hall following the harvest festival. Everyone is very welcome to come to this occasion and enjoy a variety of food. At the harvest festival parishioners bring gifts of various types of produce thanksgiving for all we are fortunate to be able to enjoy. After the service the produce is sorted and all non perishables are collected to go to the local food bank at Corby. The fresh produce is attractively packed in a variety of ways and then we hold an auction in the Fox. This is really good fun with lots of bonhomie and banter. You should definitely come if you like marrows!



Harvest Auction - October 4th - 6pm The Fox
Libby Dale

A decorative rectangular frame with a large bow at the top center and a ribbon-like flourish at the bottom center. The frame contains text for a village quiz walk.

VILLAGE QUIZ WALK
Round the village of WILBARSTON
How good are your observational skills?!!!!
Sunday September 20th 2015
Start at Village Hall
From 2.30pm
Answers to be handed in by 4.30pm
Children's Quiz also available
Tea & Cakes available at Village Hall all
afternoon
Adults £2.50 - Children £1
(Up to 12 years)
For more info please phone Sue on
01536 771054

ALBANY SINGERS
Your Community Choir

Weekly singing sessions on Monday nights at Stoke Albany Village Hall 7.45- 9pm. Suitable for all ages, all levels and experience, men and women. Come along for a couple of free 'taster sessions'.

Next session starts Monday 21st September

Good music
Good company
Good fun!

For more information please contact Julia Trustram Eve on 01536 772265