



Wilbarston Chronicle

Summer



PARISH NEWS

Four members of the 2011-2015 parish council were, for a variety of reasons, unable to commit themselves for re-election for the next four years. Many thanks go to Chris Crowther, Gary Marlowe, Lynne Scannell and Richard Trustram-Eve for their contributions over the past four years. The new council is as follows with three new councillors who are warmly welcomed.

Jeremy Burrell	8 Main Street Jeremy@bonhams-hortus.co.uk
Lawrence Dale	23A Rushton Road
Davis James	9 Scotts Lane davejames@me.com
Nick Richards	3 Weinahr Close bramhallnick@yahoo.co.uk
Andrew Smith	20 Main street akgsmith@yahoo.co.uk
Keith Walkling	3 Windsor Close keithwalkling@yahoo.co.uk
Rosalind Willatts	2 Barlows Lane rmwillatts@uwclub.net
James McKechnie (Clerk to the council)	Wilbarston.clerk@yahoo.co.uk

It does mean that there remains one vacancy on the council which can be filled by the council deciding to co-opt. If there is anyone who was unwilling to offer themselves for election but might be prepared to seek co-option Nick Richards, who was re-elected chairman at the first meeting of the new council, would be pleased to receive the offer.

At the first meeting of the new council the following elections were made:

Chairman	Cllr. Richards
Vice Chairman	Cllr. Walkling
Highways Representative	Cllr. Willatts
Footpath Officers	Cllrs. Walkling, Smith
Playing Field Survey Organiser	Cllr. Willatts
Snow Officer	Cllr. Walkling
Finance Committee	Cllrs. Richards, Dale, Walkling, Burrell
Chronicle Editors	Cllr, Dale Janet Mackintosh ????
Representative on Care Committee	Cllr. Burrell
Representative on Bonfire Committee	Cllr. James
Representative on Village Hall Committee	Cllr. Dale
Telephone Box Officer	Cllr. Walkling

PARISH ASSEMBLY

The last task of the parish council before the election of the new council was to host the parish assembly. Once again organisations in the village were notified to present brief reports.

WILBARSTON SCHOOL

The school continues to provide an excellent education combining well above average exam results with a broad and balanced curriculum. The recent diocesan inspection rated the school as good and helpfully identified areas where there was room for improvement. The development of the Montsaye Trust to which the school is an active member continues and good progress is being made. Despite all the uncertainties about the new government led curriculum, which lacks clear guidance on assessment, the school continues to thrive thanks to the great efforts of all the staff.

WILBARSTON CHURCH

Libby Dale as church warden reported on the church and urged those who value the building to help contribute to the upkeep. It had been a frustrating year with little or no progress on developing a level disabled access and a toilet. It has to be hoped that the barriers to this important improvement will soon be overcome.

VILLAGE HALL

The report from the village hall spoke of the testing of the electrical installation and bringing the system up to date. Currently the bar facilities are being reorganised and a survey has been carried out to identify improvements which will ensure that the hall is warm even in the coldest weather. The intention is to apply for grants and to undertake the work in stages.

ALLOTMENTS

John Hooper spoke of the success of the new allotments and in particular the Open Day when everyone could see how much had been achieved in so short a time. The discordant note was the break-ins which resulted in some damage and loss.

Other reports included Friends, the successor to the W.I. which meets on the third Wednesday of the month, the bonfire committee which once again organised a very successful and safe event and the Community Care scheme which still provides transport to local health facilities for those who have difficulty in getting to them.

Nick Richards then spoke about the working of the parish council over the past year and the issues that have arisen. A number of the points that he raised appear elsewhere in this Chronicle – the cutting back of the bus service, the establishment of the solar farm and its impact on public rights of way, the importance of everyone respecting the Country Code particularly in relation to managing dogs, and the results of the Parish Plan survey. He spoke at some length about the difficulties faced by Sam and Stella at the Fox and the work undertaken by the parish council to try to support them. The securing of the Fox as an 'Asset of Community Interest' does indicate that the village wishes the Fox to remain as a going concern.

The issue of high quality broadband raised a number of comments from the audience. The parish council has been promised that a super fast connection will be provided by the end of June and that difficulties which were raised at the assembly have been dealt with. It would seem prudent to test the benefits of the externally provided programme before seeking other options.

Cllr. Willatts reported on roads, pavements and lights and was pleased with the overall quality of the transport infra-structure.

SOLAR FARM

At the time of writing the planning application for the development on the airfield has been lodged and the public consultation period is closing. Reflecting views expressed to it, the parish council has responded supporting the proposal in principle, recognising it is in accordance with policies on renewable energy, but making some comments on the particular site.



Access has been the issue most referred to. There is an indication that routes other than existing designated rights of way will be continued as permissive paths. We have expressed a preference for further rights of way.

The Pastures mobile home site is recognised as the closest settlement to the proposed installation and it is not clear how close the solar panels will come to their boundary. We have stated that we trust that all current guidelines in relation to adjacent settlements will be followed.

The proposed route for access during the construction phase appears to be the best option - we did discuss the possibility of the Stoke Albany/Desborough road but this would mean passage through Wilbarston and/or Stoke Albany from the A427, which would not be welcome or safe, and we assume for this reason at least it has been discounted. The roads which are to be used will inevitably suffer from several weeks of heavy traffic and we have said that we shall expect the carriageways and verges to be made good afterwards at the developer's expense.

PLEASE BAG IT.

'You must have stepped in something, wipe your shoes on the grass before you come in'. A frequent request from the fifties, or whenever your growing up decade was, when dog waste was seen as a nuisance which would be dealt with by the rain. Nowadays we are more aware of the health risks and a lot more care is taken by dog owners. However, we do still have a bit of a problem, both in the village and in the surrounding countryside.

A recent spray paint exercise highlighted two hotspots - Brig Lane and the underpass (A427). As a result of a request from the parish council Kettering's dog warden team is looking into placing a dog waste bin at the entrance to Brig Lane as well putting a notice on the existing litter bin at the underpass to advise that it may also be used for the purpose. Advisory signage will be erected at both sites and hopefully these changes will tackle the problem. If they don't, we are promised monitoring and enforcement will follow.



Generally we are good at respecting the country code - close gates, keep to the paths, animals under control around livestock, take litter home, etc - but if you are wondering why the bag has to be deployed even in open countryside please read the following request from a local farmer.

'A significant problem has been caused by the increased number of dogs from the two villages being taken out for walks in fields with livestock in them, particularly Church Leys. The pasture has been spread with disease through dog faeces and this has caused fatalities to the livestock. It is essential therefore for dog owners to keep strictly to the footpaths, have dogs on leads at all times and pick up faeces - **'bag it and take it home to dispose of it.'**

Sarcocystosis disease in livestock can cause neurological disease and death in sheep, caused by parasites produced in eggs and excreted in dog faeces. It is therefore important that dogs do not defecate where livestock graze, and if they do the owner should bag and remove the waste. Dogs do not know any better; make sure you do by acting as a responsible dog owner, Please!'

Church Leys is the pasture between the church and the back of the school. For those not sure where the footpath lines are, there and elsewhere, the parish council has displayed a map on the notice board and, in due course, on-line.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The following letter was sent by the parish council to Centrebus, our bus service provider, on 15 May 2015.

Route 67 reductions

The recent (30 March) 2015 reduction in services through the village of Wilbarston is causing great concern within the village. It comes after years of declining service, and despite an increase in passengers over the last 18 months, we would like to have the evidence and justification for the latest reduction.

In 2011 the bus service was reduced from 13 buses a day to Market Harborough with 6 on a Saturday, to 5 a day to Market Harborough and no Sunday service. This followed a period in which there was no information available locally on bus timetables, so if anybody wanted to use them they would not know when they ran.

Following the changes in 2011 the service was so much reduced (buses failing to run, buses very late, buses unlabelled and not looking like buses, buses which broke down) that the usage fell because they were so unreliable. By September 2013 the service was once again reliable such that people began to use it again. Services which had had 0-3 passengers had 8-18 people by 2014. It takes time to develop confidence in a service, but in March 2015 the services were yet again cut, now to only 3 a day in each direction with it being impossible to get back to the village if the last bus from Wilbarston is used as it arrives at MH at 14.36 after the last back departs at 14.30. Cutting services and reducing their reliability leads to fewer services.



The latest cuts to the 8.04 at Wilbarston and the 4.30 from Market Harborough to Wilbarston should be fully justified and explained. The 8.04 was used by

people going to work and school who now cannot do so, and the 4.30 was used by school students. Inability to get to and from work is serious in a rural area, and can result in loss of work; finding other means such as private transport clogs up the road system even more. This cutting of the 8.04 follows unreliability; for example on 6th Jan 2015, the 8.04 failed to arrive causing great inconvenience.

Perhaps you would explain to the parish council your justification, with facts and figures, for yet again reducing the service, just as its usage was improving after the period of great unreliability of 2013.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT (CONT.)

The parish council intends to pursue this but economic arguments are bound to be raised. To give us good data on the usage which might be made of regular, reliable services. If you are a potential user please complete the following and return it to Nick Richards at 3 Weinahr Close or by e-mail to bramhallnick@yahoo.co.uk.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone Number:.....**E-mail address:**.....

Please tick as appropriate:

Destination	Would use:	Daily (Weekdays)	Saturdays	Other weekly
Corby		()	()	()
Market Harborough		()	()	()
Desborough		()	()	()

Other: Please specify

My reason(s) for use would be: Work () School/Study() Shopping() Medical()

Other: Please specify

WILBARSTON – STILL A GREAT PLACE, BUT WITH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

MIKE GOLDSMITH



Results from the Village Plan update survey conducted around Christmas reveal that Wilbarston is still a great village with its various facilities, but with room for improvement.

Whilst the survey returns were a little lower than hoped for, the results continue to confirm the views of local residents about Wilbarston and the facilities it offers them. Whilst only the shop/ post office is considered really very good, most other facilities were also thought to be better than average. The school, the church, village hall and the allotments all scored at least 8/10 or better, and even the Fox, the most poorly rated facility, scored 6.5/10! Residents also appreciated the allotments, the walkers' footpaths, the playing fields and the children's play area.

What could be improved? Well, everything – but four areas attracted more comments than the others. Obviously the Fox was seen as most needing improvement – decoration, seating and carpets, indeed a sense that it needed an overall refurbishment. Not dissimilar comments applied to the village hall: again decoration and seating need improving, as does the heating, since several people found the hall cold and damp. The children's play area is seen as not as good as that at Stoke Albany, needing new equipment and a proper footpath to it. Parking at the school remains a problem in the mornings and afternoons, with suggestions that this might be improved by people parking at the village hall and walking their children down to and back from school; creating a lay by opposite the school, and running a school bus to and from Desborough. For some even the church could be made more welcoming, especially for young people and children. People also had suggestions for new activities/facilities: some suggested reviving dominos, whist, cribbage and bingo sessions in the village hall, whilst several suggested a café would improve village and visitor facilities – possibly run by volunteers at the village hall. There was support for a village website, integrating and improving on those already in place for the allotments and village hall – and one issue was raised unasked by almost half our respondents – broadband speeds! This question, still outstanding since the Village Plan of 2010 was agreed, remains a problem for many people, particularly that larger than expected number of people who work or run a business from home. We are promised an improved BT service from the end of June at the latest: meanwhile, if you want a faster speed even than that likely to be provided by BT, then one should register a no-obligation interest with Gigaclear on the company's website, the company currently about to provide a fast broadband service to Stoke Albany. Given BT's record to date, failure to do so could result in Wilbarston being left in the slow lane –with all its consequences for watching TV and movies on line- and for property prices.





WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL
www.wilbarstonvillagehall.btck.co.uk

At the AGM in February 2015, a new Management Committee was elected. The new Committee is as follows:

Chairman: Bob Everett Vice Chair: Judith Farr
Treasurer: Rod Green Secretary: Glennys Potter
Booking Secretary: Glennys Potter
Committee: Tony Huxley/Linda Whitehead/Lawrence Dale/Diane Apperley/Derek Taylor/Mike Doyle

There are still 2 vacancies on the Committee if anyone is interested. The Management Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month in the Lounge at the hall and you are most welcome to attend. Particularly, we are looking for a new Treasurer, as Rod Green our Treasurer for many years, would like to retire but unfortunately we do not have a replacement. If you feel you could take on this position drop Bob Everett, our Chairman, an email on roberteverett44@gmail.com
The Social Committee continue to work hard to raise funds for the maintenance and improvement of the hall and if anyone would like to give a few hours to help they would be most welcome. Drop an email to Diane (Apperley) on diane.dca@hotmail.co.uk or on 01536 771216 for more information.

Details of general events are as follows: See the website at www.wilbarstonvillagehall.btck.co.uk for contact numbers or just turn up at the event.

Ring Glennys on 01536 770820 for more information or to book the hall. The current hiring rates are £9 per hour for the Main Hall (includes kitchen) or £8 per hour for the small lounge area.

- Mondays -** Mums & Tots - 10am to 12noon (Ring Diane on 07761957825) (Rose 07736030656)
- Tuesday -** Bowls Club - 10am to 12 noon (just turn up with comfy shoes and a sense of humour)
Guides - 6.30pm to 8.00pm (Caroline Wilkes on 01536 770011)
MH Canine Club - 8.00pm to 10.00pm
- Wednesday** Vacant
- Thursday -** Art Classes - 10am to 3.00pm (Sessions are 10am to 12noon and 1pm to 3pm)
Cubs/Scouts - 6.45pm to 8.15pm (Gary Chisholm on 07540928219)
- Friday -** Vacant
- Sunday -** 5-8 Youth Brass (Not every Sunday)

The past year has seen major improvements to the hall, some of which are not visible to the eye but much needed to keep the hall compliant with current legislation. With the help of a grant from Kettering Borough Council we have carried out a major electrical refurbishment, which has brought the hall in line with current regulations. A new door has been fitted to one of the changing rooms replacing a very old dilapidated one. Currently we do not have any football teams using the pitch and changing rooms so if anyone does know of a team looking for accommodation in the coming season we have vacancies. It is a shame that we have a good facility which at present is only used for storage.



**A note for the Summer diary:
Tuesday 4th and 11th August
KBC Play Scheme for children
2pm to 3pm.**



Further details to follow

BROADBAND

Much is circulating at the moment on this subject. Despite rumours to the contrary it is understood that BT have overcome a technical problem with their installation and are on target to connect up their box in the village by the end of June.

Gigaclear, also, are poised to come into Wilbarston if demand is sufficient with their offer to install fibre optic cable all the way to your property.

Those following this closely recommend that we should register interests with both services and await developments.



*The next edition of the Chronicle will be published at the beginning of September 2015 - Articles by the 20th August please
Lawrence Dale 23a Rushton Road - janet.mackintosh@btinternet.com*

ENTRY FORM FOR PRODUCE SHOW AT WILBARSTON FETE

4TH JULY 2015

Show Categories, Open entries – 50p per class – all villagers welcome to enter

VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Class 1: Potatoes x 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 4: Lettuce x 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Class 2: Peas in Pod x 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 5: Broad Beans in Pod x 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Class 3: Carrots x 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 6: Soft Fruit x 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

BAKING

- Class 7: Wholemeal Rustic Loaf (handmade, no bread makers)
Ingredients: 400g Wholemeal strong flour, 5ml salt, 15ml oil, 10ml dried yeast, 300ml water, 15ml honey.
- Class 8: Victoria Sandwich filled with Jam
Ingredients: 125g soft margarine, 125g caster sugar, 125g self-raising flour, 2 large eggs, pinch salt.
- Class 9: 6 Sultana Scones
Ingredients: 300g self-raising flour, pinch salt, 5ml baking powder, 75g butter, 25g caster sugar, 1 egg beaten and made up to 125ml with milk, 50g sultanas.
- Class 10: Lemon Drizzle Cake
- Class 11: Biscuits x 5 of own recipe

OTHER CLASSES

- Class 12: Fresh Flower Arrangement (no artificial flowers or foliage) In Novelty Container
- Class 13: Rose – Single stem in bud vase Class 14: Sweet Pea stems x 3 (scented)
- Class 15: Piece of Handicraft Class 16: Piece of Artwork
- Class 17: Childs Piece of Handicraft or Artwork

Please tick the classes above that you are entering and give this form with 50p per class to Produce Organisers when you arrive with your entries by 10am latest on Saturday 4th July.

If you are willing for your entry to be sold after the show to enhance the proceeds

PLEASE TICK HERE

Name-----Address-----

Copies of this form can be found on Village Hall website www.wilbarstonvillagehall.btck.co.uk
Also in The Fox and the village shop

Contact number Judith Farr 771178

DESBOROUGH & DISTRICT GROUP OF THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS, UPCOMING OUTDOOR MEETINGS



Tuesday June 9th: Rectory Farm, Great Easton, home of Eyebrook Bird Feeds and conservation farming by Phil Johnson.

Tuesday 16th June: Joint meeting with the Butterfly Conservation Group led by Doug Goddard (author of "Butterflies of Northamptonshire") at Salcey Forest.

Sunday 28th June: Arthingworth and Harrington walk with Bill Featherstone.

Tuesday 14th July: Guided walk around Stoke Wood (SSSI) with the voluntary warden. 7pm - 9.30pm

Sunday 26th July: Visit to Barnack Hills and Holes and John Clare's house in Helpston.

Tuesday 11th August: Walk in local area of about 5 miles, venue TBA, contact for details.

Sunday 30th August: Hailstone Heath and Firs walk.

For Tuesday dates meet at 7.00 pm and Sunday dates at 10.00 am at Station Road Desborough (by Barclays Bank) or at venue. Contact Keith on 771121 for further information.

WILBARSTON VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Our latest fundraising event was the Pamper Party on Saturday 25th April which was very well attended. A fun evening was enjoyed by all with a fabulous selection of relaxing treatments and stalls selling a range of goodies to indulge in. Many thanks to everyone who helped on the night and to those who came along to support the night. £320 profit was made which will be put in the pot for the redecoration of the Village Hall's lounge.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the planned Table Top Sale at the end of May which has become a popular fundraiser. This is purely down to our volunteers all being otherwise committed on the date but we do hope to set this one in the diary again for next year.

In addition to this, the planned Race Night in June has been postponed until later in the year due to unforeseen circumstances and we will let you know the revised date as soon as possible.

Saturday 4th July should hopefully be in your diary for the village summer fete, from 12pm to 4pm. There will be lots of exciting things going on including the Village Queen Opening Ceremony, Produce Show, Dog Show, huge inflatable's, Cake Stall, Book Stall, Bottle Tombola, Car Boot, Welly Wanging, Children's Crossbows and games and much more.

Refreshments will include the bar, ice creams and a barbecue! This event is truly the village social highlight so do please come along and join in! All proceeds will be split equally between Wilbarston Church and Wilbarston Village Hall.



Over 60's Christmas Party 2015

delighted to announce that a new committee has been elected and the show will go on! This is the 40th year that Wilbarston and Stoke Albany have provided a Christmas Party for the seniors in our community, so there is much to celebrate!

Save the date - Friday 4th December 2015

Our sincere thanks to the outgoing committee and volunteers for all their hard work over recent years in making this evening such a successful event.

If you are new to the village or have recently reached that significant age and would like to receive an invitation, please contact Georgina Royle 01536771428

WILBARSTON TOTS PLAYGROUP

Our summer term is in full swing and we have some really lovely regulars as well as new members. As always we like to run a busy schedule with various themed weeks, parties and nights out to keep everyone on their toes. Our excitement this year has included creative sessions making Valentine heart decorations, glittery cards for Mothers Day and bunny baskets for Easter. Father's Day creative session is fast approaching and we will be getting out the glue and sequins again!

Us mums, Nans and carers also like to enjoy ourselves and have been for a fabulous dinner and drinks night out at Zizzis in Market Harborough and also an enjoyable cinema night to the Odeon in Kettering. Our end of term week in July will see us break up for the summer and we will see the term out with a summer party for the children and another dinner and drinks night out for the adults.

Wilbarston Tots runs every Monday during term time at the Village Hall from 10am to 12pm. New members are always very welcome, call Rose on 07736 030656 or Diane on 01536 771216 for more details.





Who is asking for help, we are, who are we? We are the Wilbarston Hall Social Committee. What do we do? We are the people who run events at the village hall such as the Pamper Evening, the Summer Fete, the Christmas fair and other events. Why do we do this? It's to raise money to maintain and improve the facilities of your village hall. It is expensive to run the hall.

Why do we ask for help? The social committee is run by a small voluntary group of people who believe in working for the village. Being such a small group we are sometimes unable to find enough people to actually do things. What we are asking for are volunteers to help on the days of our events, we need people to run stalls, to set up tables, to put up marquees etc. a few strong people would be useful. We promise we will not ask you to join the committee, unless you wish to. All we ask for is a few hours work per year when we run these events. Can you help us?

Please contact Peter or Linda Whitehead on 01536 770846

Ps if anyone has a gazebo we may borrow for the Summer Fete on Saturday 4th July we would be most grateful.

FUNDRAISING DAY

In aid of special needs children in Uganda

Saturday 13th June 10am - 2pm

35 Rushton Road

(Carolyn and Ray Austin - on the corner at top of bank)

Refreshments

Cakes, Bottles, Jewellery, Books,
Bric-a-bac etc.

WILLIE WILBAR WRITES

Can you identify and translate these Accents?
Answers in the next Chronicle

- Big horse thet hice
- Gorb limey, ee looks a toff from is napper to is feet
- Omma goo-in dayun tayun on me bar-wick
- Appen it-ul brar-tun up yet
- Raw-wit, then, wassup wi thee?
- Lang may yer lum reek
- Doon thar, tis zider that oi yav
- ...roared, twa see the blair-den ray-uces

THE FOX INN - ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Following the successful nomination as an Asset of Community Value of the Fox by the Parish Council there was a celebration held at the pub on March 23rd. This was in response to an announcement from the Community Pubs Minister, Kris Hopkins MP, that the 23rd would be a national day of celebration for all pubs listed as assets of community value. Although this was very hastily arranged, as it was not discovered until 6th March that this national event would take place, many people attended and Sam and Stella laid on a buffet for the event so a special thanks to them and to all those who attended and signed the petition.



The Parish Council continues to be in regular contact with the owners of the pub and will continue to lobby them to improve this vital village facility and community hub. Whilst the tenancy of the pub is still not settled and the B & B rooms are still up for sale there are signs that negotiations are underway to resolve these issues in a beneficial way which is a good thing. Sam and Stella continue to be excellent hosts and have a number of initiatives in place to improve patronage so thanks to them for sticking with it in spite of all of the difficulties they have had to suffer.

We can all play a small part in securing the future of the Fox by using our local rather than going further afield so please do so as the village would be a poorer place without it.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

There will be a meeting of all members at the Fox

Sunday 28th June at 6pm

To discuss the future of the branch