

your **Wimbotsham**

November 2020



Produced by Wimbotsham Parish Council

This newsletter is produced by Wimbotsham Parish Council. Every effort is made to ensure that information is accurate at the time of going to print, but no liability will be accepted for losses caused by inaccurate information.

Wimbotsham History

Epidemics in 19th Century

The current restrictions in the UK in the past six months appear to compare to the desperate situation that engulfed Wimbotsham in the early 1800s but without the excellent care, the NHS can offer.

In 1801, Wimbotsham had a population of 260, it was approximately the same figure in 1832 during the Cholera, and Smallpox epidemics hit the area. 1 in 5 of the population died during that time, 18%, and many were children.

Preventative actions were recommended including the burning of “decayed articles, such as rags, cordage, papers, old clothes, hangings....filth of every description removed. Clothing and furniture should be submitted to copious effusions of water and boiled in a strong ley (lye); drains and privies thoroughly cleansed by streams of water and chloride of lime. Admission of fresh air to all parts of the house and furniture was encouraged for at least a week.”

1832 was a bad year for Wimbotsham. In the Cholera epidemic the 1st burial, Susan Jacob, age 6 on 5th June followed by a further six victims in June and 27 in July. In October, smallpox claimed Martha Bullamore buried on 14th October and her sister Anne, age 11, six days later. Nine more lives were lost before the end of the outbreak in February 1833 and 6 more in total than Stow Bardolph.

Some families were hit particularly hard by these outbreaks, presumably because they shared the same contaminated water supply. Charles Overland age 51 was buried in 1831, leaving a widow Susanna and young family. Susanna died of cholera on 11th June 1832 aged 49 and daughter Sarah died the next day.

William Monk age 51 was buried on 14th July 1832 followed by his sons, Charles 6, on 17th and William 4 on 20th. Their mother, Hannah 49 was buried on 24th July. And so on The burial register identifies 34 cholera victims plus smallpox victims. In total, there were 45 burials in Wimbotsham within 7 months.

With thanks to Downham Heritage Centre archives and Chris Shaw's website Downham Market and Around.

Wimbotsham History Group are working on the contents of the 1939 Register for Wimbotsham which was released last year. The Registers were compiled in October 1939 following the start of WW2; one of its purposes was to issue Identity Cards. The Register records all the residents, their addresses, occupation etc. It is fascinating to look through and gives us a view of the village families at that time.

Nowadays, the main roads of the village have different names to those recorded in 1939. We are not sure when these were altered. But it is not only the names of the roads; it is the house numbers as well. So we have a puzzle. House deeds of the older houses will often show up on sale and purchase documents stating *formerly No. ?? in which street/road* it was situated. For instance, Shrub House at 29 Church Road was 19 The Green in 1939. We are not sure whether the house numbers were random or in sequence.

The roads are:- The Street and The Green (now called Church Road) and Station Road (now Westway). Additionally, has anyone heard of "Bottom Wells" within our parish boundaries?

Help us solve the puzzle - we would be pleased to receive your call or, email.

Carolyn Seymour 01366 381099

Email: Wim.villhistory@btinternet.com

Chris Smith 01366 389729

Email: chris201251@sky.com



Anyone you recognise ??? yr1977

Contact the Wimbotsham history group with any information:

Wimbotsham Parish Council

Whilst Covid 19 restrictions are in place Parish Council meetings are held via Zoom. Keep an eye on the notice boards and parish council website for details of meetings, agendas and minutes: **Wimbotsham.com**

Please stay safe, enjoy the village and contact us with any concerns.

Contacting the Parish Council

The best way to contact the council is via the Parish Clerk.

Please remember to provide your name, address and telephone number.

Clerk to Wimbotsham Parish Council: Pippa Winson

37 Ullswater Avenue, South Wootton, King's Lynn, PE30 3NJ

wimbotshampc@hotmail.co.uk 01553 674382

Speed Awareness: The parish council have the opportunity for portable flashing speed awareness signs to be positioned temporarily in the village, these depend on trained volunteers to position them as required. For information contact the PC.

Footpaths: Extra cuts are being made to ensure they are easy to walk.

The Chequers: It was good to see The Chequers re open after lock down, unfortunately its popularity gave cause for a number of complaints, about parking on the pavement outside, a particular issue since the seating area was extended. It is appreciated that those driving to The Chequers are probably from outside the village, but if you know someone parking on the pavement, please remind them to use the car park.

Secondly, the popular Sunday afternoon music sessions gave cause for a number of complaints as being outside the loud music every week disturbed neighbours' otherwise peaceful afternoons. As the weather cooled and with lock down 2, this problem has ceased for the time being. The PC has written to the The Chequers and it is believed they are looking at ways to reduce disturbance in the future. If you have concerns, please contact The Chequers, the parish council or the borough council.

Wimbotsham Village Hall

Whilst the village hall is again currently closed to most activities we were able to re open in August following lockdown 1.0. During lockdown some volunteers repaired the large pothole in the entrance to the car park and also spread additional gravel around the car park. Volunteers have also installed contactless hand sanitiser stations within the village hall.



When we reopened in August not all our usual groups were able to restart but we were able to welcome some new groups on both a permanent and temporary basis when usual venues had not reopened. New groups include two yoga classes, Zumba and a children's dance school.

Although the hall can only allow activities in accordance with current government legislation and guidance we can still take enquiries and future bookings.

For all village hall enquiries and bookings contact Kate:

07876 473896 or

wimbotshamhall@hotmail.com

If no answer, please leave a message, your call will be returned.



WIMBOTSHAM METHODIST CHURCH



For further information and latest updates please contact Mary Davies on 01366 388660

After the recent past months of the challenges of lockdown, what a joy it will be to open wide our doors again when we can to resume our regular weekly Sunday services!

It is not yet possible to arrange dates to restart our monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings nor for other planned Group activities and fellowship but with continuing “faith and vision” we will do our best to keep you informed.

Sunday Services Whilst we are missing the warmth and fellowship of our little Chapel Downham Market Methodist Church is live-streaming their Sunday morning and evening services with Zoom and invite all to join in (contact sarah.friswell@btinternet.com)

Downham Market Methodist Church has a page on www.facebook.com with regular updates.

On Sunday mornings from 10 – 11 am you can also tune into the Gospel Hour on [www.hospitalradiolynn](https://www.hospitalradiolynn.com), presented by Rev’d Stephen Oliver, well known to many of us in the West Norfolk circuit. Requests for worship songs and hymns are welcomed.

Methodists have been worshipping in Wimbotsham for over 200 years. In those times as licences had to be obtained for buildings in which Religious Worship was to be held people would meet in temporary places before they were able to find enough money to build a Chapel. It is recorded that William Suesdell (labourer) applied for a licence for Wesleyan Methodists to worship in “My House” which was granted on 1 June 1812. Application for a later license was granted on 7 November 1821 to Joseph Suesdell (thatcher) for worship in “My own dwelling house, my property”. Where were these houses located we wonder? Can anyone please help?

Methodism in Wimbotsham has witnessed many changes in the village since then. We thank God for all those who through the years have maintained witness, love and service so that our little Chapel today continues to flourish and be “in good heart”.

A Blessing for Winter

As the days grow shorter, the late autumn warmth ebbs fully away, leaving behind the damp whisper of winter.

May you have solid walls to shelter you and a bright hearth to hold you welcome in its arms.

When the world insists, despite your body's waning, on a continued quickening of pace

May a stillness settle itself within you and a quiet longing for peace guide you gently home.

If the ghosts of your more haunted days should return in the afternoon darkness, to whisper bitter nothings in your ear

May you have the gentleness of thought and tenderness of touch to usher them kindly away.

May the sharp sun enliven you

May the cold breeze awaken you

May the company of friends warm you

And may the crisp falling leaves remind you of the beauty of each and every fine and precious day.

Adam Harley.

Supplied by Steve Mingay

Exercising in our wonderful local countryside:

During the Covid crisis, more of us took up walking and cycling amongst other pastimes when the lockdown was eased. Even during these difficult times it was wonderful to find such beautiful views so close to the village.



St Mary's Church Wimbotsham

From the Vicar

Dear reader,

As I write this, we are in a new Lockdown and the future remains uncertain. There is talk of a pathbreaking vaccine but how good or how accessible will it be? In the meantime, there is a real possibility that some (many?) of us will have to experience a digital Christmas this year. This is very sad for everybody especially at Christmas when we get a chance to meet up with family and friends. But it is particularly difficult for those who are living on their own, in care homes or are in hospitals at this time. As a church we continue to pray for all our parishioners, whether you are in the habit of coming to church or not.

But perhaps the low key nature of Christmas this year will allow us to focus on the real meaning behind the festive season. Yes, it is the season of peace and goodwill for all people. But let us not forget that the word 'Christmas' comes from the Mass that was celebrated to mark the birth of Jesus Christ. In the midst of all our anxieties, fears and darkness, Jesus Christ promises and provides peace, hope and light. This winter, why not join us in church for a service? Or if we are still restricted, why not join us online for a service? Everybody is welcome. Do something new and exciting this year. Come and see what Jesus Christ means at Christmas! Who knows, you may discover light, and life and hope for yourself!

Every blessing to you and yours for Christmas and the New Year.

With prayerful good wishes,

DK

The Revd Dr David

Rector

Tel:07596 707469

www.westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk

Winter Fuel

ThinkingFuel – taking the worry out of buying heating oil

If you rely on heating oil for your home, business or other premises you'll know that the price per litre can fluctuate depending on when and how much you order. Heating oil is unregulated so, unlike mains gas and electricity, there are no rules and regulations or price controls.

Community Action Norfolk (CAN) runs a collective oil buying scheme called ThinkingFuel, which offers consistently low prices on heating oil by buying in bulk on behalf of all its members around the county. CAN is a charity, and buying from ThinkingFuel helps CAN support local community projects across Norfolk.

Comparing prices for oil is very difficult for the consumer because of fluctuations in price between days, quantities ordered, locations and delivery times. All ThinkingFuel members pay the same low price per litre no matter how much they order. So there's no favouritism dependent on whether you buy 500 litres or 5,000! And there's no obligation to buy – the choice is yours.

ThinkingFuel works by having two key dates each month when you can order your oil and maximise savings – but you can order oil on any working day of the month and still get a competitive price. The scheme is trusted, reliable, and well established with 3,000 members across Norfolk.

You can read more about how it works at www.thinkingfuel.org.uk and to read more about the work of CAN in supporting community projects visit www.communityactionnorfolk.org.uk. If you don't have internet access you could ask a friend or relative to go through the information with you – or call 01362 698216 and we'll answer your

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Wimbotsham Academy – School life during COVID-19

The last academic year proved to be the most challenging one of our careers so far and this one is proving to be just the same. With almost daily changes in guidance, it is hard to keep up. As adults we are under immense pressure to follow our risk assessment, clean more and keep our families, children and staff safe – all while ensuring our children accelerate their progress and continue to have a love of learning.

So what is life like at Wimbotsham Academy?

We were really pleased that all our children returned to school in September. Although many were anxious about the return, they all settled back into learning very quickly. We relaxed our curriculum during the first half term so that we could focus on the mental health and well being of our children. Teachers cleverly designed tasks so that they could assess any gaps in learning created during the first lockdown and that has influenced their planning for this half term.

We continue to make learning fun, engaging and as practical as possible. We are also keen to continue with as many of our usual traditions as possible. FOWPs (our school PTA) would normally organise a Halloween disco but unfortunately this is something we couldn't do in our traditional way.



Instead we had a 'spooky day' The children arrived at school to a scary scene set up outside with music playing. Thanks to Jamie Robinson, we were also able to add lights and smoke! The excitement and buzz was amazing that morning! During the day we made spells, wrote stories and watched spooky movies. FOWPS provided goody bags and treats for the children and we were all exhausted at the end of the day.



In November we have taken part in a 2 minute silence on the playground for Remembrance.

The Swans class created a beautiful poppy wreath to lay at the memorial and some of the children even brought in medals from relatives.

Next week we are taking part in Anti Bullying Week. This helps schools to shine a spotlight on bullying and encourage all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year and is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

The children will take part in different activities throughout the week, but to kick start the week we are taking part in 'Odd socks day'. 'Odd Socks Day' is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and is an opportunity for the children to express themselves and celebrate differences and what makes us unique.

We are hoping to continue with many of our Christmas traditions including a nativity for our youngest children – just in a socially distanced way!

Finally, I would like to share a few thank you's:

To the fenman for donating £100 to FOWPs and the school even though the show couldn't take place. As a school, we have spent our £100 on P.E equipment and is already being enjoyed by the children.

To the staff for their unwavering dedication to our wonderful school, particularly during these difficult times.

Finally, to our families and the community for your continued support with making sure we are all as safe as possible.

Stay safe - Louise Arrowsmith – Head of School



Walking in the village of Wimbotsham is always a pleasant way of passing our time, especially in recent times when fresh air and something to do are in short supply. We have made great steps in managing our footpaths in Wimbotsham and having the additional cuts throughout the year, seems to have proven popular as know it is common site to see people walking and enjoying the footpaths.

Something that has been lost in history to our village is 'beating the bounds'.

A tradition that goes back to Anglo Saxon times to ensure boundaries are kept and everyone appreciates what and where the village extends too. An annual walk of the parish boundary would give an insight into how the village is being managed, reminds everyone where the boundary is and hopefully allow everyone to enjoy a little bit more of Wimbotsham where we haven't been before.



We are currently seeking permission from all the landowners on the boundaries of Wimbotsham and also our local wildlife trust about sensitive areas. We hope that we will have

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this in place soon and when a little firmer under foot, organise an annual village beating of the bounds for all to enjoy.

We will keep you updated of progress and hopefully give everyone a different perspective of our lovely village.



Chequers New Normal!

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone that supported us during our closure by using our take away service and all of our locals who have returned since the 4th of July it has been truly overwhelming and we are extremely grateful.

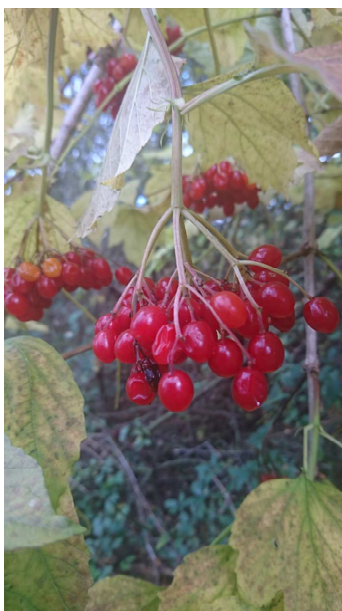
As we are all getting used to the easing of lockdown I would like to assure you all that myself and all the staff have undertaken the East of England tourism training in catering and hospitality to ensure we follow the correct guidance in keeping all of our staff and customers safe.

Our opening hours remain the same but we are requesting that anyone wishing to eat with us must book as we now have a limited capacity and we are running a limited menu. We are offering a takeaway fish and chip service and Sunday Roast we also offer local deliveries for no extra charge.

Our Quiz is not running at the moment until the guidance changes so announcements will be made on our Facebook page and all of our menus and events are on our website www.thechequerswimbotsham.co.uk

Phone number is 01366 386768 or you can e-mail infochequers@yahoo.com

A mast year



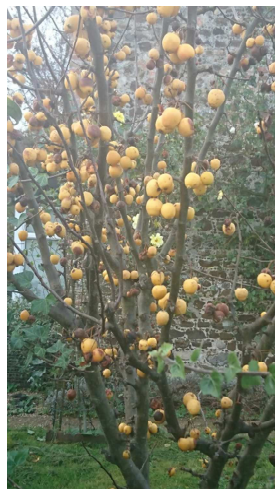
Have you noticed an abundance of fruits, nuts, berries and cones on our trees and shrubs this year? Hedgerows full of colour and bumper crops of acorns and beech? This is happening all over the country and is known as a mast year. According to the Woodland Trust this is a clever strategy to ensure future generations of trees and shrub species.

Two of our most recognisable trees, oak and beech fluctuate massively year on year in the amount of acorns and beech nuts they produce. Some years sees very little, while in other years the nuts create a thick carpet beneath the trees. One of the main theories for this behaviour is 'predator satiation'. Animals such as mice, squirrels and jays feed on acorns and beech nuts, but when the trees produce smaller crops for a few consecutive years; this keeps the populations of these animals down. But during a mast year the trees produce more food

than the animals can eat. The abundance of food causes a growth in population of small animals like mice but more importantly it guarantees some will be left over to survive and grow into new trees.

Mast years happen every 5-10 years and are worth the tree's effort as some of the crop will germinate into new saplings. I remember the last one in 2013 and seeing the thick carpet of acorns beneath one of the ancient oaks along our lanes. Apparently an oak can drop several hundred acorns in a single square metre.

Jackie Squires



Friends & Neighbours

Friends & Neighbours have, of course, been unable to meet up for chats and cups of tea since “lockdown”, although we did enjoy a light lunch at The Chequers in February. This year we would have celebrated our 54th Birthday Tea.

I’m not sure when we will be able to get together again, maybe not this year though if things continue to improve, we might manage a Christmas Lunch – but hopefully early in 2021 we can resume meetings.

Sadly we lost two members earlier this year (not from the virus).

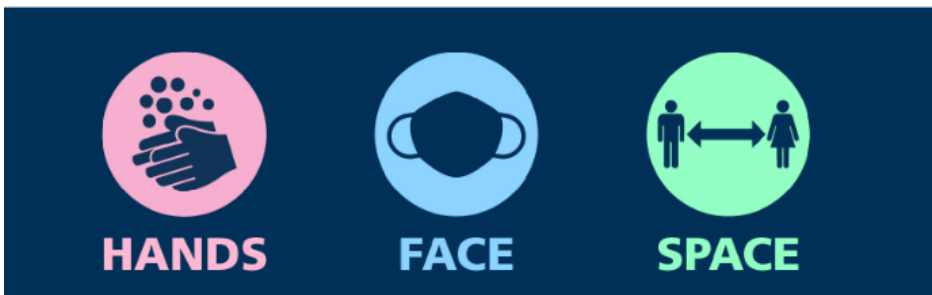
First of all, Norman Jeary died following a fall at home. Together, with his wife, Marjorie, Norman was a long-standing member of the club. Although he was becoming very frail, and had been unable to attend meetings for some while, he was still in good spirits at Christmas when we were pleased he was able to join us for lunch at the Garden Centre. A service was held in Wimbotsham’s Methodist Chapel. I attended on behalf of the Group and sent a donation to the British Heart Foundation in his memory.

Then John Meakin, who with Ellen, his wife, hosted our annual garden party in their lovely garden, lost his fight with Alzheimer’s. He had been cared for in High Haven for a while. Unfortunately he died shortly before lockdown and very sadly Ellen couldn’t attend his funeral. When things get back to “normal” there will be a memorial service for him in the Chapel.

Both lovely people who will be much missed.

All the best to all the members.

Sheila 386892



Remembrance



Sadly this year the village was unable to hold a remembrance service to commemorate those from the parish who were lost in the two world wars.

Usually people gather on the village green by the war memorial and a small service is held. To continue the tradition as best as we could in the current lockdown, two wreaths were laid at 11am on Sunday 8th November.

The wreaths were from our Churches in the village, St Mary's and the Methodist church and their congregations. The other wreath was from the Parish Council and village residents.

Since these were laid, another wreath has appeared; beautiful poppies made by the pupils of Wimbotsham primary and from staff and children alike.

Thanks to village shop: We are fortunate to have our thriving village shop and post office open throughout lockdown almost as usual. They always seem to be working hard under difficult conditions to serve us, an invaluable service. Please continue to support our shop, remember your face covering, social distancing, and a little extra patience.

Magpie Centre News

Winter is upon us, along with a new lockdown, just as the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association was resuming activities after the last set of restrictions.

With 12 horses and ponies to maintain, and no donations from riders and carriage drivers, the need for funds has never been more urgent.

The ponies live out, with field shelters, but in winter they need hay to supplement the grass in their paddocks, plus weatherproof rugs to help them withstand the elements.

Colin Perriss, chairman of WNRDA has set up a Go Fund Me campaign, with a target of £995 to help towards these expenses. To donate, visit www.gofundme.com, click on 'SEARCH' in top left corner, and then insert Magpie Centre Winter Feed & Horse Essentials or visit our website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk.

As soon as Covid-19 regulations allow, we shall be expanding our portfolio of activities to include riding experiences for able-bodied riders as well as those with disabilities. These will include:

First rides – aimed at able-bodied would-be riders looking to ride a horse for the first time;

Experience rides – for those returning to riding after a break, or who want to regain confidence after a fall or incident which has caused them a setback;

Carriage driving – taking the reins through a course of cones in a paddock environment, and

Carriage driving on tracks through the delightful woodlands at Wallington Hall.

Surely this programme offers something for everyone, and would make a wonderful Christmas or birthday present for a friend or relative. To book, call the Magpie Centre on 01553 810202, email magpiecentrewnrda@hotmail.co.uk or visit our website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk.

And lastly, don't forget to stock up on our Christmas cards. Again, visit our website to order, or pop into West Winch Post Office, on A10 or Shouldham Antiques and Gifts, 1 Eastgate Street, PE33 0ED (open Thu/Sun 11 am – 4 pm), where stocks are held.

100 Acre Trust

Wimbotsham Coal Dole makes payments to assist the poor of the village with fuel costs

Dating from 1911, the 100 Acre Common Charity was established to assist the 'poor inhabitants' of Downham Market, Stow Bardolph & Wimbotsham through the distribution of fuel. This generally being coal. Hence the name **Wimbotsham Coal Dole**.

Today the charity makes payments each December to assist the poor of the villages with fuel costs as coal is no longer used by most to heat their homes.

As general guidance, pensioners existing solely on the state pension, single parent families, those on sickness benefit, income support or job seekers allowance could apply. This list is not exhaustive but gives a general idea of those who the Coal Dole expect to help. This guidance is in keeping with the aims of the Charity, and the terms of the Trust Deed, *to benefit the poor inhabitants*.

Funds are distributed at the discretion of the trustees based on the information provided by applicants.

To apply for funds, please complete the application on the opposite page together with any additional information you feel appropriate and return to one of the addresses below:

88 West Way: 35 Church Road: 37 Church Road:



TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF
CORONAVIRUS IN NORFOLK

**STAY HOME
AS MUCH
AS POSSIBLE**

WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE,
SO THIS TIME WE'RE BETTER PREPARED

PROTECT OURSELVES. PROTECT OTHERS. PROTECT NORFOLK.

Application for 100 Acre Trust funds 2020

(To be returned by 11th December 2020)

Please answer questions accurately and honestly to the best of your knowledge, providing as much supporting information as you feel appropriate. Please provide the basic information required below and additional information on a separate sheet.

Name: Date of Birth: Marital Status:

Address:

Telephone:

How long have you lived in Wimbotsham: Do you live alone:

Any dependents:

Please specify why you feel you are eligible and what you wish to use grant monies for (please continue on a separate sheet where required):

Do you find it difficult to meet yours or your family's basic needs? E.g. Providing clothes, food, electricity, gas etc.

Details of the following will assist in assessing your application:

Details of your/household income/benefits/savings/investments:

Do you own/rent your own home:

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION - Details which you feel may be helpful to us:

DECLARATION BY APPLICANT

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements I have made are full and correct in every respect and that no relevant information relating to my circumstances has been withheld. I also accept that all applications are considered at the discretion of the trustees and it will be their discretion as to whether this application is successful. I accept that I may be required to provide further evidence in relation to my financial information.

Signed..... Date:
(Signature of Applicant)

Road Closure for Pole Replacement



On October 19th Church Road was closed for the replacement of a dangerous electricity pole. The pole had rotten at the base and could be rocked with ease of hand.

Being close to houses and supporting both electricity and telephone cables together with a street lamp the operation was trickier than usual. Up to six UKPN vehicles were in attendance together with operatives who first disconnected the cables before lifting the old pole out whilst holding cables in the air.

A slightly larger hole was drilled before installing a new pole, and reconnecting the cables replacing the street lamp.

