

your **Wimbotsham**

February 2022



156 Squadron based at RAF Warboys in 1943.

Inside:

A snippet of Wimbotsham wartime history

Restoration of village green bench

Village green trees

Church update

School and more...



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.

Remembrance Day

To commemorate our fallen soldiers from the 1st and 2nd world wars, a short remembrance service was held on Saturday 13th November 2021 at the war memorial on the village green.

Due to the pandemic restrictions this was a low-key event, with only those attending to lay their wreaths on the memorial.



Wreaths from Wimbotsham Primary School, Church and the Parish Council were placed at the memorial followed by a two minute silence.

The Parish Council donated £50 to the RBL Poppy Appeal.



Village Green Trees



The picture above depicts the village green a 100 or so years ago, surprisingly and fortunately the buildings surrounding the green have changed relatively little. Hence one of the reasons the centre of the village has been designated a Conservation Area.

However, the green itself has changed considerably with the planting of trees, the once largely open green has developed into a heavily tree canopied area, the trees having grown considerably from when first planted (as above).

To maintain the green and an appropriate balance between light and shade the parish council have embarked on tree management works, agreed with the borough tree officer, removing two trees and reducing the canopy of others. A new native Oak will be planted, the intention being that the trees will be healthier, the grass beneath will be healthier and we can all continue to enjoy the green without it becoming a forest and overshadowing the surroundings.

Deadline for the next newsletter: 30th April 2022

Please send your articles, what's on... to wimbotshamc@hotmail.co.uk

Keeping the village tidy... Help keep the village tidy, if you have put up a poster or notice on a post or notice board, it would help if you could remember to remove when no longer required. Or if you see an old notice, feel free to take it down. ***Every little helps as they say!***



Wimbotsham Parish Council

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the first newsletter of 2022. Although we are still in February, I think many of us are looking forward to spring and already the signs are there with catkins hanging from hazel trees and snow drops and celandines just about to burst through. Apart from the risk of Covid still with us, many people have suffered with nasty winter colds and for many it has been a trying time so the oncoming longer, lighter days and hopefully some sunny days will be welcome.

The Parish Council is now meeting in person again; currently we meet in the Methodist Church Hall, once every two months when members of the public are welcome to attend. This year we can look forward to the Queens Platinum Jubilee on 2nd June. The Parish Council is making provisional plans for a picnic on the village green in the afternoon and lighting the beacon in the evening. There will be further updates to this in our next newsletter or look out for posters around the village.

As a Parish Council we continue to carry out our duties with all decisions being the responsibility of the whole body. The following is just some of the services and amenities in the village we look after or have an interest in village green, street lighting, footpaths, SAM2 signs, highways, commenting on all planning applications, allotment rent, village hall and the new village hall working group, recreation ground and maintenance of assets.

We do still have a vacancy for a parish councilor so if anyone is interested in joining the parish council, then please contact our clerk, Pippa Winson on 01553 674382 or email wimbotshamc@hotmail.co.uk You will be made very welcome.

Jacqueline Squires — Chairperson

DOG FOULING Once again, we must remind dog walkers to make sure they pick up after their dog. Over the winter months with dark mornings and evenings, some dog walkers are not doing as they are supposed to do. The increase in fouling has been noticed. I walk my dogs along the trod at bottom of Westway and although a dog poo bin is in situ, there are always piles of poop that haven't been picked up. The Parish Council has a footpath representative, who walks all the routes around the village every month and is reporting higher cases of dog fouling in other places too.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO OWN OR WALK A DOG YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO PICK UP ITS POO. The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk's Public Space Protection Order (Control of Dogs) 2021 issued under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 means that if you do not clear up your dog's waste you could be issued with an £80 fixed penalty notice or prosecuted with a fine of up to £1000.

Parish Council

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

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held in the Methodist Church Starting at 7pm

Everyone is welcome to attend

If you would like to address the council there is an opportunity to speak

Agendas & Minutes are published on the village notice boards & on the website:

Wimbotsham.com

Next Meeting:

8th March 2022

Your councillors are:

Bates, Simon	The Beeches, 2 West Way	01366 386607
Cable, Ian (Vice-Chair)	Stow Corner Farm	01366 386704
Chilvers, Dean	45 West Way	01366 386211
Fendley, David	12 Millers Lane	01366 383436
Mingay, Steve	14 Church Road	07714 761871
Squires, Jackie (Chair)	88 West Way	01366 386370
Smith, Anne	30 Church Road	01366 389729

SAM 2 (Speed awareness Sign)



Last year we took delivery of our shared SAM 2 camera, which has been purchased in conjunction with Runcton Holme Parish Council. It has been partly funded by Norfolk County council.

The flashing sign flashes the drivers actual speed and encourages them to slow down by helping the driver acknowledge the speed that they are travelling. We have located some locations around the village and are collecting the data on a regular occurrence.

With an average traffic throughput of 850 cars per day, we had maximum speeds of 45mph and an average speed of 28.7mph, resulting in 5% over the speed limit. When the camera has been moved to a location, you can see a significant reduction in speed as time progresses and people become aware of the sign. Hopefully, this will encourage the passing traffic to reduce their speeds, to ensure the safety of the residents of Wimbotsham.

Wimbotsham and Stow Academy

The Autumn Term was a busy one for us but we were back doing many of the things we loved. The highlight of the term for us was the whole school Christmas performance that we held at Stowbridge Village Hall. This is the first time that the whole school performed their Christmas Play together (over 100 children) in nearly 20 years! They performed 'Primary School Christmas Musical' for all the families of the school and their singing, in particular, was outstanding.

This year we have also introduced House Teams. These involve all children in the school meeting in mixed aged groups to discuss issues relating to the school and how we can improve things. Our Year Six children take a lead in these and have really stepped up. For example, we were unable to hold a full Christmas fayre this year with parents and families but the children decided they wanted to hold a small one in school. They organised all the games themselves and raised nearly £300; some of which will go to their chosen charities.

They wrote their first newsletter last term too which can be seen opposite.

I continue to be so proud to be the headteacher of Wimbotsham and Stow Academy.

Hello, I am Lydia, and I am the captain of Red Team. Our amazing vice captains are Archie E and Freya B and between us we have decided to rename our house: Team Phoenix. Our super teacher leader is Mrs Tutin.

Our charity: Together we have voted on Holly pops as our charity this year and will be presenting our information in assembly. We are going to do more house competitions and in the coming weeks will be holding a Christmas crafts competition and the money we raise will go towards our charities.

Other events such as: art gallery competitions, reading challenges and P.E and sporting competitions will be held after the Christmas break.

To Dragon Team ,

You may know us as Green Team but our new name is Dragons. Max and Lizzie are our captains and Mrs Charlton is our teacher, Charlie and Karolina are our vice captains.

We have been talking about an eco plan for the school and we would like to get some recycling bins and a compost bin.

Our charity:

We have chosen to support the Cats Protection. This helps cats that are unhealthy and need care, we will be raising money for them all year round.

Thank you from the Dragon captains.

Hello and welcome

I am Davy - the captain of Yellow Team (the Griffins) and our teacher leader is Mr Johnson. Our vice-captains are Sebastian and Jacob.

We vote and discuss what changes we could make to the school. We even voted on our own charity.

Yellow house have decided to support the food bank. We decided on that because we would like to give food to families that are in need.

Watch this space!

Dear Sprite Team,

This is your house captain Evie. Our vice captains are Lily-May, Jack, and James. Our teacher/Leader is the amazing Miss Elliott. The charity we are supporting is ...

"Rudham Ward!"

Bye sprite team

From Evie

**Is your child starting school in
September 2022? Or are you looking
for a preschool place for your 3 or 4
year old?**

Then come and visit ...

Wimbotsham and Stow Academy
(just outside Downham Market)

We are a small village school with a
big heart!

If you would like to book a visit please
email or call the office
office@wim.unity-ed.uk
01366 382336



Village Hall Christmas Lights

For the second year the village hall has been illuminated throughout the Christmas period, providing a festive backdrop to the green for all to see, both villagers and the hundreds that pass through the village each day. As well as some added cheer it draws attention to our village hall within its prominent location.

Lights being put up by volunteers Ian Cable & new village resident Philip Penn . ***Thanks to them.***



Wimbotsham New Village Hall Working Group

We are pleased to say that the NVHWG's work is still progressing.

Before Christmas we met with Swann Edwards Architects, who showed us the pre-application advice documents to submit the Borough Council.

The Feasibility Study on suitable sites for the New Village Hall has reached its final stage. An application for pre-application advice was submitted to the Borough Council on 22nd December 2021 for each of the two sites identified in the Feasibility Study. We have had confirmation that the advice will be sent to us by end of February 2022.

In the meantime we are now looking to formalise the NVHWG into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). We need to do this so we can approach funding sources for grants etc.

We are also pleased to say that we have been in touch with the school who are keen to aid us with our project. The children are very excited and are coming up with ideas for the part they would like to play. This is really good news.

And finally we greeted John Askew from Marshland St.James at our last meeting who had been heavily involved in a similar new village hall project. His input has proved to be highly invaluable to our project and our thanks go to him.

Thank you all for your support and if you would like any further information please contact WimbotshamNVHWG@gmail.com or call **07498 566175**

Wimbotsham History

The Old Orchard Air Crash see cover photo

In our last article we promised to bring you the story of the Lancaster Bomber crash in 1943. Following on from writing the memories of two elder citizens of Wimbotsham, Roy Docking and Albert Boughen, we have now carried out intensive research on this story – a story that may well have been forgotten in the coming years.

After 10.30pm, on the night of 29th September 1943, Roy Docking heard a loud whooshing kind of noise. He was in bed at his home "Paschendale" in Tinkers Lane. Next, there was the sound of running feet and Roy's father leaned out of his bedroom window and saw Mr Neale, he called out, "What's happening?"

Mr Neale replied, "A plane has just crashed near our house. I'm off to phone the police." It was a huge Lancaster Bomber a member of 8 Group, Pathfinders (PFF) out of RAF Warboys in Huntingdonshire returning from Operation Bochum in Germany having taken off at 18.24. The RAF Crash card state the flight time as 4hours 16mins. Mr Neale's telephone call reporting time of crash is given as 22.55. The time difference would indicate that the plane crashed between 22.40 and 22.55.

The plane didn't crash like falling from the sky, or crash diving. It came in as if on a normal landing. Roy was later told that the landing lights at RAF Downham were out at the time, due to an enemy plane being in the area. This often happened as German bombers going to and from the Midlands used the area over Downham as a flight path.

It was a moonless night and being low on fuel, the pilot may have taken the risk of landing. Unfortunately, in the dark he made a low approach to the airfield and missed the runway. The flight carried on and made a crash landing in the fields between Tinkers Lane and Millers Lane. Roy believes the Lancaster landed with quite a bump and left a trail of wreckage as it ploughed through hedges and across the small meadow that Roy knew as the "Hot Pikel" It ended up amongst the orchard trees with the airplane nose pointing at Rose Cottage in Millers Lane. A Lancaster Bomber's measurements are approximately 69.5 feet length (21.4m) and 102 feet wide (31.4m) and had four Merlin engines.

The very next day Roy and his friend Ray Neale witnessed the trail of damage and the Lancaster's last resting place. The main airplane parts had been removed but lots of debris remained. The miracle is that none of the village homes were damaged. Had the airplane's trajectory been just 100 yards (92.3m) to the left it could have crashed in the centre of Wimbotsham.

The sad part of the whole story is that 6 of the 7 crew, aged between 19 and 26 years, lost their lives. The only survivor, the rear gunner, was comforted by villagers until help arrived. He was taken to hospital with a broken leg. It is felt that while the villagers were looking after Flt.Sgt.

Arthur Orchard, he may well have commented that the fuel had run out. As Roy told us, there was no explosion or fire at the crash site.

Over the remaining months of 2021, significant research was carried out on Operation Bochum and to try locating the resting places of the crew members and/or members of their families. Most were returned to their home towns or villages but two are buried in Cambridge cemetery, the others are at Tenby in Wales, Otley in Yorkshire, Potten End, West Hertfordshire and Carisbrooke in IOW. We have not been successful in finding living relatives yet. It seemed to us that the only way to bring these brave young men together again was on one memorial honouring their bravery and sacrifice.

Last April, we approached Wimbotsham Parish Council to apply for a suitable memorial plaque to raise awareness of a significant moment in the village's history to commemorate the lives of the whole crew of Lancaster Bomber Flight EE118 which crashed in Wimbotsham on 29th Sept. 1943. The memorial was agreed and eventually, the plaque will be positioned on the base of the Wimbotsham Village sign on the village green.

Having achieved support from the Parish Council, applications have been made to the Ministry of Defence (Copyright section) to use a specific RAF logo for the Pathfinders on the memorial plaque. Additionally, it is hoped a signpost will be installed in Millers Lane pointing to the crash site and a decision is awaited from Norwich County Council for a site licence. These two items may take a little while to receive approval.

In the meantime, a digital guided village history walk is being compiled and will be available to download this year.

During the pandemic it has been difficult to meet people but if you have any memories or photos, please do get in touch.

Carolyn Seymour for Wimbotsham History Group
Tel: 01366 381099 or, email: Wimvillhistory@btinternet.com

News from St Mary's

We continue to hold our monthly Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Stow Bardolph

Our service is on the fourth Sunday of every month at 11am, we would be very pleased to welcome You!

Enquiries regarding Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact the West Norfolk Parish Office: 07596707469 (Mon-Thurs 9am-1pm)
www.westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk
email: louise.vigus@westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk

Our Rector Revd Dr David Karoon has been recently made a Canon of Ely Cathedral

At Evensong on St Etheldreda's Day (18th Oct) David was installed into his stall in the Choir at Ely by Bishop Stephen and Dean Bonney of Ely.

Wimbotsham Green Bench



**The new look village bench
Restored in memory of Stewart**

Stewart was a stalwart member of the UK Monster Owners Club and lifelong fan of Ducatis. His Ducati Monster was something of a legend within the club, having re-worked it over years to shave of an amazing 42kg from its listed dry weight of 193kg! (That's about 6 stone lighter!)

Any part that could be, was substituted with Carbon fibre, titanium, or aluminium in the case of the frame. He marched into the back door of the Ducati factory in Bologna with his new bespoke frame and had them stamp the original frame numbers onto it. He was well connected.

Even the custom paintwork is amazing, with most of the carbon modestly covered, only revealing it in the pinstripes and chequers. A very class act.

Stewart knew many famous people connected to motorcycle racing and Ducati. He was friends with the young Barry Sheene before his fame and often used to ride out with him on the Fens, including trips to Wimbotsham.

Stewart was very fond of Wimbotsham and in his later years would arrive at the Fenman show early on his Monster, in order to claim the bench for the day; his ailing legs would not support him.

It was at Stewart's funeral in 2020 that a pal suggested it would be nice to put a plaque on the bench in memory of the old boy and so a plan was hatched.

your **Wimbotsham** *February 2022*

It was clear that the bench needed to be spruced up before a plaque could be mounted and happily the Parish council agreed to let us do just that and mount our plaque.

So the bench now wears new durable Iroko slats on a freshly powder coated frame all held together with stainless steel fasteners.

We felt we had to do something special for the plaque bearing in mind the attention he had showered on his magnificent Monster. So Titanium was chosen for the material, which happens to be quite problematic to work with. It was water jet cut to size and then laser engraved in two layers, a bold cut for the lettering and border, with a fainter image of his Monster behind it. You have to look closely in order to see the bike, which alludes to the subtle effect of the carbon reveal on his Monster. His nickname in the club was Capo, which is Italian for "Boss". He tongue in cheek liked to think he was the Boss of all the Bosses or "Capo di tutti capi".

It was a pleasure to deal with the Parish Council on this project and It was a very happy day when we re-fitted the bench back on its plinth. It doesn't take long to pick up on the warmth of the community in the Village; it's such a rare treasure these days. It is a joy to be able to give something back and we all hope in UKMOC that it serves the village for many more years to come.



Wimbotsham Methodist Church

**For further information and latest updates
please call Mary Davies on 01366 388660 or
07980196611**

**We warmly welcome all to join us for worship
and fellowship**

Sunday Morning Services:

Every Sunday at 11 am

Monthly Coffee Mornings with bric-a-brac:

10 am – 12 noon on the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Bible Study/Fellowship:

Fortnightly 10.30 am – 12 noon on Tuesdays.

**Our recently renovated and spacious Schoolroom is available for hire to groups
and meetings at an hourly rate**



Magpie Centre News

NEW YEAR ...

NEW WEBSITE FOR THE MAGPIE CENTRE



The Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association began 2022 in good style, thanks to a new website, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Easy to navigate, and with a fresh, engaging layout, the site provides instant access to news, upcoming events and suggested ways of supporting us.

Chief amongst these is the Pony Sponsorship scheme, under which for £15 per year, you or a loved one will receive a photo of 'your' horse or pony, together with a sponsorship certificate and news of what your new friend has been up to.

Although riding and carriage driving lessons have resumed since previous lockdowns, our fundraising events are still limited, so sponsoring one of our lovely ponies will help us to cover the ever-increasing costs of hay, farriery, vaccinations and insurance.

Alternatively, you might prefer to donate towards the Friends of Magpie Arch, where for a minimum of £10, a horseshoe, accompanied by a name plaque, will be put up on the Friendship Arch, leading to the Sensory Garden beside the indoor school. **Do pay us a visit at www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk , and click on the 'Shop' tab.**

WINTER SET IN AT MAGPIE CENTRE Winter has set in, and with it, increased costs for keeping the horses and ponies at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, based at Wallington Hall.

All our 14 horses and ponies live out, which means that they are in their paddocks 24/7, except when they are working, but they are well rugged, and all have access to field shelters, hay and water at all times.

Horse need a lot of forage (hay), in winter, because a) they need the calories, b) the act of chewing keeps them warm, and c) horses/ponies are 'trickle feeders', which means that they need to have forage going through their gut on a regular basis.

This is where YOU come in!

We currently have an appeal for folks to donate – no matter how much or how little - to help feed our loyal horses and ponies throughout the winter.

Please might you be able to help us by visiting: www.gofundme.com/f/winter-feed-for-the-magpie-centre-rda-horses

At the same time, we are hugely grateful to Metcalfe, Copeman and Pettifar (MCP) Solicitors, Kings Lynn, for their generous donation of £600 for staff clothing, to help our loyal staff through the winter.

Although the horses live out, they need to be attended to every day, to check their welfare, hay levels, water supply and to have their paddocks maintained. Therefore, the staff need good winter clothing. We are so grateful to MCP Solicitors for supplying this.

Wimbotsham Village Hall

Village Hall What's On

- Monday: 6:30pm—7:30pm Yoga with Clare
(www.yogawithclare.net or yogawithclare@hotmail.com)
- 8:00pm – 9:30pm Ouse Washes Molly Dancers (Phil on 07878000175/01328701254)
- Tuesday: 10:00am – 12:00pm West Norfolk Calm Families Community Hub
(Roma Malone on 07753209722)
- 3:30pm – 9:30pm Horizons Dance Academy
(Stephanie Mills Stephanie@horizonsacademy.co.uk or 07793815720)
- Wednesday:
- Thursday: 10:00am – 11:00am Keep Fit (Pat Lowing 01553 840121)
- 12:30pm – 14:30pm Home Educating Families Monthly Social and Free Play group -restarting September, last Thursday of month (Roma Malone on 07753209722)
- Friday: 7:30pm – 10:00pm Downham Market Amateur Dramatics Society
(dadsdramauk@gmail.com or 07387 158883)
- Saturday: -
- Sunday: Little City Norfolk (morning sessions, one Sunday a month, Anna on 07500 936384/anna@littlecityuk.com)

Village Hall Bookings

For all village hall enquiries and bookings contact Kate: 07876 473896 or wimbotsham-hall@hotmail.com. If there is no answer, please leave a message, your call will be returned!

Wimbotsham Christmas Tree



The Wimbotsham Christmas tree has become somewhat of a tradition and possibly the most impressive Christmas tree in the area. The tradition was started some years ago by the late Peter Goodrum along with fellow villagers, the tradition was carried on by his son Paul Goodrum who many will know as renowned local Joiner and builder, another tradition started by his father Peter.



We express our gratitude to the Goodrum, family and friends for starting this tradition and carrying on for so many years.

The tree and lights have in the past been part funded by donations collected throughout the year. However, with the pandemic villagers have been out and about less to donate into the tin. To ensure we had a tree this year the parish council funded the tree and new lights which required replacement.



On a fresh Saturday morning, members of the Parish Council and Recreation Ground Committees set about erecting the village Christmas tree with help from Chris Hartley's Poppylot Farm teleporter to lift into position and Nick Robinson's Holly Landscapes cherry picker to place the lights. Likewise the same Parish Council and Recreation Committee members took the tree down on another cold January Saturday morning. So, the tradition continues with the Parish Council and Recreation Ground working together.

The Recreation Ground

Carols around the Christmas Tree



After missing our gathering around the tree in 2020 due to Covid restrictions it was great to be able to hold our Carols around the Christmas Tree last December.

After such a long time it was difficult to know how many people would attend even though we thought we had given the event some decent publicity.

We were pleasantly surprised and happy that several people turned up with their children, grandchildren and dogs! It was a cold evening but it didn't rain and as usual we had our stall set up offering mince pies and mulled wine to keep warm.

Steve and Ed played guitars and led the singing and everyone joined in. Some classic carols and fun ones for the children and not forgetting Slade!

The monies raised from your donations for the mince pies and



mulled wine goes toward the upkeep of The Recreation Ground. Hopefully we are seeing a brighter future and we can hold our event again this year. So, thank you if you came, please tell your friends and families to join us this December ... it's a great start to the Christmas festivities.



Allotment News

Wimbotsham allotments continue to be a good source of activity throughout the Pandemic, with plot holders continuing to enjoy the fruits of their labours. Not only is the produce from the plots good to eat, but growing it is also a good form of exercise.

We marked out six new plots on the site, five of which have been let already. If you have been thinking of joining us I would encourage you to get in touch with our Chair, Bob Archibald, on 01366 388840 or Secretary/Treasurer, Liz Wing on 01366 388954. They will be happy to show you around and explain the costs and rules.

Mrs Jean Gates was the Secretary of the Allotments Association for many years. Don and Jean recently presented us with a small leather suitcase full of records of the allotment holders dating back to the 1940's. Its very good reading and quite an eye opener. Plots then were mostly planted with a single species with many of the allotmenters growing strawberries. The strawberries were obviously an important extra income for the growers families during the summer in those days. Several meetings ensued with certain plot holders being 'pulled up' for their lack of effort and weediness of their plots. Thank goodness it's not like that now!!!

We hope to organise a social event this summer, perhaps with a Barbecue. Another opportunity for us all to get together, swap experiences and have a mardle.

Liz Wing - Secretary/Treasurer



A.F.HOLMAN & SON
Monumental Masons - Craftsmen in stone
Memorials, Fireplaces, Worktops, House Names etc
Marble, Stone, Slate, Granite.
Visit our **SHOWROOM** and **WORKSHOPS**
Call for our **BROCHURE**. Home visits can be arranged.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9AM-12 NOON
59A Railway Road, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1NE
Tel: 01553 772842 Fax: 01553 772842
Email: info@afholmanandson.co.uk
Web: www.afholmanandson.co.uk

Barry Lawrence
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For details and pricing
call Woodland Fuels 01366 347713
**Stump Grinding
Undertaken**
Approved & Insured
Free estimates / Consultation
Tel
**Woodland
Fuels**
**01366
347713**

The Chequers Wimbotsham

Happy New Year from The Chequers! Hi everyone hope you are all safe and well.

As we are all getting used to the easing of restrictions, 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 and will continue to do so.

We have a few events coming up which may be of interest to the village:

Saturday 3rd March – Bottomless Brunch. Unlimited food from brunch menu, set cocktails, lagers, ales and premium gins- alcoholic option and non-alcoholic option 11am – 1pm

Sunday 27th March – Mother's Day. 3 or 2 Course Set Lunch Booking essential menu can be emailed or picked up from the pub 12 – 4pm

Saturday 23rd April – St Georges Day. Set Menu as well as Pie Mash and Liquor Bookings and orders must be received by week before menu can be emailed or picked up.

Sundays: We are having a Sunday Jam session every Sunday at 4pm – 9pm and we are holding this inside at the moment.

Afternoon Teas: We have partnered up with local bakers Bobbins Bakes and will be offering afternoon tea every Wednesday and Saturday served between 12 and 2. Must be pre booked 48 hours in advance and a deposit paid

Pool Table: New announcement we are trying to adapt after being closed for long periods of time since 2019 and experiencing being quieter than normal due to the Omicron variant at Christmas we are trialling a Pool Table for a few months so any pool players please come and have a game.

Please don't forget our function room is still available for functions and large parties for meals for which we can devise set menus if required or buffets Phone number is 01366 386768 or you can e-mail infochequers@yahoo.com



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

St Mary's Church Wimbotsham

Progress at St Mary's Church Wimbotsham It's hard to believe that the fire at the church is now 28 months ago, and you might be forgiven for thinking very little has happened - you might also be correct. However though, things have been happening, mainly quietly and in line with the directions of our insurers 'Ecclesiastical Insurance Group', Loss Adjusters 'Crawfords' and the Diocese of Ely. Grade 2 listed buildings along with all buildings of historic importance, have tried and tested methods when such things as fires and accidents happen and St Mary's in this respect is no different.



The PCC (Parochial Church Council) and Rector are the legal body responsible for the building. We have met regularly over the past two-and-a-quarter years mostly with experts in attendance, guided by Crawfords, EIG and a body called The Ely DAC (Ely Diocesan Advisory Committee). The DAC comprises a collection of specialists architects, church advisors, historians, experts in church bells and

experts on medieval building materials.

The nave walls of St Mary's were built around 1170AD though some of the material incorporated in them is from an earlier Saxon building dating from the 7/8th century, so the decisions we make must be right for the building. Work on such important buildings doesn't happen regularly and all bases have to be covered.

Over the 28 months the nave and tower have been cleared of all debris. The bells and wooden bell frame have been removed. The bells are in Oxfordshire at a bellfounders undergoing assessment though it is thought very unlikely they will ever ring again. The heat travelling up the tower acted as a chimney and the bells were literally 'cooked'. Bell metal is a bronze type mixture of copper and tin. The oldest bell dated from 1398, the second dated from 1490 and the third from 1720. All are in a very poor state and it was surprising they came down in one piece – they were expected to disintegrate. Where plaster fell from the walls some medieval wall paintings were discovered - these were stabilised by a specialist conservator from Norwich and protected against the weather.

A 'statement of needs' was drawn up following the collation of all the information in the 'Village Questionnaire' which was distributed and collected from every household in the village in the Summer of 2020. The statement of needs was then sent to five specialist architect companies to enable them to present their ideas to the PCC to restore the building.



A couple of weeks ago the PCC invited three of these companies to Wimbotsham to present their proposals. It was a long and very exhausting day starting with prayer. As a PCC we recognise we are novices in this area so we are guided by our Loss Adjusters Crawfords. Each of the three companies were given a two-hour slot to present, followed by a question-and-answer session. By the end of the day everyone was exhausted, but confident that an excellent job had taken place and fair consideration given to each company. The amount of technical knowledge we gained was phenomenal. After the meeting we considered our options and prayed over them for the next couple of days. On Thursday 20th January the PCC made a unanimous agreement and

were happy to appoint Freeland Reese Roberts Architects from Cambridge as the architects of choice for the contract to redevelop St. Mary's.

The 'brief' from the PCC to the architects was for a light, warm, comfortable, adaptable building incorporating the best environmental developments and as sustainable as possible, accessible to all with the facilities of W/C's and a kitchen in order that we can reach and serve as many people in diverse contexts to enable the church to be a viable and sustainable presence in the village for many years and decades to come.

We now start a process of discussion, development and consultation with our architects, historic bodies such as The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), Historic England, The Victorian Society, KLWNBC and Ely DAC to develop a design that fulfils the brief outlined above. It is hoped that this process will be completed by Autumn 2022 and that, all going well, we could see contractors working on-site in the Spring of 2023. The project is calculated as taking a year to complete.



With the lifting of Covid restrictions the PCC hopes to be able to hold an 'open day' in the Village Hall this Summer for the public to view the plans and designs.

Philip Wing - Churchwarden

Voluntary Norfolk

Voluntary Norfolk is looking for volunteers to support the NHS and vulnerable people needing extra help in the community. We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities and are happy to work with you to find the volunteering role that is right for you, fits your interests, skills, location and availability.

Current volunteer vacancies, include supporting carers and the people they care for; volunteer drivers to assist patients in accessing key healthcare appointments; meet and greet, admin support and stock room roles in community hospitals and GP surgeries; marshals and administration roles at Covid vaccination centres; volunteers to help people with a newly diagnosed long term condition achieve health goals and improve their quality of life; volunteers to help clients use smart phones and computers to connect with family and friends and, of course, telephone befrienders to reduce isolation and loneliness.

All our volunteers are friendly, approachable, have a sympathetic manner, good communication skills, and are determined to help and support others living in Norfolk.

If you would like to have a conversation about the volunteering opportunities available at Voluntary Norfolk, please get in touch. Email us at volunteering@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk providing your preferred contact information, phone 07385 378740 and speak to a volunteer coordinator or leave us a message, or fill in the volunteer registration form for the relevant service you are interested in via this link: <https://www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk/home-2/register-to-volunteer-2/>

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your help. See opposite.

A10 Junction

Any of you consider the A10 junction dangerous, other villages along the A10 have similar concerns about their junctions. The matter has been raised on a number of occasions at the parish council and the PC have made their concerns know to authorities. At a recent meeting this was discussed with one of our borough councillors Colin Rose. The PC have raised this matter with the police Safer Neighbourhoods team to highlight concerns. The dangerous junction of the B1507 and A10 where the centre bollards are always being hit and so poorly lit.

The increasing number of accidents along the A10. The speed of the traffic and the rarely seen speed checks.

If you are concerned, contact the county councillors and MP to add weight.

Can you help?

Volunteers Still Needed!



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- In their local community
- In healthcare settings



How to register

1. Use the QR code to take you to the registration form
2. Email Covid19responseteam@voluntarynorfolk.org.uk
3. Visit our website www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk



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