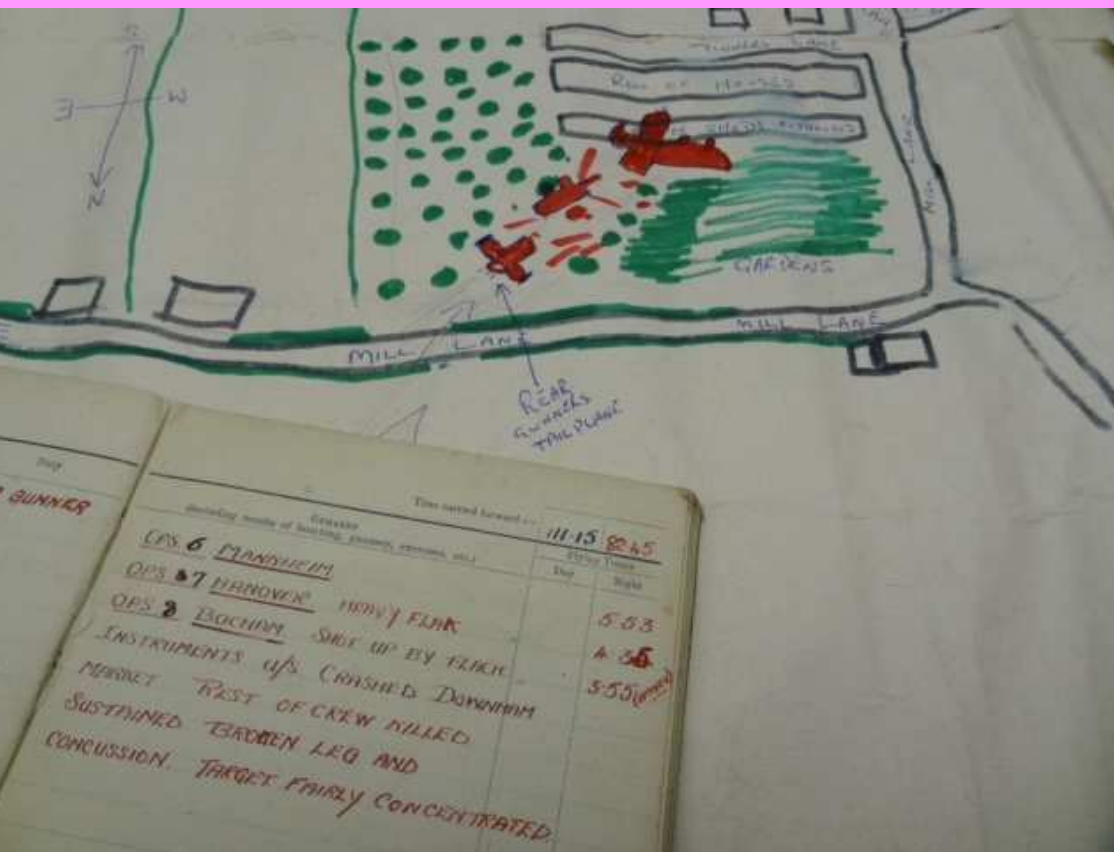


your *Wimbotsham*

July 2023



Full of history...

Please Note

**Wimbotsham Parish Council have a new telephone number & email address
Or visit Wimbotsham.com for information**

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.

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: Nicola Frost

clerk@wimbotsham-pc.gov.uk

07557 118580

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

Meeting Dates:

12th September 24th October 12th December

Your councillors are:

Cable, Ian (Chair)	Stow Corner Farm	01366 386704
Chilvers, Dean (Vice Chair)	45 West Way	01366 386211
Fendley, David	12 Millers Lane	01366 383436
Mingay, Steve	14 Church Road	07714 761871
Squires, Jackie	88 West Way	01366 386370
Smith, Anne	30 Church Road	01366 389729
Hitchens ,Chris	53 Church Road	07977 275884

New Parish Clerk

We would like to introduce our new parish council clerk, Nicola Frost who joined us on 1st May this year. In most instances Nicola is the first point of contact for the parish council, we also have a new email address: **clerk@wimbotsham-pc.gov.uk**

A few words from Nicola: I have just taken the position of Parish Clerk for Wimbotsham Parish, I live in Stow Bridge and also work for Swaffham Town Council. I live with my husband Pete, our two young children Rory (8) and Oscar (7), and our two cats Milo and Socks. I am an ex-servicewoman who moved to Norfolk when we were posted to RAF Marham back in 2016, we loved the area so much we settled in Stow Bridge. I am excited for the opportunity to work with the Parish Councillors to keep Wimbotsham a wonderful village. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Councillors. Contact details can be found on **Wimbotsham.com**

MACULAR SOCIETY LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

Downham Market Methodist Church Social Centre

Third Tuesday of each month 1.30 – 3.30pm

Due to an extremely encouraging response we are delighted to now be holding monthly meetings which are open to anyone affected by vision loss due to a macular condition. Family members, friends and carers are warmly welcome too.

These very informal meetings are proving to be greatly enjoyable, informative and inspirational. New friendships are being made and we are planning a programme of speakers on a variety of interesting topics.

One does not have to be a member of the Macular Society to come to our meetings but I highly recommend their website www.macularsociety.org or telephone 0300 303011 for information about the scope of support advice and guidance freely available.

Please do give me a call if you would like to know more about the Society and our Local Support Group.

Mary Davies Tel: 01366 388660

Born in Wimbotsham 1933

Village resident Peter Hewitt celebrated his 90th birthday with a drink in the Chequers where he was born

Peter recounts 90 years: Born in the Chequers pub in Wimbotsham on May 6th 1933, what is now the function room. Started school at Wimbotsham College where I had many happy days. For instance, we used to hang a big pair of ladies bloomers stuffed with straw on top of the school bell, and that happened a few years. A large bonfire on the green when many of these capers happened on Nov 5th. Done an apprenticeship of grocery and provisions for 2 years international stores opposite the Castle Hotel, then my 2 years national service at the airship hangers at Cardington near Bedford, training T.A soldiers parachute jumping, with our barrage balloons, my job was to cart the parachutes to the different sites all over the country including Scotland, Wales. After a while I was given an Austin 6 wheel lorry and trailer laden with gas bottles to fill the balloons. I could go on, but to say they were 2 good years, especially as I learnt to drive.

Then the really good things happened in my life, I met my wife, and now have 5 children, 8 grandchildren, at the moment 12 great grandchildren, no doubt in time there will be more, but the family number now is 41.

I spent 34 years working for the NCC covering a lot of the county building bridges and culverts, and even the stone panelled wall round St Edmunds Church in Downham when England won World football in 1966. Much of my retirement years I spend in my shed, where I make Bird nest boxes, Bird feed tables, Windmills and other bits. I am not a carpenter but I call my hobby as rustic work, a bit rough but it does the job. I have no skills at all, a labouring man all my life helping the carpenters, steel fixers, driving and roadworks. Not a leader but a labourer. A Methodist local preacher for many years which my father in law encouraged me to do. I was in Wimbotsham church choir from 9 years old till I left school. At choir practice every Monday after school we would get a 12 sided three penny piece, which then made us feel like millionaires. I remember at least 4 milking herds in the village, the Chapel in Chapel Lane was an RAF canteen where Bexwell Airmen use to come for meals, and an air raid brick shelter on the green near the memorial. My dad helped build the runways at Bexwell Aerodrome where Wellington, Lancaster and mosquitos flew from. I still do a bit of veg gardening as well as flower gardening. Also we like visiting friends and family and meals out, which is our main interest now.

My family arranged my 90th birthday party in the village hall on coronation day of King Charles 3rd (my birthday). At the close of the party myself and 17 members of my family walked the few yards to the Chequers, a friendly pub where I even had Happy Birthday sang to me, and it took 90 years for me to get from the village hall party back to where I was born .

Belated Happy 90th Birthday Peter! Peter is also well known for his Norfolk Yarns when we held carol concerts in the village hall, some may remember.

Also another **thank you must go to The Village Hall** for the loan of chairs and tables on the day for the vintage tea and cake area and to all those that gave up their time to help out. Very much appreciated.

The reason we do this is to raise money to ensure we keep the Recreation Ground in good order from Health and Safety to being able to buy new equipment or for any repairs that are needed. It's so everyone from Wimbotsham and surrounding towns and villages can enjoy this wonderful outdoor space. We are very proud of this.

All in all it was marvellous to be back putting on yet another successful Midsummer Fayre. The committee members thank you all for coming along and to keep our saying going...a great day the Wimbo Way!

Yes, all being well we will be doing the very same mid June next year.

Wimbotsham Allotments

If you have been to the allotments recently you must have been impressed with the work that is going on there. Spring has now sprung after a cool start to the season and things are growing quickly.

We are pleased to announce that we now have water standpipes to the allotments West of the middle road which will make growing in a dry period much easier !

We still have a few allotments available to rent, if you like your fruit and veg. fresh and would like to join us please contact either Liz Wing on 388954 or Bob Archibald on 388840 for details.

We must recognise the passing of Don Gates who for a number of years was Chairman of the allotment Association. Don worked hard to keep the allotments available for the village at a time when fewer people needed to grow their own, we shall all miss him and his depth of knowledge about the allotments.

Bob Archibald

Opportunity to grow your own! Should you wish to talk to us about having an allotment do not hesitate to call Bob Archibald 01366 388840 or Liz Wing 01366 388954 for more information.



Tea Coffee Cake Wimbotsham Methodist Church
Every third Saturday of the month 10.15—12noon
All welcome

Wimbotsham Parish Council

Welcome to the July 2023 edition, it has been a while so plenty to report on as the longest day comes and goes.

I am now in my second year as chairman of your parish council and am getting to grips with the role. I am pleased to welcome a new parish clerk, Nicola Frost who joined us at the start of May, note with the arrival of a new clerk we have new contact details including email and telephone number.

Village Green Fencing: The new fencing has now been completed around the village hall and we hope you agree provides an enhancement to the village green, a report on the project is included within the newsletter.

Coronation Project: To commemorate the coronation in a lasting way which reflects the King's past role as Prince of Wales, we are intending to plant daffodils (Welsh national flower) around the village hall along the line of the new fencing and potentially some other areas, the intention is that this will provide an annual display of spring flowers visible to all who pass through the village centre. Building on the King's coronation theme of volunteering, we aim to plant these with the help of volunteers in the autumn. If you would like to volunteer please email **clerk@wimbotsham-pc.gov.uk** and we will contact you nearer the time, many hands will hopefully make light work and brighten up the village.

Safety Fencing Low Road: Additional

fencing of the hedge gaps alongside Low Road Trod has been completed, we hope this will continue to discourage pedestrians crossing Low Road on this section of the road where visibility is limited.

Annual Village Parish Meeting May 2023: We held our annual parish meeting in May. The Chairman's report is included within the newsletter.

New Trod to Stow Bridge: The new trod has been delayed beyond the original date of February 2023 given by Norfolk County Council. We have been perusing the commencement, raising a formal complaint to NCC director level relating to the delay. We have received an apology and commencement is now due for mid July, rest assured we will continue to pursue.

Planning: We have commented on a number of planning applications within the village including conditions relating to the new homes being built north of Broomhill.

Works have now commenced on the new homes at Broomhill, much of the site is within the parish of Wimbotsham.

Parish Councillors: One vacancy remains for a parish councillor, consequently there was no need for election of parish councillors in May and all existing parish councillors remain as before.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please take the time to attend a few parish council meetings as a member of the public (we usually have

Wimbotsham Parish Council

one or two members of the public sit in on meetings and welcome more), to see if it might be for you. You can then apply via the clerk.

AWA Pipeline: You may have seen blue roles in the fields south of the village, this marks the route of AWA new strategic pipeline as reported in last newsletter, works have commenced and will continue for a number of months, keep an eye out as there may be some occasional road closures as part of the scheme.

Wheelie Bins on Pavements: It has been brought to our attention that on occasion wheelie bins are left on pavements causing obstruction, a remainder to check your bin days, particularly close to bank holidays and please do not have out any longer than necessary and try to avoid causing an obstruction of pavements.

Walking for Health: Walking for health are organised group walks around the local area including from Wimbotsham and Downham Market. Varying in length from a few miles long, these are intended to be social walks with no commitments or membership required. To find out more: <https://www.wnwf.org.uk/walks-schedule/>

Footpaths & Highways: We continue to monitor the public footpaths and roadside footways around

Noise Complaints: We sometimes receive noise complaints, these include neighbours and local businesses.

Unfortunately, the PC have no jurisdiction over noise and other anti social behaviour, such matters are dealt with by the borough council, Unfortunately the BCKLWN will not accept reports from PC on your behalf as third party.

Should you have any concerns, please contact them on 01553 616200.

And any noise or other disturbance can also be reported at: <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20129/nuisances/179/noise>

Planning Concerns: We sometimes also receive planning complaints, the PC have limited powers, so where you feel there may be a planning breach, the borough council are responsible for planning matters and you can either telephone 01553 616200 or report anything you consider a planning breach at https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20000/planning_and_development/42/planning_enforcement

Fly Tipping: We are aware there have been numerous instances of fly tipping around the village perimeter. You can assist if you have any information, particularly registration numbers, vehicle or person descriptions.

Fly tipping is dealt with by the borough council, you can report fly tipping and any information to assist in catching offenders to the borough council. 01553 616200 and at: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/312/fly-tipping_illegal_dumping

Village Hall Fencing Project

You may recall we obtained CIL monies to fund the replacement of fencing around the village hall to improve the overall appearance of the village green. Th project commenced in December with volunteers Ian Cable & Dean Chilvers removing the old fencing, with a teleporter loaned by a village resident, and some brut force and a little ignorance the existing fencing was removed. Later the concrete and posts were broken down and removed for disposal with the kind loan of a trailer by **Bearts of Stow Bridge** and a few



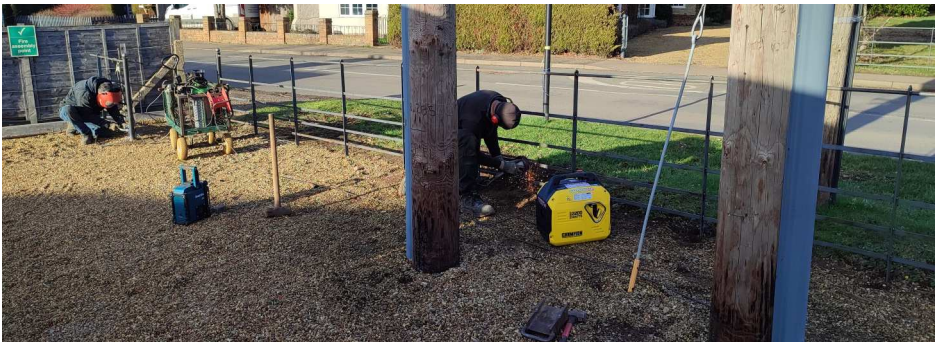
extra pairs of willing volunteer hands to load.

Once cleared our contractor Norfolk Estate Fencing arrived to install the new steel estate fencing, this being selected to reflect the traditional estate fencing that Stow Estate installed around the village in the 1800's some can still be seen to the frontages of some of the former estate cottages to the eastern end of the green.

First steel posts with feet were set out around the perimeter and then pressed into the ground with a



vibrating tool. Once in place adjustments are made before long lengths of steel rod/flat are fed through the pre drilled holes within the uprights. Again these positions are fine tuned to give a gentle curve following the line of the verge before the horizontal bars are welded to the posts. The steel is then left in place to naturally rust to provide a heritage finish. We hope you agree the new fencing enhances the green and will stand for years to come.



Wimbotsham Litter Pick

Wimbotsham Parish Council organised a village litter pick on Saturday morning 25th March at 10.30am. A small group of volunteers including adults and children met at the village, groups set off in different directions around the village armed with gloves, litter pickers and bags to collect litter from verges, hedges and paths, after only an hour or so the army of wombles returned to the village hall weighed down with many full bags of litter. One of the worst areas for litter was Westway heading towards Stow Bridge, mainly alcohol bottles!



A worthwhile and rewarding hour or so on a Saturday morning. For the children we provided certificates of achievement. *Please look out for future litter picks and hopefully you will have a spare hour to join us.*

Time to get walking again!

With Summer here its time to get out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Norfolk <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/norfolk> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Norfolk (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

www.walkinginengland.co.uk



Wimbotsham New Village Hall Working Group

A big thank you to you all for taking part in the voting as to the site of the New Village Hall.

We had an approximate 50% return and the preferred site was the existing village hall site.

Following on from last years vote for preferred site, the working group are now progressing to the next stage which will require fund raising and preliminary design stages. The hard work really begins!

The working group will continue to progress behind the scenes, though require additional support from villages to help with fund raising, we believe and hope many of you will be happy to help with this, but that you might not wish to be part of a formal working group or committee. We are therefore asking you would like to become a 'friend of Wimbotsham Village Hall' to assist with fundraising etc as and when required? All we ask is that you provide us your details so we can contact you to ask for help when required.

To register as a 'friend' please email your name, telephone number and email address to: WimbotshamNVHWG@gmail.com or call **07498 566175**. *No commitment!*

We look forward to hearing from you—please!

And if you have any fundraising ideas, please let us know. Thank you.

Wimbotsham History Trail

As a reminder for a summer activity, the Wimbotsham history group have developed a very informative history trail around the village. This can be downloaded (along with other local trails) from the Downham Heritage Centre Website:

<https://www.discoverdownham.org.uk/wimbotsham-history-trail/>

Don and Jean Gates

Wimbotsham Parish Council would like to pay tribute to village resident Don Gates who passed away in May this year. Don will be remembered as an upstanding village resident who completed much community work for the village over the years and had served on a number of committees, including the Parish Council as Chairman in the 1960's, always looking to support and thank



others. The following is an edited extract from an interview with Don by the Wimbotsham History Group.

Don Gates was born in Ten Mile Bank on 26th December 1928, he came from a staunch Methodist family, his late wife Jean was born 9th March 1930 in Downham Market and lived on the Retreat Estate with her family. They met through the Circuit Youth Fellowship and were married in 1954 at the Mount Tabor Chapel in Downham Market (now Reeds warehouse opposite The Whalebone) Jean borrowed her wedding dress from a friend and Don wore a suit borrowed from a deceased uncle.

Don & Jean first moved to West Way Wimbotsham, the council houses at that time known as Hare Place, they had two children, Jane and Alison who grew up in the village. Then in 1963 they moved to Church Road where they remained for the rest of their lives.

As a young man his home was situated between the Ouse and Wissey rivers, 1947 was a harsh winter and melting snow caused the Wissey to overflow its banks. Their home was badly affected and Don's family were moved to the Bexwell housing estate, where he remained with his parents until marrying. These homes were previously RAF Bexwell barracks, then used as civilian housing when homes were in short supply.

Don left school at 14 and his working life began on a farm at Ten Mile Bank. He subsequently became a buyer/salesman for a potato merchant in Downham Market, this involved meeting farmers in the locality and further afield in Cambridge and Norwich areas. At 50, Don and Jean started their own business from home for the next 24 years.

Don believes that the village of Wimbotsham hasn't changed much but the housing has increased and that happens everywhere. Many cottages that were in a tumbledown state have been improved.

The first Methodist Church in Wimbotsham was called "Help me through the World" and it was situated in The Street (now Church Road) almost opposite Don's current home. There is now a bungalow on the place where the first Methodist Church stood. Part of the brick step entry into the former site can still be seen; as a line of bricks near the base of front garden wall.



The old Nissan hut to the rear of the above mentioned bungalow, was used as a shed for a herd of cows by Mr. Horace Boughen senior. Horace and Maurice nicknamed "Hod and Mod" Boughen, were his sons. They would often walk the cows down Church Road in the morning on the way to their pasture and back again in the evening. Later they built the bungalow that you now see.

Don became a Lay Preacher at 18 when he moved to Downham. Methodism, Don believes, may be slowly dying out and the facts need to be faced that irretrievable changes occur over the years and whilst people may regret what is happening, the tide cannot be stopped. Don taught in the Methodist Church now known as The House of Technology in Downham Market. He taught in the Sunday school there too.

Jean continued her education at Downham Grammar School. Jean being a Baptist she played the organ at her church. For many years, she was treasurer for the Methodist Circuit. Jean also worked for former Wimbotsham farmer Mr Cox as his farm secretary.

The Gates family listed in the 1939 Register are no relation to Don. The Bell Public House situated next to the old Methodist Church in The Street (now Church Road) was in the village in when Don and Jean moved to Wimbotsham, and apparently, the landlord was quite a character.

Don remembers the Wimbotsham road names being changed when he was Chairman of the Parish Council before 1963.

Don remembers harvesting time in Wimbotsham at Lower Farm on Low Road, the large barn on the edge of Low Road (now converted into a home) previously had two large barn doors and the corn sheaves were stored there. The doors were opened on a dry day and the workers used to hand thrash the sheaves to release the corn. It was a long job to harvest a crop. Harvesting lasted for weeks and weeks when compared **today's** combine harvesters, which can completely harvest a field in a day.

Reg Napthan, Don and Mr Norse (a retired police officer) used to work together to allocate the Coal Dole distribution. The payment, which used to be 15 shillings (75p after decimalisation) was distributed to villagers but it is now a higher amount. The Coal Dole still exists and you will usually see an application form in this Newsletter before Christmas. Details can also be obtained from parish council.

Bob Napthan, Reg's brother, had the dairy in Napthans Lane, which was named after him.

Saturday auctions started in the village hall to raise funds for the Methodist Church and later for the Recreation Ground. Don quite enjoyed acting as auctioneer and could sell 100 lots in an hour. The items for auction were collected a week before by volunteers going around the village.

Youth work on the Methodist Circuit was very important during Don's teenage years. It was inaugurated by the Rev. Harold Price, who was a very austere looking man - a most unlikely person to start a Youth Fellowship. As Don says, "God works in mysterious ways."

The Rev. Price used to lead worship in Downham Circuit of about 26 churches and as he went around taking services, he noticed one or two young people in each congregation. He felt the young people could be brought together and after discussion with his colleagues, the Circuit Youth Fellowship (CYF) was born. They used to meet once a month on a Saturday evening at a chapel in Downham Market. There was a short time of devotion followed by refreshments and social events and this bound a lot of the young people together, including Don and Jean. They made many lifelong friends from that group. Unfortunately, most of the churches involved in the CYF have closed.

Coach hire on a Bank Holiday enabled the young people to visit the seaside

once a year or perhaps a week's holiday under canvas in Poole. Don used to run a youth group in Wimbotsham village hall and these events were welcomed. Don and Jean were also involved in the running of the Junior and Senior Guilds. Jean also worked with the Brownies.

NB: Jean died 2022, Don in May 2023

Thank you to Carolyn Seymour of Wimbotsham History Group for contribution of original interview text.

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.

Memorial Plaque Dedication

Village Green

30th September 2023

2pm

(check posters for any variation in timing)

Refreshments will be provided



An event to unveil a memorial plaque to recognise the Landcaster Bomber crash in the village 80 years ago—see article within this newsletter for more details

We look forward to seeing as many of you s possible

Organised by Wimbotsham History Group on behalf of the Parish Council

Wimbotsham History Group

Since January 2023 we have been running a Facebook page called “Wimbotsham History”. We are gradually introducing various topical history records that may be of interest to you all in one way or another. Please “Follow” us if you like the page.

Peter Hewitt gave us a lovely anecdote about the Post Office at 55 Station Road (now 22 West Way) when it was operated by the Misses Baxter in late 1930s/40s being accommodated in a shed to the side of the house. Does anyone have a photo that would complete the story?

Another query which we have been unable to clarify, is the actual whereabouts of the home called “Carpe Diem” which may have been in the lower part of West Way (was Station Road) after Bury House going out of the village. There is a rumour that a famous person lived there or nearby, about 1912/18. The 1939 Register lists Mr and Mrs Lovell in residence. Mr Lovell was a retired Station Master.

Lancaster Pathfinder EE118 from RAF Warboys



Further clarification on the Lancaster crash in the old orchard in 1943. Last October, in response to the photos of the History Open Garden event being published in the Lynn News, I was contacted by a former resident, Derek Neale, who spotted the Lancaster item in one of the photos. He relayed a conversation he had with the only survivor of the Lancaster crew. Sgt.

Arthur Orchard had written to the EDP in 1996 asking if anyone in Wimbotsham remembered the crash.

Derek lived with his family at 11 Tinkers Lane (was 39 Millers Lane) and he was 12 years old when he was awoken by his father after 10.30pm on the night of 29th September 1943, checking to see if he and his 2 brothers were ok – funny question they all thought and promptly got up and followed their father and heard him say to his wife, “I think a plane has come down, I’ll go and check the rabbits.”

Also, having had email conversations with the chairperson of the Pathfinder Archives Dr. Jennie Mack Gray, we can now tell you what happened according to Sgt. Orchard and verified by his log book and an eyewitness sketch map of the site.

EE118 was returning from Bochum with serious flak damage. Their instruments were rendered U/S (useless). The altimeter and the compass were not functioning, so after dropping their hung-up bomb in the designated area in the North Sea they made their way along The Wash having radioed ahead to RAF Downham Market asking for assistance and permission to land. EE118 turned south from The Wash and headed for the airfield but due to severe fog were unable to see the airfield despite flares being sent up to assist.

RAF Downham Market heard the plane and advised they circled round. It was a moonless night and coupled with the fog they encountered great difficulties. As EE118 turned, they were lower than thought and their wheels dragged across the tops of trees (now known to be Slubberdike Wood). This slowed their speed and they were unable to raise the nose and quickly came down. Sgt Orchard remembered the left wing hitting an above ground air-raid shelter in Miller's Lane near the entrance to the Allotments and then hitting a telegraph pole which flipped the Lancaster over.

Being positioned as the rear gunner, Sgt. Orchard's turret was ejected and he landed in the trees and then fell to the ground, the rest of the plane split into two with the central section upside down over Derek's lower garden fence and the front section very close to the outhouses at the back of 38/39 Millers Lane (now 9 & 11 Tinkers Lane).

Sgt. Orchard's injuries kept him in hospital and recovery for a very long time but he returned to duty with the Pathfinders in October 1944. Sgt Orchard was on his 8th Pathfinder mission in 1943 but then completed a further 31 operational flights before the end of the war in May 1945. He was awarded his Pathfinder Badge in 1945 and was demobbed 18 months later. In 1951 he was given the King's Badge – awarded to those members of the armed forces who were disabled as a result of war service. At least Arthur was able to tell his story before he died in 1998 and we are very grateful that Derek Neale contacted us last year.

Wimbotsham History is organising the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque on the 80th anniversary of the crash. This will take place on Saturday 30th September on Wimbotsham Village Green in the afternoon. The time will be advised nearer the date.

Contact us: **Wim.villhistory@btinternet.com** or Carolyn Tel: 01366 381099.

NB: Extracts from "Pathfinder Aircrew" by Jennie Mack Gray

Recreation Ground Pavillion

Those of you who use the recreation ground may have noticed that the pavilion has had a window boarded up for a while. This, unfortunately was due to anti social behaviour where the windows had been broken, to the point where the frames were unsuitable for repair.

In an effort to bring it back into use the recreation committee has been working hard to raise funds to get the building back to usable condition. With the support from borough councillor, Vivian Spikings, the parish council, and many others we were fortunate enough to raise enough matched funding for a modest makeover.

Having managed to get the playground repaired at great expense, we now have enough to replace the windows and doors in the building and update the kitchen and toilet facilities making it a more desirable place to be. Included in the makeover will be an upgrade on more efficient heating.

This we hope will lead to more groups wishing to use it for social occasions.

The work should be starting very soon, so keep an eye open.

Should you wish to use the space when the refurbishment has been completed, then contact the recreation ground chair on 07714761871 to book.

Carols Under The Tree

On Saturday 3rd December, a team of volunteers assembled on the village green to put our wonderful Christmas tree up. (Supplied by Caleys) This event all started with one of our borough councillors, Vivian Spikings, being instrumental in securing the recreation ground committee bid for financial support to purchase the tree.

Behind the scenes, there is a small army that makes this happen, giving up their time and asking nothing in return.

Poppylot farms (Chris Hartley) goes and fetches the tree and using his teleporter manoeuvres the tree into place. Nick (Holly Landscapes) then uses his cherry picker to place the star and lights on, whilst helpers turn the tree.

Bacon rolls supplied by Kim at the Chequers pub completed the days work. The carol event was made a success starting with Limetree Printing holding their prices for the carol sheets for us this year and Morrisons supported us by supplying mince pies and mulled wine at a competitive price. The cold and freezing conditions kept a lot of people indoors but about 40-50 turned up to support us. A gust of wind scattered the music around, but

thanks to kind helpers, it was recovered and they helped us through. John and Lorraine handed out the wine and mince pies, whilst Steve and (special thanks to) Ed Taylor played guitar. The audience sang with great gusto and even the children joined in with hand bells and percussion.

Finally big thanks to Sarah who did a great job coordinating the event from applying for the funding, doing all the little tasks that need doing, through to helping on the night.



There was a good turnout for the annual Midsummer Fayre held at the recreation ground on Saturday 17th June hosted by the members of the Recreation Ground Committee. Rain was predicted but thankfully didn't put in an appearance. It turned out to be a warm and sunny day which always helps and encourages folk to come along for a few hours.



There were lots of craft stalls to see and to keep you going the committee members ran the BBQ right next to a pop up bar where you could get a pint or G&T. If you didn't fancy that then take a seat at The Vintage Tea stall serving refreshing cups of tea with a slice of home made cake. A big thank you to The Knitting Ladies who gave their time and baking skills along with other volunteers and bakers.

Over half a dozen bands played during the day with a wide variety of music to keep people entertained.

Many people kindly bought raffle tickets in the hope of winning a cash prize. This gentleman, pictured with his dog, won first prize of £100. Well done!

Here's another thanks to our sponsors:-

Accent Fresh, Bearts, Haynes Eaton Signs, Holly Landscapes, Jeff Sargeant, Shire Foods and Morrisons. We really do appreciate it.

The reason we host The Midsummer Fayre as well as keeping a good traditional alive, is to raise money to ensure we keep the Recreation Ground in good order from a health and safety aspect to buying new equipment for the villagers of Wimbotsham and surrounding villages to enjoy. We are very proud of this and long may it continue.



Thank you to all who gave their time on the day. We are always looking for new members to join the committee. The meetings are held in The Chequers (always a bonus) on a Wednesday evening at 7.30. If you

fancy coming along we will be delighted to see you. Please contact Steve Mingay for more information. wimborecgroundchair@yahoo.com

NEW AW Pipeline

Anglian Water have commenced works on a new 71km water main between Bexwell and Bury St Edmunds, you might have seen blue rope in the fields around the village, these mark out the route and their compound at Bexwell on the side of A1122.

It is part of a huge, pipeline network which will help tackle future water shortages and keep fresh, clean water flowing across our entire region.

Over the past year trenches and boreholes along the planned route have been dug to allow AW to better understand conditions below the ground

Next the main work of laying water pipes will take place.

For any questions or concerns you can contact Anglian Water: Quote job reference 57182450:

Telephone: 03457 145145

Email: StrategicPipelines@anglianwater.co.uk.

Wimbotsham Village Hall

Village Hall What's On

Monday:	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) 4:00pm to 9:00pm Serenity Dance Studio (Abbie abbie@serenitydancestudio.co.uk)
Wednesday:	12:15pm onwards Little Movers https://littlemovers.net/norfolk-west 7:00pm—9:00pm Social crafting group (alternate Wednesday 26/07, 9/08 etc.)
Thursday:	7:00pm—8:00pm Tai Chi (James 07850340816 or shiningtreeinfo@gmail.com)
Friday:	
Saturday:	
Sunday:	

Village Hall Bookings **Hall Hire: £8 per hour plus £50 deposit**

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

Magpie Centre News



A new arrival at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, was a great surprise for staff and volunteers alike.

Ginger, one of the smallest ponies, acquired last September, had been suffering from a gastric disorder, and seemed unwilling to work. When the vet did an internal examination, she said: 'There's a foal in here'!

Two weeks later, Jo Gordon, who works at the Centre, went to the paddock to give



Ginger her breakfast, and found that the foal, a filly, was being born.

A vet check gave Ginger and her foal a clean bill of health and the next task was to name the new arrival. Staff, volunteers and friends submitted

suggestions, at £2 each, which raised £192 for the Centre, and the name Luna was finally chosen.

Said Natalie: 'An equine pregnancy lasts 11 months, and Ginger was only in her previous home for a short while. She and baby are both doing well, although we have no idea what breed the sire might be.'

And now an update on the Quiz with Hog Roast supper, held at Stowbridge Village Hall on April 22: this was a great success, with 17 teams participating, and raised £924 for the Magpie Centre. Many thanks to all who supported the event, and for the generous donations of raffle prizes.

Summer activities at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association, got off to a great start in June, just as the warmer weather arrived.

A Craft Fair on June 3 attracted more than 50 stallholders and the Have a Go Dog Agility, run by Vince Ford, saw dogs of all shapes and sizes strutting their stuff on the course, with Vince giving valuable advice to novice owners.

The Rapid Response Team did stalwart work, providing and serving all the hot BBQ food and cold drinks, while members of Hunstanton Rotary served tea, coffee and delicious cakes, many of which they had baked and donated.

The event, organised by Jan Calvert, raised a whopping £3,100, so huge thanks are due to all who helped, visited and donated raffle prizes.

June 10 saw a Bingo evening at Stowbridge Village Hall, organised by Magpie Office Administrator Abbie Stirling, and this raised another £400.

Despite the baking hot weather, lots of riders turned out on June 11 for the Charity Ride around the beautiful Wallington Hall estate. This was organised by Ellie Head of Hoofbeats and proved very popular, although the final tally was not known as we went to press.

Our next big event is an Open Day at Wallington Hall, scheduled for Saturday July 29. Admission £1 per person (under 5s free), free parking, hot and cold refreshments available all day, plus carriage driving and equestrian demonstrations. More details soon on Magpie Centre Facebook page and our website: www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk

And, of course, we are again on the lookout for volunteers, to lead ponies in lessons, walk alongside riders (sidewalk) to help them maintain balance and to help with stable management duties. Full training will be given and it's a great way to make new friends, so if you have a couple of hours a week to spare, call the Magpie Centre office on 01553 810202 for more info and join our friendly team.

Finally, now's the time to have Tea With a Pony! These sessions run every Wednesday, 2.00 – 3.00 pm from April till October. Enjoy elegantly-served tea and cakes in our wheelchair-friendly Sensory Garden, chat to friends and make new ones, and meet some of our gentle ponies. Booking is essential, £5.00 per person, so call the Magpie Centre office on 01553 810202 to reserve your places.

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 m:louise.vigus@westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk

Works Commence on New Homes

Works have commenced on what is probably the largest number of new homes ever built within the Parish. Much of the new housing development north of Broomhill is within the parish of Wimbotsham, works commenced in May with groundworks for roads and sewers. This has included extensive earthworks to re grade the site, initially construction access is via New Road, though in time access will be from Broomhill via a new roundabout, expect some delays whilst this is constructed.

Lynn road looking towards Wimbotsham, it hasn't changed much in 100 years, but it soon will.



Any questions or issues:

Persimmon Homes are the developer and should you have any concerns the best contact is Ben Purdy:

01733 397200 ben.purdy@persimmonhomes.com