

your Wimbotsham

April 2025



Produced by Wimbotsham Parish Council

Find us at: www.wimbotshampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

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Your 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 Forrest

Email: clerk@wimbotsham-pc.gov.uk

or, Telephone 07557 118580

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held in the Methodist Church, Chapel Lane 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 and on the website:

Next Meetings 2025 - 22nd April, 13th May, 22nd July, 9th September, 21st October.

Your Councillors are:

Dean Chilvers (Chair)	45 West Way	01366 386211
Chris Hitchens (Vice/Chair)	53 Church Road	07977 275884
David Fendley	12 Millers Lane	01366 383436
Steve Mingay	13 Napthans Lane	07714 761871
Anne Smith	30 Church Road	07948 725224
Jackie Squires	88 Westway	07538 443386

Welcome to the Easter 2025 edition of the Wimbotsham Newsletter

This newsletter is put together by volunteers and luckily Carolyn Seymour, our local Wimbotsham History Group custodian, has taken the reins and has been putting in lots of time and effort to produce the insight into our village life.

Any contributions you have, or if you would like to be asked, just let us know your number/email and you can submit articles, information, events or something of interest.

It's been a great start to the year and your Parish Council has been working hard making sure that the village is in good shape for the brighter weather.

Last winter showed quite some activity in the village, with Armistice Day, the Christmas Tree going up (looking great as always!). Christmas Carols around the tree, a great sense of community and something we should all be proud of. Always something to do and great to be part of the team who hold the village dear to their heart.

New Notice Board:

The notice board on Church Road has been reinstated. We have placed it on the entrance to Turners Close, to make sure that the village news is spread around for those not on social media.

Persimmon Homes:

35 homes have been sold at the new estate on Lynn Road, which comes within Wimbotsham Parish boundaries. Their residents are keen to be involved in our village and hopefully we can see more use of the pub, shop, recreation ground, village hall, church and chapel etc.

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Wimbotsham Parish Council

(contd...)

The Village Sign:

We have managed to get a design together that reflects the village and we are in final phases of design before manufacturing commences with a local fabricator. We are hoping to have this in place by the summer.

Village Hall:

Lots of new events and always a hustle and bustle when the auction is happening. Great work on making it an integral part of the village again.

Recreation Ground:

Another group of volunteers who work tirelessly to give the village the enjoyment of the recreation ground. Some work needs to be done on the play equipment but in all, everything looks great and will be even better with some sunshine.

A very enjoyable evening around the Christmas tree for the Carols, organised by the Recreation Ground Committee. A lovely thing to do at Christmas. Thank you all for organising such a happy event.

Parish Councillors:

Two vacancies remain for parish councillors. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please take time to attend a few parish council meetings as a member of the public. If it looks like something you would like to do, then please apply via the Clerk. Details of meetings and the Clerk are listed on page 2. See also, Page 7 for a description of a Parish Councillor's role.

Christmas Tree:

The village Christmas Tree: was once again put up on the village green by some very hard-working volunteers and it looked fantastic once again.

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Funded by the Parish Council, it really adds a focus point to the village at Christmas. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Litter Picks:

Regular Litter Picks are now organised and will be advertised on the notice boards in plenty of time. Unfortunately, we usually collect a lot of rubbish and it seems to be never ending. However, thank you for all your support and the more the merrier if you fancy helping out.

Postbox Delight:

Before Christmas, one of our councillors spotted a festive arrangement on the postbox in Church Road. The donor remains unknown but we would very much like to thank the villager who took the time and trouble to enhance the postbox and in the process brought great pleasure to those who passed by or, used the postbox.



VE Day - May 2025

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe, the Parish Council are looking at arranging an event. Please keep a lookout on the noticeboards and Facebook page—**Wimbotsham Parish Council**, for further news.

Armistice Day:



On the 11th November 2024, four members of the Parish Council, The Revd. Canon Dr. David Karoon, members of the Parish and the school children from Wimbotsham and Stow Academy came out to pay their respects in two minutes of silence in remembrance of the men and women who lost their lives serving in the two world wars and other conflicts.

Parish Councillor Anne Smith laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and Parish. The School laid wreaths they made at school and the reading was given by The Revd. Canon Dr. David Karoon .



The event was well attended and respected by all of our community.

***They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.***



Carols Around the Christmas Tree



Another fabulous turnout for the 7th annual event held on Saturday 21st December on Wimbotsham Green. As expected for the time of year, it was a chilly night but after a quick headcount we believe there to have been around 100 people in attendance to sing-a-long to some well known Carols and kick start their Christmas spirit. Thanks to Steve, our committee chairman and his col-

league for battling cold fingers to provide the music.

The event is organised by The Recreation Ground Committee, who also supplied complimentary mince pies and mulled wine. Thanks to all who gave a donation on the night. The money raised goes towards the continued upkeep of the Recreation Ground. We will be delighted to see you all again this year.



A date for your diary—**Saturday 20th December 2025.**



Why Being a Councillor Matters in Wimbotsham.

Making a Difference in Your Community

At present, there are two vacancies available on the Parish Council, providing a fantastic opportunity for those who are passionate about shaping the future of our community. Have you ever wondered who is responsible for shaping the look and feel of your village — from the green spaces to the street furniture? The answer lies with your local councillor. But what exactly does this role involve, and why is it important?

What Does a Councillor Do?

As a Councillor, you are elected to represent your community and make decisions on a range of local matters. Whilst you don't make decisions on larger issues like housing, healthcare, or education, you will play an essential role in maintaining the heart of the village. The Parish Council are responsible for managing and maintaining street furniture, allotments, grass cutting, streetlights and public spaces. We ensure the upkeep of the Recreation Ground, footpaths, waste and dog bins, the bus shelter, the war memorial, and the Village Sign.

As a Councillor, you will oversee the financial precept, which helps fund these important services and local projects. You will regularly attend meetings, listen to community concerns, and make decisions to ensure the smooth running of day-to-day life in the village. By acting as advocates for local issues, you will ensure that the needs of the community are met and that their voices are heard in local government.

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Why Being a Councillor Matters in

Wimbotsham -continued from previous page

Why Being a Councillor is Worth Your Time

1. Making an Impact: Councillors directly influence the future of your community, from improving local infrastructure to tackling social issues. The decisions you make can create positive change that lasts for generations.

2. Personal Fulfilment: There's great satisfaction in knowing you've made a difference. Councillors have the opportunity to see the real-world results of their work, whether it's a new park, better local services or safer streets.

3. Building Leadership Skills: The role of a councillor requires problem-solving, negotiation, and collaboration. Serving as a councillor helps you develop valuable skills that can apply to many areas of life, all while making a meaningful difference.

Ready to be a Councillor?

Being a councillor isn't just a job; it's an opportunity to shape the future of your community. The role comes with challenges, but the rewards — the chance to make a real difference in people's lives — are invaluable. If you're passionate about creating positive change, consider becoming a councillor. Your community needs you. If you're ready to take the next step, learn more about the co-option process and begin connecting with your community, contact the Parish Clerk,

Email: clerk@wimbotsham-pc.gov.uk.

Wimbotsham Village Easter Trail



Good Friday 18th April 2025

09:00 until 12:00

Start at Wimbotsham Recreation Ground Pavilion

£5 per child, Easter egg for every paying child

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: either on our Facebook page

or on 07747 007672 (M-F 9-4)

Tip: Wear comfy clothes and shoes for a fun-filled walk around our charming village.

Tried and Tested Home Recipes

Mum's Bread Pudding

1/2 loaf, brown or white bread, or 6 slices
1/2 lb Marge, or lard or suet
4ozs Sugar
1/2 lb dried mixed fruit
1 Tblsp Marmalade
1 Tblsp peel, finely chopped.
1 teasp mixed each of mixed spice & cinnamon
1 egg
About 3ozs S R Flour
1/2 teasp each of Vanilla, Lemon & Almond essences
1 Tblsp Golden Syrup

Method:

Chop the bread into pieces then soak in water, Squeeze water out of bread well.

Cream the sugar and fat together, add the fruit, marmalade, peel and essences.

Beat the egg and add to the mix, Stir in the Flour.

Place the mixture in a large 2 inch deep baking tin, lined with grease-proof paper.

Cook at 300-325 degC/Gas Mark 2. About 1.5 hrs until firm. Then cool. Sprinkle with castor sugar and cut into squares.

Biscuits—Nita

4ozs Sugar
4ozs Butter or Marge
4ozs S R Flour
1 teasp Vanilla Essence
1 teasp Golden Syrup
1 teasp Bi-carb of Soda
Glace cherries halved

Method:

Mix all ingredients together until they form a dough. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper. Roll the dough into balls, about the size of a 10p piece and place on tray spaced out. Top each with half a cherry. Cook for approximately 10-15 mins until golden brown, at 200 deg C/180 deg Fan/Gas Mark 6.

Enjoy!



From the Vicar

My dear reader,

As I write, snowdrops are all around as the church has just celebrated Candlemas, officially concluding the Christmas season. We now look forward towards Lent, Spring and Easter.

Amidst the changing seasons and the yearly cycle, it is easy to forget that there is a Divine Hand that guides our providences. The ancient Hebrew sages came to this conclusion after centuries of study and reflection:

*He made your city secure,
He blessed your children among you.
He keeps the peace at your borders,
he puts the best bread on your tables.
He launches his promises earthward—
how swift and sure they come!
He spreads snow like a white fleece,
He scatters frost like ashes,
He broadcasts hail like birdseed—
who can survive his winter?
Then he gives the command and it all melts;
he breathes on winter—suddenly it's spring! (Psalm 147:13-18).*

In an increasingly disruptive time in a tumultuous world, with a cost of living crisis and axed winter fuel payments, may we look upwards for our hope and strength.

TWELVE CHURCHES, ONE MISSION

With prayerful good wishes,

DK The Revd Canon Dr David

www.westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk; Tel:07596 707469 (9am to 1pm,

Mon-Friday) Email: louise.vigus@westnorfolkpriorygroup.co.uk ;

Follow us on Facebook!

Magpie Centre Update

It's spring at last – and time for some changes at the Magpie Centre, home of West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled Association.



As you may know, our Chairwoman stepped down, for personal reasons, some time ago, and at the time of writing we were still on the lookout for a new leader.

The Magpie Nest, which opened in October 2024 is thriving. This programme is designed to help students with additional needs who struggle to thrive in a mainstream environment. Through the therapeutic approach of using equines, two students have become engaged with ASDAN Animal Care and one young person is learning Self Care and Gardening. A new Alternative Provision pony has been acquired. He is settling in well and building a nurturing, trusting bond with the children, which is something that the children find more challenging with adults.

The Friday Home Educated group are working hard to achieve their RDA proficiency goals in horsemanship. They are learning what it takes to care for a horse and are growing in confidence weekly.

Magpie Centre Craft Fair -Saturday 7th June at the Magpie Centre, Watlington Hall, South Runcton, PE33 OEP

(on the A10 (3 miles north of Downham Market))

We are calling all Crafters to take a stall—£12 per 3m space. Stalls will be under cover in the indoor school, which is wheelchair accessible. To book your place, contact 07715 467866 or email:

magpieccfcraft@outlook.com

Café Connect

Our village café is proving to be very popular and means many things to our customers. From a regular outing to meet and make friends and somewhere that is accessible to wheelchairs and is dog friendly. Children are welcome as well.

We held our 1st Anniversary Café on 1st February, which saw 52 people turn out and Ian Cable, on behalf of the Village Hall, thanked all the volunteers. Our café on 1st March saw 34 people, 5 dogs and 3 young people enjoy the event. We also had a free PAT testing session, where small electrical items were tested.

All our cakes and savouries are home baked thanks to our volunteers.

Come and give us a try, invite a friend or your Mum or Dad. Café Connect is held on the first Saturday of each month 10am to 12 noon.

See you there !





QUIZ NIGHT

WIMBOTSHAM VILLAGE HALL

Friday 4th April 2025

Prizes

7:30pm start

Raffle

£2 entry per person - Teams of up to 6

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND SNACKS

CALL OR EMAIL RUTH TO BOOK:

07876 473896

wimbotshamhall@hotmail.com



Raising funds for Wimbotsham Village Hall



Wimbotsham Methodist Church

For further information and latest updates, please call Mary Davies on 07980 196611.

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

Sunday Morning Services:

Every Sunday at 11am

Coffee Morning held 10am -12 noon
on 3rd Saturday of every month with

Home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, books and jigsaw puzzles



Macular Society Local Support Group

**Meetings held at Downham Market Methodist Church
Social Centre on 3rd Tuesday of each month.
1.30pm to 3.30pm**

All affected by vision loss due to a macular condition are warmly welcome, together with family members and friends. Learn about the support available, build your confidence and chat with those who really understand what sight loss is like.

We have an enjoyable programme throughout the year with Speakers on various topics. One does not have to be a member of the Macular Society to come to our meetings but I highly recommend viewing their website **www.macularsociety.org** or telephone **0300 303011** for information and advice, freely available.

Please do give me a call if you would like to know more about the Society and our Local Group— **Mary Davies 07980**

Wimbotsham Recreation Ground

The heart of your village needs your help and support! Wimbotsham Recreation Ground has not always been owned by the village. There was a 30-year campaign by many people, to ensure that the facilities you see now, were secured and the land not developed. Originally the playing field was owned by the local landowner Herbert Cox, who owned the Wimbotsham Estate. Most of the land surrounding the village including the playing field was owned by Mr Cox. Back in the 1970's Herbert Cox verbally agreed to allow the village to use the playing field for a nominal rent of £1 per year. Apparently, it had always been his intention to give the field to the village, but this was never written down. When he died, the estate was sold off to E.F. Wooton of Bedford, the Wimbotsham Recreation Ground Committee agreed to rent the playing field from the new trustees of Herbert Cox (deceased) again for a nominal amount.

Around 1984 the committee agreed with the Trustees to purchase the playing field for £45,000 which was funded from saving and a generous donation from Mrs Doris Boughen who lived in the village of Wimbotsham. In the early 1990's old equipment was removed by the committee and a further £40,000 spent on new playground equipment. Again, this funding came from auctions, jumble sales and grants from the Norfolk Playing Field Association, Wren and some local donations.

The playing field costs around £3,000 per year to run and maintain and there are always pieces of equipment that need maintenance and replacement. The loyal committee members hold regular fund-raising events including the Midsummer Fayre, Easter Egg Hunt, Carols on the Green etc.

We need help! From supporting in working groups for maintenance, giving an hour or two at the Midsummer Fayre to help on a stand, help taking a part of the Easter Egg Hunt, help with organising events. We are a good group and rather than overwhelming the few that support, we would like to encourage and spread the work between many, so that we can continue to have the Recreation Ground available for the people of the village to use. If you can help in anyway, please contact Steve below or come to one of our monthly meetings in The Chequers. Regular monthly meetings are held and we need some more help!

Please contact Steve Mingay on 07714 761871

All proceeds to Wimbotsham Recreation Ground, a charity (Charity number: 1052106) run by volunteers from the village, for the village. Volunteers are needed to help the committee and run events, contact Steve on wimborecgroundchair@yahoo.com or 07714 761871



A MIDSUMMER FAYRE



Saturday 28 June 2025

12:00 until 17:00

Wimbotsham Recreation Ground

Local Craft Stalls

Bar and Vintage Cafe

Live Music and Dancing

Children's Storyteller

Old Fashioned Games

BBQ and Ice-creams

Raffle Entry £1 * 1st Prize £100, 2nd Prize, £50, 3rd Prize £25 *

Midsummer Fayre 2025

The Fayre will be held on the Recreation Ground in Wimbotsham on

Saturday 28th June. This is a consistently well attended event with several hundred coming throughout the day from 12 noon to late afternoon.

It's as you would expect, a traditional village get together and we are delighted that so many people from the surrounding area come along

too. There's lots to do for all the family. We always have bands playing, food and drink to keep you going and entertainment for the children and a good variety of stall holders.

So calling all interested parties who would like a stall on the day to showcase your arts, crafts and anything else you think would be interesting to the people who come to the Fayre—here's your chance!



**For only £10—per single pitch,
you could be there with us on the Day!**

**Please tell your friends and family or anyone you
feel might be interested.**

For more information, please contact :

Telephone 07747 007672 Mon-Fri, 9am to 4pm.

Or, our Facebook page, **Wimbotsham Recreation Ground**

In Memory of Albert and Angela Boughen



Albert was born at 100 The Street, (*now 32 Church Road*) Wimbotsham, in February 1935. He married Angela Yarham in 1955. They had two sons, followed by 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Angela was born in Downham in March 1935 and lived at 36 Station Road. Her family then moved to running the Station Hotel in Railway Road, Downham Market. Her father was an Inspector on the railway.

They were very young then and wanted to get married but had little money and found it was difficult to find a home. Albert knew of a Council employee who lived at the top of Low Road. Albert visited him weekly to try to find a home and his perseverance proved successful as they secured a house in Hare Place, West Way.

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Albert & Angela Boughen — Continued from previous page

Albert started work in 1949 as an apprentice with R S Bennett, Agriculture Engineers until his training completed in 1955. His National Service was deferred for 2 years in order to finish his apprenticeship and he started National Service the following week. He travelled here and there with the RAF and then he was asked where he would like to go and requested Norfolk. He was surprised to be sent to RAF Marham, which was very convenient, meaning he could travel back and forth to Wimbotsham by motor bike.

After leaving the RAF, Albert worked for Bennetts for 43 years before being made redundant. Within the same day of becoming redundant, he was offered a similar role with VW Mack and remained there until his retirement at age 65.

For Albert and Angela's final home in Church Road, Albert purchased some land from Jim Howlett in 1969, which included part of an orchard. They had to dig up the orchard trees first before building and he was helped by his former neighbour from Hare Place, Joe Duffy.

When Eleanor Bowers (wife of Frank Bowers) retired from delivering the post in Wimbotsham, Angela Boughen took up the role for a further 2 years. It was a long bike journey around the village and over the aerodrome. There were two deliveries morning and afternoon delivering to Stow Bardolph as well. Angela found it a bit frightening riding around on a bike in the dark mornings but she knew Walter Carr used to light the coal fires at the school in the early morning. So for comfort and safety she followed Walter along the road to the village shop, arriving at 6.15 every morning to help sort the mail with Gerald Lake. Angela told me that the Post Office used to deliver a daily bag of letters and also pensions on Thursday mornings.

Albert died 11th June 2024 and Angela followed him a short time later on 13th September. They had been married for 69 years.

Written by Carolyn Seymour for Wimbotsham History and taken from conversations with Albert and Angela in 2020

Update report on St Mary's Church Rebuild

It's Wednesday 29th January 2025 and the PCC is in Cambridge for a meeting with our Quantity Surveyors 3GCC and Architect Freeland Rees Roberts (FRR) to open six tender documents containing the facts and figures for the next phase in the life of St Mary's Church. The documents have been returned after seven weeks of preparation and calculation. We are here to agree which company will take the restoration project forward to fully restore the building and how much it will cost. It's all to make St Mary's ready again for use as a place of worship. All ten of us around this table are trepidatious, excited, anxious and eager about the prospect of what the six big A4 envelopes contain. The journey to this point was very long, arduous and protracted. Well-wishers have wondered why it has taken so long... so have we! The

biggest hold-up was of course Lock-down during 2020/2021 when national Covid-19 Regulations severely affected what progress could be made. Lockdown started only seven months after the fire had done its worst and disrupted the project for two years. Then, we learned our existing church architect was unable to take on the work since their practice



was not big enough and experienced enough to complete it. So, in January 2022 the PCC went out to tender for a Conservation Architects Company. After a day of interviews on a very cold January day we were able to appoint a company big enough and experienced enough in the restoration of Listed Heritage architecture to move the project forward.

FRR of Cambridge are well respected both regionally and nationally for their conservation work on some very important buildings. Their corpus of works includes many Listed buildings including Layer Marney Tower in Essex and Angelsey Abbey in Cambridgeshire. They work extensively on many of the College properties in Cambridge and Oxford Universities Clare College, Pembroke College, Queens College and St Johns Colleges in Cambridge and New College Oxford all have work designed and completed by them.

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FRR also have an immense wealth of experience of working on ecclesical architecture with work existing at Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral and Wymondham Abbey. Conservation architecture is a specialist undertaking few architect's companies pursue it. We consider we have chosen one of the best for St. Mary's.

The basis of what can be achieved in the redevelopment programme was ascertained by several means— Recognition of our historic built environment needs. Our church, being the biggest and most important historic heritage resource. The hopes and dreams of our congregation. Our requirements as a worshipping community. Studying, collating, implementing and incorporating the information contained in the community investigation from the extensive survey we carried out in the civic and ecclesiastical parish (which are two quite different areas). The 'Community Questionnaire' from the summer of 2020.

With the guidelines in place for this historic landmark building, the PCC architects and relevant governing bodies, all who have a stakehold interest in our shared heritage, set about producing a Statement of Needs and a Statement of Significance. Both documents are very big pieces of work, very extensive and designed to follow guidelines set out for Listed buildings but reflecting St Mary's particular set of criteria.



The long and arduous ground-work had been completed with as much careful attention to detail as we could include. FRR drew up a set of outline plans detailing what could be achieved on-site and presented these in March 2023 to the Planning Committee of KLWNBC as a Pre-application. The Borough Council Planning Dept have jurisdiction for the external appearance of St Mary's and they turned down these first proposals, mostly based on our desire to be as environmentally aware as possible, our wish to incorporate as many energy saving features such as PV panels as we could. That was quite a setback and one surprisingly based on criteria that we though would encourage a 'greener' building. Back to the drawing board!

In order to proceed from this disappointing juncture, meetings with the stakeholder organisations were organised. */contd on page 25.....*

Fortunately, several of the meetings could take place on Zoom, which meant that we could work quickly and without the need to travel to Cambridge. The outline plans were used as a working document to move forward as fast as possible. All involved decided to press on with the energy saving aspects though reducing the array of PV panels and repositioning them so they are lower than the roof line of the Nave.



Several different shapes, sizes and dimensions for the extension building on the South side of the nave were considered. This resulted in a longer extension building than was first envisaged but with the advantage of much enhanced proportions. Historic England were keen that the extension building should mimic, as much as possible, the shape and length of the Nave. Our extensive discussions and redesign following the crucial advice of Historic England, the

Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and the Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC) resulted in the re-presented plans being passed by the KLWNBC Planning Department in May 2024. Hooray!

Now an acceptable design had been achieved that all parties were happy with we could consider the comprehensive restoration and construction phase that will safeguard the fabric and result in a bright future for St. Mary's.

Eight construction companies, capable and experienced in historic conservation construction and able to take on the work and to be able to fit the scheme into their schedules were identified as the companies to approach. Of these eight, 6 were chosen to tender. All the companies were known to both the architects and Quantity Surveyors. We agreed that this was the best and wisest way to proceed rather than having to assess an unknown companies work blind. We chose the six companies geographically closest to the project.



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This made most sense in terms of reducing the overhead costs of travel and associated costs as much as we could. Today we can reveal that the costs of the tenders ranged from £2,042,061 to £2,509,990. The length of time to complete the project ranged from 58 weeks to 69 weeks.

Our insurers, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG), agreed to reinstate St Mary's 'like for like' at a nominal sum of £2.6 million. That being the case, costs have to be kept in line and to that end all transactions are scrutinised by EIG's loss adjusters, Crawford & Co. Together they will have the ultimate say on which company is awarded the contract, so the next step will be for EIG, Crawford's, 3GCC and FRR to discuss and decide which is the successful bidder.



Legally, all works to church buildings in the Church of England have to be covered by a 'Faculty'. A Faculty is basically ecclesiastical planning permission. Faculties are drawn up and 'signed off' by the Lord Chancellor's Office in Westminster. No work can be started to church buildings without a Faculty. St Mary's already had a faculty for the initial works which rendered the building safe and prepared it for the next phase, construction.



A second much bigger Faculty is now being prepared to cover the restoration work. This includes all the details of the new extension building and covers everything from the installation of the roof trusses of the nave to the depth of the extension building foundations. The surface finishes of the interior walls, the type of glass in the windows, the heating system and the inclusion of all the interior features such as toilets, glass screens, wooden partitions, interior doors and all fixtures and fittings.

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With the commencement of construction work, public access will be able to continue through the churchyard. **Please note:** the path around the North Porch area *may be re-routed*, so please be aware of this. Signage and fencing will be installed to help you negotiate the route. Access to the Garden of Remembrance (cremation plots) and to the graveyard itself will continue as normal, as will burials within the churchyard.

The PCC is resolute in its aim to include and incorporate as much energy saving and carbon neutral technology as possible in the construction phase and the subsequent running aspect of the building. We are very conscious that nothing as major as this has affected the fabric of St Mary's perhaps since it was built about a thousand years ago. Even the last restoration in 1854, did not touch as much of the fabric as this one will.

We have considered every aspect prayerfully and consciously, so that we leave behind a church building for the village that is 'fit for purpose', able to do its job for at least the next 200 years. It's a very daunting and sobering task to reorder and redesign the oldest and most important public building of the village. It's also one that none of us would ever have wanted or, expected to have to do. It's taken countless hours of time and has also taken all of us out of our familiar existence and comfort zones and has made us have to consider so many technical aspects as we would never have had to consider. As a consequence, we all think we perhaps understand the technicalities of Net Carbon Zero better than we actually do, but please don't ask us any questions on it!

Above all and most importantly, we hope and pray that what is achieved is acceptable to you, the village community and that it will be used and enjoyed for many years to come by the good folk of Wimbotsham.

Written by St.



Architect's
virtual
impression of
the extension
building on
the South
side of the
Nave.

Mary's PCC

Bishop Dagmar writes:-

Dear Friends,

I remember it so well – I had barely arrived in the Diocese of Ely and was about to walk the Fen Rivers Way, by way of getting to know a part of this diocese that was so new to me, when news reached me of the devastating Wimbotsham Church fire.

So the final day of the walk saw me detouring to Wimbotsham to visit the sad site. By the time you read this, the rebuilding work will be in progress. Amazing! The Nigerian-American poet Salome Agbaroji is drawing on her Christian roots when, in her poem 'Hope', she says that Hope is not the way that we cope but the way that we conquer. The rebuilding of the church did not just happen. It required talking and listening, planning and giving, applying and applying yourselves to make it happen.

There were 3 bumps in the road and there will be bumps in the road ahead. Thank you to all who have involved themselves so generously in the project, and once the building is ready, it is to be filled with hope: With people of all ages from across the local community who work together, argue together, listen to one another and respect each other, who make music and enjoy learning and playing together: all in order to strengthen community life, to make sure all are welcome and included.

At the heart of St Mary's is the Christian message that believes there is more to life than meets the eye, that the God of hope who we meet in Jesus is not defeated, that the power of love is stronger than polarization, hatred and destruction. And all are invited to join this work of hope, as indeed we are all works in progress of growing in faith, hope and love.



Sketch of
St Mary's
Church

About
1888

Wimbotsham Village Hall Diary

- Monday: 8.00pm - 9.30pm Ouse Washes Molly Dancers
Contact via Facebook or email owmolly@gmail.com
- Tuesday: 4.00pm—8.00pm Serenity Dance Studio
(Contact Abbie: abbie@serenitydancestudio.com)
- Wednesday: 7.00pm—9.00pm Social Crafting Group
(Alternate Weeks)
- Thursday: 6.00pm-8.00pm Fitness with Sal
Contact Sally 073688 84600 or
www.fitnesswithsal@outlook.com
- Friday 10.00am—12 noon, Line Dancing—Contact via
Downham Market & District U3A (see website)

Also available for hire Friday, Saturday or Sunday
Hall Hire fee: £8 per hour plus £50 deposit

For all Village Hall enquiries and bookings:

Please note new contact and telephone number

Contact Ruth: 07876 473896



Wimbotsham Village Hall

The hall was again illuminated externally for Christmas to compliment the village Christmas Tree and for the first time since Covid, with some willing volunteers, the hall was decorated inside, with garlands and a Christmas Tree. Now all taken down again and safely stored for another year. Thank you to the committee for taking time to climb ladders putting up and taking down the decorations.

Now into the New Year, the village hall committee has been working hard with a spring clean of the kitchen, together with carrying out and arranging a number of maintenance tasks including anew fire exit door, flooring and plumbing repairs and new smoke alarms. In the coming weeks, the bar room area will be having a spring clean too and following on there are other minor repair jobs planned to keep the hall in order. To help maintain the hall and keep hire fees low, a number of fundraising events are planned, so please support these where you can. Firstly, a quiz night on Friday 4th April and then Bingo Nights commencing in May. Keep an eye on notice boards and our Facebook page for more details.

In February, we welcomed Ruth to the committee. Ruth has kindly taken on the role of bookings clerk. Contact details remain the same. Bookings have increased, the Sunday auctions appear to be popular, why not head down and grab a bargain or, have a clear out and sell some of your unwanted goods.

Christmas Quiz Night: the village hall hosted a successful Christmas Quiz in December 2024. Thank you to all who were involved and supported. Over £120 was raised.

April Quiz Night: the committee will be hosting a quiz night on Friday 4th April commencing 7.30pm. With a different format and quizmaster from the previous quiz night, there will be 10 rounds including pictures, music, news, local knowledge and more, so brush up your knowledge and we look forward to seeing you for a light-hearted evening. Nibbles will be provided on tables, please feel free to bring your own drinks and more food as you desire.

Follow our Facebook page—**Wimbotsham Village Hall**

Wimbotsham Village Hall /contd

Bingo: Another light-hearted Friday night event will take place on **Friday 16th May**. Bingo, with a local caller, cash and other prizes, raffle and refreshments available.

So again, keep an eye on notice boards and follow our Facebook page—**Wimbotsham Village Hall**.



Wimbotsham Village Hall

Friday 16th May

Doors Open 6.30pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm



Please be a
pawsome
pet parent!

Loving,
responsible dog
guardians pick
up after their
puppies when
they poo!!

Every dog will wish
they have a mum and
dad like you!

See page 33
for important
Council
Guidance on
Dog Fouling

Clean up after your dog.

Failure to comply may lead to prosecution.

Report dog fouling at west-norfolk.gov.uk/dogfouling

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Dog Fouling

Residents may have noticed the unfortunate rise in dog fouling left around out lanes and footpaths. This is unacceptable; the Parish Council has provided an adequate number of dog poo bins in the village, making it easy for dog poo bags to be deposited – no need to take them home to your domestic black bin.

There is also no need to leave used dog poo bags hanging in trees and shrubs. Please be reminded that failing to clear up after your dog is a **Criminal offence**. Failure to do so may lead to prosecution.

Dog faeces can carry harmful infections, commonly known as Toxocariasis, which can cause eye disorders, dizziness, nausea, asthma and epileptic fits.

So, if you...

- A. See a dog fouling incident, or
- B. Have information on owners who do not pick up after their dogs,

Then you can report it to the Borough Council, either by phoning 01553 616200, or by using the online form at this website link:-

west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20094/animals_and_pests/751/dog_and_other_animal_fouling

The Parish Council will be monitoring the situation and if there is no improvement, the Borough Council Enforcement Team has offered to carry out their own monitoring and engagement in the affected areas.

Bus Services stopping in the centre of Wimbotsham

No. 37 Towards King's Lynn 0914—**request stop** at main entrance to Village Hall, in Low Road. The senior bus pass can be used on this bus.

No. 37 Return from King's Lynn 12.28—**request stop** opposite Village Hall in West Way. **The above times are Monday to Saturday.**

*The No. 37 buses run hourly to King's Lynn from Lynn Road, turn right at the top of Church Road and the stop is approximately just past the first 3 white gate posts of Hill House (Usually. there are free bus maps on board these buses). The return bus from Kings Lynn to Downham Market stops at the field entrance just opposite No. 28 Lynn Road. Both are **request stops** with no visible bus stop signs.*

No. 47, Go to Town, Monday to Friday to Downham Market (Ask Driver for return times) From Wimbotsham, The Chequers—08.53: 09.40: 09.53: 11.39: & 14.23

From Downham Market Bus Station—08.48: 09.35: 09.47: 11.30: & 14.14

Norfolk County Council Mobile Library Service

Route No. DER 204 This service stops in Wimbotsham on the following **Tuesdays** outside No. 2 Southside, from 10.05 to 10.20 on the following dates:- 2025 — 15th April, 13th May, 10th June, 8th July, 5th August; 2nd September; 30th September; 28th October 25th November.

Norfolk County Council - a Home Library Service

The home library service provides books on wheels to the homes of people who like to use the library service but are unable to get to a branch or mobile library due to age, disability or mobility.

If you would like to use this service, email us

at libraries@norfolk.gov.uk to ask to be added to a local delivery route. [Visit the Royal Voluntary Service website](#) if you would like to volunteer to help deliver the Home Library Service.



WIMBOTSHAM VILLAGE HALL

Low Road
Wimbotsham
PE34 3QQ

☎ 07876 473896

✉ wimbotshamhall@hotmail.com

The village hall is at the heart of the village, and a central point for village activities and events.

The hall boasts a spacious venue, with a large main hall, with a further interconnecting medium sized room, a spacious kitchen, a stage and facilities.

Ideal for:

Bingo

Quiz Nights

Conferences

Club & Society Meetings

Pilates / Yoga / Fitness groups

Birthdays, Weddings & Anniversaries

Outside the hall has parking for several vehicles.



**Need help
with
transport?**



**Feel
isolated?**



**Door to Door
Transport?**

**We have the following options
available in your area:**

Rural Dial-a-Bus
Villages to the nearest town,
perfect for a spot of shopping

Community Car Scheme
Transport by volunteers to
medical appointments

**For more information
Call 01553 770310**