

TILBROOK VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



January 2026 Issue 44

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Welcome to the January 2026 Tilbrook Village Newsletter

New Hall Manager

I am very pleased to announce that we have filled the vacant post of hall manager and that we now have a full complement on our committee.

Lawrence Tattersall, who has recently moved his family into the High Street, has kindly agreed to fulfil the role. We welcome him onto the committee and look forward to working with him to continue to develop the village hall for the benefit of the whole community.

Erica and Mitch Jago Farewell

I am sad to announce that, our village is going to lose two of its friends. Erica and Mitch Jago of Church Lane will be moving on to 'pastures new' due to work commitments.

They will be a great loss to our community; Erica has provided several years of service to the Amenities Committee as Honorary Secretary and Bookings Secretary and she was also instrumental in establishing the Tilbrook Ladies Group.

Mitch has been a very generous donator to charitable events but is probably best known for his culinary skills, cooking delightful pizzas from scratch, cooking at barbeques during several village events (and let's not forget the burnt jacket potatoes at the jubilee event – well you can't be good at everything Mitch) and who could forget his wit and repartee as Quizmaster in the annual quiz.

However, you wouldn't expect the Jagos to depart without a proper farewell and I am pleased to say they are sponsoring a Farewell Event at the village hall this coming Friday, 6th February, commencing at 6pm. Please see the notice on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Kimbolton Summer Fayre – The Tea Tent

Tilbrook has had a long association with this event, being the original host, founder and operator of the summer event many years ago until it was handed over to Kimbolton Rotary Club after it outgrew the capacity of our playing field. Since then, Tilbrook has always run the tea and refreshment tent at the Kimbolton Summer Fayre as part of its legacy to the event. Villagers always 'rolled their sleeves up' and made cakes, rolls and served tea and refreshments during the day long event and the event, was for many years the main contributor to funds towards the running of our village hall.

Unfortunately, times change and the costs of the event have risen significantly over the past few years for both the organisers and the school that provide the grounds for the event and these costs have to be met. Tilbrook had always been provided the marquee, tables and chairs free of charge, as part of a legacy recognition. This has changed in the past three years, where Kimbolton Rotary have had to look at ways of covering their increased cost of running the event. They, initially, applied a charge for a partial contribution towards the hire and erection costs of the marquee, tables and chairs. This cost was covered for the first two years by a sponsorship deal negotiated by Tilbrook for an exhibitor. Unfortunately this deal came to an end last year and this coincided with our contribution towards the marquee, tables and chairs being raised to 100%. The consequence of this is that the tea tent made a very much smaller contribution towards our village hall funds.

The Amenities Committee undertook a detailed revue of this event and in addition to the increased fixed costs we have to bear, established that there is a high risk of a potential loss from future events. Particularly if attendance to an event were to be low, which can happen if the weather is poor on the day of the event. Also, the Summer Fare itself has changed and is increasingly more focused on the classic car audience and less so on the traditional village fayre craft stalls. Therefore, the attendees to the event have sifted more to the classic car enthusiasts who tend not to use our tea tent in favour of their own BYO picnics so our takings were down even though attendance at the event were up.

It is with great sadness that we have decided not to participate in this year's Kimbolton Summer Fayre and instead decided to develop our own event based on an amalgam the Spring Fayre we have run for the last two years and potentially to rekindle something akin to Tilfest. I know some of you will be very sad at the loss of this event but equally will remember with fondness and enthusiasm the fun that Tilfest brought to the village. Therefore, if any of you would like to work with the committee in anyway shape for form, not matter how large or small, to develop this exciting new event, please contact me for an informal chat. We will need an event to replace the Kimbolton Fayre tea tent to ensure the village hall remains properly funded so please help where you can.

TILBROOK VILLAGE – POP-UP PUB

The next pop-up pub in the village hall will be on **Friday 6th February** when Mitch and Erica shall formally say goodbye before they move south.

In many ways it will be very sad and we shall miss them greatly but I'm sure it will quickly become a night to remember, especially as Mitch is very kindly making some of his home made curries to help soak up the draught ale (other drinks are available!).

Why not come down to say farewell and wish them all the very best – and enjoy the evening!



A festive poster for a "Pop-Up Pub" event. The background is a rustic wooden wall decorated with string lights and colorful bunting. At the top, it says "Tilbrook Amenities Committee Presents... Pop-Up Pub! at Tilbrook Village Hall!". Below that, a chalkboard-style sign reads "Friday 6th February From 6:00pm Onwards". The central part of the poster features a white dog (Billy) sitting on a wooden ledge, surrounded by various food and drink items like beer, wine, and curry. Text below the dog says "Erica & Mitch (and Billy) are Moving Away and Invite Villagers for a Farewell Drink! A Light Supper of Mitch's Homemade Curry Provided!". At the bottom, there's an illustration of the village hall with people gathered outside, and a sign that says "Cheers!". The final line of text reads "We Hope Everyone Will Be Able To Join Us!".



- **Sunday 22nd February, 11am** – This will be our next Communion service

Recent 4th Sunday Service

It was lovely to see so many people at our recent 4th Sunday service. We were very pleased to welcome some new residents in the village to the Church and to welcome back some familiar faces from years ago as well.

We are enjoying having the services of a regular organist again, your playing is much appreciated Kathryn. And a big thank you to Mike and Angie for the coffee and the delicious home-made cake!

Leightonstone Churches Meeting, St Andrew's, Kimbolton, 23rd February, 7pm

On **Monday 23rd February at 7:00pm in St. Andrew's Church Kimbolton** there will be a meeting of the Leightonstone Churches to which everyone is invited. Called "Refreshing our Plan", it is an opportunity to be updated on the progress made since our group of parishes expanded, with key developments to be outlined and plenty of question-and-answer opportunities. Rev Phil will also be updating us on his recent role change - Do come along.

All farmers pay a levy of 58p on every tonne of grain that is sold to a merchant. Over the whole harvest this adds to a considerable amount of money. The money goes to research and development. One of the benefits that I use is their benchmarking service. We are in a group of about 10 farmers in the local area and levy board collects all the farm data, yields, varieties, rotations and costings and process it to produce relevant comparisons. We held our meeting last week to look at results. The effect of the hot dry summer last year was evident in the yield reduction and, combined with the removal of farm subsidies, produced the worst set of figures which we have seen in the ten years or so that we have been working in the group. The price of wheat has fallen since harvest as it is traded as a world commodity, but as the rest of the world has plenty of it, so we have not benefited from the UK shortage. The production protocols in other countries are nowhere as restrictive as we have in the UK and it is very frustrating the imported wheat of lower quality can flood into our country.

The end of year figures have been released for the number of new tractors registered in 2025 and there was a drop of 15% to the lowest level since records started in the 1960's. Machinery dealers are feeling the squeeze and several in our area have ceased trading.

We have just bought a new fertiliser spreader for spreading the bought in bagged fertilizer as the old one was getting towards 20 years old and was in need of replacement. The new one is the same make as the old one, but there are many improvements. It is fitted with weigh cells to give an accurate reading of exactly what goes on in each field. satellite positioning allows control of the on and off functions so there is no overlapping of missed areas, and it has variable rate application which will enable more fertiliser to be put on the higher yielding parts of the field. The combine continually monitors yield throughout the field when it is at work and this data can be fed through to the spreader to get the change of application rate.

Fortunately, I have Lewis on the farm who can easily cope with this level of precision technology.

Calling All Tilbrook Volunteers



The current parish council team of volunteers will finish their four-year term of office in May 2026. Some of us have served the village for many more years, and feel that now it's time for residents to have a go and make a difference their way.

Being a councillor brings opportunities which when developed, can bring much satisfaction. In the past four years the current team have managed to bring about over 12 village improvement projects (VIPs) that we feel have been beneficial to the quality of our village life. These ranged from new drainage systems, several traffic speed reduction measures, to flowering gates and 5 information boards showing history, walking and cycling routes.

Being a councillor is not particularly onerous. Meetings occur every 5 to 6 weeks and the last one took under an hour of our time.

If you are interested in joining the parish council, why not pop by and see what the role involves? Our next meeting is **Tuesday 24 March at 7.30pm** in the village hall.



The Tilbrook Bus Shelter Book Exchange

We set up a book swapping facility in our High Street Bus Shelter on Saturday 31st January. This was kindly supported by the Parish Council, who purchased the boxes for the books. Please feel free to borrow a book and if you have a book to swap, that would be lovely. You now know what to do with those Christmas books that you have enjoyed reading. A few more books for children would be much appreciated....

The books must be kept in the boxes to keep them dry, so we would ask that you please replace the lids carefully. We will keep an eye on the boxes and make sure the books are kept tidy so we will see how it goes! With thanks from Bridget Halford, Carol Deytrikh and Janet Purdie (Bus Shelter Group)

Maintenance Dates

Hall Lane will be closed for pot hole repairs from 8am to 3.30pm Friday 6 February – Residents can still access properties. A dead sycamore tree near the bridge is to be felled by a contractor on Monday 9 February. Branches will be left for residents to collect in a wheelbarrow once cut up.

The playing field northern boundary hedge is to be reduced in height, and branches removed from the area. If this is not completed on the same day, then work will be finished on Monday 16th February. Please keep clear of the workforce.

20 Miles Per Hour

The parish council agreed on a village wide 20mph speed limit, but our last application was not successful. We now have another opportunity to apply for funding, and will be doing so. Would it be a good idea to restrict access on Station Road? Please let us know what you think,

Best wishes, Tilbrook Parish Council.



TILBROOK VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE



The ideal venue for:

- Receptions, Parties, Children's parties
- Business meetings
- Community Groups
- Yoga /Art Classes
- Quiz nights
- Coffee mornings
- Movie nights

And so much more....



Contact: bookings@tilbrookvillage.co.uk

Remember that you can book the Tilbrook Village Hall for all types of events *and* there are reduced rates for village residents!

Please mention it to your friends if they are looking for a venue.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

THE COMMITTEE

Chair:	Stephen Birch (Trustee)	chairman@tilbrookvillage.co.uk
Vice Chair:	David Cowan (Trustee)	davycowan10@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Sandy Havercroft (Trustee)	treasurer@tilbrookvillage.co.uk
Minute/Bookings Secretary:	Jacqui Bouffler	bookings@tilbrookvillage.co.uk
Hon Secretary:	Tony Harris (Trustee)	secretary@tilbrookvillage.co.uk
Comms:	David Cowan	
Hall Manager:	Lawrence Tattersall	
Members:	Stuart Purdie	
	Richard Gudgeon	
	Anne Mc Manus	

ABOUT US:

The Amenities Committee (AC) are the Managing Trustees that operate the parish asset of the village hall as an unincorporated association. The operations are financially independent of the Parish Council.

All proceeds from the AC's operations are used to maintain and improve the assets and to provide community activities and facilities for the benefit of all in the community. Members of the AC are volunteers from within the community and receive no remuneration for their work.

The AC is a charity registered with the Charities Commission No: 302663