



**December 2025** Issue 43

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## Welcome to the December 2025 Tilbrook Village Newsletter

### ROUND UP OF 2025

I would like to thank and acknowledge the work done by our Parish Councillors, the members of the Amenities Committee (AC) and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and many other volunteers who continue to work selflessly for the benefit of all in the community of Tilbrook. Their contributions help make Tilbrook a better place to live.

The Amenities Committee continues to provide and improve the village hall as a centre for the whole community to utilise and enjoy at no cost to the residents as the operations (running costs and maintenance) are completely funded through private hirings and fund-raising events. Furthermore, improvement projects have been achieved through fund raising events and grants.

We are also able to provide the village hall, free of charge, for the Parish Council and the PCC for meetings and their events.

### ROUND UP OF 2025 (Cont'd)

This year, in addition to the third party hirings of the hall the AC has held fund-raising events inside the hall which include:

- Rugby Six Nations live screening,
- VE 80 Celebrations,
- Regular Pop-up Pubs,
- The Spring Fayre,
- and a Barn Dance.

Furthermore, the AC ran two external fund-raising events: a bar (by invitation) at Huntingdon Town Hall at a private formal dinner and the tea tent at Kimbolton Summer Fayre.

The AC has also been active with fund raising for good causes either directly or indirectly:

**A Cream Tea event** which raised over £1,200 for Zoe's Baby Place, a babies specialist hospice.

The recent **Evening Harmony Concert** on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December has raised nearly £2,000 for Prostate Cancer UK. What a successful evening, despite the weather. Please see the report on page 6 of this Newsletter .

#### **Christmas Eve Celebrations**

We rounded the year off with a Pop-up Pub, please see report on page 7 of this Newsletter

# TILBROOK VILLAGE – FUTURE EVENTS

**After a hectic run up to Christmas and the New Year, I'm sure you all need a bit of a rest, so details of events for 2026 will be advertised in future Newsletters and also on the new Village Website and Facebook pages.**



Our village hall was bursting at the seams on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December when the amenities committee promoted a fund-raising concert in aid of Prostate Cancer UK. Around 140 people in the audience and volunteer performers enjoyed an evening of a cappella barbershop close harmony singing from four acts. It was quite a logistical exercise to get this event off the ground and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the very long list of people who contributed to make the evening the success it was. Tilbrook can certainly 'punch above its weight' so we can be proud of ourselves. This includes but is not limited to, in no particular order:

- The compere and performers, who gave their time and their voices:
  - Sue Wilson
  - Hereward Harmony (Peterborough),
  - Black Cat Harmony (Bedfordshire),
  - Firebirds Quartet (Bedfordshire),
  - A1 Acappella (St Neots)
- A1 Acappella for providing, erecting and dismantling the risers (the steps the performers sing from) & Mike Allen for pulling the car and trailer out of the mud when it got stuck.
- Waterworks Plumbing and Heating contractors who sponsored the leaflets and programmes.
- Adam Tuke and the PCC for providing the (nice and warm) church for performers to change and warm up
- All residents who kindly allowed the performers to park on their drives so the audience could park near the hall
- The amenities committee who assisted with the bar and help set up and clear the hall
- Ben and his video camera
- An extra special thank you to Mike Wallis who braved the awful weather as our car parking attendant, helping the audience find parking in Church Lane. Gold star for you Mike!
- The audience, for turning up in dreadful weather and being an appreciative crowd.
- Victoria Coles for assisting with the bar and clearing up in the kitchen
- All those who have donated to the charity
- Beat Radio (Rushden) and Black Cat Radio (St Neots) for allowing the event to be promoted on air
- Janette Birch for leaflet distribution
- and anyone I have missed

# REPORT

# EVENING HARMONY Fund Raiser in Aid of Prostate Cancer UK

The event has so far raised £1,968.76 from ticket and bar sales, sponsorship, donations and gift aid - absolutely fantastic.

*But, wouldn't it be nice if we could push it over the £2,000 threshold?*

Main Sponsor



Higham Ferrers

It's not too late to donate using: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/evening-harmony-787161>

Oh, and I forgot to mention in my summing up at the end of the concert; if any of you that attended the concert present your programme to Waterworks heating and plumbing contractors of Higham Ferrers (Sponsors as shown above) you will get **10% off any orders you place with them**. Don't worry if you haven't kept them. I have a supply of them, just let me know if you want one.



# REPORT

# PUB NIGHT – CHRISTMAS EVE

On Christmas Eve, many villagers gathered in the hall to socialise, enjoy good drinks, tasty snacks, enjoy sing carols, enjoy great conversation and listen to songs.

Many thanks to all who arranged the evening especially Anne & Martin, Sandy, Tony & Lin and also Rob for setting up the PA and entertainment.



- **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 11am**
  - This will be our next Communion service

## **Carol Service Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Carol Service on the 13th, it was great to see the church so full and with a large number of children enjoying themselves.

A big thank you too to our four readers who all read brilliantly, to those wearing festive jumpers and, of course, to the scratch choir. Mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed afterwards.



Just prior to Christmas the government did another U Turn and made significant changes to the Family Farm Tax which they were planning to introduce in April. This is a result of a few peaceful tractor demonstrations in Whitehall and some very specific and targeted lobbying of labour MP's in rural constituencies by the National Farmers Union. Farmers have been very aware of not upsetting the public with tactics which have been used by French farmers or withholding food from the market place. The result has been a significant watering down of the proposals, and a very welcome relief to many worried farmers.

It's a quiet time of year on the farm for tractor driving and working in the fields as nothing is growing very much and the ground conditions are not suitable for any cultivations. However, a lot of tractors turned up to Lewis's charity event last week. It was the second year that he had organized the Annual Tractor Run to raise funds for his charity, Rural Communities Mental Health Foundation.

A new venue was chosen because of the size of the event, and over 60 tractors assembled at Thrapston and drove through the villages to Oundle and back. The tractors were well turned out, fitted with numerous lights, horns and snow machines, and they travelled in convoy for an hour and a half. Crowds of spectators turned out in the villages to admire the spectacle, and a lot of money was donated to his charity. It was a fine example of farmers coming together to raise money for a good cause.

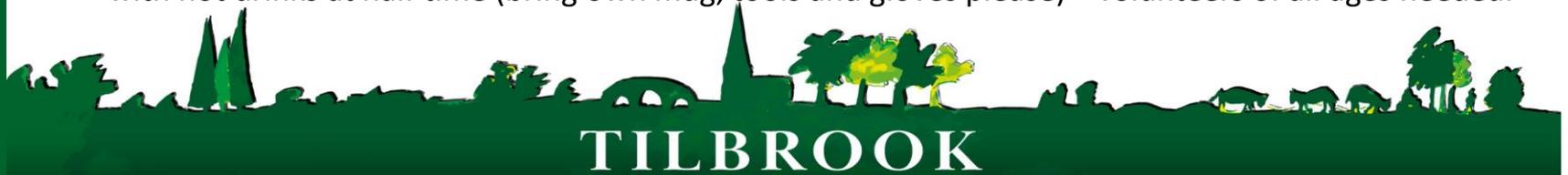
Happy New Year to you all.



- Season's Greetings to all villagers – we hope that you and yours enjoyed a good Christmas together?
- We have been lucky to have dry and crisp days over the holiday and nice to see so many folk out and about enjoying our lovely location. Maybe you have been encouraged to try something new from our walking route board suggestions (with 30, 60, 90 minute walks shown now on the village hall side as well as the verge near the pub)?
- It's that time of the year, when we reflect upon on all the volunteers and helpers that have assisted us in making the village as attractive and pleasant as it is. **So, a big thank you to all those who have watered our flowering planters and collected wayside rubbish as they walk our pathways, and those who keep the verges mowed on Hall Lane, Station Road, and outside their properties on High Street, over the past year.**

We now look forward to the new year and think about the projects/plans we still have time to carry out:

- Di and Angie have been busy getting compost and suitable winter plants to refill the village oak planters.....they will have them potted out and put into the village road entrances and other locations soon.
- Mike is organising a 'Playing Field Make it Tidy' – volunteer session – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – 8 -10 am, with hot drinks at half time (bring own mug, tools and gloves please) – volunteers of all ages needed.



## The Parish Council

- Our next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – 7.30 in the Village Hall - all are welcome!

The current Council is coming to the end of its tenure in early May...we have already lost the valuable services of Paul Wilcock and it's likely that there will be more vacancies for new Councillors then.....please do consider putting yourself forward (do ask for further details – Lionel, our clerk, would be pleased to help answer any queries you might have).

At our last 'Meet your Councillors' open afternoon in September we had a display of the 12 VIPs (village improvement projects) achieved so far.....still left on our Development Plan (created in 2022) we aim to put an extra waste bin near to the picnic tables and village hall car park AND we shall continue to press the District and County Council for support to enable a 'feasibility study' to be undertaken for the proposed Tilbrook to Kimbolton cycle and walking track (KVV). On Friday 16 January I shall represent the village at our MP's 'round table' meetup in Grafham. I shall be pressing again the need for funding to complete the above feasibility study. If there are any other matters you wish us to share with the MP, please pass them on to Lionel, our clerk.

**Finally, the Parish Council wishes you and your families all the very best for the New Year – 2026.**

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](mailto: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:                     | <b>Stephen Birch (Trustee)</b>    | <a href="mailto:chairman@tilbrookvillage.co.uk">chairman@tilbrookvillage.co.uk</a>   |
| Vice Chair:                | <b>David Cowan (Trustee)</b>      | <a href="mailto:davycowan10@gmail.com">davycowan10@gmail.com</a>                     |
| Treasurer:                 | <b>Sandy Havercroft (Trustee)</b> | <a href="mailto:treasurer@tilbrookvillage.co.uk">treasurer@tilbrookvillage.co.uk</a> |
| Minute/Bookings Secretary: | <b>Jacqui Bouffler</b>            | <a href="mailto:bookings@tilbrookvillage.co.uk">bookings@tilbrookvillage.co.uk</a>   |
| Hon Secretary:             | <b>Tony Harris (Trustee)</b>      | <a href="mailto:secretary@tilbrookvillage.co.uk">secretary@tilbrookvillage.co.uk</a> |
| Comms:                     | <b>David Cowan</b>                |  |
| Members:                   | <b>Stuart Purdie</b>              |  |
|                            | <b>Richard Gudgeon</b>            |  |
|                            | <b>Anne Mc Manus</b>              |  |

## Volunteers

Hall Manager: **Vacancy**

## 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