

# TILBROOK VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

**September 2025** Issue 40



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## Welcome to the September Tilbrook Village Newsletter

### WEBSITE

Some of you may have noticed that our website is being updated and it shouldn't be too long before we have a new improved website which will have new features; in particular you will be able to see bookings within the hall which will make it easier for you check availability when booking the venue. Also, it is hoped that you will be able to make on-line requests for booking.

The project leader for this improvement is Hon Secretary, Tony Harris.

### BOILER REPLACEMENT

I am pleased to report that after a competitive bid we have appointed 'Waterworks' of Higham Ferrers to replace our oil boiler. The work will take a few days and we will try our best to keep disruption to a minimum. We will consult with hirers that have a booking during the planned work.



### ON-LINE TICKET SALES

I am pleased to announce that we now have the capability to sell tickets online through Ticket Source to certain events. This will make it easier for purchasing tickets in our new (almost) cashless society. This will be selectively used as we do have to pay a fee for each sale that goes through this channel, so we will, wherever practicable, still take payment in cash, bank transfer or via card (but no cheques please).

### CREAM TEA - SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Congratulations to Janette Birch & Anne McManus on the massive success of their fundraising event in aid of **Zoe's Place Baby Hospice**.

Over £1,200 was raised. Thanks to all who attended and who contributed to this very worthy cause and it's never too late to contribute so here's the link:

[https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/emma-moore?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=whatsapp](https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/emma-moore?utm_source=share&utm_medium=whatsapp)

*See full report on page 7 of this Newsletter.*

## FUTURE EVENTS

### BARN DANCE, SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER (FUTURE EVENT)

Tickets are on sale now for this popular event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November in the village hall. Once again, we have secured Cambridgeshire's premier Ceilidh band "**Frog on a Bike**" for the evening.

Last year's event sold out so secure your tickets now.

Tickets can be bought from Janette Birch –text 07745 387 595

[janettebirch2004@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janettebirch2004@yahoo.co.uk) or through Ticketsource

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tilbrook-village-hall-amenities-committee/t-rpemvfk>





## FUTURE EVENTS

### A FUND-RAISING EVENING MUSICAL CONCERT IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER UK, FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER (FUTURE EVENT)

Hear songs from film, stage, and the charts sung in the acappella close harmony style. I do urge you to **save the date** for this delightful musical event as I suspect it will sell out quite quickly.

The evening will be compered by Sue Wilson, who is a very experienced singer with the award winning all female Phoenix Chorus. The programme includes :

- Hereward Harmony (Peterborough)
- A1 Acappella (St Neots)
- Black Cat Harmony (Bedfordshire)
- Firebirds Quartet (Bedfordshire)

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer affecting men in the UK with 1 in 8 men likely to contract it during their life. Many of us will know someone close to us that is living with it or experienced it. Prostate Cancer UK is a leading charity providing financial support to lifesaving research and other support services into this cancer.

I'm also pleased to announce that we have secured a sponsor for the event, Water Works from Higham Ferrers .



Tickets will be on sale in the next couple of weeks Via Stephen Birch text 07787 537 351, [chairman.tilbrookvillagelife@gmail.com](mailto:chairman.tilbrookvillagelife@gmail.com) or on-line through ticket source from 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

# TILBROOK VILLAGE – SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## October

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Oct** - **Friday 6pm, Pop up Pub**, Village Hall (Free Admission)

## November

- **1<sup>st</sup> Nov** - **Saturday Barn Dance**, Village Hall

## December

- **5<sup>th</sup> Dec** - **Friday Musical Concert** in Village Hall,  
Fund Raiser In Aid of Prostate Cancer

# REPORT

## SUNDAY CREAM TEA – 7<sup>th</sup> SEPT

Many thanks to all those who took part in the Cream Tea fund raising event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at the village hall .

This was in aid of the Zoe's Place Baby Hospice



Around 60 people attended to indulge in tea, scones, jam, clotted cream and, for many of course, all washed down with a glass of prosecco. A professionally made cake and 12 cupcakes were also raffled on the day. Many generous cash donations were made from people who were unable to attend and also offers of crockery, teapots, cake plates and jugs etc.

Zoe's Place baby hospice is currently supporting the family of Anne and Martin McManus whose granddaughter, Olive, was born with complex needs in September 2024. The hospice provides specialised palliative respite care along with vital support for Olive's sister, 5-year-old Norah and parents James and Chloe. The hospice relies on public support for around 70% of its total funding to be able to continue this vital work.

**Janette Birch and Anne McManus**





Olive's aunty Emma Moore, Anne and Martin's daughter, has been accepted to run in next year's London Marathon to raise money for the hospice and is currently in training. A charity place in the 2026 London Marathon requires participants to pay a registration fee and secure a minimum sponsorship amount of around £2,500. This is no mean feat for a young woman that has all the pressures of a young family and a full-time job.

We wish Emma every success in running the London Marathon and we send our best wishes to baby Olive and her family as they journey through this very difficult time in their lives.

We thank all of you for your heart felt support, kind words and your generous donations to this very worthy cause. We are pleased to report that **over £1,200** has been raised so far.

Thanks to all who attended and who contributed to this very worthy cause and it's never too late to contribute and here's the link:

[https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/emma-moore?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=whatsapp](https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/emma-moore?utm_source=share&utm_medium=whatsapp)

# TILBROOK VILLAGE

The old photo of  
Tilbrook village  
Submitted by  
Christine Rowland

At the moment  
the best guess is  
the 60's post 1963





### SERVICES INVOLVING TILBROOK PARISH CHURCH

- **The next Service is on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October** at 11.00am and will be the Harvest Festival led by Rev Pamela Soult.

(There is no harvest supper this year)

For diary details and other services throughout the benefice, please go to:  
[www.kymchurch.org.uk](http://www.kymchurch.org.uk)

The dry and settled autumn has enabled us to prepare the seedbeds for all the wheat and barley sowing. Timeliness of drilling is quite critical, going too soon into dry seedbeds can cause problems and the crop can get too far forward in the autumn which leads to disease, and weed control is harder as there is a larger window of opportunity for weeds to emerge and compete with the crop. Going too late, and the soil can become too wet for good establishment. It all goes back to definition of the difference between a good farmer and poor farmer.

I was taught this at college about 50 years ago, and the answer is the same today as it was then: “Timeliness”. With over 600 acres to drill we shall be making a start before too long, and hope to get finished by mid October.

This year saw the return of Gransden show after it was cancelled last year due to excessive rain that had made the site waterlogged. Many local farmers go along and also those that are interested in farming.

A lot of the local agricultural merchants have stands there, as well as craft stalls and competitions for all sorts of farm produce. In the modern day of internet marketing and impersonal dealings it is good that these traditional shows keep going, and they are well supported by the local community.

The cattle, which I mentioned in the last news, eventually got to Tavistock. The lorry was a double decker for cattle and a triple decker for sheep. The decks go up and down within the lorry, and the livestock don't need to go up steep ramps within the lorry.

The sections are all fitted with cooling fans and water drinkers. Welfare regulations are stricter than for humans in aircraft and no journey can be longer than 8 hours.



## Meetings

On 13 September a good number of folk visited the Village Hall to meet parish councillors and have tea and cake. Country councillor Ian Gardener joined us, and answered questions including the high level of council tax and overgrown hedges covering pavements. Our walking and cycling routes were on display, and have now been put up on the north side wall of the village hall. We thank our sponsors, Taylor Stilton, Sundown and The White Horse. An official opening is planned and we hope that with suitable publicity, walking and cycling groups can book the hall, travel the routes and enjoy our village and surrounding area.

The next parish meeting is at 7.30 on Tuesday 18 November in the village hall so see you then if not before.



## Traffic and Planning Matters

On 14 October we will get to hear if our Local Highways Initiative application to HDC for a speed display sign at the east end of High Street has been successful.

Also, the County Council will say if we can have the 20mph limit in the village. That's for the High Street, Church Lane and Station Road, up to the junction with Hall Lane.

One suggestion for future LHI funding has been the addition of some street lights on Station Road , north of the bridge - Please let us know what you think.

## Planting and Greenery

Thank you again to our grass verge cutters and flower box feeders who keep the village looking well kept and cared for.

HDC contractors are paid to cut the Playing Field and High Street grass. The rest is covered by volunteers, including playing field hedges. The Station Road hedge was cut Monday 15th.

There is still the northern hedge to consider and tackle, so a volunteering opportunity if you like that sort of thing.



## **Local Government Reorganisation - Development of Option E (Huntingdonshire being a standalone Unitary Authority)**

**From Councillor Sarah Conboy**

A week can be a long time when it comes to Local Government Reorganisation, so I wanted to provide you with an update on the latest development for us in Huntingdonshire.

Following political agreement from all Group Leaders, we will now develop a business case for Option E – a standalone Huntingdonshire unitary authority. Under this proposal, three new councils would be created and all County Council services would be split and transferred into these three.

**Huntingdonshire** as a single unitary

**Peterborough, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire** as one unitary

**Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire** as one unitary

Huntingdonshire has a proud identity and an increasingly important role in the future of our region. With significant housing and job growth taking place in Huntingdon, St Ives, St Neots and Ramsey, the emerging defence and innovation cluster around RAF Wyton outlined in the Government's Defence Industrial Strategy, and our central position in the Ox-Cam Growth corridor, HDC Group Leaders feel it is appropriate that Government consider a full range of options.



## **Local Government Reorganisation - Development of Option E**

As well as maintaining existing district boundaries, the proposal will look to reinforce the understood economic geographies of Peterborough, Cambridge and the Fens. It would also look to preserve existing NHS and other public sector boundaries.

As this latest development shows, it is important to remember that LGR is an evolving process. The Government will ultimately decide which proposals move forward, and it will consult on them before any changes are made. Our role is to make sure that Government has the fullest range of options before deciding on local government reorganisation.

While we develop Option E, we will continue to play our part in the wider work – contributing to the Option B business case, engaging as needed on Option A, and carrying out our own analysis of Option C.

Final decisions on reorganisation will be made by the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, following the government's own consultation process.

Best wishes,  
Councillor Sarah Conboy  
Executive Leader  
Huntingdonshire District Council



# BOOKING THE VILLAGE HALL



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

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

Contact: [tilbrookvillage@gmail.com](mailto:tilbrookvillage@gmail.com)

Or ring: 07903 987445

## TILBROOK VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE



The ideal venue for:

- Receptions and parties
  - Business meetings
  - Community groups
  - Yoga
  - Art classes
  - Quiz nights
  - Coffee mornings
  - Movie nights
  - Kiddies birthday parties
- and so much more

For bookings and enquiries  
[bookings.tilbrookvillage@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.tilbrookvillage@gmail.com)  
07903 987445  
[www.tilbrookvillage.life](http://www.tilbrookvillage.life)

# AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## THE COMMITTEE

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

## Volunteers

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Bookings Secretary | <b>Vacancy</b>       |
| Tea Tent Organiser | <b>Darren Pescod</b> |
| Hall Manager:      |                      |

## 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