

## February 2026 Issue 45

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## Welcome to the February 2026 Tilbrook Village Newsletter

### Your thoughts are welcome....

Now that we have all committee posts filled, now would seem an appropriate time to ask you what events you would like to see at your village hall and also what improvements you'd like to see. It is important that we arrange events and activities that are going to be of benefit to villagers and that you are prepared to attend.

We would be very grateful if you would let us know your thoughts via the 'contact us' page on our website: <https://tilbrookvillage.co.uk/page/contact>

### Below is a list of the current improvements we have in the plan already

- External Storage Hearing Loop
- Getting the underfloor heating working properly Levelling the paving to the main doors
- Flower mangers under the windows Improvements to the facilities and décor in the toilets
- Internal wall reconfiguration to create larger kitchen, more internal storage and a nice bar/café area.

### Some of the events we have undertaken in past few years:-

- Barn Dance
- Jubilee Event
- Quiz
- Live Sport Screenings
- Live Concert (Fund Raiser)
- First Aid Training
- Spring Fayre
- Coronation Event
- Family Film Day
- Pop up Pubs
- Cream Tea (Fund raiser)

I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,  
Stephen Birch (Chair – Tilbrook Amenities Committee)

# TILBROOK VILLAGE – POP-UP PUB

The next pop-up pub in the village hall will be on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

Why not come down to say and enjoy the evening!



# TILBROOK VILLAGE – POO BAGS!

One of the pleasures in life is walking your dog through and around Tilbrook and meeting other kindred spirits (and dogs) but with this comes a responsibility.

Two people mentioned to me independently last Saturday that there was an epidemic of doggy poo bags of different colours left lying on the grass verges and on the concrete path.

Being charitable, I suppose they may have been left there with the intention of picking them up later, but they were very obtrusive lying in full view and some in the middle of paths. (Please see just a few of the pictures below).

Just as some motorcyclists get considerate bikers a bad name by flagrantly flouting the noise regulations and making our lives a misery, we don't want the same sort of thing being said of dog walkers who are generally gentle souls.

If you see anyone littering, please have a word with them to persuade them of the error of their ways.

Thanks





**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 9:30am**

Our next service will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the new time of 9:30 am. Of course, until recently, this was the normal time for our service, so in fact we are just reverting back to our original time slot – we hope that this will be more convenient for some families so coming along can be “slotted in” before football, dog-walking or any other Sunday morning activity!

In addition, it has been decided to make some of our services a form of Family Worship, with hymns, prayers, reading and an address but no communion, which we hope will prove to be more family friendly.

**Easter – Stations of the Cross, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 3pm**

Looking ahead to Easter, there will be a “Stations of the Cross” service in Tilbrook Church on Good Friday at 3pm, taken by the Rev Pamela Sout.

As we are the only church in South Leightonstone with depictions of the Stations of the Cross on our walls we are pleased to welcome parishioners from around the benefice to this service where we pause in front of each station for readings and prayers.

For all the other Easter services in the benefice please see the website.

Last month I mentioned that we had bought a new fertilizer spreader in preparation for the Spring application. With a few days of Spring like weather and the ground conditions drying we've had the spreader in operation. Grassland fields were the first to have the fertilizer applied as the ground is more favourable, and there is no problem of muddy wheels dropping mud on the road as the grass keeps the wheels clean. The dry and hot weather last summer caused grass yields for all livestock farmers to be well below average, and the shortage of fodder has caused the price of feed to escalate. Hopefully the fertilizer will get the grass growing quickly and we may have the cattle turned out within a month. This will enable us to sell any surplus hay that we have into a very buoyant market.



Preparations are well underway in getting our young bull, Tilbrook Perfection, ready for the Devon Cattle breeders show and sale in three weeks time. He has passed all the necessary blood tests, and is halter broken ready for the showing. He will be two years old in May and already weighs about 700 kg. He will weigh over a tonne when he is fully grown, and will be capable of serving 30 to 40 cows each year. There are 15 bulls entered for the show and whilst all the owners know each other the competition in the ring is quite intense.



Many of you will remember my brother James, and the good news is that his son Simon recently got engaged. He and Alice, who comes from Old Weston, are currently living near Ely and hope to get married next Summer.

## The New Unitary Councils

GA news and options are still being discussed, and the government will ultimately decide which groupings are to be adopted. Tilbrook will remain part of Cambridgeshire.

## Hedging and Maintenance

As mentioned last month, we arranged for some tree and hedging maintenance to take place in February.

The joint hedge of the northern side of the playing field has been cut to a more accessible height....making future maintenance hopefully more manageable.

The area which we have used for collecting cuttings etc has been cleared apart from a mound of 'chippings' remaining and apple tree branches– if any villager would find some of these useful for paths or flowerbeds, then please feel free to collect – wheel barrows only – thanks.

Overgrown brambles upstream of the bridge were removed to give more river high flow, as requested by HDC.

The long dead sycamore tree on the green by the bridge has been felled and mostly cleared away after . we were given permission to remove it by HDC's officer with responsibility for conservation areas. Many villagers took advantage of the cut timber to take away cut logs for their own use – there remains a small stack of some thinner material, which villagers are free to help themselves too!

By undertaking some of the above work ourselves. we have saved the Parish Council's bank balance many hundreds of pounds.

Thanks to those who had to put up with the noise whilst we worked on these projects.



## The Tilbrook Bus Shelter Book Exchange

There are some very nice books in our village bus stop boxes – have you had a look yet? The boxes with tight lids keep them dry so please feel free to have a look, borrow some swap some and replace the lids tightly after you have finished browsing.

## Planters

We are beginning to put the flowering planters back into their oak containers (a big thank you to Angie and Di who are restocking these planters for the summer months). We are now looking for villagers who live near to the planters to look after them (watering and feeding when needed) – and then re-stocking when needed – the PC will repay any costs.

There is always more to do and Tuesday mornings is becoming a convenient time, should you wish to do so.

## A 'Thank you' to our volunteers

As spring arrives some grass will start growing, so a big thank you to our verge mowers and we hope for less mud on the road from driving onto the grass, as the weather improves.

## The next Parish Council meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026:

This is on **Tuesday 24 March at 7.30pm**. Anyone considering the role of a Councillor will be made very welcome – come and see 'what's it is all about'..... as there will be vacancies after the Annual Council Meeting in May.

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>	
Hall Manager:	<b>Lawrence Tattersall</b>	
Members:	<b>Stuart Purdie</b>	
	<b>Richard Gudgeon</b>	
	<b>Anne Mc Manus</b>	

## 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