

THE WILSDENER

Brought to you by Wilsden Village Hall (Reg. Charity No. 511626) & Wilsden Parish Council
~ Covering Wilsden, Harecroft & Hallas Bridge ~



ISSUE 21
JANUARY 2010



INSIDE: Latest news from around the village, PLUS Wilsden Parish Council Newsletter (PAGES 3 & 4)

Changes at Church and Chapel

Coincidentally the ministers at all three of our Churches in Wilsden and Harecroft changed between July and September 2009. The first to leave was Rev. Dr. Hayford Ofori-Attah from Harecroft Methodists who has moved to new responsibilities in London. In August Rev Peter Gray retired as minister at Wilsden Methodist and URC church and finally, in September, Rev Roger Brooks from St Matthews Church moved to a new parish in Suffolk.

New leaders have been appointed although the new Anglican minister does not take up his position until March this year. Last October the Methodist Churches of Wilsden and Harecroft have recently welcomed Ian Griffiths as the new joint Minister and he has told us a bit about himself below. The Rev Bob Evans, currently Team Rector in the South Bradford Parish, has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St. Saviour's, Harden & St. Matthew's Wilsden. His remit also includes the charge of Cullingworth and Denholme. We will include an article by Bob in the next edition of the Wilsdener.

Ian told us a bit about himself :-

Hello! My name is Ian Griffiths and I have recently moved into the Wilsden Area as the new Methodist Minister for Wilsden Methodist/URC and Harecroft Methodist Churches. I spent the last five years as a minister serving a variety of churches on the Norfolk/Suffolk border. I grew up in the New Forest and have been heading further north ever since. My wife, Tabitha and I enjoy listening to and playing a wide variety of music, from madrigals to rock.

We have not lived, or holidayed in Yorkshire before, so we are looking forward to finding out and exploring all that West Yorkshire has to offer and hope that some of it will come to influence our continuing experimentation with arts and crafts when time allows.

Tabitha has been involved in Scouting since before she was born and has now 'roped' me in. We enjoyed our Scouting in East Anglia and have been delighted with the open arms that welcomed us into the Bradford North District with two roles, one as chaplain and the other as Explorer Scout leaders.

The warmth of the welcome we have received so far has been amazing and we both look forward to developing our roles within the communities we now serve.



Wilsden Junior Football Team

Year 1 and Year 2 boys are needed for the Wilsden Junior Football Team. Training is on a Monday, 6.30 until 7.30 pm at either Cullingworth Rec or Parkside School. If your child would like to attend training we will let you know from week to week which venue it is.

If your child is aged 5 they can only attend training as they are not old enough to play matches yet. If aged 6, boys can attend training and play matches which are on Sundays.

Please note – aged 6 boys who cannot attend training but would still like to play matches on Sundays are fine to do so.

If interested please contact Louise 274630 or Jane 271701.

What's New at Wilsden Primary School

The new school year has brought a new Head Teacher and greatly improved dining facilities at our village school.

Mr Quartermain retired after a long teaching career, the last nine years of which he spent as Head Teacher at Wilsden. The Governors were delighted by the quality of applicants for the job. This reflected the success of the school and its popularity.

After a painstaking selection process, Mrs. Debbie Boughen was appointed to the post, and took up the reins in September. Mrs. Boughen started her teaching career in Shipley. She was previously Deputy Head at Walter Street Primary School in Brierfield, Lancashire. She lives on 'our side' of the Pennines, and her interests include dancing and going to the ballet.



The recently completed buildings have provided two dining rooms and a kitchen in which all food can be prepared on site.

This has freed up the main hall which can now be used all day, rather than being given over to meal service for two hours. There are also extra toilet and cloakroom areas.

The new rooms are self-contained and will be available for community use in due course. Any groups interested in hiring a room should contact school on 01535-272263.



Are you concerned about traffic speeds in our villages?

Speedwatch, which has been operating for five years in Wilsden and Harecroft is intended to slow down traffic and warn drivers if they are over the speed limit. From experience we know that it has an effect upon the actions of some drivers although there are still a number who believe this does not apply to them. The number of Speedwatch sessions is limited by the availability of volunteers to do things such as write down the registration of speeding vehicles. It is probable that Speedwatch will become even more valuable to local people over the next six months as the volume of traffic increases significantly through both villages due to the temporary closure of Ireland Bridge.

If you feel something should be done about this and would like to know more please phone Cllr Ray Graham on 272587. If people want to know more about what is involved before committing themselves you are welcome to come along as an observer for a couple of sessions. The time commitment can be as little as 2 hours every 6 to 8 weeks and although the weather has been terrible recently this is not the case for much of the year.

If you are worried by the speed of the traffic on our roads we need you to please come forward to help.

Ancient Tree Hunt

Have you ever wondered about the age of a large tree?

Now is your chance to take part in a nationwide study to identify old and valuable trees. Trees have three life stages: growth, maturity and decay. An ancient tree is one that has entered its final life stage and is significantly wider than other examples of the species and will have dead wood, holes and hollowing of trunk or branches. A 'veteran' tree is one that is well into its second life stage. An oak or sycamore of girth over 4 meters would likely be classed as 'veteran' and if over 5 metres may be 'ancient'. These trees could be over 300 years old.

There are thousands of ancient and veteran trees scattered across our towns and countryside, yet to be discovered and recorded. Can you help to identify such trees in Wilsden and neighbouring parishes? In doing so you will reveal their secrets, discover the wildlife they sustain and perhaps unlock their stories gathered over centuries.

The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt (ATH) involves thousands of people in finding and mapping all the fat, old trees across the UK is at the heart of their tree conservation work. It will create a comprehensive living database of ancient trees and it's the first step towards cherishing and caring for them. These trees have exceptional wildlife interest and many creatures live nowhere else. Anyone can register as a recorder. Visit the website <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/> to learn how to record and use the interactive map to view those trees already recorded.

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Wilsden Views - Calendar for 2011

A great suggestion has been made for the creation of a calendar for 2011 which would have a Wilsden View for each month of the year.

The idea is that later in the year a competition would be set up to consider digital photographs submitted by local people and pick a relevant photograph for each month. This would add to the existing promotion of Wilsden through the postcards for sale.

We live in a beautiful area in which all seasons seem to offer special views and a really great calendar could be created if enough of you photographers out there come forward with your best shots.

Whether you love the snow or just find it a complete nuisance, you have to admit there have been some stunning local scenes over Christmas and New Year!

Running the competition later in the year will give time for any of you who are interested to look back over photos you might already have or get out there and capture some new ones. More information will be posted around the village about where to submit photographs to when plans for the competition are finalised.

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French visit Easter 2010

A group of French families from Wilsden's twin village Eppeville will be here from Good Friday to Easter Tuesday on one of the regular exchange visits. Wilsden Twinning Association are looking for new families, both with and without children, to host a French family with a view to making a return visit to Eppeville in 2011. A knowledge of French, while useful, is not essential and previous hosts have coped very well with a combination of sign language and simple dictionary. The Twinning Association organises activities over the weekend so you would not be left completely to your own devices. Many people who have participated in previous exchanges have established lifelong friendships with French families. If you want to find out more please contact Kath Jenkins on 01535 273446.

Play Area Opening

As many of you will know the new Play Area was officially opened on November 4th by the Wilsden Gala, King and Queen, Christopher Barker and Hayley O'Gan. As can be seen, the afternoon of the ceremony was very wet and after the official "cutting of the ribbon" everyone adjourned to the Village Hall for a warm cup of tea. In addition to district and parish councillors and other guests the ceremony was attended by representatives from the Department for Children, Schools and Families as this was the first scheme in the Bradford area supported under the Playbuilder programme.



It was a shame the opening coincided with such a lot of rain which hardly gave the turf chance to bed down under the new rubber matting and made the area rather muddy to say the least. Please see Peter Ketley's report for an update on what is being done to help address this problem.



Nonetheless, the new climbing equipment offers a good mix of challenges and enjoyment for the slightly older children whilst the baby swings and rockers have been retained and will continue to entertain the babies and toddlers. The fence around the play area should also now prevent the age old problem of dog fouling too. We would ask everyone to respect the play area for what it is intended to be - a safe place for our youngsters to play - and carefully dispose of their litter in the bins provided.

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Wilsden Gardening Association.

ANNUAL TRIP 18th July 2010.

Leaving the Village Hall Wilsden at 9.15am we will be going to Yorkshire Lavender, Terrington, York for morning coffee. Then onto a visit to Castle Howard House and Gardens in the afternoon. On the way home we will be calling at the Wetherby Whaler Fish Restaurant at Clifton, York for tea, arriving home approx. 8pm. Cost including coffee, visit to house etc. and fish and chip tea is £20. per person. Each member may bring one guest. Please give names to Jack Clapham on 01535 275270 from 7th. February (not before). Deposit £5 per person can be paid at the Hut. (Full details of trip on the website)

Details of the Annual General Meeting are given below and members are reminded that our website is kept up to date with all WGA news. Please visit us at:-

: www.wilsdengardeningassociation.com

<p>Village Diary</p> <p>Wilsden Parish Council meeting...</p> <p>Mon Feb 1st, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall</p> <p>Mon Mar 1st, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall</p> <p>Mon April 12th, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall</p> <p>Mon May 10th, 7pm, Library Room, Village Hall</p> <p>Wed May 19th, 7.30pm, Village Hall</p> <p>(Annual Parish Meeting with Neighbourhood Forum)</p> <p>Wilsden Neighbourhood Forum...</p> <p>Wed May 19th, 7.30pm, Village Hall</p> <p>Wilsden Gardening Association...</p> <p>Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Mon Feb 22nd, 8pm, Conservative Club</p> <p>Spring Flower Show</p> <p>Sun Mar 28th, 12 to 2pm, Conservative Club</p> <p>Spring Fair</p> <p>Sun May 16th, 2pm, Village Hall</p>
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Wilsden Parish Council Newsletter



The Parish Chest

Hello. My name is Peter Ketley and I am the current Chair of Wilsden Parish Council, having succeeded Councillor Peter Allison in May this year. I am pleased to have the opportunity to write a few words in 'The Wilsdener' keeping you informed of what your Parish Council is doing to maintain and improve Wilsden and Harecroft as pleasant places to live.



Since the last edition of 'The Wilsdener' the most obvious manifestation of Parish Council activity has been the refurbishment of the Townfield Play Area, completed in November. This scheme has been a long time in gestation – more than five years – and it is therefore particularly pleasing to see it in reality. Unfortunately the weather has been particularly wet since it opened, with resultant pooling of water which meant that the children have not been able to take full advantage of the new play equipment as yet. Bradford Parks Department are taking remedial action that will assist the grass in drying out. Thanks are due to Bradford Metropolitan Council and to the government PlayBuilder programme for providing the bulk of the money.

The Edwardian Fayre was held during the last week of November and was judged to have been an all-round success; thanks are due in particular to Barbara Thompson, our Parish Clerk and Julie Petty, the Village Hall Manager, for organising this.

Some of you will recall that the Parish Council intends to produce a plan for the village that looked at issues such as housing, transport, employment and the environment. You may also recall that focus group events were held and that a survey of opinion was held by a questionnaire. You may also be thinking "What's happened to it"? Well I have to hold my hand up and say "Nothing much, BUT . . ." . The organisation that we approached to analyse the data at the end of the day were unable to carry out the work and we have been looking for an alternative. Fortunately Rural Action Yorkshire has agreed to do this work and have promised to deliver it by Christmas (this year!). So, watch this space.

The issue of parking in Tweedy Street at school collection and delivery times has long been a thorny problem and I am glad to write that the Highways department is about to commence a study into solving this within a more general context of highway issues within Wilsden.

On a further positive note two Neighbourhood Wardens have been appointed to cover the Bingley and Bingley Rural Wards of the Shipley parliamentary constituency. They intend to be in Wilsden one day each week and will patrol to identify litter offences, concentrating on known "grot spots". They will also play an important role in our attempts to combat the owners of dogs who allow their animals to foul public spaces. In this respect they will have powers of enforcement. So a warm welcome to Joanna and Mike.

Since the last issue of 'The Wilsdener' Councillor Sheila Jones has moved away from the village and has therefore resigned from the Parish Council. I would like to thank Sheila for her contribution. I would also like to welcome Jane Callaghan who has been co-opted onto the Parish Council, filling the vacancy arising from the resignation of Councillor Caroline Tear earlier in the year.

Can I conclude by reminding you that the Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 7pm. The venue is the Village Hall. I know that I am speaking for the whole Parish Council when I say that we would welcome more of you at the meetings.

Peter M Ketley

Pay & Display Parking in Wilsden

The short stay shopper's car park at Royd House became Pay and Display in December 2007, with no charge for the first 30 minutes. This was introduced to protect local shops who were losing business because drivers did not respect the long established short stay part of this car park, with the result that people who wished to use the village shops had nowhere to park. For drivers who want to stay for up to 1 hour the charge is 30p and for up to 2 hours it is 60p. No car is allowed to stay for more than 2 hours between 9am and 6pm in this part of the Car Park, although this does not affect the long stay part of the car park.

When the Pay and Display machine was installed it was not programmed correctly and it would not deliver a free ticket for up to 30 minutes, making it more difficult to check how long a car had been in place. This has now been remedied and the machine has been operating correctly for a number of months. This means anyone who parks on the north side of the Royd House car park MUST obtain a ticket and display it in their vehicle. Failure to do so risks a £50 fine, as does staying longer than the time allowed on the ticket.



New Parish Councillor

At the September Council meeting we co-opted a new councillor for the Wilsden ward and she has written a short personal statement in the way of an introduction.

"I have been co-opted as your new Parish Councillor and I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Jane Callaghan, I am 48 and I was born and brought up in Wilsden. Many long term Wilsdeners may remember me by my maiden name, Jane Summersgill. I am married to Simon who is a Local Government Officer with Bradford Council and we have two teenage boys, the eldest now at university and the youngest in the 6th form at Parkside School. The boys tease me that I know everyone in Wilsden and while that is patently untrue, I have met many of you through the boys' education at Wilsden Primary School, through our church and through my part-time work as a locum pharmacist at Wilsden Pharmacy March 2002 to May 2009. I hope that even if we don't already know each other, you may find me easily approachable.



I have a great affection for our village, it is a true community with people who care for each other and its environs, and I would like to help safeguard its positive aspects and build upon them whilst reducing the (few) negative ones as we face changes to our village in the years ahead. I am fascinated by local history and the way in which events in the past have shaped our life today, but that does not mean that everything should always remain the same.

It is important to move forward with a glance to lessons learned in the past and with as much attention to detail as possible. I know that I will not please all of you all of the time, but I hope to please most of you most of the time. Please come and talk to me when you see me around,

Thank you."



What's going on.....

Report of the Wilsden Wall Building Group....

Some two years ago now, Cllr. Tony Caunt mooted the idea of repairing the many dry stone walls in and around our village at a Parish council meeting and the idea was publicized and a meeting of interested people set up.

The group was formed in April 2008 with 17 volunteers attending a meeting in the Village Hall along with Mark Bashford, a professional wall builder, and Rick Hill from the Countryside Service. Tony outlined what his proposals were to repair walls and a list of suitable walls was submitted and discussed along with helpful advice from the two experts. The meeting decided to start on the walls at the end of Birchlands Avenue and with the help of Mark Bashford great progress was made with some six to eight metres of walling rebuilt within a short space of time. The group gained publicity with a full colour picture and article in the Telegraph & Argus of 5th May 2008 and follow up in the Aire Valley Target showing six volunteers working on the wall at the end of Birchlands Avenue.

The list of people interested in joining the group increased to twenty or more and Tony had great hopes for repairing many of the walls in and around Wilsden by dividing the group into a number of teams to tackle walls in different locations. Sadly other commitments prevented people coming forward as team leaders and it remained up to Tony to maintain enthusiasm and as he wasn't always available there was a loss of momentum.

With the help of Barbara Thompson, the Wilsden Parish Clerk and Cllr. Jane Callaghan, the Wilsden Wall Building Group was officially formed at a meeting on 4th August 2008 and, with a donation from the Parish Council, insurance was arranged. Early in 2009 Tony was asked to repair some 18 metres of walling along the boundary of the cricket field bounding onto Windy Grove and with the help of Alison and Roland Powell and Matthew Thorpe work started around April. The walls were completely re-built to a very high standard and the cricket club gave a donation to the WWBG.

The most recent project is to re-build the walls at the end of Back Lane which curve into Haworth Road and a start has been made by Tony and Jane with the help of the farmer, regrettably bad weather has held this up but it is hoped that as soon as the weather improves it will continue.



It is so important to rebuild these ancient walls and improve the village for many years to come but they will not rebuild themselves and committed volunteers are needed to learn how to build dry stone walls. If you are interested in learning this ancient skill and are able to dedicate some of your valuable to helping retain these original village features please come forward – you would be most welcome.

Cllr. Tony Caunt chairman WWBG (Tel: 01535 273709)

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Baltic Adventure film show

at St. Matthews Church
with Tony and Judy Caunt

Friday 19th March, 7.30 pm -
Tickets £4 including refreshments

Proceeds to Church funds

Wilsden Women's Institute

The Wilsden WI meets the first Monday in the month at 7.30pm in Wilsden Primary School.

They have donated £300 to the Tuesday Luncheon Club for much needed crockery. The money was raised by a cakes, produce and tombola stall at the West Riding Federation autumn meeting and at the Edwardian Fair in the Village Hall just before Christmas.

**WI Fashion Show in St. Matthews Church
24th March, 7.30 pm - admission £5**

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Fairtrade Fortnight

From February 22nd to March 7th there will be a special focus upon Fairtrade goods nationally. When you buy Fairtrade you know that the producers, wherever in the world that they live, are receiving a fair price their goods. All the churches in Wilsden support this with stalls at social events and after some services. A large range of items such as coffee, tea and sugar plus a range of gifts can be bought. The Co-op is a strong supporter of Fairtrade and you can buy a wide range of goods all the year round. It is hoped to hold a special event during the fortnight so please keep a look out for notices.

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WILSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF
ASSISTANT TO THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL**

**Two half days per week (8 hours).
Salary in accordance with the
NALC/SLCC recommendations.**

**For further details and an Application Form
please contact in writing.**

**Mrs B Thompson
Clerk to the Council
Wilsden Parish Council
The Village Hall
Townfield
Wilsden
Bradford, BD15 0HT**

Closing Date 1st March 2010

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Contacting your Parish Council

There are a number of ways you can contact the Parish Council:

- All our meetings are open to the public and full Council meetings include a 20 minute session at the beginning where residents can raise any issue they wish.
- The Contact Point at the Village Hall is not only for raising police issues. If you have anything you wish to raise with the Council please call in on either Saturday 10.30am to 12 or Thursday 1.30pm to 4pm. On a Saturday morning, a parish councillor will normally be on duty.
- Contact details for councillors are given on our website.
- A general contact should be to the Parish Clerk:

**Barbara Thompson (Parish Clerk)
Wilsden Parish Council,
Wilsden Village Hall, Townfield, Wilsden, BD15 0HT
(Tel: 07875 635203)
barbara.thompson@wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk**

**Visit the Parish Council website at:
www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk**