

THE BABRAHAM NEWSLETTER

Muckspreader

WINTER 2025



Soon to be tarmac, lovely!



This is where the bridge will go diagonally across the field bisecting the ancient water-meadow

The looming doom of the P&R (CSET) is closer

The proposed Babraham P&R is gaining momentum now, the GCP have sent an application to the Department of Transport for this new P&R and bus route to the Addenbrookes site. This is on our doorstep and it will ruin the countryside around our village and open up the floodgates for development all along its route. Great for Cheveley Park Farms, disaster for the village. **Betterways for Busways** (combined efforts of Stapleford, Shelford and Past Present and Future) are vigorously fighting to get the route changed from destroying our countryside with an alternative route down the A1307. It is also a lot cheaper option, and we are talking millions here! Write to the GCP hello@greatercambridge.org.uk and make your point the more we show we

are against the more likely they may change their minds. The car park it seems will go ahead but the route could be changed! The thought of people who are not familiar with our area are going to change it forever is quite frankly sickening!

Monies are need for the fight, everyone can help . . . visit www.bw4b.org and give what you can.



Parish Councillors

Stuart Laurie (Chair)

stuart.laurie@babraham-pc.gov.uk

Denise Dear (Vice Chair)

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Jane Goody

jane.goody@babraham-pc.gov.uk

Robert Attwood

robert.attwood@babraham-pc.gov.uk

Tim Jones

tim.jones@babraham-pc.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire County Council

Brian Milnes

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Peter McDonald

Member of Parliament

Pippa Heylings (MP),
Liberal Democrat

Chairs report

New council member

We welcomed Tim Jones to the council this month.

CSet Busway

The council was approached by Stephen Partridge Hicks of the **Betterways for Busways** group regarding their campaign to convince CSet that a dedicated bus route along the A1307 would better serve the proposed park and ride in Babraham, than the guided bus route across fields and the Granta river in the village. We, as a council, support their campaign in principle and have made a small donation towards the fighting fund to show our support.

Speed Bumps

We are still desperately trying to convince the highways department to repair and replace our speed bumps using stronger fixings. It appears that we may have to take legal action to either have the bumps replaced, or seek a refund of the original outlay.

Dog walking

Babraham remains a popular dog walking area. The 4 poo bins provided by the council seem to be coping with high numbers of walkers, and indeed their dogs.

Forest garden

The forest garden area has been mown, and it is now possible to see the actual layout as the trees have grown a little taller. We hope that this area will soon be available for the public to enjoy. The NO DOGS rule will apply in this area.

We recently purchased a salt/grit bin which will be situated next to the Jonas Webb statue.

We wish you all a happy new year.

Stuart Laurie

**Sawston
Medical Practice**
0300 234 5555



Churchyard gets a make over

What a great morning we had doing a bit of much needed work on the churchyard. A marvellous turn-out who put their backs into clearing the river bank of nettles and ivy which is not a easy job. Once again the older folk stood tall and really made a difference. David the pickaxe just didn't stop, not even for a coffee and flapjack! Come on you younger people shelve the lycra and get your wellies on! We need you. After all our hard work Matthew donned his chef hat and cooked up burgers and sausages which the church had provided. Just a few weeks later the campus team covered the whole area in bulbs which will look fantastic, keep you eyes out for a display later in the year!



NEED A HAIRCUT?

Hi I'm Jo. I have over 20 years hairdressing experience. Appointments now available at my home salon in Babraham or in Newmarket.

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BABRAHAM RESEARCH CAMPUS – ESTATE NEWS

It may be winter but work on the estate continues through the wet and cold weather.

The Estates team are carrying out woodland understorey planting across the south Estate over the coming few weeks - this is to improve the species mix of the 1994 planted woodlands in order to make them more resilient to change (ash die back has really hit us hard), and to enhance the coppice and pollard system of management in place on the Estates woodlands.

There will also be the next stage of hedgerow regeneration and planting, taking place on the south Estate.

As a note, some of the making safe of the multi stemmed poplar trees and fractures in some veteran ash near the river may require temporary closures of the permissive path - Estate barriers, signage and banksman will be in place during the works.

As part of the improvements for seasonal aesthetics of the Campus, the Estates and Gardens teams planted 6000 bulbs at the main entrance. During the first quarter of 2025, drivers will get to enjoy a splash of colour to the right hand side of the road before approaching the security kiosk. The team has planted a mixture of Crocus, Daffodil and Galanthus.

Alongside this, the Gardens team planted bulbs in the wildflower areas of the back lawn to match the ones planted along the riverbank in 2022. We also gifted around 500 bulbs to the Church which the Gardens team planted along the newly scrubbed out riverbank in an effort to encourage a continuation of daffodils for walkers along the path. In total there were 4000 Daffodil bulbs planted.

In the months November (2024) through to January 2025 we have also planted a further 12,850 mixed species trees across the estate. These include, Rowan, Alder, Silver Birch, Scots Pine, Small leaf lime, Hazel,

White Willow, Sweet Chestnut, Alder, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Hawthorn, Beech and Oak.

We are part of the accredited government “ready to burn” scheme (seasoned wood below 20% moisture), which allows us to sell firewood gathered from our work on the estate, that has been seasoned and is below the required



maximum moisture content. For more information and our contact details, please see Ready to Burn | Administered by Woodsure on behalf of Defra and use the post code CB22 3AT in the Find a Supplier section.

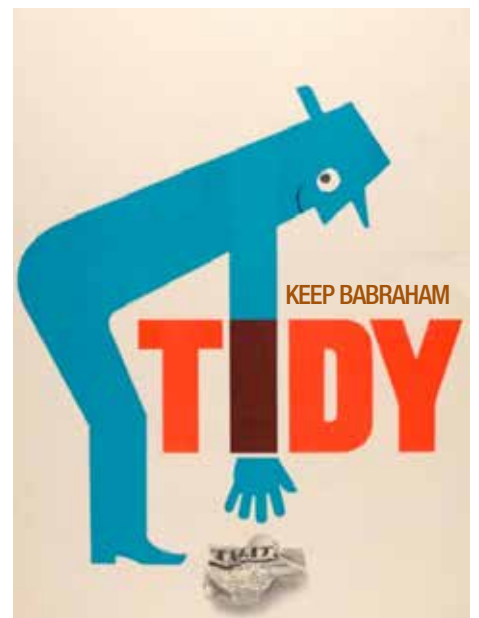
We have for sale, 1.5 cubic meter bags of seasoned firewood (650-700kg) at £100 plus VAT and incl. local delivery for destinations within the Babraham village. For the 2024/25 winter firewood, all our logs are cut to approximately 10” standard length, with a current species mix of willow (50%), beech (30), ash (10), hazel/cherry/maple mixed hardwood (5) and pine that has been seasoned for 12 months (5).

If anyone would like to find out more information please direct any enquiries via the contact info at the web site link above.

Unfortunately, we end on a sad note. We regret to inform you that following a detailed structural analysis (PICUS test) the Wellingtonia (Giant Sequoia) tree located adjacent to The Close has been found to be structurally compromised by a fungal infection associated with natural, age-related decay. The tree has been under watch through survey and analysis for some time and this years results have shown the structural decay has reached a point that renders it necessary to remove it for safety reasons. However, The Babraham Research Campus will need to submit an application to South Cambs District Council for its removal. If authorisation is granted we will be working with a local tree specialist to carefully remove the tree in cMarch 2025.

This significant tree, was likely planted around the time of the Hall’s construction in the 1830’s and has been a prominent feature of the landscape. It reflects the estate owners’ passion for collecting specimen trees at that time.

We appreciate your understanding as we undertake this work and will ensure it is carried out with the utmost care and respect for the landscape.



Did you know this about our village of Babraham?

It is listed as Badburgham in the Domesday Book of 1086, the village's name means "homestead or village of a woman called Beaduburh".

Jonas Webb and Decembers past in our historic village of Babraham

The **Babraham Chronicles** provide great news items from times past in Babraham and here are just a few recorded snippets of highlights, gossip, news and scoundrels from the 1700's and 1800's .

Jonas Webb 1796 -1862

'His honour and scrupulous faith, his generosity and uniform affability gained him the respect of everybody'

In **1794** there were about 1000 sheep in the Babraham parish and 419 acres were under pasture in 1845.

Jonas Webb the well-known breeder of Southdown sheep who was born on 10th November 1796 at Great Thurlow Suffolk , was the tenant of **Church Farm Babraham** from about 1820 until his death in 1862. In his own particular way Jonas Webb was a remarkable man. The news from Babraham from 1834 until 1858 is, for the most part, dominated by accounts of his annual sheep show.

At full strength the Babraham flock numbered 2400. He also exhibited in France. At the French Universal Exposition in 1855 he won first prize for Southdowns rams and presented the winner for which he had been offered 500 guineas to the French Emperor Napoleon III. The emperor rewarded him with a massive silver candelabra representing thoroughbred mares and foals under English oak.

If you want to contribute to this newsletter . . . feel free.

Advertising is free, photographs, articles are all welcome.

Email to robert.attwood@gmail.com



27th Dec 1777 Scoundrels!

Theft from Shop Early on Tuesday morning some villains got into a shop kept by the wife of a labouring man at Babraham in this county and carried away divers articles, they also stole a guinea and a half out of the woman's pocket, which hung by her bedside while she was fast asleep, and clear got off ! They are supposed to be persons acquainted with the house and the absence of her husband, who had been gone to work some time

7th Dec 1850

Babraham : Fire at the Hall

On Weds evening last about a quarter past seven, an alarm was given by the

gardener, who was passing the spot, that a room over the coach house, situate in the stable yard a short distance from Babraham Hall , was on fire . The servants immediately set to work and were aided by a force of about 40 labourers who were opportunely fetched from the village and whose exertions were ably directed by F, Fym, Esq who was at the hall. The flames were confined to the room from which they originated. The floor of the room was partially destroyed and the carriage which was below was damaged.

The total loss amounted to £50 and was covered by insurance in the Norwich Union

Dec 30th 1858

Babraham Horse Training

Mr Webb of Balsham performed upon a horse in this village on Monday last, to the great satisfaction of all present. He subdued the animal in three minutes, set upon him , sung a song and cheered the hounds upon him. W. Hailes, Esq was present and privy to the secret



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