

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WILBERFOSS

7.00 PM

21st May 2026

1. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of Wilberfoss Parish Council, Cllr Richard Rains who shared a summary of the success of the Parish Council's year together with that of:-

Wilberfoss in Bloom

St John the Baptist Church

Wilberfoss Community Centre

The Allotment Association

Wilberfoss Playing Fields Association

Full reports are attached to these Minutes.

2. The Open Forum was not utilised.

Wilberfoss in Bloom

Volunteer community gardening group established 2007

Annual Report for 2025/26

We are pleased to report another productive year. Following on from our recruitment drive, we now have 13 active members, gaining two new members since the last report. As always, we have had additional invaluable help from partners and friends. We have been busy maintaining the planters, planting winter, spring and summer bulbs and flowers around the village, and looking after the grass and memorial gardens.

Our new treasurer is Janette Poole. Jannette joined us last March and took over the role of Treasurer in the Summer. We now have online banking and have recently acquired a SumUp machine which means we are no longer restricted to cash payments for ticket sales for Bingo, refreshments at events and for our plant and cake sales!

A big thank you to the Parish Council for funds towards the purchase of the planter for the Community Centre notice board and hopefully funding for the new planter outside the butchers. The new planters will be installed when we change over the planting later this month.

Our fundraising events, essential to pay for the plants, compost and other items, have again been a great success. We quickly sold out of cakes at the Duck Race cake stall so hope to have many more bakes to sell this year! The Spring Plant Sale in May was a great success, with good passing trade and most of the plants sold. In September we provided refreshments at the 'Hush Hush a Bletchley story' theatre performance which had a packed house. Unfortunately, as we could only take cash we were limited in how much we could make, although we still did very well!

As we did last year, we created the table decorations for the Elders Party in June and have it in the diary to provide the table decorations again this year.

As always, we had an extremely successful and enjoyable Bingo Night in October which we are planning to repeat this year. Chilli was on the menu again and, in addition to Bingo 'line' and 'full house' prizes, we had a great selection of raffle prizes so most people went away with something!

In December we lit up the village with our Christmas tree and had a stall at the Community Centre Christmas Fair, a great opportunity to talk to visitors about Wilberfoss in Bloom and for them to take part in our Christmas quiz.

In September 3 of our members helped to build the Bug Hotel in the Bull field and earlier this year, members of the group took part in the YorkMix Winter Warmers coffee morning and the Community Centre Spring Solstice gardening.

We would like to finish this report with a big thank you to all our sponsors and donors, without whom we could not operate, in addition to residents of the village for their individual donations, thanks also go to the local businesses and Parish Council for vital funds.

May 2026

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT 2026 on behalf of WILBERFOSS CHURCH

The Church is open 7 days a week for any member of the public to access and enjoy some peace, borrow books, jigsaws and/or access the toilet facilities. There are also 3 wheelchairs available for use at no charge, although we do need notification as to who is borrowing them.

There is a card payment machine by the entrance into Church thus allowing donations on any day of the week, rather than just on a Sunday, and this machine is growing in popularity. The congregation is stable in numbers, between 30 and 50 per week with two Holy Communion services per month, despite the fact that the vicar, Rev Simon Pritchard, has been absent due to illness since before December 2025.

Families are particularly welcome to use the building and attend services. There is a soft play area in the main body of the building and in the Priory Room there are books, toys and jigsaws for children.

Good strong ties are being forged between Church and the Village School with excellent communication between the teachers and one of the Licensed Lay Ministers, Steve Percival, who now delivers a school assembly fortnightly, in the absence of Rev Pritchard. It is hoped that the frequency will be increased in the near future. Work by the schoolchildren now has space to be displayed in Church and they are being encouraged to bring their families to see the display. Child-friendly services are enjoyed by holding the school Carol Service, family friendly Carol Service and Crib Service in church. The collection of £250 from the Crib Service was donated to Martin House Children's Hospice.

Steve Percival, with some members of the church choir, attended the Riverside Care Complex at Kexby and delivered Christmas and Easter services in the Dementia Unit and the main Care Unit.

The church engages with the wider community by continuing to cover the costs of the defibrillator sited on the outside wall of the entrance porch and being one of the sponsors of the Mavericks, the village junior football team.

A musical evening was held featuring the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir and it was wonderful to see the church filled with people enjoying the music and having a really good time.

The Priory Room enables social interaction after each service when those present sit around one large table and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and conversation. It is further used throughout the week by a sewing group, a prayer group, a ukelele group, a Stay and Play preschool group and a Jigsaw group.

The Church Choir continues to contribute to Sunday Services and their willingness to give up their time for rehearsals, services and singing in the community is deeply appreciated. They have sung at the Oddfellows Arms and the Pavilion during the last year.

The Church maintains its close association with the Trussel Trust Food Bank with donations being collected from the local community. Donations since May 2025 have amounted to 617.7 kgs and £255 in cash, delivered to the food bank warehouse at Clifton Moor.

The community contributes to the Mission to Seafarers by knitting some cozy woolly hats which are treasured by the recipient sailors. Steve Percival, Licensed Lay Minister, visits the Humber ports most weeks to distribute the hats and provide pastoral care.

Woolly hats are also being knitted, and bedding and bath towels collected, to donate to the Ark Light Centre in York for the benefit of the homeless.

Village Duck Race was a huge success in 2025, and we hope for good weather for the upcoming Duck Race on 17th May. The Church will have three stalls, a Hook a Duck stall, hamper raffle and Bottle on a String stall. This event gives the church community a wonderful opportunity to engage with the wider community and show that those who attend church are not stuffy nor lacking in good humour!

The Church, on average, has a three-page article in each Village Newsletter detailing the services for the month, activities taking place and contact details should anyone need assistance e.g. advice, pastoral visits, prayers. Notices are also placed on Facebook through the Church page, Wilberfoss Community page and the Wilberfoss, Fangfoss and surrounding area page.

The Church is a beautiful venue for weddings, baptisms and funerals and we work very hard to ensure that the wider community feel it is a welcoming place for everyone.

Rose Riley, Church Warden

Moira Percival, Church Warden

12th May 2026

Wilberfoss Community Centre Annual Report

Written by Chair Lisa Langton and Centre Manager Anna Hill

Year Ending: April 2026

This report outlines the activities, developments, and achievements of Wilberfoss Community Centre over the past year. We are pleased to report another positive year focused on strengthening our role as a welcoming, sustainable, and community-centred hub for the village and surrounding area.

Successes and Achievements

Over the past year, the Community Centre has continued to see increased engagement across a wide range of groups, activities, and services. In particular, we have seen significant growth in the use of our therapy and wellbeing spaces, with the Centre now supporting 11 different therapists providing private sessions for both children and adults. This development has helped establish the Centre as an increasingly important space for wellbeing and community support.

New wellbeing-focused events and collaborations have also begun to flourish, including children's wellbeing sessions delivered through partnerships between local practitioners, alongside regular sound bath events which have been well attended by members of the local community.

Our regular groups and classes continue to play a vital role in keeping the Centre active, inclusive, and welcoming. From fitness and wellbeing classes, arts and crafts, table tennis, bowls, and karate, to community groups such as WI, Wilberfoss in Bloom, and local social groups, the Centre continues to provide opportunities for people of all ages to connect, stay active, and reduce social isolation.

The Centre has also continued to host and support a number of successful community events throughout the year. Heritage Day was particularly well received and celebrated local history and community spirit, while events such as the Spring Solstice celebration and Fun at the Farm helped bring people together. Plans are already underway for further events including the Summer and Christmas Fairs.

Centre Operations and Maintenance

Throughout the year, essential maintenance and compliance work has been successfully completed to ensure the continued safe operation of the building. This has included gas servicing, fire inspections and associated repairs, emergency lighting and alarm maintenance, and a visit from the Fire Officer, with all outcomes reported as satisfactory.

As with any busy community building, several maintenance challenges have also arisen during the year, including blocked drains, repairs to dividers, roof tile damage, and plumbing issues. These have been addressed as quickly and effectively as possible to minimise disruption to users.

Funding and Development

Securing external funding continues to be an important priority for the Centre. During the year, applications were submitted to both National Grid and The National Lottery. While the National Grid application was unfortunately unsuccessful, we are optimistic about future opportunities and continue to actively pursue grants and funding streams to support improvements and long-term sustainability.

We also received a generous donation from a former resident of the village, and whilst we await confirmation as to whether their generosity can be acknowledged publicly, their donation will make a huge difference to our centre and we are extremely grateful.

Alongside this, work has begun on developing a longer-term strategic vision for the Centre, centred around the theme: *“Rooted in Heritage, Powered by Innovation”*

The emerging strategy focuses on ensuring the Community Centre becomes not simply a “hall for hire”, but a thriving community hub at the heart of village life. Key ambitions include improving digital access, expanding wellbeing services and reducing rural isolation by providing accessible local services.

We also plan to invest in the Centre’s digital and physical infrastructure in the coming years, looking at the possibility of online booking systems for the therapy rooms, funding applications for community cinema equipment and building improvements, alongside ongoing investment into the Centre’s facilities.

Challenges

Like many community organisations, the Centre continues to face challenges around funding, operational costs, and volunteer capacity. While there is strong enthusiasm for projects such as youth provision and wider community support initiatives, progress is often dependent on securing sufficient volunteer support and sustainable funding.

The committee also recognises the ongoing challenge of maintaining and developing an ageing building while continuing to deliver high-quality community services and activities.

Thanks and Appreciation

The committee would like to extend its sincere thanks to all volunteers, user groups, hirers, supporters, and members of the local community who continue to support the Centre throughout the year.

In particular, we would like to thank Anna for all of her hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm since taking on the role of Centre Manager over the past year. Anna has overseen a significant period of transition for the Centre whilst continuing to develop new opportunities, maintain high standards, and support the day-to-day running of the building. Her dedication and passion for the Centre and wider community have been greatly appreciated, and we are excited to see what the next year will bring.

Looking to the Future

As we move into the next year, the Committee remains committed to ensuring Wilberfoss Community Centre continues to evolve as a vibrant, inclusive, and financially sustainable community asset.

By building on our existing strengths, embracing innovation, and listening to the needs of the community, we hope to continue creating a Centre that supports connection, wellbeing and resilience for many years to come.



Report to Wilberfoss Parish Council May 2026

The Association is now in its 19th year and remains as popular as ever. The demand from the local community for allotments remains strong and, with the exception of one small quarter plot, we have once again achieved full occupancy. We now have 40 tenants occupying a range of allotment sizes (3 hold full plots, 3 hold three quarter plots, 27 hold half plots and 7 hold quarter plots). We were delighted to welcome 8 new tenants this year including some with young families and we look forward to integrating them into our gardening community.

The 1.5 acre site on the outskirts of the village, behind Field Head, is screened from the nearby housing by a well maintained hedge. Many plots now include well established fruit trees and soft fruit bushes and many of the tenants have either sheds or green houses. Individual members are actively encouraged to maintain their plots in good order and the committee regularly inspect them to ensure this is happening. A small group of dedicated volunteers take care of the maintenance of the communal areas and facilities as well as the boundary fences, gates and access roads.

The Association are currently investigating turning the grassy area in front of the car park into a wildflower meadow to encourage and support pollenating insects and local wildlife.

Over the winter and spring periods the access track to the allotments has deteriorated and has developed a number of significant ruts and potholes, The committee are currently investigating sources of stone or road planings in order to carryout the necessary repairs and we wondered whether this was something the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute to, as it has in the past.

As the Parish Council will be aware the current 10 year lease of the Allotments Site is due to expire on the 31st January 2028. In anticipation of this we have held preliminary informal discussions with the Landowners (the Burton family) to sound out their willingness to renew the lease. At this stage I am pleased to report that it is highly likely that they will be prepared to renew the lease and we plan to approach them again next year to commence formal discussions.

Keith Clelland

Chairman, Wilberfoss Allotments Association

Wilberfoss Playing Fields Association

Annual Report 2026

Reducing our operating costs is still high on our agenda and we have recently had site meetings regarding replacing our LPG gas supply which heats our building. We have had a quote to have gas supplied to the building as there are now homes in close proximity with gas and await quotes to provide an air source heat pump and alternative heating.

We have managed to achieve 40kw of battery storage to our existing solar panel system and replaced all of our internal lighting with LED equivalents together with motion sensor switches. Externally we have replaced our road and car park lighting column headlights with LED equivalents.

The outdoor gym project is going well and we have now achieved the funding and pledges required to proceed. A site meeting with chosen contractor is scheduled for June 2nd to arrange installation date which we believe will be towards the middle/end of July and to ensure no additional costs will apply

We are now providing regular updates in the monthly village newsletter as to our activities etc but have to say as a committee which is now down to 7 members, the response to our request for members of the community to join us is at best disappointing.

With that in mind I would like to extend a massive thank you to the community paybacks team. Their help has been invaluable, from grass cutting, strimming, fence staining, hedge trimming, weeding etc.

Most of these jobs would not have been done with our small voluntary team.

Paul Gibney
Vice Chairman