

# *The Newsletter of Willington Parish*



November 2023 Newsletter No. 33

**Welcome to the 2023 Late Autumn newsletter.**

## **Dates for your diary.**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 at 15:00 – Father Xmas and Carols on The Green**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 17:15 – Tarporley Round Table Father Xmas Float on The Green**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 – the Great Willington Winter Quiz 2024 at Willington Hall.**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Willington Open Gardens 2024**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – D-Day Commemorations (Beacon and Fish & Chip supper); venue to be confirmed**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Village Picnic on The Green**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – Village Treasure Hunt**

## **From your Parish Council Chairman**

There's a saying that "good things are worth waiting for" however we weren't expecting to have to wait the best part of seven years to deliver the new 30mph speed limit on Willington Road. At long last after jumping through many hoops and persistently chasing CWaC Highways, they have delivered. The next step is for us to take steps (working within our limitations) to ensure that drivers comply with the 30 mph limit; your Parish Council is working on a plan of action. I think from my observations that most drivers are sticking to the limit. However our speed watch coordinators have reported a good few are still speeding. One regular offender has been clocked driving at over 50mph! Hopefully we will get the Police to provide some support to deter these speeders.

We will next be requesting that Highways start the process to design the promised scheme for the 20mph speed limit for Chapel Lane, Rough Low and Gooseberry Lane.

I would like to personally thank those members of our community who have worked so hard to produce the fantastic poppy display on The Green and congratulate the organisers of the remembrance commemoration. Thank you to Sergeant Collier, Corporal Hely and Nurse Collier and to so many of you who attended the commemorations. It was very informative and interesting to

learn about the uniforms and the role of the cavalry in the First World War. But it was sad to learn about the fate of horses during and after the war.

I thought it very appropriate that as we observed the two minutes silence, the leaves were drifting down from the trees. We did remember them and we shall do so again next June when we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day (more details to follow in coming newsletters).

Finally as our thoughts turn towards celebrating Christmas, we are excited that Santa and his helpers will be visiting Willington again. We invite all of you to join us for Carols on The Green where we will be serving warm mince pies, apple juice and mulled wine. Please remember to bring a mug or suitable drink containers. Details of the Christmas events can be found in the article below.

On behalf of Willington Parish Council may I wish you all a very merry and peaceful Christmas.

**Andrew Nicholas**

## **Father Christmas is coming to town – twice!!**

We have some very, very, exciting news. Father Christmas has made an announcement and is able to visit our lovely village again during the Festive period to meet all the wonderful children and to



have a good old sing song. His trusty Elves have said that Father Christmas can interrupt his busy schedule and will stroll through the village starting at 2pm on Sunday 3rd December 2023, eventually finishing on the Green at 3pm to participate in the carol singing and to hopefully enjoy a mince pie or two! He's also been informed (much to his pleasure) that there is a lovely addition to the Green.....the new wooden bench (to rest his weary head) and even a small Christmas tree which will make the occasion even more festive.

There will be mulled wine and freshly pressed apple juice provided free of charge. Please bring your own drinks

containers. Let's make this event one to remember and impress Father Christmas with our singing so that he will want to visit our village in future years. **We look forward to seeing you all at 3pm on the Green – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

And.....Father Christmas has also found time to join Tarporley Round Table & 41 Club on their Christmas Charity float. The float will be at **the Green for a short while at 17:15 on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. There will be Xmas tunes, sweets and the opportunity to donate to local charities. And of course Santa will be on hand to say 'Hello' and 'Ho, Ho, Ho'.

## Highways

**Reduction in the speed limit on Willington Road to 30 mph** – we are sure you are all pleased that this was finally implemented on 27th November; it took many years to achieve!!

The Parish Council discussed ways to encourage compliance with the new limit at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November. We will be in touch to let you know how you can all help. In the meantime, the speedwatch team has been out early mornings with the Bushnell speed gun; perhaps unsurprisingly a significantly higher number of drivers were logged as exceeding the 30 mph limit (by more than 10% plus 2 mph) than under the 40 mph regime. Early days!

**Safety Mirror at the bottom of Boothsdale** – this has now been installed (many thanks to the installation team volunteers). Initial feedback is that the mirror provides considerable assistance to drivers leaving Boothsdale to enter Willington Lane, particularly in the dark. Thanks again to Kath Newport who has kindly agreed to the installation of the mirror on her land.

## Willington Taskforce



Please contact John Grimshaw if you would like to join the Task Force....  
01829 752177 or e-mail  
[grimmers3@grimmers3.plus.com](mailto:grimmers3@grimmers3.plus.com)

There has been plenty of activity this Autumn.....

**Little Switzerland** - we met the new Public Rights of Way officer from CWaC a couple of weeks ago. He readily admits to have been thrown in at the deep end; all three previous officers and their team leader have gone to Cheshire East 'as there is a budget there'!! However, he took a look at the Little Switzerland ladder steps where the top section is now showing rotten areas and at the dry stone retaining wall sections that have collapsed. He took lots of photos and promised to report back....at least Little Switzerland's issues are now on his radar.

The Task Force has recently installed a new step in the path up Little Switzerland, and cleaned the leaves and loose soil from all the steps in the lower section. Hopefully this will enable us to continue to enjoy this splendid path and views in safety.

**Willington Rd (to Kelsall)** - we have asked Kelsall PC to contact the owner of the boundary hedge and verge between Wimpennys and Beeston View to ask them to cut back the verge and hedge; it is now only possible to walk single file on the pavement at that point.

**Willington Rd (to Oscroft)** – The grass around the Willington sign has been cut down and the sign to Kelsall repaired.

## Remembrance Sunday 2023 on The Green

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

### The Exhortation

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.**



This year's commemoration on The Green was made very special by the beautiful and poignant display of poppies at the crossroads and around the Jubilee bench, and the attendance by Nurse Collier (First Aid Nursing Yeomanry) and Sergeant Collier on their splendid (and well-behaved) horses Major and Trooper. Both riders were resplendent in WW 1 uniforms.

Following a recitation of 'In Flanders Fields' and 'The Exhortation', the Last Post was played followed by the 2 minute silence. It was very moving. Thank you to all of you who came along to remember the fallen and support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

A huge thanks to all those who knitted, crocheted, felted or otherwise created over 500 poppies and installed them on the Green. Thanks also to Chris and Debs Hely for arranging the ceremony, and Mark Janes for providing the music.

The poppies will be safely stored for use in future years.

**When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.**

## Clerk's Notes November 2023

**Willington Corner Red Phone Box - Bringing Back a Piece of History to Willington** – we are still hoping for the delivery and installation of our shiny, 'new' red phone box to be completed by the end of the year. The supplier has just let us know that our box has been refurbished and is currently being sprayed.

### Police & Crime Commissioner's Report

The PCC has published the Annual Report for 2022/23, which you can read and download from the website [here](#). The Commissioner, John Dwyer says....



**John Dwyer**  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner  
for Cheshire

*"I hope you will be reassured by the progress made on key public priorities over the past year in Cheshire. Crime is down, we have a record number of police officers, the phones are being answered*

*faster and incidents are being responded to quicker. These are the basics that the public expect, and they are happening.*

*In 2022/23 my office secured £5.3 million in extra funding for projects to support the Constabulary's Safer Streets campaign, as well as programmes to support victims of domestic abuse and change the behaviour of perpetrators. These initiatives have helped to locate high-risk missing people, improve people's safety at night, and support victims throughout the criminal justice process. The value of this additional funding is equivalent to £5.71 for every £1 spent on my office budget.*

*Cutting through the noise and sharing positive news about policing is key to improving public confidence. I am proud of the hard work of everyone in the Cheshire Police family that has driven the levels of performance we see now, but we can never be complacent. I am acutely aware that residents expect more and there is further work to be done when it comes to issues like visibility and public perception of some crimes.*

*As a valued partner in the work to make Cheshire even safer my door is always open to you, and I hope we can work together going forward on the issues that matter most to our communities."*

Printed copies of the report are available on request to the PCC's office.

**Litter Picking Rota** – we still need two or more volunteers to adopt the litter picking duties for a couple of our roads. The necessary equipment will be provided. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.

**Parish Council Meetings.... please come along** – your Parish Council meets at least six times a year at Willington Hall. The meetings are usually on the last or penultimate Tuesday of the month **starting at 19:30**. Please consider popping along for all or part of the meeting to see what we talk about and (during the public session) raise any issues or make any comments you have. You are most welcome.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

## **Christmas Newsletter Prize Quiz**



Take the initial letter from the answer to each of the nine questions below and rearrange them into a nine letter word usually associated with Christmas. Send your one word answer to the Clerk [clerk.willington@willington.org.uk](mailto:clerk.willington@willington.org.uk) or post it in the box attached to the notice board **by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, and one lucky winner drawn at random will receive a voucher to spend at the Weetwood Shop on

1. Which American crooner duetted with David Bowie on Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy (surname)?
2. In their number one Xmas song, who did Slade reckon was 'having fun'?
3. What is the name of Elsa and Anna's kingdom in Frozen?
4. Which Scandinavian country has the largest population of reindeer in the world?
5. Where do the Royal Family traditionally spend Xmas?
6. Melchior, Balthasar and Caspar (or Gaspar) were the three 'what' men?

7. Usually based on a chocolate covered Swiss roll.....is a Yule 'what'?
8. Dickens' anti-hero in A Christmas Carol (surname).
9. A traditional Christmas beverage made from eggs, spices, and cream.

Happy quizzing!

## Grand Willington Autumn Quiz 2023 at Willington Hall – the results



Thank you to Willington Hall for hosting the third Willington charity quiz. Over £300 was raised for the Royal British Legion. Thank you to Sue Janes and friends for their contribution of beautiful hand crocheted poppies and all the local businesses who provided amazing prizes. Huge thanks to: Rose Farm Shop, The Boot Inn, The Cheese Shop Chester, Duttons of Kelsall, Blooms and Brambles, Enchanted Patisserie, Cornichon at The Gunnery, The Little Tap, Weetwood Brewery, The Hollies, Nuvam Hair Salon, Chris and Carrie Dunham, The Fox and Barrell and Ginger and Pickles.

A special well done to the Brilliant Virginians who were winners, and thus 'brilliant', for the second time! Congratulations to the runners up, namely The Rose Ramblers who came a close second. They have gallantly accepted the challenge of hosting the next quiz **on Thursday 1st February 2024**.

A special thank you to The SHOW team's quizmaster who bravely sported a traditional woollen WW1 uniform in The Orangery at Willington Hall on a warm evening; he provided a real air of authenticity to the evening. Finally many thanks Ruth Jones, the regional Royal British Legion lead, for her time and support. And of course many thanks to all of you who supported the event; **over £300 pounds was raised for the Royal British Legion**.

### Willington Open Gardens 2024

Following the well-received Open Gardens event in June this year, we plan to hold a **similar event on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. Hopefully the earlier date will allow us to see some different plants.

If you are interested in opening your garden or can assist in anyway with the organisation and 'on the day' please contact:

**Helen Gill on 01829 751266 or 07525 491962, or e-mail**

[Helen.gill13@btinternet.com](mailto:Helen.gill13@btinternet.com)



### Willington Gardening Group – first meeting!

On the back of the successful Open Gardens event, it was clear that there are a large number of keen gardeners in the village with a lot of gardening experience to share (and queries to be answered!).

As a result, a dozen or so of our gardeners got together for a couple of hours in October at Weetwood Brewery Tap to share ideas and experience over a cuppa and some biscuits.



A wide range of topics were covered from 'caring for houseplants' to 'bulk purchasing of fertilisers/mulch etc' via 'lifting dahlias'. All very informal and friendly. Outside the meetings, the group is using WhatsApp to continue to share information.

If you are interested in coming along or joining the WhatsApp group, please get in touch with **Helen Gill** on **01829 751266** or **07525 491962**, or e-mail [Helen.gill13@btinternet.com](mailto:Helen.gill13@btinternet.com)

## Cheshire Wildlife Trust - more than half of the UK's species are in decline, but there is hope

Pressures from development, pollution, invasive species and climate change are threatening our precious native wildlife. The [2023 State of Nature report](#), published this week by leading wildlife organisations including The Wildlife Trusts, shows that nature is continuing to decline at an alarming rate across the UK, which is already one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world



**Cheshire**  
Wildlife Trust

- ! One in six species is now at risk of being lost.
- ! 41% of our insects are classed as threatened.
- ! One in five of our mammals face a high risk of extinction.
- ! We've lost 99% of the wildflower meadows we had in Cheshire in 1960.
- ! Important habitats are in poor condition and homes for wildlife are being lost.

Nature reserves are some of the last refuges where wild plants, mammals, birds and insects are given the space they need to survive. The 30 nature reserves cared for by Cheshire Wildlife Trust are some of the best wildlife havens remaining across the region. Our nature reserves are homes for water voles, breeding grounds for lapwings and overwintering shelter for bitterns.

It costs us £404,068 each year to manage our nature reserves for wonderful wildlife. We work really hard to be as effective as possible and to apply for all available funding for land management.

However, [there's a £52,298 shortfall this year](#). Can you help us protect Cheshire's last wildlife refuges..... go to <https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/appeals/cheshires-last-refuges-appeal> or alternatively contact us on 01948 820728.

## Tarporley and District u3a January and February 2024

**U3A General Information** - Doors open at 09.45 and there is time for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat before the meeting begins at about 10.15 with a few announcements, followed by the talk at about 10.30 and questions to the speaker at about 11.15. The meeting closes around 11.30. You can find out more from the u3a website at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley/home> where the monthly newsletter is available, as is information on how to join the u3a.

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

**On Thursday 25 January 2024** – just for January - we will be meeting at **Tarvin Community Centre** where our speaker is John Daines – describing LEO - Lyons Electronic Office - the world's first computer used for business purposes. The system was developed in the 1950s by Lyons – of the famous chain of Lyons Corner House cafes. It has its own special society – the Lyons Electronic Office Society which is dedicated to promoting the history of this incredible computer system.

**On Thursday 22 February 2024** – back at Tarporley Community Hall again.

Neil Hanson who some months ago gave us a hilarious account of his time running the highest pub in Britain in 'Inn and Out at the Top' returns to tell us about his experiences as a ghostwriter for household names including an American showbiz legend, a famous actor, one of Britain's most decorated soldiers, an England football manager, SAS men, fast jet pilots, a spy and a gangster.

## About Your Parish Council

You can contact Willington Parish Council by e-mail, phone, post or by coming along to a council meeting. To contact us by post, please write to the Clerk, Rob Winterbourne, at 1, Lilac Close, Willington, CW6 0PL, Tel: 01829 751266

**To contact the Parish Council via e-mail or phone please use the details below:**

- Cllr James Abbott (01829 751187) - email: [james.abbott@willington.org.uk](mailto:james.abbott@willington.org.uk)
- Cllr Stuart Ingram (07534 459528) - email: [stuart.ingram@willington.org.uk](mailto:stuart.ingram@willington.org.uk)
- Cllr John Lindsay (01829 751057) - email: [john.lindsay@willington.org.uk](mailto:john.lindsay@willington.org.uk)
- Cllr Rob Merrick (01829 458387) - Vice Chairman - email: [rob.merrick@willington.org.uk](mailto:rob.merrick@willington.org.uk)
- Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) – Chairman - email: [andrew.nicholas@willington.org.uk](mailto:andrew.nicholas@willington.org.uk)
- Rob Winterbourne (01829 751266) - Clerk - email: [clerk.willington@willington.org.uk](mailto:clerk.willington@willington.org.uk)

## Your Cheshire West and Chester Borough Councillors

Cllr Ted Lush 01829 741468 or email at: [edward.lush@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:edward.lush@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Cllr Tom Cooper email at: [tom.cooper@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:tom.cooper@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**Merry Xmas and a Very Happy New Year**

