



Willington Village Newsletter

May 2025
issue 39

Dates for your diary

Annual Village Meeting

Thursday, 29th May 2025
Willington Hall Hotel
6.30pm for a 7pm start

Open Gardens

Sunday, 8th June 2025.
Nominated charity is Cheshire
Wildlife Trust.

From your Parish Council Chairman

Welcome to the May 2025 Willington Parish Council Newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying the amazing Spring weather in Willington. The Village has come alive with colour and Spring truly is a beautiful season.

The month of May is the start of the new Parish Council year, and we will be holding our **Annual Village Meeting on Thursday 29th May 2025 at Willington Hall**. We are trying to make this event a little bit more interactive and engaging than previously, so I hope as many of you as possible can join us. See below for full details. Our MP, Aphra Brandreth, is also planning to attend to talk about her work as an MP and how it benefits communities like ours.

The Climate Action Working Group has commenced, and there has been a keen interest from parish residents; we look forward to hearing their ideas and potential projects in the coming months.

I am also happy to announce that the Produce Exchange Cabinet (see below) has now been fully installed on the Green and is available to everyone to use. The idea for this initiative came from a resident after the first Open Gardens event back in 2023. We hope everyone enjoys using the exchange, and a big thank you to Councillor John Lindsay and John Jefferies who delivered the cabinet in all its glory. Best regards

Stuart Ingram

You're invited to the Annual Village Meeting!

This year is the 10th Anniversary of Willington's Parish Council and we need your help to shape its future. This is your opportunity to let the Parish Council know what's important to you. Come along and join the discussion at Willington Hall Hotel.

**Thursday 29th May
6.30pm for a 7pm start**

Tea & coffee will be served from 6.30pm, and the bar will be open if you would like to buy a drink!

- The Parish Council – who are we & what we do
- Financial update & achievements
- Neighbourhood Development Plan – what it is & why?
- Working Groups – how you can get involved
- Upcoming events
- Meet Aphra Brandreth – our local MP
- Q&A – ask us anything!



We really hope you can spare an hour of your time to join us and share your views.

Willington CAN (Climate & Nature) Working Group

April 14th marked the first meeting of the Willington Climate and Nature (CAN) Working Group at Willington Hall. There was a great turnout and a good amount of conversation on topics affecting the village like biodiversity, public vs. private transport and how the group can engage with the community moving forward.

A topic that everyone seemed interested in was biodiversity, namely about how we can take action to measure the biodiversity of the village and track any changes over time, as well as discussing how to allow indigenous flora and fauna to flourish!

Whilst the meeting could have gone on until the early hours (!) we now will be shaping the discussion towards actionable goals. The next meeting will be shown on the Willington Parish website. Everyone is welcome to come and listen and, if desired, join the team to take some positive action for the beautiful village we live in.

Contact Matt Bloxham – Group Co-ordinator 07900 692209



Our Bird Population Needs You!



As a village community we need to do all we can to help our fast diminishing wildlife. In the UK our wildlife population has declined by an average of 19% since 1970, and the number is accelerating rather than slowing.



Some of the hardest hit species are within our bird population; for example House Martins and Swifts are suffering declines exceeding 50% in recent decades.



The installation of bird boxes is a very valuable and tangible way we can help. The boxes themselves are readily available – erecting them in the eaves of houses or higher up in the trees for example is more of a challenge!

With this in mind we would like to offer to erect a number of bird boxes across Willington – to be financed through the Parish Council.



If you would like to participate in this initiative please drop John Lindsay a text on 07850 781174 with your name and number – and he will be in touch.

There is more to follow on this at the **Annual Village Meeting** where comprehensive information packs will be available...we will see you there !

Willington Produce Exchange

‘Now Open!’

After many hours of painting, assembling and fettling, the Willington Produce Exchange has been installed on the back of the bus shelter on the Green. It is now "open for business".

Please feel free to donate items such as plants, seeds, seedlings, produce and small items of garden equipment e.g. labels and tools. The contents of the exchange will be checked regularly but it would be good if you could check any perishable items you donate, and discard them if they are past their best.

It would be great if you could let the village know of your donations to the exchange via the Willington Neighbours WhatsApp group. So far, we have had some excellent donations of seeds, seed potatoes and half a dozen freshly laid eggs. Thanks!

Many thanks to all those who helped with the design and installation of the exchange, particularly John Jeffries and John Lindsay.



Open Gardens Event 8th June 2025

Fingers-crossed for a sunny afternoon!

As we continue to enjoy this glorious sunshine let us keep our fingers crossed that the rays will still be shining on Sunday June 8th when Willington will again host an Open Garden Event, this time all donations will go to support The Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

The event will take place across six gardens in the village between 2pm and 5.30pm hopefully giving everyone time to visit all of this year's lovely gardens.

Please join us on the Green where you can collect your map showing the location of the gardens. The map also has a puzzle on the back for the children to solve as they go around the gardens

On the Green there will be refreshments available and the opportunity to build your own bug hotel, or swap a plant.

Transport will be available for those who need help getting to the gardens that are a slighter longer walk away. In addition there will be the opportunity to look around the gardens and vineyards of Roughlow Farm. This will take the form of three guided tours during the afternoon.

Anyone interested please come and see us on the day on the Green and reserve your place on any of the tours.



If you would like to offer help with organising, or can contribute cakes for the refreshment stand, this would be most welcome.

Contacts for the event are
 Susan Janes 07951 000114
 Jane Platt 07472 130485
 Isabel McIntyre 07779 468322.

We look forward to a great afternoon.

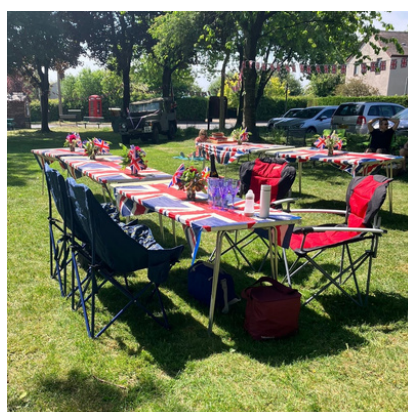


On Thursday 8th May our community came together at The Boot to celebrate the 80th anniversary of end of the 2nd World War in Europe. There was a moment of reflection, a reading of the National Proclamation and a vigorous rendition of "I Vow to Thee My Country".

Many thanks to Mike at The Boot for hosting the event and providing a fine fish and chip supper, and of course to all those involved in organising the event; Chris Healy in particular.



Following Thursday's celebration, the annual village picnic was held on Sunday, 11th May which this year also celebrated the ending of WWII. In glorious weather (a pleasant change from the past two years), a great turnout enjoyed 1940's music, old-fashioned games ('splat the rat' was particularly popular and fun), 1940's cakes and of course their picnics. A big thanks to all those involved in organising the event.





Highways & byways

Having a SID (Speed Indicator Device) in the village

At the meeting of the Parish Council in November 2024, it was decided that the Parish Council would buy a portable 'smiley-face' speed indicator device for use in various locations in the village.

Unfortunately the supplier the Parish Council had chosen ceased trading very suddenly last month. Fortunately this happened before we paid them anything. We are currently working with an alternative supplier to source a similar device, and we hope to have the speed indicator up and running in June. Apologies for the delay.

New Bench at the top of Little Switzerland

Your Parish Council has agreed with the landowner at the top of Little Switzerland that we can install a bench on the bank on the right hand side of the Little Switzerland path for both villagers and our visitors to rest and take in the fabulous over the Cheshire, Shropshire and Welsh landscapes.

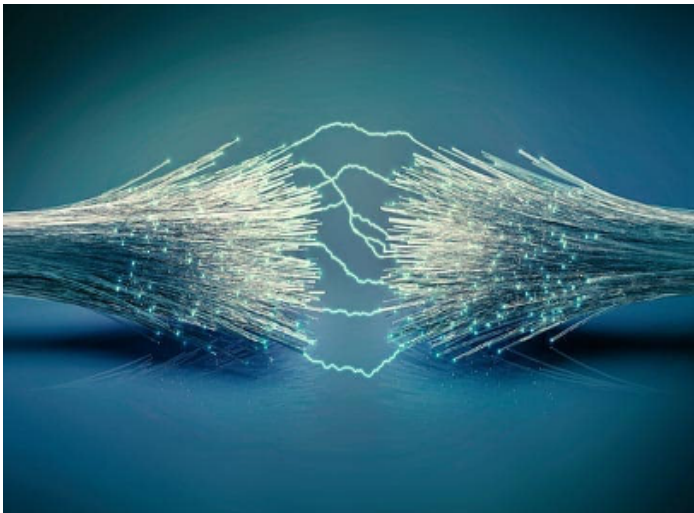
Some of you may remember the bench there a few years ago which was much appreciated. The bench will be dedicated to the many villagers who have enjoyed Little Switzerland in the past and to those who will enjoy it in the future. We hope to have the bench in place during July.



Fast Fibre for Willington.... a disappointing update!

As we reported in earlier Parish Council meetings, the Building Digital UK (BDUK) full fibre roll out Contract for Cheshire Lot 17 – which includes Willington Parish – was awarded to a company called Freedom Fibre in April 2024. This work is part of Project Gigabit – the Government Initiative which aims to install fast fibre to millions of homes across the UK.

We have been following up regularly with the Digital Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) and reporting back via the PC meetings. Unfortunately over the last 3 months, we have had limited updates to report to the village.



Surprisingly and annoyingly, we were advised in April 2025 by CWAC that BDUK had cancelled the contract with Freedom Fibre in March 2025; no reasons were specified nor a clear alternative route identified. This is extremely disappointing for our community, and we now await details of what options are available to us.

We will continue to work as closely as possible with the CWAC team and our MP to understand the options available to Willington. We will provide a further update to you once we receive any information.

Willington Task Force



JOBS DONE SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER....

Preparing the Green for the annual village picnic
Cutting the grass around the red phone/AED box
Building and installing the Willington Produce Exchange
Litter picking

UPCOMING TASKS....

Continue to press CWaC to clear grids and deploy the road sweeper on Willington Road
Complete some minor repairs to the bus shelter roof

A huge thanks to all those who work on the Task Force.

U3A Tarporley – June, July and August 2025



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.

On Thursday 26 June 2025 - our talk is Cheshire Search and Rescue - Liam Bagley will tell us about the vital lifesaving work that the volunteers of the Cheshire Search and Rescue Team do across the 904 square miles of Cheshire. They assist Cheshire police with searches for vulnerable missing people, and the North-West Ambulance Service in reaching and extracting patients from remote and difficult areas. Cheshire boasts more waterways than many counties and the team therefore has a significant waterborne capability with powerboat and flood response teams.

Liam will talk about the origins of the team, its functions, training and equipment used.

On Thursday 24 July 2025 - the Gretna Girls and the Devil's Porridge - David Skillen has already given a fabulous talk on the Bentley Cars Racing Team and now he tells us a fascinating story about the secret factory which won the First World War. Everyone has heard of Gretna Green yet few people have heard of HM Factory, Gretna. In 1915, a huge and top-secret factory was constructed to provide ammunition for the war effort. It was designed and built in a matter of months, and staffed by women and girls from all over the UK and beyond. Two new towns, Gretna and Eastriggs, were built to accommodate the workers and this amazing achievement was vital to helping the British Army to final victory in World War One.

August is holiday month so Tarporley and District u3a will not hold a meeting.

You can find out more from the u3a website - <https://tarporleyanddistrict.u3asite.uk> - where the monthly newsletter is available, as is information on how to join the u3a.

Our next Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 27nd May 2025 at Willington Hall starting at 19:30.

All are invited to come along and contribute to the open forum, or just sit and watch the proceedings. You are all very welcome.

The dates for the other meetings in 2025 are: Tuesday 22nd July, Tuesday 30th September and Tuesday 25th November.



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 Stuart Ingram (07534 459528) -- email: stuart.ingram@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr James Abbott (01829 751187) - email: james.abbott@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr John Lindsay (01829 751057) - email: john.lindsay@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Smethurst (07745 583713) - email: janet.smethurst@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) -email: andrew.nicholas@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Rob Winterbourne (01829 751266) - Clerk - email: clerk@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Your Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Borough Councillors

Cllr Ted Lush 01829 741468 or email at: edward.lush@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cllr Tom Cooper email at: tom.cooper@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

**Don't forget to come along to the Annual
Village Meeting on Thursday 29th May
at Willington Hall 7pm
Look forward to seeing you there!**

www.willingtonparish.gov.uk



Willington Parish Council Cheshire