



This newsletter has been delivered to every household in the Parish and is on our website (<http://www.willington.org.uk>). Contributions to future newsletters are very welcome and for the next issue should reach the Clerk by 8th August 2020.

Parish Council Resignation

Councillor Jane Lowthion resigned from the Council after the council meeting held on 19th May. Jane has served for five years on the Council and was Chairman last year. We would like to express our thanks to Jane for her dedicated service and leadership; her contribution to the council will be greatly missed.

This means that we have a vacancy for a Councillor. If you feel that you could contribute to our community by serving on the council, please contact the Clerk by the end of June.

However, we are delighted that Jane has volunteered to manage our website. We look forward to the site being more dynamic with expanded content and photographs. If you have suggestions about the site, Jane will welcome your input.

Chairman's Annual Report for 2019-20

In normal times, the chairman's report would be presented in public at the annual parish meeting in May which could not take place for obvious reasons. Here is a summary of the report from the Chairman.

"I would like to thank my fellow councillors, the Clerk and our residents for working together to enhance the parish we live in, helping to engender community spirit and get through an unexpectedly challenging year. We can all be proud of our achievements - Jane Lowthion Chair 2019-20."

"During 2019-20, your council have worked with our community to:

- *deliver a questionnaire to all parishioners. There was an excellent response which continues to inform our work.*
- *set up a taskforce to undertake maintenance tasks that improve the village environment.*
- *enhance our Christmas celebrations by lighting up the Green, and organising carol singing and a visit from Father Christmas.*
- *address your concerns regarding speeding traffic e.g. working with CWaC to carry out speed checks and implement reduced speed limits.*
- *to inform CWaC Highways of blocked drains, potholes, fallen trees etc.*
- *set up a litter picking group to ensure our village is kept free of rubbish.*

In addition, the council supported Sue Masterman, who is writing a history of Willington, by running a community evening to promote her work and gather information. We also supported a group of volunteers who ensured every house in Willington were provided with a local number to ring for help during the Covid 19 outbreak.

The full report is on the council website.

Willington Lockdown Memories

It has been a privilege to be part of our Willington community during these challenging times. It has of course been difficult for us all to adapt to the restrictions, but our village has been amazing in the way people have supported each other. We even managed to have some fun during the past three months. Here are a few special highlights:

- **Photography competition** - There were some incredible photos and we hope to have an exhibition of the photos in the future. A huge thank you to Freda Markham for organising the competition and presenting the prizes.
- **Volunteers** – Thank you to Jane Lowthion for establishing the village Volunteers Group. So far, the number of requests for support (mostly shopping, collecting prescriptions and dog walking) have been relatively low. Thank you to all who offered their services as volunteers.
- **Willington Sunday Quiz** – a Zoom quiz runs each week; it has been really well-supported and is great fun. We even have contestants joining from the USA! We clearly have many clever and knowledgeable people in Willington and the quiz is a good opportunity to 'virtually' catch up.

- Clapping for Carers – Bev Crossley encouraged us to join in with the nation's Clap for Carers on a Thursday evening. We make a lot of noise for a little village supporting those delivering essential services during lockdown.
- VE Day celebrations – Thanks again to Jane Lowthion and her team who worked really hard in a very short time to organise a very special VE Day. As 'official' photographer, Freda Markham took some fabulous pictures.
- Creativity – A big thanks to Nick Mayfield's teddy scenes – they brought a smile to lots of faces! Thanks too to all the children (and adults) who enthusiastically created rainbows and put teddies in windows. Thanks too to Bev Crossley creating the village lockdown photo-collage – a brilliant idea!
- Swapsies – It has been wonderful to hear of so many people swapping myriad products – from plants, seedlings and seed trays, to flour, eggs and empty beer bottles.

Thank you all for being such fabulous neighbours and supporting each other. Let's hope that many of these initiatives will continue long after the lockdown has been lifted.

Willington Task Force

COVID-19 restrictions are now beginning to be eased to the extent that we can safely work in small groups observing social distancing rules. The list of jobs to be tackled over the coming weeks includes:

- Maintaining the Green - clear fallen branches and grass. Wash down furniture and bins, define edges of parking bays and kill/remove weeds, clean out bus shelter/paint timber work, wash down finger post/paint.
- Traffic / Direction Signs – wash down signs along Willington Road towards Kelsall and Willington Lane as far as Willington Hall.
- Pavement Widening - remove the overgrown grass verge along Willington Rd from Boothsdale to Green Lane.
- Footpath from Gooseberry Lane to Boothsdale - the hedge from Briarfield is overgrown and needs a good trim.
- Little Switzerland – wooden steps, the timber has rotted in places and requires fixing.

Thank you for helping to keep Willington as we wish to see it. If you would like to sign-up for the Task Force, please contact John Grimshaw at: grimmers3@grimmers3.plus.com

Kelsall Opal Club – the Queens Award

We would like to congratulate Kelsall Opal Club who have just won the prestigious Queens award for their 'valuable contribution to voluntary work'. During this difficult time, Kelsall Opal have stayed in touch and continued to provide valuable help.

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The club meets every Monday at the Methodist church in Kelsall. It provides a range of services and activities to the older, more vulnerable people in our community. If you are interested in joining the group or volunteering, contact Zoe on 07531563107

Delivering this newsletter electronically

In the future your Council would like to deliver as many of these newsletters as possible via e-mail. We hope that you will appreciate the reasons for doing so which include:

- the hygiene benefit of not handling and delivering paper copies
- environmental benefits and cost savings of reducing our use of paper
- using colour illustrations, photos and links
- we can ensure speedy delivery to each individual (not just limited to each household).

We recognise that not everyone uses e-mail and we will continue to provide a paper copy if required. To sign up for e-mail delivery, please complete the attached slip and pass it to any Councillor, the Clerk or drop it into our post-box attached to the noticeboard on the Green. Or alternatively provide your e-mail details to the Clerk at ClerkWillington@gmail.com.

Village Notice Boards

We currently have two notice boards on the Green; one for Parish Council notices that is secured and a second one further up Chapel Lane that is always unlocked. Please feel free to post your (legal, decent and honest) notices on the second board.

About Your Council

Willington Parish Council is comprised of:

Cllr John Grimshaw (01829 752177)
Cllr Rob Merrick (01829 458387) – vice Chairman
Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) - Chairman
Cllr Donna Okell (07739 799722)

The Parish Council has a Facebook page; search for Willington Parish Cheshire.

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Tuesday 21st July via video-conference at 7.30pm. Council meetings are open meetings; you are welcome to 'attend' and listen to the discussions

To Contact Us:

Write to: Rob Winterbourne, 1 Lilac Close, Willington, CW6 0PL, Tel 01829 751266, e-mail ClerkWillington@gmail.com

Your CWaC Borough Councillors are:

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