



This newsletter has been delivered to every household in the Parish and is also 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 31st July 2019.

Parish & Borough Elections 2nd May 2019

Both elections took place on 2nd May 2019. Five Councillors were elected to Willington Parish Council. Your parish councillors for the next four years are:

Councillor John Grimshaw
Councillor Jane Lowthion
Councillor Rob Merrick
Councillor Andrew Nicholas
Councillor Donna Okell

Mr John Leather and Mr Harry Tonge have been elected to represent Tarvin and Kelsall on the Cheshire West and Chester Borough; they will cover our parish.

Hardly Retirement

After many years' service, Councillors Pat Tyson Jones and Roy Penk decided to step down from the Parish Council (after an amazing 46 years in Roy's case - on both Delamere and Willington Parish Councils). We would like to thank them both for their service to the local communities and wish them well. But as we know they will continue to be very busy people, so it will hardly be retirement.

Role of Parish Clerk

We are pleased to confirm that Rob Winterbourne has been appointed as Clerk to Willington Parish Council. Rob is working alongside our current Clerk to learn the ropes and will assume full responsibility on 1st June. We would like to express our appreciation to Mike Hassall for the massive contribution he

has made to the Council in his role as Clerk over the past four years.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th May, at 7.30pm at Willington Hall Hotel. All members of the public are invited to attend. Tea/coffee will be served from 7.15pm.

Parish Council Meetings

All Council meetings are open meetings and members of the public are most welcome to attend and listen to the discussions. If you want to come along but don't want to stay until the end that is not a problem; all we ask is that you come and go quietly.

The first 15 minutes of each meeting is a public forum where anyone can have his or her say on any local matter.

An agenda for each meeting is placed on the noticeboard by Willington Green and can also be found on our website.

The next meetings will be held on Tuesday 14th May and Tuesday 23rd July at Willington Hall Hotel. May's meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting; the July meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

Keep Willington Tidy

On Sunday 24th March, eleven pairs of willing hands took to the roads of Willington armed with litter pickers and rubbish sacks to tidy up the hedges and verges. More than eleven large bags of rubbish were collected over a couple of hours. In addition, the footpath between Pebble Cottage and The Hob was cleared of weeds and swept. A splendid job all round; thank you to all the volunteers.

Further to the request for volunteers to regularly litter pick in February's newsletter, we are very pleased to report that nine residents have come forward and as a result all the roads and footpaths in the parish will now be tidied on a frequent basis. Many thanks to all volunteers.

Our attention has been drawn to the state of some of our road name and road traffic signs. Many are covered in algae and need a good

clean or refresh. Not being easily readable rather defeats the object. Would you like to 'adopt' a sign? If so, please let the Parish Clerk or any Councillor know.

Best Kept Village Competition

Encouraged by the recent increased participation in how the parish presents itself, your council has decided to enter the 2019 Best Kept Village competition. It is judged by an independent panel who will visit us unannounced on several occasions. The competition was initiated in 1957, its aim being to develop and highlight a sense of pride amongst local people in Cheshire. Please note that obvious construction sites will be ignored. It will be interesting to learn how others view us.

Future village projects

Your Parish Council would welcome your views on priority spending of the precept in this financial year. Last year we arranged for new road signs and fingerposts, better road markings and a picnic bench on the green. Please let us know your thoughts by phone, letter or email to any Councillor or the Parish Clerk or come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 14th May.

Police Community Support Officer

a. Volunteer Speed Co-ordinator.

We have received a request from our PCSO (Sue Keers) for a volunteer speed coordinator. The role needs roughly one hour a week and involves working with the PCSO to use a speed gun (just point at the vehicle) and note vehicle details such as colour, speed, time, date and registration. Any necessary training will be provided. If you would like to volunteer, please contact: Rob Winterbourne Tel 751266. Email clerkwillington@gmail.com

b. PCSO Surgeries

If you have any matters that you wish to raise with the police, PCSO Keers holds regular surgeries; anyone can go along without an appointment and speak with her.

The next surgeries are as follows:

16th May – Delamere Community Centre – between 6 and 7pm

17th May – Kelsall Community Centre – between 6 and 7pm

24th May – Tarvin Community Centre – between 10 and 11am.

Willington Village History

The Willington history project is gradually coming together. The author, Sue Masterman, is launching an initiative to engage 'young Willington' in the research. Expect a flyer and other forms of communication soon!

Have you ever wondered why Gooseberry Lane is so named?

Gooseberry Lane was originally a series of tiny Victorian-era cottages, mostly one up-one down, inhabited by farm labourers and their families, and a smithy (an old, rusty horse-shoe weighing 2lb was recently dug up from a garden on the lane). The families supplemented their rations and income by growing fruit and vegetables, including damsons and gooseberries, and by keeping pigs and chickens. There is little evidence left of these gardens but Gooseberry Lane's lone gooseberry bush is alive and thriving thanks to BT! When they removed an old, ivy-covered telegraph pole, hidden among the roots and foliage, was a gooseberry bush - fighting for survival. Now it has the corner all to itself, it is growing vigorously and fruiting generously.

Facebook

A reminder for those who use social media; the Parish Council has a facebook page. It can be found by searching for Facebook for Willington Parish Cheshire.

About Your Council

Willington Parish Council is comprised of the following five Councillors. Their contact telephone numbers also shown; all landline numbers have dial code 01829.

Cllr John Grimshaw (752177)

Cllr Jane Lowthion (751454)

Cllr Rob Merrick (458387)

Cllr Andrew Nicholas (752029)

Cllr Donna Okell (07739 799722)

To Contact Us in Writing:

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

Your Cheshire West and Chester Borough Councillors:

Cllr John Leather (01829 752558)

john.leather@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cllr Harry Tonge – details not yet available