

The Newsletter of Willington Parish Council

November 2020 Newsletter No. 22



E-Newsletter



Your council would like to deliver as many of these newsletters via email as possible.

Thank you for signing up to the email version! We have 63 households signed up so far!

Your newsletter has been put together by our editor, Jeanette at Badgers Gate. We welcome all contributions to our February 2021 newsletter, please send them by 1/02/2021 to the Clerk. Or you may post your articles in the council post box which is situated on the council notice board at the Village Green. Articles could be book reviews, recipes, gardening and housekeeping tips, Willington history or Willington wildlife.

Welcome



Message of Thanks

Thank you to my fellow Councillors for their dedication and service within our community and for their achievements during the last year. And thanks also to our Clerk, who goes well beyond his duties in the work that he does for the Parish Council. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our volunteers. Many of whom undertake more than one role; they are the people who help make a massive difference in our parish. There are too many to mention by name however here is our impressive list:

**30 Local Covid-19 Support Volunteers,
11 Taskforce members,
9 Litter-pickers,
5 Speed Watch Volunteers,
2 Website Managers,
2 Defibrillator Guardians,
1 Newsletter Editor.**



In addition, many of you help in other ways - by providing electricity for our Christmas lights, articles in the newsletter or helping with our events. I would like to express my appreciation and grateful thanks to you all.

May I on behalf of the Parish Council wish everyone 'A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.'

Andrew Nicholas Parish Council Chairman

COVID-19

COVID-19 Community Support

As we are going into another difficult spell controlling the virus, we want to ensure that everyone in the village has support if they need it. A team of people have got together to set this up and there is a large group of volunteers willing to provide support such as shopping, picking up prescriptions, dog walking, a friendly voice on the end of a telephone or anything else that may be causing you difficulties. Please phone one of the following people if you would like some support and they will put you in touch with a volunteer from our community:

Jane Lowthion 01829 751454 or 07525061360

Andrew and Rachel Nicholas – 01829 752029 or 07999426269

John Grimshaw – 01829 752177 or 07922206706

Rob Winterbourne and Helen Gill – 01829 751266 or 07850057012

Alex Hodgson – 07751032080

Community Champion

Rob Winterbourne has volunteered to work with Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Council as the Covid-19 Community Champion for Willington. CWaC is bringing together a network of community champions to play their part to keep communities safe, share important information and advice with residents, and report any feedback they may have. CWaC will send regular, accessible information which community champions will pass on to anybody who needs to see it in their community. In our case this will be via our website, our Facebook page, our village notice boards and the Neighbours of Willington WhatsApp Group. This should help avoid any local lockdowns and get localised information out to the relevant communities, enabling residents to act on any guidance. Community champions will also be able to get in touch with dedicated CWaC teams should they think improvements could be made in their communities. So, if you have any feedback regarding the local management of the pandemic that you think CWaC may be able to use or do something about to, please do not hesitate to contact Rob via phone or e-mail.

Resuscitation Council UK – advice in the time of Covid-19

Because of the heightened awareness of the possibility that the victim may have COVID-19, Resuscitation Council UK offers this advice: 'You can recognise cardiac arrest by looking for the absence of signs of life and the absence of normal breathing. Do not listen or feel for breathing by placing your ear and cheek close to the patient's mouth. If you are in any doubt about confirming cardiac arrest, the default action is to start 'compression-only CPR' by putting your hands together in the middle of the chest and pushing hard and fast until help arrives. Make sure an ambulance is on its way. If COVID-19 is suspected, tell them when you call 999. If there is a perceived risk of infection, rescuers should place a cloth/towel over the victim's mouth and nose, and start 'compression-only' CPR and defibrillation until the ambulance (or advanced care team) arrives. Early use of a defibrillator significantly increases the person's chances of survival and does not increase risk of infection. If the rescuer has access to any form of personal protective equipment (PPE) this should be worn. After performing compression-only CPR, all rescuers should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water; alcohol-based hand gel is a convenient alternative. They should also seek advice from the NHS 111 coronavirus advice service or a medical adviser.'

Highways and Byeways

Speed limit on Willington Road

Great news! CWaC have confirmed that the stretch of Willington Road between Beeston View and Underwood Cottage (including the stretch of road towards Oscroft currently limited to 40 mph) can be designated a 'restricted road'...that is, it will be subject to a 30 mph limit. We are now working with CWaC to confirm funding arrangements and implementation.

Managing Speeds in the Village

We have bought a Bushnell 'speed-gun' which enables us to measure the speed of vehicles in the village. Significant speeding will result in the driver receiving warning letters from the police. Our Speed Watch volunteers have already been out with the gun a couple of times and logged some interesting speeds. We also borrowed a smiley face speed device (SID) from CWaC for a couple of weeks in October, and deployed it on both Willington Road and Chapel Lane. The decision to purchase our own SID has been put on hold until we understand the implications of the 30 mph limit on Willington Road.

S-bend and horse sign on Roughlow

Although we agreed a suitable location with CWaC Highways on Roughlow (on the left-hand side about 50m down the hill from the entrance to Roughlow Farm) for suitable warning signs a while ago, there has been no progress with the installation – we continue to press CWaC for the work to be completed.

Little Switzerland Path

The path up Little Switzerland was closed recently to allow CWaC to fix the crumbling retaining wall and for the Willington task force to mend the steps at the top of the path. A splendid job was done; a huge thanks to the Task Force volunteers led by John Grimshaw.

Mirror in Roughlow

A mirror will shortly be installed on Roughlow on the nasty bend by the 'German Wall'. Hopefully this will much improve visibility on that narrow, bendy part of the hill. Many thanks to the landowner who allowed us to erect the mirror, and the local resident who funded it.



Fixing the roads & paths

Ditch opposite Manor Farm - after several years chasing, the roadway and verge opposite Manor Farm on Willington Road have been repaired.

Dip on Willington Road outside Mead Cottage – you will have seen the flooding that appears after any substantial rainfall, forcing vehicles travelling from Kelsall onto the wrong side of the road. This is due to blocked drains and despite the Parish Council and residents formally raising the issue many times with CWaC, nothing had been done! We continue to press for a resolution.

Speedwatch volunteers needed

Our volunteers are a vital part of our speed monitoring activities; unfortunately there aren't enough. If you would like to help out with any aspect, please contact the Clerk. Full training will be given.

Finally ...

....if you see a traffic incident in the village, we encourage you to inform the police of the incident via the 101 phone number or online at:
<https://www.police.uk/pu/contactthe-police/what-and-how-to-report/how-to-report/>



Community Update



Better Together

We've done it once and we'll do it again. When the first lockdown was announced in March our lovely community quickly set up several ways we could keep in touch, support each other, and continue to have fun. Another month, another lockdown, and we can do the same again. Willington is a wonderful community.

Willington Neighbours WhatsApp

We've been using WhatsApp for all sorts of things... reporting fraud or suspicious activity in the village, sharing photographs, asking for help, sharing surplus veg and plants, promoting village events etc...it's been great. If you want to join, please let Donna Okell know by text or WhatsApp on 07739 799 722.

Willington Quiz

The Willington Quiz takes place on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7pm on Zoom. For those of you who don't think they are natural quizzers, please do think about joining in. It's a way of enjoying an hour or so with neighbours and having a bit of fun. It is very light-hearted, and the quizmaster changes each time. This is advertised on WhatsApp each month.

The GREAT BIG CHRISTMAS Willington Quiz

This quiz is an extra-special quiz for the whole family and will take place on Sunday December 13th at 4pm. There will be songs to sing (oh, yes there will!) and general festive fun for the whole family. This again will be on Zoom and we will share the link on WhatsApp.

Willington Coffee Morning


We were excited to have arranged a regular coffee morning at The Boot and Mike was very keen to support us. Sadly, those plans to meet in person are again on hold for a bit. However, there is a virtual Willington Coffee Morning each Thursday morning at 10am from 12th November. It's an opportunity to bob in and have a catch up with neighbours. Donna is running it on Zoom and will share the link via WhatsApp. As the winter weather draws in, Zoom is a helpful tool to keep us connected. If you haven't used it before it's very easy to install and use on your phone or laptop. Please ask Donna Okell or Rob Winterbourne if you would like any help,

Our New Police Community Support Officer


Following the move of PCSO of many years (Sue Kears) onto a different role, we now have a new PCSO, Jack Makin. Here is a message from him....'Just a quick introduction as I am the new local PCSO for your area, my name is Jack and I am going to be spending the next few weeks learning more about the communities I serve and how I can help you best. Please feel free to contact me any time at Jack.Makin@cheshire.pnn.police.uk with any questions or if you'd like to discuss issues in the community.' Lockdowns permitting, we hope to be able meet Jack at one of his surgeries in the next few weeks.

What else?

If you have other ideas you would like to suggest and/or organise on Zoom, such as a book club, craft club, baking tips, gardening tips etc, please let Donna know.



Willington Task Force



Willington Taskforce Volunteers - Autumn/Winter Programme 2020

The repairs to the Little Switzerland wooden steps have been completed to much acclaim and thanks from residents. Special thanks to all concerned who worked so hard in such atrocious weather. A programme will be put together to enable volunteers to work in pairs to complete the following tasks when all the leaves have fallen.

The Green

Kill any weeds on the parking areas, strim the long grass around the parking area edges, check/renew the 'park here' white pegs, put back the gravel that has been washed out, clean furniture and bins, cut back the field hedge, clean the fingers of the finger post, remove weeds from surrounding gutter, remove leaves from bus shelter.

Willington/Tarvin sign - Strim the surrounding grass.

Willington Road

Cut the hedge between Pebble Cottage and the Hob, kill/remove road gutter weeds from Willington Corner to the Willington boundary at Delamere Cottage/South View, remove any tree branches that obscure road signs.

Roughlow - Clear ivy etc from the 'German Wall' inscription.

Gooseberry Lane to Boothsdale Track - Cut hedges back further to improve access.



Willington Christmas



Willington Christmas Arts and Crafts Competition

We plan to hold an arts 'competition' over Xmas (not competitive at all really). The competition is open to residents of Willington, and also to your friends and relatives. All entries will be exhibited in an online pop-up 'gallery', and prizes and certificates will of course be awarded by a panel of judges. Your entries can be a drawing, colouring, painting, collage, craft, model making, poetry, writing or photographywhatever you would like to try. How about using some recycled materials or creating an outdoor natural installation! No more than three entries per person, please. There are three Christmas themed age categories for the children: 0-5 - "Twinkle Twinkle", 5-8 - "Jingle Jingle", 8-12 - "Christmas Cheer"....

.....and two for young adults and adults: 12-18 - "Surreal Christmas or Merry MASK mass". Adult - "A Celebration of what we HAVE". The closing date for your entries is Friday 8th January 2021.

The gallery will be 'open' as soon as entries start to arrive, and the winners will be announced towards the end of January. Your entries should be submitted as attachments via e-mail to Freda Markham fmarkham@hotmail.com and should include your age, name, address and the title of your entry. Photographs of your entries should, if possible, be jpeg at 3000 x 2000. Written work can be MS WORD or a .pdf. If you would like to submit your entry directly from your phone (for example via WhatsApp) or if you have any other questions, please contact Freda who will be happy to help you.

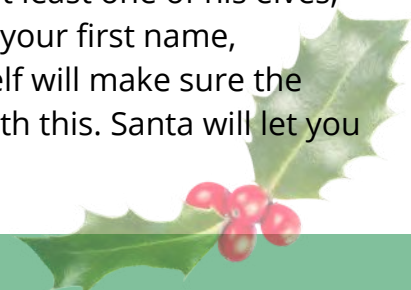
Village Christmas Celebration

The nights are drawing in and we now begin to look forward to the magic of Christmas. This year has been particularly difficult for everyone; however, we are pleased to announce that the Christmas lights will be installed once again on the Village Green; led by Councillor Rob Merrick. The lights will provide some much needed festive cheer! We would like to sincerely thank Jane and James who have kindly allowed us to power the lights from their property...their generosity is much appreciated.

We are still hoping to have a gathering on the Village Green to celebrate Christmas together, maybe with some carols. However this will unfortunately be very much dependant on Government advice at the time. The Council will discuss the options for a festive gathering over the next few weeks and will advise nearer the time if this can be accommodated. A tentative date has been set of the afternoon of Sunday 6th December....please pencil it into your diaries. One thing that we can all hope for is that Father Christmas will return to Willington and join in our festive celebrations (fingers crossed!!!)

Father Christmas is coming to Town (Willington)

Boys and Girls - we have been really lucky and managed to book a slot in Santa's very crowded diary on Saturday afternoon 12th December. You will be able to all 'visit' him virtually in his grotto probably by using Zoom. He may even be persuaded to get his sleigh out and deliver a small present to each of you from all your friends in Willington. If you would like to 'meet' Santa and at least one of his elves, please drop an email to the 'secretary-elf' at clerkwillington@gmail.com with your first name, telephone number, home address and an e-mail address. Santa's secretary elf will make sure the message reaches him. You may want to ask your Mum or Dad to help you with this. Santa will let you know how to visit him nearer Xmas. Ho, ho, ho....Merry Christmas.





Christmas? Which Christmas?

How about Christmas on a Tunisian beach, complete with camel and donkeys? Carol singing at midnight round a camp fire followed by food, drink, and a quick dip in the ocean? That's one scenario I've encountered on my travels. But, I hear you say, isn't Tunisia a Moslem country? Indeed it is, but since Jesus (Isa ibn Maryam) is seen in Islam as the penultimate prophet and the Messiah, though not the Son of God, there is no problem in celebrating his birthday, there or in most other Moslem countries I have known.

Much closer to home, Dutch Christmas has always struck me as the most civilised. Children get their gifts on December 6th, the birthday of St. Nicholas, who arrives from Spain each year. This means that Christmas itself is for the adults to make of it what they will – protestant, catholic or pagan. There is, however, an ongoing blazing row about St. Nicholas's assistant Zwarte Piet – Black Peter – a depiction of a Moorish servant now considered beyond the pale. There are now Rainbow Piets instead. I usually spend Christmas with family in northern Germany but I will never get used to roast lamb and red cabbage for Christmas dinner, eaten on Christmas Eve. Festivities centre on Christmas Eve when Christmas trees are decorated and presents distributed. This means Christmas day feels like Boxing Day with a cold buffet. It disorientates me completely.

I used to have an office in Cyprus where they celebrate Christmas twice. Their traditional Christmas is one huge island-wide party thrown for the benefit of the tourists and the European expats. Their own Christmas is celebrated in accordance with the Orthodox Church calendar, usually two weeks later. It is an altogether quieter and more religious affair. Their major feast is not Christmas but Easter, with its fire festivals. That double Christmas is common to all the East European and Balkan countries where the two main streams of Christianity cross paths. The tide of commercialism has blurred the lines and overshadowed much of the religious context. It has reverted to its origins as Roman Saturnalia, ten days of festivities marking the turning of the year, and back beyond that to pagan times. Any excuse for a party.

I'll leave the last word to Christmas in Bethlehem. Located as it is in the occupied West Bank, it is very hard to get there unless you are in an official tour group. The Church of the Nativity, with its squabbling, territorial monks from a dozen denominations, is either hot and crowded or, in times of trouble, totally deserted. I have walked through it accompanied only by the eerie echo of my footsteps. I strolled through the back streets with a Palestinian friend. We were invited into a very modest home for coffee. During that chat, our host dismissed the Church and the shops and stalls and all the trappings. He led us to the back of the house. There, against the stone back wall of the sandy, barren yard, was a rough wooden shelter, hammered together from cut-offs. Under it was a bale of straw and a rather thin donkey. An ageless sight. And that, to me, is what it is all about – an exhausted family laying their newborn baby on the straw, thankful for a roof over their heads.



Happy Christmas from Sue Masterman

Newsletter Recipe's

Willington Neighbours 3 Course Dinner!
Helen brings us the starter, followed by Catherine with the main and then topped off by Andrew's wonderful dessert!



Starter

Buffalo Chicken Dip - Helen Gill



From Virginia, USA- a tried and tested, fattening American dip which is always a favourite.

Ingredients: 2 x chicken breasts, poached and shredded, 8oz pack of cream cheese, softened, 4oz hot chilli sauce (Buffalo wing sauce if available). Use less or a milder version if you don't like food too spicy. I have also used Korma sauce to make this more like a coronation chicken dip, 4oz Ranch dressing, 4oz grated cheddar or blue cheese.

Method: Preheat oven to 180C, combine all ingredients and spoon into a shallow baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes. Garnish with spring onions if desired. Serve with raw vegetable sticks such as celery, carrots; crackers, breadsticks, tortilla crisps or toasted bread. Will keep in fridge and delicious cold on bread or toast.



Main

Danish Pork Fillet - Catherine Moore



Ingredients: 1 x pork fillet, 1 x medium onion, red or white, 170-230g strong cheddar cheese, grated, 50ml hot water, ½ beef stock cube, ½ small carton double cream, Black pepper, Soya sauce.

Method: Slice Pork fillet and fry in butter until lightly browned. Continue cooking on low heat for 7-10 minutes. Place in flat ovenproof dish. Leave frying pan with juices to one side. Slice onion Very thinly then sprinkle over pork. Sprinkle grated cheese over pork and onion. Stir the half beef stock cube into 50ml hot water. Add to juice in pan with a few generous grinds of black pepper and a few shakes of soya sauce, to taste (no salt needed). Add double cream. Spoon this sauce over the cheese topped pork. Cook at 150C for about 1 hr, or until onion is cooked. Serve with rice and green salad.



Dessert

Apricot & White Chocolate Bread & Butter Pudding - Andrew Nicholas

(6 to 8 servings)



Ingredients: 350 ml Full fat milk, 350 ml Double cream, 1 x Vanilla pod (Scrapped) or 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, 2 full large eggs & 4 egg yolks, 5 oz Caster sugar, 8 slices of farmhouse bread cut 1/2s (with crusts cut off & buttered) or 10 slices buttered brioche, 1 x pack of dried apricots (chopped) or 1 oz of sultanas, 60 ml Apricot brandy, 6 oz White chocolate (broken into small pieces), Apricot jam, Icing sugar (for dusting), Double cream (to serve).

Method: Soak the fruit in the apricot brandy (for 2 or 3 hours min), Butter a large rectangular ovenproof dish (12" x 8" x 2'). Place in the buttered bread (lapped upright layers). Sprinkle the fruit between the slices of bread. Pour over the remaining brandy. Whisk the eggs, yolks and sugar for the custard mix. Add the cream to the milk in a pan, add the vanilla and keep whisking as it heats up. Slowly bring it to the boil, then add the custard mix. Keep whisking and add the white chocolate. (mix well to ensure the chocolate melts into the custard). Pour the custard over the bread. Place in the oven at 170 degrees for approx 30 mins until golden brown. Remove from the oven and spread apricot jam to the top (cover well). Sprinkle with icing sugar and grill to caramelize (few mins only). Serve warm with cream.



Winter Home Care Tips



As winter approaches you might like to try some simple steps to keep your home safe and secure. Some of which can be carried out yourself but never be afraid to ask your Wellington Neighbours for help (COVID restriction compliant, of course!)

Make sure your bins and recycling boxes are stored somewhere secure, this should stop them moving about in the high winds potentially causing damage to a neighbour's property or vehicle. When taking your waste out for recycling it may help to place a brick or large rock on top of the bin/boxes to stop any of the waste escaping and littering our picturesque part of the world.

Check your guttering isn't full of leaves/debris and over-flowing. It is important to regularly clean out your gutters as blockages can cause damp/water get into your property. However, a clear sign of a blockage is water cascading over the top of the guttering during heavy rainfall or damp staining on your external walls after a bout of rain.

Store or secure garden furniture, outdoor toys, trampolines... consider taking down hanging baskets as they can cause damage should they fall.

Are any of your plants vulnerable to frost? Plants can be protected from the worst of the winter weather by wrapping with horticultural fleece or being placed in a sheltered spot; your garden is a microclimate in itself. You will have warm spots, at the base of a south-facing wall, and cold or wet spots on the north side of the house. Choose plants carefully for each of these positions. Site early-flowering plants such as magnolias and camellias so that they are not exposed to the morning sun, as rapid thawing of frozen buds can result in blackening and bud drop. If your plants are in containers then they could be grouped together for mutual protection. Or to prevent the roots from freezing, they could be buried in the ground with just the rim of the pot showing.

It may sound obvious but it might be worth reminding everyone in your household where to find the stop cock (the valve which turns off the water supply in your home). If your pipes freeze then it could cause a pipe to burst and if this happens it's crucially important to turn your water supply off and reduce the inevitable flooding. Generally the stop cock is underneath the kitchen sink... remember turn clockwise to switch it off.

If your radiators are cold at the top and hot at the bottom then they may need 'bleeding'. To do this you will need a cloth and a bleed key; turn the valve at the top of the radiator anti-clockwise until you hear a hissing noise, once water begins to flow, tighten the valve clockwise... voilà! The cloth is handy to catch any drips from the valve.

Although power cuts are rarer these days, it never harms to be prepared. Consider investing in a wind-up torch, a power bank for your phone (which is best kept charged) and maybe a battery powered radio.

Stay safe and keep warm in winter! Article contribution by Russel Whitney.

Your Council

About Your Council

The Parish Council has a Facebook page; search for [Willington Parish Cheshire](#).

Cllr John Grimshaw (01829 752177)
Cllr Rob Merrick (01829 458387) - Vice Chairman
Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) - Chairman
Cllr Donna Okell (07739 799 722)
Cllr Beverley Crossley (07812 071633)

Next Council Meeting

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held on: Tues 24th Nov 2020 and Tues 26 Jan 2021 @ 19:30 via video conference. 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 or email at: clerkwillington@gmail.com

Your CWaC Borough Councillors are:

Cllr John Leather (01829 752558) or email at: john.leather@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Cllr Harry Tonge email at: harry.tonge@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Village Notice Boards

We currently have two notice boards on our Village Green; one for Parish Council notices, which is secured, and the other for community spirited messages.

Please add any newsworthy items or messages you may have on the community board, which is unlocked and further up Chapel Lane.

