

The Newsletter of Willington Parish Council



November 2022 Newsletter No. 30



Welcome



Welcome to the final newsletter of 2022!

In this edition you will find information on up-coming projects and events (including Carols on The Green and the Gardens Open Day in June 2023), the results of the recent village quiz at Willington Hall, and a reminder of what it means to Willington to be an 'area of special county value'. Of course, there are the usual features.

Christmas and New Year Message from Parish Council Chairman

I am reflecting this year on the topic of light and darkness. The world does indeed seem to be a dark place at this time, from the war in Ukraine and all the dreadful suffering that is being inflicted on its people, to the political turmoil and the cost of living crisis at home.

And of course, there is also the effect of climate change across the world and our almost certain failure to keep the increase in global temperatures below 1.5 degrees. We have witnessed first-hand the extremes of hot weather this summer resulting in drought, wildfires, and heavy downpours. Whilst we are all increasingly aware of the effects that these problems are having on our daily lives, we may feel that they are too big for us to solve alone. But we must all play whatever small part we can in their solution. Is that car journey really necessary? Can we turn our thermostat down a degree or so? Can I support that charity a little more? Should I make sure I vote?

Where in all this gloom is the light? This may be hard to see at the present time. However, no matter how dark the night is, it is always followed by the light of day. The Christmas story began in darkness and out of the night sky came the birth of a bright star, a guiding light. So there is still hope! Perhaps the first chink of light can be heard in the lyrics of the song made famous by both Ben E King and John Lennon, "Stand By Me"...

"When the night has come, and the land is dark and the moon is the only light we'll see. No, I won't be afraid; No I won't be afraid just as long as you stand by me."

There is a lot of power and comfort in standing together. Isn't that what we should focus on at Christmas; getting together with those closest to us, standing by each other, and doing what we can for those less fortunate than us. On behalf of the Parish Council may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

P.S. Please come and share with us at our family Christmas carols event on The Green on Sunday 4th December in the afternoon.

Andrew Nicholas





Willington an Area of Special County Value (ASCV) and Xmas news



Willington an Area of Special County Value

In 2017 the majority of Willington parish was designated by Cheshire West and Chester Council (local plan part 2), as an 'area of special county value'. ASCV designation represents the highest level of landscape protection in the borough; we are one of seven designations.

Local features taken into account when designating us as an ASCV were:-

- The prominent wooded sandstone ridge is a local landmark and a strongly characteristic feature of Cheshire West and Cheshire borough.
- The wooded, steeply undulating western scarp and well-tree'd sandstone fringe form a distinctive contrast with the flat, open Cheshire plain.
- The contrast of the sense of enclosure created by topography and vegetation and the open panoramic views from the sandstone ridge.
- A strong rural character with the absence of modern built elements and intrusive transport corridors provides a tranquil landscape.
- Small brooks and streams, and the wooded slopes provide rich texture and features of natural historic interest.
- Tirley Garth and Willington Hall are listed buildings of special architectural and historic interest partly due to their landscape setting.
- Public right of ways including the Sandstone trail and Delamere loop.
- The sandstone ridge is a visual backdrop and landmark in views across the borough and beyond.

The woods and hedgerows in Willington are an important feature that we need to treasure.

If you would like to learn more about ASCV's in Cheshire West and Chester, and in particular Willington (page 54), [have a look at the document by clicking here](#)

Jane Lowthion

Father Christmas is coming to Willington

We have some very exciting news..... Father Christmas has made an announcement and is able to visit our lovely village once again during the Festive period to meet all the wonderful children in the village 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 from 2pm on Sunday 4th December 2022, finishing on the village green at 3pm to participate in the Carol Singing and to hopefully enjoy a mince pie or two!

There will be mince pies, mulled wine, warm apple and cinnamon, and freshly pressed apple juice provided free of charge. Let's make this event one to remember and impress Father Christmas with our singing so that he will want to visit our village for many years to come.



3pm on the Green – Sunday 4th December 2022



Willington Trivia Quiz and Open Gardens



Willington Trivia Quiz - 10th November; the result

Our first face to face village quiz for a long time was held at Willington Hall on 10th November in aid of St Luke's Hospice. There was a tremendous turn-out of twelve teams (50 contestants) for the hotly contested competition. The winners were 'The Brilliant Virginians' (neither brilliant nor from the east coast of the USA) who pipped 'New Kids on the Block' (half of whom have been in Willington for over 25 years) in the final round.

The questions were curated by Russ Whitney who was also a firm but fair quizmaster. Russ was ably assisted by scorer and chief fund-raiser, Jeanette. **The most important news is that the quiz raised £250.00 for St Luke's Hospice.**

Huge thanks must go to Willington Hall for hosting the event and those who donated items for the three prize hampers....

- Carole Faulkner at The Cheese Shop in Chester
- Weetwood Brewery
- Carrie-Anne at Harvest House Bakery
- The Good Cheese Company
- Rob Merrick at Ollies Orchard.

Who is up for the next quiz in early Spring 2023?



Willington Open Gardens 2023 - Sunday 11th June 2023

As mentioned in September's newsletter we plan to hold an Open Gardens event for everyone in the village in the Spring. The date has now been set as **Sunday 11th June from 14:00 to 17:00**. A big thank you to those of you who have volunteered for the working party which will be shaping and delivering the event over the next few months. This will be a great opportunity for our community to come together and allow residents, friends and family to share our outdoor spaces, whatever they may be!

Please consider opening-up your garden. No special effort is required, just your enthusiasm for the space you have or hope to create. There is no competitive element. It will just be a great chance to share ideas and maybe swap the odd plant or two!

If you would like to open-up your garden, please get in touch with **Jane Platt** at j.p.platt@btinternet.com.





Willington Christmas Quiz



Willington Prize Christmas Quiz 2022


If you enjoyed the Willington Big Trivia Quiz, or perhaps you weren't able to attend, then why not have a go at the Willington Christmas Quiz 2022? Our festive questions this year are from quizmaster Russ Whitney.

1. Who invented the Christmas Cracker?
2. Who has recently tried to trademark the title 'Queen of Christmas'?
3. In what year was Queen Elizabeth 2nd first Christmas broadcast?
4. Who wrote The Nutcracker?
5. What is the chemical formula for snow?
6. Which former England manager was famously known for his use of the Christmas Tree Formation?

How to enter:

Send your answers to: ClerkWillington@gmail.com (making sure you provide your name, address and contact number) by Friday 16th December. The first two correct answers drawn at random will receive a prize of either a bottle of prosecco, red or white wine or a box of chocolates! A great addition to your festive break! The answers and the names of the clever winners will be published in the first newsletter of 2023 - Good Luck!

Christmas



Clerk's Notes November 2022

Reduction in the speed limit on Willington Road – As reported in September, the formal public consultation process is now complete and there were no objections. We expect CWaC Highways to firm up the previously estimated costs by the end of November. Your Council will need to agree these costs before CWaC Highways will proceed with the installation.

Once the revised scheme has been in place for a while, we expect CWaC Highways to assess the levels of compliance with the new 30 mph limit. If compliance levels are low, we may have to implement (and fund) further speed reduction measures e.g. a vehicle-activated speed sign.

Neighbourhood Pride Scheme - In August we were notified that Cheshire West and Chester had made funds available this fiscal year to all Borough Councillors for allocation to qualifying 'Neighbourhood Pride Scheme' projects. The scheme is an opportunity for us to propose small to medium environmental improvement projects within our village.

We have submitted two applications for funding for:

- a Willington information board on the Green
- a movable bench seat to be located on the Green.

CWaC have received a substantial number of applications and will take a little while to process them. We hope that, in the next newsletter, we can tell you that both our applications have been successful, enabling us to deliver the projects before the end of March 2023.

Civility and Respect Project

In August, your Parish Council signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge which is supported by local government associations and bodies, and councils across England and Wales. Throughout the sector, there are growing concerns about the impact bullying, harassment and intimidation is having on councils, councillors and staff, and the resulting effectiveness of local councils. The project was established as a formal response to these issues.


I am pleased to say that this is not an issue with your Parish Council; we all work together well and enjoy what we do! But the Council is proud to support and adhere to the principal that...

'Civility and respect should be at the heart of public life and good governance is fundamental to ensuring an effective and well-functioning democracy at all levels. The intimidation, abuse, bullying and harassment of councillors, professional officers and staff, in person or online, is totally unacceptable; whether that is by councillors, professional officers, staff or members of the public.'

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 is on **Tuesday 31st January 2023**.

Rob Winterbourne — Clerk to Willington PC



Get Involved - U3A and Beeston Castle



Tarporley U3A Programme - November 2022 to February 2023

Tarporley and District u3a will hold their next general monthly meeting on **Thursday 24 November 2022** at Tarporley Community Centre. Doors open at 9.45am for coffee, tea and biscuits. The meeting begins about 10.15 am with a few announcements. Our speaker starts at about 10.30am and this month's talk will be "Memories of our late Queen – Elizabeth II".

This year of 2022 has been a year of joy, celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of the longest-reigning British monarch and sadness in that Her Majesty's reign has now come to a close.

The talk on 26 January 2023 – is an account of a 3,000 mile journey on foot from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. 'A Solo Walk Across Africa', will be presented by Fran Sandham, a former editor of Rough Guides and a freelance writer for numerous daily newspapers.

On 23 February 2023 – Karen Castle – a former female prison hospital officer will talk about her experiences – this will be the second part of a talk she gave the group in 2021. Part I was fascinating and Part II is much anticipated.

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.

Can you spare a few hours to volunteer at Beeston Castle?

They are looking for people with a passion for history to provide a warm and friendly welcome to visitors to the castle and help them make the most of their visit. If you are a confident, effective communicator and a team player, this is an excellent opportunity to be part of the castle's dedicated team. Training, a uniform and travel expenses are provided.

English Heritage is promoting volunteer programmes to support Beeston Castle and is keen to recruit local people to welcome visitors to the site.



For more details, speak to a member of staff at the castle or [visit the website by clicking here](#)



A Message from Edward Timpson MP



A trip to the Co-Op in Kelsall in recent months is burning a slightly bigger hole in the pocket each time. With Christmas now also on the horizon—always a particularly expensive time of year - this doesn't sit well with a cost of living challenge. Willington is no exception. So in my column this month I wanted to touch on the direct support provided by the Government to alleviate this pervasive problem for residents.

Remember, you can write to me through edwardtimpson.com/contact if you have questions about any of the measures you will read about below:

- After the April energy price cap was announced, the Government put forward a three-part support package to help both lower- and middle-income earners with the immediate adjustment.
- The Energy Bill Discount takes £400 off energy bills for households in Great Britain. This automatic, non-repayable discount will be applied in six installments between October 2022 and March 2023.
- A non-repayable £150 cash rebate has been provided for homes in Council Tax bands A–D. This is equivalent to 80 per cent of all households, and certainly most properties in Willington. There is also £144 million of discretionary funding for local authorities to support those not eligible for the council tax rebate. Accordingly, all households will receive £550, with lower-income families receiving additional help.
- The Government is providing a £650 one-off Cost of Living Payment for those on means-tested benefits—such as Universal Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance and Pension Credit.
- The Government is also providing a £300 one-off Pensioner Cost of Living Payment for pensioners in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance, while individuals registered for disability benefits received an additional, one-off £150 payment in September.
- Government support to help with cost-of-living pressures is worth over £37 billion in 2022–23. This includes raising the National Insurance threshold and raising the National Living Wage.
- If you receive Universal Credit, once you earn more than your work allowance, your Universal Credit payments will be reduced at a steady rate. This is known as the Universal Credit earnings taper rate, and it has been cut to allow you to keep more of your benefits in addition to your work-related income.
- The Government has announced an Energy Price Guarantee, which applies from 1 October until April 2023, and will discount the unit costs for gas and electricity.
- The Government announced the new Energy Bill Relief Scheme, which will provide a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices for all non-domestic customers whose current gas and electricity prices have been significantly inflated in light of global energy prices.
- The Energy Bill Relief Scheme will include all UK businesses, the voluntary sector, and the public sector—such as schools and hospitals. This support will be equivalent to the Energy Price Guarantee put in place for households.

A Message from Edward Timpson MP



I hope that sets the support measures out clearly for you—and again, please do get in touch if you require any clarification or have questions about eligibility.

I'm also aware—as a more-than-regular user myself—that roads are a perennial concern in Willington, and never more so than in winter (be careful coming down Roughlow!). Our roads must be kept in good condition to ensure safety and comfort for residents, and I am pleased that the Department for Transport invested £2.7 billion for the maintenance of England's local highway network outside London over 2020–22. I will be keeping my eagle eye on the next spending period!

On the local road network, local highway authorities have a solemn duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highways network in their area.

Reporting potholes can now be done online at www.gov.uk/report-pothole, which will link you to Cheshire West & Chester council's designated page for the recording of potholes. Hopefully, this will speed up repairs. It is crucially important, too, that local highway authorities consider the needs of all road users when planning maintenance—especially vulnerable groups such as cyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians. Please do let me know if you feel this isn't being done. I am liaising with our Parish Council on this and other local matters of priority.

Finally, I will take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year—though I may well see you at The Boot over the festive period to do so in person!



About your Parish Council



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: 01 829 751266

To contact the Parish Council via e-mail or phone please use the details for the Councillors and the Clerk below:

Cllr John Grimshaw (01829 752177) - email:

john.grimshaw@willington.org.uk

Cllr John Lindsay (01829 751057) - email: john.lindsay@willington.org.uk

Cllr Jane Lowthion (01829 751454) - email: jane.lowthion@willington.org.uk

Cllr Rob Merrick (01829 458387) - Vice Chairman - email:

rob.merrick@willington.org.uk

Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) – Chairman - email:

andrew.nicholaswillington.org.uk

Rob Winterbourne (01829 751266) - Clerk - email:

clerk.willington@willington.org.uk

Your Cheshire West and Chester Borough Councillors

Cllr John Leather (01829 752558) or email at:

john.leather@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cllr Harry Tonge email at: harry.tonge@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 31st January 2023** at Willington Hall. All meetings start at 7.30 pm. The meetings are open meetings; you are welcome to attend and listen to the discussions or contribute to the open forum.