



WILLINGTON

village news

March/April 2023



Front Cover

clerk@willingtonpc.org.uk

www.willingtonpc.org.uk

Next Edition May/June
Deadline for copy April 15

Around the Village

Spring appears to have arrived. If you subscribe to the meteorological calendar then the first day of spring is March 1st, although the more traditional astronomical date puts spring starting on March 20th. I much prefer to rely on more physical signs such as people preparing their caravans for the coming season, which has already started.

Village life is getting back on track. The Willington Players have at last managed to perform their fantastic panto - Rapunzel - to sell out audiences, the WI are already in full swing with an exciting programme for the year ahead, plans are in hand for the King's Coronation festivities and the Carnival is being planned it looks like it will be a busy year !

As I write the village hall is closed for floor refurbishment which should be ready for use by March 1st. Apart from some minor maintenance work this will mark the end of the current planned work programme so it's on to planning the next project and how we will be able to pay for it.

The article in the January edition on "Restoring the Molly" has succeeded in attracting volunteers, so we can look forward to improvements to the Molly later this year. It is also good to note that the Dumballs Wood restoration project is also proceeding well, ensuring that another small area is being restored to it's former self. These may be small projects but they help to improve the environment for us all.

"In harmony" ladies vocal group directed by Cathryn Haywood are expanding and welcome interested singers to come join us for a session. We are ideally seeking 'middles and tops ' but happy to consider lower ranges. We sing a very wide range of music and are very versatile. You do not need to be able to read music . A good 'ear', a sense of humour and a friendly open minded manner are essential. We meet on Thursdays at 6.45pm in the village hall. call Cathryn on 01283702263 or email cathryn_haywood@yahoo.com for more details.

Looking ahead, the Parish Council is asking for suggestions on how the community can get together to celebrate the coronation of King Charles and Camilla Queen Consort. With the national timetable set for Saturday 6th May, Coronation Day, Sunday 7th The Big Lunch and Monday 8th the Big Help Out, encouraging people to volunteer for local projects there is a lot going on. The parish Council are looking at ways in which the community can take part in local events and would welcome any suggestions as to how the community might celebrate the event. Please send any suggestions to the Parish Clerk clerk@willingtonpc.org.uk by early March.

The Coronation will be for most a spectacular TV event and no doubt, for those old enough to remember, it will bring back memories of watching the last coronation on small black and white tv screens (gold coaches never do look good in black and white) and street parties.

A Willington History Group Event

Howard Thomas presents

'Friar Gate Bridge & Andrew Handyside'



A. Handyside & Co.

BRIDGE, ROOF, GARTROB, WALL, CLAYTON,
ENTIRE SEASIDE.

ANDREW HANDYSIDE, DESIG. BY ... ST. MICHAEL, LONDON.



Edinburgh born Andrew Handyside spent most of his early adult life in Russia and became 'The most eminent iron founder of his day in Europe'. He 'arrived' in Derby when he bought the Britannia Ironworks in 1847. When Derby station was established in 1878, Andrew Handyside & Co. were commissioned to design and supply a bridge 'sympathetic' to Friar Gate with its elegant Georgian houses. By 1907 the company had become the 2nd biggest employer in Derby and were responsible for creating magnificent railway station structures and iconic landmarks in numerous British towns and cities.

£3

Thursday 9th March

7.30pm

Willington Old School
The Castle Way, DE65 6BT

ALL
WELCOME*
Cash on the
Door.

Coming Soon
13th April Stephen Flinders
Stanton at War
11th May Paul Newsham
Mystery of Crop Circles

Contact: Rob Henry Tel: 01283 701656
Email: rob@rhenry.co.uk

*Over 18s only

A Willington History Group Event

Stephen Flinders presents

'Stanton at War'



Utilising film footage from 1943 this presentation features the men and women who worked in the bomb casting foundries at Stanton near Ilkeston during the Second World War. Stephen will take us back with this snapshot of the extraordinary war effort that was taking place all over Britain; the days of flat caps and shirt sleeves; men and women working alongside each other; unimaginable pollution and noise; meticulous quality control and questionable Health & Safety; and the 'new' £1.5m Stanton Gate Foundry constructed in 13 months at the outset of WW2, covering 19 acres of the Stanton Iron Works.

£3

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WILLINGTON CROWN GREEN BOWLS CLUB

The Green will open for the 2023 season on Saturday 25th March 2022 at 2.00pm.

The club will hold two 'Open Days' for potential new members on Saturday 13th May and Saturday 27th May from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. There is no charge for these sessions,

and all levels of bowlers welcome, from novice through to experienced.

Please come along and give bowls a try – flat soles only (no heels); all other bowls equipment will be supplied on the day.

For further details, contact:- Chairman – Tony Davenport 01283 702685
or Secretary – Paul Oakley 01283 704966

To find the green, go along the path opposite the Co-op on Repton Road,
Willington.

www.willingtonpc.org.uk/willington-bowls-club.html



Primary Page

Chairman's update

Hello and Welcome to the March/April Newsletter

The days are cold but the days are getting lighter and brighter, always a good sign that spring is around the corner, with new born lambs in the fields and spring flowers starting to burst in our gardens, it gives us all something to look forward to after the long dark winter days.

A committee has been set up to discuss and recommend ideas for what we can do as a village for the Kings coronation. We would like ideas from Parishioners about activities that you would like to see during the weekend. Please contact Rachel our Clerk, via Facebook or the Parish website, with any ideas you may have.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is progressing well with the final version of the Design Guide and Code signed off. The Housing Needs assessment has been produced and sent to us for our comments. This has been reviewed and has been returned to AECOM the consultants with our comments for them to be incorporated into the document. We have received three responses to our 'call for sites' that aren't included in the SDDC document and have asked AECOM to carry out a technical assessment on them, similar to the SDDC process. We are also finalising the maps for the green spaces and heritage buildings which will be incorporated in the plan.

A building control document has been produced for the TRPF Community Hall and football changing rooms project and we are engaging with a company called MFA to carry out our inspection process of the build. A building project specification document is being produced to enable prospective building companies to give us comparable quotes when tendering. It is hoped that this will be completed in the next two weeks to allow us to go out to tender.

There are a lot of volunteers that carry out weekly litter picks in and around the village which is greatly appreciated by residents and the Parish Council alike. We already have a contract with our groundsman to carry out litter picks within the village but we are concerned along with some residents about the amount of rubbish that is being thrown from cars down Etwall road in particular. Our Footpath and Open Spaces group will be organising a series of litter picks along there and any other areas of concern that are highlighted. This will be discussed at their next meeting and details will be made available on our Facebook page and website.

We had a visit from two representatives from South Derbyshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team at our last Parish Council meeting. They were praising our Community Speed Watch team for being proactive and helping to reduce speeding through the village. They were also asking for more volunteers to come forward to help to make the village a safer place. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our Clerk who will be able to arrange the relevant training. We would like to offer our congratulations to the team on their efforts and keep up the good work!

You may be aware that the Parish Council and some residents have been asking Derbyshire County Council to have a look at improving the crossing at the CO OP due to safety concerns when using the crossing. A Highways Safety Engineer has visited the village along with Martyn Ford our County Councillor who has been assisting us with this issue. We have been asking for a Pelican crossing to be installed but unfortunately the Safety Engineer has declined our request due to the impact on traffic flows. However, he has recommended that all the pedestrian crossings in the village be repainted and the lights at the crossing in the middle of the village be repaired and possibly upgraded to LED lighting.

Potholes are obviously a problem on all roads around our region at the moment due to the adverse weather conditions. Derbyshire County Council Highways have informed us that their repair team has been increased from 18 to 31 personnel and is showing a real decrease in repair times. If you see any potholes, please report them through the County Council website.

I reported in the last Newsletter that the larger litter bins that we had purchased for the Marina would be installed by the end of January. Unfortunately due to the Contractors workload this has been delayed to the end of February, early March. Apologies for the delay.

Our next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 14th March at the Old School, Castleway at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Steve Frost

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65 Findern Lane, Willington, Derby, Derbyshire, DE65 6DW



Willington Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

This is our first article for the Village magazine. We hope to have a regular paragraph or two, informing everyone of what is happening with the PPG and its contribution in supporting the surgery. This month we have taken the opportunity to tell you a bit about us and how you can access information about us and the surgery.

What is it and who are we?

The PPG is a group of 12 Willington Surgery patients whose objectives are to:

- *Provide a channel of communication between practice staff and patients to break down barriers to communication and enable sharing of information.*
- *Help themselves and other patients to take more responsibility for their health.*
- *Provide practical support to the surgery.*
- *Contribute to continuous improvement of services determined by the needs of the community.*

How we communicate with you.

We have a page on the surgery website (there is a new surgery website - www.willingtonsurgery.co.uk), a Facebook page (Willington Surgery PPG – please join) and a notice board in the surgery – and now a monthly update in this magazine!

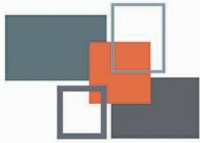
How you can contact us with any concerns about the surgery or suggestions.

Patient feedback and suggestion form on the Facebook page, email: willingtonppg@gmail.com or complete a written comment and post in the PPG envelope in the surgery on our noticeboard.

Examples of projects we are currently involved in:

- *H2H – Here to Help. Members are in attendance in the reception areas to help patients using the blood pressure machine and self-sign in screen along with any other support we can give.*
- *Fundraising – we have just bought 6 extra blood pressure machines for patients to take home to monitor their blood pressure.*
- *Repton Health Centre/Village Hall. – we are exploring if a rolling Patient Information Point can be installed identical to the one in the Willington surgery.*
- *Second hand book sales: this continues to be a reliable source of income, from which various items are bought supporting the surgery. Please have a look and donate if you find something that interests you.*

Watch this space for news of new initiatives coming in Spring...



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BOOKING NOW for Easter Holidays 3rd to 14th April 2023

Binding Edge

The Dumballs

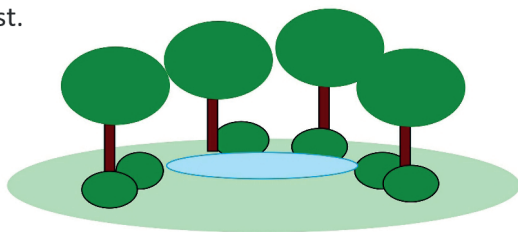
The Wilington Community Conservation Group was formulated earlier this year and adopted the area now known as the Dumbles from the Canal and River Trust . The hope was to create a haven for people to divert away from the tow path and enjoy the peace and well being the area offers. The inspiration of the project came from the life and loss of Dave Fearn, a well known and well thought of local man who worked hard for the community he lived in and the nature he loved within it.

The Dumbles is a local dialect term meaning woodland near water and features fondly in the memories of local people as an area that they played in for hours in the summer, fishing for eels and just generally exploring . Sadly over the years the area had been neglected and become very overgrown and inhospitable. Since we adopted the area we have had several work parties consisting of an amazing group of volunteers and received lots of positive comments on the work the volunteers have done to bring the area back from being an inaccessible wilderness to an enchanting thriving woodland. Since June this year the volunteers, in conjunction with and support of both the Canal and River Trust and The Mercia Marina , have met each month and worked very hard to achieve so much .

We have cleared drainage channels to help the area stay as dry as possible throughout the year without disturbing the vital wetland area that supports a variety of flora and fauna. The group has also carefully opened up the views over the pools keeping them discreet so as not to disturb any wildlife on the water. We have also created 3 clearly marked footpaths for mixed abilities and other smaller adjoining paths that meander throughout.

Hopefully in the future we will be able to install a few benches and replace the rather old wooden bridge over the main drainage channel. Also we would like to place some official permanent signage explaining the ethos of the area and information about the animals and plants living there.

Our aim is to create a space where people can sit and absorb the wonder of the area as it changes through the seasons and feel at one with nature and also offer a space to reflect, relax and remember loved ones lost.



From Pastor Robin

One of the things that always fascinates me at this time of the year is how the bulbs in the garden, not only survive the winter, but continue to thrive under the frozen ground. I'm no horticulturist, so I 'googled' for some help. Apparently 'under snow and ice, an important chemical reaction is taking place. Some roots will continue to form and dive deeply. The shorter day hours trigger dormancy, which will see the bulbs experiencing a chilling period. The cold temperatures cause the bulb to break glucose into smaller molecules which lowers the freeze temperature to prevent damage to the bulb. Additionally, small leaf structures and the beginning cells for flower production begin to form.'



So it is in the harshest of conditions that the bulb thrives the most. That is amazing! The final result is a plethora of beautiful flowers – daffodils, snowdrops, crocuses and more – in our gardens, along the village road borders, in woods and parks. It reminds me of the words in Wordsworth's famous poem, 'When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils.' The advent of spring is a wonderful time!

Many can testify to the fact that often when in the hardest times we can come out stronger. The deep valleys of life are less enjoyable than the occasional mountain top experiences. But valleys can be character forming. They shape us and make us better people if we have the right focus and attitude. David in the Bible wrote Psalm 23 from such an experience. He said 'Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil' (Psa. 23:4) The key to his confidence was the fact that he was not alone, God was there all the time – 'For you are with me' (same verse). Quite wonderful!



The true story of Easter is not about chocolate eggs and fluffy bunnies, but about God's Son Jesus dying on the Cross to pay the price for our sin so that we can know God throughout life's journey and beyond. Then the deep valleys can be positive experiences.

Happy Easter to you all!

Willington WI

Life is looking busy for our WI ladies. We have a lunch at Tutbury Castle followed by Lesley Smith taking on the character of Catherine of Aragon. These lunches are always popular with members. The Great Northern is a new choice of venue for our regular lunches later in the month.

Briz Valley WI are hosting the Mercia Group Meeting on a James Bond theme. The speaker is Karl Bird talking about 'Misadventures on a film set'.

March sees some of our members attending the Derbyshire WI Annual Council meeting – an opportunity to hear two guest speakers, browse stalls displaying events and competitions and to catch up with news from further afield. April is the month for the WI County quiz. We will be entering two teams at Barrow on Trent but there are venues countywide competing on the evening.

Willington WI took part in the Radio Derby 'Make a Difference' challenge and produced nine blankets to help keep Derbyshire people warm. Knitting now turns to red, white and blue bunting and postbox toppers on a Coronation theme!

Our March meeting is a burlesque evening which is quite an intriguing topic so we look forward to finding out more! In April we will finally welcome Bob Neill – he was originally booked before Covid! Bob will bring items from 'Grannie's cupboard'. How many will we recognise?

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 in the Village Hall and visitors are welcome to come along.

Village Hall Car Parking

Many thanks for the expressions of concern and suggestions regarding the car parking issues at the village hall.

The issue of car parking over winter months has become an ever increasing problem as village hall usage, and hence car parking, has increased. However we only have a finite area of land on which to squeeze the many user requirements and as such the grass area is an important part of the asset.

Our main focus has been on the modernisation of the facilities as well as the care and repair of the main hall which is now 70 years old, making the most of hall income and grants.

To increase the size of the hardstanding from 9 parking spaces to 18 would cost some £9000, subject to site conditions. This would require some serious fund raising as grants are generally only given to new projects which provide wider community benefits, but extra car parking is generally not included! We must therefore rely on local resources.

Most people see the village hall as a useful building, maintained and provided by some one else, probably the Parish Council, and therefore feel free to complain about its shortcomings. The reality is that the land and the hall, despite popular belief, were purchased by the community through fundraising, so as a community owned facility we all have some responsibility for its upkeep. Without that commitment the village hall will struggle to survive the next 70 years.

What's On March / April

St Michael's Church Library

Wednesday 1 March, 5th April and 3rd May - 10am - 11.30am



If you fancy a warm space with some 'Coffee and Company', come along to the Dragon Conservatory every other Thursday morning, 10.30 to 12.00, from March 2nd. Friendly WI faces will be there.

St Michael's Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th March 10am - 12 noon

Coffee Morning with various craft stalls, refreshments, cakes, etc.

The stART

New Adult **ART** class led by Cathryn Haywood BA (hon) Fine Arts
Starts, Tuesday 7th March, 10am - 12.30 at the Village Hall

Sessions £7.50, all details from Cathryn Haywood 01283 702263 or 07533 844755

Willington History Group

Howard Thomas presents

"Friar Gate Bridge & Andrew Handyside"

Thursday 9th March, The Old School, Castleway £3

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th March, 7.00pm

at The Old School, Castleway

WILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL CRAFT FAIR

Local Stallholders at Willington Village Hall - Come along and support your local businesses!

Refreshments ~ Face Painting ~ Local Stall Holders/Businesses

Saturday 18 March - 1~4 pm - Free parking & Free entry!

Contact: Dee 07811457436 - Dee-lightful Gifts

Twyford Road, Willington DE65 6DE

St Michael's Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st April 10am - 12 noon

Coffee Morning with various craft stalls, refreshments, cakes, and
"Chocolate raffle"

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 11th April 7.00pm

at The Old School, Castleway

Willington History Group

Stephen Flinders presents

"Stanton at War"

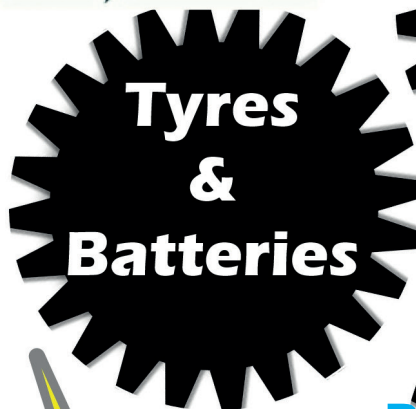
Thursday 13th April, The Old School, Castleway £3



Willington Garage



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