



WILLINGTON

village news

Nov /Dec 2023

Front Cover



Photograph by William Harding

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www.willingtonpc.org.uk

Next Edition Jan/Feb
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Around the Village

Christmas is just around the corner, or so we are led to believe by all the pre Christmas advertising urging us to buy all that we need (and more) to make sure that our Christmas is the best one yet, and all this before bonfire night is done and dusted. Whatever happened to doing your Christmas shopping on Christmas Eve ?

That said there is need to plan ahead to make sure that all is in place for the big event. The Parish Council have announced that the Christmas tree lights will be switched on on December 1st and are planning carols and mince pies to accompany the event. The Dragon is planning to host Christmas carols and the annual tug of war, St Michael's Church are holding a Christmas fayre and have announced dates for Church services and the Baptist Church are also holding a carol service at the village hall ... that's Christmas sorted. But I have also been asked to let you know that the St Michael's Church coffee morning will start again on Saturday 3rd February.

So we can now relax and enjoy the fireworks.

Despite all this, village life goes on. The parish Council have committed themselves to an ambitious programme of completing the Neighbourhood Development Plan within the next year, are looking to build a new community building at the Twyford Road Playing Fields as well as still looking for additional members to bring the council up to full strength. But they are clearly carrying on with business as usual.

The Village Hall has its Annual General Meeting on November 13th. As usual all are welcome to attend. The management committee is looking for new members to help in the management of the village hall, especially from community users so that the hall can continue to provide services to the village.

You will notice that over the last couple of editions we have been giving voice to local issues. This month we are pleased to continue this with the community voice page ... this month's is particularly pertinent (and shows foresight, having been penned over a month ago) owing to the recent storms and consequent flooding. Whilst we have been lucky to escape the worst of the bad weather it is a graphic reminder that climate change could put our comfy village life at risk !

So, if you have any burning issues you want to give voice to, please contact the editor. But it would be appreciated if you could do so by 15th December so I can organise putting the January 2024 newsletter together over Christmas/New Year and still enjoy a relaxing Christmas.

Wishing you all the same.

...ooo0ooo...

We are always looking for fresh input to the newsletter. If you want to promote your group or a project then please contact the editor bldavis@hotmail.co.uk

Birmingham Edge



Willington Scouts

Firework

Display

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Gates open 6.15pm - Fireworks from 7.00pm

Unfortunately, no sparklers allowed -
but come join our community for some fun

Twyford Road - Playing Field

DE65 6BN

**Free
Entry**

Hot Food and Drinks served.

Scan me
for details!



All donations welcome....

Chairman's update

Hello and welcome to the November / December newsletter.

The weather has been its usual unpredictable self, having cold and wet days interspersed with some warm sunny days. What we do know is that winter is just about on us, the clocks have been put back and the nights are now drawing in.

It is a busy time for the Parish council at the moment and I would like to give an update on all we are currently involved in.

Remembrance Sunday is on 12th November. The Parish Council will be laying a wreath at the church on behalf of the village plus we have purchased additional poppies to decorate the lampposts around the centre of the village.

We have finally received the funding to continue with the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Our target is to complete the plan within the next nine months.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, we have purchased a large number of dog poo bags to fill our dispensers, one is located on Kingfisher Lane near the surgery and the second one is being re sited from the Station Garden to Trent Avenue playing field near the school. Unfortunately, the bags that fit these dispensers are expensive to purchase and for parishioners use who may have forgotten to take any bags out or for use in an emergency. Please only take what you require for that occasion. Thank you.

Now that we have recruited new Councillors, we have decided to resurrect the Recreational and Amenities Committee (RAC) and the Footpaths and open Space Group (FOSG). These committees will focus on the footpaths, walkways and general maintenance around the village. The meetings are open to the public, details of future meetings will be posted on the noticeboards and our website.

The Parish Council have recently made the following donation of £350 to the local Scouts group towards the cost of their firework display which will take place as usual on Twyford Road Playing Field. This event has always been very popular and I would recommend that anyone who hasn't attended before to go and have a look.

We have also donated £240 to the bowls club towards servicing their mower. Obviously, bowls is a spring/summer pastime, the club is a friendly club and would welcome more members. If anyone is interested the contact details are on our website.

As many of you have noticed, the bridge over the river Trent has unfortunately been damaged and a temporary repair has been put in place to make the bridge safe. The plan for Derbyshire County Council is for them to retrieve the original bridge stone out the river and rebuild the bridge, with the original stone. Any stone that cannot be reused will be replaced by stone of a similar colour and age. We are currently awaiting a date for completion.

With regards to the Christmas celebrations, we will be switching the Christmas lights on at the Station Garden on Friday 1st December. We are purchasing more clear baubles again for people to fill and hang onto the tree to remind them of their lost loved ones. Everyone is welcome to come and join us to sing Christmas carols and of course mince pies will be available for all. Details of where to pick up a bauble and the event will be published on our website, noticeboards and of course social media nearer the time.

We have received the quotes for the Community Hall and new changing rooms for the TRPF and we are currently reviewing the quotes and will be discussing with potential suppliers to get the best possible value for money and a quality building. We are also exploring avenues for grants that are available to help contribute to the cost.

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

Phill Allsopp

WI village news

By the time you read this, the WI station team will have been busy at the station, replanting bulbs ready for spring and putting new plants in the planters and around the triangle. Our thanks go again to local businesses whose sponsorship enables us to keep the station area looking so colourful.

Our October meeting was a talk about the National Memorial Arboretum and following on from that we intend to visit there one December evening to enjoy their illuminated trail. More theatre visits are planned, as well as joining other local WIs on a coach trip to the Bankfield museum in Halifax to see the History Wardrobe exhibition on November 28th. We'll also have chance to visit the grade 1 listed Piece Hall which is one of Britain's most outstanding Georgian buildings, now a venue for independent shops and eateries. (Interested? Contact Janet on 701542 to check on coach spaces)

Our 8th November meeting is a talk by a member of the Derby Mountain Resue Team. All welcome to come along at 7.30pm. As what has now become an annual gathering, WI members will be sharing poems and readings on Remembrance Sunday at 11.00am. We really had hoped that the memorial stone purchased two or more years ago would by now be in place in the station garden and we would meet there rather than round the triangle. Despite a promise of 'September', this looks unlikely to happen for 2023! The poppies will be in place at the triangle as always and anyone is welcome to share that time with us. Members also look forward to sharing a remembrance time with some Y6 pupils again on 10th.

In December we will join other local WIs for a carol service at Newton Solney. On Saturday 9th December, the SherWIn Singers (a choir of mainly WI members, 2 from Willington) are holding a Christmas afternoon of song at Sherwin Street HQ, 2pm. All are welcome. £5 including refreshments.

All following December gatherings centre on food! A lunch at the Dovecliff Hotel, food and entertainment at our Christmas meeting and an evening meal!

Promises. Promises.

As River Trent floodplainers in South Derbyshire our hearts go out to all those people so badly affected by recent fluvial flooding elsewhere. But perhaps we are all over-reacting? After all we are often told by politicians of all complexions that "Lessons will be learned," and from the Government itself, that it will "spend whatever it costs" to sort flood damage bills incurred by individuals and small businesses. I was a participant in the Government's Floodforum, and received a call to attend a meeting to be held in the Science Museum, in London. Topics included:-

London's drowning? Thinking of buying a house in London? Maybe it should be a houseboat .

The climate is changing and flooding is likely to hit Britain in a big way. Will floods become a regular feature of life? How are we going to be affected ?

What preparations are being made?

The notice of meeting came from the Edemocracy Programme, Hansard Society. And the date of the meeting? Oh yes – **24 March 2002**.

By chance, that was the year that SDDC published its then-proposed Local Plan which would have seen 1000+ houses and a totally unsuited industrial estate built on the Willington power station site. The Inquiry inspector who had been appointed to decide the Local Plan's outcome received objections from many quarters, and was astounded to receive 400 letters of objection from individuals (were you perhaps one of them?). Quite properly the power station application was rejected, and with it the proposed Local Plan failed. Another attempt in 2007 - this time a Conjoined SDDC/Derby City Council proposal for housing estates on various sites to the south side of Derby - would again have seen 1000 houses on the power station site. The Conjoined proposal was largely accepted but the appointed Inspector rejected the proposed development of the Willington power station site proposal once again. Flood risk was a major reason for his rejection.

Today, 2023, the government continues to tell us, "Lessons will be learned." But when will those lessons be implemented, I wonder? At Willington, since the year 2000 floods, we have seen no flood alleviation measures taken other than a riverbank non-return valve to perhaps protect five properties. But when will the "learned lessons" be implemented here?

After all, since 2002 several Willington developments on or closely adjacent to the Trent floodplain have been given Planning Approval. This, despite objections from well-knowledged residents on known local flood risk grounds.

So, have "lessons been learned"? Or, yet again, just more "Promises, promises?"

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PPG

WILLINGTON SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

What happens in Repton Health Centre?

The PPG has been asked by some Surgery users to find out a bit more about the health centre in Repton and if/how it is still linked to Willington Surgery.

Repton Health Centre, situated (entrance) off Askew Grove, is part of the Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust. It is managed by Swadlincote Health Centre staff and is not linked to Willington Surgery. It no longer provides GP services, but houses a number of patient support services (although none are there all the time) which include continence services (adult and children), Health Visitors, Speech & Language Therapy (adult and children), some Physiotherapy, a wound clinic and podiatry.

For most of those services you will need to be referred via your GP although you can self-refer to podiatry by completing the online form (*put Repton Health Centre into your search engine and there is a link for the form*) to assess whether you meet the criteria to be an NHS patient.

Hearing Aid Batteries: Hospitals are no longer supplying hearing aid batteries; patients should go to wherever they got their aid from, and they will supply the batteries.

UPCOMING
Festive events



SUN 3RD DEC

Santa Sunday

SUNDAY LUNCH WITH SANTA

£34.⁹⁹ / £19.⁹⁹ CHILDREN
12PM & 4PM SITTINGS



SAT 9TH DEC

Afternoon Tea with Santa

£24.⁹⁹ / £19.⁹⁹
2.30PM

FRI 8TH DEC

Afternoon Tea with Bubl 

BY EVERYTHING BUBL 
£39.⁹⁹ 2PM - 5PM

TUE 12TH DEC

Merry Quizmas

FREE ENTRY • 8PM
in aid of HELP FOR HANNAH
NO BOOKING NECESSARY

WED 20TH DEC

Carols by the Canal

FREE MULLED WINE
HOG ROAST • 5PM
NO BOOKING NECESSARY



book online at thedragonatwillington.co.uk

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



**CHRISTMAS AT
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

Sunday, 3rd December at 10am, Joint Service at St Wystan's Repton.

Sunday, 17th December, 4pm Carol Service at St Michael's Church

Sunday 24th December - Christingle Service - St Michael's Church (time to be confirmed)

25th December - Christmas Day - 10am Holy Communion Service at St Michael's Church

We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support throughout 2023.

A Willington History Group Event

Howard Thomas presents

"Friargate Bridge. The past present & future of Handside's Masterpiece"



Friargate Railway Bridge built in 1878 by Andrew Handside and Company, an iron founder in Derby, for the Derby Friargate Line of the Great Northern Railway, to span the elegant Georgian street of Friargate. The line was part of the Derbyshire and Staffordshire extension of the Great Northern Railway. It linked Nottingham and Grantham to Burton upon Trent.



Thursday 9th November

7.30 pm

Willington Old School
Castle Way
DE65 6BT



Contact Roger Paulson
07969079512
Email: rogerp@gmail.com

* Over 18s only

From Pastor Robin (Baptist Church, Twyford Road)

Autumn. What an exciting season. Winnie the Pooh remarked, "It's the first day of autumn! A time of hot chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and, best of all, leaping into leaves!" Well, the leaves fell early off my damson tree but now there are fresh shoots appearing! How odd. I'll have to ask Monty [or Alexa 😞?!]

Another noticeable change this year is the increased number of slugs in my veggie patch. Up to recently we hardly ever saw a slug. Now they have attacked the tops of my carrots and seem to be everywhere. But no snails. On the web someone raised the question 'Do slugs go away on their own?' A gardening website replied, 'slugs will never just go away on their own. They'll simply multiply and wipe out even more of your plants. The good news is that you can control these slimy critters with easy techniques. For best success, don't rely on just one method, but try a few different ways to get rid of slugs in the garden.' Interesting.

The natural world is still full of mysteries. We cannot fathom everything out even though science tries to. Its great to see the seasons coming and going with a degree of normality. There is so much going on around us and we don't always like what we see. Our society is changing but not always for the better. Headlines of crime, teenage murders, unjust wars and climatic change give us much food for thought.

Very soon we will begin the run-up to another Christmas with all the opportunities to chill with family and friends and church. This year our carol service will again be in the village hall (Saturday 16th December, 6pm) and *Magical Mayhem* will be with us as Paul presents the true meaning of Christmas for us in an entertaining way. Hope you can join us.

For other events and opportunities please see our website with details of what we do and contact numbers if you want to chat.

The Old Testament concludes with the amazing statement from God, "I the LORD do not change." (Malachi 3:6). I for one am very grateful for that! Happy Christmas and a warm winter to you all!



What's On November / December

St Michael's Church Library

The Library will be held in Church on 1 November and 6 December, 10am-11.30am.
Every other Wednesday, there will be Meet and Make Friends, 10am-12noon.
November 8, 15, 22, 29 and December 13 and 20.

St Michael's Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th November, 10am - 12 noon Willington Village hall
Refreshments and all the usual stalls, The Willington Art and Craft Group members will be in attendance selling Christmas crafts, cards, paintings etc.



Willington Scouts
FIREWORK DISPLAY
Saturday 4th November.



Willington
History
Group

Howard Thomas presents

"Friargate Bridge. The past, present and future of Handyside's Masterpiece"
Thursday 9th November, The Old School, Castleway £3



"Remembrance Sunday 12th November at St Michael's, Willington.

Everyone is invited to join us at 10.45am to remember those who have died in war and have given their lives for others in different situations. At 11am we will have the Last Post, the Two Minutes Silence and Reveille, followed by the Remembrance Day Service.

Willington Village Hall AGM Monday 13th November at 7.30pm



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th November 7.00pm
at The Old School, Castleway



St Michael's Church Christmas Fayre

Saturday, 25 November 2023 - 2pm - 4pm
Numerous stalls, refreshments, Raffles.

Watch for Santa on his trip round the village to open the Fayre.



Friday 1st December 6.00pm

Willington Village Centre
Christmas Tree Lights Switch on



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 12th December 7.00pm
at The Old School, Castleway

Willington
History
Group

QUIZ & SOCIAL NIGHT

Thursday 14th December, The Old School, Castleway £3

BAPTIST CHURCH CAROL SERVICE

Village hall (Saturday 16th December, 6pm)

Magical Mayhem will be with us as Paul presents the true meaning of Christmas



Annual Festive Tug of War

in aid of



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