



WILLINGTON

village news

May / June 2024



Front Cover

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www.willingtonpc.org.uk

Next Edition July / August
Deadline for copy June 15

Binding Edge

Around the Village

This unsettled weather pattern, as we enter May reminds me of the old adage "cast not a clout 'til May is out" which roughly translates as don't put your warm clothes away until the Hawthorn is in bloom. I certainly won't especially as I remember June 1st 1975 which saw snow fall in East Anglia. But there was some consolation the rest of the summer was sunny and hot.

Let's look forward to some warmer days. We could do with some for the start of the Crown Bowls season and the Raft Race is always best when the sun shines.

Whilst we are grateful for the road repairs along Repton Road we are still left wondering when the work will be completed. It is understood that the drainage repairs in the village centre are still outstanding, as is the parapet repair to the Willington Bridge. There are also a number of pot holes that still need repair and I understand that residents of Beech Ave are planning an 18 hole Pitch & Put tournament this summer.

But to more serious things this edition of the newsletter marks eight years of publication, bi-monthly, without a break, and although I can fill the pages each time it would be nice if I could have some more varied input from the community, so if you have something to say about the village please get in touch and email bdavis@hotmail.co.uk.

Looking forward to the 1st June.....



On the 13th April, I took my barrow around the village, collecting food items for the South Derbyshire CVS Food hub I was wearing my "Baked Bean" outfit and ringing my bell !

People were most generous and I collected a really great haul...and enough money for me to buy 96 cans of spaghetti hoops !

I am doing the rounds again on Saturday the 1st June...and would really appreciate another show of generosity....

If you think that you may not catch me, perhaps donations of cans and non perishable food stuffs could be left on doorsteps or somewhere hygienic and easily spotted !

RAFT RACE 2024

Saturday 8th June

First Rafts depart Newton Solney at 1.45pm
in reverse order based on prior year results.

Rafts depart in 2-minute intervals.



Watch all 20+ Rafts arrive at
Willington Bridge from approx 2.00pm.

Rafts take between 15 and 20 minutes to complete the course

Chairman's update

Hello and welcome to the May/June newsletter.

Spring has arrived and although the experts have said that it has been the warmest March on record, I think that we can all say it has certainly been one of the wettest few months that we have seen for a very long time. This has caused flash flooding and has caused havoc with the roads in our area, causing major issues with potholes in and around Willington.

Derbyshire County Council closed Repton Road for a few days and carried out much needed road repairs and also cleaned the drains adjacent to the church. They intend to close the road numerous times from now until September to complete the road repairs and check/maintain the gullies and drains.

The work to repair the gully by the Station Garden still hasn't been done. Planned work has been raised for the installation of an additional inspection chamber in the footway to the rear of the carriageway gully adjacent to the Zebra crossing. This should allow improved access to the drainage system and further investigation is required. This is currently with Derbyshire County Council awaiting approval subject to budget in this financial year. We as a Parish Council will continue to put pressure on DCC to get the work completed as soon as possible.

The potholes on Findern Lane have now been filled in with the exception of one near the traffic lights which has been reported.

If you notice a pothole or other serious issue with our roads, please contact Derbyshire County Council direct by email at www.derbyshire.gov.uk and click on report a road fault. Their target is to make serious defects safe on busy roads within 32 hours.

The bus shelter on Repton Road opposite Hall Lane has now been fully glazed and provides much needed shelter from the wind and rain.

You may have noticed a memorial stone has been erected in the Station Garden between the two benches. This is a Remembrance Stone which has been installed by Willington WI. A plaque will be put on at a later date. Thank you to the WI for raising the money to purchase the stone and having it erected.

The application by McDonalds to build a 24-hour drive through and restaurant on the A38, on the opposite side of the slipway from the filling station just off Castleway has been refused by South Derbyshire District Council. McDonalds have the right to appeal the decision. If they do this will be heard by the HM Inspectorate.

Graham McCullach our Groundsman for many years has decided to reduce his workload due to him wanting to spend more time with his family during the summer.

continued

The Parish Council would like to thank him and his wife for all their hard work and dedication in keeping our village clean and tidy. Graham will continue to cut the hedges and litter pick around the village. We are pleased to announce that we have obtained the services of Border Patrol who are taking over the workload that Graham has relinquished - they started work in the village in April. Border Patrol are located in Hilton, welcome to Tom and his team!

Finally, we still have a vacancy for a Councillor for the Parish Council. If anyone is interested, please contact our Clerk Rachel for an application form.

Our Annual Parish Council Meeting and monthly meeting will take place at the Old School on Tuesday 14th May at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Phill Allsopp



FLOOD LIAISON GROUP



The Parish Council takes flooding within the village very seriously but we are limited on what we can do. The responsibility is with Derbyshire County Council (DCC), South Staffordshire Water (SSW) and South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC). DCC are responsible for closing roads and managing issues associated with highways, they are also responsible for ensuring drains and gullies are maintained and kept clean. They actually subcontract the cleaning to SDDC. SSW is responsible for any issues with the domestic water system including the pumping station located within the village. It can be quite confusing sometimes identifying who is responsible for what and the co-ordination between the responsible parties.

To this end the Parish Council has decided to set up a Flood Liaison Group, made up of volunteers from the Parish Council and Parishioners who have had issues with localised flooding or who just want to help within the village to alleviate the flooding. We would like to be more proactive by reporting issues with the relevant authorities to ensure gullies and drains are kept clean and free of debris and waterways are well maintained so that it enables them to take as much water away from the village as possible.


We would also like to set up a taskforce who can be called upon at these difficult times to assist in helping householders that are in difficulty and also to liaise with the representatives from the relevant authorities to co-ordinate activities within the village.

If you are interested in joining this group or have any ideas on what can be done to improve the village, please contact our Clerk Rachel by email at clerk@willingtonpc.org.uk or on our Facebook page. You can also contact one of our Parish councillors direct.

Why can I not get a GP appointment?

A question we hear regularly from patients and whilst there may be multiple reasons, a frequent factor is **DNA** patients: **DID NOT ATTEND.** In March 2024, we had **31 GP appointments not attended** and multiple other appointments missed with clinicians.

The surgery runs a process based on NHSE guidance -

Missed Appointments in March 2024	
	GP 31
	Nurses 19
	Physio 3
	Bloods 38
Clinical Pharmacist 12	

- 1) If a patient does not attend an appointment (face-to-face or telephone) a letter is sent out to advise of ways to cancel appointments (allowing someone else to use it).
- 2) If the patient does not attend a second appointment (and this doesn't have to be with the same clinician, for example, it can be a GP appointment or a blood test) a second letter is sent advising of the appointments missed and setting out the consequences if any other appointment is missed.
- 3) **Our policy is 3 missed appointments in a rolling 12-month period and you would be asked to find an alternative surgery.**

With 10,500+ patients registered at Willington Surgery, we need to make best use of every appointment.

Please help your fellow patients and cancel any appointments you cannot attend.

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WI May/June

May begins with our AGM and a debate on the 2024 National Resolution- 'Dental Health Matters'. Every member of the WI, nationally, is able to vote on this call for the Government to increase investment in the training and retention of dentists and to review the current inadequate NHS contracts in order to ensure everyone can access an NHS dentist. If this is passed at the National AGM in June, a full campaign will be developed by the NFWI.

May and June see us resume our historical walks around the village, followed by a supper. This is popular with local WIs but if there are a couple of spaces either night, we will invite others to join us, via Facebook..

A group will be going to Derby Cathedral to enjoy 'Queen by Candlelight' and a larger group will be going for our last lunch and talk by Lesley Smith at Tutbury Castle.

The station team will be re-planting for summer, weather permitting! You will have noticed the memorial stone now in place- a plaque should be installed in the next few weeks. This has been a long, on-going process, beset with setbacks but hopefully it will be finished soon.

Our meeting on 12th June is a talk by Oliver Hill, from the Co-op Legal services team, on making a will. If this is a topic you have been putting off thinking about, come along to the Village Hall at 7.30pm to find out more.

Visitors are welcome at every meeting.

A Willington History Group Event

Robert Mee Presents
"Village Lock Up"



Above two notable lock-ups in Derbyshire. Left Bredon on the Hill and right Smistby. A village lock-up is a historic building once used for the temporary detention of people in England and Wales, mostly where official prisons or criminal courts were beyond easy walking distance. Lockups were often used for the confinement of drunks.

The majority of surviving village lock-ups date from the 18th and 19th centuries when rural communities struggled to police thefts, burglaries, shootings, drunkenness.

Thursday 9th May 2024

7.30 pm

Willington Old School
Castle Way
DE65 6BT



Contact Roger Paulson
07969079512
Email: rogerp@spmail.co.uk

* Over 18s only

Willington Crown Green Bowls Club



New members welcome for the 2024 season, both novices and experienced bowlers.

There will be two **Open Days** for those who would like to try out the game:

**Saturdays May 11th and 25th
from 2pm to 4pm.**

Just turn up in the day, wearing flat-soled shoes – we provide everything else.

For more information, please contact
Chairman Tony Davenport on
01283 702685
or Secretary – Paul Oakley on
01283 704966



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Dear Parishioners

I'm very excited and privileged to have recently begun as your new parish priest/vicar. By way of introduction, I'm Steve Short and have been quite local for some time having previously been rector of Melbourne, Smisby, Stanton-By-Bridge and Ticknall for the past 7 years.

As I look forward to getting to know everyone over the years that I hope and pray will follow, what do you need to know about me? I am married to Rachel and we are very blessed in having our two children Sophie (13) and Benjamin (almost 10). We are also blessed in having Bramble, our 4-year-old Jack Russell terrier, who I hope you will get to meet on some of the dog walks around the parish – he is very friendly, so please do say hello!

By way of life 'outside' the church (but not always), I have quite a huge obsession with anything Star Wars and very much enjoy the more than occasional bar of chocolate. As I approach 53 years young, I continue to enjoy weight training, something that I have done for over 30 years and in my twenties competed in the sport of powerlifting.

I am also a 'new vicar' in another way – I am the first priest to have responsibility for serving at Willington along with Repton, Foremark cum Ingleby and Newton Solney. In 'Church of England speak', it is part of my task to help create this new group called a 'benefice' and to explore how we worship together and serve our four communities, sharing gifts, skills and time appropriately.

Clearly, there is much to do but it doesn't all have to be done tomorrow. I want to use these first months to properly learn about my new villages and especially to listen to what's going on and then to reflect. I hope that you will get to see me out and about and, given my previous parishes, I already know Mercia Marina well along with the other fabulous eating opportunities that Willington has to offer! I am going to need my weight training to try and maintain a waistline, I feel!

Another community focus for me are the six schools (three independent and three state) that we are blessed in having within our new benefice-to-be. I have been involved with schools for almost 30 years both as a priest and, before my ordination, as a church and community-based youth worker. I greatly enjoyed my time working with my previous schools in Melbourne.

It has been a particular blessing getting to know the fabulous congregation at St Michael's church and I look forward to us continuing to welcome and to serve.

One of my favourite bible quotes is a prophecy and encouragement from almost 3000 years ago where the prophet Joel encourages the 'dreaming of dreams'. Here's to the journey and all the possibilities that lie ahead.

Every blessing,

Steve

What's On May / June

St Michael's Church Library

Wednesday 1st May 10.00 - 11.30 am

There is no charge for borrowing the books, just come along, browse and take away. A good place to meet with your friends for a chat and refreshments.

MAY 2 ELECTIONS

**Mayor of East Midlands County Authority
Police and crime Commissioner for Derbyshire**

St Michael's Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th May, 10am - 12 noon Willington Village hall

Refreshments, Bric a Brac, Cakes, Raffle etc.

MEET AND MAKE FRIENDS

St Michaels 'Meet and Make Friends' will be held from
10.00.am - 12.00 noon on May 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 12, 19, 26

Willington History Group

Robert Mee presents

"Village Lock Up"

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

**Willington Crown Green Bowls Club
Open Days Saturday May 11 & 25, 2- 4 pm**

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PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 14th May, 6.30 pm

PARISH COUNCIL

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



St Michael's Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st June, 10am - 12 noon Willington Village Hall

Refreshments, Cakes, Bric a Brac, Raffle etc.

St Michael's Church Library

Wednesday 5th June 10.00 - 11.30 am

RAFT RACE Saturday June 8th

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 11th June 7.00pm
at The Old School, Castleway



St Michael's Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th July, 10am - 12 noon Willington Village Hall



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(next to Willington Village Hall)

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