



Issue 27

September 2021

# Willaston Newsletter



**Willaston Parish Council**  
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This gives details of Willaston news, Parish Council minutes and other information affecting Willaston.

As the world slowly seems to be returning to normal, the Parish Council hopes you and your families are staying safe and well. A lot has happened in Willaston since the last issue...

## Welcome to Willaston!

The Parish Council would like to welcome all the new Willaston residents – as our village grows so does our community. We hope you enjoy being part of the village and making Willaston a great place to live.

## Lettie Spencer Playing Field

The past year has seen lots of activity in the Lettie Spencer Playing Field.

In October 2020, three pieces of play equipment were replaced in the playground area. These included a tower slide, climbing structure and see-saw. These new items were well received by our younger residents.

New safety matting was installed under each of these new pieces.

New goal nets were installed in March 2021, which replaced the previous damaged ones. We are really pleased with how these have been received, it's great they have seen lots of active use.

August 2021 saw the asphalt resurfacing in the playground area, ball court, path, and entrance drive. Floor graphic games and ball court markings were also added.



New benches have been installed in the playground area.

After a period of closure due to damage, the zip wire is now back in use. The damage was caused by misuse which can be prevented if the zip wire is used appropriately: only one person on the zip wire at a time.

Unfortunately, there have been further acts of vandalism including damage to trees by removing branches and stripping bark. This can cause the tree stress which could lead them to die. Replacement trees can cost approx. £2000. Damage of this kind is never acceptable.

If you see any vandalism taking place, please phone the Police on 101.



**The Playing Field continues to follow an opening schedule which is displayed on the field gates as well as on the Council website.**

## Upcoming Events

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> November at 1:15pm**

**Willaston Act of Remembrance**

*War Memorial, Colleys Lane*

**December – Date TBC**

**Carols on the Green**

*Mike Heywood Green*

## Planning

The Council is a consultee for planning applications submitted within the village.

The Neighbourhood Plan was introduced by referendum in December 2017 and is used by planning officers and inspectors to inform on planning decisions.

The Willaston Neighbourhood Plan is available on the Council website.

## Retiring Parish Clerk

After serving Willaston as Clerk to the Parish Council for the last 15 years, Martin Langhorn is retiring in October 2021.

As well as attending, advising and minuting all meetings of the Council and its various Committees, Martin has been the public face and main contact of the Council, efficiently managing all Council business. He has also put in many hours over and above those expected, especially clearing overgrown allotments!

We thank him for his hard work and dedication, and we wish him the very best and a long, happy, and fun retirement.

## Mrs Edith Ridgway - Honorary Freewoman of Willaston

At an extraordinary meeting of the Council on the 29th of June 2021, the title of Honorary Freewoman was conferred on Mrs Edith (Edie) Ridgway.

A private presentation was made on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at Brookfield House where Mrs Ridgway now resides. Her son and daughter-in-law were present.

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Craig Bailey prior to presenting the certificate and badge, addressed those present with some information on Mrs Ridgway's many achievements.

Mrs Ridgway is well known in the village and has been active in the community for most of her adult life. Her volunteering spans 80 years with many organisations and causes including Willaston Social Club, St Luke's Church, St. John's Church, and the Royal British Legion.

The Honorary Freeman and Freewoman title is the highest honour an individual can receive from local government. With this honour comes a long tradition of formal respect for the individual and recognition for distinction.



## Willaston Pre-School – Reducing the Gap



Willaston Pre-school, a local charity situated at St. John's Church Hall on Wybunbury Rd, is celebrating the recent success of their Covid-19 Recovery Project for Disadvantaged Children, funded by the Cheshire Community Foundation, and led by Jacqueline Piaf, our inspirational manager.

This 8-week project entirely focussed on the variety of needs of our disadvantaged children who had been most adversely affected by the Covid crisis, and enabled our qualified staff to work on a 1 to 1 basis with each child. As a result, their life chances have been enhanced and they have now caught up with their peers.

One delighted parent said "It's been a tough year for everyone but Willaston Pre-school are a credit to the area. Without those ladies, my child would be very different at this point. They have encouraged his personality and helped him grow."

During the summer term, pre-school also enjoyed a summer fair, with hook-a-duck and a barbeque, and of course Sports Day, which was loved by all of the children.

For enquiries about places at our pre-school, which offers excellent early years education for 2, 3 and 4 year olds Monday to Friday, please contact us anytime on 07944 208909 or [willastonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:willastonpreschool@gmail.com).

Find us at [www.willastonpre-school.org.uk](http://www.willastonpre-school.org.uk).

## Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> 2022



The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service in 2022.

Instead of the usual Spring Bank Holiday, there will be an extended Bank Holiday from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, which coincides with the school half-term break.

Willaston Parish Council has created a Platinum Jubilee Committee chaired by Cllr Anna Cutts to co-ordinate how Willaston will celebrate this event,

Please look out for the Survey in October to ask your opinion on the events held in Willaston. The Survey will close on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

The Survey will be available online on the Council's website and Facebook page as well as printed copies in the Book Box and other locations. See the Notice Boards for details.

We are also looking for 3 enthusiastic residents to join the Committee to help make the ideas become a reality. Please indicate on the survey if you want to join us.

## Speeding in the Village



The speed limit in most of the village is 20 or 30. Please be considerate of other residents, children and pets by slowing down, especially on Moorfields, Cheerbrook Road and Wistaston Road.

## Let's keep the buses running!



Just a small plea from village bus users to keep the roads clear enough of parked vehicles so that the buses can still get through.

On Saturday 31 July, no buses could navigate Wistaston Road all day due to vehicles parked almost opposite each other. Bus users had to walk to Crewe Road to catch a bus, which for people with mobility issues or pushing prams or buggies was demanding.

In these unfortunate circumstances, there is nothing to warn anyone that no bus is ever coming, so people wait at the village bus stops needlessly, missing health appointments etc. and eventually giving up.

**Please park considerately.**

## Willaston Charity – Covid Relief Fund

We are delighted to confirm that the Willaston Charity (part of Wybunbury United Charities) has distributed £1,600 of funds to families in the village as part of a Covid-19 relief fund which was set up in May 2020 to give support to households who were under pressure because of the pandemic. Grants of up to £200 were available for those who met the application criteria.

Cllr Craig Bailey and Cllr Keith Ward are the administrating trustees who set up the fund and awarded the grants. They said: "We were aware that as a direct result of Covid-19, there could be many residents and their families who face tough financial pressures, so we felt that setting up a fund for our community would be a positive way of making a difference locally with the money the charity has for Willaston".

## Maurice's Maze

2020 saw the refurbishment of the Maze area on Victoria Mill Drive. This was a long-awaited project as the previous maze installation was worn and aged and in need of an update.

The brief was to make the area safe and low maintenance, introduce planting for added biodiversity, provide seating and a new sculpture as well floor games to interest small children.



After a consultation it was decided to rename this area Maurice's Maze.

This is to honour the late Maurice Jones, Past-Chairman of Willaston Parish Council, and a dedicated councillor for 43 years as well as last full-term Mayor of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council.



Maurice was passionate about providing facilities for younger people, so it is appropriate that this space bears his name. Although the original maze is no longer there, Maurice was keen that the space should still have some form of maze, which has been painted on the floor. A formal dedication ceremony and renaming took place on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## Willaston in Bloom

This year the Council was pleased to bring some colour and interest to the village with many of our beds and planters in use and in full bloom.

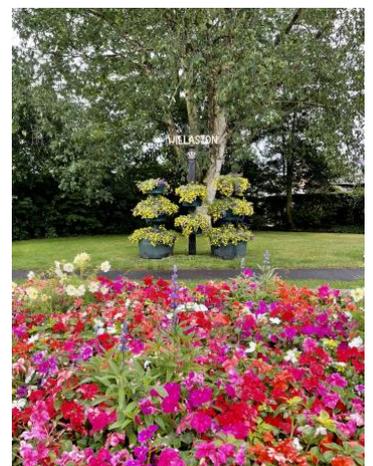
We are extremely fortunate to have residents who have planted and maintained designated planters close to their properties. Thank you - your support is very much appreciated and helps to make the village look extra special.

2020 was a mainly fallow year for civic planters due to the unpredictability and difficulties caused by the pandemic and the numerous restrictions and lockdowns which were in place.

Plans are being prepared to return to a full 'Willaston in Bloom' campaign in 2022 to the level that we have seen in previous years.

We welcome any resident who would like to get involved as our hopeful success is very much dependant on volunteers.

For further information and to get involved, please see [www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk/willastoninbloom.html](http://www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk/willastoninbloom.html) or alternately contact Cllr Craig Bailey.



# Dog Fouling Campaign

Dog fouling has long been a real bone of contention and source of frustration to Willaston residents.

It is clear from residents' feedback that enough is enough, and those dog owners that have not cleared up in the past, need to ensure that they do their duty after their dog has done its business.

In response to resident feedback, in March this year, the Parish Council launched a dog fouling campaign to attempt to address the issue.

Posters have been placed around the village as well as the installation of 4 dog waste bag dispensers which are to help those dog owners who find themselves without a dog waste bag.



**Did you know....** Willaston is fortunate to have 38 public waste bins, 15 are dog waste only and 23 are mixed general litter and dog waste. Wherever you are within the village you are never too far away from a waste bin.

It is good to see the positive response to the campaign over the past few months. The bag dispensers are being used and it does appear that less fouling is present on our pavements and grassed areas around the village.

The Council would like to thank all residents and responsible dog owners for keeping the streets clean and free of dog fouling.

Any continued fouling will be monitored, and information passed onto Cheshire East Civil enforcement where fines of up to £1000 can be issued.



**The dog waste bag dispensers are located at:**

- Wistaston Road / Moorfields Corner
- Coppice Road / Murrayfield Drive Corner
- Park Road / Scout Hut
- Wybunbury Road, outside Lettie Spencer Playing Field

**To remind all dog owners that these bags are for occasional and emergency use. These bags are not replacements for bags which dog owners are required to provide themselves.**

## New Parish Clerk

We welcome Hannah Marr who is joining the Council as Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer in September.

Her contact details will be available on the Council website

[www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

or email her via:

[clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Parish Council

The Parish Council is your local council and the first tier of local government.

The Council meets monthly at St. Luke's Church Hall, Coppice Road. Meetings start at 7.15pm.

**All Willaston residents are welcome to attend and will have an opportunity to ask questions or make a statement during the Open Forum.**

### 2021 Meeting Dates:

28<sup>th</sup> Sep, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct, 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

No meeting in December.

Council documents, meeting minutes, and further information is available on the Council website

[www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

If you wish to get in touch with the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk via

[clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Or contact one of the Councillors below:

### COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

Craig Bailey – Chairman	07510 888952
Colin Todd – Vice Chairman	01270 569241
Emma Angier	01270 668455
Shirley Brazier	01270 569963
Anna Cutts	07771 503228
Rubina Greenwood	07974 225219
Nigel Keegan	07715 043024
Nigel Lane	01270 666675
Frank Morton	01270 661816
Wayne Salisbury	07549 158379
Keith Ward	01270 665659
Julie Webb	07985 131418

Councillor email addresses are available on the website

### CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS:

Willaston & Rope – Allen Gage  
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