

The Willoughby Monthly

Village Web Site: www.willoughbyweb.net

facebook Group: Willoughby Monthly

Volume 14
March
2021

Welcome to the March edition of the WM. What a month February was!! Snow, Ice, lots of rain, and warm weather toward the end of the month. Noticeably getting lighter and plenty of spring flowers coming into bloom. The continuing Covid restrictions and their knock on effects have been getting many of us down. However, yesterday the Covid-19 Response – Spring 2021 document a.k.a. the 'Road Map' was published providing some hope that we will be able to get back to near normal by the middle of the year.

Subject to the detailed guidance being announced it looks as though the Village Hall, our community centre, may be able to re-open as part of Step 2 - 12th April. Sadly, though, during the shut down there has been some damage to the flat roof over the kitchen and lounge areas that will limit how the Hall can be used. Hopefully, the problems can be fixed quickly allowing the village organisations to resume Socially Distant activities just as soon as the restrictions are lifted. More information in the next edition.

It looks as though our early summer events will be able to go ahead and give an opportunity to enjoy the company of family and friends. Please keep the dates in your diary/calendar!!

Finally, there will be a Parish Council meeting on Zoom this month an opportunity to see our council in action (no Jackie Weaver though). Details on the back page.

Richard Jackson

If the COVID 19 regulations change keep an eye on where you will find information on events in the village.

Thursday Club

We are poised for action just as soon as the lockdown ends! In the meantime, as mentioned in last month's Willoughby Monthly, we will not be having an AGM this March, and will stretch the subscriptions for 2020/2021 to cover 2021/2022 as well. Our Treasurer Bert Ogle will prepare accounts for March 2022 to cover both years. Be busy, and keep safe.

Willoughby Women's Institute

Last month we dipped a toe in the world of Zoom meetings!! Thanks to Jackie for hosting it. We hope to be able to meet again in person very soon.

Church

We have had to postpone all services due to the virus and Government restrictions. We are waiting on the announcement about the way out of lockdown before any decisions about reopening are made.

We are going through the procedure to appoint a new vicar. Future plans may include working more closely with the Draycote Benefice (Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Frankton, Birdingbury and Bourton-on-Dunsmore). This is still very much in a consultation phase at the moment. Once more information is available it will be shared.

Barbara Clutton has become the Associate Minister for the Benefice.

Servery/Disabled toilet update.

We are still continuing with plans to revitalise the church by installing facilities. We are looking for a carpenter/joiner who can make a few base units to go in the church. These have to be in keeping with a Grade 2* Listed building and have to be approved by the Diocese. Please contact Karen Nichols (kjndon@aol.com or 07866572209) if you know of anyone who would be able to help us, thank you.

Update on the nave roof.

Hopefully, permission for this work will be granted in the next week or so. This will enable us to submit the grant applications that have been prepared. Even if these are successful, we will still have to raise funds from other sources to match the amount of grants.

If St Nicholas is to survive these times of uncertainty we must move forward with our plans and try to get the funds in place for the nave roof. As yet no decisions have been made about the future of churches. There have been difficult times in our church's past. Historically large-scale building and renovation work has been completed that enabled St Nicholas to continue to serve its community remaining very much a church for the village. A village needs its church.

The PCC need new members. If our church is to survive these challenging times support is vital. Please if anyone thinks they have some time to spare to join our small but committed band contact Karen or any PCC member.

Willoughby Society

We hope that we may be able to resume our activities next month. We need to wait for the detail of what is permitted, and also progress on dealing with the Hall roof problems, but hopefully we may be able to at least hold a meeting. As soon as we can we will arrange a film night, which will be the first of regular screenings. It looks as though the decisions on relaxations will be made a week or two before the target dates. We will email all members as soon as have been able to make firm decisions. In the meantime let Richard know if there is a film that you would particularly like us to screen in the Hall so that we are ready to go just as soon as we are permitted to.

All being well we will be able to hold our Big Lunch Village Picnic on Sunday 6th June which may be the first 'Village Event' able to take place.

We have submitted a bid to Live & Local for an afternoon outdoor performance to be part of the Village Festival. This would be professional performers giving two or more shows. If we are successful it should make the afternoon 'special' and sit well alongside the usual children's races. Two dates are currently on hold for the Festival, 26th June and 3rd July, to maximise the chances of us being successful. We will need some volunteers to help organise the event, please contact Richard if you can help.

Do please keep the Big Lunch and Festival dates free so that you can come along.

Finally, many of you may remember that we had a couple of Hall filling shows by Holy Moly & the Crackers a couple of years ago. If you would like to see them again they are due to play close by at the Fairport Cropredy Festival on Saturday 14th August.

THE CHALLENGE OF "SUMMER" IN SPRING TIME

There's so much talk about summer and what we might be allowed to do. But how do you plan if your "summer" starts in April when many Covid restrictions may still be in place?

Well, The Percival Guildhouse, Rugby's only independent adult education centre, is being pragmatic recognising that we may not be allowed to open our doors to in-house classes at the start of our summer term in April. Also, after being confined at home for so long, many students may need time to adjust to the idea of coming back in.

We hope to be welcoming students back into our St Matthew's Street home by the summer proper. Until then all courses that can be will continue to be run online. We will be pushing back the dates of our popular day schools to the 19th and 26th June, keeping everything crossed that these can happen in person.

At the time of writing details of summer courses are being finalised, including several new courses joining our ever-popular selection of language, art, history, health and craft courses. We've made it much easier to see what you might wish to study by making enhancements to our website. Visitors to www.percival-guildhouse.co.uk can now search by topic gaining easy access to details of courses, including the tutor's name, and the day and time on which a course is held.

We are proud that our student communities have stayed connected through the lifeline of online learning – but how good it will be to meet face-to-face.

Willoughby Parish Council

As Warwickshire County Council only have one person looking after public footpaths, Willoughby Parish Council are looking for volunteers to help maintain the rural footpaths in our Parish. We already have one person who has kindly volunteered.

Willoughby Parish Council are holding a virtual Parish Council Meeting via zoom on Tuesday the 9th of March at 19.30. This will follow the same rules as an actual meeting where members of the public are able to raise points at the start of the meeting and will be limited to speak on the subject for 5 minutes. The public will not be permitted to speak at any other time or be involved in

any discussion, unless invited to do so by the Chair.

If you wish to take part in the virtual meeting, then please contact Mike Thomas for an invitation to join, mike.anthony.thomas@gmail.com.

Would you like to have a weekly Fish & Chip Van stop in the Village ?

There is the possibility of a weekly visit from a Fish & Chip van on a Thursday night. The proprietor would like to know if you are interested so that he can judge whether there is sufficient demand to make a stop here worthwhile. Please call Paul on 07805538414 if you are interested and discuss timing.

Police & Neighbourhood Watch

If you have a domain name (e.g. willoughbyweb.net) beware of phishing emails purporting to come from the China Domain name authority. They claim someone else is claiming ownership and ask for your details!! a close look at their address shows it is a fake. More information and examples of the emails here: <https://hoax-slayer.net/domain-name-application-scam/> (this web site is a good source of information about common internet scams).

Crime prevention: Property marking is a deterrent to burglars and increases the likelihood of stolen items being recovered. Rachel has the Village property marking kit and can mark items. Contact her (see below) to arrange to take smaller items to her or a home visit, in the village, to mark larger items.

Police Community Support Officers for the area is PCSO Joanne Jackson, our Police Constable is PC 978 Andrew Crouch. They can be contacted on 01788 853851 this is the Safer Neighbourhood Team number so will reach a team member on duty quickly. The team also have an e-mail address : rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.uk.

Neighbourhood Watch: Rachel Settle (Co-ordinator) can be contacted by telephone on 01788 823823 (daytime) or 01788 890724 (evening & answerphone) or e-mail neighbourhood.watch@willoughbyweb.net.

Date	Organisation	Event	Venue
06-Jun-21		Big Lunch	Village Hall
26/06/21		Festival Date to be confirmed	Village Hall & Playing Field
03-Jul-21			

Willoughby Monthly

Do let me have your ideas for improving the WM and, of course, any articles/notices you have for your fellow villagers. The deadline for submission of items is always the 15th of the month. Send them to Richard Jackson, tel 891898, Hazeldene, Main Street, e-mail: wm@willoughbyweb.net.