

August 2023

Willoughby Monthly

Village website: www.willoughbyweb.net

Facebook group: Willoughby Monthly

Volume 16

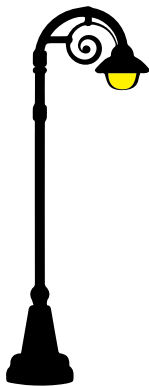


Welcome to August's edition. This month we have a cover star, the wonderful Eileen who lives in our village. One of Eileen's neighbours telephoned me and said I should come and take a look at Eileen's magnificent front garden. Eileen is 91 and has lived in the village for over 50 years. Apart from mowing the lawn, she does all the gardening and planting herself. I think you'll agree it looks absolutely beautiful and is a real asset to our village. I really enjoyed meeting Eileen and chatting to her about her garden and life growing up in the local area. She also inspired me to put a bit more effort into doing my own garden. Eileen's neighbour felt her garden was worthy of an award. I agree, but whilst I have no trophy to give out, I can show recognition for Eileen's talent and effort on here. If you know anyone you feel deserves a mention in the WM then do get in touch as, space allowing, I'd love to be able to include local stories of interest about our fellow villagers. Hannah

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
01-Aug-23	9:30am	W.I	Cotswolds Trip	from Village hall
04-Aug-23	1:30-4:30pm	Church	Summer club	Church
07-Aug-23	12-2pm	Rugby BC	Play Rangers	Playing Field
08-Aug-23	1:30-3:30pm	Church	Art Workshop	Church
08-Aug-23	7:30pm	Parish Council	Meeting	Village Hall
10-Aug-23	2.30pm	Thursday Club	members BBQ	Village Hall
12-Aug-23	2-4pm	W.I	garden party	Hazeldene
14-Aug-23	12-2pm	Rugby BC	Play Rangers	Playing Field
16-Aug-23	2-4pm	W.I	kurling, tea & cake	Barby W.I
19-Aug-23	1-4pm	Church	Activities and cream teas	Church
20-Aug-23	11am	Church	Holy Communion	Church
21-Aug-23	12-2pm	Rugby BC	Play Rangers	Playing Field
23-Aug-23	1:30-4:30pm	Church	Summer club	Church

Parish Council

Upgrading the Street Lighting in the Village



Malcolm Lewis and his team have done a great deal of research into replacing the current street lights with new LED lanterns. As part of this, they have received a competitive quote that is 63% of the quote received from E.ON in December 2021. The Parish Council could meet a proportion of the cost by reallocating funds set aside over the next four years for street light maintenance and replacements, but would also have to raise approximately £7,000 to fund the balance, by way of a grant and/or a loan. Estimates of savings on electricity, due to upgrading to LED lighting, currently range from £500pa to £1,600pa depending on the information source and the period considered. Maintenance costs would be minimal. Once our current, exceptionally low-cost contract for electricity runs out in August 2024, costs are likely to double and may even treble. Residents need to be aware that there are now really only two ways forward: One is to maintain the status quo and continue as we are. This will cost significantly more in the near future as the two remaining concrete

posts are likely to become unsafe and the current sodium lanterns become obsolete. Replacing these piecemeal, as we are doing now, is more expensive than buying and installing new LED lanterns all in one go. The other way forward is to apply for grants, as well as finding out if we could afford to pay for a low-cost loan from the government over a period of three to four years. Malcolm and his small team cannot continue to do this on their own. Residents are needed to provide support to research grants and loan mechanisms. Do you have contacts or knowledge about sources of grants suitable for LED lights upgrades, experience of writing grant applications or information about low-cost or no-cost loans. Can you help? If so, please contact Malcolm on 07340 664610 or at smlewisltd@gmail.com

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 8 August 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

W.I



This month we do not have a speaker. However, we do have the following events:

Tuesday, 1st August, it is our Cotswold Trip with Catteralls, 9:30am pick up at the Village Hall.

Saturday 12th August, is Willoughby W.I. Garden Party at Hazeldene, 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Wednesday, 16th August, we have been invited by Barby W.I. for a Kurling, Tea, and Cake afternoon!!

Please let Lorraine know if you wish to attend, or if you need a lift, for the 12th and 16th events so that catering can be arranged.

Willoughby Cricket Club

With immediate effect it has been decided that **dogs are now completely banned from the entire cricket area** (except assistance dogs). Unfortunately the small minority who do not clean up after their dogs spoil it for everyone else. It is unacceptable and there is no excuse. Neither adults nor children want risk getting covered in dog poo every time they step on the pitch and it can present a serious risk to health. Please respect the club's decision to ban dogs.

Festival Races

Following all the rain we had last year, it was really pleasing to have a fine day this year. Initially I thought we were only going to have a few competitors in the races, both in children's and adults, but very quickly numbers escalated and we even had to split the entries in some races. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and the support for the runners was tremendous. There were over 50 children in attendance again, who all received lovely coronation medals sourced by Leonie Tromans for the Willoughby Society.

The difference from most other years was that almost all the children were between the ages of 3 and 12 years old and all their races were very closely contested, we even had two dead heats in the girls races. More good news was that no-one fell over this year with the exception of the competitors in the three-legged races and sack races.

The most enjoyable race of the day was the first one, with our two 2/3 year olds, namely Zara Norman and Margot Bird taking part. Usually, we struggle to get the little ones to run, but not this year, they ran so well, and then entered almost every other race they could get into, even the children's obstacle race, they loved every minute. Watch out for these two next year.

There were so many children who did really well; Annabelle Hall who won 5, Tilly Nunn, Daniel Ledson, Eddie Heckford, Henry Hiscox, Louis Docherty, Henry Heckford, Charlotte Heckford and James Hall who all won 4 medals, in total 82 medals were given out to children who won races. However, there was a clear winner in the boy's section as Billy Taylor won the trophy with 6 medals, and he even did well in the adult races. It was great to see a lad who was so keen to take part in almost every event that he could. The girl's section was very close and the result finished in a tie between Emily Hiscox and Ellie Barr who both had wonderful afternoons and won 6 medals each. Our adult winner was Heather Hiscox, who had a bad leg but still managed to triumph again, perhaps next year she will get more of a challenge from the other adults, as she has now won the shield three times out of the last four festivals.

The adult Tug of War was as competitive as usual with the men's shield going to Jack, Chris, Jamie, Robin and their secret weapon Ed Beech. The ladies title went to Emily, George, Steph, Ann and Liz in a really close tie.

My thanks to everyone who helped on the day particularly Pat Atkins, Janet Rowley and Izzy Barr, who had the difficult task of identifying all the winners. Also David Thomas and Adam Hiscox who brought the bales and planks for the obstacle race, and Jack Bird, Rob Ledson, Will Heckford, John Heckford, Heather Hiscox, and others who helped me get everyone ready for the races.

We have tentatively earmarked the Festival Day for a week earlier next year on the 22nd of June, so please put it in your diaries, we will confirm it early next year. **Brian Hall**



St Nicholas Church

The build work moves ever closer to completion. We are hoping that by the end of July we can see that phase of our National Lottery Heritage Project complete. We still have activities and events to run to fulfil our obligations. The success of the Heritage weekend with visitors from around the area and abroad enabled us to showcase all our work.

Our community garden is looking beautiful. Please take time to visit and enjoy the peace and solitude.



Recently we have had visitors turning up who have been following St Nicholas Facebook page posts. Four from Canada and one from the north of England in the last few days.

The summer holidays sees St Nicholas host summer clubs with various craft activities, games and making bug hotels.

Explore the churchyard days with opportunities to go up the tower £2 (adults and accompanied children over 13 sensible footwear and reasonable fitness.) There are cream teas being served on August 19th. There is no charge for the children's activities at the church. Jessica Hartshorn is once again running a free art workshop (Thanks to National Lottery Heritage Fund). We look forward to seeing everyone.



Our Harvest Service followed by lunch in the village hall is on Sunday 10th September. Tickets for lunch are £10 this year to include wine. Available soon.

Thursday Club



10 August: 2.30pm Village Hall, Members' BBQ. £5 per head contribution to cost.

Please let Pat Atkins know if you are coming. pat.atkins2609@gmail.com or 01788 891799

New members welcome - just ask the Secretary, Jim Rowley 01788 891 805

Village Hall

We're nearly there!! The kitchen is coming together and looking good! We're also replacing the flooring in the entrance hall as the old floor tiles were becoming a trip hazard. The entrance hall floor will match the kitchen floor. We're looking forward to it being completed very soon and for all our hirers to enjoy using it. Many thanks to Richard and Chris Gunn (contractors) for their sterling work and to you all for your patience whilst the work is in progress.

Police and PCSO

Police Constable - PC Matt Birch and Police Community Support Officer - PCSO David Banks.

The team have an e-mail address: rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.uk If you wish to report a crime please report it via the Warwickshire Police website or phone 101. Obviously, in an emergency please dial 999.

Do let me have your ideas for improving the WM and, of course, any articles or notices you have for your fellow villagers. The deadline for submission of items is always the 15th of the month.

Send them to Hannah at College Farm, Main Street.

Tel: 01788726289

e-mail: thewilloughbymonthly@gmail.com

*Thank
you!*