

January 2024

Willoughby Monthly

Website: www.willoughbyweb.net Facebook group: Willoughby Monthly

Volume 17



A very happy New Year to you all, welcome to our first edition of 2024. I'm actually writing this before Christmas, in the true spirit of Jools Holland's Hootenanny - yes, recorded in December so he can be tucked up in bed on NYE, or whatever it is he does when we think he's doing a live show!

January can be a bleak month, when all the fun and festivities are over and the nights are still long and dark. I was trying to think of January traditions or festivals, but they seem a bit thin on the ground. I did remember a curious one from near where I grew up in Pembrokeshire, in a place called Cwm Gwaun. Here they celebrate New Year on January 13th - Hen Galan - following the old Julian Calendar. Although it was abolished in 1752, people

of the Gwaun Valley resisted the change and celebrate NY two weeks later to this day. Traditionally children go from door to door singing, and are given sweets or money in return.

We've had a really wet autumn and winter so far. Fortunately the shortest day is now behind us and next month we will usually start to see a few early signs of spring, such as catkins and Snowdrops, making their annual appearance to cheer us up. In the meantime, there are a few events in the calendar to look forward to to get us through January. Hannah

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
04-Jan-24	2.30pm	Thursday Club	Games Afternoon	Village Hall
09-Jan-24	7.30pm	Parish Council	Meeting	Village Hall
13-Jan-24	12-2pm	St Nicholas	Soup & Social	Village Hall
14-Jan-24	11am	St Nicholas	Allsorts Service	Church
18-Jan-24	12.30pm	Thursday Club	Pub Lunch - Barby	Arnold Arms
19-Jan-24	7pm	Willoughby Society	Film Night - Mission Impossible	Village Hall
20-Jan-24	2pm	W.I.	Meeting	Village Hall
27-Jan-24	10-12pm	St Nicholas	Coffee Morning	Village Hall
28-Jan-24	11am	St Nicholas	Holy Communion	Church
31-Jan-24	7.30pm	Willoughby Society	Meeting - Alice the Adventurer	Village Hall

St Nicholas Church

A very busy December for the church with events and services gave little time for pause and reflection. We hope you enjoyed our Christmas activities. What an amazing year St Nicholas has had. We have seen our build work completed, interior of church decorated, a new servery and toilet and a community garden created with two lovely benches. Alongside this we have had numerous events and activities, explored and researched our graveyard and the heritage surrounding the church and community. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has supported our endeavours.

Next year we have more activities and events. We have an archaeologist working on a report documenting findings and helping unravel some of the mysteries about our lovely church. The children's choir are lovely to hear and we look forward to more services with them. Also we hope very much to have our Lottery project signed off by Easter. Thank you to all volunteers and all supporters who have helped make St Nicholas once more a part of our community.



In January our soup and socials restart and we are also holding a coffee morning to help raise funds for the Village Hall heating project. Cake donations and bring & buy are welcome as we are doing the coffee morning in aid of the village hall heating fund.



W.I.

Our January meeting will be at 2pm on Saturday 20th January in the Village Hall, when we will have "A Musical Afternoon with Andre Rieu".

Thursday Club

4 January, 2.30pm Village Hall: Games Afternoon.

18 January, 12.30pm Pub Lunch at the Arnold Arms, Barby

New members welcome, ring Jim Rowley 01788 891 805



Willoughby Society

I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and looking forward to a Happy New Year.

Friday Film Nights.

At 7pm on Friday the 19th January 2024, we will be hosting a Friday film night and showing the new Mission Impossible film, starring Tom Cruise. The film is described as the best Mission Impossible film ever, as Ethan Hunt and his team embark on their most dangerous mission yet. The film is rated as suitable. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. A suggested donation of

£5 from non-members to cover the cost of the hall hire. All profits will be donated to the Village Hall boiler fund. The next Friday film night will be at 7pm on Friday 16th February when we will be showing the wonderful film

'The Great Escaper' starring Michael Caine. W/S Meeting. Our Society meeting is at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31 st January 2024 when we welcome back a lady from Leamington Hastings to talk about 'Alice the Adventurer'. Around 400 years ago the story of Alice and Robert was on everyone's lips. Their tale is one of the rich and famous, politics, religion, bigamy and family love, legal battles and generosity. The talk tells their tale which will take us to some amazing places in Warwickshire, from tiny, picturesque villages to a ruined castle and a stately home restored to its former elegance. Non-members are welcome.



Music Event.

Our first Live and Local show is on Saturday, 3rd February 2024 at 7.30pm when we will welcome a Folk Duo called Filkin's Drift to Willoughby. Described as 'hugely entertaining' and 'Utterly mesmerising', they are a contemporary folk duo with stories of life as musicians at Glastonbury and the Common Wealth Games opening ceremony, weaving together Traditional and Contemporary Folk. Tickets are £15 and available from Leonie Tromans 07527 156920, secretaryengxiii@aol.com or other committee members Val Taylor,



Ann Bojko, Emily Ledson, Joanne Lewis and Val Baxter.

As with our Christmas show, there will be a bar offering a variety of Red and White wine, Beer, Lager, Cider and soft drinks at very reasonable prices. You can still bring your own drinks if you prefer something else.

Village Hall

A HUGE thankyou to all who have donated (or are planning to!) towards the cost of the new heating system. The village hall committee are very grateful and it's wonderful to see our community pulling together - thankyou all.

Parish Council

Upgrading Street Lighting to LED

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has approved the loan for £15,000 from the Public Works Loan Board. Electricity Network Contractors Ltd has been awarded the contract. The necessary work should take place early in 2024. As noted before, the street lighting upgrade will be self-funding from the savings on electricity and maintenance of the existing lights. There will be no increase in the precept relating to the upgrade. For further information, please go to the Parish Council website - news.

Review of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

The review of the NDP was approved at the Rugby Borough Council meeting on 13 December 2023. The modified plan (October 2023), together with the document showing the changes, is now on the Parish Council website under Plans/Surveys.

Warwickshire County Council - New Councillor

Following the election on 14 December 2023, Dale Keeling was elected as the councillor for Dunsmore and Leam Valley. We congratulate him on his success and look forward to working with him for the benefit of residents in Willoughby.



Notices

Following the example of others, Elizabeth Woolf decided not to send Christmas cards to the village this year but to contribute to the Village Hall appeal instead. With belated Christmas greetings she sends best wishes for the New Year. May it bring peace in our troubled world.

Happy
New Year

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.

The deadline for submission of items is always the 15th of the month. Send them to me at thewilloughbymonthly@gmail.com Tel: 01788 315893 or drop into me at College Farm on Main Street and I will do my best to fit them in.

Thank You