

Community Café at Hadlow Road Station

Did you know that a pop up café take place at Hadlow Road Station on one or two Sundays each month? Why not call in for bacon batches and toasted teacakes between 10.30am and 1.30pm. The next café open date is always on our website.



Planning

A key item at every Society meeting is to look at the latest planning applications in our area and submit comments to the Council.

Our general principles in commenting are:

- ◆ to protect the Green Belt area around Willaston so that we remain a rural community;
- ◆ to preserve the Conservation area within the village and maintain its unique character.

A more detailed document explaining how we respond to planning applications is available on the planning page of our website.

In the past few months, we issued a detailed objection to the application by McCarthy and Stone to build a retirement housing complex on the old Royal British Legion site. Our Planning Officer, Barry Vowles, spoke at the Council's Planning meeting, along with Cllr Myles Hogg and Iain Henrys and these proposals we were delighted that this application was refused. We are now waiting to see if an appeal or new application will be made.

We have also commented on many other planning applications including ones to build three new houses on the site of the garage on Hooton Road and proposals to build stables and accommodation for an equine worker on New Hey Lane.

A monthly planning report, detailing the applications made and our submissions to the Council Planning Department is available on our website: willastoninwirralresidents.org

What is the Residents' Society?

As Willaston does not have a Parish Council, the Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society was formed to:

- Protect and improve the environmental amenities of the village and its surroundings;
- Preserve and encourage village cultural and social activities;
- Represent the views of the village and monitor matters of common interest.

Anyone who lives within a radius of two miles of the village green is automatically a member of the society. The committee are all volunteers who give our time freely and do not claim expenses. A full list of our committee members, our constitution and minutes of our meetings can be seen on our website.

How Can I Get Involved?

If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, the first 15 minutes of each meeting is open to any resident to discuss issues with us. Residents are also welcome to attend the rest of our meetings, as observers. Please contact us if you would like to attend. You can use the 'Contact Us' page on the our website. Alternatively, you can write to us c/o The Chair, 11 The Courtyard, Willaston CH64 2UT.

We keep a list of volunteers that we contact periodically if there are roles that we need people to fill or one-off opportunities for volunteering in the village. If you would like to help out, in big ways or small, let us know and we will add you to our volunteering list.

 [/willastonresidents](https://www.facebook.com/willastonresidents)
Website: willastoninwirralresidents.org



Willaston Matters



WILLASTON
Residents' and Countryside Society

Issue Six– October 2018

Free to Willaston residents

Funded by CWAC New Homes

Bonus Community Fund

WILLASTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Willaston to Shine Brightly

Well it's been an action filled few months but YOU DID IT! We've now raised just over £18,500 thanks to the amazing generosity of our villagers and friends, and that's enough to buy and install new lights for the tree on the Green. But we're not done yet! There's ongoing maintenance costs that we as a village will have to pay for, so the work continues.

If you haven't yet sponsored a Willaston star then there's still time to get your dedication message in for this year's book. The dedication book closes on Monday 22nd October in time

for it to be displayed in the Methodist Chapel in December. For more information email hohoho@willastonchristmaslights.co.uk, visit willastonchristmaslights.co.uk or call 07719 009770.

So how was it achieved? With the help of many people, events and much more. Starting in June with bell ringing & breakfast at Christ Church, followed by a sold out afternoon tea provided by the Willastonhey WI in August. At the end of September, we saw Willaston & South Wirral Rotary host a quiz night at the Memorial Hall - another sold out event! And individual villagers held both a coffee morning & a Pimms afternoon, all for this good cause.

The future's looking exciting too - there's still the Methodist Chapel's children's crafting day and a family film night on Saturday 27th October. And the final fundraising event will be the annual soup lunch hosted by the Memorial Hall Trustees on Saturday 17th November, with the proceeds of the raffle going towards the lights appeal.

The Willaston & South Wirral Rotary are organising the Village Light Switch On and possibly a visit from a very special man on his sleigh on Monday 3rd December - come and celebrate all the hard work.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed from individuals to community groups and businesses. It has been your support, positivity and sheer community spirit that has made this happen.



This year the lights will shine more brightly than ever before.

Photo: credit: Karl Hannigan

Supported by Willaston Residents' & Countryside Society

In Brief

Willaston Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall needs new trustees to help manage this important village facility. Roles include Chair, Vice-Chair and Bookings Secretary. If you would be interested in finding out more about what the roles involved, contact Doreen Francey on 0151 327 4492.

Willaston GP Surgery

In a recent national survey on GP surgeries, the Willaston practice was rated higher than average on every measure. Overall, it came 789th out of over 7100 practices in the country. Well done!

Merseyrail Line Closures

Work is starting across the Merseyrail network and closures are planned as follows:

- 24th December to 3rd January – rail loop under the River Mersey
 - 2nd to 22nd March – Rock Ferry to Hooton. A shuttle rail service will continue to operate between Hooton and Chester/Ellesmere Port.
 - 25th March to 2nd April – Chester to Hooton. At this time there will also be a reduced timetable between Hooton and Rock Ferry.
- Replacement bus services will run whenever rail services are closed.

Horses on the Road

We have been contacted by a resident concerned about vehicles passing horses on the road. Please remember:

- Slow down to a maximum of 15mph;
- Be patient - don't sound your horn or rev your engine;
- Pass the horse wide and slow (at least a car's width)
- Drive slowly away

Useful Contact Numbers

There is a list of useful local contact numbers, including Council departments on our website. Scroll to the bottom of the home page to access it.

willastoninwirralresidents.org

 [Willastonresidents](https://www.facebook.com/Willastonresidents)

Councillor's Column

Ellie Myles Hogg writes:



What a memorable and busy summer we have had in Willaston. The weather has been brilliant and many fundraising events have been held for the new Christmas lights - well done and thanks to the many of you who have helped raise the magnificent total of £18,500 to date. This will ensure that the lights will adorn our tree to help us celebrate Christmas this year.

The application to build 35 retirement homes on the Royal British Legion site was refused by the Council's Planning Committee who voted 8 to 1 against as I, and many others considered it to be totally out of keeping with the surroundings.

Stewart Milne building company will soon finish decontamination work on the grounds next to Hooton Station and begin building 265 homes and a 65-bed care home on the site.

My councillors' fund has helped some of these endeavours and several more.

Many residents contact me regularly over housing, highways and environmental matters of concern to them. I always do my best to assist in any way I can, even if I do not always succeed in my efforts. Please keep contacting me with your suggestions as to how our Council can help improve our village and its surroundings.

The details of my monthly surgeries are published in the Village Noticeboard and on the Residents' Society website, my phone number is 0151 327 4096 and my email address is myles.hogg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.



Charity Christmas Card Fair

Saturday 3rd November 2018

10am—12 noon

Willaston Memorial Hall

Admission £1 including refreshments

Raffle



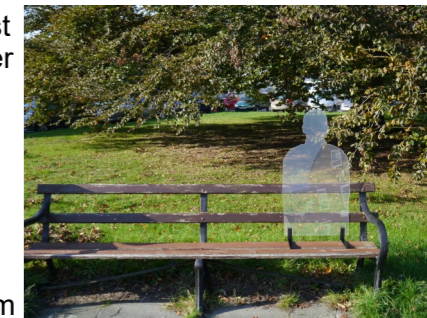
WW1 Commemoration Weekend 9th-11th November 2018



WILLASTON

Willaston will be commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War with a programme of activities designed both to remember those in our village who lost their lives and celebrate those who returned at the end of hostilities.

At the end of October, silhouettes will appear in public places throughout the village to represent those that did not return, and a Commemorative Walk will be available describing Willaston in 1918 and telling the stories of some of those from our village who died during the war. This village walk will be available on our website from 28th October.



A series of events takes place over the weekend as follows:

- Concert featuring Alex McMillan on the organ and the City of Chester Male Voice Choir – Friday 9th November at 7.30pm at Christ Church. Tickets £12 (including a glass of wine) available from Jill Lessels (0151 327 1283), Alan Roberts (0151 327 4600) or White Feather Home.
- Film – Oh What A Lovely War – Saturday 10th November at 7pm at the Methodist Chapel. Entrance is free but a ticket is needed, available from Jill Lessels or Sheila Smith (0151 327 7400).
- Children's Art session – Saturday 10th November from 9.30 -5pm at the Methodist Chapel. This will feature WW1 work already done by local children but will also encourage others to contribute. The Chapel will also be open on Sunday 11th November for viewing the work.
- Exhibition about Willaston in 1914-1925, showing the effects of the war on our community. Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th November from 11am to 3pm in the Memorial Hall.
- The parade and commemorative service will take place on Sunday 11th November with the two minutes' silence held by the war memorial at 11am, followed by a service in Christ Church. The parade will then walk up to Hadlow Road Station before being dismissed.
- Celebratory event at Hadlow Road Station from 12.30pm to 3.30pm featuring music and entertainment from the era, along with poems and WW1 letters sent home being read.

The weekend's activities have been put together by a community sub-group led by Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society, working with representatives from Christ Church, Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group, Royal British Legion, Willaston Festival Society, Willaston Methodist Chapel, Lest We Forget Research Group, 1st Willaston Scout Group and Girlguiding Wirral Heritage Advisers. All profits from the weekend will go to The Poppy Appeal.

Willaston in 1918

In 1918, Willaston was significantly smaller, with a population of 806 people, compared to 2800 now. A lot of the housing you can see today was fields or farmland and more than half the buildings that existed were farm buildings.

There was no GP practice - a doctor came from Neston and had to be paid for; the school building was on the Green where the beech tree now grows; the mill was working and Hadlow Road Station had a regular train service.



It is believed that 148 men from Willaston served in the war. 34 people are listed on the village War Memorial as having lost their lives and two others died shortly after the war. Private Arthur Maiden (pictured) went to the village school. His mother lived in Gladstone Terrace and his father was a railway platelayer who was killed in 1903 when working near Hooton Station. He was sent to France and died aged 22 on 30th July 1916 in the Troones Wood fighting on the first day of the Battle of Guillemont at the Somme. He is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial and also on his parents grave in the churchyard.

Visit the exhibition to learn about all the men listed on the war memorial.