

## *New Café at Hadlow Road Station*

Building work has started at the Station Master's House at Hadlow Road Station. These will take several months to complete, following which a commercial café will open. This will operate alongside the current community pop-up café run by Friends of Hadlow Road Station.



## *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.

Over the past few months, we have put in a number of detailed objections to planning applications, including:

- Plans from McCarthy and Stone to build retirement apartments on the former British Legion site
- Plans to make the Green Acres Caravan Park permanent. Approved despite our objections.
- Plans to build six houses at Hanns Hall livery. Approved despite our objections.

The appeal for the McCarthy and Stone application was dismissed and we are now waiting to see if a new application is put in for this site. We will respond to any new application in line with our guidelines.

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

[willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://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 the defined area marking the borders of Willaston shown on our website 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 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](http://willastoninwirralresidents.org)



# *Willaston Matters*

Issue Eight - March 2020

Free to Willaston residents

Funded by CWAC New Homes Bonus Fund



**WILLASTON**  
Residents' & Countryside Society

## *New Logo*



We hope you like our new logo. The WR&CS team designing it spent some time thinking about what features are important to Willaston and drew up a long list.

After much debate, the logo retains the mill as its focus. It also represents both village greens, by using the copper beech tree and the millstone, together with some fencing to retain the theme of the countryside.

The new version is clearer and sharper than the previous one, so more suitable for the digital world we now live in. It is also adaptable to a range of uses including small and large versions, badges, labels and banners.

We are grateful to Sophie Jones, founder of Saunders and Jones Graphics who offered her professional graphic design skills to interpret our thoughts and finalise this design.

## *Post Office Update*

Since announcing the closure of Martins, WR&CS has been working closely with the Post Office to provide an alternative service. We are still optimistic that in the long term, a permanent Post Office will be provided again in the village. There is an interested party who is submitting an application but this will take several months to approve.

Meanwhile, we have arranged for a temporary outreach Post Office in the Memorial Hall committee room.

This will be open from Tuesday 24th March as follows:

**Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm**  
**Thursdays 10am - 12 noon**

WR&CS would like to thank the Post Office for continuing to support provision in the village and the Memorial Hall committee for making this provision possible.



The first village school was built on the Green in 1859, opposite the Red Lion. It consisted of one room, with two further rooms added in 1877. In 1930, this school was demolished and replaced by the current school next to Johnston Recreation Ground due to increasing numbers of pupils.

## Mobile Library

It was recently brought to WR&CS' attention that our three-weekly mobile library service would not be operating on several Mondays in 2020 either because there is a Bank Holiday or the van was scheduled for servicing.

After bringing this to the attention of the Council, the timetable for servicing was altered so the service in Willaston is not affected.



The dates for the mobile library for the rest of the year are:

- 23rd March
- 4th May
- 15th June
- 6th July
- 27th July
- 17th August
- 7th September
- 28th September
- 19th October
- 9th November
- 30th November
- 21st December

## 22 Bus Service

Many thanks to all residents who emailed the Council in response to the loss of the 22 bus service. WR&CS was delighted with the support and as a result, we are pleased that the council has persuaded Stagecoach to run alternative buses through Willaston from 16th March 2022. This interim arrangement will last until September 2022 and in the meantime, the Council will work with Merseytravel to review their routes in order to find a more sustainable solution.

The Council has allocated money to subsidise these routes so it is vital that residents use them regularly, if they are to remain after September 2022.

Buses will go to Chester from the Nags Head at 07:53, 09:58; 11:58; 13:58; 15:58 and 17:58 and to West Kirby at 07:37; 09:56; 11:52; 13:52; 15:52 and 17:52 on Monday to Friday.

On Saturdays, the times to Chester are 09:58; 11:58; 13:58; 15:58 to Chester and 09:52; 11:52; 13:52 and 15:52 to West Kirby.



## Play Area Update

Thank you to everyone who has supported our various funding activities for a new piece of equipment in the village. We have now raised over £10,000. Working with the Council, we have put in an application to FCC Community Fund for the remaining £20,000 and should know the result of that in June. If we are successful, the new piece of equipment will be installed in the Autumn. If we are not, we will identify other funding sources to apply to for the money.



## Focus on Willaston Meadow

### Where is Willaston Meadow?

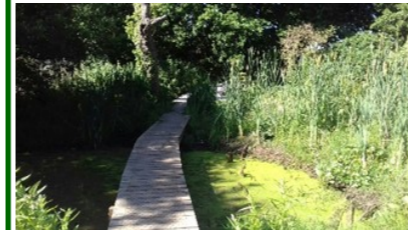
Willaston Meadow is off Johnston Recreation Ground at the opposite side to the school. There are three entrances onto the Meadow, one of which is Jackson's Pond. The Meadow is open to anyone to come and visit at any time. It is a tranquil place in which to enjoy the natural world and find peaceful relaxation.



### What is Willaston Meadow?

The Meadow was named on the Tithe Map of 1848 and was probably always a traditional hay meadow. It is mainly neutral grassland, which is one of the rarest habitats in Cheshire. It has a rich flora including orchids and has been planted with yellow rattle to help manage the grasses. A wide variety of butterflies visit and 36 species of birds were counted in 2019.

As well as the meadow area, there are two ponds, a wooded area and a community orchard.



The ponds were originally Marl pits. Marl is a calcium-rich deposit which is found under much of Cheshire and which, when spread over the surface adds nutrients to the soil. Great Crested Newts have been found in Jackson's Pond.

The other pond is known as Dead Man's Pond. We believe this was named by local schoolchildren, because it is in a dark area and does not have a gruesome story to tell!

The wooded area was largely planted by Willaston school children and is now called School Wood. It contains a variety of native trees. The school now has a Forest School close to Dead Man's Pond, to facilitate teaching the children about the natural world.



The orchard was established in 2004 with the support of local Women's Institutes. Most of the trees are old varieties, some associated with Cheshire. The fruit is available to the local community to come and pick when it is ripe.

## Help Support the Meadow

The Friends of Willaston Meadow was formed in 2004 and manages the area in association with the Council. You can get involved by:

- Joining us on our volunteer days on the first Sunday of the month. We meet at 10.15am and cut down brambles, clear the ponds and do some planting.
- We urgently need more committee members, particularly a Treasurer. This is not a difficult role but needs someone with a basic knowledge of accounts.
- Become a member. This only costs £4 a year for an individual or £6 for a family.



For more information, go to the Friends' page on the WR&CS website: [Willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://Willastoninwirralresidents.org). Contact us through the website or via Facebook /friendswillastonmeadow or by ringing 0151 327 4793.