

## Willaston in 1951

*Willaston Women's Institute created a scrap book in 1951, which tells us about the village and its history. The information below are snippets from the scrapbook to draw a picture of Willaston in 1951 and are mainly direct quotes.*

### **Notes on the Farms**

- 1. Corner House Farm** - Now lived in and farmed by the Pollard family.
- 2. Broadlake** - Now a dwelling house.
- 3. Laburnum Farm** - The house now contains a hairdresser, a chiropodist, a butcher's shop. It was also used as the Doctor's surgery till it moved to the Red X HQ. Where Lloyds garage now is, was the farmyard and where Church Hall now is, the Stackyard.
- 4. The Home Farm** - Used as the greengrocers shop since 1944.
- 5. Cherry Brow** - No information about its usage in 1951.
- 6. Leech's Farm or Pear Tree Farm** - Now the Midland Bank.
- 7. White House Farm** - Occupied by Mr Mulreay and a farm no longer.
- 8. Church Farm** - Now without land and lived in by Mrs Wood, sister-in-law of Miss Wood.
- 9. Town Field Farm** - The Farm House was pulled down to widen the corner opposite The Nag's Head. Farmed by Mr Dutton.
- 10. Hales Farm** - No information about its usage in 1951.
- 11. Hanns Hall Farm** - House pulled down and land farmed by J. Bibby and Sons Ltd.
- 12. Seidloom Farm** - A comparatively new house, now farmed by Mr. C. Argyle.

### **The Smithy**

The Smithy lies between Miss Millington's Cottage and the Hadlow Road. The present smith is Mr Stanley Ashton, verger at Christ Church, Willaston, as was his father before him.

## **The Red Lion**

It has been the home of Mr J.W. Moss since 1902.

## **The Lydiate**

Mr and Mrs W.R. Glazebrook live there and they have proved themselves very kind and generous friends to this Township since 1922.

## **Willaston War Memorial Hut**

For many years the Institute and the War Memorial Hut have been managed by the Committee of the Willaston Village Society, which was formed after the Armistice in 1918 ... This Society has recently been dissolved and has transferred all its assets to the *Willaston Memorial Institute Council* whose purpose is (in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants expressed at sundry village meetings) that the existing (1918) War Memorial Hut, which (having served its purpose well) is now in a poor state of repair, shall in due course be replaced by an extension to the Village Institute, providing better and more permanent accommodation.

## **Craftsmen**

This village being almost purely agricultural has no village crafts, with the exception of the beautiful wrought iron work done by Mr Stanley Ashton, the Blacksmith.

## **Council**

In 1933, Willaston was transferred to the Neston Urban District Council. The present representatives on the Council are Mr C.L. Overton, Mr G. Webster and Mrs O.M. Halewood.

## **Organisations**

### **1. Willaston Women's Institute**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1920, a meeting was called to discuss whether a Women's Institute should be started in Willaston. The first General Meeting was held in the Nag's Head Club Room and that afternoon sixty-one members were enrolled with Mrs Todd as first President ... the Institute still possesses three members who served on the first Committee – Miss Clayton, Mrs Cox and Miss Sherlock.

In April 1927, the new Hall became the permanent home of the WI, except for the interval of the war years... Since January 1921, meetings have been held regularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month.

At the present time, two WI members, Miss Clayton and Mrs Herschell, have had the honour of working on a great piece of tapestry designed by the Women of Canterbury, portraying the work of women in the 1939-45 War and this is for future exhibition in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Another outstanding event in the history of Willaston WI was the success of the Choir who were chosen to go to London, after an inter-County competition, to sing as part of a massed choir at the Albert Hall with the London Symphony Orchestra, under the conductorship of Sir Adrian Boult, in Vaughan Williams' 'Festival of the Four Seasons'. This took place in June 1950.

## **2. Mothers' Union (Willaston Branch)**

This Branch belongs to the South Wirral Deanery. The members meet once a month when they hear an address from a special speaker to help them in their spiritual life and in the right up-bringing of their families.

They have a Corporate Communion once a month and occasional Deanery and Diocesan Services.

The monthly meetings are now held in the Church Hall. Willaston is linked to the Branch at Auckland, New Zealand, this link was formed through the late Canon Wilkinson, whose Parish it was for some years. The members of this lined branch correspond with the members of the Willaston Branch and have sent many generous gifts of food during and since the war.

Summer meetings have been held at Willaston House and the Lydiate and small Bring and Buy sales have been organized to pay for the education of a little African boy for whose education Members of the Willaston Branch have made themselves responsible.

Latterly Summer outings have been organized, and these have been greatly enjoyed by the Members who are now sixty in number. The present Enrolling Member is Mrs Muir.

## **3. British Legion (Willaston-in-Wirral Branch)**

The Willaston Branch of the British Legion, which has two hundred men and women members, was founded in 1935.

Its main responsibility is for the arrangements for the Remembrance ('Poppy') day collections and for administering benefits from National (Poppy Day) Benevolent Funds and from its own Benevolent Fund (including the 'Salute the Soldier' Fund).

#### **4. Willaston-in-Wirral (British Legion) Services Club Limited**

A company formed under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893. The objects of the Company are defined by its rules as: 'To carry on the business of a Club by providing for the use of its members the means of social intercourse, mutual helpfulness, mental and moral improvement, rational recreation and the ordinary advantages of a Club; also to advance that comradeship which sprang up whilst the members were serving their country.' Members of the Willaston Branch of the British Legion are eligible for full membership. A limited number of Honorary Members, not otherwise eligible to full membership is accepted, but a dominant majority of the Committee of Management must be members of the Willaston Branch of the British Legion.

#### **5. Willaston Red Cross Detachment**

In the Spring of 1947 the detachment moved into a building which became their Headquarters. This building, owned by the late Mr U. Farr, between the Bank and Barnes' butcher's shop, was formerly a grocer's store. The detachment undertakes the duties of the doctor's surgery three times a week, to the mutual satisfaction of the doctors, detachment members and general public.

In 1948 the Infant Welfare Clinic was started. Detachment members and members of the Township Committee help in this work in conjunction with the Welfare Officer and Doctor. An infra red lamp was obtained so that treatment could be given at headquarters under doctor's orders and also massage. The National Car Service Reserve was also started about this time. Members of the detachment with cares volunteered to drive cripple patients requiring regular treatment to and from hospital.

One of our members, Mrs Evans took over command in 1950 and fulfilled the duties of Commandant for two years. During her time in office the detachment took on one more duty that of the National Hospital Service Reserve. Members volunteered to train in hospital for 80 hours a year so as to be ready and experienced in case of another National Emergency.

With a view to the future and in order to promote and further the work of the Red Cross Society, a Girls' Cadet Unit was formed in 1949.

#### **6. Willaston Girl Guides**

In 1948, the Company was revived by Mrs T.W.B. Brodbelt, Miss Joan Pugh and Miss P. Moss being the Lieutenants.

The highlight of every year is camping and this year they camped at Ddangae, Loggerheads.

The Chief Guide, Lady Baden Powell officially toured Cheshire in October 1949 and at Rock Ferry she addressed 1,200 Guides at which the Willaston Company was fully represented, also two Guiders, a Brown Owl and four Brownies.

There is a County Training Camp held yearly and the present Captain attended this in 1949 and 1950, accompanied by the Guiders in the latter year.

Funds have been raised for the Company since it was last revived, by a Coffee Morning and Sale of Work, resulting in a nett profit of £67 8s 6d and this year £15 was raised by a collection of empty jam jars.

Last year (1950) the Company with their Captain, Mrs T. W. B. Brodbelt had a very successful picnic on Hilbre Island.

### **7. 1st Willaston B.P. Scouts**

There is now an active group consisting of Cubs, Scouts and Seniors. They have their own headquarters and complete camp equipment.

This year (1951) they won fourth place in the Senior Scouts Week-end Adventure Competition; open to the whole country; and have just returned from their annual fortnight's camp at Nevin, N. Wales. The present Group Scoutmaster is Major Wilmot Welch.

### **8. Willaston Brownies**

In 1948 the Brownie pack was formed under Mrs T. Bigland and the following year Mrs N. Wood became Brown Owl.

An active Pack of Brownies exist in the village, and although separate from the Guides, there is much good will and sisterly feeling between the two.

### **9. Horticultural Society**

The Horticultural Society has been running for at least 30 years (with the exception of the war years). It was revived after the war, with Mr C.K. Adams as Hon. Secretary and held in the Church Hall and continues to flourish.

### **10. Badminton (Badmington)**

There are three flourishing Bandmington Clubs – The Wednesday Club has been running for 18 years and is affiliated to the Badmington League. They all play at the Institute.

## **11. Bowls**

At the Nag's Head.

## **12. Homing Society**

This club was started by Mr J.A. Thorburn in 1915 and he has been its President ever since – 36 years. It is a small club of 14-15 members, very happy and united, extremely well run on business lines. It is amalgamated with the W. Cheshire Federation and the NW Combine. The latter sending as many as 5000 birds to France at a time. It has two or three shows at the Institute during the winter and it pays its way.

## **13. Cricket Club**

This old club has been revived since the war. Hon. Sec. Mr. A. Griffiths.

## **14. Tennis Club**

The Neston Council has just provided tennis courts in the Recreation Ground.

## **15. Willaston and District Angling Society**

Formed approximately 18 years ago. The membership consists of 25 to 30 men. They fish the Rivers Severn, Dee, Weaver, Shropshire Union Canal and many lakes. They are affiliated to the Chester and District Angling Association.

They have won several Chester Trophies and the Club still flourishes with Mr Tom Smith as Hon. Secretary.

## **16. The WI Drama Group**

They play a leading part in Drama in the village. They are a large Group and put on two shows in the Winter, in which sons and husbands of WI members take part.

## **Agricultural Science**

### **1. Bibby's Farm**

This very important experimental farm is visited daily by numerous parties of people from all over the country. Science of feeding and diseases, particularly of chickens, but also cows and pigs, is studied in the laboratory.

## **2. The University of Liverpool Veterinary Field School**

This is housed at Leahurst. It holds 25 students and is always full. Professor J.G. Wright is in charge.

## **3. Cheshire Forests Ltd**

Native Timber Merchants and Sawmillers. This is an extensive business and they are the inventors and manufacturers of the Gorwood Gate.