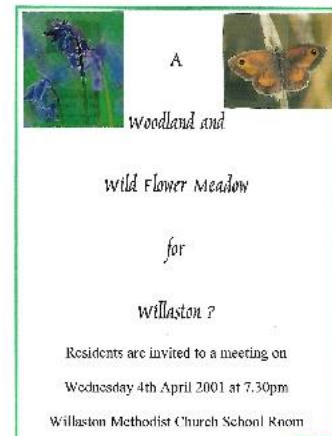


Friends of Willaston Meadow

In 2000, the Residents' Society hoped to plan a wood to celebrate the Millennium and the Big Meadow, adjacent to the Recreation Ground was identified as a potential site. However, a botanical survey in June 2000 revealed the land to be mostly neutral grassland (unimproved for agriculture) and consequently rich in native flora such as pignuts, yellow rattle and knapweed. Therefore, the plan changed to develop a woodland together with wildflower meadow, in order to preserve this rare habitat.

A public meeting was held on 4th April 2001 and the proposals were met with approval and a steering group formed. The land was owned by Cheshire County Council but was leased to the Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council in a joint management arrangement with the Residents' Society.



In 2002, Willaston won its class in the Best Kept Village and an ash tree was part of the prize. This was planted by Cllr Myles Hogg at the far entrance to the Meadow.

In December 2002, Groundwork Wirral organised a poetry class about trees for some of the children at Willaston Primary School and the following week they helped plant a hedge.



Happy and cheerful, blowing in the wind.
On windy days they shiver.
Roots shoot out of the bottom.

Sunshine makes trees grow.

Every tree needs water to live.

Cold air makes trees move.

Hot sunshine is good for trees.

Everyone likes trees.

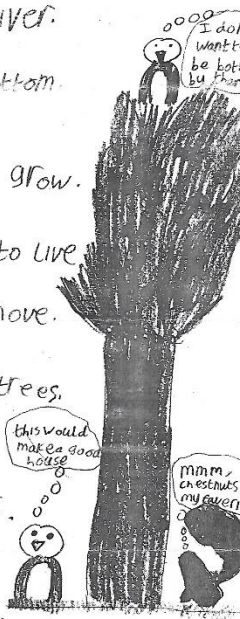
Standing with other trees.

Trees are bare in winter.

Nuts grow on some trees.

Under some trees are animals

Trees are brilliant.



The life of a tree.

Start off as a seed

A little shoot pops out

Look how big its grown

Green leaves shouting out

Now I need to water it

In the summer it gives lots of shade

Autumn times the leaves fall off

Winter times it looks so bare

Spring times "well" blossom grows

Its getting old now but I still love it

Animals gather round it for their home

Birds build their nests

Squirrels race along the branches

Woodpeckers peck their holes

Now its died but its made lots of paper and wood

I'm now growing another one



In 2004, Willaston won the Community Pride competition organised by Cheshire Community Council and a wild cherry tree was planted on the site.

A public meeting was held on 3rd November 2004 to establish the Friends Group. The original members were:

- Hilary Morris (Chair)
- David Nind (Secretary)
- Max Kirby (Treasurer)
- David Morris (Newsletter Editor)
- Elaine Mills
- Pam Irving



From 2003 to 2012, local school children helped to plant trees in the area now known as School Wood.



In March 2004 an orchard, initially of nine apple trees was established with the support of the three local Women's Institutes. All of the trees flowered the following spring and seven trees had fruit – one tree 'Sussex Mother' had an amazing 11lbs.





In 2006, an ash tree was planted in memory of Roger Ainsley.

In April 2007, local cub scouts helped to plant seeds.



In 2008 Rainbows came to the meadow and were inspired to draw pictures.

