



WILLASTON

Residents' & Countryside Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

11th March at 7.15pm - Willaston Methodist Hall

Officers present: Brian Greenhalgh (Vice Chair), Vicky Spraggon (Treasurer), Sue Hunter (Secretary), Margaret Smyth (Footpaths), Hilary Booth (Publicity), Ceri Jones (Social Media).

Committee Members present: Councillor Myles Hogg, Barry Vowles, Susie Dixon, Lyn Jackson-Eves, John Fisher, Annette Troake, Roy Spraggon, Fiona Mosley, Sheila Smith, Sandar Kettiros, Rob King,

Two observers attended the meeting, they were Peter Farrall & Eileen Kewin.

Committee Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Sue Unsworth, John Woodrow, Madeline Hughes, Jane Townsend, Viv Ley, Helen Mayles.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting - 22nd January 2024

No issues were raised & they were approved by Roy S. & seconded by Ceri Jones.

4. Actions / Issues arising from previous meetings

See Appendix 1 (pg. 7) for Actions carried/brought forward from this & previous meetings.

5. WR&CS moving forward

N.B. Barry V. requested a correction relating to the discussion document distributed at the last meeting regarding the existing structure of WR&CS. It should have said that: WR&CS is the only pan-village organisation and was intended (as the name implies) to represent all the residents “within the old parish boundary” rather than the ‘village boundary’.

5.1 Feedback from Organisation Representatives

The feedback from the individual groups was as follows:

5.1.1 WI - Susie D. advised us that members were not prepared to comment until more information was provided.

5.1.2 Horticultural Society - Lyn JE advised us that she had not received any feedback.

5.1.3 Football - John F. advised us that he had only received a minimal response with no favoured view presented.

5.1.4 Rotary - Fiona M. advised us that the majority of members had voted for a Parish



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Council (PC).

- 5.1.5 Meadow - Fiona M. advised us members had felt the discussion doc. was biased towards a Community Benefit Society (CBS); she had received 9 replies & 7 had favoured a CBS & 2 favoured a PC.
- 5.1.6 Toddler Group - Annette T. advised us that she had a minimal response with no favoured view presented as some attendees lived outside the village.
- 5.1.7 Methodist - Sheila S. advised us that the majority were in favour of a PC & not a CBS. She also commented that currently, there seems to be a general lethargy in the village as a whole.
- 5.1.7 Myles H. commented that, in relation to last point made, neighbouring areas have faced similar issues from the residents & that it has taken a specific issue to prompt the village residents into action.

5.2 Officers' Update

- 5.2.1 A meeting of WR&CS Officers recently took place. This once again highlighted that as much as the current officers try to encourage others to take on the various vacant roles, or even take a lead on specific projects, no volunteers come forward. This makes it extremely difficult for current officers to be positive about the future.

In addition & following legal guidance obtained during the data protection issue in 2023, it was therefore agreed that the WR&CS Officers cannot continue with the organisation as it currently stands. It has become clear that the Constitution requires change & leaves all members of the Management Committee open to possible liability.

The Vice Chair has already confirmed that he will not be seeking re-election at the AGM after his three years tenure, other officers will also not be standing for re-election & those who are partway through their tenure will be resigning. The Officers wish to emphasise that this is not their preferred choice but feel that they have been left with little option. Conversations have taken place regarding various possible changes; however, these cannot be agreed by the officers & no consensus has been achieved. Even looking forward, if another organisation was to be set up, this would still require WR&CS to cease its operations for any new organisation/company to start afresh as this protects against any historical issues.

As it currently stands & in accordance with the WR&CS Constitution, a Special General Meeting (SGM) will need to be held for WR&CS to close & this would require a majority vote of the Management Committee. This meeting has been arranged for Friday 20th Sept. 2024 in the Memorial Hall.

The Society will notify Lottery ticket holders that after the 23/24 lottery year finishes in August 2024, it will not continue & fees should NOT be paid.

Any realised assets or ring-fenced funds remaining, shall be distributed amongst organisations existing within the district of Willaston as determined solely by the Management Committee at the date of the dissolution. ***This particularly affects the ownership & operation of the Christmas lights on the Green.*** A vote will be required with the Management Committee to confirm their agreement that the officers can sort deal with these logistical issues.

The WR&CS website & Facebook page would also cease to operate.



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Regarding the future, if a group of residents do set up another organisation/company in whatever form, or a review to explore a more formal organisation takes place before we dissolve (which would have to be put to a full vote of Willaston residents), then they would be in the same situation, as assets remaining will still need to be distributed amongst organisations within the district of Willaston.

5.2.2 A very interactive discussion took place this evening with all members of the Management Committee.

5.2.3 Barry V. feels that there are 2 separate issues: (a) what does the Society/Officers need to do in this interim period? (b) thinking ahead, how do we get other people involved? He proposed that a monthly meeting should now take place where all management Committee members can be kept informed & this was agreed by all. Dates will now be arranged.

Action: Sue Hunter

5.2.4 Myles H. felt that a public Village meeting was needed to consider options available (such as the formation of a more formal organisation, or a newly formed WR&CS & new constitution). Informed speakers will now be sourced with a date & venue to be arranged ASAP.

Action: Sue Hunter, Myles Hogg, Margaret Smyth

5.2.5 It was proposed that with immediate effect no further updates should be made to the website, except for village events, lottery results & WR&CS meeting minutes. All relevant parties will be notified ASAP. This was agreed by Committee members present.

Action: Ceri Jones

5.2.5 A vote was then taken by the Management Committee to agree that WR&CS will be dissolved at the Special General Meeting in Sept. 2024; this was unanimous.

5.2.6 A second vote was also taken by the Management Committee to agree that the Officers can now deal with logistical issues relating to our dissolution; this was also unanimous.

6. Financial Report

6.1 Vicky S. had already circulated details of current finances. No questions were raised, other than those related to our pending dissolution & distribution of funds.

7. Planning Matters

7.1 Summary of current situation

7.1.1 As we have no recent planning report, Barry V. discussed his re-visit of the last planning report & updated us of his findings & Myles H. added further information: applications have been received for 14 traveller plots at the end of Heath Lane; the Treetops (Mill Lane) appeal has now taken place & the result is awaited; Willaston Community Farm is now working jointly with the Enforcement team; Hanns Hall Livery application for 1 extra dwelling was refused on appeal.



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7.2 Hooton Road land

7.2.1 This was discussed by Fiona M. This land is adjacent to previously sold land opposite Benty Heath Lane. It is the last section of totally undeveloped Green Belt that exists between Willaston & Hooton. Fiona M. has been in communication with Mersey Forest who may be interested in buying this land to create a woodland area. Paul Nolan (Mersey Forest) & Dave Armson (Community Forester) would like to arrange a meeting to discuss this further. Brian G. & Barry V. offered to join Fiona M. in the meeting when it is arranged.

Action: Fiona Mosley

8. Correspondence & Social Media

8.1 Sue H. commented on the update from Colin Browne (of The Knowe) as they are trying to get a convex mirror erected opposite the entrance to The Knowe. Barry V. suggested that may be worth talking to the people in the houses opposite the entrance to the Knowe & erect the mirror within the boundary of their garden. This may be easier than getting approval from Highways who seem not to like mirrors on the highway margins.

Action: Sue Hunter

8.2 Ceri J. reported minimal direct activity via website & social media.

9. Footpaths & Bridleways / Environmental Group updates

9.1 No activity with Footpaths at the moment.

9.2 Monthly litter picking sessions continue & dates are advertised on social media.

10. Councillor's Report - Myles Hogg

10.1 The Highways Dept. at CWaC has taken on responsibility for the repair of the wall between Pollards & the adjacent car park. This is ongoing.

10.2 The request for double yellow lines at the corner of Hooton Road/Overdale Road & at the Green/Hadlow Road has been actioned & agreed by Highways Dept at CWaC. No date has yet been confirmed for this work to be completed.

10.2 The Commemorative plaque to honour the Coronation of King Charles will be affixed on Johnston's recreation Ground by CWaC. No date has yet been confirmed.

10.3 Four cherry trees were planted in February by Howard Pimborough (CWaC Woodland Creation Delivery Officer) at the corner of Meadow Lane. These replaced the 2 felled last year.

10.4 The Post Office has introduced a new service called 'Whitechapel Drop & Collect Post Office'. This parcel service will operate from the Spar in Willaston from Wed. 3rd April.



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- 10.5 Operation 'Park Safe' has been rolled out across Cheshire Constabulary. Cheshire residents will now be able to report public illegal parking problems online through the Cheshire Police website. This follows a successful trial project in Crewe. As part of the scheme, residents can upload videos/photos of offending vehicles to the website where they will be assessed by an experienced traffic officer. Minor traffic obstructions or community impact issues will be allocated to local the PCSO or beat officer to deal with appropriately.
To report parking issues please visit: cheshire.police.uk/park-safe
- 10.6 With the cost-of-living crisis & fuel prices remaining high, CWaC (in partnership with Cheshire East Council) have secured £6.2m government funding to help improve the energy efficiency of homes in the borough.
The funding is designed to upgrade the energy efficiency of homes not currently with gas central heating. Types of improvements that can be offered through the grant include loft, wall & underfloor insulation, air source heat pumps, solar panels, window & door replacements, energy efficient electric storage heaters, & more. Funding is allocated on a first-come-first-served basis so please apply ASAP.
Applications can be made online to:
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/homeenergyhelp
To request a paper copy please ring CWaC's contact centre on: 0300 123 8123.
- 10.7 The Council is creating a new Housing Strategy to ensure that affordable, good quality & safe housing is available in the borough. The strategy will cover all sectors of the housing market including social, private rental sector, owner occupation, as well as specialist housing provision for older people & adults with additional needs.
To share your views on the key issues & priorities affecting housing in your area, please visit: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/housing_strategy
The deadline for all responses is 28 March 2024.
- 10.8 CWaC Council launched a public consultation on 5 February 2024 (which will last for 8 weeks) on the principles & proposals of our libraries & museum services. Its purpose is to understand peoples' views on changes to opening hours & principles that will inform future service development.
Under these proposals all 4 museums, 22 libraries & the mobile library service will remain open. However, most will have some changes to opening hours which involves increasing, decreasing or no change.
For details please visit: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/librariesandmuseums
- 10.9 In conjunction with CWaC Council, Cheshire Police have launched the 'Stop! Think Fraud' campaign. As fraud accounts for almost 40% of crime, you'll find many ideas & tips on reducing your risks. For more information, please visit: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>
- 10.10 A new Local Plan for West Cheshire is being developed; this may mean that neighbourhood plans will have more relevance to planning applications.



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10.11 Councils can now charge double the Community Charge for properties left empty for more than 12 months.

10.12 Our new PCSO, Matthew Fullager has recently been Speed Monitoring around Willaston. He is happy to be contacted if there is a particular area of concern. His contact details are: Matthew.Fullager@cheshire.police.uk

N.B. All CWaC information & initiatives can be found on their website:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk>

General telephone enquiries are 0300 123 8123 / out of hours 0300 123 7035.

11. Organisations' Reports - tabled

Please see Appendix 2 (pg. 8) for all reports.

12. Issues Raised / Updates by Members

12.1 Fiona M. has recently made contact with a stonemason regarding possible renovation of the village sandstone bus shelter. This issue will remain dormant at the moment.

12.2 The next AGM meeting will now be a Special General Meeting & it will take place on Friday 20th Sept. at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

13. Any Other Business

None

The meeting concluded at 9.39pm.

The date of the next Committee Meeting is Monday 20th May 2024
at 7.15pm In the Methodist Church Hall.



APPENDIX 1: Actions & Issues Brought Forward - March 2024

Original date	Descriptor	Action / Issue	Actioned by	Comment	Date completed
Nov 2023	Land on Hooton Rd.	Devise a fund-raising strategy	Jane T	Contact made with Mersey Forest	
Sept 2023	Wall to footpath between Pollards & car park	CWaC reply received: wall to be monitored only	Myles H	Highways agreed. Myles H. to progress.	
Sept 2023	Double yellow lines	The request for these at corner of Hooton/Overdale Roads is still ongoing with CWaC. Carry forward	Myles H	Highways Dept at CWaC have taken this over	
July 2023	Commemorative plaque on Johnston's Rec	CWaC yet to complete work	Myles H	MH will progress with CwaC	
March 2023	Removed trees, Neston Rd	Cherry trees x 4 have now been planted.	Myles H	Completed	Feb 2024
Original date actioned	Descriptor	Dormant Issues			
July 2023	'Kerry', Hooton Rd	Ongoing	Myles H	Appeal now in place. Remains with Planning.	
May 2023	New sound / PA system for village	Ongoing	Helen M		
May 2023	Development of land at Hooton Rd/Benty Heath Lane.	Ongoing. A position statement was issued by WR&CS			
March 2023	Telephone box on Green	No response to enquiries			



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Organisation Reports – March 2024

Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group *(submitted by Hilary Booth)*

Maintenance

A rotten kissing gate post has been replaced and will be painted along with the remainder of the fence by the level crossing gates when the weather permits. The maroon timber on the signal box steps, and the windowsills, together with the repair of the rotten wood on the handrail, will also be repainted when the weather permits

Gardening

The February garden day weather was really heavy rain, and yet volunteers still came to help. Many thanks must go to these volunteers. It was impossible to garden as the rain did not stop, so they had to end up inside a dry waiting room where they enjoyed a cup of coffee and a biscuit, together with a good chat.! Other volunteers are going to go down and do some weeding during the month, when the weather is good. What a super group of people. The 2024 'In your neighbourhood' application has been submitted, and an assessment of Hadlow Road Station will be done by the judges in the summer.

We are really hopeful to get our 3rd "Outstanding Award" so will have to continue to improve the gardens even more. Our thanks go to Ian and Glynis who lead our garden group.

Next garden days are 10 am - 12 noon on Wednesday 6th March & Tuesday 2nd April.

You will be made welcome if you wish to join them, and will have a coffee & biscuits for your efforts at 11am

Pop-up Café

It was great to see you all back again at the cafe at the end of February. How time flies. It is 10 years since the cafe first started with the help of many hard-working volunteers. Two of those great volunteers are Jenny and Ben, who have decided to take a step back (however they will still be there to help if they are needed.) We cannot thank them enough for all their effort, reliability, hard work, and support over these 10 years. Well done to you both. You are "Simply the Best".

John Wo and Barry V, between them will take over orders from our customers, and the necessary financial reconciliation that goes with it, for most of the Cafe Sundays. New volunteers for the cafe would be very welcome. If anyone is interested in helping, then please do let us know.

Next Po-up-Cafe days are from 10am - 1pm on Sunday 10th March (with a Mothering Sunday special) & Sunday 24th March.

We look forward to seeing you all again to have a good community get together with friends and neighbours. Let's hope for a good Spring and Summer.



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Friends of Willaston Meadow *(submitted by Fiona Mosley)*

The Meadow continues to be very wet and muddy so please take care and wear suitable boots. However, there are now plenty of signs of Spring, with abundant snowdrops coming through, along with primroses, hazel catkins and daffodils.

In our last two volunteer sessions we have pruned the fruit trees. We contracted a tree surgeon to cut the tops of the fruit trees so that they are easier for us to manage in future and also the fruit is easier for the community to pick come the Autumn. We are grateful to Cllr Myles Hogg and Cheshire West and Chester Council for funding this work. The tree surgeons came at the end of February and gave the trees a thorough prune. It is likely that the fruit crop will be poor this year, but they should recover their vigour next year.

We always welcome volunteers at our working group sessions, normally on the first Sunday of the month (weather permitting). We're a friendly group that share a love of the Meadow. Please get in contact if you would like to join us.

For more information, please see our webpage on the Residents' Society website, our Facebook page /friendswillastonmeadow or ring Sarah Shannon on 0151 327 5318

Hadlow Green Singers *(submitted by Helen Mayles)*

The Easter concert is fast approaching. There will be two performances in the Memorial Hall on 22nd and 23rd March. We are singing a wide range of songs - from Scarborough Fair to extracts from the Messiah. Tickets are available from the Spar or choir members.

If you, or someone you know, enjoy singing, are able to sight read, you are welcome to join this friendly community choir. Rehearsals are in the Memorial Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm. Contact person is John Church 0151 336 2228.

Johnston Recreation Ground *(submitted by Sue Unsworth)*

Playground

Much used and appreciated.

Tennis

New surface looks good. Still awaiting permission from Council to put up a notice board.

Football

The plan for a metal/wood storage building is still in progress. Due to so much rain games may go on over the usual end of season date. Moles are still a massive problem. Traps have to be used as poison is not allowed by law.

Allotments

The "new allotments" alongside the present ones will be marked up and completed by the end of April. An area will be kept for an occasional car drop-off point for delivery or collection of heavy items. It is hoped that water will be available on site by the end of April.

OTHER



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There is a lot of flooding on the path alongside and at the far end of the path into the “cut through”. A resident asked if it would be possible for bark to be put down to soak up up some of the moisture and mud. The football representative said they would be happy to help with the spreading.

A representative from the MEADOW, came to the meeting to discuss the problem there had been with their new benches being moved around! She asked if there was any possibility of putting a small covered area next to the pavilion for older children to use rather than them doing more damage hidden away by Dead Mans Pond. This was discussed but was not considered to be a good idea as it could cause more vandalism.

The tree plaques for the “Celebratory Trees” in the wildflower area will be purchased at a cost of £58 plus vat per plaque. They are to be attached to the inside of the sandstone wall.

Memorial Hall *(submitted by Rob King)*

1. The Hall is being very well used, both by community groups and for private hires, with few vacant 'slots'.
2. We have renewed our Civil Weddings/Partnerships Licence for another three years and are hosting 2-3 weddings a year.
3. The Trustees are very aware of the need to keep on top of the maintenance of the Hall so that it remains a safe and attractive venue for hirers. Fortunately, our finances are such that we are able to do this.
4. The Trustees believe that they can play a role in community engagement, hence the organisation last year of the Coronation Afternoon Tea and the Soup Lunch in December. This year we will be hosting the review show 'From Here to Absurdity' on 28 September as a community event/fundraiser.
5. Our AGM is being held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 commencing at 7.00pm

Willastonhey W.I. *(submitted by Susie Dixon)*

We have recently seen an increase in membership, which is pleasing.

The Christmas lunch at The Nags Head was enjoyed by all, the food and service were excellent.

A visit to see Blood Brothers was good.

The Annual Dinner at Bromborough Golf Club on 13th February was a great success. Change of venue from previous years. Forty nine members attended.

Bridge Drive on 21st February was as popular as ever. Fifteen tables were booked and members provided a delicious afternoon tea. Proceeds donated to St. John's Hospice.

W.I has a Learning Hub, open to all members via zoom.

Our Day Out this summer will be to RHS Bridgewater in the summer.



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February's ramble was to the River Park.

A 'jigsaw challenge' is planned for Thursday 14th March in the Memorial Hall Committee room.

February's talk was on Wing Walking, presented by Roger Devonside.

Walking Netball, Darts, Bridge and Knit and Natter are doing well.

W.I meetings take place on 4th Tuesday of the month. For further information email willastonheywi@weebly.com Website www.willastonhey@gmail.com

Willaston & District Horticultural Society *(submitted by Pam Irving)*

Tuesday 19th March we will be having a presentation by Mr Dave Williams on how to Grow and Show vegetable and flowers. Dave is a shower at a lot of different shows and he is also a judge. He has a lot of knowledge which he would like to share with you.

The Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm; details are shown on the Village Notice board, and if you are interested in joining us, come along or contact the Membership Secretary, Val Brizell, on 07786 982845. Membership is only £8.00 per year, and you can get 10% discount at Burleydam Garden Centre on all gardening products on production of your Membership card.

Willaston Christ Church *(submitted by Viv Ley)*

No report received.

Willaston CE Primary School *(submitted by school office)*

March is such a wonderful time of year! We are looking forward to celebrating Easter with our Church Service at Christ Church, immersing ourselves in the joy of reading with World Book Day and our Book Fair, and kicking off the start of our residential visits for 2024!

We have recently become part of a small cluster of Church of England schools in our local area who work in close collaboration with each other to further promote and strengthen our Christian vision and ethos. Mr Graham has had the opportunity to liaise with leaders at St Oswald's, Christ Church, Bishop Wilson and Capenhurst in sharing good practice and planning opportunities, where we can come together to be part of Christian initiatives and Collective Worship opportunities. From 22nd to 26th January, all our children took part in four days of joint Collective Worship with children from the four other schools. Each school on a different day, led worship linked to values such as forgiveness, trust and love. It was such a positive and collaborative experience for all, and we look forward to continuing this partnership moving into the future.

Miss Hughes has been busy organising a range of sporting opportunities for children of all ages to participate in. We have had teams from Year Two, through to Year Six, competing against other schools in a range of sports. It has been brilliant to see so many children have



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the chance to represent school. Our Year Five and Six football team made it to the County Finals at Crewe Alexandra. Although they didn't win the finals, we were incredibly proud of the team. To even get to this stage was an incredible achievement.

Our Year Five and Six Indoor Athletic Team won the Ellesmere Port Competition and have now qualified to the County Finals in March. We will let you know how they got on next month!

World Book Day and our Book Fair in school are always very popular and exciting for the children, as they are invited to explore new books and reading opportunities as well as dressing up on World Book Day as their favourite book character or genre such as sport, sci-fi, history etc.

Our Year 5 children visit the Menai Centre in Anglesey for their 2-night residential visit, which focuses on art, drama, dance and music.

Our Year 3 children visit Burwardsley for their overnight residential visit, enjoying Stone Age and Iron Age activities as well as den building and games.

We are always keen to welcome volunteer helpers into school and would love to hear from you if you can spare a few hours a week and would like to come and volunteer in the school. We have many areas within school where we'd appreciate support - assisting pupils read, helping with cooking and Forest school to name a few. However, we are also happy to be led by your expertise, so should you have a skill you think you could pass on to our pupils we would very much like to hear from you.

You can contact the school office on either 0151 832 5360 or office@willastoncheshire.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you. Remember to take a look at our website for all our up to date news.

Willaston Football Club *(submitted by John Fisher)*

Rather than arranging matches for our teams to play, I seem to be cancelling games every weekend. Every Friday we were inspecting pitches on the Johnston Recreation Ground in hope rather than expectation. Very few games have been played since October because pitches were either waterlogged or frozen. Luckily teams have been able to play on the last two weekends but games since 10th February did not go ahead after the recent heavy rainfalls. One very unfortunate consequence of the high rainfall is the increase of mole activity on the Recreation Ground. This is now endangering the use of the junior pitch as the mole activity has now moved onto their pitch. The other consequence of postponed games is that the season has been extended to the end of May to allow teams to complete the fixture list.

However, the Under 9 Reds team have been promoted to Division 1 after the Eastham League rearranged divisions. The team is gradually becoming accustomed to a higher standard of play and have become very competitive in the last two games losing only very narrowly. A second win will soon come their way. The Under 10's, Under 11's and Under 12 Reds are all playing well and are competing for promotion at the end of this season. On the other hand, the Under 13 team recently won their first game of their season, and the Under 16's are playing more competitively.



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Despite not playing on a Saturday, all teams are still completing their training sessions at various all-weather centres on the Wirral that have artificial grass pitches. Most of the teams have now completed their Christmas parties that ranged from paint balling to bowling.

Hopefully the rain will abate, and I will have more to report next time.

Willaston FC are still looking for volunteers to help run the Club including new coaches as well as new players for all age groups. Please contact either Steve Blackledge (Chairman) on 07899 063336 or John Fisher (Secretary) on 07780 693284 if you are interested.

Willaston Methodist Chapel *(submitted by Sheila Smith)*

As we proceed into Lent, Willaston Methodist Chapel is liaising with our sister Chapels in Neston and Little Neston for our Lent Course throughout this period until Easter.

Please see the noticeboard outside Chapel for Easter services. The Easter Sunday service, 31st March, will be preceded by our annual Easter breakfast when all are welcome to join us from 9am.

The Pentecost Methodist and Anglican ecumenical service on the village Green will be on 19th May at 10 - 45am. if the weather doesn't favour us being outdoors, we will hold the service in the Memorial Hall.

N.B. Please note Carol Savage's new phone number for bookings: 0151 394 3335.

Willaston & South Wirral Rotary Club *(submitted by Stephen Mosley)*

As always, it has been a quiet start to the year for Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club. Apart from the lull after Christmas and new year the weather is even less reliable (or possibly more reliably bad) than in the Spring or Autumn. However, the club members enjoyed a murder mystery meal.

Unfortunately there have been no entries received for this year's annual Rotary Young Musician competition. In the recent past this has been very strongly supported by local schools, hopefully next year will see a resurgence and feedback regarding this has already been received from some schools.

Willaston Scouts *(submitted by Remco Buckley)*

No report received.

Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group *(submitted by John Woodrow)*

I referred in my piece in the February issue to issues with the Pharmacy. I thought that it would be helpful to update patients on the current situation.

There has been an initiative by the Government to change the way in which small pharmacies, such as ours, source medications. The new system, known as Hub and Spoke, means that prescriptions coming from our Surgery are forwarded electronically to a hub,



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ours being in Stoke-on-Trent. The medication is then despatched to our Pharmacy. The upshot of this is that there is now a delay of about 6 working days from the prescription being issued by the Surgery to the medication arriving at the Pharmacy. I suggest that patients need to plan ordering repeat prescriptions taking account that the previous system no longer applies and that allowing 72 hours for the Surgery to issue prescriptions and the 6 days for the Pharmacy suggests to me that patients should plan to order repeats a minimum of 2 weeks before they need them. This should cater for delays which the Surgery sometimes experiences as happened at the end of January when the Surgery was a Dr short and delays occurred in issuing prescriptions.

I know that some patients have transferred the Pharmacy where they get their prescriptions because of the recent changes at the Pharmacy and the ensuing delays and as I mentioned in my February notes, I would ask that those who have transferred consider changing back to our Pharmacy as if we don't support our Pharmacy we will risk it closing.

Patients have also been in contact with me regarding the physical condition of the Pharmacy. I understand that a refurbishment is planned and hopefully this will address that situation.

I am also aware that a small minority of patients have been verbally abusing the Pharmacy staff and as a result some staff have had to take time off. I would request that patients treat the staff in a civilised manner and appreciate that they have and will continue to do their best in difficult circumstances.

If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact me on 0151 327 3260 or by email at johnwoodrow@btinternet.com.

John Woodrow, Chairman, Patient Participation Group

Willaston Tennis Club *(submitted by Andrew Walton)*

Nothing to report from the tennis club this month.

Andrew Walton. WTC Chairman. 07961 680 683

Willaston Toddler Group *(submitted by Annette Troake)*

Nothing to report this month.

Willaston Village Festival Society

Nothing new to report.