



# Willoughby Monthly

Volume 4: August 11

## Welcome to the August edition of the WM.

July seems to have been non-stop! Let's hope August gives us a nice warm break!!

The VACC Auction of Promises was a fantastic success raising over £5,300, so far, for the fighting fund. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved in organising the evening, getting 63 promises was a phenomenal achievement as was the support of local businesses. More about the battle inside but there is a clear message for the applicant - the people of the Leam Valley will not permit the destruction of their countryside.

Next year sees the Queens Jubilee, London Olympics, and the Willoughby Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Good reasons to 'push the boat out a bit'. I have been investigating the possibility of securing a grant from one of the European funds that aims to support community life to help.

There seems to be a good chance that we might qualify for a grant and so be able to spend a bit more than we usually can on our village activities. We need to show that there is support for any activities that we try to get funding for so you will find a short survey form with this edition of the WM. Please complete the questionnaire and return it to me by 10<sup>th</sup> August. You can either complete one per household or even better one each (including children) just photocopy extra sheets or call me and I'll run some extra off. There will also be a copy on the WM page of willoughbyweb.net. Please use the opportunity to share your ideas too - use the back of the survey, a separate sheet, or drop me an e-mail. I'll make sure that they are put to good use!!!

**Richard Jackson**

## Inside:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Thursday Club   | Parish Council |
| WI              | Police         |
| Willoughby Soc. | WM             |

| Date      | Time     | Organisation      | Event   | Venue                      |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 4 Aug 11  | 06:30 PM | Women's Institute | Outing to Toft Alpaca Farm                                      | Toft                       |
| 7 Aug 11  | 10:30 AM | Church            | Holy Communion  | Church                     |
| 10 Aug 11 |          |                   | Last day for return of Willoughby 2012 Suvey to Richard Jackson |                            |
| 14 Aug 11 | 10:30 AM | Church            | Holy Communion  | Leamington Hastings Church |
| 18 Aug 11 | 01:30 PM | Women's Institute | Outing meet at the Village Hall                                 |                            |
| 21 Aug 11 | 10:30 AM | Church            | Holy Communion  | Flecknoe Church            |
| 28 Aug 11 | 10:30 AM | Church            | Holy Communion  | Church                     |

## Thursday Club

The club is on it's summer break now and will resume activities in September.

## Willoughby Women's Institute

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August we have an evening outing to the Alpaca Farm in Dunchurch, meet at the Village Hall car park at 6:30pm for travel by car to the farm as arranged at the July meeting.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August we are visiting Stowe Pottery (to paint). We shall be travelling by car leaving the Village hall car park at 1:30om. Tea has been arranged at the café for about 3:45 pm.

## Willoughby Weekend

### Fête

The results of the races can be viewed on [www.willoughbyweb.net](http://www.willoughbyweb.net) - only first names and surname initial, where necessary, are shown.

### Willoughby Challenge

Both categories, under 8 and under 11, were won by Onley Park with Birdingbury second and Flecknoe third. Willoughby only had a team in the under 11 category this year and sadly were out classed by the opposition. The full results and the previous winners can be found on [www.willoughbyweb.net](http://www.willoughbyweb.net) .

## A Past Life

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1821 John Wilson son of William & Elizabeth Wilson was baptised in St. Nicholas's church Willoughby.

He enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1839 in Daventry saying he was born in Willoughby near Branston (Braunston ?). He was imprisoned three times during the first three years of his service - breaking out of barracks, disgraceful conduct, and stealing six shillings three half pence from Private Sutton!!!

His conduct must have improved as he had a good conduct record before he left the army. His discharge papers note that he was in India during the first Punjab wars fighting at the battle of Ferozeshah in December 1845. Two months later he was badly wounded at the battle of Sobraon, losing his left eye to a gunshot wound.

He was discharged from the army 27<sup>th</sup> August 1850 as unfit for further service. The medical report notes that he had been treated for 40 days for chronic dysentery contracted in the East Indies. The discharge papers describe him: Aged 30, 5' 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" tall, Brown hair, Hazel eyes, a fresh complexion, distinguishing marks "lost left eye to gunshot wound". His trade is described as a labourer. So after 11 years our John finds himself discharged in Chatham and says he intends to live in Willoughby the village of his birth.

The 1851 census finds him a lodger at Red Hill, Aston Le Walls. Our next glimpse of him is 29<sup>th</sup> December 1856 when he marries Ann Simmons a widow in St. Nicholas's church in his home village. The next census in 1861 tells us they had a daughter Jane who was born in Coventry in 1858. The census also tells us they lived in the Pye Court area and were 'Chelsea Pensioners'. At this time there wasn't room for all the army's pensioners at Chelsea but the administration for the payment of pensions was done there so our John was an 'out' pensioner. His pension money would have been sent to the local vicar or lord of the manor for payment to him.

The national registers of births, marriages, and deaths show that John died in 1864 in the Rugby area.

I wonder how he came to enlist, running away ? tricked by a recruiting party in Braunston? Life back in Willoughby with one eye, probably terrible scars from his wound, and poor health from his long battle with dysentery must have been quite a change.

All of this from 'Chelsea Pensioner' on a census and the internet!!!



## Willoughby Society

Thanks to everyone who came and helped with the planting at the village pond. This was a joint initiative with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust as part of their Gardens Go Wild project. Another part of the project is an award scheme for those who have a few simple wildlife friendly features in their garden. A further award is available to communities with the most wildlife friendly gardens.

To apply for an award for your garden you need to complete a simple form and provide one or more photographs of the wildlife friendly features your garden has. The form is available from [www.willoughbyweb.net](http://www.willoughbyweb.net) and you can either print it out or e-mail it.

Please complete your entries for a garden award and send them to Richard Jackson at Hazeldene, Main Street or to [richard.jackson@willoughbyweb.net](mailto:richard.jackson@willoughbyweb.net), by 20<sup>th</sup> August who will enter them along with the village entry.

Congratulations to Bert Ogle and his team on winning the car rally and thanks to Bob O'donnell and colleagues for organising the event which everyone who took part enjoyed.

Our next meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> September in the meantime enjoy the summer !!

## VACC

First of all thanks to everyone involved with the Auction of Promises, which has raised well over £5,000 for the Big Grounds Fighting Fund. The tremendous work done by the organisers in gathering 63 lots (some of which were split), catering for a filled to capacity Village Hall, the Cricket Club running the bar, and a very generous audience made for a very successful evening and a clear demonstration of the determination of the whole Leam Valley to stop the crematorium plan.

The applicant has submitted his new Transport Assessment. He has chosen Nuneaton as his comparison site. His weeks traffic counting showed an average of 18 cars per funeral with one having 49 !!. There was an average of 7 funerals a day but there is capacity for as many as 11. However, the applicant is suggesting that the site here would only have 4 to 6 funerals per day. Not very plausible for a business which has to aim to maximise its profit. We also need to remember that his survey at Nuneaton was conducted in June and it is a fact that more people die in winter. In a nutshell we need to make sure that County Highways( CH) and RBC make their judgements based on the worst case scenario, a busy winter day i.e. 11 funerals per day.

The main plank of the applicants case is that the additional traffic the site would create would not increase the volume of traffic above the morning and evening peak period volume. However, this does not take into account, that the additional drivers will mostly be unfamiliar with the risks of our roads and junctions especially at the A45, the impact of regular slow moving cortèges along the A45 Crash Route which will tempt other traffic to overtake, the fact that all of the routes to the site have pinch points where two vehicles cannot pass safely, and his figures show 50%+ additional traffic through the village through the day including when the school buses drop the children off making accidents much more likely. Mr. Bennison (CH) told us at the last public meeting that he believed the sight lines at both A45 junctions were inadequate and could not be improved. Just imagine 49 cars queuing to turn right out of Main Street with vehicles parked on the garage forecourt !!

It is likely the applicant will push RBC to make a decision very soon so we need to send another wave of objection letters in highlighting our objections. This will make sure that RBC remain in no doubt of the strength of opposition to this plan as well as emphasising the significant damage and increased risks which would be inflicted on us. So we need everyone of you to send in new objection letters. There are updated draft letters on the web site which you can use if you wish or if you are writing your own letter you can include some of the points above.

We will be issuing a flyer with more information very soon, in the meantime keep an eye on the web site.

## Willoughby Parish Council

We are pleased to announce that Rachel Settle of Rosebud Cottage, Lower Street, Willoughby has been co-opted as a Councillor onto the Parish Council.

Thank you to everyone who came to the VACC Auction of Promises on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July and for the generosity of those who donated promises and the wonderfully generous bids which enabled over £5,300 to be raised on the night for the fighting fund against the proposed Crematorium. (Final total not available at the time of writing).

Please continue to support the VACC Campaign by writing letters of objection to The Planning Department at Rugby Borough Council. Please write to Mr M. McConville, Senior Planning Officer, Rugby Borough Council, Town Hall, Evereux Way, Rugby, CV21 2RR, with a copy to Mike Thomas at Church View, Lower Street, Willoughby. VACC will be running a letter writing campaign over the next few weeks and each one of your letters is vital to the campaign to stop this Crematorium being built in Willoughby.

## Willoughby Village Hall

# Produce Show

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm**

Entries close 9:00pm Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Staging must be completed by 12 Noon

Schedules have been delivered to every house in the village

Queries and requests for additional copies to the show secretary

Will Hewitt, Worrall House, Lower Street. Tel 891439

### Police

Care - don't leave valuables in your car and make sure that your home is secure. If you see anything suspicious do let the Police know.

Our Police Community Support Officer is PCSO 6149 Helena Steadman and our Police Constable is PC 1534 Lee Maughan. They can be contacted on 01788 853851 this is the Safer Neighbourhood Team number so will reach a team member on duty quickly.

### Willoughby Monthly

Do let me have your ideas for making WM better and, of course, any articles/notices you may have. Copies can be sent by e-mail or produced with large print on request.

Material for publication must be received by 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Richard Jackson, tel 891898, Hazeldene, Main Street

✉ willoughby\_monthly@willoughbyweb.net

Village web site: [www.willoughbyweb.net](http://www.willoughbyweb.net)

| Date      | Organisation       | Description                               | Venue        |
|-----------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| 30 Nov 11 | Willoughby Society | A.G.M.                                    | Village Hall |
| 15 Dec 11 | Women's Institute  | Christmas Concert - Dunchurch Silver Band | Village Hall |