



Willoughby Monthly

April 2025

Website: www.willoughbyweb.net

Facebook group: [Willoughby Monthly](#)

Volume 18



Welcome to April's WM. It has been a mixed bag of weather in March - some lovely warm days and some decidedly chilly ones. Sitting down to start the newsletter got me thinking about the origins of April Fool's Day. There seems no definitive answer, however it has been around for several centuries. Apparently a popular prank to play between the 17th and 19th centuries was to give someone a ticket which gave them admittance to the Tower of

London to see the annual ceremony of 'Washing the Lions', admitted only at the 'White Gate'. Of course, no such gate exists at the Tower and there was no lion washing ceremony - imagine even trying to do that job?! The image above is of such a ticket dating from April 1st 1856 - the lions being long gone by then of course but the prank still persisted. I wonder how many people fell for it?

This just leaves me space to wish you all a Happy Easter and I hope to see you at some of the events.

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
03-Apr-25	3pm	St Nicholas	Sing Along A Slice	Village Hall
04-Apr-25	10.30-12.30	Community	Pop Up Café	Village Hall
08-Apr-25	7pm	Parish Council	Meeting	Village Hall
10-Apr-25	2.30pm	Thursday Club	Max Board - American Songbook	Village Hall
12-Apr-25	7.30pm	Willoughby Society	Music Event Sarah-Jane	Village Hall
13-Apr-25	11am	St Nicholas	Allsorts Service	Church
17-Apr-25	12.30pm	Thursday Club	Pub Luch The Bear	Bilton
17-Apr-25	7.30pm	W.I.	Houseplant talk - Suzie Lickman	Village Hall
18-Apr-25	10am	St Nicholas	Family Easter Activity	Church
26-Apr-25	12-20pm	St Nicholas	Soup & Social	Village Hall
27-Apr-25	11am	St Nicholas	Communion Service	Church
29-Apr-25	7pm	Parish Council	Annual Community Meeting	Village Hall
30-Apr-25	7.30pm	Willoughby Society	Speaker - Life in Hatton Hospital	Village Hall

Parish Council - Maggie Beech

Longdown Lane/A45 Junction

During January and February the Parish Council emailed the Road Safety Liaison Officer at Warwickshire County Council Safety Engineering Team about concerns related to the junction. You can read the email exchange on the Parish Council website in the appendix to the minutes of the meeting on 11 March 2025. It is also available until 10 April on the noticeboard. Essentially, the emails explain the reasons why nothing more will be done to change/improve the junction at this time.

Annual Community Meeting - Tuesday, 29 April 2025

The meeting will be at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. It will be a social occasion and we hope that as many residents as possible will join us. Refreshments will be served. So far, the agenda includes a Community Action Report which celebrates the volunteers involved in various projects over the past year or so and those who organise many of the activities and events which we all value throughout the year. Detailed accident data since January 2021 for the Longdown Lane junction is also included. BUT this is your meeting and we would like to add topics to the agenda which you wish to discuss. These could be questions, concerns or ideas for future projects which would benefit the community. If you would like to add items, please email Jo Jarman, our Parish Clerk, at willoughbyparishclerk@gmail.com or phone/text her on 07809 197817. The deadline to add items is Wednesday, 16 April.



St Nicholas Church - Rev. Price

April is a busy month at St Nicholas' as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Here are some key dates for your diary:

- Thursday, 3rd April – We're launching our new Sing Along and Slice from 3–4 pm in the Village Hall. Join us for a chance to sing some old favourites and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake with friends. Suggested donation: £3.
- Sunday, 13th April – Palm Sunday – This marks the beginning of Holy Week. To celebrate, we'll be having a special family Allsorts service at 11am in church.
- Friday, 18th April – Good Friday – We're holding a special Family Easter Activity from 10 am in church, featuring crafts, music, and stories—plus plenty of hot cross buns!
- Saturday, 26th April – Soup and Social – Join us from 12–2 pm in the Village Hall for a warm and welcoming time together, enjoying delicious homemade soup and puddings. Suggested donation: £6.
- Sunday, 27th April – Communion Service – Our 11 am Communion Service will take place in church. All are welcome to join us for this time of worship and reflection.



St Nicholas' is part of the Draycote and Leam Valley Benefice, meaning we work together with other churches to offer a variety of activities. The events above are happening in Willoughby, but you may want to visit www.draycoteandleamvalleybenefice.com to see all the Easter activities taking place during Holy Week. If you're looking for a quieter, more reflective time over Easter, you'll find additional opportunities beyond our family-focused offerings this year.

Willoughby Society - Leonie Tromans

After a busy month last month, April is an opportunity for us to sit back and relax whilst enjoying chocolate Easter eggs. We do however still have two events going on either side of Easter, one at the beginning and the other at end of the month.

Music Event - Our first event is on Saturday the 12th of April from 7.30pm when we will be joined by Sarah Jane Goodman, a very talented soloist who will entertain us with 70's and 80's covers songs. Sarah Jane is welcomed back to Willoughby following the feedback that we received when she sang for us at Willoughby Festival the year before last and got everyone up and dancing. The bar will be open and tickets for the event are just £12.50. These are available from Leonie Tromans; secretaryengxiii@aol.com or 07527 156920. Or any of the Willoughby Society committee.

Speaker - After Easter, at 7.30pm on Wednesday the 30th of April, we will be joined by a Speaker to talk about Life in Hatton Hospital in the 19C. At that time Hatton Hospital was a mental institution and the talk is sourced from the case books and notes from the time.



Victory in Europe day - The last event that I wish to advertise is an extra in the calendar. The 7th May marks the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and we have teamed up with the other groups in the village to celebrate the anniversary but rather than Wednesday the 7th May we will be having a tea party on Bank holiday Monday the 5th May from 3pm. The celebrations will commence with the hoisting of a commemorative flag, this will be followed by a VE Day themed tea party in the village hall gardens or if the weather is inclement in the village hall, dress of the time is optional. If you can bake a cake for the event, all donations will be gratefully received. As our Pop-up-Pubs have been a success, following the tea party the bar will open and a 1940's quiz, accompanied by a bowl of chilli will finish off the day.

W.I. - Lorraine Geddes

Thursday 17 April - 7.30pm - Susie Lickman will be helping us to enjoy our houseplants - sharing her wealth of knowledge on how to keep our houseplants happy. Visitors always welcome.

All welcome - £5.00 per person to include a light supper - Tickets available from: Lorraine - 01788 890846 or Pat - 01788 891223

Thank you to everyone who donated wool, here are some of the items we make, blankets for hospital patients and twiddle muffs for dementia sufferers. If you know someone with dementia and would like a twiddle muff, please let us know. Wool donations always welcome.



Thursday Club - Jim Rowley

10 April, 2.30pm Village Hall: Max Board, American Songbook

17 April, 12.30pm Pub Lunch at the Bear, Bilton

New members welcome - ask the Secretary, Jim Rowley, on

01788891 805



Friends of Willoughby - Sue Waddington

Spring Craft Fair - Thank you to all our craft stall holders, our volunteers who made cakes, soup, cooked the potatoes, donated raffle prizes, washed up, served refreshments and ran our craft stall. To Ian Baxter for making our advertising signs and to those of you who popped along to our Craft Fair on the 15th March. Without your support we wouldn't be able to support our local community. It was nice to see Karen who thoroughly enjoyed herself visiting people and catching up with friends. Many thanks, Sue, Val and Karen

Pop Up Café - Rachel Settle

We would like to thank you all for your support for our Pop Up Café held on Friday 7th March. Our profit, as always, will be shared with local charities including the Laurel Unit in Rugby St Cross, the Macular Degeneration charity and the Samaritans.

The café will pop up again on Friday 4th April, 10.30am - 12.30pm, serving tea, coffee, a variety of savouries, cakes and scones, and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you have a favourite cake you would like to see on the menu please let me know.



Village Hall - Joss Ray

100 Club February Draw 1st - Joss Ray, 2nd - Richard Jackson - congratulations.

Gents Loo Refurbishment - A great job has been done by Richard and Chris Gunn in the gents loo and should be completed today. Please take a look when you're next in the hall (ladies knock first!!) - enjoy it gentlemen!

Part of the refurb has included installing an instant hot water heater in the ladies loo (concealed) to provide hot water more quickly to the ladies basins. The kitchen hot water supply will now be running directly from the combi-boiler so after a few seconds the kitchen taps will have hot water for washing up. We are very grateful to The National Lottery Community fund and The Bernard Sunley Foundation for grants which have enabled the refurbishments.

Percival Guildhouse - Clare Turnbull

Rugby's Percival Guildhouse is kicking off its Summer term with a wealth of new courses from computer game development, animation, mobile film making to character concept design and much more. Full details available at: www.percival-guildhouse.co.uk or phone: 01788 542467 between 9am-3.30pm on weekdays. Summer term begins 28th April, bookings are now open.

Police and PCSO Police Community Support Officer - PCSO David Banks, PC Rebecca Bailey. The team have an e-mail address: rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.uk If you wish to report a crime please report it via the Warwickshire Police website or phone 101. Obviously, in an emergency please dial 999.

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Send them to me at thewilloughbymonthly@gmail.com, Tel: 01788315893. Thanks, Hannah.