

The Willoughby Monthly



www.willoughbyweb.net

Facebook Group: Willoughby Monthly

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Welcome to the February edition of the Willoughby Monthly

I'm very pleased to write my first editorial for Willoughby Monthly and, over time, I look to build on the successes of my predecessors Hannah and Richard.

It isn't just about the writing, though, as there's a sizeable team behind getting the Willoughby Monthly through your letterbox, not only the contributors but also those who print, collate and deliver the finished product. Without everyone who's involved, the Willoughby Monthly just wouldn't happen!!

A new feature I thought would be interesting and enjoyable is looking back at the month in history. Over the years, decades and centuries, each month has a rich tapestry of happenings that can be new to some readers or evoke memories, vivid or long-forgotten, for others. For this month, I've chosen the categories of Monarchs & Royals, Science & Technology, Sport, Politics, Crime, and Miscellaneous:

Monarchs & Royals - Lady Jane Grey (1554) & Mary Queen of Scots (1587) were executed.

Science & Technology - The births of Charles Darwin (1809) & Thomas Edison (1846) occurred and the first TV detector van was deployed (1952).

Sport - In 1915, footballer Stanley Matthews was born.

Politics - Britain went decimal (1971) and Margaret Thatcher became the first female Conservative Party leader (1975).

Crime - In 1974, Great Train Robber Ronald Biggs was arrested by Brazilian police.

Miscellaneous - 'February' is one of the most misspelled words in the English language and is the only month that can pass without a full moon.

If you have knowledge of any historical events/happenings for subsequent months you'd like to see listed, please let me have them on www.willoughbyweb.net.

Michael Nelson

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Fri 6 th	10:30 AM		Pop-Up Cafe	Village Hall
Sun 8 th	11:00 AM	Church	Family Service	Church
Tue 10 th	7:00 PM	Parish Council	Meeting	Village Hall
Thu 12 th	2:30 PM	Thursday Club	Highways & Bye-ways - Bert Ogle	Village Hall
Fri 13 th	7:30 PM	Willoughby Society	Quiz Night & Pop Up Pub	Village Hall
Thu 19 th	12:30 PM	Thursday Club	Pub Lunch The Plough	Everdon
Thu 19 th	7:30 PM	Women's Institute	Kurling with Dunchurch & Thurlaston WI	Village Hall
Sat 21 st	12:00 PM	Church	Soup & Social	Village Hall
Sun 22 nd	11:00 AM	Church	Holy Communion	Church

Thursday Club

Jim Rowley

On the 12th February at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, Bert Ogle, a long-standing village resident and fountain of knowledge for the village and surrounding area, will talk to us about our local 'Highways and Bye-ways'.

On the 19th February at 12.30pm, we have our next pub lunch, probably at The Plough at Everdon, but we'll confirm this venue at our meeting on the 12th February.

New members are always welcome - just ask the Secretary, Jim Rowley, either on 01788 891805 or by email to recorderjim@icloud.com.

Willoughby Women's Institute

Lorraine Geddes

On Thursday 19th February at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, we're delighted to have a kurling game with Dunchurch & Thurlaston WI. Visitors are very welcome for what we expect to be a fun but competitive evening.

Willoughby Society

Leonie Tromans

Everyone likes a good quiz so why not join us on Friday 13th February at 7:30pm for a **Quiz Night**? The bar will be open and everyone is welcome.

An early note of a forthcoming post-February event: on Wednesday 25th March at 7:30pm, we've organised a speaker to provide an interactive evening learning the basics of **British Sign Language**. By the end of the session, you'll be able to sign some simple words and phrases. This event is not restricted to Society members, so why not join us for the evening?

Photo competition. Don't forget that the Willoughby Society is sponsoring a photographic competition to create a calendar. Full details of the competition were published in the January issue of the Willoughby Monthly but entries should be emailed to photo-comp-only@willoughbyweb.net together with details of when and where the photograph was taken. The photos of life in and around Willoughby can include scenes, people, animals or birds and, in September, we'll select the 12 that will create the calendar. We do hope that then you'll all want to buy one!!



Friends of Willoughby

Sue Waddington

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, cake makers, raffle donators and our community for all your support during 2025. This has enabled us to give donations for the following projects:

£600 for **Willoughby Village Hall** and **Flood Action Group** to shore up the bank of the stream outside the Village Hall;

£70 to **Willoughby W.I.** to provide knitting wool for the children's Christmas boxes, twiddle muffs for dementia patients, and knee blankets for the elderly;

£30 for **Willoughby Society** to install storage racking in the Village Hall for the use of various groups and societies.

A post-February date for your diary - Spring Craft Fair, Saturday 14th March, 11.30am to 3.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pop-Up Cafe

Rachel Settle

The next Pop-Up Café will open its doors in Willoughby Village Hall 10:30-12:30 on Friday 6th February. We're all looking forward to seeing you but don't forget your cake containers for takeaways!



Church

Rev. Phil Price

Sadly, Sing-a-long and Slice on Thursday 5th February **has been postponed**. We look forward to seeing everyone again very soon.

Sunday 8th February – Family service at 11am.

Saturday 21st February – Soup and Social in the Village Hall from 12-2pm. Please aim to arrive before 12:30 to enjoy the delicious soup and pudding, then relax in the social time afterwards.

Sunday 22nd February – Holy Communion at 11am.

For the latest news, please follow us on Facebook and remember that our Benefice Website (www.draycoteandleamvalleybenefice.com) has full details of everything happening in Willoughby and across the Benefice.

God bless!!

Village Hall

Joss Ray

100 Club - January winners:



1st prize - David Maggs
2nd prize - Les Kemp
Congratulations to you both.



The Willoughby Monthly

Richard Jackson

Bert Ogle and I have been able to make arrangements for the future production of the Willoughby Monthly (WM) following Hannah ending her stint. This is Michael Nelson's first issue, having kindly agreed to take over. Printing and distribution has also changed in that the Village Hall Committee has agreed that the new WM printer may be kept in the Hall and printing done there when the Hall is not being used for other purposes. The Gentlemen's Coffee Group has kindly funded the purchase of a printer trolley and other items to keep the printer, ink and paper supplies safe and easily accessible. Printing and delivery preparation will now be done by other members of the WM team.

The printer and ink supplies have been acquired on a subscription scheme from Epson, the printer manufacturer, with the first 18 months funded jointly by the Parish Council and the Willoughby Charity. *The support of the Parish Council and Willoughby Charity is very much appreciated, thank you.*

It would be helpful to have some more volunteers available on a 'standby' basis so that, if someone is unable to carry out their usual tasks, we have reserves we're able call upon - e.g. if one of the distributors is unwell. If you'd like to find out more with a view to helping, please give me a call on 891898 or drop me an email at the WM address below.

Do you find reading the WM difficult because the text is small? Digital editions that can be enlarged on screen are available via www.willoughbyweb.net or the Facebook page. Alternatively, we can provide a large print version twice the size of the normal issue. Contact us by email to wm@willoughbyweb.net or call me on 891898 to arrange to have a Large Print version.

Tuesday 10th February at 7pm in the Village Hall is the next Parish Council meeting.

A round-up of some of the Parish Council's recent work includes:

- The ash tree beside the pond had ash dieback and was in poor condition so this has now been pollarded;
- The gate into the football area has been repaired;
- Highways was contacted again about the footpath along the A45 asking them to cut back the grass;
- Work to improve the gateway area on the public footpath across Big Ground should take place in the summer, when the weather is better.

Each parish councillor has named responsibilities but they often support each other on specific issues to seek the best outcomes for residents. To find out more, please go to www.willoughbyparishcouncil.org/councillors.

RBC Local Plan Review

Richard Jackson

You may recall that there was considerable concern that the St. Modwen Lodge Farm Garden Village proposal was being revived on a massively enlarged basis in the Local Plan Review process. A large number of representation (objection) letters were submitted by local people in the Leam Valley and Dunchurch highlighting the shortcomings of the original proposal that was thrown out by the Planning Inspector during the public examination of the current plan. The letters also focused upon the additional negative impacts the new enlarged proposal would cause, if included. Just before Christmas, the draft 'Submission Plan' was published. This did not include Lodge Farm and the outcomes from the consultation process, published with the draft Submission Plan, made it clear that the volume of representations and the points made had been received and understood.

The draft Submission Plan was considered by the RBC Cabinet on the 6th of January. It was recommended that the full Council approve the Plan for submission to the Secretary of State, following a 6-week public consultation. The full Council meeting was to consider this recommendation on 27th January after the WM went to print. The consultation will invite comments on the Plan's soundness and legal compliance. After considering feedback, RBC will submit the finalised plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government via the Planning Inspectorate.

Look out for advice from SALFV to see if they consider making representations about the proposed Submission Plan is necessary. The revised plan is intended to run until 2042. If the plan is approved for submission, it will not include Lodge Farm and lift the associated threat of massive development in the Leam Valley.

Everyone who submitted a representation in the last consultation should give themselves a pat on the back!

Willoughby Monthly

Do let us have your ideas for improving the WM and, of course, any articles/notices you have for your fellow villagers. The monthly deadline for submission of items is the 15th. Send them to e-mail: wm@willoughbyweb.net or call Richard on 01788 891898.

Police

Police Officers for the area are PC Rebecca Bailey and PCSO David Banks. The team have an e-mail address: rrs.snt@warwickshire.police.uk. If you wish to report a crime, please use the Warwickshire Police website or, by telephone, dialling either 101 or, in the case of an emergency, 999.