

The Willoughby Monthly



www.willoughbyweb.net

Facebook Group: Willoughby Monthly

Volume 19

May

2026

Welcome to the May edition of the Willoughby Monthly. It feels like we are back to January rather than almost half a year gone! Sadly Michael has decided that he really hasn't got sufficient time to look after the WM and has stepped back. Leaving Bert and me to keep things going. Thankfully, Adele Aske-Haley is taking on the print run which helps enormously. We do need one or two people to help with production of the WM preferably with fewer grey hairs than Bert and I have! To get in touch the email and telephone details are on the back page. Feedback and new ideas are also welcome.

We should, perhaps, welcome the pair of Red Kites that have been working on a nest in one of the tall trees to the south of Main Street behind the car park. Their aerobic skills whilst carrying a long twig are impressive. I have to say the Rooks are less impressed at their usual site being taken over. There have been quite a few hedgehogs about at ground level along with the occasional fox.

Over the last month Openreach/contractors have been in the village, part of work to take Braunston exchange full fibre. Causing traffic lights around the junctions with Main Street. The first visits resulted in lots of coloured markings on the pavements, which were to indicate any culverts the cables run through that needed clearing/maintenance. Once completed they will be able to install the fibre cable to the telegraph poles. All a precursor to us being able to order full fibre broadband to our homes. Fingers crossed its available sooner rather than later!

Richard Jackson

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Sun-10-May-26	11:00 AM	Church	Holy Communion Service	Church
Tue-12-May-26	7:00 PM	Parish Council	Annual Parish Council Meeting	village Hall
Thu-14-May-26	2:30 PM	Thursday Club	Victoria Wood - Steve Dimmer	Village Hall
Fri-15-May-26	7:00 PM	Women's Institute	Bingo	Village Hall
Sun-17-May-26	2:30 PM	Willoughby Society	Aunty Jen Productions with 'An Ideal Husband'	Village Hall
Thu-21-May-26	12:30 PM	Thursday Club	Pub Lunch -The Two Boats (probably)	Long Itchington
Thu-21-May-26	12:30 PM	Women's Institute	Annual Lunch at The Bell	Hillmorton
Sat-23-May-26	12:00 PM	Church	Soup & Social	Village Hall
Sat-23-May-26	7:00 PM	Friends of Willoughby	Race Night	Village Hall
Sun-24-May-26	11:00 AM	Church	Morning Worship	Church
Sat-06-Jun-26		Willoughby Society	Big Lunch	Village Hall & Garden

Annual Community Meeting

The meeting was held on 23 April 2026 and the Annual Report was presented. This report is a summary of some of the significant events that have taken place over the past year and highlights some actions to be carried out in the future. The report and the minutes are on the Parish Council website willoughby-pc.gov.uk. If you would like a paper copy of either, please email our Parish Clerk, Jo Jarman, at clerk@willoughby-pc.gov.uk or phone/text her on 07809 197817.

R.B.C. Submission Local Plan

The consultation closed on 13 March 2026. Lodge Farm was not allocated in this version of the Local Plan but has remained as a 'reasonable alternative'. The Parish Council made two representations - one about Lodge Farm and one about Policy EN3 Rainsbrook Valley Landscape of Heightened Sensitivity. You can read both on the website.

Once RBC has updated their Consultation Statement, they intend to send this, together with all responses received, to the government by the end of April 2026. RBC cannot make changes to the Submission Local Plan at this point. But, the Planning Inspector can recommend modifications after the Examination in Public which RBC hopes will take place in the autumn, with a view to adoption by Rugby Borough Council in spring 2027.

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.



2027



Church

Rev. Phil Price

It was great to be back with Singalong and Slice last month and especially good to see so many new faces. We look forward to another hour of hearty community singing, tea and homemade cake very soon.

May 23rd will be our final Soup and Social for the season, but we'll return for more delicious soup, puds and social time together in the Autumn.

In the meantime, there's lots to look forward to over the summer months at St Nicholas. Preparations are well underway for our Fete and Family Fun Dog show on 20th June. An afternoon of traditional fete fun with games, strawberry teas, children's maypole dancing, dog-themed face painting and a family dog show having fun with our four-legged furry friends.

Tom Waterworth from Bilton Veterinary Centre will be our Judge and vet-on-hand for the afternoon and classes will include Handsomest Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Best bowtie or hat, Scruffiest mutt, Waggiest Tail, Quickest 'sit!', Best six legs (to include those of the handler!) and finally, Entry the Judge would most like to take home (but won't be allowed to!) There will also be an Accumulator of points awarded towards Best in Show, so get your shampoo and brushes ready, and thinking caps on! It's all about having FUN with our precious companions.

Do take note of the new service pattern at St Nicholas with our key May dates being:

Sunday 10th, Holy Communion Service, 11am,

Saturday 23rd, Soup & Social – Village Hall, 12-2pm,

Sunday 24th, Morning Worship, 11am.

Spring has definitely sprung, we had a glorious visit to Tulley's Tulip fields near Hatton, where the display of tulips was awesome. The band that entertained us last month was also fabulous, and we will re-book them in the future.

May is a quiet month for the Society with only one event on Sunday, 17th May at 2.30 pm. Aunty Jen Productions is returning with another of Oscar Wilde's plays. 'An Ideal Husband'. The play revolves around blackmail and political corruption, with themes of public and private honour. Despite being written over 100 years ago, it seems that the world of politics has not changed, and it makes for an entertaining afternoon. We have booked a matinee performance to make the event accessible to a wider audience, so please join us for the afternoon. The Bar will be open, and Tea and coffee available. Ticket bookings: Adults £12, Concessions £10. from www.auntyjenproductions.co.uk or by calling 07904 872990. Tickets are also available to purchase from Leonie Tromans or other Willoughby Society Committee members.

As it is held on the first week of next month, a date for your diaries is Saturday 6th June, which is the Big Lunch picnic. The Big Lunch was started by the Eden Project in 2009 as a way to build community connections, reduce loneliness and foster friendship. We have held the picnic every year since 'Willoughby 2012', everyone is welcome to join us in the garden of the Village Hall. The format will be slightly different this year and will be American buffet style. The event is free, everyone just brings a dish of food for the sharing table, either sweet or savoury. We do still need to know numbers attending so we can set the garden up. Please let Val Taylor know if you will be joining the picnic.



Friends of Willoughby

Sue Waddington

Race Night on Saturday 23rd May 2026:

The start - Racing begins at 7:00pm sharp and punters need to be seated by 6:45pm.

Tickets – £10.00 each and include a hot supper. Tickets need to be booked in advance for catering purposes and please advise any dietary requirements when booking.

Attendees - Children are allowed but must be 18 and over to place a bet.

Sponsors – We're seeking sponsors for each race and sponsorship costs £25.00.

The last race – An owner's race and we'll be taking bids for people to own a horse.

Betting – This will be a simple tote, and payout will be for the first past the post.

Drinks & Prizes - We'll have a bar and, of course, a raffle. Please help with donations of raffle prizes as ever these will be greatly appreciated.

Proceeds – The beneficiaries will be Friends of Willoughby and Willoughby Village Hall Committee.

For further information or to book tickets please contact Sue Waddington at friendsofwilloughby@gmail.com or Bert Ogle bertogle@aol.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

Date for your diary

Willoughby Festival and Willoughby Cricket Club 125th Celebration - Sunday 12th July.

To be held at Willoughby Cricket Club, The Green, Woolscott Road. Willoughby. We are looking for crafters/stall holders, please note as this will be an outdoor event you will need your own gazebo, table and chairs. If you would like to book a pitch please contact Sue Waddington email friendsofwilloughby@gmail.com for further information.

Sue Waddington, Val Baxter, Karen Nichols and Bert Ogle.

Village Hall

Joss Ray



100 Club - April Draw

1st place - Leonie Tromans

2nd place - Tony Gasser



For Village Hall Bookings: contact Karen Skipp - vwhallenquiries@gmail.com

Thursday Club

Jim Rowley

14 May 2.30pm Village Hall: "Victoria Wood" - Steve Dimmer

21 May, 12.30pm Pub Lunch. Probably The Two Boats, Long Itchington, to be confirmed at our meeting on 14 May.

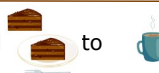
In June the membership card is back to front! 11 June will be a pub lunch, and 18 June will be our members' Garden Party, this year with an 'Ascot Ladies' Day' theme, and using Bert's racing day programme.

New members always welcome - just ask the Secretary, Jim Rowley 01788 891 805 or recorderjim@icloud.com

Pop-Up Cafe

Thank you for supporting the cafe in April, it was lovely to see you all. Funds will be donated to our local British Legion branch in Daventry and Myton Hospice in Rugby.

Please note there will be no cafe in May but we will be open again on 5th June at 10:30am.



to Friday

Willoughby Women's Institute

Lorraine Geddes

Friday - 15 May - Willoughby WI invites you to a night of BINGO 7pm for a 7.30pm start - Willoughby Village Hall - tickets £5.00 per person (includes a light supper) bring your own drink and a glass) - tickets to be purchased in advance for catering purposes and are available from Lorraine 01788 890846, lorrainearnettgeddes@btinternet.com or Pat 01788 891223

patjames@btinternet.com Last year we were delighted to make a donation to the Rugby Women's Refuge of £100.

Thursday - 21 May annual lunch - 12.30pm at The Bell, Hillmorton



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 Seb Payne, PCSO David Banks and PCSO Paula Parkes. 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.