

The Willoughby Monthly



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Facebook Group: Willoughby Monthly

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Welcome to the July edition of the Willoughby Monthly.

The June weather seemed to be unable to decide which season it was with plenty of rain, cool days, and a few summery ones. Plenty of activity in the village though, even an afternoon at Royal Ascot.

July is scheduled to be busy again with the Cricket Club celebrating its 125th anniversary hosting this year's Festival activities. More information inside and some requests for help to make it all happen do get involved if you can.

On the wildlife front the Red Kites in the centre of the village are often to be seen riding a thermal. There is at least one family of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers about, if you see one with a red 'cap' its a youngster. There are Chaffinches and Green Finches around our garden for the first time in a couple of years. At least three Hedgehogs are around along with a few Rabbits and Grey Squirrels. Keep an eye out for other animals in the long grass and hedges.

Sadly after a flurry of activity Openreach's fibre work seems to have come to a halt. Hopefully they will come back and get on with the job soon.

Richard Jackson

Bert Ogle

Thank you to all Dads friends and neighbours for your kindness, support, and sympathy following the loss of our dad. Your thoughtful messages, cards, and presence at his funeral meant so much to us. We are deeply grateful for your love and support.

Tracey & family

Date	Time	Organisation	Event	Venue
Fri-03-Jul-26	10:30 AM		Pop-Up Café	Village Hall
Sun-05-Jul-26	11:00 AM		Festival Set up	The Green, Woolscott Road
Sat-11-Jul-26	6:00 PM	Willoughby Society	Festival Music Night	
Sun-12-Jul-26	11:00 AM	Church	Holy Communion Service	Church
Sun-12-Jul-26		Friends of Willoughby & WCC	Cricket Club 125th Anniversary and Willoughby Festival	The Green, Woolscott Road
Tue-14-Jul-26	7:00 PM	Parish Council	Meeting	Village Hall
Thu-16-Jul-26	7:30 PM	Women's Institute	The Role of a Celebrant	Village Hall
Mon-20-Jul-26	12:00 PM	Parish Council	Play Rangers (12pm until 2pm)	Playing Field
Sun-26-Jul-26	4:30 PM	Church	Pimms & Hymns	Church
Mon-27-Jul-26	12:00 PM	Parish Council	Play Rangers (12pm until 2pm)	Playing Field

Pop-Up Cafe

Rachel Settle

The ladies of Lower Street are now fully recovered, so the Pop-Up cafe will be opening its doors once again in the village hall on Friday 3rd July, 10:30 - 12:30. We very much look forward to seeing you there.



Willoughby Cricket Club

Brian Hall

We are celebrating our 125 year anniversary during 2026, the first inaugural meeting being on March 25th 1901, in the village reading room when six members were present .

Most of the years since then have been spent at 'The Green in Pye Court', although we played at Big Ground for a number of years. Our first proper square was laid and a wooden pavilion built in 1953 paid for by Tom Bates who lived at Willoughby House. The ground was rented from Sid Ivens until 1973 when we purchased it from his landlord. In 1978 we started fundraising for a new pavilion and by 1982 we had raised £36,000 and it was built. Much of this money came from our village community who supported us so well.

To celebrate this anniversary we have organised a number of events where villagers are welcome to come and take part .

Festival Concert on Sat July 11th with 'THE PEAS ' performing. From 6 pm. and a bar and a barbecue will be available .

Festival Games and Races. Refreshments games and various stalls start at 12.30p.m.and we then begin the various races for children and adults at 1.30p.m.These include sprints, sack races and an obstacle course and finally a Tug of War competition for all age groups. Again bar facilities and a barbecue will be available .

We invite all villagers and their families to come down and take part,children's friends are also welcome.

W.C.C Cricket Match versus M.C.C. The game is on July 26th and it is the first time in our history that we have hosted the MCC.

Black Tie Dinner This is on Friday Oct 16th,with guest speaker Philip De Freitas, an ex England cricketer, which will be held at the Draycote Hotel .

Willoughby Parish Council

Maggie Beech

Play Rangers

The Play Ranger sessions will take place on Monday 20 July 2026, 27 July 2026, 10 August 2026 and 17 August 2026 and will run from noon until 2pm. The activities are best suited to children in the 3 to 13 'ish' age range, although everyone is welcome. If the weather is wet, the activities will take place in the Village Hall. Children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Thursday Club

Janet Rowley/Christine Thomas

Following Bert's death we have had to reorganise the Thursday Club Committee. Pat Atkins -Chairperson, Jim Rowley -Treasurer, Christine Thomas and Janet Rowley -joint secretaries, Margaret O'Donnell arranges our speakers and Alan Belgrove arranges our monthly pub lunches. Ian Baxter and Mary Lockett have recently joined the committee.

We have a holiday in July and will be back in the August with our BBQ on 13th August, details in next months Willoughby Monthly.

New members welcome - contact Janet 017888 91805 or Christine 01788 314795.

Willoughby Festival

set up. Sunday 5th July 11am. Willoughby Cricket Club. Please come along and help put up the marquee.

Music night; Saturday 11th July from 6pm. As previously detailed, because the Cricket club will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year, we have decided to combine the celebration with the Willoughby festival weekend. Both will be at the Cricket club

Festival, Games, and Races

As there is a cricket match each Saturday, we will be organising the usual village Festival and games event on Sunday, 12th July, from 12.30 pm, with races starting at 1.30pm. The evening Music event will take place on Saturday, 11th July, from 6pm, tickets £10. The bar will be open, and a BBQ will be fired up to serve food, hopefully for both events.

We need volunteers to bake cakes for the refreshment stall, to help on the day with the games. If you can help with any of these things, please get in touch with Sue Waddington or Leonie Tromans. If you can help with the races on the day, please contact Brian Hall.

Dates for your diaries:

Although we usually have a break in July and August, this year we have been offered an event by the Live and Local Rural and Community Touring Network. The event is one of the River Tour performances, which are described as engaging, witty and informative documentary storytelling about the River Avon, its nature, history, legends and culture. There are two possible dates when they will join us: Wednesday, 5th August, from 7.30pm or Wednesday, 12th August, from 7.30 pm. I am awaiting confirmation of the date and availability.

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!!



Village Hall

Joss Ray



100 Club Draw:
1st place - Alex Ray
2nd place - Rachel Settle
Congratulations!



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

Willoughby Women's Institute

Lorraine Geddes

Thursday 16 July – 7.30pm – Lesley Coles will tell us about the role of a Celebrant – the competition is a wedding or christening photo.

Willoughby WI would also like to give a big thank you to those who came along to support our Bingo evening – we are delighted to let you know that we have been able to give £100 to Rugby Women's Refuge.

Friends of Willoughby

Sue Waddington

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

To be held at Willoughby Cricket Club, The Green, Woolscott Road. Willoughby. We are looking for people to help run the children's games, wellie wanging, splat the rat etc if you would be willing to go onto a rota to cover an hour period, please let Sue Waddington know friendsofwilloughby@gmail.com

We are also 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.

Date for your diary: Race Night Saturday – Saturday 3rd October. Racing begins at 7:00pm sharp and punters need to be seated by 6:45pm.

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

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Waddington, Val Baxter, Karen Nichols

Church

Rev. Phil Price

Thank you to everyone who came to our Singalong & Slice last month. We had a lovely hour sharing songs, tea and cakes and an opportunity to say a very fond farewell and thank you to dear Bert in our own special way. A short video of this can be seen on the Willoughby Monthly Facebook group.

At the time of writing, we are very much looking forward to our Fete and Family Fun Dog show. The Maypole dancing is always such a treat, and we do thank Suzanne Marson, Liz Wooldridge and the pupils from Leamington Hastings school for agreeing to entertain us again this year. We hope that the sun shines for us, and on all the village events coming up this Summer!

As we ease into the summer holidays, our Church services will follow a special summer pattern listed below:

- Sunday 12th July, 11am Holy Communion service
- Sunday 26th July, 4pm Pimm's and Hymns: A service full of favourite hymns, friendly faces and a glass of Pimm's & lemonade with some savoury nibbles – what's not to love?
- Sunday 9th August, 10am Common Worship Communion

We'd love to see you at any or all of these – do take note of the varying times!

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.