

## Willingham Action Group

### Report to Willingham Parish Council - May 2018

#### WAG work for the financial year 2017 – 2018

##### Willingham Beerfest June 2017

Some sixteen WAG volunteers assisted with the Beerfest, WAG took responsibility for general organisation including providing glasses, organisation at the door, producing the programme, erecting and dismantling the marquee, etc. The WAG profit was £2300 and £1800 of this is pledged to the Social Club for improvements including the disabled toilet. Most of the remainder will be used to pay for our annual subscription for public liability insurance.

After a very successful Beerfest which attracted about 1000 people from far and wide we did discuss whether we should ask WAG volunteers to give up time in a situation where commercial concerns were making a profit. However, the majority of this group felt that it was a very worthwhile village event and that we should consider our position next year.

##### Willingham Feast October 2017

The WAG Feast Group headed by Mike Tidball worked hard, as usual, to make the Feast a success. Willingham history and the Social Club figured highly in the 2017 Feast programme. The first weekend started with a guided tour of the most historic wall paintings in St Mary and All Saints which was well attended. The Feast then continued with a bang caused by some heavy metal emanating from Willingham Social Club when the AC/DC tribute band, 'Let There B/DC' performed there.

The third Feast event, Thurston's funfair on the Green, was followed by Custard Comedy at the Social Club to help raise money for the installation of a disabled toilet. The comedy nights are always sold out as they are so good. The Comper, Jonathan Elston, was brilliant at interacting with the audience and we had two 'normal' very funny comedians followed by the headliners, Raymond and Mr Timpkins. You will never see another act like this, they resembled Laurel and Hardy but with the film speeded up ten times faster. Their very clever act involved non-stop clips from songs accompanied by dozens of props.

On Feast Saturday and Sunday we had three exhibitions in the village; one run by the Octagon art group, one by the photography club, and the library hosted an historical perspective of Willingham with material from the 'Old Willingham' website and material from the Cambridgeshire Collection. The photography and art displays were as outstanding as ever and one is reminded that there are so many talented people in the village. On Saturday night Willingham School Association ran a ceilidh. By the end, like most ceilidhs, everyone was hot, happy and slightly confused for at times it resembled the game 'British Bulldog.'

Feast Sunday started with the cycle ride to Ely, which looked wonderful in the sunshine. Later the Treasure Hunt around the village started with a search for older buildings and other points of interest. We must apologise that, for the very first time in many years, there was no concert on the Green by a Salvation Army

Band. It was cancelled at the last minute for reasons beyond our control. The band did perform in the church in the evening.

The final weekend started with a70s/80s disco, I believe the audience would not let the DJ go home until the early hours. On Saturday Willingham Youth Trust held a very successful family Disco and the Feast finished with Willingham Wine Club's wine quiz, nearly 70 people tasted large amounts of wine over the course of four hours and the event concluded with dancing to the excellent band 'Word of Mouth.'

### QEII Field Play Equipment

In July people were invited to join Willingham Action Group (WAG) and Willingham Youth Trust (WYT) at the QEII Playing Field for a family fun-filled afternoon of picnicking with BBQ, drinks and celebrations. This is to celebrate the partnership work of the Parish Council, WAG and WYT in completing the great redevelopment of the playing field and local youth centre.

### Environmental Group

#### COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The fruit trees are now well established, 120 in all with 114 on the grid as illustrated on the Orchard Board. Trees on more vigorous root stocks are making appreciable growth, although some trees have yet to bear fruit. The original spiral guards have now been replaced with expandable mesh guards. We are grateful to Edward Gilbert who continues to cut the grass on a volunteer basis.

Bulb planting has been repeated for a second year, with the mixture of bulbs referred to below under a section on flora and fauna. The bulbs planted last winter, along with the wild flowers, gave a good seasonal display appreciated by those who are regular visitors to the orchard.

The woodland area is beginning to look like a woodland with excellent autumn colours on display this winter, and providing good cover for children to play hide and seek. The 25 native species planted are listed on the Woodland Board. Two picnic benches located in a circular area on the edge of the wood makes a great place to sit. The basket willow patch has been slow to establish but we look forward to the first woven item being produced.

Melvyn and Brenda Smith, WAG volunteers with an interest in wildlife, make regular visits to the orchard and contribute to the Willingham News. They have summarised below flora and fauna encountered in the Orchard:

*Flora:* wild English daffodil, English bluebells, snakes head fritillaries, wild/woodland garlic, round-headed garlic, wild/woodland tulip, primroses and cowslips, marsh-mallow, lady's bedstraw, creeping bindweed, black knapweed, field scabious and meadow cranesbill plus several grass varieties. Plus, of course, all our planted native trees and bushes.

*Fauna:* Various species of grasshoppers, beetles and flies. Two species of damselfly and ruddy darter dragonfly. Butterflies – small copper, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small tortoiseshell, common blue, large white and small skipper plus silvery moth and other unidentified day-flying moths.

*Bird species:* barn owl, rook, crow, jackdaw and magpie, bullfinch, starling, robin, wren, dunnock and blackbird, blue and great tit and of course, woodpigeon.

Melvyn and Brenda try to visit the Orchard, at least twice each month but cannot hope to find, or see, all the species that are likely to visit or establish.

Undoubtedly, more species will be found, particularly as the Orchard matures and it would be great if more villagers visited to add to our knowledge of this wonderful village asset. Why not take your children, not only to play (which is important!) but also to discover and learn? They'll love it! Do let us know what you find.

Photos of the Orchard can be viewed at <https://julespix.smugmug.com/browse> go to Galleries - Willingham Community Orchard. Feel free to submit your own photos for inclusion by sending to Julian [eales@hotmail.com](mailto:eales@hotmail.com)

The Community Orchard, as the name suggests, is open to all. It was established in response to the Parish Plan Action Plan by providing more useable open space and WAG encourages residents to visit. Notice boards provide the background to its establishment as well as a guide to what trees are planted. The Orchard is maintained by WAG Enviro Group volunteers so if you wish to have more information, wish to get involved or you have an interest in bee keeping please contact WAG via the new [willinghamlife](http://willinghamlife.com) website.

## QEII

The transformation of the QEII play area was completed earlier this year and is attracting ever increasing numbers, so much so that WAG applied for funding from the SCDC Community Chest, after receiving an initial generous donation from Vintage Travel based in Willingham, for the provision of more seating. A circular bench to surround a feature of three white barked Silver Birches, earlier sponsored by Vintage Travel, plus three plank benches to be placed by the under 5's play area.

The planting of sponsored trees was completed last winter bringing the total to 50, plus one planted earlier on the recreation ground. This made it possible to commission a promised sign board listing the trees and their sponsors with tree location identified on an aerial photo of the QEII field. The board will soon be installed. Thanks go to Cambridge Aerial Surveys for the photo and to Siobhan Brown for repeating her creative work on design and art work.

As always, WAG recognize the continued support of WPC and their maintenance input.

## Website

Our new website was launched at the end of 2017 and we are very happy with it so far. Our thanks go to Ackbar Joolia, our web manager, and Guy Beauchamp for all his help with this and the previous website. The web address remains the same at [www.willinghamlife.org](http://www.willinghamlife.org)

The site will have ongoing development as we design it to the needs of the residents. We intend it to be a source of information for all aspects of village life to include, eventually, a full business and club directory, events, photo pages, all information about the village such as transport details and opening hours of service providers, a space for residents to post comments and announcements, lost, found and for sale. The site also provides a platform for the Willingham News magazine so the current and nearly all back issues are available to download.

## The Future

As a newer initiative WAG has now starting working in conjunction with other groups in the village. We have always offered support to the Gardening Club for the Horticultural Show but the QEII celebration picnic was a joint venture with WYT, WSA and WAG and WAG supported WYT at their Family Disco. We hope to increase cooperation between other groups in the village.

M Tidball  
Secretary WAG  
1 May 2018

WAG Accounts 2017-2018

**General Account**

		IN	OUT
02/05/2017	Donation from Willingham Photo Club	100.00	
26/04/2017	FECA Membership fee		15.00
17/07/2017	To M Tidball for QEII BBQ gas supply		14.00
03/10/2017	To M Tidball payment of WAG PLI		222.53
20/11/2017	Payment for Octagon hire - AGM		20.00
28/11/2017	To M Tidball - printing 2017		55.93
28/11/2017	To M Tidball - refreshments WAG AGM		31.87

Start £1922 End £1662

**Environment Group**

07/04/17	Tree sponsorship - L Fell	20.00	
24/04/17	IP Engraving labels		52.60
08/05/17	To G Mumby - orchard supplies		35.71
01/09/17	SCDC Community Chest benches QEII	1,000.00	
12/09/17	WAG grant to Wham Bee Group		200.00
03/10/17	To Naturescape for orchard bulbs		48.50
03/10/17	To Gedney for orchard bulbs		61.80
11/10/17	To G Mumby tree guards for orchard		82.00
17/10/17	EEAOP Annual subscription		15.00
23/10/17	To MJT for payment of bench wood		360.00
07/11/17	To G Mumby for plaque QEII Bench		20.00
08/11/17	To M Tidball Sanding simple benches		13.04
09/11/17	To G Mumby preservative for bench		12.99
15/11/17	Sustainable furniture bench		1,130.00
27/11/17	To G Mumby QEII bench/tree expenses		71.66
27/11/17	To M Tidball QEII bench expenses		90.68
06/12/17	Donation from Vintage Travel	600.00	
22/12/17	To G Mumby - E Gilbert hamper		40.85
25/01/18	To G Mumby - orchard expenses		56.99
23/02/18	To Footprint for QEII signboard		468.00

Start £2669 End £1529

**Feast**

03/10/17	To WPC for PH for Feast Ceilidh		90.00
03/10/17	To M Tidball advert/poster expenses		93.81
09/10/17	To P Knighton for Feast programmes		63.79
15/10/17	Feast Donation from Wine Club	100.00	
15/10/17	Takings from Treasure Hunt	20.00	
23/10/17	Prizes for Treasure Hunt		26.00
08/11/17	Feast donation from social club	80.00	
21/11/17	From WSA for ceilidh hall booking	90.00	
02/12/17	Feast donation from WYT	80.00	

Start £0 End £96

**Beerfest**

		IN	OUT
June 29	Leaflets (flyers)		50.79
To July 1	Leaflets (sponsorship)		29.79
	TEN		21.00
	Marquee lights		49.98
	Banners		150.00
	Toilets		135.00
	Toilet paper		16.00
	Printing ink (programmes)		129.53
	Printing (additional programmes)		14.00
	Glasses		867.98
	Band - Alchemy		200.00
	Band – Steve Lockwood		400.00
	Band – Keith Pearson		300.00
	Payment – Steve Lockwood		400.00
	To Over Players Beerfest Advert		35.00
	Pledged to social club disabled toilets		1800.00
	FECA	250.00	
	Uttridge	350.00	
	Hockeys	350.00	
	Watts	100.00	
	Highgate	50.00	
	Foreman's	25.00	
	Willingham Wheels	50.00	
	MIRA Training (Trev and Teresa)	25.00	
	Door takings Thursday	580.00	
	Door Takings Friday	1,870.0	
	Door Takings Saturday	1,434.0	

Start £0 End £2285

So

Start of Year - £4591

End of Year - £3772