

WAG Annual report to WPC – May 2019

This is in roughly chronological order.

Last year we introduced a policy of supporting or working with other groups in our community and in the last year we have acted on this.

Last summer some of our volunteers helped with the Fen Gallop as well as assisting the Gardening Club with the Horticultural Show.

We continued our role as organisers of the village Feast in October 2018 so we contacted many other groups in the village to see how they might want to be involved and then drew up a programme which was set out in an A5 booklet, printed, and delivered to every home in the village. We also organised extensive poster and banner advertising. Our main role in the Feast was in working alongside Willingham Social Club to hold the main event of the Feast, the Beer Festival. Our fundraising from this and the previous Feast allowed us to donate £2250 to their fund for a disabled toilet and new a new boiler for the heating system and we need to thank all our volunteers who helped with that. Other events were the Jam Night, Photography and Art exhibitions, the Wine Quiz, Comedy and Music nights run by Willingham Social Club and a Family Disco run by Willingham Youth Trust, with the help of WAG volunteers.

In February WAG was able to obtain a grant of £340 from the SCDC Community Fund to buy 11 bird boxes to be placed around the school grounds, we thank David Allen for his energy in making this happen. This seemed such a good idea that WAG then bought a further 10 to place around the orchard. In addition we have sourced three telegraph poles, with thanks to Councillor Manning, for two barn owl and one kestrel nesting boxes and some bat boxes, also for the orchard. Thanks for this initiative go to Graham Mumby and Bruce Robgent, Bruce made the bijou nesting boxes. The poles and boxes were installed in mid-April by our great friend Ed Gilbert. If you are aware of the terrible decline in the numbers of birds in the UK you will see good reason in this small support. At the same time WAG helpers Brenda and Melvyn Smith have been ordering wildflower plants for the orchard. We should also express thanks to the Willingham Bee Keepers, chaired by Steve Smith, who do so much to support the bee population, which is so vital in pollination of wildflowers.

Steve, Graham, Polly and Allan Fawcitt, Melvyn and Brenda Smith, Marion Barber and Sue Oliver were invited to Over Gardening Club to talk about the work done in bringing the Community Orchard into being. The club kindly made a donation of £50 to our funds and there was a private donation of £20 for two bat boxes.

There is a small group of volunteers who help maintain the orchard but more help is always welcome. Mostly this involves checking the support posts and ties on trees and some pruning to keep a good shape. Ray Manning has kindly assisted this process by giving expert tuition on pruning to our volunteers. The orchard continues to flourish and will be an excellent place to have a picnic in the summer months. The trees will grow well and bear much fruit after the Wassail held in January!

Paul Knighton and I offered help to Willingham Youth Trust by acting as bar staff at the recent Family Disco in the Ploughman Hall. This is not an onerous task and we actually really enjoy doing it as it's just like being at a party with friends. The trustees of WYT work very hard to keep the youth centre going and I'm sure they would like extra help. At the moment they are investigating opening the centre during school holidays/ weekends as a café with drinks, crisps, etc. but they need help both financial and with personpower to achieve it. WAG donated £250 to the project and provided some volunteers to staff the pop-up shop. If it proves successful it will be another great asset for the village.

We are planning for the future. We have two more bench seats to go near the under-5's play area on the QEII Field and will install them when the weather improves.

One of our 'offshoots' Willingham Wheels Cycle Club are planning one of two 'sportives' organised by Willingham Wheels in association with Swavesey & Over Cycling Group that will take place on Sunday June 16 and will offer either a 50 mile route or one of 8.5 miles. It's to celebrate the triple anniversary of Over Day Centre's 5-pub challenge walk and the formation of Willingham Wheels and SOCG. Proceeds will go to support Over Day Centre. WAG will offer help if needed.

We are also hoping to be able to give some support to the Willingham Baptists for their village litter-pick sometime in May but this is still at the planning stage.

We are also aware that the Parish Council receive many complaints from residents about bad parking and speeding in the village, not to mention the many heavy lorries that pass through. Our District Councillors have been doing their best, especially with the problem of the lorries, and several members of WAG have been working with them. We track lorries coming through the village to gain robust evidence that they are servicing Northstowe or the A14 Upgrade as this is contrary to the planning application conditions. Evidence has been presented to CCC and we await the outcome.

Mike Tidball
Secretary – Willingham Action Group

WAG Accounts to WPC (2018-2019)

	Income		Expenditure
Balance April 1 2018	5528.14		
General Account			
Income from Feast 2017	96.40	FECA Membership cost	15.00
Income from Feast 2018	583.17	PLI	222.53
		Octagon Hire	20.00
		Website Hosting	140.00
Enviro Account			
Donation from Over GC	50.00	Orchard expenses	173.58
Donation for bat boxes	20.00	WAG bird boxes	103.50
SCDC Grant for bird boxes	346.70	WAG bird boxes for WPS	354.19
		Fixings/varnish for QEII bench	64.66
Other			
From 2018 Beerfest	450.00	Donation to WSC (WAG profit from WSC Beerfests)	2250.00
Total with income	7074.41	Expenditure	3343.46
Balance April 1 2019	3730.95		