

## **Willingham Action Group Report for the year 2015 – 2016**

### **News**

Reg Purnell was one of the members of the Parish Plan group, he then was a major influence on the formation of WAG. Reg has supported WAG since its inception, most recently as Chairman. He also served on the Parish Council for a while. During the year Reg decided to retire from the WAG Board but will still be involved, helping out from time to time. We must thank Reg for all his work for the village.

### **The Feast 2016**

The Feast committee have found running the Feast quite demanding given the lack of volunteers/helpers and have been happy that other groups such as the Social Club and the Willingham School Association have organised their own events. The October 2015 Feast had twenty-one separate events. The progress will continue this year with the only obvious change being that WAG doesn't have the human resources to run the Feast market and we hope another group will take this on. Feast weekend falls on 7/8 October. WAG will put together a programme and deliver one to all houses in the village as in past years.

### **QEII Group Update**

The 'official' opening of the re-equipped QEII field took place last summer and was a great success. The new equipment in place seems to be getting well used and we have had appreciative comments. There has been no progress as yet in securing all the funding for Phase II of the project. A fund-raising event will be held in the summer, a repeat of the 'It's a Knockout.'

### **WAG Tree Project Update**

#### **Village Trees**

The village trees are looking good with two having suffered some damage. Some maintenance work is required on stakes and straps plus some pruning.

#### **QEII**

Replacement trees/new planting

3 S/Birch were vandalised in the past, two of which were clean cut and are re-growing being left to develop as multi-stem trees. One replacement has been planted on the hedge nearby still as part of the group. 1 or 2 other trees might need replacing that were planted during winter 2014 otherwise all are growing well.

Some further sponsored landscape tree planting may be undertaken next winter within the play area.

#### **Tree sponsor signboard**

The assumption was made that the final play area phase would follow on quickly and that both tree sponsor and QEII boards would be coordinated. Whilst we could now consider progressing with the tree sponsor sign board, if further sponsored planting is to be carried out we need to wait.

#### **Orchard/Woodland**

Replacement Woodland trees have been planted as required and trees straightened up as necessary. Only two orchard trees have required replacement. Further formative pruning is being carried out under the direction of Nick Corcoran, a Willingham resident. When the

trees have developed further, more pruning work will be involved so it is planned to run an organised pruning course in the future.

We have an offer from a Willingham based company to take aerial photos of the orchard and woodland area. This will help plotting a future network of pathways through the woodland area.

The planting on Bumpy Drove has been checked and replacements planted where required.

The willow patch has been checked and the gaps filled where cuttings failed.

Further garden furniture has been donated (thanks to Tim Maris) so try and enjoy a picnic this summer.

It is planned to make laminated lists of the orchard trees by type and variety available to assist people looking round. You may request a description/history of your fruit tree.

Hopefully the wild flower areas will be more in evidence this year. A further transplant of cowslips has just been done. (Thanks to Gill Brown for the opportunity to raid her field) It is planned to start bulb planting next winter.

We have had the offer of two bee hives (thanks to Paul and Carolyn Knighton) which will be located in the orchard area (top RH corner) and looked after by a newly formed WAG Bee Group. Formalities have been completed with WPC.

Edward Gilbert generously continues to provide tractor assistance and grass cutting. Thanks also to others who have helped with tasks that need undertaking.

### **Willinghamlife Website**

The website starts to look very dated and some of the directory information may now be wrong. Our thanks to Ackbar who continues to add notices and events but we do need to form a sub-group to look at where we go next, preferably to a newer version.

### **WEEE Collection**

WISER carried out a collection of unwanted electrical goods for recycling in 2015 and we thank them for providing such a good service but the Parish Council were recently notified by WISER Recycling to confirm that, since the price of recyclable electrical goods had dropped considerably, they could not make payment to the council for any collection during 2016. However, the firm were happy to collect goods to maintain the environmentally friendly collections in Willingham. The parish council agreed with this and so the collection will go ahead on Thursday July 7.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Brian Reynolds has taken over from Mike Tidball as village NHW Coordinator effectively removing NHW as a part of WAG for the time being. We will continue to give support to Brian when needed.

M Tidball  
WAG Secretary

## WAG Accounts 2015/2016 Summary Sheet

Showing major (£50 or more) amounts of income and expenditure

WAG Accounts Section	Major Income		Major Outgoings		year change
	amount	description	amount	description	
General	227.00	WEEE collection	199.00	PL Insurance	
			72.00	Local Giving membership	-94.66
QEll	1,000.00	Donations	2,000.00	Match funding Amey-Cespa	
	387.00	Takings at opening	9,300.00	To WPC Proludic invoice	
	130.00	Donation Proludic	50.00	Refreshments QEll opening	-9,833.00
Enviro			1,350.00	Orchard signs	
			68.00	Spraying equipment	-1,565.33
Feast	705.00	Sponsorship/market stalls	503.00	Programmes/posters/food	201.66

Balance at 01/04/15	14,885.84
Balance at 01/04/16	3,593.51

Projected outgoings for 2016/2017

Tree/Orchard maintenance      £1675

Public liability insurance      £200