

## **Report\* to WPC – AGM 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

### **Willingham Action Group April 2024 to March 2025**

**\*Financial accounts submitted separately**

**Chair** Paul Knighton, **Vice Chair** Sue Berry, **Treasurer** Richard Foster, **Secretary** Hanna Bowran-Pavey, **Environment Lead** Jeremy Sweet, **Facebook/Photography** Prakash Nayee, **PR/Media/Design** Katja Gauci, **Operations/Logistics** Howard Berry, **IT** Martin Smith, **Sustainability** Alex Mueller, Louise Eade

#### **Events**

##### **Willingham Welcomes, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024:**

Bar, BBQ, band, Jam Club

All clubs, societies and associations relevant to Willingham invited to attend with their information stands/gazebos. Great weather, very successful from the point of view of integrating the exhibitors as a more coherent village offering.

##### **Willingham Feast Programme, September/October 2024:**

Wine Quiz and Dance @ Social Club\*\*, Ceilidh, Curry Night with Quiz all @ Ploughman Hall\*\*, Art Group and Photography Club Exhibitions, Repair Café in Ploughman Hall (provided for free for this event, with thanks), Harvest Festival and Church Lunch, Willingham Youth Trust Hallowe'en Disco\*\*; all accompanying the traditional Funfair on the Green

\*\*Organised by associates for their own account, with PR, planning and implementation assistance from WAG. Discretionary donations made to WAG based on success of event.

**Scarecrows** around the village in the runup to the Feast, initiated and managed by Willingham Village FB. Many morphed into ghouls around Hallowe'en.

**Christmas** – Advent Windows culminating in Carols on the Green on 24<sup>th</sup> December with mulled wine and mince pies courtesy of WPC (with thanks)

**Wassail, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025** – Coronation of Graham Mumby and Liz Cosford as our Wassail King and Queen for the year, awakening of the fruit trees, consumption of cider and sausages.

#### **WAG Environment:**

Orchard: The Winter 2023/4 was extremely wet with much of the orchard under water until the spring. This resulted in high humidity and waterlogging stress which eliminated most of the White Beams and many wild cherries in the woodland, caused blossom blight in some Prunus species and weakened the roots in some apples. Subsequently in winter 24/25 several apple trees, a peach, and several native trees were planted to replace the losses. Fritilaria bulbs were planted in several areas and showed well in spring 2025. A new sign was made for the orchard and erected in time for the Wassail in January 2025. Bat and bird boxes were placed around the perimeter.

Hedge Laying: Grant applications to FECA, Community Chest and WPC raised approx. £2500 which was supplemented by contributions from participants. This was used to finance laying the south hedge and training in hedge laying in October 2024.

Wild Meadow: In February 2025 a meeting was held with ACRE representatives and WPC councillors to discuss management of the site. It was agreed that WAG would undertake certain management activities, including managing partial rewilding. Subsequently some areas of scrub were removed at the south end of the site and nest and bat boxes placed. Birch trees were planted at the north end.

Thanks to all those in the "Orchard Group" for their huge engagement.

## **Other activities and thanks**

Our **Facebook** page continues to attract interest with the number of followers still rising. Most recent figures from April: 456 followers = 12,214 views / likes / gained 10 more followers from March.

The new **website** will be up and running as from 6<sup>th</sup> May when the full Community Led Survey Report will also be available for viewing at <https://www.willinghamlife.org/community-plan/>.

Engagement with Willingham Youth Trust and WPC to restructure **Youth Club** organization (ongoing).

Engagement with **Friends of Willingham Church** and **Friends of Willingham Library**, with assistance in their activities.

Thanks to **Women's Institute** and First Responder **Tom Miller** as our constant First Aider for their support at various events.

Thanks also to WPC and particularly Mandy, Annika and Amy at the **Clerk's office** for their regular assistance and support.

## **Plans for 2025-2026**

Future planning includes enhancing the Village Green and Wilford Furlong with plantings of spring bulbs. Grants have been applied for to fund this work.

VE Day 80 Picnic @ Ploughman Hall 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Village Fete July 6<sup>th</sup> tagged onto Fen Gallop in the morning.

Feast and Christmas events similar to those above, plus two Silent Disco events in October

Continue supporting Youth Club; campaign to expand membership and volunteer corps

Campaign to reduce plastic usage (initial preparations underway)

Repair Café in March/April 2026

**Willingham Action Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**  
**Income and Expenditure account**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Village activities</b>		
<b>Environment</b>		
Adopt a tree income	70.00	495.90
Tree labels	-28.00	-211.74
Sundry income - willow	30.00	0.00
Planting	-160.24	-804.00
Orchard sign	-191.54	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance - trees	-104.67	-90.90
Thank you gifts	-132.20	-40.34
Memorial plaque - Steve Smith	-25.00	0.00
Funded by WPC	296.21	0.00
<b>Hedgelaying:</b>		
Hedgelayer	-2000.00	0.00
Tools and equipment	-201.71	0.00
Portable loos	-192.00	0.00
Signage	-43.38	0.00
Contributions from volunteers	540.00	0.00
Funded by grant income	1897.09	0.00
	<u>-245.44</u>	<u>-651.08</u>
<b>Social</b>		
Ceilidh - net income	174.59	0.00
Willingham Welcomes event - net income	408.18	0.00
Advent Windows - costs	-32.97	0.00
Coronation event - net income	0.00	1254.31
<b>Feast:</b>		
Ceilidh - net income	138.70	288.00
Gardners Fayre - net contribution	0.00	-139.47
Thali night - net contribution	0.00	-75.00
Wine quiz - net contribution	0.00	-97.50
Bars - net income	0.00	66.65
Promotional costs	-78.66	-69.04
Sundry costs	0.00	-17.00
	<u>609.84</u>	<u>1210.95</u>
<b>Sustainability</b>		
Repair café's - net income	141.88	327.25
	<u>141.88</u>	<u>327.25</u>
<b>Other income</b>		
Fen Edge Festival - for providing assistance	350.00	0.00
Other donations	150.00	0.00
	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Administrative expenditure</b>		
Insurance	-129.88	-109.77
Membership fees	-210.00	-195.00
Website	-82.12	-111.80
Sundry costs	-153.19	0.00
	<u>-575.19</u>	<u>-416.57</u>
<b>Net income/(loss) for the period</b>	<u>431.09</u>	<u>470.55</u>

**Willingham Action Group**  
**Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**  
**Balance Sheet**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank	3749.30	2518.41
Prepayments & accrued income	399.55	561.74
	<u>4148.85</u>	<u>3080.15</u>
Accruals & deferred income	-637.61	0.00
	<u>3511.24</u>	<u>3080.15</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		
<b>Represented by</b>		
Balance brought forward	3080.15	2609.60
Net income/(loss) for the period	431.09	470.55
	<u>3511.24</u>	<u>3080.15</u>
<b>Stakeholder funds</b>		
<b>Notes to the balance sheet</b>		
<b>1. Analysis of stakeholder Funds</b>		
Restricted funds - grant income not yet spent	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted funds	3511.24	3080.15
	<u>3511.24</u>	<u>3080.15</u>