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Willenhall Life

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Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Aug/Sept issue of Willenhall Life.

I've just completed a challenge for Pancreatic Cancer UK, which was to walk 60 miles in June – or to do two miles a day.

Two miles doesn't sound a lot, but when you sit down most of the day (yes, I know, it's alright for some!) it's not as easy as it sounds.

I didn't want to just accumulate a number of steps, so I actually did a two mile walk every day – even while on holiday in Croatia. How's that for commitment?

It's amazing how good you feel afterwards, even on the odd day when it rained, there was a feeling of achievement. Not just the walking and getting fit, but knowing you've raised a few quid for a good cause.

Pancreatic Cancer is one of the worst types you can get as there are virtually no symptoms until it's too late.

I know a couple of people who have fallen victim to it, so the thought of them got me off my backside every day and I'll do it again next year. Maybe some of you could join me.

There are a few events coming up in the next few weeks and as someone who helps to organise one of them, I know how much hard work goes on in the background, so please, if you are able, please support them and help to keep them going.

Like most people, I was shocked and saddened by the tragic death of the ex-Wolves player Diogo (not Diego!) Jota.

I never met the guy, but his age, the fact that he had only got married to his childhood sweetheart two weeks before the accident and to leave three young children without a father is just heartbreaking.

My father lost his dad in a farming accident when he was just 8 years old. He also had four younger siblings. There was no Universal Credit, oh and there was a war on. I can't imagine how they managed, but they did and Diogo's family will get through this as they have to, as we all have to in tough times.

This magazine doesn't exist without the invaluable support of our advertisers. Please have a look at their adverts and if you do purchase anything from them, **PLEASE TELL THEM YOU SAW THE ADVERT IN THE WILLENHALL LIFE MAGAZINE!**

The next issue will cover October and November and will be out on 16th September so if you have a business to promote or have a story to share, please contact me by 1st September.

Enjoy your read,

Simon



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Raising the Roof at St Stephens Church

St Stephen's Church is going to be 'Raising the Roof' this Summer with a range of adventurous fundraising activities.

The church faces an eye-watering bill of £63,000 to replace its aging (and leaking) roof and so some extreme fundraising is on the cards.



Following on from the very successful 'Great Roof Ramble' in May, which raised a whopping £2300, the church is now planning the 'Great St Stephen's Sleepout'. The plan is to banish the vicar Revd Ros Wilshire to the roof in a 2 night sponsored sleep-over. Between Friday 1st and Sunday 3rd August, Revd Ros, accompanied by intrepid members of the congregation will be taking part in an elevated camp out on the flat roof.



Remaining on terra firma, the 4th Willenhall (St Stephen's) Scouts will also be joining in with the fun with their own sponsored camp out in the church grounds.

The weekend promises to be a great fundraising bonanza, with campfire building (and of course marshmallow toasting!), a movie night, games and activities

for the children, finishing just in time for Revd Ros to climb back down and take the Sunday morning service. Refreshments will also be available throughout the weekend for anyone who wants to come along to support the fundraising effort.

Revd Ros is looking forward to the weekend with a little trepidation; "I think this may well be the first ever camp-out by a vicar on their church roof! I must admit, I'm not the best with heights, but I know it's going to be a fantastic weekend. We are really looking forward to being joined by the children of 4th Willenhall (St Stephen's) Scouts who meet regularly at the church. We hope that the community will really get behind this unique fundraising event and of course we are also praying very hard for good weather!"

As those that know their Willenhall history will know, the new St Stephens Church was consecrated in 1979, some 45 years ago. The mission statement of St Stephen's is 'To be a beacon of light in the community and to make God relevant', and the church places a high priority on serving the community and offering hospitality and a warm welcome to all. Whether it is through the weekly Stay n' Play, Place of Welcome or Pyramid Group, or the range of regular children's activities and Activity Days, everyone is welcome at St Stephen's.

Although it's a long road to raise the £63,000 needed, through a range of future fund-raising events in the pipeline along with some grant applications, St Stephen's are confident that the project will be completed by the end of the year. Once the roof has successfully been replaced and they are watertight once more, a grand reopening celebration is planned - watch this space for more details.

If you would like to support St Stephen's in their fundraising efforts, there are a range of ways to contribute. If you would like to sponsor Revd Ros or any of the intrepid campers, please contact **Revd Ros (revrosst@gmail.com or Tel. 01902 737793)**. Alternatively, you might like to sponsor a tile. Tiles cost £5 each. For this donation, you will receive a certificate of tile sponsorship and your name will be recorded in the church archives for future generations to see. You might like to sponsor a tile for yourself, in memory of a loved one, or even for your pet.

If you are not able to make it along to St Stephen's in person, donations can be made through the **Raise the Roof JustGiving page** (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ststephen-swillenhall) or by **scanning their fundraising QR code.**



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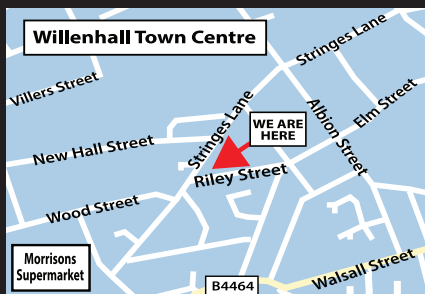
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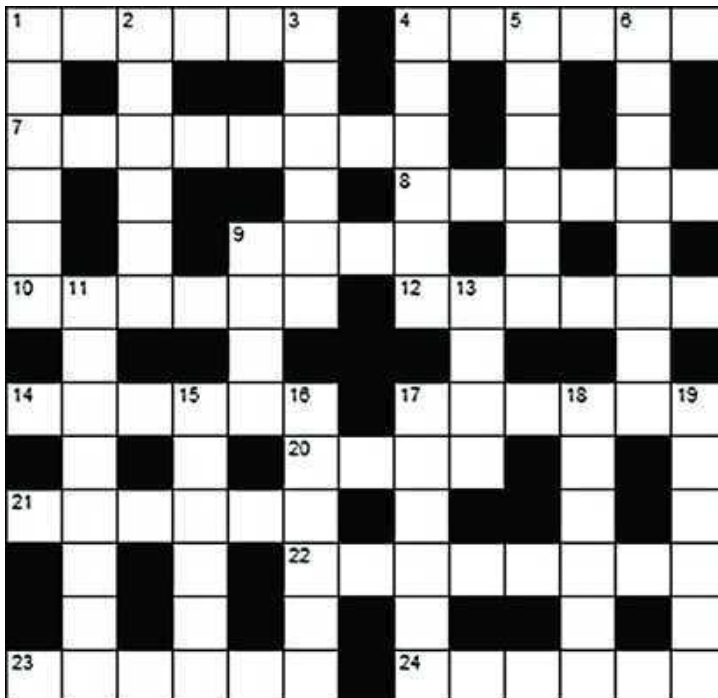
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Crossword

Please see answers
on page 31



Across

- 1 Prejudiced (6)
- 4 Whiten, decolour (6)
- 7 Maritime, used on the ocean (8)
- 8 Rhododendron-like shrub (6)
- 9 Particle (4)
- 10 Shortcrust, flaky or puff _____ (6)
- 12 Every twelve months (6)
- 14 Socially awkward (6)
- 17 Daredevil (6)
- 20 Ruffian, thug (4)
- 21 Ceramic artist (6)
- 22 Items of jewellery (8)
- 23 People who look after others (6)
- 24 Abrupt (6)

Down

- 1 Church official (6)
- 2 Warning devices (6)
- 3 Delicate, fragile (6)
- 4 Married to two people at the same time (6)
- 5 Mistake in print (6)
- 6 Shrub with waxy scented flowers (8)
- 9 Bowed structure (4)
- 11 Large South American snake (8)
- 13 Welsh name (4)
- 15 Oxen and cows (6)
- 16 The act of leaving a place (6)
- 17 _____ dancing, type of folk dancing. (6)
- 18 Stretched out the body or neck to see better (6)
- 19 Toxic substance (6)

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Willenhall Based Will Writer Jim Stanistreet, from BensonWilliams, on Protecting your Assets from Residential Care Fees



In 2022 one of my articles in this magazine was on the subject of residential care fees, and it is worth revisiting some of the points made in that article as the one question which clients continue to ask more than any other is “how can I protect my house if I have to go into residential care?”

The issue is serious. Approximately 130,000 people enter some sort of care each year, residential care can typically cost between £40,000 and £50,000 per year, and currently anybody with assets over £23,250 (including their home) has to pay for their own care.

Many people try to avoid the problem by gifting property to their children during their lifetime, but this is highly problematical. A child could go through a divorce, go bankrupt, or die before you, all of which would leave you exposed if your property has already been transferred to them.

Also there are strict rules on “deprivation of assets”, in other words deliberately giving property away with a view to avoiding financial loss if you then need care. If your local authority believe that you have deliberately deprived yourself of

an asset they can treat you as still owning that asset when assessing you for the payment of care fees!

To protect property via your Will the time to act is when a man and wife are both still alive. One of the most common types of Will we have written for married couples over the years incorporates a “property protection trust”.

This is a very simple arrangement which enables husband and wife to each leave their own half of the family home in their Will directly to their children, but subject to the condition that their spouse is allowed to remain in the home unaffected for their lifetime.

If the survivor subsequently needs care it is only their half of the property which they will be deemed to own for assessment purposes, potentially saving the family a five or six figure sum of money!

There are also a number of things which can then be done with the second half of the property, and with any cash in the estate, but these are not generic and specific advice would be needed based on individual families’ immediate circumstances.

Understandably this subject is a major concern to many people, but planning ahead does dramatically reduce the impact it has on your hard earned assets.

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Volunteers Spruce up Willenhall Memorial Park



Groundworks at Willenhall Memorial Park have been carried out as part of Walsall Council's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme (CSR).

A dedicated team of volunteers from Openreach lent a helping hand to Walsall Council's Healthy Spaces Team during Mental Health Week between May 12 and May 18.

Over the course of four days, 21 volunteers rolled up their sleeves and contributed an impressive 84 hours of support to help enhance and maintain one of the borough's beloved green spaces.

Councillor Gary Flint, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Visitor Economy, said, "The success of our CSR programme depends on local businesses stepping up, showing pride in their communities, and taking ownership of the areas in which they live and work.

"Openreach has stepped up and done just that. I applaud and thank them for their commitment to making a meaningful impact in Walsall."

Volunteers worked to remove nettles and brambles from the play area's raised beds and cleared old stumps to make way for future planting. Moss was cleared from paths and brickwork in the Remem-

brance Garden while another garden area was cut back, with invasive box hedges removed.



Before and After

Getting involved with Walsall Council's CSR programme not only enhances the borough but is also great for the mental health of those who take part. Spending time outdoors, being physically active, socialising, and contributing to the community all play a key role in supporting emotional well-being.

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Willenhall Pubs Wins Major Award

A popular Willenhall pub has added a major award to its already stellar reputation after being named County Pub of the Year by CAMRA.

The Robin Hood on the Crescent in Willenhall was officially named the West Midlands County Pub of the Year by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) following a number of undercover judges visiting the pub and scoring it.

The pub, which is owned by Black Country Ales, had already been named the CAMRA Walsall pub of the year for 2025 and now it has beaten pubs from Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire for the prize of West Midlands Pub of the Year, won in 2024 by the Bailey's Head in Oswestry.

Licensee Alex Murphy said she had heard that the pub was in the running for the award, but hadn't thought much about it until the announcement was made.

The Robin Hood has been a fixture in Willenhall since at least 1842. Throughout the 20th century, it was run by Ansells Brewery Ltd, as well as Highgate Brewery, William Butler & Co and Mitchells & Butlers, before being taken over by Black Country Ales in 2010.

It has been run by licensee Alex Murphy since 2021 who, alongside her partner Chris Aston, who runs the cellar, and her sister Charlotte Murphy, has worked to create a pub that she said had a friendly atmosphere and more than a few great beers.

Ms Murphy said the name of the pub had been part of the appeal to take over, having lived in Nottinghamshire previously, as well as having had



a lot of past experience in the pub and hospitality industry.

She said: "Since I was a child, I've been around pubs as my mum and dad used to have a restaurant and hotel, as well as pubs, and I worked in my first pub when I was 18 and has been assistant manager for different breweries. "I've also worked abroad and I had come back and was living in Nottinghamshire, not far from the Sherwood Forest area, and I saw the pub was available, so it felt like it was meant to be.

"The pub has changed dramatically over the last four years since I came in as it was a lot smaller then, but then Black Country Ales did a huge refurbishment which really helped and has clearly shown with all the awards that we've won."

"We also have a lot of different things going on here as well, such as a bike night and a quiz night, and we have the archery team in on Saturdays, as well as a regular Subbuteo league.

She said: "I put my heart and my soul into this pub and have done so since I first came here and I know that it's not a nine to five job, but more of a lifestyle than a job and I just want everything to be right. "I want my customers to feel the best when they come in, I want my house to be perfect and I need to make sure my staff are okay, because it's all about my team and everyone involved to make this pub. "As long as everyone is happy, then I'm happy."

Walsall CAMRA Chairman Ray Arrowsmith offered his own congratulations, saying: "I was pleasantly surprised as the same pub was put forward last year, but didn't even make the top three, so I think a lot of hard work has been put in by Alex, Chris and the team at the Robin Hood."





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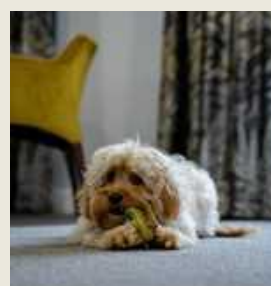


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Representing Wolverhampton and Willenhall means there's always something exciting happening. Whether it's local volunteers, community groups, or faith organisations, there's no end of things to get involved with. Just in the last few weeks, we've had the Willenhall Carnival, the Willenhall Sucha Mela, and the Transport Show — we've been spoilt for choice!



A big congratulations to all the Community Champion Awards winners presented at Willenhall's Sucha Mela — what a fantastic event. It was a real pleasure meeting so many of you there, especially the award winners. You all do so much good for Willenhall, and it shows in the strength of our community.



But it's not just been about celebrations and community visits — I've also been getting on



with the hard work you elected me to do.

While I've been busy in Willenhall, it's been even busier down in Westminster. We've secured over £11 million for New Cross Hospital and Walsall Manor Hospital to improve facilities for local people. I also championed and welcomed additional funding for Woodlands Academy for Learning in Short Heath, supporting building improvements. No more crumbling hospitals or school buildings under this government.

We're also starting to deliver a revival of Sure Start-style support through Best Start Family Hubs across the country. These vital services will improve access to SEND support, speech and language therapy, emotional and neuro-diversity support, and better partnership with families. I'll continue to fight to make sure Willenhall benefits from one of these hubs.

I've often said that our potholed roads are a sorry reflection of wider challenges. I'm delighted that, thanks to new investment, we're now filling more potholes than we have in a generation. We've even secured a Government commitment to finally build the M6-M54 Link Road, which will take huge amounts of freight traffic off local roads — something we'll definitely notice in our area.

As always, I encourage everyone to get in touch with my office — whether it's to book a surgery, ask for advice, or invite me along to a local event. I'm always happy to help.



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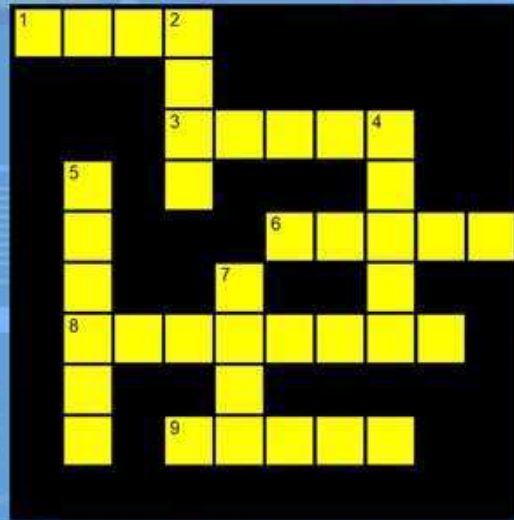
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Kids' Page

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DOWN



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Puzzle Solution

Interview With Vicky McClure as Day Fever Announces Biggest Month Yet with Massive Autumn Expansion

24 Towns & Cities Host the UK's #1 Day Club This September

If you ever thought clubbing was just for the under-25s stumbling home at 3am, think again. Day Fever, the unstoppable daytime disco dreamt up by actor Vicky McClure, her husband Jonny Owen, and pals including Jon McClure of Reverend & The Makers, is flipping the nightlife script, one sunlit dancefloor at a time.



Born from a WhatsApp chat and now heading to 24 towns and cities in September, Day Fever brings affordable, joy-filled clubbing into the daylight hours. "The first one sold out in two seconds," Vicky beams. "We did Nottingham, then Sheffield, then Merthyr and Cardiff and it just flew from there."

It all started with a simple idea. "Jonny just said, 'Have you ever seen those bars in town during the day? They're rammed!'" laughs Jon. "We were like, come on then, let's do it and it went nuts."

Now, this feel-good phenomenon sees people of all ages, literally from their 20s to their 70s, letting loose on packed dancefloors. "We've had Jonny's mum sneak in a bottle of gin and stash it in a bush outside in Cardiff," Jon jokes. "That's the vibe! Bit of mischief, loads of laughs, and not a bit of trouble."

And it's that warmth, spontaneity, and inclusive-

ness that keeps people coming back.

Vicky's voice lifts when she talks about the kind of people turning up to dance: "It's mothers and daughters, friends reconnecting, people on chemo, people grieving. These are your nurses, your cleaners, your teachers. These are the people keeping the world spinning and now they've got somewhere to let go and feel joy."

One story that's stayed with her is a woman who had barely seen her friends or family unless it was for a wedding or a funeral. "Now she's got a new frock every month, and she's out at Day Fever. She goes shopping Friday night, gets her hair done, and makes a proper event of it. That's magic, isn't it?"



Inclusivity isn't just a buzzword here, it's baked into the experience. "We've had people in wheelchairs come up on stage, and the crowd goes wild. It's electric. We want it to be accessible to everyone," says Vicky, visibly moved. "It makes your hairs stand on end."

While you might catch a familiar face on the decks, Jonny, Vicky, or even Jon's wife Laura, most Day Fever events are led by local DJs. "We've been really selective," Vicky explains. "They know their crowd; they know what their people want to hear. And they're smashing it." And yes, music is taken very seriously. "There's a loose structure," Jon explains. "Bit of Northern Soul to kick off, disco, 80s bangers, 90s dance,

a singalong, maybe some indie...but we always have Whitney. If Vicky's there, it's the law."

Vicky grins, "Hits across the generations, that's the key. We've done themed nights, even Christmas clubs. And we'll ask, 'Do you want more Christmas songs?' and they're like 'nah, just give us the hits!'" She laughs. "You just get a feel for it."

Regional pride plays a part too. "Manchester goes mad for Oasis, Nottingham's got its favourites, and we make sure to tap into that local energy," says Vicky. "It's about community, about people being together."

With so many entertainment options pricing people out, Day Fever deliberately keeps things cheap. Vicky says. "We've always wanted it to be affordable. A night out can be £100 easy. We didn't want this to be that."

Jon adds, "Jonny said from day one it's for ordinary people. Families, people with kids. We're not here to rip people off."

Venues love it too. "We shut up shop at 8pm," Vicky explains, "they do a quick turnaround and run their usual night from 10. They're making great takings and reaching a new crowd. It's been a game changer for loads of clubs."

If Day Fever feels like a family party, that's because... it kind of is. "Jonny and I are married, Jon's wife DJs, his brother Chris and childhood friend Jamie are involved. Even Jonny's daughter Katie's behind the decks," Vicky laughs. "It's one big gang, and when people come through the doors, they're part of it too."



It's not uncommon to see Vicky herself dancing on stage with partygoers, selfies flying and smiles everywhere. "When people realise we're

just there to have fun too, that we're not up on a pedestal, they really get into it," she says. "And I mean, come on, when do you get to go clubbing with your mum?!"

With festivals like Splendour and Reverend & The Makers' 20th anniversary show in Sheffield this summer, things are scaling up—but slowly. "We've had offers to take it abroad, but we're being really careful," Vicky says. "It's only 18 months old, it feels like a decade, but we want to make sure we look after what we've built."

They've even announced their own Day Fever festival at Nottingham's Arboretum on the 23rd August. "We've got loads of ideas," she teases. "But for now, we're just enjoying this moment. It's simple, and it works."

Even with their busy schedules, Vicky filming Trigger Point, Jon touring Australia, both say they miss it when they're away. "Sounds a bit daft," Jon chuckles, "but Day Fever cheers me up. You leave feeling lighter."

And that's the magic, really. Day Fever isn't just a disco, it's a dose of pure happiness.

UPCOMING LOCAL DATES:

14-Jun-25	Leicester Athena
28-Jun-25	Nottingham Rock City
19-Jul-25	Nottingham Splendour Festival
20-Aug-25	Nottingham Rock City
6-Sep-25	Birmingham O2 Institute
13-Sep-25	Leicester Athena
27-Sep-25	Coventry Kasbah
4-Oct-25	Birmingham O2 Institute
18-Oct-25	Nottingham Palais

Tickets are available at day-fever.com but don't wait too long, they're selling fast!

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Sunshine, Stunts, and Smiles at Willenhall Carnival 2025

Willenhall Memorial Park came alive on Saturday 7 June as over 1,500 people braved a few brief rain showers to celebrate the much-anticipated return of Willenhall Carnival. With bursts of sunshine throughout the day, the community spirit shone even brighter.



Crowd-favourite “Dangerous Steve” headlined the main arena with a thrilling display of daredevil stunts that had audiences gasping and cheering in equal measure. Community groups filled the programme with dynamic performances and colourful displays, proudly showcasing their causes and talents.



The Band Stand pulsed with activity throughout the day, proving a hit with carnival-goers of all ages. A bustling array of over 130 stalls, including enthusiastic carbooters, offered something for everyone, from handmade crafts to tasty treats.

Among the highlights were the free attractions that delighted families, including lively bouncy castles, charming donkey rides, and interactive circus skills workshops. These activities drew big smiles and even bigger crowds.

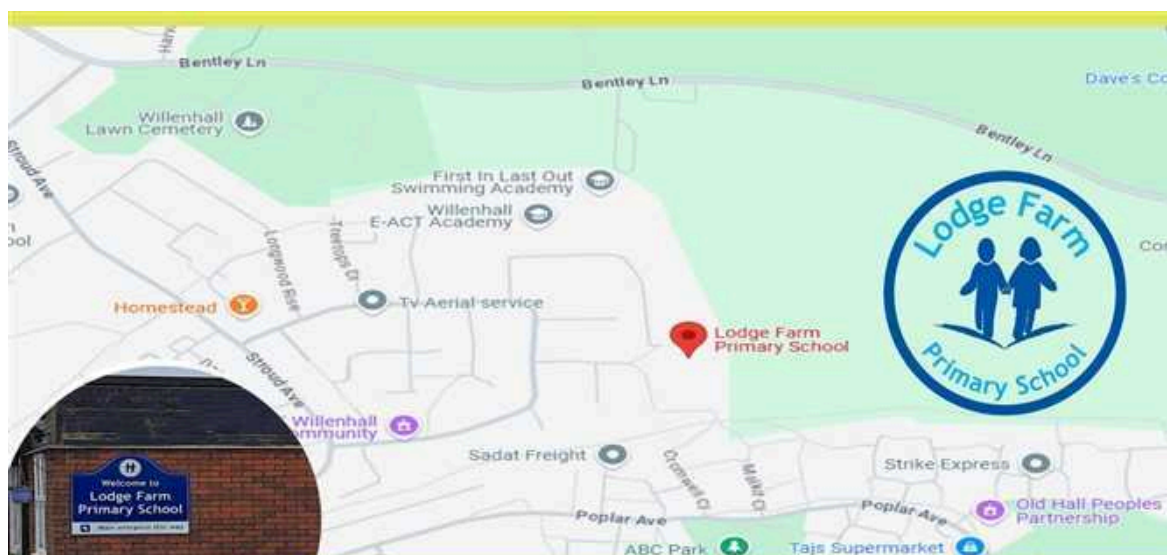


Wayne Palmer, Chair & Events Organiser said “The community never fail to support Willenhall Carnival, and despite the showers we had a great turn out. Each year the carnival just keeps getting bigger and better and that is down to the support given by everyone who comes along on the day. I’d like to say a huge thank you to the community for their continued support as without them there would not be a Carnival celebration in Willenhall”.



As the curtain falls on another successful carnival, organisers are already turning their eyes to the future. Planning is now underway for Willenhall Carnival 2026, scheduled for Saturday 6 June 2026 - promising more fun, community spirit, and surprises in store.

For more information on other events or if you wish to be involved in Carnival 2026, then please drop the organisers an email on willemhallcarnival@live.co.uk



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June/July Magazine

For some reason that I haven't quite fathomed yet, I managed to put the wrong set of words with the pics for Willenhall Rotary and Willenhall Singers – can I blame the heat or play safe with old age?

Anyway, apologies to all involved in those groups.

Here's what we should have printed;

Willenhall Singers



Willenhall Singers have started 2025 with the ladies looking resplendent in their new green uniform jackets. At a recent concert the ladies wore their green and have thanks to past member Tony Watkins who kindly bequeathed monies to the choir in his will. This money has been used to kit out the ladies in new jackets and the gentlemen will soon have matching bow ties and 'kerchiefs for their pockets.

The choir have enjoyed supporting Walsall Manor Hospital, Short Heath Lest We Forget and St Giles Church with their VE80 celebrations. On Thursday 8th May the choir led the singing for the national event where beacons and lamps of peace were lit around the country accompanied by I Vow To Thee My Country being sung. It was a wonderful community event which saw over one hundred people gather in the memorial orchard.

Forthcoming concerts include our charity concert in the Autumn along with Christmas which we have bookings for already!

St Stephen's continues to be our home and if you enjoy singing why not pop along one Monday evening.

We rehearse from 7 to 9pm - no need to be able to read music, just be able to hold a tune!

Rotary in Willenhall

Rotary in Willenhall held their Rotakids Educational Day at Darlaston Town Hall, with children from Pool Hayes Primary and Woodlands Primary Rotakids.

They held a meeting in the Chambers followed by afternoon tea & cakes in the 1940s room.

Rotakids raise money for charities and each school has a committee which meets regularly to organise events to raise money.

Past President Jim Green has assisted Pool Hayes RotaKids for 13 years and Past President Diane Sims has done the same for nearly two years at Woodlands Primary.

Here are some photos from the day, with both Rotakids and Rotary and our guest, the Mayor of Walsall Anthony Harris.



Anyone wishing to join Rotary. Look us up on **Facebook Rotary in Willenhall** or contact **Lisa** on **07376 455870**.



Slimming World feel *real* good

MONDAY **SHORT HEATH**

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Wesley Road
9.00am, 11am, 5.30pm & 7pm
Elaine 07939 818513

CHURCH ON THE CORNER

1 King Charles Ave,
Walsall WS2 0DL
5.30pm & 7pm
Sharon 07909 627736

TUESDAY **BENTLEY**

St Andrews Church
Wolverhampton Road West
5pm & 6.30pm
Lizzie 07794 708242

WEDNESDAY **WILLENHALL**

Salvation Army
Field Street WV13 2PD
5pm & 6.30pm
Lizzie 07794 708242

WEDNESDAY **SHORT HEATH**

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Sharon 07909 627736

THURSDAY **ESSINGTON**

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Kim 07900 982494

FRIDAY

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Monday	CLOSED
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Wednesday	8.30am – 6.00pm
Thursday	8.30am – 6.00pm
Friday	8.30am – 6.00pm
Saturday	9.00am – 5.00pm

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Willenhall Lock Stock 2025

Sunday 31st August will be the 8th annual Lock Stock Festival in Willenhall Memorial Park.

A chance encounter an idea, a committed group of volunteers, great musical talent and the iconic location in the Black Country have made Willenhall Lock Stock the best Community Music Festival in the borough.



With our humble beginnings of just 300 on a very wet September Sunday we now boast 4500 attendees, 2 arenas, 10 reasonably priced food and drink concessions, 70 guest gazebos and 17 great local bands and artists.

Ticket prices are just £7.50 before 31st July, then £10 through August and £15 on the day, so don't delay get your tickets today. Only available from Touch Down Vapes in Clarks Lane, The Milestone Pub in New Invention, The Duke of Cambridge Pub in Short Heath, and Sun Now in Willenhall Town Centre.

Our success and growth bring several challenges for team Lock Stock; the logistics of the festival now stretch over 5 days to set up and break down. We began as a picnic

in the park and are now a full-blown music festival. Please note that there is a NO GLASS OR BOTTLES policy in place this is an absolute requirement. No exceptions, but you are still welcome to bring your own cans and food for own consumption within reason. Bring camping chairs and umbrellas find a good spot and have a great day.

Accompanied children under 16 are still free and we will be having a kid's silent disco/ activity again on the Lock Stock Pop Up Stage.

Big thank you to ASSA ABLOY who are for a second year our Gold Sponsor together with our sponsors NOVA TRAINING, SUN NOW, PLT TRAINING LIMITED, WQIC, WILLENHALL E-ACT ACADEMY, BJS STORAGE, TAG Accountants, FLEXIPRINTS and THE WILLOWS.



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Luv Team Lock Stock xx

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Aug 31st

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News in Brief

Tesco Willenhall



Claire Wakeley, the Community Champion at **Tesco Willenhall**, has had a busy few months helping groups and individuals around the area.

Those who have benefitted from their generosity include; **Corpus Christi** under 15's football team with raffle

The Munch Box

prizes, **Mattesley Court, Residential Home** were given a gift card for their 1940's day, **Willenhall Chart Centre** were given a gift card, **St Giles Church** a gift card for their strawberry tea, **Munch Box** received a Gift card.

Other beneficiaries include, **Creswell Lions, Bilston Outreach, Parent & Caring, Wood Green Academy, Manor Hospital, The Ashmore Inn** and many more.

Tesco also run a scheme called **Stronger Starts Blue tokens**, where local community groups and charities are encouraged to apply to be selected as one of the three participants

Tesco colleagues can help select



Parent & Caring

those needing a little help in the local area and when shop, they are given a blue token, to pop in the box by the checkouts and vote for their favourite children's and young people's group to receive a grant.



Willenhall Rotary donated easter eggs to pass on to schools

Application form and guidance for more information and to apply visit the **Tesco Stronger Starts** - tescostrongerstarts.org.uk - it's a great opportunity for local charities to win money

- **First place £1,500**
- **Second Place £1,000**
- **Third Place £500**

We have also had some charities in store doing bucket collections; **The Staffordshire Regiment Association, Little Paws Cat Rescue, ARC Cat Rescue**

Clare says, "It's an absolute pleasure being the Community Champion at the Tesco Willenhall I have the full support off the Management Team. I meet so many wonderful people raising money for their causes.



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SUNDAY 10 AUGUST - LISAMARIE MORRALL
SUNDAY 17 AUGUST - TRUDY BETHELL

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Willenhall History and Heritage Society

As a society we not only have monthly meetings with selected speakers and other activities open to members and non-members, but we also do a great deal of work behind the scenes making sure everything runs smoothly. We get a lot of enquiries about Willenhall and its people from all over the world, which we usually manage to sort out. At other times we are out and about sorting out some of the problems the town has with vandalism/antisocial behaviour and keeping an eye on our very historical buildings.

This year our first meeting was on **Friday 28th February** at the Library with representatives from Walsall Council, local MPs and other parties about the town's new development and the archaeological survey.

Friday March 14th two of us went up to Stafford Archives to see Samuel Bakers Ledgers and other paperwork which of course is of great interest being as the firm stands on the land where the Levesons moated mansion stood several hundred years before, which we are very interested to see what the archaeological survey reveals.

Thursday 27th March an update for us on the running of our new and forthcoming ultramodern website.



Thursday 10th April saw us off to Rugby to see a wedding cake, definitely not an edible one but one made of locks, keys and padlocks all brass plated.

This masterpiece stands 32 inches high and 14 inches wide it took two years to complete and was built for the Great Expedition in London in 1851, more on this later.

Monday 28th April we were required for a photo shoot in Moat Street in front of what is left of the old Samuel Baker's Moat Fields Works which the BBC picked up.

Saturday 7th June saw us at Willenhall Carnival, it certainly could have been a better day weather wise but nevertheless we were able to enlighten many people who were extremely interested in the upcoming archaeological survey. We sold a fair amount of merchandise so all in all it was a good day.



Three days later we had a rather relaxing cruise on the Birmingham Canal Navigations, a bird's eye view of Birmingham from the Library and a visit to the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists at their gallery by St Pauls Square. The weather was beautiful.

This year our third History Fair takes place on **Saturday 1st November 2025** at the Chart Centre in Gomer Street Willenhall



WV13 2NS 10.00 am till 4.00 pm. This year we are in two halls. As this year marks the 80th year of the end of World War Two our theme this year will be "Willenhall at War" covering the 1st 2nd and the Cold War. Exhibitors include the Western Front Association, Lest We Forget with military vehicles, The British Legion, Cosford Aerospace, Home Front Living, plus much more. Refreshments with homemade cake. **Entrance £3 accompanied children free.**

History Society Meetings at the Chart Centre in Gomer Street, Willenhall.

*New faces are made very
welcome.*

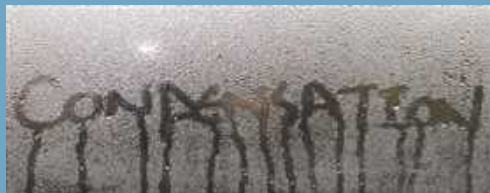
9th September - Midland
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9th October - Treasures Be-
neath Our Feet by Ian Bott

11th November - Film Night

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Crossword Answers

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