What's on in Willingale

Spring 2026



Information, news and events in our village

Brought to you by Willingale Parish Council

www.willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk

2026

Fri 6 Mar	**Phil's Indian Banquet**	**WSSC**
Sat 11 Apr	**Grand National**	**WSSC**
Sun 3 May	**Mayday**	**WSSC & CHURCH**
11 Jun-19 Jul	**FIFA World Cup**	**WSSC**
Fri 10 Jul	**Cocktail Night**	**WSSC**
Fri 4 Sep	**Pie & Pint Night**	**WSSC**
Fri 11 Sep	**AGM**	**WSSC**
Sat Oct (TBC)	**Big Event - Live Music**	**WSSC**
TBC	**Wreath Making**	**WSSC**
Fri 18 Dec	**Christmas Celebration**	**WWSC**
Sat 26 Dec	**Boxing Day Bar**	**WSSC**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Willingale WhatsApp group

If you are a Willingale resident and would like to find out more and how to join please contact:

Jacqui 07867 971641 or Dawn 07906 053754

A word from the Editors

One of the many good things about living in Willingale is the location, with easy access to a network of footpaths which allow us to explore and enjoy the surrounding countryside. Although many of the cross field and field edge paths have been very muddy recently, walks in February were cheered up by spotting clumps of snowdrops nearby. We are lucky to have a section of the Essex Way, an 81 mile long distance footpath from Epping to Harwich, running through the village. Some of this section, from Shellow Road to Peppers Green has been surfaced with hard core and is easier to walk in winter conditions.

If you are interested in walking, look out in forthcoming editions for a series of 5 mile walks starting in the village, which we are planning to publish. There may be options including a pub stop, and also linear walks using our own 46 bus.

Hopefully everyone is aware of the changes to Food and Garden Waste collections from 31st March and that it is now possible to pay for garden waste collections online.
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/foodandgarden
If anyone is unable to access this service online, it is possible to phone the council on 01992 564000 and someone will fill in the online form for them and take a secure card payment over the phone.

Lesley Clough and Tom Young



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Willingale Parish Council

willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk

Sitting writing this, listening to the rain on the windows – when will it ever stop – roll on Spring!

At our January meeting, one of our annual jobs is to set a budget, a legal requirement of any Council and this also determines the precept for the year ahead. As a reminder, the precept is the amount of money received from EFDC to fund the Parish Council and its various projects.

Recognising inflationary pressures continue for us all, we assessed our reserves and average increases of around 3.3% over the last three years and for the 26/27 year settled on a modest 1% increase, well below the current inflation rate of 3.4%. This takes the 'Band D' precept from its current £24.39 to £24.51, an increase of 12p.

Don't forget that you can access agendas for upcoming Parish Council meetings and previous meeting minutes, past issues of What's on in Willingale and other village information on our website – www.willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk. Remember, Parish Council meetings are public meetings so you are all welcome to attend.

Next Meetings:

10th March, 12th May 2026

All meetings 8pm at Willingale Village Hall unless otherwise advised.

Nick Pavyer, Chair of the Parish Council

cllrpavyer@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk

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St. Christopher's Church News

The past few months have been wonderfully busy, filled with fellowship and celebration.

We began our festive season by hosting St Andrew's Day, which was marked with a delicious Scottish-themed lunch. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, taking the opportunity to celebrate our sister church and bringing people together around good food, with great company and setting the tone for the weeks that followed.

Our annual Carol Service was another highlight. The service included the Nine Lessons, guiding us through the Christmas story. Adding a special visual element, the children filled the crib with the biblical characters as the carols were sung. A touching and memorable moment that was enjoyed by all. Especially the wonderful spread and Mulled wines catered by Denise Kerwin.



We then gathered for the Reverend's Coffee Morning, a relaxed and cheerful opportunity to chat, catch up and get into the Christmas spirit. The atmosphere was made even more special by the huge Christmas tree, so generously donated by Gordon Hone, which provided a stunning focal point for the whole season.



On Christmas Morning, we celebrated a service of Holy Communion. It was lovely to welcome so many people to the congregation, including friends from Fyfield, making the service feel particularly warm and inclusive.

As you may have heard, Reverend Stewart will be moving onto pastures new in May, taking up a new post in the parishes of Ightham and Wrotham on the North Downs in Kent, between Sevenoaks and Maidstone. We are grateful for all that Stewart has given to St Christopher's over the past four years, and for the care and commitment he has shown during his time with us.

While we will be very sorry to see Stewart go, this is a positive step for him. Stewart goes with our thanks, prayers, and warmest good wishes for the future. A farewell gathering will be announced in due course.

The process to recruit a new Vicar has already started.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Sally Green and Robin Tilbrook for their kind donation of new St George's Cross flags, now adorned with the diocesan shield.

Upcoming Events: for full details please see the posters throughout the magazine

Mothering Sunday 15th March at 9.30am
Palm Sunday 29th March at Midday
Reverend's Easter Coffee Morning 4th April 10-12
Easter Sunday Service 5th April 9am
APCM after the Family Service 26th April
May Day in collaboration with WSSC 3RD May

Willingale Parochial Church Council

St Christopher's is open every day including weekends

Our church is here as a space for quiet reflection, to support you through life's milestones, and for regular worship services.

St Christopher's Church Services

We warmly welcome you to join us for our regular monthly services:

First Sunday at 9:30 AM – Holy Communion

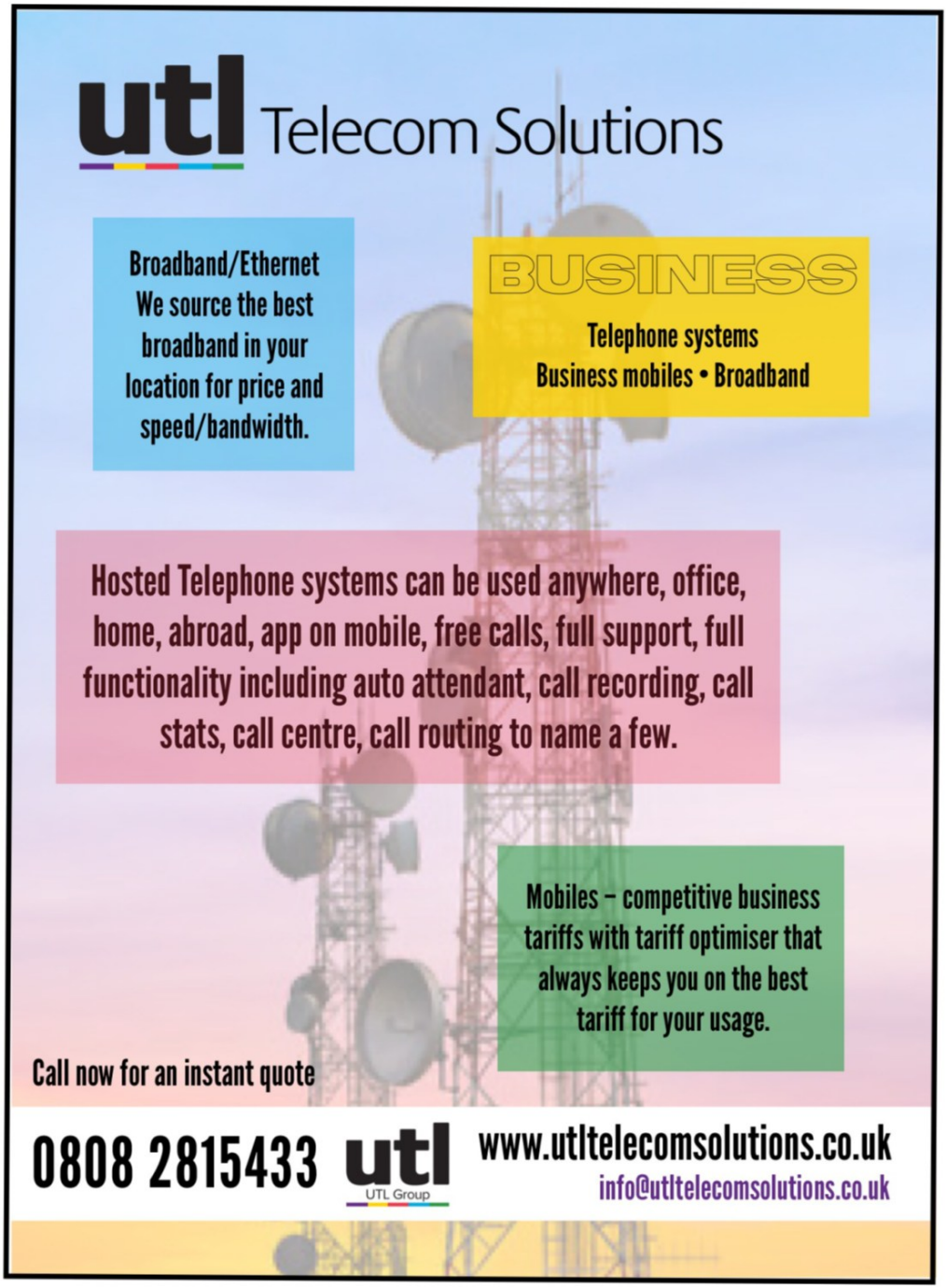
Second Sunday at 6:00 PM – Evensong

Fourth Sunday at 9:30 AM – Family Service

Stay for coffee and biscuits after morning services or enjoy a glass of wine or sherry after evening gatherings.

Do you have a special anniversary coming up?

Make it even more special by having a blessing in our beautiful village church of St. Christopher's. Please get in touch with Rev Stewart - 01277 366047


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Mothering Sunday
Service
15th March at 9.30am
Bouquets
Refreshments available after the Service

The Reverend writes……..

Dear Willingale Friends

As spring begins to unfold around us—with lighter days, birdsong returning, and the countryside waking from winter—there is a renewed sense of hope in the air. Spring reminds us that new beginnings often start quietly, with small signs of life, and this season's spiritual rhythm reflects that beautifully.

Lent invites us into a time of gentle reflection: an opportunity to pause, take stock, and consider the deeper stirrings of our hearts. Throughout Lent St Christopher's will offer moments of stillness and prayer, and I warmly encourage you to join us as you are able. Whether you choose to give something up, take something on, or simply use these weeks to slow down, Lent gives us space to rediscover what truly nourishes us.

As we journey through Lent together, our eyes naturally begin to lift towards Easter and beyond—the celebration of new life in its fullest sense. Plans are underway for Easter and May Day, which will offer chances to gather, reflect, and finally celebrate as the Willingale community.

In May I will be celebrating my last service with you before I move to a new parish by the North Downs in Kent.

Spring reminds us of new opportunities and that growth happens even when we don't see it at first- with God's help renewal is always possible for us.

May Lent be a time of meaningful reflection, and may the joy of Easter—when it arrives—bring light and hope to your days ahead.

With every blessing,

Rev. Stewart

St. Christopher's Willingale Bell Ringers

Tower Captain - Ian Kerwin 07837 170816

Affiliated to the Essex Association of Change Ringers

www.willingalevillage.uk/bell-ringers

With our bell ringers Christmas lunch already being a good way behind us, we have turned our attention to our usual Wednesday evening practices and moving ahead with consolidating the methods we know and learning new methods to widen our repertoire. This also helps when quarter peals are attempted to try out different combinations of methods.

As well as our own practices, some of us regularly attend practices either further afield in our North Western district or cross into other districts to join their practices, also attending the various monthly 6 and 8 bell practices as much as possible. Along with ringing at all the church services, it does occasionally feel that there's ringing every night of the week and at the weekend, but of course, it's very much a matter of choice, whether to stay local or venture out.

We have four, possibly five, competitions coming up this year. There are three district competitions, an 8 bell competition in March at Old Harlow, a 6 bell competition in September at Ashdon and a six bell competition at Matching in October. There are two Association 6 bell competitions, one in May at Nazeing with the top two teams going forward to the Association finals in July. We had mixed results last year but we will certainly try our best to bring the trophies home!

At our Annual District Meeting at the end of January, Ian Kerwin was re-elected as District Master and I was re-elected District Secretary, so at times it becomes very busy for us.

For information, the Willingale bells were the result of a community project in 2011/12 and the following link shows all that was achieved https://youtu.be/sD0IAY-uh4Q or have a look at Bell Ringers – Willingale Village on the village website.

Sue Evans
sue.evans.nwsecretary@gmail.com

Willingale bell ringers only survive because other ringers come along to join them, Denise and myself included since our move to Dunmow seven years ago. With Kieran moving away it only leaves three local ringers, Sue Evans, Pauline Booty and Gemma Crouchman.

If Willingale wants to keep its bells ringing, we need people to come and have a go, it's always good if several start at the same time. I've noticed that there have been a few new people recently joining the village WhatsApp group, and given there is no time like the present, why don't you come along and have a look on a Wednesday evening.

The ringing chamber is clean and warm, the bells go well and the ringers are a friendly and sociable bunch. Willingale is actually an Association of Ringing Teachers [ART] Centre. I'm happy to teach new ringers, and over the years we have taught and helped to build bands at Bobbingworth, Moreton, Thaxted and Great Hallingbury.

I'm thinking about having open tower days with the opportunity to come and have a look and a try during April, May and June but don't wait until then, just come along, or contact me to have a chat.

Ian Kerwin, Willingale Tower Captain
iankerwin@btinternet.com / 07837 170816




PALM
SUNDAY
SERVICE
29th March 2026
12pm
St. Christopher's Church
Lunch Provided
Please let us know for Catering


Easter
Service
& EGG HUNT
5TH APRIL 2026
9AM
EASTER EGG HUNT & REFRESHMENTS
AFTER THE SERVICE
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH
We wish you all a blessed holiday
filled with happiness, love, and faith.

Want to get all the church news?

Join the church WhatsApp

Contact Jacqui - 07867 971641

You'll get a few messages, but not lots, that will keep you up to date with church events, news and services.

Please follow us on facebook

https://www.facebook.com/people/St-Christophers-Church-Willingale/61557929480797/

Warren's contact details are given below, although please dial 999 in the event of witnessing a crime in action.

Minor crimes not requiring immediate police attendance can also be reported on the Essex Police website

Warren SHEPHERD Police Constable 78002

Ongar Beat Officer | Loughton Police Station | Essex Police | West LPA

T: 01245 491 491 (external) 313404 (internal/extension)

E: 42078002@essex.police.uk

Warren.Shepherd@essex.police.uk



May Day

3rd May 2026

Service : 11am
Crowning: 1.30pm
WSSC Bar - Village Hall: 2pm
BBQ: 2.30pm



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Willingale Village Hall

Your Village Hall Needs You !

How the Village Hall started

The Willingale Village Hall has been at the centre of village life for nearly nine decades. In 1937 the late Mr. Frederick John Cleminson F.R.C.S. gifted the building and surrounding land by way of a Deed of Conveyance. The property was put into a charitable trust for the benefit of all villagers.

Below is an extract from the deeds:

The Trust Premises shall be held upon trust for the purposes of physical and mental recreation and social, moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms, library, lecture classes, recreations and entertainments or otherwise as may be found expedient for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Civil Parishes of Willingale Doe, Willingale Spain, Shellow Bowells and Berners Roding in the County of Essex and immediate vicinity without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions subject to the provisions of these presents.

Continuing Mr Cleminson's Legacy

I believe that generations of trustees, volunteers and hall users have since ensured that the original vision and intentions of Mr Cleminson have been closely followed. From its inception the hall has been administered by a committee of local volunteer trustees from a diverse range of backgrounds. They ensure that the building and grounds are maintained to a high standard, are compliant with all health and safety regulations and, above all, meet the needs of our local community. In short, our hall is run by local people for local people.

How the Village Hall is funded

Just like any business or household we need to pay for upkeep and running costs: Bills for heating oil, electric, water, licensing fees and insurance regularly roll in, as well as invoices for ground and building maintenance. The funding model has always been to pay for this type of expenditure from the hire fees. Those that are generated from our regular hirers known as Approved Local Groups or ALG's. ALG's basically use the hall 'at cost' with no profit or surplus made.

A separate fund exists to pay for larger capital projects such as the recent roofing refurbishments. That money is generated from the surplus made from ad-hoc hirers as well as fund raising events, occasional grants and charitable donations.

Recent Improvements and maintenance

In recent years rolling maintenance projects at the hall have seen ;

- modernisation of the electrical systems ensuring safety,
- compliance and energy efficiency,
- sections of the roof have been refurbished to keep us watertight,
- smoke alarms and air filters installed to keep us safe.
- Extensive decorating of the building has also been carried out by one of our amazing volunteers!
- The booking procedures have been overhauled: purchasing 'Hallmaster' software allowing hirers to easily book and pay directly online.

Maintenance days have seen our villagers cutting back the surrounding hedges and carrying out repairs to the decking saving us hundreds of pounds. This year we will be asking for volunteers to assist us decorating the main hall, carry out maintenance work on the decking and trim back

Willingale Village Hall

The Future for the Village Hall

In the future we would like to use our capital fund with grants to;

- replace the old heating system in the main hall,
- fit an array of solar panels on the main roof as well as
- replace the flat roof above the entrance to the hall.

As you can imagine these projects will cost thousands. It is vital that these major projects are carried out to maintain and future proof the building. Ensuring it continues to remain an amazing community hub and part of village life for future generations.

To keep costs down, the hall has relied heavily upon the goodwill of volunteers; to assist with maintenance work, administrative functions as well as helping with fund raising and social events.

What You Can Do for Your Village Hall or **How You Can Make a Difference**

Over time trustees and volunteers retire from their roles or move out of the village. The committee always welcomes new members to replenish the group, bringing in renewed energy and fresh perspectives. We would like to invite villagers and members of ALGs to consider becoming a trustee. As well we need to increase our pool of volunteers. Would you be able to assist occasionally? Doing maintenance or help with fund raising? Do you have skills, or expertise e.g. in applying for grants, project management or running events?

To put it bluntly the village hall could not survive without the assistance of our volunteers. So if you think you could help in any capacity or would like more information.

Please email me at. chair@willingalevillage.uk

Thank you for your time

Andy Mellows

Trustee at Willingale Village Hall

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday 16th May

Willingale Village Hall

2 - 4:30pm

Stock up on plants for your spring and summer planting and enjoy some tea and cake



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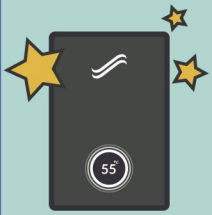
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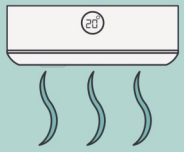
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Friday catch up

EVERY FRIDAY

At Willingale Village Hall

10.00 to 13.00

Drop in for a drink or for brunch (ready 11.30)

Please let Dawn know if you would like to stop for brunch by the Wednesday, for catering purposes.

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WILLINGALE TEA ROOM

The Christmas Tea Room seems to be a long time ago, but it is worth saying that we had a very good attendance and everybody enjoyed the festive occasion. It is lovely to see our regulars but it would be really nice for us to welcome some new customers.

If you are at home on any of the following Mondays and would like to join us for tea, coffee, sweet or savoury snacks and lots of local information and friendship, you would be more than welcome. Everything is homemade by our volunteers and is served for the very reasonable price of £2.50 and you can always have an extra slice!

Here are the dates of the next few meetings:

Monday, 20 April
Monday, 18 May
Monday, 15 June

We look forward to seeing you



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After our June concert, we are back in September

Sept 19th - The Temperance 7

Oct 17th - Enrico Tomasso's Little Big Band

Nov 14th - Sarah Spencer's Transatlantic Band

Dec 12th - T J Johnson's Qnt with Al Nicholls

Jan 23rd 2026 - Simon Nelson's Dixie Mix

Feb 27th - The Djangoliers

Mar 20th - Pete Rudeforth Jazz Band

Apr 24th - Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants

May 22nd - The Bateman Brothers

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Visit the Village Website and scroll to the Events icon to see what's happening in the Village **www.willingalevillage.uk**




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Chelmsford towards **Writtle** **Roxwell** **Ongar**						
Mondays to Fridays except public holidays						
Chelmsford Bus Station	0825	1015	1240	1430	1620	1810
Chelmsford New London Road/H&M	0827	1017	1242	1432	1624	1813
Writtle Lordship Lane	0841	1028	1253	1443	1635	1824
Roxwell The Hare	0846	1033	1258	1448	1640	1829
Roxwell Village Hall	0849	1036	1301	1451	1643	1832
Roxwell St Michael's Drive	0851	1038	1303	1453	1645	1834
Willingale Maltsters	0901	1048	1313	1503	1655	1843
Fyfield Queen's Head	0908	1055	1320	1510	1702	1850
Ongar Four Wantz	0912	1059	1324	1514	1706	1854
Ongar The King's Inn	0915	1102	1327	1517	1709	1857
Ongar Two Brewers	0917	1104	1329	1519	1712	1859
Saturdays						
Chelmsford Bus Station	0825	1015	1240	1430	1620	1810
Chelmsford New London Road/H&M	0827	1017	1242	1432	1622	1812
Writtle Lordship Lane	0838	1028	1253	1443	1633	1823
Roxwell The Hare	0843	1033	1258	1448	1638	1828
Roxwell Village Hall	0846	1036	1301	1451	1641	1831
Roxwell St Michael's Drive	0848	1038	1303	1453	1643	1833
Willingale Maltsters	0858	1048	1313	1503	1653	1843
Fyfield Queen's Head	0905	1055	1320	1510	1700	1850
Ongar Four Wantz	0909	1059	1324	1514	1704	1854
Ongar The King's Inn	0912	1102	1327	1517	1707	1857
Ongar Two Brewers	0914	1104	1329	1519	1710	1859

Ongar towards **Roxwell** **Writtle** **Chelmsford**						
Mondays to Fridays except public holidays						
Ongar Two Brewers	0720	0920	1110	1335	1525	1715
Ongar The King's Inn	0722	0922	1112	1337	1527	1717
Ongar Four Wantz	0725	0925	1115	1340	1530	1720
Fyfield Queen's Head	0730	0929	1119	1344	1534	1724
Willingale Maltsters	0737	0936	1126	1351	1541	1731
Roxwell St Michael's Drive	0747	0946	1136	1401	1551	1740
Roxwell Village Hall	0749	0948	1138	1403	1553	1742
Roxwell The Hare	0752	0951	1141	1406	1556	1745
Writtle Lordship Lane	0757	0956	1146	1411	1601	1750
Chelmsford Bus Station	0819	1009	1159	1424	1614	1805
Saturdays						
Ongar Two Brewers	0730	0920	1110	1335	1525	1715
Ongar The King's Inn	0732	0922	1112	1337	1527	1717
Ongar Four Wantz	0735	0925	1115	1340	1530	1720
Fyfield Queen's Head	0739	0929	1119	1344	1534	1724
Willingale Maltsters	0746	0936	1126	1351	1541	1731
Roxwell St Michael's Drive	0757	0946	1136	1401	1551	1741
Roxwell Village Hall	0758	0948	1138	1403	1553	1743
Roxwell The Hare	0801	0951	1141	1406	1556	1746
Writtle Lordship Lane	0806	0956	1146	1411	1601	1751
Chelmsford Bus Station	0820	1009	1159	1424	1614	1804

WILLINGALE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Register of Members who can offer services

WSSC is pleased to publish this list of services made available locally by Members of the Club. Please note, however, that the Club does not suggest that the providers of services or goods listed have been vetted for quality or value for money. It is for individuals to make their own judgement, but it is our opinion that an extra dimension of security is probable in dealing with local people known to you, rather than taking a chance.

Contact Clare McFaul for all advertising enquiries on 07403 069278

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Events

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Gardening

Home and garden handyman service. Terry Barton 01277 896354

Honey for Sale

Produced from the bee hives in our own garden. You can text/ WhatsApp and we'll leave a jar out, or just knock.

Dave Stokes 07584 328068 Dawn Stokes 07906 053754

Honeyside of Willingale

Wildflower meadow design, establishment and maintenance. Little and large, commercial and domestic. Ryan Thomas 07399 350873

Painting & Decorating Services

Good local rates. Clean, reliable service. Andy Long 01277 896011

Welding

Welding and precision machinery repairs Alan Sweeting 01277 896362 or 07538 959466

Rainfall in Silver Lane, Willingale



November	77mm	(2024	63mm)
December	69mm	(2024	47mm)
January	122mm	(2025	82mm)
2025 Total	587mm	(2024	795mm)

Thank you to Jonathan Gingell for this information

Speak up about crime.
Tell Crimestoppers what you know without revealing your identity – by phone and online, 24/7, 365 days a year.
CrimeStoppers.
0800 555111
100% anonymous. Always.
crimestoppers-uk.org

☎HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Neighbourhood Policing Team Warren Shepherd

Non-emergency Tel. 01245 491491

Email: warren.shepherd@essex.police.uk

Doctors:

Ongar War Memorial Medical Centre 01277 367200

The Writtle Surgery 01245 421405

Parish Councillors

Joe Bianchi : cllrbianchi@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk
Stuart Bosworth : cllrbosworth@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk
Linda Fresco: cllrfresco@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk
Chair: Nick Pavyer : cllrpavyer@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk
David Stokes: cllrstokes@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk
Robin Tilbrook : cllrtilbrook@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk
David Watson: cllrwatson@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk
Clerk: Clare Milligan: clerk@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk

Church warden Ian Kerwin 07837 170816

Vets House & Jackson, Blackmore 01277 823858

Village Hall Booking

Llyris Stebbings Bookings@willingalevillage.uk 07941 011305

Willingale Sports & Social Club Steve McFaul 07403 225911

Mobile Library No longer visits Willingale. Nearest stop is in Fyfield. Please contact Essex Libraries for details.

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