



WILLOW WOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chair: Donny Woodmore (01501 493727)

Secretary: Steve Perry (01501 486672)

Website:  
www.willowwoodwestlothian.co.uk

## 'Creating a Community'

### THE WILLOW WOOD WANDERER

11 Cuthill Brae

West Calder EH55 8QE

EDITOR: JIM HALUCH

ASST. EDITOR STEVE PERRY

DON'T MISS OUR XMAS  
GREETINGS SECTION  
INSIDE

## WANDERER NOTICES

### A HISTORY OF WILLOW WOOD

A line-by-line history of Willow Wood was created for the new committee in October 2021

Copies are available on the WWRA website at:

[www.willowwoodwestlothian.co.uk](http://www.willowwoodwestlothian.co.uk)

## Breich Valley Church

Minister: Rev. Robert Craig

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Friday 24 December

Kids Christingle 6.30 pm

Watchnight Service 11.30pm

Sat 25 Dec. 10.00am

Celebrate Christmas Day

## SCOPHRA (See [www.scophra.scot](http://www.scophra.scot))

The Scottish Confederation of Park Homes Residents Associations (SCOPHRA) was formed in 2017 to provide an umbrella organisation for existing and embryo Park Home Residents Associations in Scotland. The main aim is to support residents' needs and aspirations under one banner, giving strength in numbers to individual associations. SCOPHRA is the Scottish Government's go-to organisation on park home matters. Membership is now open to individuals as well as associations

SCOPHRA is happy to provide information and advice to individuals or groups of residents who wish to join together to help their Park Communities and also to help residents work in harmony for mutual benefit.

Associations are a force for community; they combat loneliness by organising outings and social events, some even receive financial support from their local council to assist this work but most of all they look after YOUR interests.

SCOPHRA's aims for 2022 include linking the annual pitch fee review to the consumer prices index (CPI) rather than the retail prices index (RPI). State pensions are linked to the lower CPI.

In addition SCOPHRA is lobbying for the reduction or abolition of commission payments on park home sales.

WWRA is a founder member of SCOPHRA .

### WWRA Committee Members 2021

Position	Name	No	Contact Number
Chairman	Donny Woodmore	5	01501 493727
Vice Chairman	John Adamson	22	01501 762517
Secretary	Stephen Perry	44	01501 486672
Treasurer	Doreen Sharp	34	07443 117268
Member	Eileen Campbell	12	01501 763179
Member	Julia McLaughlin	21	01501 760063
Member	Jan Adamson	22	01501 762517
Member	Elizabeth White	23	01501 762909
Member	Tam Sharp	34	07443 117268

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Christmas 2021

15 December 2021



SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF WILLOW WOOD PARK

# The Willow Wood Wanderer

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS SUPPLEMENT

## CHRISTMAS EDITION

2021



## Not Just a Social Club

### WILLOW WOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION...

...was formed on 11 September 2004 when 17 resident (from 14 homes) met at no 9 to discuss how we could band together to form an association to fight for our rights on a developing park where not all the glorious promises of the developer were being met.

The result was the Willow Wood Residents Association (not Willow Wood Park Residents Association).

The association was formed with a formal constitution and a set of aims and objectives. The main aim being ..

**To represent the interest of members in consultations with the park owner and with the local authority and other bodies.**

The association prospered, certainly with high and low points, disagreements and the like but generally the

interest of the residents were well served both in protecting our rights and in many enjoyable social events.

It was the experience s at Willow Wood that led the late Mike Larkman and Jim Haluch to lobby West Lothian Council and eventually the Scottish Government to look at the rights of park home residents which in 2010 were sparse indeed with all the power in the hands of site owners.

*At that time a site owner could vet any-one wishing to move onto the park and could refuse a purchase!*

This lobbying led to an Act of Parliament in 2013 which give much stronger rights to residents, took away the feudal rights of park owners and gave us protection in law equivalent to traditional homes.

One of the main parts of the 2013 legislation was to allow the formation of 'Qualifying Residents Associations (of which we are one) which were constituted in law and had to be recognised and consulted by park owners.

The law requires us to have a constitution and represent more than 50% of the HOMES on the park so you can see we are not just a social club.

The social side of the association is of course of immense importance; it is what binds our community together but when issues arise, it is the political side of the association that comes to the fore for your protection and that of your neighbours.

That's a good reason to continue your support.

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### The Chair and Committee of

Willow Wood Residents Association

send the compliments of the season to Members and to all the Residents and Friends of Willow Wood Park



BE PREPARED

Willow Wood is well used to high winds and wintry weather so we could be forgiven of wondering if climate change affects us.

Of course when those of us who are old enough to look back to our youth, we remember the much longer snowy winters of fifty years ago. With Bathgate over 500 feet above sea level and Stoneyburn at 616 ft altitude, West Lothian used to see snow and Ice last from Christmas to Easter. We now see less cold winters, warmer and wetter summers and some say Scotland is one of the best placed countries in the world for surviving climate change.

All that said, we still need to be prepared for whatever the climate throws at us. The recent storms 'Arwen' and 'Barra' happily avoided Willow Wood but brought chaos to other parts of Scotland.

The plight of people in the north of Scotland and Cumbria who went for nearly two weeks without power makes you think how would Willow Wood have coped in the same circumstances?

How many of us are prepared for such an eventuality. Most of us do not have alternatives to central heating and electric cooking, yet increasingly stormy weather brings power outages to the fore.

This edition of 'The Wanderer' brings you some tips on being prepared and staying safe in both these pandemic times and the coming winter.

Take a moment to read and consider what winter might bring and maybe become just a bit more prepared yourself.

JH



Sorely Missed

This year we saw the loss of two of our dear friends and acquaintances Linda Lennox and Sue McEvoy. Both Sue and Linda will be sorely missed by all who knew them. Linda was the recent Chair of the Residents Association and worked tirelessly on our behalf. Linda's funeral was well attended by park residents and was a bright uplifting occasion, just as she wanted it to be.

At her request, Sue's funeral was a private family affair which was restricted by the Covid regulations, however we had our chance to say goodbye as the funeral cortege left from the park.

Sad to hear also of the untimely death in early December of Alison Reid the popular assistant at Stoneyburn Pharmacy for many years.

NEWSDESK 1

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

A warm welcome to our new residents:

Bill & Jeanette Tunstall now occupy No 38, having moved from Falkirk. At No 17, John and Lynn Gavin are in the process of moving in, they previously lived at Rosneath, Allerton and Spain.

If our new residents have any questions concerning living in a Park Home, there are residents who have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are only too willing to give advice and guidance if requested.

Richie Turner has now moved from the Park and his house has been sold. We look forward to welcoming the new owners in due course.

Speed Limits

All residents are respectfully reminded the speed limit for all vehicles on the park is 10 mph for safety reasons. There have been recent reports that some residents, visitors and carers are exceeding the speed limit, which can be extremely dangerous to all concerned.



From:  
Angela Constance MSP



Angela is MSP (SNP) for the Almond Valley constituency which includes Willow Wood.

In May this year I was re-elected to the Scottish Parliament for the 4th time to represent the people and communities of Almond Valley. This is quite simply the privilege of my life and irrespective of how you voted I am here to represent you.

Throughout 2021 we have continued to live in the shadow of the pandemic. The biggest vaccination programme in the history of the NHS has continued to expand its protective reach. There is no doubt though that suffering and sacrifice has continued but the community spirit and resilience of the wider West Lothian community has shone through.

Willow Wood has always been an oasis of mutual solidarity and support where people have pulled together and worked together. This Christmas we will all say a special thanks to those who give so much for others, neighbours and volunteers as well as front-line workers.

In life, progress is rarely linear, but with faith in ourselves, our loved ones and in our communities of place and interest, we can look ahead to better days with hope and optimism.

May I wish each and everyone of you a Happy Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year.

Angela Constance MSP



From: Hannah Bardell  
MP for Livingston

May I send Christmas Greetings to all my constituents at Willow Wood and my good wishes for a better 2022

Donny Woodmore  
Chair  
Willow Wood Residents  
Association



Dear Members, Neighbours and Friends

Covid has taken thousands of family members from us. Through the willingness of us all at Willow Wood we have come through the pandemic unscathed although we have still lost a few neighbours and friends due to other illnesses which fills us with regret. This proves to me that we are a very caring community which is why once again I have taken on a role within the Willow Wood Residents Association.

This year was challenging to try and organise a program of activities for us all to enjoy; we had to look at what we could do without travel, to maintain the safety of us all.

We altered a few bits in the garden area to allow us to erect the marquees rather than use the parking area, because this would allow us to keep the marquees up for longer and to have activities at short notice.

We had a few good events which were very well attended and thank all of you for that. I would like to say also, if anyone has any ideas for next year we would be grateful for your input. The charity events we held were exceptional and the monies raised from such a small community were incredible. Thankyou again.

We also managed to make some monies for the association by selling personal articles we no longer needed and held some fund raising raffles. These helped us to upgrade our tractor & salt spreader for the winter months. On that subject, if anyone wishes to help with driving the tractor and salt spreading during this period the help would be very appreciated. Ladies are welcome! Give me a call.

Hopefully in 2022 we can continue to have many more social events.

I would like to end by thanking all the association committees past and present for all their hard work in making our community a great place to stay.

I wish you all a great Christmas & a prosperous New Year. .

yours,  
Donny Woodmore



## Power Cuts

The recent severe weather and the loss of electrical supply in various parts of the country has caused a lot of suffering and distress to many—as reported in the news.

The majority of residents here at Willow Wood are either retired, close to retirement, or have serious health issues, so what can we do to help ourselves should we have a prolonged power cut?

First, we have to understand what a power cut means, and in this example, it means a prolonged loss of power greater than 24 hours to the whole site.

So, what should you do if you experience a total loss of power:

Check your main electrical isolating switch is ON and check all individual Miniature Circuit Breakers (MCB) are ON.

Check to see if the street lighting is on.

Check with your neighbours to see if they have been affected.

**NOTE:** For those who get their supply via Wyldecrest, you need to check the MCB in the electrical supply building at the resident garden, the key is held by the occupants in the bungalow.

If there is a power cut then **phone 105** and report the fault, do this even if others have already reported it.

If you are infirm or vulnerable then you should register with Scottish Power Network as a priority customer. This should ensure you receive enhanced customer service in the event of a power outage.

## Be prepared

### Stay Warm...

The best ways to stay warm during a power outage are **to wear layers**, stay in a single room, use blankets and battery powered space heaters, and avoid exposing your home to cold air. Do not use camp stoves, car engines, gas stoves and ovens, or DIY terracotta pot heaters.

Cover any draughts in the house, put towels or blankets across draught points, over windows, on the bottom of doors. If you don't have carpets, cover the floors with towels, blankets or rugs to reduce heat loss.



Keep a supply of long-lasting foods such as nuts, beef jerky and canned goods are also a good idea, as well as cosy clothes such as hats and gloves.

Ensure you have at least two battery powered torches in your home, it is safer not to use candles due to the fire risk but don't forget batteries.

Let people know of your situation if you are struggling, it is something that can easily be forgotten in the moment. Use portable phone chargers or your car's charging port to keep the battery in your mobile full so that you are not out of touch.

Check on your neighbours; those living alone can be at higher risk.

## Winter Road Maintenance

The WWRA committee remind all residents that the road salt in the yellow bins is for use on the road, it should **not be used** on individual paths and driveways.

All members of the WWRA have been supplied with one bag, at no cost, for individual



use. Extra bags are available for members and non-members at a cost price of £5.00 and can be obtained from John Adamson at No 22.

To date, Wyldecrest Parks (WP) have not supplied this year's supply of road salt and as they are in breach of the site licence conditions, it has been escalated to West Lothian Council for action. This means there is a reduced amount of salt in the bins, which makes it important the salt is saved for use on the roads only.

Some years ago, West Lothian Council imposed a licence condition that Wyldecrest clear snow from the roads. This was contested in the Sheriff court and an eventual agreement between the Council and WP was that the site owner would provide salt in bins—which they had been doing anyway. The Council certainly did not support the residents that day!

## JOYCE'S CHRISTMAS KITCHEN

### A Change from Turkey

Why not try something different this year especially if cooking for yourself or just a couple of people. This recipe using duck or lamb could be just the ticket.

To serve one, you will need: the following. Double up for two....

1 tsp Sunflower oil

1 small duck breast / chump of lamb or half rack (200g)

2 medium potatoes peeled and cut flat.

2 wedges of sweetheart cabbage

1 tsp honey

Half an orange, juiced

50ml chicken stock

Heat the oven to 200c fan/gas 7

Heat the oil in an oven proof pan season the meat and lay skin/fatty side down on one side

### ORANGE GLAZED DUCK (OR LAMB) WITH FONDANT POTATOES

of the pan.

Add the potatoes to the pan and cook both for 10 minutes. Lower the heat if the meat is browning too quickly it should be golden.

Remove the meat to a plate, then turn the potatoes. add the cabbage and put the pan into the oven for 10 minutes or till the cabbage slightly wilts, then remove from the oven.

Turn the cabbage, put the meat back in the pan (skin side up) and return to the oven for 8 mins, or 10 mins for well done.

Remove the potatoes and cabbage from the pan and keep warm in a low oven.



Put the pan with the meat back on the hob over a high heat and drizzle the honey and pour over the orange juice., bubbling the liquid down to a sticky glaze, then spoon the glaze over the meat. Remove the meat to a plate. Pour the chicken stock into the pan and bring back to the boil for 3/4 minutes to a thick sauce

Carve the meat into thick slices and arrange on a warm plate with the potatoes and cabbage.

Pour over the sauce and enjoy!

## WWRA

from Stephen Perry (WWRA Secretary)

### Christmas Carols 2021



The Willow Wood Carol Singers will tour the park on Sunday 19 December from 6pm (weather permitting). Mulled wine and Christmas mince-meat pies will be on offer to the audiences. If you would like to participate as a singer join the carollers as they gather at the Car park at 6pm.. Bring a torch or a lantern.

### Christmas Lunch & Raffle

West Lothian Council will provide the annual Christmas meal to the park again this year. The meals are available for ALL residents and you should collect yours from the car park on Friday 17 December 2021 from 11am –11.15am. Raffle tickets for a spectacular Christmas Hamper will be on sale at the same time and the draw will take place on Sunday 19 December.



### Events 2022

Looking forward to 2022 our tentative social programme includes a Burns Night, a Cheese and Wine Night including a Silent Auction, Day Trips – ideas for trips wanted and the annual Willow Wood Weekend, Other programme ideas welcome.



Willow Wood is no stranger to wild weather. A storm on 8 December 2011 saw a crowd of residents turn out to save the roof of No 23.

Strong winds lifted the roof sheets and swift action was needed.

Jimmy Richardson, the late Peter McGovern and Jim Haluch (on



the roof) managed to secure it before further damage



Sometimes it is the snow that hits...



It was really deep in 2010 and it was all hands to the shovels and we even had to ask the farmer to use his tractor to help us. This led to the purchase of our own first tractor, snow plough and snow blower.

This year we have upgraded to a new tractor and we need additional volunteers to help with spreading the salt on the roads, if you can help, please see John at No 22, or Donny at No 5. Ladies welcome!



## HOUSE PRICES...

An interesting outcome of the pandemic is a general rise in park home values in Scotland. Since the end of the lockdown, there has been an upsurge in interest from buyers with all vacant homes at Willow wood being snapped up as soon as they came onto the market. This trend is showing on other Scottish Parks. The trend has pushed home prices up by around 10% to pre-pandemic prices.

## PITCH FEE SHOCK...

Residents should brace themselves for a steep rise in the 2022 monthly pitch fee. The December Retail Prices Index, on which pitch fees are reviewed, has come in at 7.1%; and therefore we face a rise of around £11.50 per month from March 2022. This review is part of our written statement contract and cannot be challenged.

## WILLOW WOOD

The Wanderer hears that an emergency meeting is being held this month with West Lothian Council as a result of a complaint made by WWRA about the application of the site licence conditions. Residents pay for the site licence fee through their pitch fees so we should expect a high level service from the Council in these matters.

## NEWSDESK 2

Once again the park is bright with Christmas Lights and all credit to the Lighting Team of Pat Gee, John Adamson and Donny Woodmore. After the debacle of previous years when the site owner refuse permission for lights on spurious health and safety grounds the team have taken great care to source power from a helpful resident and to ensure that all cabling and switches are fully protected to the required standard.



## Charity Events 2021

Two very successful events were held to raise funds for Macmillan Nurses, which amounted to £530.70, and given the number of residents on the park, this was an extraordinary amount and will be gratefully received by Macmillan. Many thanks to all who attended, and to those who provided the refreshments of home baking, jams and preserves, teas and coffees.



## Christmas Light 2021



Lights at No 11