

Christmas 2025

15 December 2025

CHRISTMAS EDITION

2025



SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF WILLOW WOOD PARK

The Willow Wood Wanderer

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS SUPPLEMENT

Park Home Living in Scotland – Where We Stand Today

Park home living continues to play an important role in Scotland's housing landscape, offering many people a peaceful, community-focused alternative to more traditional forms of housing. For residents, the appeal often lies in quieter surroundings, manageable homes, and the strong sense of neighbourliness that residential parks are known

In Scotland, park homes are covered by a distinct legal framework that provides residents with clear rights and protections. These include security of tenure, transparent arrangements around pitch fees, and the right to live in a well-maintained and properly licensed site. Scottish legislation has placed a strong emphasis on fairness, clarity, and accountability, helping to support long-term confidence in park home living.

As with all forms of housing, park home sites have faced challenges in recent years. Rising costs – including insurance, maintenance, utilities, and compliance with

regulatory standards – have affected both residents and site operators. However, park homes often remain a comparatively affordable housing option, particularly when measured against mainstream housing costs in many parts of Scotland.

One of the defining strengths of park home living is the sense of community it fosters.

Many residents value the opportunity to get



to know their neighbours, enjoy a safer and more settled environment, and live in a place where people look out for one another. Across Scotland, residential parks are frequently recognised for the stability and quality of life they offer.

Local authorities in

Scotland continue to work with site owners to ensure parks meet required standards, with regular licensing and inspections forming part of this process. While this can involve ongoing work behind the scenes, it is designed to protect residents and ensure sites remain suitable, safe, and pleasant places to live.

Looking ahead, park home living in Scotland remains well placed for the future. As housing needs evolve and more people seek smaller, lower-maintenance homes, residential parks are expected to remain in demand. With good communication, responsible management, and resident involvement, park home sites can continue to offer a secure and enjoyable way of life. Above all, park home living in Scotland is about community, independence, and feeling at home – values that continue to make residential parks a positive choice for many people. JH

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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

Edinburgh Haemophilia Centre

Long time resident and previous chair of the Residents

Association, Wilma Gault, had the unfortunate experience earlier this year to spend some time in hospital, in the Edinburgh Haemophilia Centre, with an unexpected illness. While in hospital she realised how stretched the Centre was and decided to do something about raising some funds for the department.

Wilma held a very successful coffee morning at her home and raised the princely sum of £170 which she donated to the centre. Wilma is pictured handing over the cheque.



THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHES 2025

Courtesy of West Lothian Council, the WWRA will distribute over 60 Christmas lunches to residents again this year. The lunches, which can be frozen for later use, and small gifts will be available to ALL residents of the park at No 23 on Wednesday 17 December 2025, from 1-2 pm.

Scottish Night

Really enjoyable Scottish Night in the Community Garden, Saturday 16 August 2025. Big thanks to WWRA for organising the event and the supper, and the many volunteers who helped with the setup. John Adamson led the Scottish songs with rousing choruses from the audience.



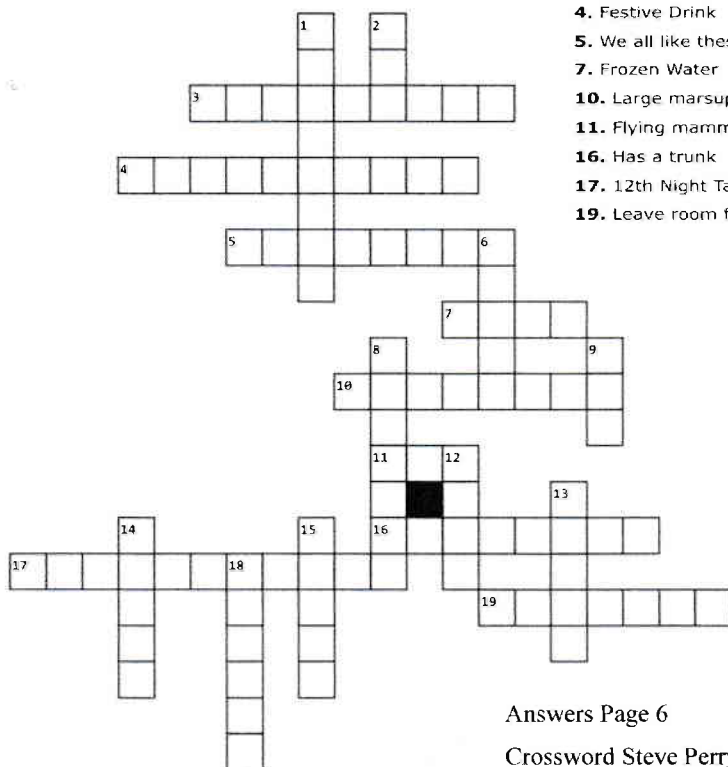
Willow Wood Christmas Crossword

Across

3. This time of year
4. Festive Drink
5. We all like these
7. Frozen Water
10. Large marsupial
11. Flying mammal
16. Has a trunk
17. 12th Night Tasks
19. Leave room for this

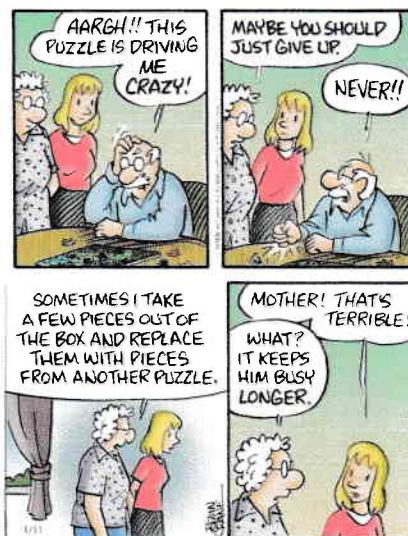
Down

1. Ones Offspring
2. Likes to chase mice
6. Visits on Christmas Eve
8. Christmas Balls
9. Man's best friend
12. To be decorated
13. Comes in the post
14. Evergreen foliage
15. Mountain Ash
18. Decorative String



Answers Page 6

Crossword Steve Perry





Scottish Orange Shortbread

Hogmanay Edition

Makes: 6–8 pieces

Difficulty: Easy

Perfect for: Hogmanay sharing & first-footing

Ingredients

- 110g (4oz) unsalted butter, softened
- 55g (2oz) caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 110g (4oz) plain flour
- 55g (2oz) cornflour
- Finely grated zest of ½ orange

Method

- Heat oven to **160°C (140°C fan)**. Line or lightly grease a small baking tin.
- Cream butter and sugar until pale and smooth.
- Stir in the zest of orange.
- Mix in flour and corn-flour to form a soft dough.
- Press evenly into tin, prick with a fork, and mark into portions.
- Bake for **30–40 minutes** until pale golden.
- Sprinkle with sugar while warm. Cool before cutting.



A Little History

Shortbread has been baked in Scotland for centuries and was once considered a luxury, made with butter at special times of year. It became closely associated with Christmas and Hogmanay, when it was traditionally offered to guests as a symbol of hospitality and good fortune. Today, it remains one of Scotland's best-loved festive treats.

WWRA

from The Secretary

WWRA Membership

Membership fees for the Residents' Association for **2026** are due from **1 January** and should be paid by **31 January 2026**. The fee remains **£25 per person**, as agreed at the last AGM.

A membership renewal/application form is enclosed with this edition of *The Wanderer*. Please return it with payment to **Stephen (No. 44), Elizabeth (No. 23), or Jim (No. 11)**. Members with online access are encouraged to join our **WWRA Facebook page** to help improve communication.

To remain a **Qualifying Residents' Association**, at least **50% of households** on the park must be members — your support is essential.

West Lothian Council

We continue to engage with **West Lothian Council Licensing** regarding issues raised during the **2024 site licence renewal**, including street lighting, potholes, and walkway line painting. While some repairs were carried out, potholes have reappeared and a contractor has now been appointed to repair the lights. WLC has decided not to require repainting of the walkway lines; this is a point we will continue to challenge.

WWRA represents **all residents** on whole-site issues in its dealings with both **WLC and Wyldecrest**, and we encourage residents to support this work.

We would also like to acknowledge the **bungalow residents**, who have been a key point of contact with Wyldecrest and have worked hard on behalf of everyone.

Road Salt

The RA has a good supply of road salt, which was made available to members this year. Thanks to **Elizabeth's grandsons** for helping with delivery.

To avoid inflated shop prices, **25kg bags** are available from WWRA at **£7 per bag (cost price)**. For additional bags, please contact **Elizabeth or Steve**.



Wanderer Features

Winter Ready

Winter will soon be upon us, and therefore we need to plan and prepare for any events mother nature intends to throw at us. We have recently seen the devastation around the world of storms resulting in the downpours of rain and the subsequent flooding. Here at Willow Wood, there is a very minimal risk of flooding as we are at the top of a small hill, however we should be prepared for other events, such as very high winds and power cuts. High winds can bring damage from trees, flying debris and damage to roofs and outbuildings. This type of damage should be covered by your home insurance, so check it is up to date and valid. If you have any concerns about the structure of your home/roof/outbuildings you should seek professional advice.

Power cuts are dealt with by Scottish Power Networks, and they are responsible for restoring power or providing a temporary supply to the site if necessary. It is therefore prudent to have some form of temporary lighting (using replaceable batteries) and if using electricity to cook, a small camping stove will enable you to have a hot food i.e. soup, pudding rice etc. If your neighbour uses gas to cook with, then you could arrange with them for you to heat up food and boil water for hot drinks. It is advisable not to use candles as they present a higher risk of fire.

The weather has started to become colder, with ice forming and snow falling. This will make the road slippery for both vehicles and pedestrians. The volunteers from the WWRA will, as per previous occurrences, salt the road and footpath to help maintain a safe environment. Drivers should be extra careful when driving around the park, as black ice is very hard to spot. Please do not remove salt from the yellow bins, this is for the roads and we only have a limited supply.

We should also look out for our neighbours, especially the old and frail amongst us, as they may need extra

WORDSEARCH

Advent	Mistletoe
Brandy	Nativity
Candles	Party
Carol	Presents
Celebration	Reindeer
Cheer	Sprouts
Christmas tree	Stuffing
Elves	Tinsel
Family	Toys
Festival	Turkey
Jingle Bells	Winter



From John Sloan (No 1)...

New residents will not know John's work.

A longtime Willow-Wood pioneer; with his wife Eve John was one of the original residents here in the park. John is a prolific cartoonist and has worked on some major publications in his time. He has supplied *The Wanderer* with many tongue-in-cheek cartoons over the years. Good to see him in full fettle.



Willow Wood in Pictures 2025



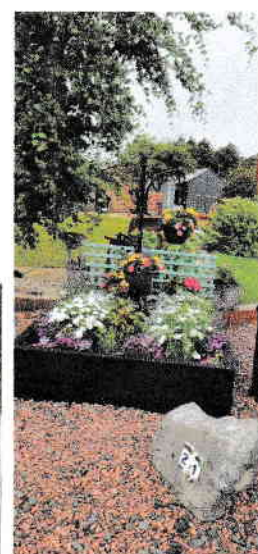
AGM & D-Day



Scottish Night



Very wet Xmas Lights switch on and memories of summer 2025



Carols



Ladies Xmas Party 2013

CHRISTMAS CAROLLERS 2025

Tuesday 9th December saw an unusual but welcome activity on the park.

Children from Our Lady's Primary School in Stoneyburn, led by their Head teacher, visited and regaled all corners of the park with Christmas carols. Many neighbours came out to stand at their doors



during the visit and take part in the carols.

Jean Campbell at No 19 was treated to her own private carol concert. The group ended at the community garden where a remarkably large number of residents had gathered for a longer rendition of the carols. Children and audience then enjoyed Festive refreshments.

Comments later ranged from : "Absolutely fantastic" and "I was actually in tears"

A raffle and donations raised £80 for the School PTA

The visit was organised by Joanne Barras assisted by Mae Clelland, Jule Hancock and Helen Brownlee.



These four simple tips have been devised by the BBC's fraud and scam experts:

1) If it's out of the blue – check it's for you
If you receive a phone call, email or text you're not expecting asking for money or personal details proceed with caution. Look up the organisation's contact details yourself and get back in touch that way.

2) Get a second opinion
Ask someone you trust what they think before giving away any details or paying any money.

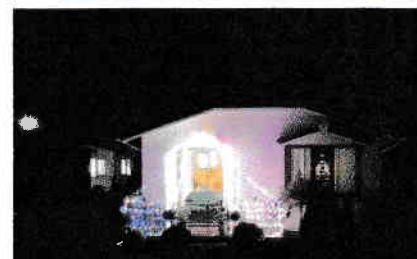
3) Contact your bank
If you think you've been scammed, simply dial 159 to be put straight through to your bank's fraud department, or call the number on the back of your card.

4) Share your story
Talking about your experiences to friends and family helps them stay Scam Safe. Reporting any scam attempt helps authorities fight fraud. Forward any suspicious texts to 7726, (spells out SPAM on your phone keypad) or emails.

More detailed information can be found on the BBC ScamSafe website: bbc.co.uk/scamsafe



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2025



Willow Wood Christmas Crossword Answers

Across	Down
3. Christmas	1 Children
4. Mulled wine	2 Cat
5. Presents	6 Santa
7. Snow	8 Baubles
10. Kangaroo	9 Dog
11. Bat	12 Tree
16. Elephant	13 Cards
17. Decorations	14 Holly
19. Pudding	18. Tinsel

Christmas Messages 2025



From Angela Constance MSP

As the festive season arrives, bringing its own special light, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you this Christmas and hope this time of year fills your homes with comfort, joy, and peace.

Christmas is a time for cherishing the community bonds that make West Lothian so special. Our local history is etched into the landscape - This land has seen millennia of history, and it is the stories and experiences of residents like you that continue this rich heritage.

We are reminded of the resilience of our community; Stonyburn is known for its strong community spirit, a spirit forged during the days of the shale oil industry. Just as the hardworking "shale people" created light and warmth for the Industrial Revolution, your presence and companionship continue to warm the heart of our community today.

In this season of goodwill, we also think of the most vulnerable in our community, especially those facing child poverty right here in West Lothian. No child should experience hunger, cold, or barriers to fulfilling their potential. That is why I strongly supported the Scottish Governments transformative policies delivering real help to families here in Almond Valley including the Scottish Child Payment and scrapping peak rail fares for good.

We understand that the holidays can sometimes feel quiet, and with conflict across the world filling our newsfeeds, the need for peace feels more urgent than ever - We are thinking of all of you and wishing for peace both near and far.

I also invite everyone to reach out, reconnect and help make Christmas a little brighter for people facing isolation in our communities. No person should face Christmas alone.

We are neighbours, looking out for one another in the true, enduring spirit of West Lothian.

*Wishing you peace, joy, and happiness in 2026
With warmest regards and festive cheer."*

Angela

Angela Constance

MSP for Almond Valley Constituency

(Angela is MSP (SNP) for the Almond Valley constituency which includes Willow Wood. She is a long term supporter of our WWRA and park home residents. Angela also holds the Cabinet post of Justice Secretary in the Scottish Government)



From: Elizabeth White

Chair Willow Wood Residents Association

Dear Members and Residents

What a dreich day to write a message for the Wanderer. The house lights seem to be switched on earlier in the day and are we becoming grumpy old men and women (or more grumpy than usual?) I seem to moan about the wet weather a lot.

Sadly this year there have been three families who have lost a loved one. Margaret at No 27, Eileen and No 41 and Eleanor at No 7. Jimmy and Eleanor were among the very first residents in the park and their contribution to park life is greatly appreciated. Our thoughts are with these families at this poignant time.

We have also said au revoir to Anne and Willie from No 46 who have moved to stay in the Forth and are enjoying their new home along with Sparky.

John and Jan (No 22) have moved to Southampton to be nearer family and as I write are sailing the seas on the Queen Mary. We wish them well as they settle into their new home.

Di and Gay will leave us at the end of December, moving just a few miles up the road. Di's mechanical and electrical skills have been greatly appreciated over the past few years, keeping the tractor, lawnmower etc in running order. My thanks for all the hard work carried out.

The Community Garden hosted only two events this year. A very successful combined AGM and 80th D Day Celebration and for the first time a Scottish Evening with music, song and haggis, neeps and tatties.

Both events were well attended and even the weather was lovely.

We have been in contact with Wyldcrest and West Lothian Council Environmental Service regarding the broken street lights and potholes.

The Council has contacted Wyldcrest on our behalf regarding our concerns and they have been informed that the Council will issue formal notices as the next steps. It is a great worry that there are so many lights not working especially now it is dark early.

We were again successful in applying for Christmas lunch provided by West Lothian Council and hope that you enjoyed the meal.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee for their continued support and hard work ensuring that we continue to be a community of caring residents.

May you and your family have a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Elizabeth



WILLOW WOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chair: Elizabeth White

(01501 470267)

Secretary: Steve Perry
(01501 486672)



Website:
www.willowwoodwestlothian.co.uk

'Creating a Community'

THE WILLOW WOOD WANDERER

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West Calder EH55 8QE
EDITOR: JIM HALUCH

DON'T MISS OUR XMAS
GREETINGS SECTION
INSIDE

WANDERER NOTICES

Breich Valley Church
Minister: Rev. Robert Craig

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Services

Christingle 6.30pm

Songs of Praise

28 December 2025

10.15am



MY CHRISTMAS LIST FOR SANTA

Dear Santa,

Hope you and all your Elves and Reindeer are well and working hard to get ready for your big day on Christmas Eve (after all, you do bugger all the rest of the year).

What I want for Christmas this year is World Peace. Now I've got that old chestnut out of the way, what I really want is an obscenely large bottle of the finest Highland Single Malt. And while you're at it, I'd also be very grateful for a year's supply of Hemorrhoids cream, Senna tablets and Ibuprofen gel for my sodding sore back. I know you're busy but, if it's not too much trouble, you could also throw in a couple of new hips to be on the safe side.

I think that's just about it, but then my short term memory ain't wot it used to be.

Yours in hopeful anticipation,

Willow Wood's resident Grumpy Ol' Geezer (Age 77)

P.S. Ho Ho bloody Ho!

E. Scrooge

Homes sold @ Willow
Wood 2025

January 25

No 31

August 2025

No 46

September 2025

No 22

December 2025

No 4

For future sales

See

www.willowwoodwestlothian.co.uk

'Homes for Sale'

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