

I hope you are all enjoying the festive season and wish you all a very happy 2018. You will notice that after much deliberation the cover of the magazine has changed. There is lots of information here in this issue from fund raisers for the Willand Health and Community Centre and the Cullompton Swimming Pool to recycling and fitness classes as well as information on what is happening in the village. Read on and enjoy!

CAMEO

At our November meeting we were pleased to welcome Mrs Jane Campbell and Mr Michael Woodcock from the Walronds Trust in Cullompton. We learned about the history of this historic house in the centre of the town and how it was rebuilt following a devastating fire in 1602. It has a very chequered history changing hands many times over the years. When work was undertaken restoring the overgrown garden Roman pottery was found including a complete amphora. This came presumably from the old Roman fort in the vicinity of the now Shortlands estate. The house was near derelict and restoration was a massive task and finally, when all the funding was in place which took years of complicated negotiations, work began on the house. The Trust managed to employ local skilled tradesmen and women bringing welcome work into the town. The slides showed the amazing work that has been carried out. Tenants live in part of the house which brings in much-needed funds. Lots of local groups hold meetings and functions there from coffee mornings to birthday parties. Visitors come from far and wide to view the house and gardens and the years of dedicated work from volunteers has saved an historic building for the benefit of the town and surrounding area.

November 11th dawned and with it a typical dank and drizzly morning and we were a little bit concerned that we would not welcome many visitors to our Xmas Coffee Morning in aid of Devon Air Ambulance. However we need not have worried as our faithful supporters turned up as they always do, we couldn't run these events without their support! As this was Remembrance Weekend we had two minutes silence before we officially opened. We would like to thank Tesco's for giving us all the mince pies and an anonymous donor for kindly donating the pasties and sausage rolls, this was much appreciated. We had a large variety of stalls some manned by Cameo members and some from other organisations in the Village and we are pleased to report that we had made a profit of just over £1,000 and counting! A big thank you to everyone who supported us in any way.

The Walking Group have been out enjoying the autumn colours, with an old favourite walk along the old Tiverton railway line, another around Uffculme and the third was a lane walk around Clay Hydon. The Singles group had their Christmas party at Mary Tancocks house, everyone contributing to a delicious lunch. After Christmas crackers and cake we had our Christmas lucky dip followed by bingo. We had a lovely time.

We have been holding a little raffle at our monthly tea parties and we were pleased to be able to give £106 towards our Devon Air Ambulance charity. We enjoyed doing this so have decided to do it again next year for Cameo's 2018 charity, Devon Freewheelers. We are going to the Halfway House in January for our New Year lunch. We have booked next year's holiday and we are off to Littlecote House in Berkshire in September. A coachload of Cameo members went to Clarks Village for some Christmas shopping. All the Cameo members went to the Merry Harriers for their annual Christmas dinner and after a delicious meal we had a Secret Santa followed by an hilarious Health and Safety /Human Rights version of some traditional Christmas Carols and festive songs which everyone enjoyed. We ended the evening singing Auld Lang Syne. This was a lovely ending to a very happy and successful 2017. Cameo members wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.
Betty Penberthy.

RECYCLING BLACK PLASTIC

You may have seen the Spotlight programme in November where one of their features was related to the fact that black plastic containers cannot be recycled. A thoughtful parishioner contacted Mid Devon District Council to see if that was the case. He was told definitely it was not the case as far as they were concerned.

They are quite happy for people to put black plastic into their recycling boxes, because the alternative is to put it in landfill, which will incur a charge to the Council. So if you live in Mid Devon please continue to put your black plastic into the recycle boxes.

THE MUDDIFORDS CHEESE RUN 8TH OCTOBER 2017

This event was such an enormous success bringing the local community together to enjoy some exercise and fun at Muddifords Court on Sunday 8th October. The aim of the day was to raise funds and awareness for the Exeter Dementia Action Alliance. This event was well supported by local businesses such as Halberton Farm Shop, The Globe Inn, Scoff Catering and Ashfords solicitors as well as the main sponsor, cheese manufacturer 'Wyke Farms'.

We had nearly 200 people take part in the 5 mile walk or run in the morning. It was great to see so many children and families taking part and dogs enjoying a good morning's exercise along the Grand Western Canal before they arrived at the finish line at Muddifords Court.

Muddifords Court then laid on a fabulous fun day for everyone and their families to enjoy for the afternoon. Local 9-piece band Las Torders played live in the courtyard plus Heatwave Samba group from Uffculme School who were just brilliant. As well as bouncy castles and face painting we also had a raffle and an auction. All items were donated from local businesses around the county offering some truly great prizes, including a family pass at Killerton National

Trust, Diggerland tickets and Tesco vouchers in all we had over 35 items to raffle!

We have had lots of donations this month since the event which has contributed to our total raised for the Exeter Dementia Action Alliance. We have raised £4300.26.



We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all sponsors, marshals and volunteers who helped on the day as well as everyone who took part.

WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB

Willand Folk Dance Club is a thriving social dance Club that has now been running for over fifty years. Our Club Nights are held the on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of the month in the Village hall – 8.00 through to 10.30. We have live music and a Caller every time. We also hold a Saturday Evening dance on the second Saturday of the month 8.00 through to 11.30. Our callers and bands come from a very wide radius and many feel privileged to come to Willand Club.

We would be delighted to see 'you' if you would enjoy a fun social evening. You don't have to have any dancing experience. Just come along and we will help you – our Callers always walk us through the dances and our members are happy to help new comers.

So, if you would like the chance to keep fit to live music and have a bit of fun - come along. If you would like any further information, give me a call on 01404 47200 or have a look at our website – www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk. We will look forward to seeing you. Marilyn Broom – Chairperson

NEED SOME HELP AROUND THE HOUSE OR GARDEN

The Army Cadets are looking for opportunities to do voluntary work in Willand. This can be a one off task such as hedge cutting, clearing rubbish, painting a fence or a more regular commitment. If you have any ideas or need for willing volunteers then do contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance and she will pass the details on.

ADVANCE NOTICE - Sampford Peverell Historic Vehicle Gathering

The show will be held on Sunday 12th August 2018 at Uplowman Village Hall. Please put this date into your diaries now. Lindy Astbury Secretary



AT

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY

(17TH FEBRUARY & 17TH MARCH)

TEAMS OF UP TO 6

7.30 START

BRING YOUR OWN LIQUID REFRESHMENT

£5 PER HEAD

TO INCLUDE A LIGHT SUPPER.

PLEASE BOOK IN ADVANCE BY EMAIL

liz.whcc@gmail.com.

OR POP IN TO

WILLAND PHARMACY.

**RAISING FUNDS AND AWARENESS FOR WILLAND HEALTH AND
COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WITS)

As winter draws in rehearsals are well under way for the Pantomime "Puss in Boots" at the Village hall in February on Friday 16th. Evening and Saturday 17th

matinee and evening performances. With scripts down and the prompt working overtime as usual, fun and frustration abound.

The script written by one of our members Colin Barrow, a professional script writer, has all the twists and turns of a traditional Panto. With funny routines new to us and the Village, we hope will go down a storm. With new sets, costumes, music, songs and the usual forgotten lines by the cast we hope it will be the funniest production yet.

New members have joined us this year behind the scenes and on the boards with new contributions all round, but we are always on the look out to recruit anyone who would like to help out or face the audience and have fun. You can always find us at the Village Hall on Fridays from 7:30pm "Oh yes we are" so why not come along and see what we are up to.

Following the panto we have murder mysteries to perform and hopefully a play or two through the summer. Throughout the year we get together with skittle evenings, karaoke nights, Parties, Christmas Dinner and even a Treasure Hunt. There is also of course the now famous "Premiere evening" to see the performance from the audience's point of view.

We see ourselves as a social group and we have members across the ages from 14 to (let's say) mature, from all walks of life from around the Village who just enjoy the hustle and bustle of the Theatre the music and the fun. So if you have a free Friday evening we would love to meet you.

So please come along on Friday or Saturday 16th. & 17th. February banners and notices will be around the village and tickets will be available from Ticketsource.co.uk & Willand Pharmacy please look out for notices around the village after Christmas. Happy Christmas Sam Fincher.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Friday March 23 2018 6.30PM START

Put a note in your new diaries and come along to see what has been going on in the village over the past 12 months.

If you are an organisation and would like to take part contact the Clerk to let her know.

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

We would mention that over the last couple of months there has been a short set back concerning the lease, which has been amended by the Parish council to include further clause additions and alterations that require the attention of the WH&CC solicitor. This is not seen as a major issue, but it does add further cost, time and delay to the finalising of the lease, which the trustees are keen to see legally completed.

Progress continues to be maintained with the selection of a shortlist of three architects to be considered for the design and development of the project. A

“due-diligence “, programme has been determined to ensure the final architect will have the design capability and experience and awareness to work as part of a team with the trustees to bring the centre to completion. It is hoped to make the final selection early in the New Year.

A comprehensive draft Feasibility Study has been undertaken to validate exactly what the residents of Willand want their Health & Community Centre to be, and what facilities they would expect from this major investment project. A short survey/questionnaire is currently being prepared asking informative questions that relate to the final acceptance of the final facilities and services the centre will deliver. Hopefully the questionnaire will be pushed through your letter box sometime during January 2018, please take time to complete this short survey, as the analysis will be included in the Feasibility Study, which will be used to promote future funding applications.

The WH&CC has reached the stage where it needs to attract other trustees with more professional support backgrounds, particularly with some experience in Accountancy, Legal, Medical, Marketing and perhaps with retail knowledge. If you could give about three hours a month it would add so much to the work being currently undertaken by the trustees, and help in making decisions that will shape the future development of your village Community Centre.

On behalf of the trustees we would wish everyone a most enjoyable Christmas and prosperous and healthy New Year. Ken J Wood – Vice-Chairman

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT WILLAND SCHOOL?

The autumn term has been full of exciting and interesting activities!

Reception

The reception classes have been busy; they have learnt about numbers and have practised their spellings. Willand School celebrated Children In Need by dressing up in colourful clothing and having their face painted by some Year Six children. The reception children loved it; they all wanted to be cats, dinosaurs, tigers and some of them wanted to have stripes and spots. Also, we had a dress up your teddy competition which was judged by the one and only Pudsey Bear!

Key Stage 1

Last year, some children in Year One entered a writing competition and we are proud to say that many of their stories are being published in a book! A few weeks ago, Year One and Year Two had a Ugandan day and as a special treat, they had a visitor from Uganda. The visitor taught the children to play the African drums and how to dance a traditional African dance. Most recently, Key Stage One have been rehearsing this year's nativity play -The Donkey Seller.

Lower Key Stage 2

Year Three took a trip to Wild Side, where they did orienteering and observed all the animals. Theatre Alibi came to our school and performed the first silent show in memory. As a treat, Year Three, Four and Five had a visit from the author Clare Barker where she talked about her new book called 'Knit Bone Pepper The Ghost Dog'. At the moment, their main focus is the upcoming Roman play called Rockin' Romans.

Upper Key Stage 2

In Design Technology, Years Five and Six have been studying Computer Aided Design. They were fortunate enough to be able to use Cullompton Community College's expertise and resources to design and make wooden Christmas ornaments. Year Six are currently busy designing and making their games for the Christmas Fayre (which was on Wednesday 6th December) as an Enterprise Challenge (they began with £20 and the challenge is to see how much they can make).

Competitions

Lately, Willand School has had great success in sports competitions. Years Five and Six have had two football matches winning both 8-0 and 5-1 respectively. In Sports Hall Athletics, the Year Five and Six team qualified for the East Devon finals.

A few weeks ago, we sent two teams to a High Fives tournament at Cullompton Community College. The 'A' team won every single match and qualified for both the Culm Valley and East Devon Finals. We also entered a team of eight children in a basketball tournament, which again was held at Cullompton Community College, where they had a great evening and won every single match that they played, despite injury.

So far we have had a great year at Willand School and we hope to continue to build on our successes in sports and learning!



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The lights are up and looking very festive! At the time of writing the Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to Pencarrie Limited, Rayda Plastics, Willand Community Composting Scheme and Willand Football Club for their donations towards the Christmas Lights. Donations received after the magazine has gone to print will be acknowledged next time.

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

FEBRUARY				
Friday	16 th	Panto – Puss in Boots	W.V.H.	7.30 pm
Saturday	17 th	Panto – Puss in Boots	W.V.H.	2.00 pm
Saturday	17 th	Panto – Puss in Boots	W.V.H.	7.00 pm

REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL		
Pilates	Mondays	10:00 am
Purelesque Knitting Group	Mondays	2:00 pm
Cull. & Dist. Flower Club	1 st Monday	2:00 pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5:30 pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7:00 pm
Kettle Bell Pump	Mondays	7:00 pm
Pilates	Tuesday	9:30 am
Seated Exercise Class	Tuesday	10.30am
Flower Arranging	Tuesday	1:15 pm
Gymnastics Club	Tuesday	4:00 pm
Pilates	Tuesday	7.30pm
Tiny Tots (Term Time)	Wednesday	9:30 am
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7:00 pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7:30 pm
Flower Arranging	Wednesday	1:15 pm
Pilates	Thursday	9:30 am
CAMEO	1 st Thursday	7.00 pm
Karate	Thursday	5:30 pm
Folk Dance Club	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7:30 pm
Parish Council Meetings	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7:00 pm
Zumba	Fridays	9.30am
Wits	Fridays	7:00 pm
Cowgirl Twisters	3 rd Saturday	7:30 pm
Folk Dance	2 nd Saturday	7:00 pm
Rugby Tots	Sundays	9:30 am
Martial Arts	Sundays	6:30 pm

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to John Holmes, our caretaker, who put up the Christmas decorations this year. They do cheer up the Hall. There has been a delay in having our new doors fitted. Why is nothing never straightforward?

Now that the weather is getting colder, please will all users make sure that the outside doors are closed during functions and that all doors and windows are closed at the end of the function, the heating costs are very high and we cannot afford to heat up the car park!

Wi-Fi is up and running and has been used by quite a few users. We are on the list for hi-speed broadband, but might have a long wait.

We have been collecting paper for a number of years, receiving a substantial income from the paper mill and MDDC for recycling. However, since the kerbside collections started, the amount of paper coming in has dwindled considerably, so that we are only making one trip a year to the mill, rather than 5 or 6. This makes it financially non-viable. We have made the decision not to collect any more papers after the end of February 2018, so please do not bring any along after that date. Thank you very much to those of you who have supported this venture in the past and to Alec, who has kindly let us have use of his trailer. The trustees wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year Website: www.willandmatters.org.uk/organisations for our diary and community page. Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer

WALKING FOOTBALL

Walking football is a great way for men and women over the age of fifty to stay active and keep fit. It is an informal and accessible form of the game.

This more leisurely approach to football reduces the risk of injury and produces less stress on the body, whilst still bringing all the benefits of sustained physical activity.

Walking football can help to strengthen muscles and bone, and is good for cardiovascular systems – helping to lower blood pressure and heart rate, and improving the bodies' ability to absorb oxygen.

Uffculme's walking football group has been running since January 2016, and players meet every Thursday morning at Magelake Hall for an hour-long game. Subs are £3 per session.

The Uffculme Team are a very welcoming and supportive bunch, encouraging each other and looking after one another. The first session is FREE so you have nothing to lose. We always welcome more players so why don't you give it a try! If you would like to join in, please ring Age UK Mid Devon on 01884 255369.

UP DATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR BOB EVANS

I hope all who read this enjoy the festive season and get to spend some precious time with family and friends, let's hope that 2018 will bring to an end the uncertainty that MDDC continues to endure over planning issues that are increasingly affecting more and more communities.

On the subject of planning a small victory can be reported in the defence of the application for some 259 houses, the inspector ruled that the application was simply too large for Willand and so refused the appeal, unfortunately he didn't

rule on the issues on highways that we had hoped and so I'm afraid we can expect a new application albeit smaller in scale in the coming weeks, watch the planning portal.

As a result of the inspectors ruling we face a real difficulty in defence of the application for 30 houses adjacent to the current Esso garage, application 17/00652 and have an officer recommendation to grant permission on this site, in truth I see little we can defend this on given the inspectors comments and continued lack of an up to date local plan and lack of 5 year land supply.

To add to concerns as I write I have a meeting this pm with the head of planning and other ward members to discuss application 17/01179 an application for 28 affordable houses off Silver Street, my issue here isn't we don't want affordable houses we do, my issue is given the number of affordable houses that will be in the 30 above (should be 11) the further 14 that will come from the 42 already in the emerging plan the 7 already built in Ash close, Willand will be over supplied with affordable houses and so if all agreed will simply add to the infrastructure issues on highways, schools etc without the supply of additional infrastructure needed to cope.

With all things there is a balance needed and building on this scale should be planned, as stated previously these are speculative applications so are not part of an organised and cohesive plan, many are simply cash cows for developers looking to take advantage of MDDC's situation at the expense of local communities.

Please remember your voice counts so please if you have comments/concerns, please, please send in your comments on any planning applications via the MDDC planning portal.

Let's hope next year we can comment on other issues and not just more planning applications.

As ever if you need to contact me or any of your ward councillors our details are on the MDDC web site.

**Finally may I wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Bob Evans
MDDC Lower Culm**

CRIME IN WILLAND – Is on the increase?

You can keep up with some of what is happening by looking at WOW- What's on Willand on Facebook. There have been attempted break ins, burglaries and the theft of a catalytic converter reported.

Speariings have been targeted by thieves on several occasions and suffered yet another significant theft on Saturday 9th September 2017 and when speaking to the police, they suggested trying to make it public knowledge for community support, witnesses etc. This was published on face book and Willand Matters.

The incident is outlined below to give you an idea of the thefts that they are having:

The incident happened in the early hours of Saturday morning 9th September, coach batteries were stolen and significant damage caused to 4 coaches parked in the layby opposite the Halfway House, Willand. An attempted theft was made on a 5th coach where they caused substantial damage to the coach in attempt to steal those batteries. 8 commercial batteries were stolen in total, as well as sets of commercial jump leads, emergency hammers and tool boxes were stolen. There was severe damage to the battery caging on 4 vehicles, all the wiring was ripped out, severe damage to a locker panel, where it was ripped off the vehicle, a lock was broken and an indicator light broken. This subsequently put these vehicles off the road for use. Speerings are a small family run business and this continual amount of damage and theft is extremely damaging to them. The company have always been hit hard with fuel theft but the damage to acquire the fuel and the tools is becoming increasingly worse causing significant damage and putting vehicles off the road. Please keep your eyes and ears open and if you notice anything suspicious call the police.

“PROSPECTS” - is a group in which learning disabled people can joyfully meet together for Christian worship and fellowship through music, drama, song, arts and craft activities.

The nearest one to you is held at Culm Valley Methodist Church, Gables Road, Willand on alternate months. If you know of someone who may like to join us but need more information please contact either David Greet on 01884 840942 or the Rev. Paul Booth 01884 32679. Alternatively just turn up; you will receive a very warm welcome. The church has its own car parking facilities with level access and all assisted facilities. The date for meeting in January is Sunday 21st! Prospects is now a part of the national *Livability* charity (www.livability.org.uk)

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

“What’s going on?” I keep hearing these words on a particular TV advert and they are beginning to annoy me. Now I find myself using them in relation to some issues surrounding Mid Devon District Council Planning policies and performance.

The Government Inspector dismissed the appeal against the 259 houses between the woods and the Esso Garage mainly on the grounds of scale as it would have too big an adverse impact on the village. Do not cheer too quickly as I would be surprised if they do not come back with another application for a smaller number and then again for another number until the whole area is filled in. Watch this space and tell an old cynic he is wrong.

MDDC have just approved a further 28 affordable houses for rent to be built next to Ash Close. They have not even imposed their own policy in relation to

the improvement of the footpaths to the village which are needed to ensure the safety of residents, particularly children, going to and from the school and other facilities. The committee were even shown the wrong layout plan and figures as to housing need were flawed but that did not matter to some. The suggestion that the 40mph be reduced to 30mph was discounted as Devon County Council Highways had not raised it and it was said the Parish Council could raise that issue with DCC. We can if you are all prepared to put up the £3,000 needed to achieve an order. At least DCH, who will manage the houses', have offered to work with us to try and resolve that issue. Bob Evans speaking as a Ward Councillor argued the case for deferring the decision until certain matters were resolved and Richard Chesterton had written in supporting Bob. He was supported by Jill Doe and Ray Radford as members of the committee. They were outvoted although they had support from Councillor Christine Collis.

We now have to await the decision for the demolition of the Esso Garage and the building of 30 houses and some retail space on that site. Set for Planning Committee on 3 January 2018 when most will have been on holiday so will not be able to check all the paperwork. In the past there should have been retail units in Gable Lea and Meadow Park as part of the developments but where are they? MDDC Planners let developers build houses on the site.

Little or none of this would be happening if we did not have the delay over the local plan to accommodate the development at Junction 27. We are not alone as other areas are getting applications to build on sites which are not planned for. You know the one where they are building a retail park to solve the town centre problems of all the empty shops in Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton! I have been asking questions about the cost of this delay and some figures have been given but in the main I am told that they will not disclose the figures as it may be used to mislead. Well I have found that it has cost at least £113,000 to date for consultants and reports and we still do not know the cost of the barrister and the latest consultant work. I asked to see the barristers' advice that requires the further delay and consultant work. That I am told is privileged information – why? I suppose it could show us that the job had not been done properly before the plan, including J27, went to the Inspector.

Like I said - What's going on?

If Willand residents do not start taking more interest, asking similar questions and banging the table we will have more and more houses with no infrastructure improvement and primary school aged children are likely to be refused places at Willand and have to go elsewhere – not my words, before I am accused of scaremongering, but a response from DCC Education in respect of a further planning application for more houses.

Bob Evans has been particularly active in trying to help with planning issues in Lower Culm Ward – Uffculme and Willand – and he will no doubt offer his own take on things.

What has been going on in Willand? The Christmas lights should be up and our thanks go out to those companies and organisations which have made donations towards the cost. I am sure our Clerk will make sure the detail of their generosity is appropriately recognised. This is the last year of the current contract and so what do we do next year? With other demands on the precept do we continue funding the Christmas lights with some helpful contributions as we do now? Is there a group who would like to take on the project from the Parish Council and fund raise? Do we not bother with Christmas lights anymore? Please let the Clerk know your views. I will admit to being a 'Bah Humbug' when it comes to Christmas so speak up if you want them. It is sad that we do not have a village centre to use as a focal point.

Contractors have done a final cut of all the DCC grass verges in the parish and the cost has come from our reserves. We have received a number of favourable comments as to the fact that the village was beginning to look tidy again. Any areas where the grass looks longer are MDDC responsibility areas. The Parish Council has awarded a one year contract to Halcyon Landscapes to cut these verges at least 10 times during 2018 and so we hope that the village will look better than it has for the past couple of years. They come very well recommended by a number of parish councils in Devon and Somerset. Countrywide will still be looking after the Jubilee Parish Field and did an excellent job on the final cut of the verges but their price for the verges was not as competitive as Halcyon. At the end of the day we have to try and achieve value for your money but we are not putting all our eggs in one basket. We are already chasing DCC for their contribution towards the cost of next years cuts.

The Old Well Garden Centre has again given us a generous discount on the plants for the planters around the village. Thanks are also due to John Holmes and the other volunteers for keeping them tidy and planting up the new plants. The handyman has also been around and replaced the supports which hold the boards in place.

The Parish Council now has the lease for South View Close play area but sadly none of the local residents has volunteered to cut the grass so that will have to go to contract as will Mallow Court. Orchard Way play area still awaits a response from MDDC at the time of writing as to whether or not they will replace the chain link fence. I am not sure what the problem is as if the parish takes over the maintenance they will have saved the cost of the fence after the first two years.

We still have vacancies for Parish Councillors and some of us would like to retire and so that will leave more vacancies. We have had to go through a legal process concerning a possible election and so hopefully people will have seen the notices on the boards and on the website. We have looked at meeting a request for a further notice board in the Willand Moor Road area but the response was very low and so a decision has been deferred for a year but in

the interim details of agenda, minutes and other information is available on the website.

Compliments of the season to one and all. Have you noticed I have not mentioned dog mess once – Whoops!! **Barry Warren - Chair.**

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS)

OPENING TIMES

Wednesdays and Sundays - 10.00 am - 12 Noon.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

Closed from Wednesday 20th December 12 noon.

Reopen Wednesday 3rd January 2018 - 10. 00 am.

SITE WORKS

Closed Sunday 14th January at 12 Noon

Reopen Sunday 4th February 2018 at 10.00am

During this period site works will be undertaken which will include the use of mechanical equipment. So please do not access the site during these CLOSED periods.

Christmas trees accepted providing they have no decorations and the branches are no more than 1" in diameter.

To purchase compost: Collect from bags outside the main gate insert payment into tube located below and replace tube cover. If no bags available outside then text COMPOST to **07514 033305** and someone will contact you. Sieved Compost is £1.50 per bag and unsieved is £1.00 per wheel barrow. If you need to you may borrow the wheelbarrow from the side of the allotment shed but it must be returned. Please return any empty bags if we are closed then leave them outside the main gate. The Composters wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Tony Mander Mob.09780472242 Email: tony@tonymander.plus.com**

NEWS FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MID DEVON GROUP

We are not sure when the magazine will be distributed so we hope you all will have – or have had - a lovely Christmas, and we wish you a very Happy New Year 2018! Gosh, how time flies....

Our news for the Willand Magazine refers to the last few month's activities of 2017 when our group met every first Thursday of the month at Halberton Methodist Church to focus on letter writing to our 'prisoners of conscience'. They are given that title by Amnesty because they have either written or expressed a *non-violent* opinion that has annoyed the governments of countries in which they live. Our current prisoners are Dr Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli; Raif Badawi and his lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair who are Saudi Arabians;

Eskinder Nega, an Ethiopian; and Nazanin Ratcliffe, a British/Iranian. Sadly Nazanin has been in the news a lot recently because of ill-advised comments from Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson....We also wrote to the Chinese Nobel prize-winning poet and writer Liu Xiao-Bo, but regrettably he died of cancer while in prison.

Alongside supporting these people we also took part in writing 'Urgent Actions' where we had been informed by Amnesty that lives were in immediate danger. For instance, in Turkey, Amnesty officials and activists were recently arrested in a crack-down by the Government. While some of them have been released pending trial, they are among thousands of Turkish civilians who are still in prison, including members of the judiciary, military personnel, academics, journalists, teachers etc etc.

On a happier note, we held our annual fund-raising concert on Friday 13th October at Willand Church Hall. As usual, the occasion was a sell-out and we raised the grand total of £840. Many folk around here came to support us and we heard musicians, poets and had a good old sing-a-long. There was a generous raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses, lots of food, and a good time was had by all!

We have also had regular monthly attendance at Uffculme Farmer's Market where we sell our books to raise crucial funds to pay for postage. The good folk there are always interested in what we are doing and support us when there are letters to government officials or prisoners to sign. At the time of writing this article, we have the happy prospect of looking forward to enjoying mulled wine and mince-pies at a member's house while writing cards to people all over the world – the event is called 'Write for Rights'. Next comes a Christmas 'social' at Chris and Alan's where we eat, drink and have fun!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank EVERYONE in this village who supported us at events we have organised during the last 12 months. If anyone is interested in joining our group or has any questions, Sheila on 01884 839282 or Heather on 01884 821291 would be happy to talk to you. Again, all the very best for 2018.

CULM VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME (CVCS)

CVCS is a community car service for frail, elderly and disabled people in Cullompton and surrounding areas, mainly including Willand, Uffculme, Kentisbeare and Bradninch. Transport is provided by our volunteer drivers, using their own cars. Priority is given to taking people to hospitals, doctors' surgeries, dentists, opticians and other health appointments, but we also take people to day centres and some social trips. We have volunteer co-ordinators, who work from their own homes on a rota basis, and cover about one week per month taking phone calls from the passengers, Monday to Friday 9.am to 1.00pm. They record information, arrange a driver, and then confirm details to the passenger. Due to ill health we have lost some of our

co-ordinators over the past few months, so we are now looking for volunteers to become co-ordinators.

THE CULM VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME require volunteers to take telephone calls in their own home, on a rota basis with other volunteer co-ordinators, weekday mornings approximately one week per month. You would arrange for our volunteer drivers to take elderly & disabled people from Cullompton & surrounding areas to appointments at hospitals, surgeries etc. You would be providing an essential service in the community and get to speak to some interesting people at the same time. **For more details please contact Brian Hancock on 01884 33161.**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH GABLES ROAD

Date	Event	Time
Sunday	Service	10.30am
Monday	Willand Art Group	2pm - 4pm
First Friday of Month	Coffee morning and bring and buy	10.30am
Third Friday of Month	Soup and Something No cost all donations go to charity.	12.00 midday

WILLAND GARDEN CLUB

We had an excellent club meal at the Wyndham Arms in Kentisbeare, where the food was plentiful and delicious and the service very friendly and pleasant. We will definitely consider going there again.

In November, we had a talk about the Bishop's Palace, Wells. We discovered a lot of very interesting facts about it and will probably go there for our Club outing next year. We were shown how the gardens have changed over the centuries, as different bishops came and went. The moat around the gardens is controlled by sluices, which stop the gardens flooding and also service the little stream that runs down the main street in Wells.

After our AGM in December, we have a break from our regular meetings until 14th March, where we will be hearing about kitchen remedies. For more details about the Garden Club, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01884 33828 or email me on cbarwa@mail.com. Carol Allan Garden Club Secretary

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

Happy Christmas from everyone at Willand History Group, and we wish you all the very best for the New Year!

A recent survey of old newspapers has given us a few snapshots of Willand's Christmases past. Almost 150 years ago, in 1868, the wealthier members of Victorian society made charitable donations to the local poor at Christmas, as was the custom. For example, Mrs Quant, wife of local businessman John Quant (Tiverton Junction), gave tea and sugar to each poor person in Willand.

Similarly, JW Walrond Esq of Bradfield House presented 5 hundredweight (255 kilograms) of coal to over 100 poor families in the parishes of Willand and Uffclume – while Mrs Walrond formed a blanket society, supplying one or two blankets to each poor family. On Boxing Day 1868 Revd Sydenham, rector of St Mary's Church, showed his 'seasonable benevolence' by providing, "a substantial dinner of beef and mutton with a quart of ale ... to every poor man [and woman?] in the parish of Willand." The report in the *Tiverton Gazette* adds cheerily that, "it is a remarkable circumstance that during the year not a single adult has died in the parish, the only two funerals being those of infants." The surviving children of Willand enjoyed their festive treat in early January, when the 61 pupils of the National School were, "regaled with tea and plum pudding, by the rector and his lady, after which a Christmas tree, with other amusements."

Fast forward a century, on Wednesday 12 December 1956, Willand Over 60s Club held their Christmas Party at Willand Primary School. After tea there were games arranged by Mrs F Vile and Mrs T Hawker, with gifts provided by Mrs G Vile, Mr G Godfrey, Miss N Pope and Willand Methodist Church Guild. Mrs OH Little and Mrs Vinnicombe played the piano and members of the Over 60s Club committee presented a sketch called 'Uncle Tom Cobley'. Thanks was then given to Mr G Shore who had donated logs which had been distributed to all the Over 60s Club members. It was clearly a busy time in the village social calendar, as the following evening, Thursday 13 December 1956, Willand Garden Produce Association held their annual do, also at the Primary School. Their president, Mr CW Baker, welcomed guests; entertainments were organised by Miss J Vickery and Mrs CJ Parish; refreshments by Mrs J Fewings and Mrs G Chinn; and Mrs OH Little was at the piano again.

Of course, tragedy could happen over the festive period just as it could at any other time. Christmas 1939 must have been particularly tense, being the first of the Second World War. This was during the period known as the 'Phoney War' before major military operations had begun, but when the country was hurriedly gearing up for what was expected to be a long and costly war: national defences were being bolstered, young men were being conscripted and food rationing was introduced. Even down in Willand blackout restrictions were being strictly enforced to prevent enemy aircraft gaining assistance from lights on the ground at night. This included placing a 'mask' over vehicle headlights to deflect the beam downwards – night time driving became difficult and perhaps unsurprisingly there was an increase in road traffic accidents. On the evening of 31 December 1939 a motorist was driving his car carefully at 25mph along the 'main road' to the north the Halfway House, with headlights appropriately masked. At the same time Private Harold Cross (from Ashill), a 20 year old soldier in the 4th Devons, and his lady friend, Miss Barbara Joyce Jarrett (South View, Willand), were walking side by side further up the road. The driver of the car noticed a lorry approaching on the other side of the road. He slowed down, but because his headlights were so restricted he still did not see the two

pedestrians in the darkness until it was too late. He hit the brakes, but struck Harold Cross, who had been walking on the outside. Despite the best efforts of medical staff at Tiverton Hospital, the young soldier died two days later. The driver of the car was exonerated at the inquest and a verdict of accidental death was recorded. **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

CULLOMPTON SWIMMING POOL

BINGO

EYES DOWN AT 7.30PM

HALFWAY HOUSE WILLAND

MONDAYS

8TH JANUARY

22ND JANUARY

5TH FEBRUARY

19TH FEBRAURY

RAISING FUNDS FOR CULLOMPTON SWIMMING POOL

CULLOMPTON TOWN HALL

1ST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

5TH JANUARY

2ND FEBRUARY

2ND MARCH

6TH APRIL

4TH MAY

1ST JUNE



A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH CLERK

As I am sitting down to put together my third annual budget for the parish council I am amazed at the variety of issues that have come up during the two and a half years I have been the parish clerk, and the new challenges the Council faces as County and District funds are reduced. Having lived in Willand since 1991 I am ashamed to say I was too busy with my full time job and my family to take any notice of what was going on around the village – apart from feeling free to moan about the development taking place and other things that came to my attention as I rushed on with my own activities. In my defence I don't think I ever blamed the Parish Council – but this was because I was not really aware of them as a public body.

I am surprised at how long some things take to resolve – a case in point being the lease with the Trustees for the Gables site. I know there are two sides to every story, but from my perspective I sent off a lease to the Trustees in the summer of 2016, and since then the Parish Council have been waiting for them to respond with clear indications of what they feel needs to be changed in order for them to sign it. The Council cannot just hand over a public asset without safeguards, and I would be reluctant to advise them to do this. When I started this job the Parish Council were very involved in the project but the Trustees wished to separate from the Council and maybe this is what has caused the delay. To get back to the budget – this year there will be more money required for cutting the grass and maintaining play areas but the Councillors will be doing their best to ensure they can get the best value for you. The budget will be approved by the Council in January in order for MDCC to put together the council tax by April, and as usual it will be published for you all to see in the next edition of the magazine.

I am now slightly ashamed of the way I sat back and allowed a dedicated team of volunteers to meet regularly and try to impact and protect the way that the village developed. Please don't be like me – there are 3 spaces for Parish Councillors, if you care about where you live please consider standing – there are people who have been involved for years and would like to take a less active role but won't leave their colleagues in the lurch.

Have a very happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you in 2018, if not at the parish council meetings then at the Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 23rd March. Kate Taylor Parish Clerk

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL SUPPORTING HOMEOWNERS WITH ESSENTIAL HOME REPAIRS

The council are taking the opportunity to remind homeowners across the district about their loan scheme to enable homeowners to fund home repairs. The scheme has been developed to keep people warm, safe and dry in their homes.

A variety of works can be considered under the scheme such as roof and thatch repairs, boiler and other heating system replacements or installation,

replacing rotten or draughty windows, structural repairs, electrical or plumbing work, and updating kitchens and bathrooms to name a few. The scheme has been set up to enable eligible homeowners to choose their own contractor and there are a variety of loan products available to suit individual needs and means.

The scheme is delivered through Wessex Resolutions CIC, a not-for-profit, Responsible Finance provider in close partnership with the council. The partnership has been running for nearly ten years across Devon and has helped a huge variety of homeowners. A recent Devon client said "For all my adult life I have not had central heating and, now I'm getting a bit older, it would be nice to feel warm in the winter."

Through providing loans, the council are ensuring that funds for homeowners are sustainable meaning that every repayment goes back into the council pot to lend to homeowners into the future. A loan funded by the council could help spread the cost of home repairs but let you enjoy the benefit right away.

For more information, call Wessex Resolutions direct on 01823 461099, visit www.wrcic.org.uk or email enquiries@wrcic.org.uk.

Loans have a fixed interest rate and typical 4.2% APR and are subject to status. Missing future payments could affect your credit rating and ability to obtain credit in the future. Wessex Resolutions CIC may insist on loans being protected at the Land Registry by a Title Restriction.

CHRISTMAS TIME FOR PETS

Cats are often more fascinated by Christmas trees than us and like to climb and explore. Make sure your tree is very secure and any glass tree decorations or those with sharp edges are well out of the way of your intrigued feline. Cats also tend to eat lengths of stringy material which can then cause a concertina effect on the intestines. This can be very harmful and requires surgery to treat, so keeping tinsel and string out of harm's way is much safer! Don't forget that dogs in particular like chocolate, which can cause vomiting and diarrhoea and in larger doses, liver failure and can be fatal. The higher the cocoa content the more the risk, so keep those expensive dark chocolate truffles out of the way of any investigative hounds in the house! Be wary of chocolates on the tree and wrapped in presents within reach. Dried fruit is also a risk to dogs and can cause renal failure so keep Christmas pudding, mince pies and Christmas cake away from low tables or other places your crafty hound may be able to get to. Keep your pets safe this year.

Thank you to all contributors for another year of interesting and informative articles. Don't forget you can get any latest village news and updates on line at willandmatters.org.uk or Facebook WOW - what's on Willand

The cut-off date for the March April 2018 issue will be is Wednesday 7th February.