

EDITORIAL

Thank you to all of you who sent in photographs for the competition for the front cover of this issue of the magazine. The Parish Council deliberated long and hard to come up with the chosen photograph which was taken by Paul Cooke from Oak Crescent. We had some beautiful photos of our village sent in, you can see a selection of them on the Willand Matters Facebook page. As winter comes on get out with your camera because we will need something new for next year. I am still looking for volunteers to deliver the magazine and have recently found a new volunteer who responded to the Facebook appeal but we still need more even if you can deliver to a few houses every little helps!

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Christmas is coming to be followed very quickly by the New Year holiday and it will be a long one this year. How do I know this you may ask? The answer is very simple. Developers are starting to put in planning applications for the larger projects. The timing is all important you see as applications have to be considered and determined in a set time period and as this is a holiday period planning officers and consultees will have less time to go through and absorb the piles of papers submitted as part of the application. Cynical - me – no. Speaking from experience!

PLANNING MATTERS

Outline planning permission is now being sought for the 259 unplanned houses to be sited between the edge of the village and the Esso garage. Hopefully a lot of you will have been to see the presentation which was put on in the Methodist Church earlier in the year. Whatever your view the detail needs to be looked at and where necessary questioned. Can you see 259 houses on the 'indicative' plan? Why are the houses next to the motorway to be higher? More people in the village will no doubt be good for the local shops and businesses but coupled with that one has to look at where they will park; will the preschool, primary school, village hall and similar facilities be able to cope?

There is also an application submitted for the filling station and services at Junction 27. This is not the full Eden Westwood project but an application for reserved matters for the outline approval which they already have. The current approval runs out in January 2017 and so an application has to be submitted before that date or else the previous approval lapses.

The Local Plan is progressing through the system but modifications are still being made and are likely to be, right up until the time it arrives on the Government Inspectors desk. There will be a public consultation commencing in the New Year and so we all need to make our views known whatever our

individual thoughts as to the merits of the proposal. Councillors are still insistent that this is all about the allocation of land and not Eden Westwood proposals but as one who has been brought up to look at and assess evidence I am far from convinced. If you look at the Cabinet and Full Council agenda and minutes you will see that I am not alone. Lots of questions are being asked by Councillors and individuals but not a lot of answers are forthcoming that are clear and unequivocal. Your Parish Council together with some of the adjoining parishes is trying to keep on top of it for you.

The Local Plan is not just about the allocation of land at Junction 27. Phase 2 of the Willand Industrial Estate is now to be included. The proposed 42 houses off Meadow Park are still there and there is the addition of 60 houses at Harvesters just before you get into Uffculme which were approved by a Government Inspector on appeal. Halberton Parish but Uffculme and Willand will be providing the facilities.

An appeal to put five new houses on the industrial site but accessed from a new entrance off Muxbeare Lane has been dismissed by the Government Inspector.

Uffculme and Willand Parish Councils are working together to start a process to see if we can achieve some slight parish boundary changes involving that part of Halberton parish to the East of the M5 as mentioned in the last magazine your views would be of interest.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

With Devon County Council cutting back on various highways work the clearance of footpaths in the village has been becoming a problem. Various residents have done their bit without being asked and others have responded positively when asked to cut back growth from their own properties. Sincere thanks to those who have done their bit.

One problem was the footpath out to the garage from Meadow Park. Hopefully people will have noticed a gang of people working on the path one weekend and there is now a useable footpath again. The work was carried out by members of the community who the courts have sentenced to carry out work for the community. Arrangements for our work were made between the Parish Council, our Devon County Council Neighbourhood Highways Officer and the Probation Service. There is a small daily charge to cover the cost of the supervisors, transport and tools and in our case DCC paid the bill. There are Health and Safety considerations which affect what they can do but please speak to the Parish Clerk if you have any ideas as to further work for the community which could be done in the village. We had 10 worker and 2 supervisors on the Saturday and 8 and a supervisor on the Sunday. When I went and spoke to them on both days the chaps were working really well and I thanked them on behalf of the parish.

DEVON AIR AMBULANCE – NIGHT LANDING

This is still a work in progress working in slow time through red tape. The lease between MDDC and the Parish Council for the half of the field off Gables Lea has now been signed. Now in spite of earlier information we find that we have to obtain full planning permission for the lighting mast so that will delay us another 8 to 10 weeks. We have been assured by the MDDC Chief Executive that there will be no problems from any of the other departments involved with the field such as the legal or estates departments. Willand Theatrical Society has already made a generous donation towards the costs. The Methodist Church has earmarked the proceeds of the Carol Service to the cause and we still have interest in practical help from local businesses which will be recognised appropriately when the job is done. Hopefully the need for night landing will be few and far between but if you or your family is the one in need and benefit from the service I am sure that you will be very supportive.

PLANTERS

Most, if not all, of the planters have been planted with their winter plants and thanks again to all those involved in keeping part of the village looking as good as possible.

CONSULTATIONS

There are all sorts of consultations going on at present – another sign that Christmas is coming!

Devon County Council and MDDC are seeking views on a number of topics. DCC are reducing the allowance paid to the composting group and I am sure that our volunteers involved will explain the detail and the implications elsewhere. Some MDDC councillors seem reluctant to accept the implications for fly tipping on public roads or private land if our composting groups close down. Could it be that they see the closure of local composting groups as an opportunity to increase revenue as more people will pay for brown bins?

DCC want to put more restrictions on the type and size of vehicles being able to take materials to their recycling centres. They also want to stop you taking materials to site which result from your D.I.Y activities in relation to your own home. More fly tipping incentives being created?

MDDC is asking what we want to do about grass cutting this year. Are we prepared to pay them to cut our verges on behalf of DCC? The Parish Council has said 'NO' as we did last year. When we asked the question of the community if they were prepared for their precept to go up to pay for this we only had one person who contacted the Clerk to say that they would be prepared to pay extra. The Parish Council cannot take action on one vote.

The NHS Commissioning Group are asking all sorts of questions which will lead to the closure of hospital beds in the small community hospitals. We will be

better off looked after at home they tell us but the local authorities do not have the money to provide the service required. Pity some of the decisions appear to be being made whilst the consultation is apparently going on and the rest of the required support network is not available! At least it looks as if all the alternatives include the retention of Tiverton hospital beds.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

They should be up and working before you read this. It is difficult to know the best display to put on when we really have no centre to the village to concentrate on such as Uffculme has. We are part way into a three year contract with our present contractor and so if anyone has any alternative ideas or suggestions please let us know as next year we will have to start thinking about what we do for 2018. We offer our grateful thanks on behalf of the community to those businesses which have already responded generously to our requests for sponsorship towards the cost of the lights. They are: **Pencarrie, Willand Pharmacy, Victoria Windows and Rayda Plastics**. It is not too late to contribute and any donation would be appreciated from businesses or individuals.

On behalf of all members of the Parish Council may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. While you are enjoying the festivities please spare a moment to be aware of any neighbours who find themselves on their own or less fortunate than others and see if you can find the time to help or bring them a little comfort and cheer. New Year's resolutions – do you make them? If you do could one of them be to become involved with one of the groups or organisations within our community. Volunteers are always better than pressed men [or women before I get told off]. Keep smiling.

Christmas is definitely coming as my 11 year old granddaughter rang me with her wish list for Christmas presents. Grumpy I would like lots of hugs and money!!!! **Barry G J Warren Chair of Willand Parish Council**

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS DEVON

Community Action Groups Devon (CAG Devon) is an exciting new project working to reduce household waste in Mid Devon –www.cagdevon.org.uk . We are working with existing community groups in Mid-Devon, as well as supporting the development of new groups working around the agenda of waste reduction.

There are many opportunities for people to get involved in the project and help make a difference in their community including: clothes swaps, give and takes (a jumble sale with no money exchanged), repair cafes (get things fixed for free), community cooking and eating together events and composting.

As well as environmental benefits, we hope that the project will save people money and bring people together to enjoy each other's company whilst sharing ideas. The project is funded by Devon County Council.

Our next training events are;

18th March Compost Doctor Training – join us as we learn with Nicky Scott from Devon Composting Network the secrets of the compost heap. The training will enable volunteers to not only compost at home but feel confident to talk about composting at events and with friends and family.

21st February or 22nd February Food Champions Training – join us as we learn how to reduce our food bills and food waste. Most families with children waste a staggering £720 worth of food per year. The training will help our volunteers support friends and family to reduce this. Volunteers will attend events to talk about ways to reduce food waste and also can attend community cooking events where the food prepared will provide a meal to local people. A great way to bring people together.

If you would like to know more please visit our website

www.cagdevon.org.uk or phone **Claire Mountjoy on 07725 760081**. Please also follow us on **Twitter or Facebook @cagdevon** .

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

First of all, season's greetings and a happy New Year to you all!

It has been another quiet year for Willand History Group, although a few of us did enjoy a pleasant parish walk 'Around the World' back in September. Then in November we were kindly invited by Halberton History Group to attend a talk by Jan Wood from Devon Heritage Centre on 'Researching the History of Farms'. Those who packed Halberton Village Hall were treated to a comprehensive introduction to the many sources available for researching farm history. One interesting set of records, which is certainly untapped in the case of Willand, is the 1910 Land Valuation Survey held by the National Archives in Kew. Described as another 'Domesday Book', these documents reveal farm ownership and occupancy in 1910/11, and go into remarkable detail regarding land use and the farm buildings themselves – they promise to reveal a mouth watering snapshot of agriculture in Willand on the eve of the First World War!

An article in the last parish magazine, 'Willand Hero Remembered', describes the poignant story of F/L JA Edward DFC's death in the Second World War. This rightly deserves to be remembered and he was undoubtedly a true hero, but unfortunately we cannot claim him as one of ours, as no evidence can be found (so far) to suggest he had ever even been to Willand. What we do know is that JA Edward was born in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1914, son of Harold and Harriet Edward, who were married in London. Whilst in the Royal Air Force he

was stationed in Cheshire, and his name appears on a memorial at St Mary's Church, Bowdon, (near Altrincham, Cheshire). Research suggests it was only after the war that JA Edward's parents moved to Willand. The belief that JA Edward came from Willand possibly arose because when the Commonwealth War Graves Commission registered the details of JA Edward's grave in 1957, his parents' address is then listed as 'Willand, Devon'. Further research or new information may yet throw more light on this, so do you know anything about JA Edward or the Edward family living Willand, or anything that might yet verify a connection with Willand?

The Clerk to the Parish Council has also passed on an enquiry about Miss Margaret Rowbotham 'an important pioneering woman engineer in the early twentieth century' – the enquirer is putting together an entry for the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. In particular they want to know the location of 'East Harpitt', where Miss Rowbotham is recorded as living 'from at least 1968 (possibly earlier) until her death in 1978'.

It is the History Group's understanding that Miss Rowbotham lived at Harpitt House (in the 'Old Village') with Miss Margaret Partridge, about whom we know a lot more. The Partridges were a local landowning family who lived in Harpitt House, which Miss Partridge inherited and lived in from 1946. Miss Partridge was a pioneering electrical engineer herself, one of the first women to qualify as such in the country. She was a renowned and formidable figure who took a lead in many aspects of community life, and perhaps most famously she organised and tutored Willand Women's Institute to fit all the wiring and electrics in the new Village Hall (much to the chagrin of the men of Willand!). It is possible that after Miss Partridge died in 1967 Miss Rowbotham continued to live at Harpitt House, perhaps in an annex called 'East Harpitt', or possibly even a nearby cottage of that name? Can you confirm that Miss Rowbotham lived at Harpitt or the exact location of 'East Harpitt'? Or do you have any further information about or memories of Miss Rowbotham or Miss Partridge that you would be happy to share? We would love to hear from you, so please feel free to get in touch.

James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS TIME FOR PETS

Christmas time, full of joy and cheer with the presents under the tree and Christmas dinner smelling better than ever! We as vets want to make sure that you and your pets have a fantastic Christmas without a trip to the practice. 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 can enjoy a nibble on tinsel. They 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!

What Christmas is complete without chocolate? Unfortunately many dogs, and sometimes cats, also believe this to be true! Chocolate 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. Remember a small number of extra treats can lead to rapid weight gain which can take a long time to lose.

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.

For some of us, it can all get a bit much at these festive times. We may like our house being filled with family, friends and music but not all our pets do. For some, the bustle and noise can be very stressful. If you have a timid pet who enjoys the quiet, make sure there is somewhere peaceful that they can go to not be disturbed. They may prefer to have their food and litter tray in a hidden corner.

Most importantly, have a wonderful Christmas with your furry friends and if you have any worries or suspect your pet has eaten something they shouldn't, don't hesitate to call your vet for advice. Merry Christmas!

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS). CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

Closed Wednesday 21st December 12 noon. Reopen Wednesday 4th January 2017 10. 00 am Please note we accept Christmas trees up to 1" diameter.

COMPOST SALES: Purchase of compost can either be done while we are open OR when closed you can: TEXT **COMPOST TO 07514 033305** and someone will get back to you to arrange the sale. Reminder the cost of sieved compost is £1.50/bag and Unsieved £1.00/wheelbarrow; if required please make use of the wheelbarrow located at the allotment side of the shed and return it when you have finished.

SHREDDINGS - FREE

All garden waste is shredded and deposited in a separate bin. Over time this is mixed with grass cuttings and/or leaves as part of composting. Currently the volume of shreddings is greater than we can compost. To create room we are offering shreddings for **FREE**; we are informed that farmers, smallholders and

large gardens benefit from shreddings being ploughed/dug into the ground as it brings on better growth. During opening periods shreddings can be collected or, when closed:- TEXT **SHREDDINGS TO 07980472242** and someone will contact you.

LOOKING AHEAD - FUNDING

Our funding is from the sale of compost and Devon County Council recycling credits. This funding has enabled us to make donations to local organisations and maintain/improve the site's facilities.

However, we have been advised that Devon County Council is considering reducing the current rate by nearly 60%. The reduced rate to apply from April 2017.

If you wish to support us - DCC are publicising their proposal on their website:

<https://newdevon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/>

Note: Consultation period until 23/12/17

It is really easy to complete this questionnaire, only takes a few minutes so please support us.

We are currently examining the impact on us as to our future operation; other sites have closed or are considering doing so. We will see what DCC actually decide and make our decision accordingly.

COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED.

We thank all of you who both deposited and left the site tidy and ALSO, for NOT depositing waste material outside the site when closed.

If you see any one doing this could you please get as much detail and either report to MDDC (01884) 255255 or contact me (see below).

To assist as a deterrence - CCTV has been installed.

I will finish off by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you down on the site. **Tony Mander Mob.07980472242**

email: tony@tonymander.plus.com

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MID DEVON GROUP

Our group has been very busy in the past few months.

We held our annual concert on the 14th October at Willand Church Hall which was attended by over 80 people who were then entertained by local musicians, all of whom gave freely of their time and talent. We raised £1003.50 so have enough money to pay for postage for the rest of the year when we write to our prisoners of conscience. Thank-you to the many Willand villagers who supported this worthwhile event.

We also held a public meeting on the 18th October at Halberton Methodist Church about human rights in China. Again, this meeting was very well supported even though the subject matter was disturbing.

The Farmers Market at Uffculme Village Hall on the 22nd October was the venue for our book stall and more letters signing, as well as a chance for us to support local producers. We sold a good few books despite being told that kindles were more popular. Personally, I prefer the old-fashioned book! It is a lovely atmosphere there, with a café, and lots of interesting stalls.

Following on from this we had a 'Write for Rights' evening on 15th November at Halberton Methodist Church. We invited members and non-members of Amnesty International to come and write letters to prisoners of conscience from all over the world. The aim was to tell these unfortunate people they were not forgotten. Our group supplied the food and drink...and stamps! It was free of charge, and we sent countless greetings cards. It was also an opportunity for people to ask questions about the type of work Amnesty International undertakes on the prisoners' behalf.

Anyone is very welcome to attend our meetings which are held the third Tuesday of each month at Halberton Methodist Church. Meetings start at 7.30pm and last for 2 hours max. Hope to see you there one day!

With Best Wishes for a VERY HAPPY HRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Sheila Eschle 01884 839282

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I had a problem with one of my knees recently and had to have a minor operation in the R.D & E. I was sent home after two nights, having been extremely well looked after and a charming physio managed to find me a new pair of adjustable, elbow support crutches to help me get around at home. When I no longer had the need for them, I contacted the R.D & E. reception to ask where I should return them. "Take them into College Surgery in Cullompton" I was told, so I did. The person I spoke to there said I should take them back home because the only thing they were allowed to do was to throw them in the skip. Apparently, this is a regular situation with regard to numerous items of similar equipment, and the subject is regularly raised by concerned patient groups.

I'm unwilling to store them away "because they might come in handy one day", so contacted the Orthopaedic Department at the hospital and they said they would welcome them with open arms. There are other items that come under Health & Safety regulations and have to be collected by Pluss for hygienic cleaning, but I thought this information might be useful to other people who find themselves in a similar situation. Name & Address supplied.

ST MARYS CHURCH WILLAND

Happy New Year from all at St Mary's! As always we have a busy programme of events and services, if you haven't been for a while or would like to find out more about the Christian faith please do contact me, or perhaps join us for

one of our services, 9.30am contemporary service in the Church Hall (with children's groups) or 11am traditional service in church (except 1st Sunday of month when we meet at 10.15am service in church).

This month sees a new group of ladies taking over the running of St Mary's Guild. We are hugely grateful to Pauline Lewis who is stepping down from the leadership for all she has done for the group. St Mary's Guild is a wonderful group for ladies offering friendship and a talk or discussion led by a visiting speaker on a range of topics. It runs from 2.30pm on 2nd Thursday of the month. If you would like to join, but need a lift please do get in touch.

At the other end of the scale, Rockers, our baby and toddler group, will be starting to meet again after the Christmas break at 9.15am Mondays.

Rev Simon Talbot Rector, St Mary's Willand Tel 562570 or

Email: simon@thetalbots.org.uk

WILLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been an eventful month at Willand Primary School, with different year groups doing some different activities. Read on to find out more...

This month, years 5 and 6 went to Cullompton Community College to make pasta pots. First, they got into groups of four. Then, the cooking teacher at Cullompton Community College showed them how to make a home-made tomato sauce and how to make fresh pasta. After he had finished his examples each group split into halves, with two children making the pasta and two children making the sauce. Once everyone had finished making their pasta and their sauce, they were given a fork and got to try the food they had just made. They also got to try what other groups had made.

Also this month, year 3 got to do bike ability stage one. The children had to bring in their bike and helmet from home into school to do this activity. If some children did not have a bike then there was an option to borrow one. During bike ability: stage one they went around the playground attempting to do different obstacles while being led by a professional instructor. They do this activity for a couple of days.

The Wellington Maths Challenge was another thing we did this month. Four children from year 6 went on Saturday the 26th of November to compete in this challenge. These four children had to go and do difficult maths problems and work as a team. Overall, the four children came fourth out of 45 and we are all very proud of their skills and their resilience to not give up even when the sums were really hard!

On Friday the 25th of November PC Sims came to our school. After a class assembly (performed by class 6N about internet safety) PC Sims gave a talk to all the parents that came about how to keep their child safe on the internet. He talked about how to make sure their phone or electronic device doesn't get

a virus and told them what to do if their child comes to them with something that upsets them.

We hope that you enjoyed finding out what Willand School has been up to this month and we hope you come back to read more about us next month! ☺

LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR RAY RADFORD

Dear All

Just a bit of County news from me, hope it is not too depressing, when you talk about money, or the lack of it.

We are leading up to the next year's budget, it will be difficult. This current year we are finding it hard and it will get harder. Based on the first six months of this financial year, County predict an over spend of £7.5 million by the end of March 2017, if steps are not taken between now and then to address the matter.

Steps, such as jobs freeze on all but frontline posts, like social workers and care workers, and embargos on spending, could be introduced if necessary to reduce any over spend. Projections of over spend earlier in the year have already been reduced through cost saving measures. The projected over spend is mainly due to an over run of £5.2 million on adult social care.

The administration has balanced it's books over the last seven years, despite facing multi-million austerity cuts every year, we have absolutely no intention of not balancing the books this year. Austerity cuts have prompted the County to reduce spending by £244 million since 2009.

The Government are beginning to realise the disparity between urban and rural areas and granted Devon an extra £8.4m. Devon receive £130 per person less Government funding than urban areas On average Devon Schools got £287 less per child than the national average. If we had the average, it would mean Devon Schools would receive an extra £25m. In Public Health, County get £38 per person, in London it is £200 whilst the national average is £69 per person. This is just some of the areas we are well under funded.

Therefore the Government have a long way to go to address these short falls. But be assured, we are continually lobbying the Government to be fairer.

For 2016/17, County would still be spending £443.5m on services. After allowing for inflation and other spending pressures, that represents savings of £34.3m on the current year. In spite of this, there would be an increase of £11.3m in the budget for children and £5m in the budget for adult care. With reluctance, for sure we may have to increase Council Tax by 1.99% next year.

Is there any good news? Well recycling is going up, we are the 5th highest recycler in the Country, this means we put less to landfill thereby avoiding the landfill charges which are always going up and we get income from recyclables, although this goes up and down.

We are having a bit of a go at the utility companies. When they dig up our roads and pavements, they have to re-instate, since 2013/14 their performance has generally dropped, except Western Power Distribution. In the next week we will be interviewing them, to ask them why and what are they going to do about it? We have the ability to prosecute them, but the fines are not realistic.

We have reassessed our Highway Asset Management Plan and have that to work to. Our problem is we just haven't got enough money to put our roads into good repair, like we would like them to be. Therefore we are developing a Needs Based Budgeting approach, which means that our A & B and some C class roads we will need to keep in good condition. 80% of the traffic travel on 20% of the roads. If we adopt this approach, the Government will give us an extra £7m, which then will go towards the minor roads.

I hope I haven't been too depressing, but it is hard times, only to get harder. But heck, Christmas is coming. On that point I do wish everyone on my patch a very happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

I am always hear to help anyone, just contact me one way or another.

Ray Radford Devon County Councillor
ray.radford@devon.gov.uk 01884 820000.

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

Happy New Year to all our members and supporters. In December we held an open gymnastics session for family and friends of the club to visit. It was good to see all out volunteers and helpers get the recognition they deserve. The Village Hall has been a brilliant venue, allowing us to do things better for the gymnasts and to host our events. We were also invited to Gemini Gymnastics in Clifton for their Christmas camp at their very impressive purpose built facility. Our Freestylers loved using their new Parkour kit and will be using some of the new moves learnt back in Willand.

We were one of the lucky finalists for the Skipton Grassroots Giving Campaign and as a result, received £500 of funding for new equipment. In addition, Ray Radford kindly allocated some of his remaining budget to the club to allow us to buy a new mini Trampette which will arrive in January. Our fundraising allowed us to send Holly Walker and Laura Lane on a 1 day coaching course

at Honiton Gym. They now use these skills alongside Emma Ridgway and myself every week, ensuring our gymnasts get more individual attention.

Weightlifting: going to press we don't know the winner of the Graham Cooper Memorial Trophy yet, but we had a good term of lifting. We have vacancies for anyone interested in taking up this sport, as long as you are aged 13 or more, you can learn from scratch.

Athletics: the hardy souls are training their technique in sprints, jumps and throws and also their strength this Winter. We have got some new javelins and discus which have proven popular for training. If you are aged 10-21 and want to compete in Athletics, please contact me.

James Marshall james@excelsiorgroup.co.uk

CHEER UP PATROL (C.U.P.)

Would you like to have someone to visit you? Either to just chat, craft with, play cards or read to you?

Maybe you would just like the occasional phone call to ensure you are well.

We are four concerned and caring people, some with DBS certificates offering a free service aiming to defeat feelings of loneliness or isolation for all residents of Willand.

If you need us as for a friendly chat call Margaret Dennis 01884 34050 we are only minutes away from you.

WILLAND SCOUT GROUP

Willand Scout Group desperately need willing adults to join them and help within the village.

Beavers, cubs and scouts are all looking for people with new ideas and available on a regular basis. DBS checks will be required to be undertaken.

We enjoy many activities such as climbing, rafting, and camping and want to continue this.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact

liesa.a.milligan@hotmail.com

WILLAND BEAVERS

Willand Beavers have had an enjoyable Christmas, making decorations and cards. Going for a night walk around the village and carol singing at Tesco's.

We are now undertaking a million hands scout project and the beavers wanted to look at water aid and sanitation, so we are spending the beginning of term focusing on that. Spring is around the corner so outdoor activities will commence.

Liesa Milligan Willand Beavers

CAMEO

What a wonderful end to our Cameo year. We were delighted to hear from our Chairman, Sonia that we had raised over £1000 for our charity Willand Health and Community Centre this year, our best ever fundraising effort and Cameo members would like to say a big thankyou to everyone who came and

supported us and gave us contributions. Next year we will be having one big event in the autumn and this will be for the Devon Air Ambulance Service. We have had a busy couple of months with outings to Buckfast Abbey, Trago Mills, Clarkes Village and we are off to a Christmas lunch at Petrocs. In February we are having lunch at the Beam Bridge Hotel. Our Speaker for November didn't turn up so Mary Tebbey stepped up to the plate and we did Keep Fit in a chair accompanied by us singing. The Walking Group have two walks planned for December, weather permitting. The Singles Group are having their Christmas party at Mary Davis's home and in January their annual lunch at the Halfway House. In December our meeting was a Christmas party in the Hall and we had a delicious buffet supper followed by a hilarious entertainer, Dennis Frere-Smith. He brought along various instruments for us to play and he had us singing solos and old favourite songs and dancing too and we ended up with a couple of carols. We think we might try to be on Britain's Got Talent. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we rounded off the evening with a raffle and pass the parcel. The committee had worked so hard to make this a lovely evening. In January, subs are due, and please bring along a photo of yourself as a child for our social time. Cameo members send Seasons Greetings to you all and if any of you think you would like to come along and see what we get up to we meet in the Village Hall on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7p.m. you will get a very warm welcome.

Betty Penberthy.

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Methodist Church in Willand and Culmstock

Thank you to everyone who supported the Village Carol service on the 4 December, it was well supported again this year. All of the collection has gone to Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

Date for your Diary

February 28th Shrove Tuesday Pancakes 3-5 pm

Loads of pancakes, with toppings ranging from home-made caramel sauce to sausage and onions. Or you can just have lemon and sugar. All donations to Charity. Come along and see how many you can eat or toss.

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH (GABLES ROAD) EVENTS OPEN TO ALL IN THE COMMUNITY

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 VILLAGE HALL

We would like to give a big thank you to Willand Short Mat Bowls Club for its donation of £700 towards our new floor. Most of the organisations that use the hall have helped with donations and we are very grateful to them. However, we do still need funds to replace the doors and decorate, so, if your organisation has not donated yet, we will be very happy to hear from you. The floor will be replaced between 10th and 14th January, so the main hall will be out of use.

Our new steps are fitted with wheels at the back, so can be moved easily by lifting by the handles at the front and wheeling them. Dragging the steps is marking the floor and we would like to keep the new floor unmarked.

When hiring the hall, please remember that you are supposed to take your rubbish away with you, unless it is less than one bag. One very inconsiderate person has been seen coming from the Chestnut Drive / Gables Road alleyway and putting garden rubbish in our bin! The hall has CCTV and we will be looking at it closely in future to see who this antisocial person is.

Our Christmas Bingo on 29th November was well attended and made a good profit to go towards running the Hall. Thank you to all who came along and to the individuals and organisations who donated raffle prizes. Our January bingo will not be until 31st January, because of the floor replacement.

We are still looking for some more trustees, if you are interested in supporting the Village Hall. Most of the people in the village use the hall at some time or another and it is used almost every day, so is a valuable asset to the community. Committee meetings are every other month and last just over an hour, so do not take up a lot of time. Please consider volunteering.

Bookings: Frances Wilcox - 07748 557107; email franceswilcox1@gmail.com or write to 35 Fir Close,

Treasurer: Carol Allan – 01884 33828; email cbarwa@mail.com or write to 4 Orchard Way, Willand Website: www.willandmatters.org.uk/organisations for our diary and community page. Carol Allan

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL DIARY

January			
Tuesday	31st	Village Hall Bingo	7.30pm
February			
Friday	10 TH	Lemurian Sisterhood Meeting	6.00pm
Saturday	11th	Crafty Market	10.00 am
Friday/Saturday	17 th /18th	Panto - Aladdin	7.30 pm
Saturday	22nd	Panto - Aladdin Matinee	2.00 pm

REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL		
Pilates	Monday	10.30am
Purelesque Knitting club	Monday	2.00pm
Cull. & Dist. Flower Club	1 st Monday	2.00pm
Beavers	Monday	5.30pm
Cub Scouts	Monday	7.00pm
Kettle Bell Pump	Monday	7.00pm
Pilates	Tuesday	9.30am
Flower Arranging	Tuesday	1.15pm
Gymnastics Club	Tuesday	4.00pm
Willand Vill. Hall Bingo	2 nd Tuesday	7.30pm
Tiny Tots	Wednesday	9.30am
Flower Arranging	Wednesday	1.15pm
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7.00pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7.30pm
Pilates	Thursday	9.30am
CAMEO	1 st Thursday	6.30pm
Karate	Thursday	5.30pm
Folk Dance Club	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7.30pm
Parish Council Meetings	2 nd and 4 th Thursday	7.00pm
WiTS	Friday	7.30pm
Lemurian Sisterhood Meeting	Friday Monthly starting 10 th February	6.00pm
Cowgirl Twisters	3 rd Saturday	7.30pm
Crafty Market	2 nd Saturday	2.00pm
Folk Dance	2 nd Saturday	7.00pm
Rugby Tots	Sunday	9.00am
Martial Arts	Sunday	6.30pm

THE MOB

Our group, known as the ' Movement Of Bikers' 'MOB' for short, is a newly forming group of folks who are just itching for an excuse to get out and about on our bikes. Bikers of all ages and abilities are always welcome and none are turned away. So would you like to discover a small supportive group of friends in the Mid Devon community who share a common interest in motorbikes? We also have facilities, tools and space to enable you to perform basic maintenance on your bike to get it ready for the coming season. Help and advice is available.

Perhaps you would like to join us and get together occasionally and go along with the ruse of finding the best venue for fish and chips, cream teas or ice

creams, when really they just want to enjoy the fellowship of other bikers and "Catch the breeze"

Well, the activities are up to those in the group who are able to participate in the ride out on any particular day. For many, the weather plays a large part in the enjoyment of a ride out. Others in the group refuse to be held back by the elements and are keen to get out there and have fun. We all have pressures on our time and so ride outs can be arranged on the spur of the moment by sending out group texts and see who's up for it.

The Halberton Methodist Church, as part of their ministry to their local community host a monthly brunch and provide newspapers and companionship in the Village hall. The expense is met by the church but donations can discreetly be left on the tables. All are welcome, including us MOB. The next brunch is on Sunday 29th January from 10 until 12. Just follow the smell of the bacon and coffee. You won't be able to miss it.

Trip to WW1 Passchendaele battle site in Belgium.

The end of July 2017 will mark the 100 year anniversary of the final Battle of Passchendaele. My wife and I are planning a 3 or 4 night visit on our bike. We know of a great camp site right at the heart of Ypres, so if you would enjoy such a trip then please put your hand up. Details should be finalised by end of the year if possible or risk being disappointed if left any later. Oh, if you are thinking that you would like to go but that it's too far and would rather drive, well it looks like you are our support vehicle. 🚗

I did say that none get turned away didn't I.

The MOB very much look forward to meeting YOU 🙌
Please make contact with me, James Hill on 07795154989 or email me at rangeofhills@hotmail.co.uk

WILLAND GARDEN CLUB

One of our members organised a fun quiz in October and our November talk about holly, ivy and mistletoe showed us the vast number of species of these plants as well as the great variety of forms they exhibit. Our last meeting of the season is our AGM in December, where we will have mince pies and wine after business has concluded.

For our Club meal, we went to The New Inn at Broadclyst. The food was excellent, but having a starter and a main course left some of us feeling extremely full. Some could not even manage a pudding – an unusual occurrence!

We had an enjoyable evening at Sampford Peverell for the Pottinger Cup Quiz and Willand came first by quite a good margin. This year, Culmstock Garden Club joined in with us, so it was good to see some new faces.

The Garden Club does not meet during the coldest winter months, so our first meeting of 2017 will be on Wednesday, 8th March, when we have a fun quiz. We welcome new members and visitors. We meet in the Club Room at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from March to December.

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 THEATRICAL SOCIETY

My goodness! What happened to 2016? Before you can forget the summer plays the next Pantomime, Aladdin, is just around the corner. Initially when I started this I thought there wouldn't be much to say but we've been full on since August rehearsing, scenery painting, practicing singing and trying to learn our lines! So make sure you have **Friday 17th & Saturday 18th of February 2017** firmly in your diaries. Tickets will be on sale at the Post Office and Pharmacy, as well as on line at **www.ticketsource.co.uk** . Do look out for posters or like our Facebook page for further details. It's amazing how many things have to be done to get the show on the road. From costume design & making, musical direction, ticket design, programme design, scenery design & construction, prop making and lighting, let alone directing the cast! So if you want to get involved in any or all of those jobs please do let any of the committee know.

We managed to squeeze in some time to get Christmas decorations up in the village hall for the third year running but we'd like to pass the baton on to one of the other groups who use the hall next year and hope someone will come forward to take on the challenge? We have found it difficult squeezing in all the jobs we need to do for panto and get the decorations done, so please let the village hall committee know if you can do it in 2017. On the subject of the village hall, we do try to leave the stage clear in case any other users' need it and we would be grateful if others could do the same for us? Removing tables and chairs, that are used up there would help us a lot. Also if any of our items are causing any problems, do let us know and we will endeavour to sort it for you as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

It just remains to say Happy New Year to all our supporters and we look forward to seeing you all at the Pantomime. Let's hope the winter passes quickly and sunny days prevail!

And Remember – 'Ring out the false, ring in the true' Alfred Lord Tennyson
David Keating

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People to wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** and to thank

you for your support in sending your used postage stamps to us in the past. We would be very grateful if you could continue to send in stamps from Christmas cards etc. on a regular basis. **With your help we raised a fantastic £9,620 from used postage in one year.**

Did you realise that more stamps will be used over the Christmas period than the rest of the year?

If you can, please save them up and send them to:

Hearing Dogs For Deaf People

P.O Box 6198

Leighton Buzzard

Beds LU7 9XT

All correspondence (membership renewal, monetary donations etc.) should be sent to our headquarters. For economic reasons we cannot reply to all donations of stamps but please continue to send them on a regular basis.

Please cut/ tear the stamps from the envelope leaving approximately 1/2 cm of paper around the stamp.

Foreign stamps can be sent separately and marked clearly on the front of the package 'Foreign Stamps Only' as these generate a greater revenue.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards

Mr O. Rudd

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

I won't lie, 2016 has been an upward climb for all involved in the project. Quite a few highs and some frustrating lows, but anyone who has been involved in startups will know that this is the norm.

CAMEO & Culm Valley Methodist Church deserve a BIG thank you for their hard work fundraising for us during the year they raised £964 & £488 respectively. Our own fundraising events didn't come to anywhere near that much, but publicity and awareness are equally important at this stage. We also received a cheque for £176 from AgentsGiving.com towards the running costs of our event in October and 50 umbrellas from Rightmove which we are selling. William Gillings from Tesco deserves a mention too, he worked his socks off in our October and November events and donated food and prizes. Thanks to all who have volunteered their help in so many different ways. I believe Willand Theatrical Society have chosen us as their charity for 2017, this is very good news, thank you in advance.

We received quite a few reply slips from our leaflet inserted into the July/August Willand magazine (and you can still return it to the Post Office if it is still sitting in your action tray) All bar one had positive feedback & support. We have over 300 signatures from residents and some businesses

in Willand; these will be used when applying to major funders and for grants. Thank you everyone who has shared our enthusiasm and also to those who have aired their reservations.

Thanks if you have already invested in the "Buy A Brick" scheme and we hope that once construction commences more people will buy them.

Contact me if you would like to get involved
sallytaylorok@hotmail.co.uk Tel 07990 068537

CULLOMPTON SWIMMING POOL

There is a group of volunteers working really hard to raise funds for the building of the swimming pool in Cullompton. The plan is to have a 25 metre pool, a learner pool and hydrotherapy pool the campaign is now registered as a charity. Funds that have been raised so far are getting very close to the target for lottery grants and match funding applications. The target of £150,000 is just £8000 Short!

There are many ways for you to support this deserving campaign. If you can help by offering your services to help out in the shop in Cullompton for a couple of hours per week, then please get in touch. There are regular fundraising events held in Cullompton and surrounding villages advertised on our Facebook page look for Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign.

WHY NOT JOIN US FOR BINGO AT CULLOMPTON TOWN HALL ON THE 29 DECEMBER 2016 DOORS OPEN 6.30PM EYES DOWN 7.30PM TEA COFFEE AND A RAFFLE

This pool will become the local pool for Willand Village so if you can help out in anyway at all please get in touch.

For more information telephone 07510308949 Facebook Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign or look on the website www.cullypool.org.uk

AND FINALLY

I have been asked to let you know about yoga classes run in nearby villages 10 - 11.30am Tuesdays at Halberton Village Hall and 7 - 8.30pm Tuesdays at Uffculme Village Hall **Contact Annie Metcalfe on 07941 370249 or email annie@yogahealthandwellbeing.co.uk.**

I hope you have enjoyed this issue, if you belong to a group and want to let the village know what you are doing then please send in your article to me. Please note that the cut-off date for the March April 2017 issue is Wednesday 8 February 2017.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

***Why were there only three kings at Jesus' birth?
Elvis had not yet entered the building. Melanie White***