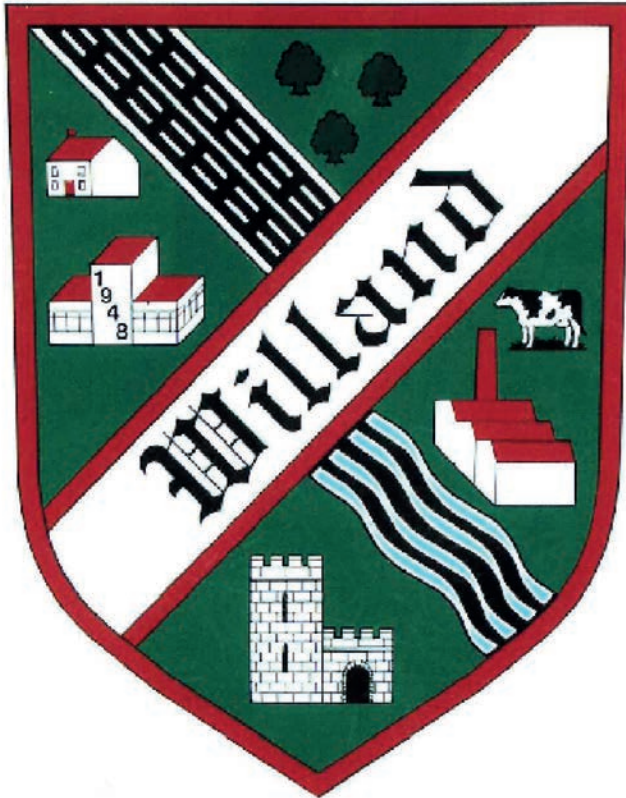


WILLAND MAGAZINE

December 2020 & January 2021



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Brownies	Bridget Pearse		07814 569054
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Club 55	Margaret Atherton	27 Townlands	38217
Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom		01404 47200
Garden Club	Mrs Carol Allan	4 Orchard Way	33828
Tiny Tots	Karly Cousins	Cullompton	07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	weirmilldevon@gmail.com	820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub	
Village Hall Bookings	Frances Wilcox	bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk	
Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher - caretaker@willandvillagehall.org.uk		07377 556946
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner		07775 550436
Willand Art Group	Jenny Baker	Gables Road	822882
Willand Community Composting	Tony Mander		821174
Willand Cycle Club	Alan Smith	- biggiggy@hotmail.com	07545 273085
Willand History Group	James Morrison - jamorrison235@gmail.com		01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	John Crocker	12 Maple Close	35589
Willand Theatrical Society	Karen Goodchild		38122
Willand United Charities	Rev Simon Talbot		562570
Youth Club (35218)	Mrs M. Billings	Cullompton	07766 141361

CHURCHES / EDUCATION

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham		34077
Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev. Paul Booth		32679
Quakers	Pat Bell		840823
Roman Catholic Church	Canon Kristian Paver - St Boniface, Cullompton		252292
St. Mary's Church	Rev. Simon Talbot		01884 562570
St. Mary Parochial CC	Secretary Sandy Hancock		35165
Cullompton Community College			33364
Uffculme School			840458
Willand Pre-School			33711
Willand Primary School			820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolptfa@gmail.com	

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Neil Parish	(M.P)	neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7172
Ray Radford	(Devon County Council)	ray.radford@devon.gov.uk	820000
Richard Chesterton	(MD Dist Councillor)	rchesterton@middevon.gov.uk	33480
Bob Evans	(MD Dist Councillor)	revans@middevon.gov.uk	849248
Barry Warren	(MD Dist Councillor)	bwarren@middevon.gov.uk	07971 808423

Parish Council

Parish Council Website www.willand-pc.org.uk

Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.org.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.org.uk	07795821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.org.uk	821910
John Sellick	(Councillor)	john.sellick@willand-pc.org.uk	07865 570755
Jason Scott	(Councillor)	jason.scott@willand-pc.org.uk	07818 045215
Bill Tobin	(Councillor)	bill.tobin@willand-pc.org.uk	821571
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.org.uk	07971 808423
Karen Whatley	(Councillor)	karen.whatley@willand-pc.org.uk	01884 822894
Frances Wilcox	(Councillor)	frances.wilcox@willand-pc.org.uk	
Kate Taylor	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

MEDICAL

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College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries	831300
Gables Road Pharmacy	32604
N.H.S. DIRECT	111
National Blood Service (Donors) Glenda Frost	820641
Out-of-Hours GP	111
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E)	01392 411611
Tiverton & District Hospital (24hr Casualty)	01884 235400
Willand Surgery	821878

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GAS	0800 111999
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SOUTH WESTERN ELECTRICITY	0800 365900
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STREET LIGHTING/HIGHWAYS	0345 155 1004
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Or Email: cullompton@dc.police.uk

MAGAZINE Gerri Taylor 01884 821528 Editor: willandparishmag@gmail.com

WILLAND WEBSITE www.willandmatters.org.uk

EDITORIAL

No152

Welcome to our winter issue of the magazine hopefully we will be coming out of lock down to enjoy the season with family and friends in the safest way of course. This issue contains the usual news and updates of the village as well as for the first time the recycling schedule for the coming months. Mid Devon are making a huge saving by not printing it this year so we wanted to include it for those who don't have access to the internet. Please note this is for the areas of Willand which normally have Friday collections outlying areas will be different and can be found on the Mid Devon Website or call 01884 255255. To request a copy by post. A big thank you goes to all our volunteers who have brought the magazine to you this year and also to all of our advertisers who have stayed with us through these difficult times. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

HOSPICECARE

I just wanted to let you know about a couple of events that we have coming up, now that Christmas isn't too distant a thought.

Light Up a Life

Hospiscare's Light Up a Life will be a little different this year, but those at Hospiscare of course understand that Christmas can be a difficult time when experiencing the loss of a loved one, and is once again offering the opportunity to remember friends and family through a dedication in the Book of Memories. For the first time, there will also be an online gallery where one can upload photos and stories to remember those that are no longer with us.

A Night of Celebration will take place on Thursday 17 December at 7pm, when Hospiscare will air their Light Up a Life broadcast on the charity's Facebook page and website. The broadcast will be a combination of hand-picked readings, poems, music and carols.

For more information on the above and where you can view the Books of Memories, please visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/support-our-work/remember-a-loved-one/light-up-a-life/.

Christmas Raffle

For many, Christmas is a time of being with family, sharing memories and traditions and enjoying delicious food. Hospiscare wants Christmas 2020 to contain all of these special things for the families in their care and are appealing to the community to support their Christmas Raffle campaign.

Anyone can take part in the Hospiscare Christmas Raffle, which takes place during November and December. Simply source a prize and the charity will send you everything you need to make your raffle a festive success.

For further details, go to www.hospiscare.co.uk/support-our-work/fundraise/hospiscare-christmas-raffle/. **Ali McGeown**

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MESSAGE FROM BRIAN HOLMES

I can't believe it's been over a year since we were given a 'farewell' article in this magazine. Leaving one close community and trying to mingle with another has not been straight-forward, bearing in mind the restrictions that have been in place on such activity. Semi-regular visits to previous members of the family and friends in the local cemeteries have also been curtailed and that is primarily the reason for this 'Thank you'. We are aware there are many other people who visit the two sites that we have been associated with since we lived in Willand and, like working on 'the little red car', seems a normal part of life that has suddenly stopped. So when the wording on 'our' memorial stones needed remedial work, finding someone from a distance was essential. Anyone who has been faced with this situation will be aware that since that time a few years ago when there was 'the problem' of these stones 'falling on members of the public', the Health & Safety people have introduced new measures that add astronomical costs to such work. So it was such a relief to find someone who was prepared to do such work 'in situ'. There is no better way for me to say 'Thank you' to the person who so perfectly performed the tasks than to suggest anyone seeking such expertise should contact me and I will pass on the relevant details. This will avoid your current editor having concerns about 'back-door' advertising and any other third-party involvement. The work that the lady has done is absolutely superb and I can happily make another return trip to Willand and Uffculme in October to put the usual silk flowers in place, now that the grass cutting period is finished for the year. My email address is **brian@rose-mullion.co.uk** (still) and I look forward to hearing from anyone. Kindest regards to all readers, the ex-Editor. **Brian Holmes**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

By the time you read this the lights will be twinkling along Silver Street, hopefully creating some festive cheer. The Parish Council has made all the usual approaches to local businesses to help support the finance of the lights this year and are very aware that this has been a difficult year for many of our regular supporters, however any contribution towards the costs would be a benefit.

If anyone would like to make a donation towards the lights please contact the Clerk on 07920014407 or email clerk@willand-pc.org.uk

Anyone who makes a donation will be recognised on the Parish Council Website, Social Media and in the next issue of the magazine which will be out at the beginning of February 2021. **Kate Taylor**



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CHILDRENS HOSPICE SOUTH WEST

A teenage girl from Cullompton who was bullied for having short hair has shaved it all off and raised more than £1,000 for Children’s Hospice South West.

Kisa Benson, 14, knew she’d be mocked for her radical new look but said raising money for the charity was ‘more important than a few mean comments’.

She said: “The charity means a lot to me so it was the right thing to do. You just need to keep your head held high and not let the bullies win.”

Brave Kisa decided to lose her locks to raise vital funds for the charity’s Little Bridge House children’s hospice, which supports her best friend’s younger brother. Reuben Newberry, aged nine from Willand, has polymicrogyria cerebral palsy and he and his family are able to access vital respite at the hospice, near Barnstaple in North Devon.

“The hospice has been a huge help, providing countless respite weekends for the whole family and I wanted to thank them for everything they have done,” said Kisa, who has sadly suffered verbal and physical abuse since her head shave at the end of July.

“It was scary and I was quite upset – one time I just sat on the floor and cried – but Reuben and the charity mean so much to me, much more than a few people being horrible.” Mum Theresa said she was proud of her daughter for taking a stand for what she believed in.

“It was an incredibly brave thing for a teenage girl to do but even more so for Kisa as she has been bullied for having short hair. She knew that shaving her hair would put a bigger target on her head but didn’t care because she was doing it for the right reason.



“Kisa has a huge heart and I’m incredibly proud of what she has done in support of a local family who mean the world to us. “When she shaved off her hair it was very emotional, especially when she saw Reuben. But he still recognised her and gave her a beautiful beaming smile.”

Kisa has so far raised £1,293 on her Justgiving page, smashing her £750 target but she has now set her sights on raising £2,000. To make a donation, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kisa-benson. **Andy Keeble**



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WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

Much work has taken place recently at Willand Tennis Club to improve the facilities. This has included resurfacing of the two courts nearest to the road, redecorating the clubhouse and replacing all of floodlights with LED lights.

All courts are available to book online at a cost of £8 per hour for non-members and free for members. Non-members are able to book a court up to 2 days in advance (up to 14 days in advance for members). There is currently a special offer for Adult membership at £50 and junior membership at £15 (Until 31/03/2021). Coaching is available for both Adults and juniors.

Please look on our website: www.willandtennisclub.co.uk or email: willandtennisclub@outlook.com for more details.

Best wishes **Helen Richardson Willand Tennis Club Secretary**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WITS)

WiTS formed in 2013 by a few like-minded people driven by our very own Jeanette Simmons with our first production of **Sleeping Beauty** in 2014. The panto season runs from Boxing Day to the end of February and we have managed a production every year since with **Cinderella, Dick Whittington, Aladdin, Puss in Boots, Red Riding Hood** and in **2020 The Little Mermaid**.

During this time we have put on many summer productions such as **“Drunkula” “In for a Penny”, “Caught on the hop” “A Tragedy of Terrors” “Carry on in Court”** to name just a few. We have also put on Murder Mysteries written by our members with **“Valentine’s Day” “School Reunion” and “King Arthur Crown” (Alfurian Fury)** and **“A Wedding to Die For”** we have toured with these Murder Mysteries to Uplowman Village hall, The Walrons, Cullompton, Bickleigh Village hall, and Uffculme Village hall for the WI.

No professional actors are amongst our troupe and many of our members were doing it for the very first time yet showed great enthusiasm and everybody works so hard to put on a great performance. Not just the actors, so much work goes on behind the scenes with scene painting, prop making, set design, costumes etc. it is breath-taking. An unpaid group of people who’s only rewards are seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter of our audience.

I personally couldn’t think of a better more rewarding hobby, but then again I’m probably biased. We will always welcome new members with open arms and take great pleasure in seeing them blossom in confidence on the stage.

WiTS A.G.M looks good to go in April with the prospect of a Vaccine in the air and of course our A.G.M is open to all, so even if you don’t want to tread the boards but feel you can offer something please come along and see what we are all about. Date to be published later in this Magazine. So from all at WiTS we hope you have a Dame Good Christmas and a Fairy Magical New Year.

Sam Fincher

SANTAS GO FREESTYLE FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST!

Children's Hospice South West's (CHSW) annual Santa's on the Run event is back but not as you know it Taking place over the weekend of the 11-13 December, supporters will be able to choose their own distance, route and festive fancy dress.

The festive fundraiser usually takes place at Great Torrington's RHS Garden Rosemoor each year but the local children's charity has taken the decision to hold it virtually this Christmas due to the pandemic. It's free to register and anyone who manages to raise more than £15 will receive a special Santas on the Run medal.

Kiley Pearce, CHSW Events Fundraiser, said: "This year, Santa's on the Run is going freestyle! Although we can't all come together at Rosemoor, we can still spread some joy and laughter and we'd encourage everyone to go crackers with their festive fundraising! Whether you twinkle in tinsel or rock it like Rudolph, you can get creative with your costume and complete a distance of your choice, your way."

Together with community partner Whirlwind Sports, CHSW is asking this year's participants to raise sponsorship or make a donation to enable the charity to continue to providing vital care for children and families when they need it most, whether that be in the hospice or at home.

Kiley continued: "Over the weekend of 11-13 December we will have a warm-up for people to join online each day, as well as lots of prizes including for the best-dressed family, child and dog! Individuals who raise £15 or more will also receive a medal. It's undoubtedly been a challenging year and we would encourage people to get involved however they like this Christmas but most importantly, have fun and help us raise money to continue supporting local children living with life-limiting conditions and their families."

Registration is free! Simply register your interest at www.chsw.org.uk/santas and join the charity's event on Facebook by searching 'Santas on the Run – goes freestyle' www.facebook.com/events/649916122169450 **Andy Keeble.**



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WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

Where has the year gone to and more importantly where is it going?

Covid-19 is still causing problems around the world and for our homeland. We are fortunate at the time of writing that things are not quite so bad in our area as some parts but there is no justification for being complacent or showing a lack of consideration for others. The parish helpline is still in existence and can be utilised by those in need of help who have no other help available. We are fortunate that we still have a dedicated band of volunteers willing to help who will collect things or do shopping. Good neighbours looking out for one another is always to be encouraged but we must remember to respect the privacy of those who do not want help as they see it as intrusion.

If you are really worried about someone please contact the appropriate organisation but if all else fails call the parish helpline which will be detailed elsewhere in this magazine or on our website.

For those unfortunate to have been made redundant and finding it hard to properly feed children during school holidays there are local organisations and businesses that will help. It may be difficult but you will not be alone if you go about things the right way.

The current restrictions are making it difficult for normal things to take place. Simon, our Vicar, and his team were able to arrange a simple service by the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday and they used Zoom so that people could join in from the safety of their homes. A recording is also available for people to view. It was my privilege to be present to represent the Parish Council and Community as a whole and to lay a wreath on our behalf as part of the service.

The Parish Council is still meeting remotely once a month and all details are on the website and noticeboards. We have been two councillors short for some time but I am pleased to say that we are now up to full strength and am pleased to welcome Paul Major and Lisa Mastrolacasa as new members to the council. Let us hope that we can stay up to strength for the future.

Our play areas which are managed by the Parish Council are open and available for use. You will see that two new replacement sets of equipment and new safety surface has been supplied in the fenced play area by the school. Please enjoy and look after it as it has cost a lot of money which has been paid for from reserves which have been built up over time to deal with repairs and replacements. A working group is looking at finding and locating some equipment for our more senior residents to do some 'physical jerks' on. It will be situated somewhere with a bench so that you can recover afterwards.

Some will recall that MDDC wanted to close the Chestnut Drive play area and we are grateful to all those who responded to our questionnaire. We have a small working group consulting with MDDC officers and hopefully some of the

trees will be felled or trimmed as appropriate to make the area a little more open and some new equipment will be found to keep it going. Early days but it is being worked on.

Our play areas are regularly inspected for safety and once a year we have a full check by ROSPA and we have just had their report. Nothing major has been raised with just a few minor tweaks needed which the handyman is already working on. Have you seen the new fencing extending the cemetery area? Hedging has to be planted and then the site should cater for the needs of the village for some years to come.

We are still getting complaints about dog mess not being picked up around the village. Some really bad instances have come to note in the Jubilee field by the school entrance. If children get it on their shoes and take it into school it is a real problem. If you know who the offenders are and cannot face challenging them yourself then please tell we councillors through the clerk and we will see what can be done. Report all incidents you spot, with or without offenders, to MDDC Customer Services, ideally by email, as the more reports they get the better chance we have of visits from the enforcement team. Talking of school – come on parents – what is happening to social distancing with some of you at drop off and pick up times. The school has gone to great trouble to provide guides but then I suppose it does not apply to some of you – or that is what it looks like!

If anyone has a problem or concerns either from a parish or district perspective please feel free to contact me and I will see what I can do to help. There is a lot going on and changes are occurring with some regularity. Look at the parish website or Facebook pages if possible as we are trying to keep you all up to date.

People have been asking for a field where they can let their dogs run and we now have the Pooch's Playground by Westcountry Car Sales on the road to Cullompton. It is a commercial enterprise and is nothing to do with the Parish Council but the owner had the courtesy to tell us what he was doing and we were pleased to give verbal support as we knew it would meet the need of some of our residents. Another facility within our community.

Christmas is fast approaching but who knows who will be doing what because of lockdowns and advice. I would normally be going to Cardiff to join our daughter and her family. We may end up staying at home and opening a tin of corned beef. I wonder how many of our younger members of the community even know what that is.

Christmas can be lonely for some under normal times but it could be even worse this year. Keep an eye on your neighbours who may be on their own and although we may not be able to invite them into our homes it may be possible to cut out a spare dinner and pass it to them.

May I wish you all a very pleasant Christmas and a hoped for happy New- year. Hope you enjoy the Christmas lights. **Barry G J Warren.**

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2020/21 WASTE COLLECTION CALENDAR

This is for the areas of Willand which normally have Friday collections
outlying areas will be different and can be found on the Mid Devon
Website or call 01884 255255. To request a copy by post.

FOOD WASTE, RECYCLING BOXES (BLACK AND GREEN) AND BLACK SACKS EVERY OTHER FRIDAY					
FOOD WASTE AND OPT-IN GARDEN WASTE/"PAY AS YOU GO" SACKS EVERY OTHER FRIDAY					
COLLECTION 1 DAY LATE DUE TO BANK HOLIDAY					*
COLLECTION 2 DAYS LATE DUE TO BANK HOLIDAY					**
2020					
DECEMBER	4	11	18	29**	
2021					
JANUARY	5**	11*	16*	22	29
FEBRUARY	5	12	19	26	
MARCH	5	12	19	26	
APRIL	6**	12*	17*	23	30
MAY	8*	14	21	28	
JUNE	5*	11	18	25	
JULY	2	9	16	23	30
AUGUST	6	13	20	27	
SEPTEMBER	4*	10	17	24	
As copied from the Mid Devon Website					



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CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH.

I would like to be able to tell you the services that are arranged around Christmas for our church, however is the same way as everyone else all our arrangements are provisional as the necessity for lockdown changes.

The thing that we will miss most this year is the massively well supported Carol Service in the Village Hall, even though we usually hold this near the beginning of December, for some people it is the start of Christmas.

When we are in lockdown we have a coffee together on Thursday morning and join in an online service organised by Halberton Methodist Church, we also distribute a printed service. When we can meet we do so at 10.30 on a Sunday morning with all the precautions in place.

If you would like to join in with the on-line service or anything else please contact our minster on 01884 32679 or **boothpaul@yahoo.co.uk**.

It has been amazing to see how much community spirit continues to be shown in our neighbourhood, we pray that will continue as we continue to learn to live differently. Culm Valley Methodist Church. **Paul Booth**

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Back to square one again! We were just starting to increase bookings and now lockdown 2 is here. We are now not allowed to have any bookings except for education purposes (Willand School) or Blood Donor sessions. Since we were allowed to open up in July, the hirers we have had (mainly exercise groups) have been excellent at keeping their clients COVID safe and socially distanced from one another. I would like to congratulate all of them for acting so responsibly. Thank you also to our caretaker, Sam Fincher, who has been making sure everything is sanitised daily.

Hopefully, this lockdown will finish on 2nd December, and we can open our doors once again. After all the money we have spent on refurbishment, it is such a pity that our efforts cannot be seen.

The tennis courts cannot be used at the moment because of COVID regulations, but are available for public use. They now have to be booked online, not more than two days beforehand. Please visit the Willand Tennis Club site for more details.

Please visit our website, www.willandvillagehall.org.uk, to check the calendar for future bookings. The email for booking is: bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk. **Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer**



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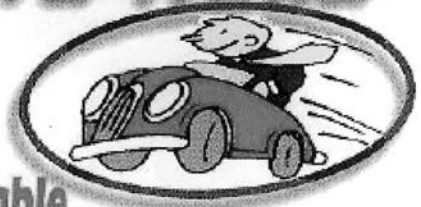
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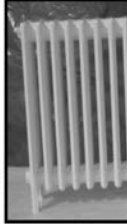
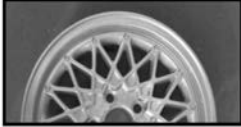


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WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS). COVID-19.

Sunday Nov 8th 2020 was our first opening during this current lockdown, This went well. Due to the partnership of our members volunteering, and, secondly, visitors generally complying with the social distancing guidance (2 Metres apart). Continuation of this will assist our aim to keep to opening with times as, If NOT we will close.

OPENING TIMES

Wednesdays and Sundays - 10.00 am - 12 Noon. Further to this, please note:

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR. During this period the site will be: -

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REOPEN FROM 10.00am - Sunday 3rd January 2021.

COMPOSTING MATTERS

Please refer to the signage displayed for deposit of garden waste we can accept. However, regarding current deposits off: -

LEAVES. This is the time of year when the leaves are dropping/falling and so we all have to deal with.

The first method is suggested is to keep the leaves by: - is to collect and raking then mow the leaves (mower to have collector) then cover your soil (flower beds/vegetable plot) with the mowed leaves. This will add nutrients to the soil.

Alternatively, you could (if you have one) deposit leaves in MDDC supplied wheelie bin.

Or, deposit ONLY DRY leaves. If you visit please deposit where guided into the nominated bay

IN the spirit of these times it is hoped that we all continue to visit to deposit and purchase our compost. It is from these sales that we are able maintain the site and have provisions for funding donation requests. Please note donations are for the Benefit of Willand Organisations that provided a service/support to the residents. **Tony Mander Mob. 07980472242 Email: tmander931gmail.com**

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are at last reaching the final stages, Willand health and community centre is almost complete. On behalf of the village we would like to say a huge thank you to the CO OP and all the shoppers who chose to support the centre this year. Altogether you helped to raise a whopping £2225.74. Don't forget there is now the opportunity to support a new cause through your CO OP card to make a difference to another charity. Now we can ask you as a community for ideas, as to what you would like to see in the centre. What voluntary groups we can help support start up. Please send your ideas and let us know if you yourself would like to get involved in making it happen to **info@whacc.org.uk**.

Help us, to help you, grow this centre into a new valuable resource for the community. We are already in discussions to see if we can help in starting a food bank from the centre. We are also looking to help the lonely, elderly and vulnerable in our community supporting ideas from local people. If you are able to help or for more information email info@whacc.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing the centre come to life.

Tania Chair Willand Health and Community Centre

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

Our club was forced to close again in November due to the government restrictions. However, at the time of writing this article, we should be open again in early December.

We have reduced the capacity in our gymnastics, athletic development and weightlifting sessions and put in a rigorous cleaning schedule to reduce the risk of transmission.

The good news is that our athletes get more personal attention and we saw a big improvement in fitness and skills in the two months that were back.

With team sports fixtures such as rugby not being planned for the rest of the season, now is a time for young people to develop their all-round movement, strength agility and coordination. Our parkour (freestyle gymnastics) on Tuesday nights at 6pm in the village hall and our Athletic Development sessions on Wednesday evenings are perfect for secondary school children. But only those who like a challenge.

We wish all of our members and their families a happy and healthy Christmas. Thanks. **James Marshall**

WILLAND ROVERS

A view from the terraces

As I sat on Sunday morning watching the cenotaph memorial remembrance parade to the Glorious dead. It certainly brought home how far our lives have been affected by this present war that we are all enduring. Those who have heard of rationing during and after WW11 will now understand some of the restrictions placed on our country as we tried to get back onto our feet. We hope the war against Covid-19 does not take as long and the recent news of a potential vaccine will certainly pique the interest of many.

But just like business and hospitality centres we at Willand Rovers have shut down again to accommodate the month-long circuit break imposed by the Government. The season not starting until mid-September meant that by the time of the lockdown, we have only played 8 games winning 4 drawing 1.

We, however, have gone for the first time in the club's history into the first round proper of an FA run tournament by getting to the first round of the FA Trophy.

Given that we only have 6 of last year squad left from last season that is not a bad effort. Russ and David have invested heavily into youngsters hungry to succeed. Many have come from lower leagues or are playing adult football for the first time. Given that it takes time for a side to establish its identity and given that the Southern league is a difficult league to try and play football in the right way i.e. on the grass and not in the air it has been a great effort.



Photo Lee Waterman of Willand Service Centre with Mike Mitchell Chairman Willand Rovers

We have also been fortunate in securing two long term sponsorship deals with local businesses. Lee Waterman of Willand Service Centre has agreed a five-year deal to sponsor the main stand.

Corey Webber of Hyland Cars similarly for the same period of time has agreed to sponsor the new grandstand. Phil Norman at Stan Robinson continue to be our main shirt sponsors, with Raj Singh of 2 Sisters now sponsoring the backs of the shirts. We have also been able to agree extensions to existing sponsorship deals with Mark Morgan of Dougfield Plumbing Supplies and Matthew Gardener of Live West. Other local firms, Mike Main from JFM Scaffolding, John Vigar from Evolve and Francis Bevan from Pencarrie have all helped with projects, clothing and kit.

There has also been a large number of local firms who have renewed their boards, adverts, match and ball sponsorships deals. With-out all this help and support we would suffer like a lot of businesses has.

The league hope to restart in Mid-December and are going to rejig the fixture list so that the longer trips can be conducted on a weekend rather than mid-week.

We plan to host a bingo night on the 8th December, please look out for social media posts to see that event is on.

Keep safe, see you on the other side, we would love to see you all when you get the opportunity

Hyland Cars sponsor new grandstand Cheers **Dominic Clark**



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ST MARY'S CHURCH

In times gone by it was common to put the letters D.V on invitations to indicate a sense that not everything is under our control. The letters stand for “Deo volente” which is the Latin for “God willing”. If there was ever a year to reintroduce this I guess this year would be it.

It was lovely to be able to lead a Remembrance Sunday service from the churchyard last month. It was a very special occasion and whilst it was a much smaller gathering than normal I was pleased we could stream it live and put a recording on Facebook. This has been viewed more than 1000 times, so a far bigger congregation than we would ever be able to fit into church.

With Christmas coming we are (at the time of writing) unsure what we are going to be able to offer. We have made the decision not to hold a carol service this year carol services without singing just didn't seem to be a good idea I would however like to encourage you to watch South West Carols **www.southwestcarols.com** This will be a carol service hosted by different churches online across the SW at 7pm 5th and 6th December.

We are also going to hold a Christingle service at 4pm on Sunday 20th and 4pm Christmas Eve on Zoom. The codes for this are available if you pick up a Christingle kit. As well as information about join in with the service it will also contain a kit to make up your own Christingle as you watch. These will be available from the church in the days leading up to the service.

Assuming we can hold services we are also planning (D.V)
11.30pm Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion in church

10am Christmas morning in church (for a service with no singing) AND a separate service on Zoom. Sunday 27th 11am Zoom service only
The Zoom services are accessible from landline telephone, mobile, tablet or computer. If you need help with accessing or logging on please feel free to get in touch.

Please check the church or church hall notice boards for up to date information about Christmas and other services.

I know it is going to be different this year, but I hope we will be able to have a really happy Christmas none the less. It might be that as we strip some of the commercialisation away it will help us to remember the importance of the central message we are celebrating. God coming into the world is a wonderful thing because it shows not just how much we are loved and valued by the most important person in the universe, but it also gives us hope and meaning and purpose for the future. This truly is a light that can lead us on and help us as we deal with the struggles and uncertainty of today. **Rev Simon Talbot Rector. St Mary's Church Tel: 562570 or: e:simon@thetalbots.org.uk**

A True Friend may not always be there with you, but, will always be there for you.

THE MID DEVON SINGERS UPDATE

The MiDS are still missing singing! We are planning to start singing again as soon as possible in 2021.



Our friendly musical and social bunch genuinely cares for each other. We have all maintained contact checking that everyone is safe, held virtual coffee mornings, tea and chat sessions, glass of wine evenings and a BBQ at the Sampford Peverell home of our treasurer before Lockdown 2.

We are all aware of how Covid-19 is spread, including speaking and singing. It's hard to sing in the open air, with masks and on line, because of the time differences caused by the varied speeds of the lines connecting us all, making synchronisation virtually impossible, but we are developing plans to trial some possibilities, when everyone is confident they feel safe.

In 2021, we SHALL resume singing, reform and welcome former and new members to our all-age non-clique group. If you'd like to sing for fun, please contact us now and we'll update you directly. Call for a chat or visit our Facebook. It will be a good time to join to sing a little of everything, when many singers are new too. Please tell friends, colleagues and neighbours, especially new ones. Anyone thinking of joining us should let us have their suggestions but when we start, we shall be including songs from the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Carole King, Abba, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Elton John plus many more.

I give my thanks to our energetic, enthusiastic and competent hands-on Leadership Team; they have worked tirelessly throughout 2020 to ensure our new group became a very well run group and I thank our loyal singers and helpers who have come from across the district to enjoy singing with us.

We don't have auditions, there's no charge for trying us out and it's free for youngsters. We do have a vitally important coffee break. We'll continue to meet at Halberton Village Hall, on Fridays as soon as it's safe to do so. Contact us: **singers@halberton.org** or 01884 820081 or 252910. **Terry Payne**. (Chairman)

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We had a good response to our questionnaire, and some thoughtful emails and Facebook posts. Thanks for that. From what you have told us so far we can move to the next stage of producing a plan for Willand. We have to evidence that our plan is based on opinions from villagers. Normally we would have followed that up with meetings, displays and groups where we could explore each topic more with you and you could meet with others who are interested in the topics you feel strongly about. Obviously this hasn't yet been possible – so we have to find other ways for you to tell us what you feel.

So far you have told us about five areas that you want to see planned for the future. These are Housing; Green Spaces; Pathways and Cycle-ways; Employment; and Environmental Issues;

We now need your opinion on these six questions

1. Should we have more housing in Willand?
2. Which green spaces of every sort in and around Willand should be protected for the future?
3. Do we have enough pathways and cycle-ways serving Willand residents?
4. What is good about existing employment opportunities, and what fresh employment opportunities in the village would benefit residents?
5. How could we make Willand even 'Greener', or respond to the challenge of climate change?

Please respond, even if you think the answer is obvious. We want to know anything you want to tell us that needs to be preserved or improved in the village. Send us an email at npg@willand-pc.org. We will also be asking these questions in a questionnaire if that is more convenient for you.

A robust Neighbourhood Plan is the best way we can influence the future development of our village – your contribution really matters. If you want more background on what a Plan can achieve and the work done so far then go to the Parish Council web-site at <https://www.willand-pc.org.uk> then follow the link at the top of the page to 'Neighbourhood Plan' **Stephen Little**.

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

On a Wednesday evening back in November, History Group members were taken on a virtual railway journey along the old Culm Valley branch line, having joined a Zoom meeting – sign of the times! – organised and hosted by Halberton History Group and Uffculme Local History Group. The speaker was by Amyas Crump, an authority on local railways, who really brought the Culm Valley Light Railway to life through his collection of photos and documents, following the line from Tiverton Station, via Halberton Halt, Tiverton Junction (in Willand),

Cold Harbour Halt, Uffculme and Culmstock Stations, before terminating at Hemyock.

Amongst the gems of information shared by Amyas was how Willand acquired its railway station. When the new Bristol-Exeter railway was built in the 1840s, a station had been earmarked for Sampford Moor near Sampford Peverall, but the roads around there were considered so treacherous that an alternative site in Willand was chosen, opened in 1844 under the name 'Park' Station (after nearby Park Farm) and then 'Tiverton Road' Station, before it was changed to 'Tiverton Junction' when the a branch line to Tiverton was added in 1848. The line to Tiverton was meant to have two tracks, but only one was ever completed. In 1928 a resourceful apple merchant, Mr Diggle, spotted an opportunity and rented a couple of miles worth of the empty space where the second track had

been intended – through Halberton – and planted apple trees in a long line alongside the existing track, probably the country's only railway embankment orchard. Amyas showed us an evocative photo of this, heading towards the aqueduct carrying the Grand Western Canal.

The Culm Valley branch from Tiverton Junction to Hemyock was opened in 1876 and was active for almost a century. The journey appears to have been a leisurely affair, considered the slowest passenger service on the whole British railway system – and there were rumours of cider stops for the train drivers. One of the steam locomotives that worked on the line was the famous Tivvy Bumper, which can now be seen housed at Tiverton Museum, although Amyas informed us that in fact this engine spent most of its working life around Oxford, before coming down to Devon. The passenger service ended in September 1963, but a freight service powered by diesel engines and primarily servicing the Hemyock milk factory ran until the line closed for good in 1975.

We enjoyed an excellent talk and it was good to see so many members of local history groups getting together, albeit virtually, and thanks must go to Halberton and Uffculme for getting this organised.

Finally, as we head towards Christmas, it would be understandable if some of us enjoyed a bit of liquid relaxation, especially after the year 2020 has been! However, be wary as to where this can take you. In 1877 the Willand miller, George Lewis, woke up on the morning of Saturday, 22 December, in police custody in Tiverton, according to the *Tiverton Gazette*, “on a charge of being drunk and incapable at Brickhouse [in Tiverton], on the previous night. Defendant was found lying on the road hopelessly drunk by Constable Cosway. He was fined 5 shillings and costs.”

So with that salutary warning, all of us in the History Group wish the rest of Willand a very happy festive season, and a much less turbulent 2021

James Morrison, 01884 250057 jamorrison235@gmail.com

MDDC DISTRICT COUNCIL

As you read this we are rapidly approaching the end of a very different year to that expected when we raised a small glass to toast in 2020. For many the end of 2020 cannot come too soon and the new year with all its evident hopes and possibilities dawns for us all.

There are no easy comparisons for any of us given the awful events that have unfolded around and in front of us, for the lucky few there has been just an inconvenience and a new strange way to shop and at times socialise in small groups. For others the year has brought misery, sadness and continued worries that will not simply disappear at the turn of a calendar's page. As I write this news has come of a possible vaccine, we all must hope that this results in the first steps on a pathway to a future that demotes Covid-19 to a known but insignificant disease that can be avoided by the many and treated for the few.

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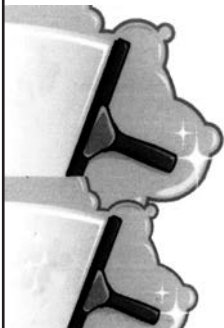
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For more info on classes or PT please visit
my website www.jenniferbricknell.co.uk
or ring 07980 008726

So with good news making it into the front pages at long last maybe 2021 can start the long road back to normality for many and start to heal those that will forever carry the memories of a horrible year. It seems a little petty to then talk about life as an MDDC councillor yet we all must look to do as much as we can to make life as normal as possible, so it's back to budgets, dog mess and bin collections as some of the topics of the day.

Budgets are going to be a topic of ongoing conversation for a while, we are looking at an overspend of about £250k for 2020/21 no overspend is good but given the year we have had this could have been a lot worse, we will await what the next few months bring us but if I'm honest I think it will be between £200k & £300k. The current forecast for 2021/22 is far worse at nearly £3m however this does come with a warning that we have forecast no government assistance and some ongoing Covid-19 issues through our income streams, so although it's going to be an extremely difficult year I'm positive it will be far better than the current forecast. The recent debate on public open space orders created some keen interest from the public, so much so that the cabinet sent the paper back to the Environment committee for a further discussion.

Now finishing with a moan is never good so let's make it a request , MDDC are looking at having a trial for 3 weekly black bag collections, so that's NOT food that will still be every week and I understand so will recycling.

A random check last year saw a large number of black sacks opened pre going to the energy from waste plant, about 40% of the contents was stuff that should have been recycled tins, jars, bottles, plastic, cardboard, paper etc. So one of the arguments is that if we recycled what we should and can, then many would have less black sacks to collect, so please use your recycle box's, if you need more call MDDC and they will deliver more.

Ok that's me, have a great Christmas, enjoy what time you can with loved-ones let's hope next year brings more good than bad and we start to turn this around. If you need me call or email. Stay safe, keep well. Happy New Year.

Bob Evans District Councillor Lower Culm

NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL

Although the Mill is closed to the public at present, we are all working hard on many ongoing projects. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have returned to help get the Mill back in order, as well as those who have been supporting us from a distance. They all work extremely hard and have made it very easy for me to start finding my feet here as a new member of staff!

The Curatorial Team has been completing a revamp on Level 3 of the Museum with some extra help from the maintenance team for the heavy lifting and painting. We are in the process of planning a new Fox Brothers Company textiles exhibition for the Level 3 Annex.

The Maintenance Team is working through a long list of tasks, from repairing roofs on the outbuildings, and reinstating and/or clearing guttering, to clearing

all the leats of reeds and vegetation ... to name but a few - a huge project, but hopefully we will get it all done by the end of the year!

The Gardens volunteers have maintained the gardens and lawns all year, and the sensory garden especially looked amazing over the summer - it was such a shame more people didn't get to enjoy it! They will now establish a herb garden in the area by the Chimney, which will be wonderful!

The Steam Team have returned to their regular weekly meetings and are tackling the boilers and maintenance tasks to get everything in the Steam Complex up to standard and ready for an inspection in the New Year.

The Splash team have continued to try and beat back the vegetation over at the Mill Pond - a very difficult task, but they have done a great job of keeping the area accessible – which will also help now that we are going to be clearing the leats!

If you would like to get involved in volunteering at the Mill, whether with one of the above teams or in another way, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Unfortunately, owing to the current situation we will not be able to hold our traditional New Year Steam Day, but we still aim to open to the public next Easter!

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year
Peter Holdway-Bradley, General Manager

To contact Coldharbour Mill: please phone 01884 840960 (calls are monitored even when the Mill is closed) or email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk or visit the Mill website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk or write to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, Cullompton EX15 3EE.

Christmas shopping? Please consider helping Coldharbour Mill in one of these ways:

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- sign up to Give As You Live Online - www.giveasyoulive.com - for your internet shopping, naming the Friends of Coldharbour Mill as your chosen charity.
- if you shop at the Coop and are a member, you can name Coldharbour Mill as your chosen charity – just go to coop.co.uk or phone 0800 0234708 to register.

Thank you!

AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU)

You may be aware that there has been a number of Avian Influenza cases in the UK, one of which is in Devon. This has resulted in a National Protection Zone being put in place for all poultry keepers, including those who only keep a few birds in their back yard. We would be very grateful if you could include the following information, which has been released by DEFRA, in your next parish magazine or alternative forms of communication that you may use, to advise and guide poultry keepers on their legal obligations.

Poultry and other captive birds

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (PDF, 39.1KB, 6 pages) (AIPZ) has been declared across the whole of England effective from 5pm on 11 November 2020. All poultry keepers in England (whether they have commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions.

If you keep poultry (including gamebirds or pet birds) or other captive birds, you must act now to reduce the risk of disease in your flock by following the relevant biosecurity measures required within the AIPZ. Your stock needs to be feed and watered under cover to prevent contamination from wild birds.

Good biosecurity improves the overall health and productivity of your flock by helping keep out poultry diseases such as avian influenza and limiting the spread of disease in an outbreak.

All bird gatherings within the AIPZ are prohibited therefore the general licence that had permitted bird gatherings has been revoked.

For more guidance please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77)

Public Health England advises that the risk to the public's health is very low. Food Standards Agency (FSA) has said that on the basis of the current scientific evidence, avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Avian influenza is unconnected with coronavirus (COVID-19).

Voluntary registration

You can choose to register fewer than 50 birds, or birds you keep as pets. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) encourages you to register even if you do not have to by law.

By registering, APHA will be able to contact you if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area and you'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect the national poultry flock. Thank you. **Nicola L J Pearce Trading Standards Officer**

Do you keep chickens, ducks, geese...?

Help protect your birds from the risk of **#birdflu**

Did you know?

There is a constant risk of bird flu in the UK from wild birds. As it's highly contagious take action to protect your birds from catching it.



Remember

Any very sick birds, or unexplained deaths, must be assessed by your vet. By law suspicion of bird flu is notifiable and can affect poultry movement and trade.

Tip 1: Cleaning

Clean footwear before and after visiting your birds. Keep areas clean and tidy, and regularly disinfect hard surfaces. Humanely control rats and mice.



Tip 2: Feeding

Place your birds' food and water in fully enclosed areas that are protected from wild birds, and remove any spilled feed regularly.



Tip 3: Fencing

Keep your birds separate from wildlife and wild waterfowl by putting suitable fencing around the outdoor areas they access.



Tip 4: Register

www.gov.uk/guidance/poultry-registration

Register your birds online and get alerts on any outbreaks of bird flu

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To All our readers we wish you a,

Merry
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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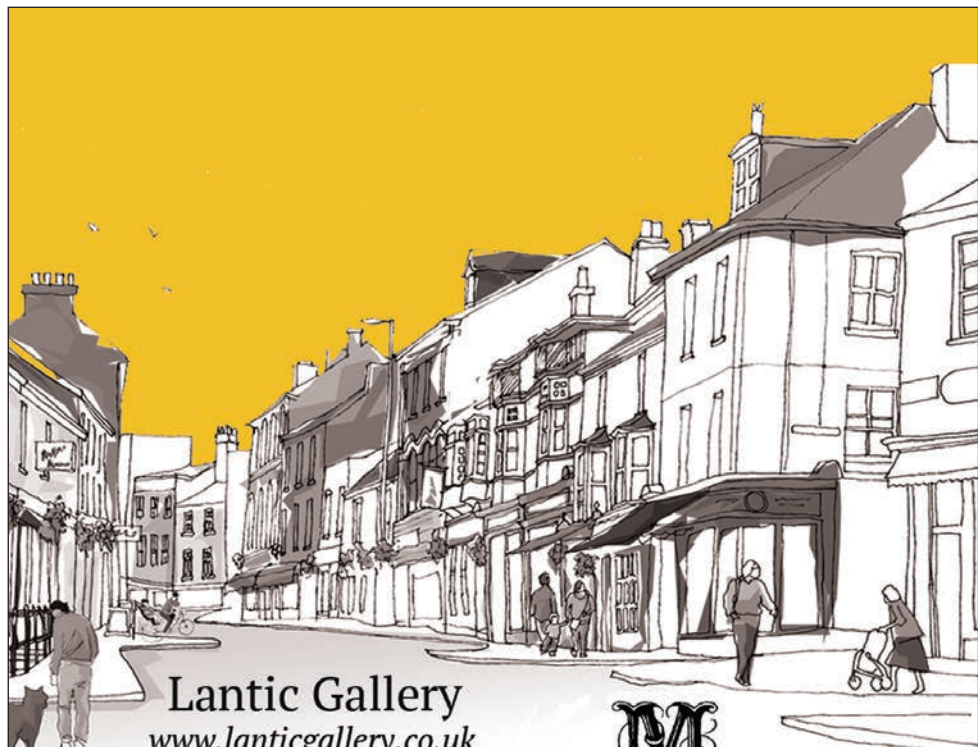
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