

WILLAND MAGAZINE
June & July
2020



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

Delivered Free to Every Home

SERVICES TO HELP IN THIS TIME

Willand Volunteer Helpline	Helpline giving information and access to help services	01884 35455
Age (Concern) UK		0800 6781602
Cullompton's Volunteer Group		01884 799420
Devon Communities Together	Helpline	0808 1963390
It's Time to Talk	Helpline	0300 303 3691
Mid Devon Mobility	Transport and Chat Service	01884 242099
Parkways Taxis (Travel/Shopping)	Will shop for you. They will pick up a list & cash to value of £30 from doorstep and go & do shopping & return with goods, receipt & change to doorstep.	01884 38899
Police (Non Urgent)		101
Samaritans		116123
Willand Pharmacy	Linacre House Gables Road	01884 32604
FOOD		
Ashill Inn (Food and Meals)	Ashill	01884 840506
CHAT (Food Bank)	Tiverton	01884 255606
Co-op Food Store	Willand	01884 820071
Farmers Market	Cullompton	01884 277471
Daisy Chain Dairy		01404 371475
Forest Foods	Hitchcock's Farm	01884 849274
Fresh Fruit and Hampers		07588 464555
Halberton Court Farm	Halberton Farm Shop	01884 821741
J&R Food Services	Clyst St. Mary, Exeter	01392 445510
Kellands Fruit & Veg	Tiverton Pannier Market	07483 277090
Morrisons	For Vulnerable and Elderly	0345 611 6111
SJB Foods Ltd		01395 568918
Tesco	Cullompton	0345 6719351
Veg in a Box	Exeter	07951 786653
Veyseys Butchers	Cullompton	01884 33442
Butchr	Willand	01884 824070

HOME COOKED MEALS		
Devon Fresh Foods		01395 267540
Hearty/Homemade Meals		01884 685937
Wiltshire Farm Foods		01392 829970
COUNCILS		
Community Support Hub		01884 234387
Devon County Council	Devon County Council	0845 155 1015
Involve in Mid Devon	Voluntary Action Support	01884 255734
John Bodley Scott	Covid 19 Community Support	01884 234387
Shielding List	Shielding Hub List for Vulnerable	0345 1551015
Social services	Tiverton	0345 155 1078
	MISC	
Cullompton Pet Shop	Pet Shop	01884 32751
Devon Grown	Plant Supplier	01404 823221
BBC Radio Devon	Local Radio	01752 234511

EDITORIAL

149

Welcome to this June and July edition of the magazine, even though there is a slight easing in our situation we all need to take care and are still restricted in what we can do so we are hoping this magazine brings you information as well as some entertainment.

We have information from Councillors and local organisations and some stories poems and comment from your community too. A big thank you to you all for taking the time to contribute.

We did a May magazine that was online only and can still be seen along with all of the previous magazines on the Willand Matters website www.willandmatters.org.uk

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

I find myself preparing this report very soon after the one I did for the website as the May contribution. This has allowed the Editor to rearrange circulation dates to make things a little easier and more relevant around the Christmas and New Year period. If you saw the website version please forgive me if I repeat myself but some of the comment and information warrants revisiting.

First of all may I please urge you to follow government advice with regard to social distancing and as the restrictions are relaxed it is important that we do not go mad and wipe out all the good which has been achieved to date in a few selfish days of gay abandon. If that happens some of us may not see next Christmas. Sadly, we have a minority who think that they know better than

everyone else and rules do not apply to them. They know their rights and no one else matters. They may well get away with it but how much misery and worry will their arrogance and selfishness cause to others in the community? Willand is not immune to what is going on with Covid 19. There have been deaths and there are suspected infections resulting in positive tests. There have been various comments on social media and concerns as to what is or is not happening at 2 Sisters. Suffice to say here that the matter is in hand and more about this elsewhere. If you see something wrong anywhere report it to the appropriate authorities and if you are having difficulty please bring the factual information to the attention of the Parish Clerk or one of our councillors. Please deal with things properly and do not leave it to someone else to deal with and you just moan or complain as your contribution. To all those who are following the rules/advice and working for the good and wellbeing of our community may I say a big thank you. Being an 'oldie' I am limited in what I can do but I am getting out a little so see what is going on and quite a few people keep in touch with me.

Our Parish Helpline 01884 35455 is available to contact volunteers who are willing to help anyone on their own and/or self isolating and needing help with anything from shopping, collecting medicines or even just a chat. It is not overworked as we have some very good friends and neighbours in Willand. That sense of community is coming to the fore at present. There are many instances of people offering to help or seeking advice which appear to be promptly responded to. The offers of unwanted toys and other items listed on Facebook and put out on lawns or front drives for someone who can use them is a wonderful example of recycling and upcycling.

Many in the NHS and Emergency Services are regularly receiving praise. Those who are caring for others are now also being recognised. Our bin men, postmen/ladies and many others who are keeping things going must also be recognised and thanked. Those staffing our food shops need our appreciation and certainly do not deserve the abuse or rudeness I have heard of in some cases. Wonderful that we have our butchers back in the village and they are receiving wonderful support in return. Thank you all and long may your good works continue.

Our Parish Council meetings will be continuing but councillors will be in the safety of their own homes. Members of the public can join the meetings via ZOOM and details will be contained on the agenda which will be posted on the website and in our noticeboards around the village. Minutes of the meetings are likewise available.

From time to time various issues come up for consultation and feedback from you all is appreciated. One such item which will come forward soon is the provision of Public Space Protection Orders which will create offences in relation to dog mess, dogs on leads and other related matters. This could have

a big impact on dog owners within the village and regrettably the responsible owners may be adversely affected to try and abate the nuisance caused by the irresponsible and selfish owners. More of this in my MDDC comment piece but please make sure you make your views known to your Parish Councillors in addition to MDDC.

Please keep safe and well, follow the guidance, use common sense and stay alert. Enjoy our countryside and open spaces responsibly and keep your distance. If you are minded to break the rules then please think of the fact that your actions could lead to someone being adversely affected and possibly dying before their time. Are you really that uncaring and self-centred? Lecture over and ready to receive responses! **Barry G J Warren.**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

We are now a **fair trade church** and are striving towards becoming an **eco-church**. With very little change we now use eco-friendly and fair traded goods wherever possible. We see it as part of our wider mission to care for the world and its peoples.

The process was very simple, we just had to fill out an online form which asked about the products we use and also about how we raise awareness of fair trade and the fair trade ethos of a good price for goods at a grass root level and care of the wider world. We were asked about where we source non fair trade goods in our church and were credited for using home grown and locally produced items too. The accreditation of being a fair trade church lasts for two years but the benefits will be felt for much longer wherever the products originate from around the world. **David & Joan Greet**

CAN YOU HELP COLDHARBOUR MILL?

In common with all other museums and heritage sites, Coldharbour Mill is currently closed owing to Covid-19, which hit just as we were about to reopen in March. We will open again to volunteers and visitors, but only when it is safe to do so.

Enforced closure means that our main source of income from visitor admission fees has ceased. As a charity with limited cash reserves, and no government or council funding, we rely on the support and generosity of many people to preserve our local treasure for future generations. This is even more important now.

We urgently need £20,000 just for basic costs for the next few months, so that staff can continue to work from home to keep systems running and support over 100 of our very valuable volunteers, and be ready to reopen to the public as soon as that is allowed. **There are ways you can help us to keep going until we can reopen!** If you take out Mill membership now for just £20 per person or £45 per family, it will be valid until **December 2021**, so you will have unlimited FREE entry and be able to take advantage of all the benefits for well over a year. To join, just email or write to request a form, or click on Join Now on the

Membership page of the Mill website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/become-a-member alternatively you can donate to our Emergency Appeal by post or via www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/donate

To contact Coldharbour Mill:

E-mail: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk

Or, visit the Mill website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk

Or write to: Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, Cullompton EX15 3E

Thank you for your support, please stay safe and keep well

From the Coldharbour Mill Trustees, Staff and Volunteers

Coldharbour Mill Trust Ltd is Registered Charity No: 1123386

Susan Wasfi



MDDC NEWS *Independent Councillor* BARRY G J WARREN

I find myself wearing two hats as one of your three MDDC Councillors and also Chair of the Parish Council. I try and separate the two roles and in the magazine concentrate on Parish issues and leave Bob Evans and Richard Chesterton to comment on MDDC matters. Having said that we three work together for the benefit of Willand and Uffculme if not always agreeing politically. I am a bit different in that I do not believe that there is a place for party politics on District or Parish Councils.

For this issue I am putting some information together for you in the hope that I am not duplicating what Bob has put in his piece.

He, in particular, has been taking the lead in respect of the perceived and actual issues surrounding the 2 Sisters site and dealing with other agencies but we regularly confer. A lot is being done but he will tell you what he is able on that point.

Covid-19 is causing all sorts of problems with normal council operations. Although some are critical the whole way of working of the council has had to change and many officers have taken on tasks and roles different from their usual work. The vast majority have adapted wonderfully and are prepared to 'muck in' to get the job done. Swimming pool lifeguards who are now delivering food parcels to people having to self-isolate, grounds maintenance staff working on the refuse and recycling teams are just a couple of examples. Our Chief Executive is leading all this change and at the same time taking part in numerous conferences with colleagues in other authorities and civil servants to ensure that our council is up to date with all the changes. I should hate to think what his reading list is like and then at the end of most days we members get an email from him updating us on all that has been going on.

In addition to my everyday council responsibilities and contact with residents and businesses as required, I am a member of the Planning Committee, Planning Working Group and Scrutiny Committee. I am a substitute member of the Audit Committee. I also Chair the Environment Policy Development Group and it is this area of work which I wish to advise on.

In order to keep the refuse and recycling collections going as a priority the grass cutting and general ground maintenance had to be put on hold. Members of the ground maintenance team are now beginning to return to normal duties but social distancing is causing some problems as we cannot have three men in the same van travelling around to jobs. The grass cutting is now being undertaken again and it is being prioritised starting with cemeteries and churchyards. You may notice them working a little differently to what you have seen in the past but now you will hopefully understand some of the reasons.

There is now a public consultation on the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders. Please ensure that you look at this and respond and you need to let the Parish Council know your views as well as writing to MDDC.

The MDDC website gives a link to a questionnaire on Survey Monkey which is easy to complete. This is being brought about by the irresponsible actions of some dog owners which is resulting in complaints resulting in the inconvenience, and in some cases, danger that their behaviour causes. Fixed penalty [£100] notices can be awarded by authorised officers where appropriate. You will need to read the full order but various areas of land will be designated for control and it will sadly affect the responsible dog owners as well as the poor ones. The main offences [*there are some exceptions*] and conditions will be:

- Failure to pick up after you dogs have defecated;
- Failure to produce the means to pick up after your dog if asked, whether it has defecated or not;
- Some areas where all dogs are prohibited;
- Areas where dogs must be kept on a lead;
- No more than 4 dogs to be exercised by one person at a time.

The full order needs to be looked at for the whole detail. Do write in with your thoughts. If you have ever expressed a view on social media on the subject now is the time to do it officially so that those of us having to make decisions on your behalf know your views.

The budget for this next year was set before all of this happened and is now up in the air. Loss of income from leisure centres and car parks, people getting behind with rent or council tax as they are not working are all affecting budgeted cash flow and much of it will not be recovered. The Government has made the Council some grants but it is well short of what is needed to keep services going as we have known them. Whether the money is raised locally or nationally it is still **our** money so it will have to be recovered somehow in the future.

This is only a snapshot of what is going on and so if you have a problem or need some information or just a chat please feel free to contact me. If I do not have the answer I probably can find someone who does. I will always try and find an honest answer even if you may not like it.

Please keep safe, stick to the guidance and advice as by doing that we can get through this. Think of how your actions may adversely affect others if you are selfish. Common sense is still alive and well if you use it. **Barry G J Warren.**

CAMEO

Our March meeting was hilarious as we welcomed back Rose Chanin. She kept us laughing with her humorous fund of poems, anecdotes and dressing up. It was all downhill from there as the lockdown began. We had such a varied programme to look forward to including a trip to the Donkey Sanctuary, Fagin's Antiques, River Dance at Torquay and a mystery trip with an evening meal. We had to cancel our Easter-Egg hunt at Peta's among many other things which was to be the first of many fund-raising events for this year's Charity. But we are not alone as we all need to follow the guidelines to keep us free from this awful pandemic. We contact each other by telephone and we all agree that we can't wait for our meetings and activities to re-start, we all miss seeing out Cameo friends. Stay home, and keep safe and well and we will all come through this together. **Betty Penberthy**

WILLAND ROVERS – WE'LL MEET AGAIN

Let me start I write these words against a backdrop of many daily deaths, many concerned about their livelihoods and business surviving this terrible disease. In other words there are many more important things than football at these challenging times and my colleague and I are most sensitive to the difficulties so many face right now. Even with the slight relaxation of the rules things will still take many months to get back to the new normal.

However, we thought important to let the supporters, sponsors, villagers all those you are interested know what is currently happening at Willand Rovers FC. We have successfully 'mothballed' the club and clubhouse whilst essential ground maintenance can carry on, adhering to strict social distancing rules.

It is planned at the end of May to start the ground work for the new stand. This will be phase 1 of that project. It is not known at the time of writing whether the manufacture of the stand has started to reemploy his workforce so production can commence. We have started a crowd funding page so individuals can support this project the aim is to try and raise £4000 towards the stands completion we have so far raised over 75% of our target which is absolutely fantastic. We just need that final push to get over the line, if you have already made a donation then on behalf of us all THANK YOU. If you are thinking of making a donation however, large or small in the future then thank you to.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/willand-rovers-fc>

We thought long and hard whether this was an appropriate approach for us to take, we know how hard it is at the moment for all. It took some 6 weeks to pluck up the courage to give it a go but the results so far have been spectacular. We have no idea when we will be open again and playing football again some say that could be in August/September/October or even in 2021 we just don't know.

What we do know is when we get going we will have said goodbye to some old favourites. Rob Norrish has retired to spend more time with his new family, Rob as many will know is a combative player who liked the 'fight' he has played over 200 times for the club. Dean Stamp has decided to step down a few levels to enjoy football and be able to spend more time with his family. Dean over 3 spells has played more than 200 times for us and leaves the clubs as the all-time leading goal scorer with 163 goals. Nellie Greening is looking forward to playing more golf, Nel has been our physio for the last 5 years, in past roles he has played and been assistant manager. Finally, Caroline Dummett will be leaving us she has done a tremendous amount of work behind the scene enhancing our profile with local businesses; she has been responsible for the redevelopment of the ground and the kit. We wish them all well in the future with whatever adventures they choose to do. Stay safe, this is not over yet and in the words of Her Majesty "we'll meet again" Cheers **Dominic Clark**

BOB EVANS MDDC COUNCILLOR

Although recent weeks have seen no meetings at the council anybody believing life has become very quiet for councillors would be very wrong. As with all types of service industries MDDC continues to adapt as to how it can continue to serve the public in the best ways, providing as much of a normal service as we can. This has meant both staff and councillors having to adapt too many new ways of working.

The now infamous Zoom meeting becoming a standard way to communicate with several meetings having now taken place. Please note these are open to the public, see the MDDC web for details.

I think we have got it about right most of the time but let's be honest this was a steep learning curve and mistakes did happen, yet lessons were very quickly learnt. We also had to prioritise some services over others but I think in the circumstances MDDC staff did an excellent job for us all and are continuing to do so. Can we remember they are not immune to what we are facing and they have their own families to consider. MDDC also have staff that need to self-isolate.

I'm going to concentrate on a couple of issues in this edition. Firstly do you own or know anyone that owns a business? The Government grant scheme for business is administered by MDDC officers. To date they have processed over £16m of grants in a few short weeks but many businesses haven't applied for

theirs yet. The scheme relies on both MDDC contacting businesses and business owners contacting them to ask for the grants. If you haven't heard from MDDC and you are sat waiting please pick the phone up and call 01884 255255 the team really are happy to help. I've had many calls from business owners grateful that the team dealt with their application fast and efficiently. You can also find details in the MDDC webpages.

My second issue is Two Sisters. I have dealt with the company for over nine years now and I simply do not have the space here to cover all aspects of my dealings with them. It can and has been testing and frustrating at times. The recent Covid-19 crisis has raised several issues never dealt with previously. I wish to make an early plea: please do not think that taking to social media is a good way to sort out these issues you are concerned about. It isn't, please, please, contact your elected representatives. We have the contacts not just in the factory but with the other agencies that have legal powers to deal with such matters. I personally deal with senior managers on site: site manager, HR manager and HSE manager. I am in direct contact with the Environment Officer who deals with the site, as well as having some official contacts within the police as a police councillor advocate for our area. If necessary I can also quickly call upon our MP Neil Parish to seek explanations from the company at let's say a higher level than local managers.

Over the last weeks I have been concerned with social distancing issues in and outside the site, canteen facilities, rest areas, transportation issues, translation of instructions onto information leaflets, littering off site plus much more, this has consisted of a combined effort from Environment Agency, Police, myself, Health and Safety Executive and site managers.

There is still more to do but we have some very clear lines of communication. We continue to look at PPE, Transportation, testing and how staff are accommodated.

I have seen some social media posts from individuals promising their input to seek solutions. Unfortunately they simply cannot deliver and as non-elected individuals have little / no influence. The situation isn't a popularity contest, it's extremely serious not just to the residents and businesses of Willand and surrounding area but the staff on site as well. Please use us, you know who we are and how to contact us.

Finally as mentioned above as a councillor police advocate I have asked the administrators of the Parish web site if they would allow an additional tab on the site. The position is directly connected to the police and crime commissioner's office and as such I receive updates and information on a number of local crime related initiatives as well as information on local scams and issues.

I can raise some issues directly with the commissioner's office and have a local contact for more specific issues. This isn't a full time all singing all dancing crime fighting role, it's a bridge between us and the police commissioners office and the local force.

Recent 2 Sisters "transport" related issues were communicated via this channel and police activity was dramatically increased within a matter of days.

We are all living through this extraordinary time but we must continue to seek and cherish those brighter moments. In a recent face time call to my grandson I was excited to see him and hear of his days of home learning, living with his mom (my daughter) and younger sister, full time. I do have a sympathy! As we had settled into a lovely conversation he announced "Ok Grandad I'm going now as I've run out of things to say "at that he was gone. Stay safe, keep well.

Bob Evans 01884 849248 revans@middevon.gov.uk

EVERY CLOUD.....

22nd March 2020, my 11th Birthday, well it wasn't how I imagined it. My party had to be cancelled, couldn't see my friends or Grandparents, but my Mum and Dad made it as special and memorable as they could under the Coronavirus Cloud.

23rd March 2020, LOCKDOWN! I was feeling sad and glum that my life was about to change for possibly a very long time. For example, all of my cool year 6 school trips like London and camping on Dartmoor weren't going ahead. Also no end of year play or leavers party. After a short while I was really missing my friends and relatives. I was wondering how long Lockdown would last and if I'd even be able to go back to my Primary School. Home learning started and I found self-discipline hard at first, but when I saw how well my dad adapted to working from home I thought 'if he can do it, then I can'.

10th May 2020, still in Lockdown, still under that Corona Cloud, but how things have changed. Over the last few weeks I've spent precious time with my family making memories, learning new things, like baking, preparing meals and appreciating things I previously took for granted. The world has slowed down and now I can take time to hear the bird song and enjoy nature on my daily dog walk. For the first time, I eat what I'm given, and actually appreciate my food.

I never thought I would want to sit in a year 6 maths class, but now it's something I'm desperate to do.

This has been a difficult and challenging time for everyone, but I have learnt a lot about myself and how resilient I can be.

What I've learnt the most though, is even under a Corona Cloud, that every Cloud has a silver lining.

Amelia Littlewood

Having asked WiTS members for some input the following came back.

KITCHEN KAPERS

We try to run a tight ship in the kitchen, no rum, but teas and coffees for everyone involved in putting on a production, prepared to their specific requirements, and ready in the dressing room as the curtains close for the interval. Simultaneously, the hatch opens to serve all our fabulous audience with teas, coffees, fruit juices, biscuits – and a smile.

During a performance it is absolutely forbidden to use the kitchen as a convenient 'shortcut' from the dressing room to the hall, so in an effort to remind everyone of this rule the Kitchen Krew decided to impose a fine of 50p a time on anyone nipping through during dress



rehearsal. By the time the curtain rose, the fine jar was doing well, mainly topped up by the Directors – who were popping through and whispering “I think that’s £2.50 I owe” or whatever their running total was. Needless to say, when it came to the opening performance, everyone had got the message, so it was decided not to collect the fines. We’ll have to see if the lesson needs to be repeated when WiTS is able to get together again and delight everyone with their shows. **Jane Mulholland**

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities is a small charity set up to help people in our village who need a bit of extra financial help. We only have a small income each year, but we are really happy to support people where we can. I am pleased to say we have been able to support some people in our village who have suddenly found their income has dropped recently. If you would appreciate some financial assistance please contact the chair of trustees, Rev Simon Talbot, The Rectory, Rectory Close or e: simon@thetalbots.org.uk or Tel: 562570

Need some shopping, a prescription or just
need to chat! call Willand 01884 35455

LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS FROM A WITS MEMBER

Scripts down and postponed shows. Cancelled committee meetings and postponed AGM. Postponed play & panto readings. WhatsApp group set up to try and keep everyone in touch. Thoughts about committee video conferencing but not everyone is tech savvy. Passing hellos and staying in touch text messages. Family quiz nights and Facetime chats. Groundhog-day keeps repeating. Sunshine helps. Garden flourishes. Missing Human contact. Time to ease up on Lockdown? Fear of virus. Sensible distancing. Watching & waiting.

Rambling thoughts of everyday life as it is now. There is light at the end of the tunnel and soon a new normality will begin. Rehearsals will start again, committee meetings will start planning again and the main ambition is that everyone is still with us to continue growing the fun, laughter and memories that have coloured our lives at Willand Theatrical Society (WiTS).

JEANETTE SIMMONS

It was the 1st. Of the month. So I decided to text two of my Grandchildren (brothers) asking them to come out to the front garden at 10.30. I would be coming to drop something off but, don't tell Mum! I was going to play an April fool joke on them. When they texted to see where I was it back fired because it was the 1st. Of May not April!

MOLE TRAP

My husband has a pair of faux moleskin trousers.

Him: "Can you mend the zip in these trousers?"

Me: "No. Haven't got a zip and the fabric is too thick for my machine".

Him: "You could use poppers"

Me: "No..."

Him: "Or buttons"

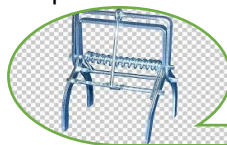
Me: "It might look like it, but I'm not a haberdashery shop".

Him: Looked sadly at faux moleskin trousers.

Me: "A mole trap?"

He's left me alone now.

OUCH.



Christine Jones

More From WiTS

First of all, an explanation. My husband became bored when he retired so likes to do the supermarket run.

On looking in a kitchen drawer I discovered a clutch of rolls of cooking foil...six, actually....so took a photo and sent it to my daughter asking if she thought dad had enough foil. Her reply was, "That's a lot of foil. What's he planning to do...talk to his home planet?" **CHRISTINE JONES.**

A TALL STORY by Alison Harris

This photo was taken after WiTS Saturday night's performance of "The Little Mermaid" My friend VJ had persuaded her partner Andrew to come and see the panto on the Friday Night, he was a bit reluctant as he said it was not his thing. Not only that but being 6'7" tall felt a bit self-conscious, especially as he only knew two people in the show. But against his better judgment he bravely took his seat safely several rows back.

Not only did he thoroughly enjoy it, he enjoyed it so much he asked if there were any tickets available for the following evening. Luckily there were so they had a repeat performance on the Saturday. This is a first for WiTS to have members of the audience come to see any given show twice. Next year we hope they will try to break their own record and come to see all three performances.



After the curtain closes many of us go to mingle with the audience, looking around it occurred to me that there were several taller than average people present. So they were all bought together for photographs and they all took comfort from the fact that their common height meant they could have a conversation without leaning down and getting a crick in their necks. It's given me food for thought, all we need are two more and it could well be "Snow White and the Seven Giants" next year. Our new tall team from left to right are: **Pixie Alexander 6'4"** **Gary Marshall 6'5"** **Tania Edworthy 6'2"** **James Jones 6'4½"**. & **Andrew Cocker 6'7"**

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL REVISED CHARGES 2020

Class A: Willand organisations and Willand Residents for private functions.

Class B: All other Categories except Commercial.

Class C: Commercial organisations.

	Hall	Club	Committee	Annexe
Class A	£10.20	£5.40	£4.85	£6.45
Class B	£16.10	£8.10	£7.50	£9.70
Class C	£32.15	£16.10	£15.10	£18.75

Please visit our website, www.willandvillagehall.org.uk to check the calendar
EMAIL bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk.

Lockdown by Sam Fincher

Getting bored, looking for something to do,
A brainwave struck me right out of the blue.
It's been a long time since I baked any bread,
The missus just looked, eyes rolled in her head.
I found the flour and the rest of the gear,
And found the yeast out of date by a year.
My bread-making skills have always been strong,
My confidence soared what could go wrong
I carefully measured the ingredients out,
My loaf would be great there was never a doubt
The bread was now ready cooling there on a plate,
The missus just looked, said it's more like a cake.

The lawn needs attention I'll give it a go.
In the shed I've a packet of seed 'n' grow.
So I moistened the grass and spread it out neat
I'll soon have the best looking lawn in the street
I'd checked on the date, no mistake like the yeast
Then fifty birds landed and started to feast
I banged on the window to chase them away
But twenty more landed and joined in the fray
At last I finally shooed them away, until,
Fifty more landed and they ate their fill.
You had to laugh though, I was really amused
The bird table stood there completely unused.

I did the shopping in my gloves and a mask.
It so makes hard work of this simple task.
The trolley handle first gets a good spray
To make it much safer for my use today.
I noticed then my gloves were all slick,
The cans on the shelf I struggled to pick.
A tin of baked beans just slipped to the floor
I grabbed it again but it shot out once more.
By now I'm beginning to lose all hope
Like trying to pick up a wet bar of soap.
A nurse bent down to clear up my mess,
You can always rely on our NHS.

After weeks in lockdown please don't despair,
Forbearance and patience will get us all there.
Until there's a vaccine we're all stuck with this,
We all need to stay in to cut down the risk.
I know when it's sunny it's so hard to do,
But I'd hate this virus to get into you.
So many have died it's such a great shame
I don't want a gravestone reflecting your name.
Social distancing can help save your health
The onus of this is down to yourself.
So when we can meet after all this time
It'll be so nice to see that everyone's fine. **Sam Fincher**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

It may have been intentional that the statements made to help us get through the pandemic changed from blasé "Wash your Hands" to a scary "Stay at home". Were they intended to make us fearful, scared of the invisible illness, worried about going too near to other people? However it didn't happen in quite that way. Maybe it is the area in which we live or the people with whom we mix or just the weather. The reaction was more positive than fearful.

Straight away there was the organisation of support, connecting across the village. We all found new ways to keep in touch, whether it was a wave at the window or meeting by Zoom. Who knew about Zoom before this? Now there are lots of ways of keeping in touch. Grandparents are reading bedtime stories to children who are sometimes thousands of miles away. Neighbours are checking in with each other asking if shopping is needed. We remember to be grateful to the health workers, shop staff and everyone who keeps our world working.

Even churches have rediscovered something that we really always knew. We have always met to worship, met in a certain place, a place that holds significance for us. Now we watch other churches worship online or join a conference call with the vicar and a hundred other people, we meet up online or make phone calls again. There is something missing when we cannot be together for worship, however there is something gained in the rediscovery of relationship. For churches the realisation that relationship is not with a building but with God and each other.

We have all rediscovered that relationship and taking time is most important. Whilst we all long to get back to physically meeting together and I can't wait for Coffee shops and cafes to reopen, let's hope we can hold on to all that we have gained in a time that could have been simply of loss and emptiness.

Rev Paul Booth Methodist Minister

IN THE GARDEN by CLARE MATANLE

Rough towel, line-dried and wrapped around,
Heavenly scent of blossom found.
Not fake-breeze of tumble drying
Thoughts turn to spring from winter's dying.

A tete-a-tete with narcissi,
On bended knee we're eye to eye.
There's laughter in their faces, seen
Across the distance in-between.

Forget-me-nots reminisce the leaving,
White daggers pierce their gold hearts, grieving.
Thoughts seeded into cold, dark earth,
Sky morphs into flowers with spring's new birth.

Lungwort, three-in-one of hue,
Flowers of pink, soft mauve and blue.
Gift to early insects, flying,
An ancient breath-balm for the dying.

And I'll protect the fragile flowers,
Shine a torch through the midnight hours,
Banishing darkness and robber slugs
That slime in the night, invasion thugs.

Frail petals ripped, the heart is torn,
They do their deed till light of morn.
So I'll keep watch, now, do not fear,
The light has come, no dark lurks here.

But I have allies in the fight,
Who rally round me in my plight.
In prickly armour, a tenacious snout
Puts the enemy to rout.

The Cherry tree, a white bouquet,
A celebration of new day.
Each blossom bursting forth with life,
Survivor of the winter's strife.

A way marker in flower and frond
Stands sentinel between here and beyond.
And then confetti starts to fall,
Gathering at the foot of the wall.

Planting seeds where petals fell
So poppies may grow there as well,
I pray for souls, on their release,
To find their place of rest and peace.

Remembering those who have given their life,
Brother, sister, husband, wife,
Fighting the war without thought of the cost,
Driven by love to stop lives being lost.
Red cross on white, the image of love
In war and peace, brings hope from above.
White bandages of care, wrapped 'round
Each beating heart, so love is found.

Knowing well, "This too shall pass",
But we may lie beneath the grass,
The Nightingales still sing, Oh! Hark!
And hold the lamps to banish the dark.

In the garden amongst the flowers,
Days stretch out in minutes and hours,
But who can know, no one can say
When the moment will come to pass away.

Life and death are here to see
Within the garden surrounding me.
And, like the heart-shaped petal small,
One day I'll drift beyond the wall.

White petal hearts released from trees,
Lifted heavenward on the breeze,
Drifting gently out of sight,
They're carried on their final flight
So I will celebrate each day,
Each moment given, with a huge bouquet
Of thankfulness for life, for love,
Heaven scent on the breeze from above.

Joining with the springtime chorus,
Giving thanks for the day before us,
Singing with joy in harmony,
With the birds in the Cherry tree.

CLARE MATANLE

RAY RADFORD. DEAR RESIDENTS

How things have changed. We have never seen anything like the COVID-19, it has brought disruption and everything almost a stop. I have not been to any Parish Council or even Devon County meetings since early March. Because of the lockdown all meetings have been cancelled or postponed. We are now doing meetings by video link and we are now getting the hang of it. Although I must say, I have had more emails to deal with now, than I ever did before the pandemic, keep them coming.

County from time to time keep us updated with information, but that can easily get out of date, by the time you get this report, for sure things could well have altered. Below I have outlined some of what has or will be happening.

Intelligence such as the traffic flows, as well as traffic speed (which sadly is not reducing) is being shared with the police daily to assist them wherever possible. With the pressures on other parts of the organisation, some of the staff have volunteered to assist elsewhere, which the service is supporting, maintaining enough staff to keep the highway operating safely, as well as preparing for supporting the Devon economy, when the time is right. You may have seen the news about the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers helping with the food distribution, which Skanska had also assisted with.

Applications can now be made for support from the Bounce Back Loans scheme which has been set up to enable small and medium-sized businesses affected by coronavirus to access loans of up to £50,000.

UK-based businesses negatively affected by coronavirus can borrow between £2,000 and £50,000. The government guarantees 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months. Loan terms will be up to 6 years. No repayments will be due during the first 12 months. The government will work with lenders to agree a low rate of interest for the remaining period of the loan.

Full details of the scheme, including details of the accredited lenders who are administering it, can be found on the website of the **British Business Bank**.

At Devon County Council we are beginning to think ahead about what the 'new normal' might look like for us. We have shown over the past weeks how adaptable we are and that we can continue to deliver vital services and protect the most vulnerable in our communities in extraordinary circumstances.

We will of course continue to review all our working arrangements for Members and staff as Government guidance emerges but for now, please keep going; please keep working from home if you can; and most of all, please keep safe.

I have been in contact with Phil Morgan to get an update. Phil is out and about doing his normal work as is Skanska. He is monitoring all the roads in his/our patch under what is called `Doing what matters`, this is a process which evaluates road conditions, not necessary just potholes. Any potholes that has been reported will be repaired according to the status of the road, he says Skanska is using their imagination more now and not waiting for a pothole to reach the required measurements before giving it some attention.

What he is doing with all the roads, he and his counterparts in other parts of the County, have to classify the condition of the road, 1 to 5, 1 being OK and 5 not drivable. The roads that he has assessed in our area are falling in the 1 to 2 area, i.e., not too bad, that is not to say some are needing more attention than others, we haven't got any that are between 3 to 5, If of course you feel there are some which you feel does fall 3 or over, please let me/us know. Of course you and I do not know what a road with a 2, looks like.

There is some hold up with roads that require hot tar, because the hot tar plant is in lockdown. Quarries are still working with the isolation and 2 metre rule, which is slowing down production of stone/sand. Any maintenance that is being done is under the isolation separation order, keeping at least 2 metres apart. Footpaths and tree inspections/work are able to carry on, any work that needs to be done, can be, providing they work within the 2 metre rule.

With the very dry April this has helped pothole filling and other road maintenance as well as traffic flows which are considered to be the level they were back in the fifties and sixties, of course this won't last when the restrictions are lifted.

If you need any help, or not sure where to go for it, just contact me via the phone or email, if I can be of any help or point you the right direction, I will. But most of all, stay safe, you know where I am.

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH

At the time of writing our church buildings are still closed, but we are still alive and active as a church family! I know many people have been accessing our services each week, they are available on paper from our website **www.stmarys.willand.org** in the news section. We also meet via zoom at 11am each Sunday (email me for a login code if you'd like to join). Zoom is accessible on computer, tablet or on a normal landline phone.

I'm delighted that so many people have looked at our short films on Facebook each week - if you would like to see these they are available still (you don't need a Facebook account to access, just type **facebook stmaryswilland** into a search engine).

We will obviously need to follow advice and take a step by step approach to starting our groups and services again and will publish information as widely as we can on the church notice boards and online.

If you would like to find out more about church life, the Christian faith or just to have a chat please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Rev Simon Talbot Tel: 562570 email: simon@thetalbots.org.uk

COUNCIL PLEDGES TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO HELP PEOPLE THROUGH THE CRISIS

Devon County Council Leader John Hart today pledged the authority will do whatever it can to support residents and communities through the Coronavirus outbreak.

This is an unprecedented situation and many residents will be deeply worried about themselves, their families and how they are going to cope over the coming weeks, he said.

I want to assure everyone that the whole council is working flat out alongside our partners in the NHS, districts and others to make sure we put everything we can in place to help people through this.

We will do everything it takes to keep our care system fully functioning and ease the immense pressure our hospitals are facing.

We are working with schools, nurseries and colleges to provide the care and support our key workers need to continue in their vital roles. We will redeploy our own staff and resources as necessary to help keep essential services up and running.

And we will work with the Local Enterprise Partnership to support and advise local businesses via the Growth Hub as best we can.

Our people and communities are already demonstrating the strong community spirit which has helped us through previous crises.

All across the County, town and parish councils and community groups are setting up volunteer schemes to keep an eye on their more vulnerable neighbours.

I know many of us who remain healthy and mobile are already offering our support and I urge more people to do the same.

I am happy to pledge that Devon County Council will work alongside districts, towns and parishes, the voluntary sector and local businesses to help build on and support this emerging community response to help those people who are vulnerable, housebound or self-isolating.

Devon has a strong community spirit and by pulling together and supporting one another we will overcome this crisis - however long it takes. **Other actions include:**

- A suspension of non-urgent council meetings (pending a relaxation of government rules on democratic processes)
- A move to digital invoicing for the council's suppliers to ensure quick payment and help cash flow for local businesses.
- The physical closure of library buildings to the public and suspension of mobile library services and events. Loan periods are being relaxed and access to digital books is being extended.
- A relaxation of rules relating to bus passes to enable older people to access shops before 9.30 and enable people to take advantage of dedicated shopping times for older people being offered by some supermarkets.

Details of other specific actions and changes to services will be announced over the coming days and weeks.

Mike Bomford Devon County Council

COME AND JOIN WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

A parish council is the level government closest to the community, with the district authority (Mid Devon) above it in the hierarchy. As it is the authority closest to the people, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason, they are a vital part of any community. Willand Parish Council now has 10 Councillors and space for 1 more.

The Parish Council hold a Full Council meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 7.00pm, normally in the village hall annexe. However for the foreseeable future these meetings will be held on line via the Zoom system. The agendas for the meetings are published on the Parish Council website which gives details of how to join a meeting. Members of the public are invited to all meetings and there is an item for public questions on the agenda items.

Residents can bring to the attention of the parish council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority.

If you are over 18, live in Willand and would like to be more involved with your community please consider joining the Parish Council. If you want to try before you 'buy' come along to one of the Full Council meetings held at 7.00pm on the second Thursday of the month, without even having to leave your home just join through Zoom!.

Contact **Kate Taylor, Clerk to the Parish Council** for further information Details in the magazine or on the website.

Protect Willand Pharmacy get your prescription delivered for free!

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - 2020 VISION

As you know all residents of Willand were asked earlier this year to complete a questionnaire. Thanks to all of you who did so. The questions we asked were a start in creating a plan for future development of life in our village. They will build on previous work over the last 23 years.

60% of villagers contributed to the 1998 Plan. This led to Willand Community Composting, Millennium celebrations, and our own Pharmacy. Less successful were hopes to restrict heavy vehicle movements in the village.

Over half the village responded to a comprehensive survey in 2005. Their request for visual improvements and more litter control in the village have been taken on board. Various social activities have been started. Effort went into a possible Multi Use Games Area, but this did not prove possible. We do not need a survey to know that some concerns are as great today as they were then. Speed of traffic and on-road parking issues were a concern. Popular suggestions were speed warning signs and lower speed limits. There was concern about lack of cycle paths to Cullompton and to Uffculme – and about dog mess! There was general appreciation of Willand as a place to live.

And now we have started again. Your responses so far are that people are still happy that they live in Willand. The Village Hall, the School, the Church, this magazine, the Chip Shop, Post Office, Pharmacy, shops, accessibility green spaces and playgrounds and much else are valued. There are the traffic issues, the 'Willand Whiff' and other things that people want addressed. At the heart of what you have said is there should be 'more of a community hub'. This might mean community activities, but also more of a centre to the village.

We have been slowed down by the fact that so much of what affects our future lies outside the official parish boundary, and now of course by Coronavirus. The Parish Council have been trying to address the boundary issue for a long time, but with no support from the District Council. Thank you to those who replied to the recent Boundary Commission draft proposals. Our intention is to work towards realistic proposals, based on a shared and achievable vision for the future of our village. **Stephen Little**

EXCELSIOR

As with many activities, Excelsior Athletic Development Club was forced to close due to the Government guidelines. The safety and well-being of our members and our coaches and volunteers is the most important thing. Who could have thought this would happen at the beginning of March. However, as the government have suggested, exercise is important for the body and for the

mind, and we are encouraging our members to continue to be active as best they can.

In conjunction with Willand Primary School, Head Coach James Marshall is producing a series of PE. Video's that feature local children in the village. They can be found on YouTube under 'Willand P.E.' @ <http://ow.ly/XOAE50z34qR>

There are also a series of exercises and movement education videos produced by James' colleague Andy Stone on this playlist. Andy is a PE teacher in the USA and a wrestling coach. These videos can be used by parents too and if you follow them, you will learn lots of new skills, have fun and be healthier. Try them out, they are all free to use for the local population.

Please stay safe, and we hope to open the club in June for Athletics and Weight Lifting providing it is safe to do so. **James Marshall**

WILLAND VOLUNTEER GROUP

It seems a long time ago when we first discussed how volunteers could help those self-isolating in Willand. The first email was on the 7th March. Since then, posters have appeared, about 2500 leaflets have been distributed in Willand and Halberton and we now have a telephone helpline: 01884 35455.

So many people in Willand are now helping their neighbours on a regular basis. Over 20 residents asked to go on our list of volunteers; many of these our local councillors. Fortunately, people must be receiving sufficient help and not needing to contact our helpline. The helpline receives 0, 1 or 2 calls each day. Whenever we have a resident requiring help, the volunteers respond immediately. It is possible that there are residents who do need some help. In conversation, residents say that they have prescriptions, shopping and dog-walking sorted whether by family, friends, carers or neighbours. A big thank you to everyone who volunteers and helps others.

There are so many groups and organisations who are doing good work in the village all year round. The Rev' Simon Talbot at St Mary's Church, The Rev' Paul Booth at the Methodist Church and Canon Kristian Paver at the Catholic Church in Cullompton are all providing support to residents. Age UK are very busy providing support and friendship. The ever popular Facebook sites 'What's on Willand' and 'Willand Matters' reach over half the residents.

The local clubs and societies all have their own networks of members and friends. Dog walks are taking a much longer time to complete as the owners shout greetings across the road. The primary school and pre-school provide a strong link for our younger residents. Many people say that Willand is a friendly village. This could explain the appearance of calm. A big thank you to all those local groups and organisations in Willand.

We are lucky to have such a range of helpful local shops and businesses who are willing to go above and beyond to deliver food and essential supplies to Willand residents. We now appreciate our Willand Pharmacy with its own delivery service vulnerable residents do not need to collect their prescriptions. A big thank you to all those local businesses.

For those who need extra help, the CHAT Foodbank in Tiverton is providing food parcels and essential supplies. Looking ahead, the crisis has brought people together and shown how friendly, helpful and supportive the people of Willand are.

Please could everyone phone 3 friends in the village every week If you already phone 3 friends then maybe 1 more? Please ask if they know about the Willand Helpline 35455 and ask them to each phone 3 more friends. This way we should have everyone in the village chatting and less people feeling isolated.

For details of all the help on offer in Willand, telephone the helpline 01884 35455 or look on-line: **Chris Dowling**. <https://www.willand.org.uk>

SAMPFORD PEVERELL HISTORIC VEHICLE GATHERING

It is with a very heavy heart that I have to announce the cancellation of this year's event.



I had been waiting until the last minute and for government advice but the lockdown hasn't eased enough for a social gathering such as this which is known for its small family friendly environment.

Please keep safe and well and hope to see all of you next year!

Lindy Astbury Secretary
Sampford Peverell Historic Vehicles



CORONAVIRUS

Fewer cars on the roads
No aeroplanes in the sky
No sound of high speed
trains
Carrying commuters,
whizzing by

People from all walks of life
Exercise in the streets
They wave and smile and
sometimes chat
If our paths do meet

Take the time, to adjust
To being home with your
children,
Your husband, or wife
Use this time forced upon us
To enjoy a much slower
pace of life

Holidays cancelled,
restaurants shut
High street stores too
We need to make the best of
a bad situation
And try not to feel so blue

Try to practice mindfulness
Notice things – there's so
much to hear and see
Wildlife, flowers and nature
And birds singing in the trees

Connect with family and
contact friends
Value those you hold dear
As we go about our new
daily lives
With worry and with fear

We all take life for granted
Sadly, thousands have lost
their fight
So really appreciate all you
have
And love with all your might

When this nightmare is over
Let's leave greed and
selfishness behind
We need the world to be a
better place
So continue to be kind

Thousands of heroes
selflessly risk their lives
Doctors and nurses – we
have the best
So thank you from the
bottom of my heart
To our amazing NHS

Nicky Hacker

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

Firstly, the History Group would like to echo the sentiments expressed in our article for May's online Parish Magazine, and wish everyone well during this continuing covid-19 era. It was pleasing to note that, in the absence of formal events and ceremonies, many in Willand marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day. It was not quite the bonfires and "dancing in the flickering, lurid light," that was reported from Willand in May 1945, but flags were displayed and front garden '1940s-style teas' were enjoyed, suitably communal, but at the proper distance. And with no end to the coronavirus threat coming soon, but now with lockdown measures gradually easing, James Marshall – of Excelsior – reminded us of some fitting words from one of Winston Churchill's 1942 speeches, which came after the British victory at El Alamein in North Africa, a battle at which both of James' grandfathers were present. Churchill concluded: "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Did the Vikings ever visit Willand?

Under April's lockdown restrictions many people took to exploring the parish on their daily exercise, and consequently we have received more queries about Willand's history than usual. One related to the Victorian railway bridge called 'Daneshill Overbridge', located on Dean Hill Road: where does the name 'Daneshill' come from, and was there was any connection to the Vikings?

The Vikings, of course, were the Scandinavian farmers, traders, raiders, invaders and settlers who interacted, often violently, with the British Isles from the eighth to eleventh centuries, and who were known collectively in contemporary English literature as 'the Danes'. However, 'Daneshill' is a corruption of 'Dean Hill', also the name of the nearby farmstead. Certainly documents from the nineteenth century show Dean Hill spelt in various ways, including Denhill, Dene Hill, Dane Hill or Daneshill. We believe it was in the landmark study, *The Place-Names of Devon* (1931-32) – not verified due to covid-19 restrictions – that 'Dean Hill' is said to derive from the Old English word *denu* meaning 'valley', so that it means 'hill overlooking a valley'. Old English, the precursor of Modern English, was introduced to Britain during the fifth century by 'Anglo-Saxon' settlers from northern German, and adopted by the indigenous British who had previously spoken a Celtic language called Brittonic. But Dean Hill would have acquired its Old English name at some point after the seventh century, when the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex expanded to occupy what is now Devon. Like most pre-modern societies, the Anglo-Saxons had an expansive vocabulary relating to the landscape, and the kind of valley implied by *denu* was apparently a 'main' valley that could be 'long or sinuous' and with a 'gentle gradient', not too dissimilar to the Spratford Stream valley that Dean Hill overlooks, so the name seems to fit the place.

So where does the possible Viking link come from? It seems that Mr Japes, in his 1969 *History of Willand*, made the first tentative suggestion that: "It is just possible that Dean Hill may recall the Danish raiders who plundered the south-west." Could he be on to something? Could the Vikings have ever visited Willand? Referring back the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, the first recorded Viking raid on Devon was defeated at 'Wicganbeorg' (probably somewhere in Torbay) in 851. Their next major incursion came in 876 when an army of 'Danes' made an agreement with King Alfred of Wessex to leave Wessex, but they simply 'evaded' Alfred's English forces and fled from Dorset to Exeter, where they spent the winter, before being moved on by Alfred after further negotiations. Later in King Alfred's wars against this invading Viking army, a Viking force was also famously defeated by Odda and the men of Devonshire in 878 at a location thought to be at Countisbury on the North Devon coast (when Ubbe, a son of the legendary, if somewhat mythical, Viking, Ragnar Lothbrok, was said to have been killed). There were further attacks in the 890s and then apparently a century of peace, until the end of the tenth century when there was an increase in the harrying of the Westcountry coast by Vikings. In 988, for example, "Goda, the Devonshire thane, was slain and many with him".

In 997 a more formidable force arrived, and Tavistock and Lydford were destroyed. This was followed in 1001 by a Viking fleet that sailed up the River Teign and sacked Kingsteignton.

What happened next is evocatively described in two versions of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*: (1) "[The Danes] went from thence [the Teign] to the mouth of the River Exe, and in one continuous drive penetrated inland as far as Pinhoe, where they were opposed ... with such levies as could be mobilised; but they were put to flight and many of them slain, and the Danes had possession of the place of slaughter. Next morning they burnt down the manors of Pinhoe and Broadclyst, and many other goodly manors of which we do not know the names." (2) "[The Danes] came to the mouth of the Exe and so up to the fortress: they made a determined attack upon it, but were met by a solid and courageous resistance. They then overran the countryside, and followed their usual tactics, slaying and burning. Then vast levies of the men of Devon and Somerset were mustered, and they joined battle at Pinhoe; but as soon as they met, the English levies gave ground and the enemy inflicted great slaughter on them, and then went riding over the countryside; and each inroad was worse than the last, and they brought much plunder with them to their ships ..." Even though Exeter itself had held out, the Danish army returned in 1003, and after an act of betrayal the city's defences were breached and the Danes "utterly laid waste to the borough."

This all seems to demonstrate a significant Viking impact on Devon at the turn of the first millennium, and the incursions of 1001 seem particularly interesting.

Did Willand men join the army mustered from Devon and Somerset, and did they fight in the shield wall that yielded to the Danes at Pinhoe?

Could Viking raiding parties have then penetrated as far inland as Willand, where they burned homes and robbed supplies? Could they even have set up a temporary camp at a strategic location in the area, and stayed there long enough for locals to start calling it Danes Hill? Without further evidence, to even start answering these questions might be considered a flight of fancy. Tantalisingly, two place-names do exist that renowned Devon historian WG Hoskins associated with this period – Danes Wood, near Killerton; and even further inland, Danes Mill at Plymtree. However, in the case of Dean Hill / Daneshill we should stick to the conclusion made by eminent place-name specialists, that Dean Hill was in fact the ‘hill overlooking the valley’.

If there are any early-medievalists, place-name experts, Old English speakers, or even any Vikings out there (with long memories), who can add to this, please feel free to get in touch to comment or correct! **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING (WCCS). ALAS THE SITE IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

This due to the wretched COVID-19

When we do re-open, for the safety and well-being of our volunteers we will be observing social distancing and we ask that you respect that decision.

We will be withdrawing all tools so please bring your own forks etc.

However, there are suggested ways to deal with your garden waste as Follows:

1. Do home composting.
2. Use the Mid Devon District Council garden waste collection scheme – this a fortnightly that is annual chargeable service. Contact 01884 255255.
3. Devon County Council – Ashley Recycle Centre – Tiverton, EX 16 5PD Contact 0345 155 1010 for information as to their opening times and any update of what they accept.

Well until this pandemic is over and/or the government so advise, we will stay closed for all our sakes. When we reopen, we will display notices at the site and on social media.

Final comment – to anyone who passes the site and sees someone please do not assume the site is open. There is a need for site activity such as maintenance and composting of material currently on site. **Tony Mander.**

CUT-OFF DATE FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 15THJULY 2020