

**WILLAND MAGAZINE**  
**August & September**  
**2020**



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS  
Delivered Free to Every Home

We are here in August already where has the year gone! I know for some the last four months have been the longest ever so I hope the easing of lockdown helps. We hope you enjoy this issue and have a safe and happy summer.

### **WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT**

Another two months have nearly gone by since I wrote my last briefing. Covid-19 is still with us but it is pleasing to note that our community is still holding together with very few cases. We need to continue to be vigilant and follow the advice with the relaxing of restrictions. We now have to remember we have visitors coming to the area and some may be coming from areas where the infection rate is still giving cause for concern. Enough about Covid- 19 as the media are full of it BUT please stay safe. You may not suffer but a thoughtless act could be fatal to someone else.

It has been very pleasing to see a number of community initiatives starting and flourishing outside of the Parish Council. Some are proving to be very popular. The recent Art and Craft show around the village was interesting and encouraging. Not being an artist myself I was pleased to be able to support it with a pair of **Butchr** vouchers as prizes. Thank you to all the others who supported with prizes and judging. Things to take us into the future are good to see with work continuing to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and initiatives like Community Speed watch being resurrected with volunteers. Our planters around the village are full of colour thanks to our volunteers under the guidance of John Holmes. A lot of watering has been needed earlier on. Thanks again to The Old Well Garden Centre for their continued support with a generous discount on the plants.

Play Areas are reopening and moves are afoot to have some of the equipment in the Jubilee Field fenced area replaced together with the replacement of the safety surface. The order is placed so it will be happening soon. Some will notice that a new picnic bench has appeared in the Orchard Way Area courtesy of our County Councillor Ray Radford and one of his Community budgets. The Parish Council cannot wet nurse everyone using the play areas. It just needs some parental responsibility and common sense to stay safe. Distance and handwashing being the order of the day.

We are still getting complaints of bad smells in the area which a lot of people are putting at the door of 2 Sisters but evidence is showing that some of it is attributed to the AD Plant. Please keep reporting to the Environment Agency and they will investigate. A recent run on Facebook showed a real concern and problem – guess what – not one report to the Environment Agency. Please folks you must report these incidents if they are a problem. It also looks as if we may have to run some classes in smell recognition – pig slurry has a life of its own

and you can taste it. Digestate from the AD plant is a different smell but very unpleasant if you get a dose of it and it gets into the back of your throat. Life is fun in the countryside.

We are at that time of year when hedges and shrubs are growing as if there is no tomorrow. Please do your bit and keep the pavements and footpaths clear from foliage growing from your property. Devon County Council have scheduled in work to cut back the grass and hedge bottoms on the footpath going out to the garage which will result in opening up the full width of the tarmac area. DCC are also looking at repairing/replacing the fencing on the junction of Jaycroft/Orchard Way/Willand Moor Road. The safety barrier in Silver Street near to the bus shelter at the end of Cherry Close has taken a bash and is also in for repair. Parish Council has also met with DCC Highways to prioritise our roads for repair. We are bidding against other areas but we did send in an awesome duo with Jason and Kate to argue our case. Again please keep reporting the defects as it adds to the pressure to try and get things done.

We are waiting for the contractor to put up the fencing to extend the Cemetery but they are having trouble getting the bits due to the lockdown. It will happen and then the hedging will have to be planted and grow before it can be used. Some have expressed concern as to the maintenance of the cemetery as it is not quite as Brian used to look after it. Our current contactor has been hospitalised and he was helped out by a friend who covered for him. A bit of understanding and patience would be appreciated please.

School holidays will be coming officially for all soon but we must not forget Anne Hawkins and her team who have kept the Primary School going for some and put on a changing and colourful display of art on the fence along Silver Street. Thank you all.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer break. Please all keep safe, act sensibly, and respect and understand the concerns and worries of others. We all want to see Christmas safe and sound if possible. **Barry Warren**

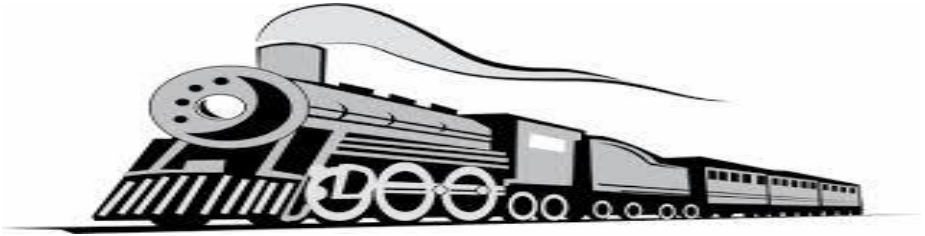
### **CAMEO**

We have been meeting two or three at a time in each other's gardens for a cup of socially distanced tea, just nice to see a friendly face. The walking group have had a couple of walks around Uffculme.

We are having a Cameo meeting at the Village Hall on the first Thursday in September, at 7.30pm, no speaker and bring your own drink.

We are all really looking forward to things getting back to the New Normal, whenever that will be who knows, when we can enjoy our Cameo Group activities and meet up with our friends. Take care all of you,

**Betty Penberthy.**



## **CULM VALLEY MODEL RAILWAY SHOW CANCELLED**

I have to inform you that sadly the club have decided to cancel the Model Railway Show that was to be held in Willand on **SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER at WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**. With our show, social distancing would be impossible for exhibitors & visitors alike.

It would have been our 12th show but we are hoping to be back to “normal” by next year, so put the date **18<sup>th</sup> of September 2021** in your diary, usual venue at Willand Village Hall (10-4). It is pleasing that all the exhibitors for this years show have stated their wish to attend next year.

Due to lockdown everyone seems to have been improving their layouts and have exceeded the usual high standards that we normally see, so I guess that could be construed as something positive coming from this terrible time.

Our large layout of Tiverton Junction, circa 1962, at The Old Well Garden Centre is currently closed, although the Garden Centre itself is open. Hopefully things may have improved towards the end of the year and if we are able to recommence operations it will be announced on our website.

For further information about the show or the club visit our webpage [www.cvmrc.co.uk](http://www.cvmrc.co.uk) or phone Chris Shields (Exhibition Manager) on 07785 788153 or Peter Fosberry on 01884 821811. You can contact us by email at [cvmrc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cvmrc@hotmail.co.uk)

## **DEAR EDITOR,**

Firstly, I congratulate you on producing such an interesting and informative magazine. Secondly, I would like to add a few comments on the general dog control and fouling issues in our area. My family have lived in Willand for twenty years and our house is next to the Jaycroft and, on the other side, to a link path to the Jaycroft. Over the 20 years, I have seen it all with respect to dog owners and their animals. It has got worse.

Many years ago it was a regular occurrence to find plastic bags of dog poo in our garden which had been thrown over our garden fence. Thankfully that has stopped but other anti-social behaviour has continued. Many dogs coming by our house are not on leads and either run on ahead or trail far behind their owners who do not seem to care what their dogs are doing. The dogs run across gardens pee where they like and chase cats.

Even worse is the occasional poo on lawns which I have to remove. What is also interesting is the number of dog walkers who set out in the morning to pass the house and who are carrying supposed dog poo in bags - these same people pass the house on the way back still holding the same poo bag having just passed a collection bin in the Jaycroft. I will finish with the Jaycroft which has become an irresponsible dog owner's favourite walkway.

The dog poo problem is a major problem and, even with collection bins and packs of collection bags along the route, it seems more convenient for many to leave their dog poo and walk on by. Recently a team of tree surgeons felled a diseased tree in the Jaycroft near to my property and when I spoke to them they commented that they had never seen so many people let their dog's poo and do nothing about it - just walk on and leave it on the ground. I welcome the recent survey on dog related problems and hope that some good will come from it. I particularly like the suggestion of a fine for not carrying a poo collection bag and also feel that fines issued to irresponsible owners should be much higher. Dog wardens must be thin on the ground but I wonder do they issue any fines and, if so, should they name and shame.

Would CCTV be permitted? The suggestion that you should photograph and report dog poo miscreants is probably going to end in tears with your camera compromised, bitten by the dog and a possible assault!!! Obviously not all dog owners are irresponsible and the owners who control their dogs must be just as annoyed with the others who give dog owners a bad name. These are not easy issues to resolve and for the past twenty years Willand Magazine articles have debated it. Some dog owners just don't care and, as I have found, are quite capable of giving you verbal abuse if you dare to speak to them.

**Name and address supplied**

### **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING COLDHARBOUR MILL.**

We want to say a huge thank you to the community for your support in these difficult times. Many of you have been donating to our emergency appeal or becoming a member to help sustain and support the preservation of Coldharbour Mill Museum which holds nationally important textiles and machinery which chronicle the industrial revolution and document its impact on this area. English Heritage actually wrote a Historic Buildings Report about the Mill, describing the site as "probably one of the best-preserved textile mill complexes in the country. It retains the full range of buildings and power system features which characterised the development of the 19th century textile mill with much of the machinery that was used at the site in the 20th century." We could not be more grateful for how the community have risen in support of our work.

As a charity with no government or council funding, we rely on visitor admission fees as a main source of income, so your support during this time when we are unable to have visitors, makes a huge difference for the staff & volunteers at the Mill.

Coldharbour Mill is currently closed owing to the pandemic, which hit just as we were about to reopen in March. We will open again as guidance allows, but only when we feel fully prepared to allow visitors safely back to the Mill. We are now working through our plans to slowly and safely re-introduce our volunteers back to the Mill, so they can continue with the many projects which were put on hold by the pandemic. This has only been made possible by the community support we have received over this period.

Though we are working hard to win this battle, there is still a long way to go before we will be in a position to re-open our doors to the public please see below ways you can support us if you have not done so already.

**Donate:** We are still welcoming donations to our emergency appeal, to help us continue our work while still in our closure period. Send a cheque or visit [www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/donate](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/donate)

**Become a Member:** Our memberships have been extended so they don't expire until December 2021 – so you will have unlimited FREE entry and be able to take advantage of all the other discounts and benefits for well over a year. To become a member you can write or phone to request a form or you can visit

**Subscribe:** To keep up to date with developments at the Mill, visit our Facebook page: @ColdharbourMill - or sign up for our news emails via this link:

[www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/newsletter) or both **To contact Coldharbour Mill:** email: [info@coldharbourmill.org.uk](mailto:info@coldharbourmill.org.uk)

or visit the Mill website: [www.coldharbourmill.org.uk](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk)

or write to: Coldharbour Mill Museum, Uffculme, Cullompton EX15 3EE



## **WILLAND ART COMPETITION JUNE 2020**

We are very pleased with the great response for the first year of the Willand Art Competition.

Willand School supplied a whole paint-box full of enthusiasm for this competition. A beautiful display of art with the theme of summer is on show on their fence bordering the main road near the pedestrian crossing. The young artists have used different subjects and techniques to create art of high quality.

This high quality from Willand School gave the judges a headache; they could not decide on one winner. We have awarded a group Winner prize to the whole school. A variety of prizes will be drawn by the students.

Adult Winners:

Jaycroft Pixie Houses

Chestnut Drive (cushions)

Harpitt Close (painting)

Young Winners:

Somerlea (sunflowers)

Tanners Mews (3 paintings)

Please visit these roads and see the high quality, fun, inventive art on display in Willand.

Certificates and prizes for Highly Commended works of art have been awarded. A large number of certificates for Commended works of art are being delivered.

Thank you to everyone who entered and to Jenny at Willand Art Club and her team of expert judges who have worked so hard and walked so far.

**Chris Downing.**

## **WILLAND POST OFFICE - Covid-19 Update**

Hello Willand, I hope you're all keeping as well as can be in these difficult times.

As lockdown continues, we continue to monitor our response here to the situation. As a quick reminder both my partner and I are classed as at-risk and have been advised to shield as such.

With that said, unfortunately the bills don't stop coming. The world we now find ourselves in forces us to choose between keeping our families safe and putting food on the table.

I am looking to reopen the post office on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, if we don't find ourselves deep into the second wave of cases by then.

I am going to be honest with all of you, I do not feel safe, the idea of bringing the virus into my home and losing more loved ones terrifies me. But those bills

do keep coming and with the choices that are being made by the powers that be, it looks like living with the threat of Covid-19 could be the new normal for us.

As such from Monday 27th of July, opening hours are going to be 10-2 Monday to Friday. There will be a two customer maximum limit in the store and I ask that you wear a face covering while you are in the post office. Not only are myself and my family vulnerable, but many of our customers are also at-risk and we all have a duty of care to do as much as we can to keep the most vulnerable in our community as safe as we can.

I would like to again, thank all of you for your patience and understanding. I know we offer an essential service to many residents in and around Willand and losing access to your post office has been an inconvenience. I am truly sorry that our being closed will have made an already difficult time that bit more difficult for some of you. Stay safe everyone and be kind to each other. **Simon**



## **MOBILE LIBRARIES RETURN TO THE ROAD**

Kate and Tiverton Mobile Library will be back on the road bringing books to you from **July 13<sup>th</sup> 2020**. To make sure that customers and staff are safe, we will only be offering a new type of contactless service for the time being. It's called **Choose & Collect**.

If you opt for a Choose & Collect delivery library staff will ask you about your reading likes and dislikes and select up to 5 books for you based on your



preferences. The books will be issued to your library card, placed in a bag, and you simply collect them from your regular stop.

We are currently working through our records and calling as many customers as we can to offer this service. If you have not heard from us a week before your timetabled visit and would like a Choose & Collect delivery, please contact Tiverton Library by email [tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or calling **01884 244644** during their normal opening hours. Remember to tell library staff you are a customer of the mobile library and which stop you use when you get in touch.

New customers are also welcome. Please contact Tiverton Library to set up a new mobile library membership, and we will endeavour to deliver to you too. You do need a mobile library card even if you are already a member of a library without wheels. You can find an A-Z of where we visit and our timetable on our webpage [devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries](http://devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries).

Mobile Library Assistant Kate is very glad to be out on the road again serving her customers. She hopes to be able to allow readers safely back on the mobile library to choose for themselves in the not too distant future. In the meantime, please bear with library staff while we get used to this new way of working and follow the instructions when you arrive at your stop.

**Willand Service resumes on the 6<sup>th</sup> August see our information pages for venues and times. Subsequent visits are the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, Oct 29, Nov 26.**

To stay up to date with Mobile Library news follow our Facebook page [facebook.com/devonmobilelibraries](https://facebook.com/devonmobilelibraries). To find out more about services and reopening plans at other libraries visit [devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/coronavirus- updates](http://devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/coronavirus- updates)

## **WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**

We are pleased to say that we are now open for business again, although there are a number of changes you will find at the hall. There are hand sanitisers at each entrance, which we ask ALL our visitors to use. There are new social distance limits to numbers we can accommodate and those making the bookings will have to make sure that all items they use (e.g. chairs, tables) are sanitised when they leave. Our caretaker is not able to sanitise between every booking, although the hall will be cleaned daily. All people using the main hall should use the front entrance and toilets; those using the club, committee or annexe rooms should use the side entrances and the annexe toilets. We are trusting that our users will follow guidelines and keep the hall free from any infection.

It will probably be some months before we are as fully functional as we were pre- COVID19, but we hope that we will see you all back with us as soon as possible.

During the lockdown, we have completed decoration of the annexe, club room and side entrance, thanks to an emergency funding grant from MDDC and £500 from Ray Radford, our local DCC councillor. Thank you to both.

The charges were changed on 1<sup>st</sup> April and the new charges are shown below.

**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
<b>Class A</b>	£10.20	£5.40	£4.85	£6.45
<b>Class B</b>	£16.10	£8.10	£7.50	£9.70
<b>Class C</b>	£32.15	£16.10	£15.10	£18.75

**Each booking must be for a minimum of one hour and can be increased by multiples of 30 minutes.**

**Extra Charges applicable: Licensed Bar or BYOB: £16 per event.** Payable to Village Hall for additional cleaning costs.

Please visit our website, [www.willandvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.willandvillagehall.org.uk), to check the calendar to see when the hall is free. The email for booking is [bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk).

**Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer**

## **WILLAND GARDEN CLUB**

We met on 11<sup>th</sup> March for our first, and what turned out to be the last, of our meetings this year. After much deliberation, we decided to cancel our Flower and Vegetable Show, as we were worried about social distancing of both competitors and visitors. Also, most of our speakers for the rest of the year have said they are unwilling to come to our meetings, so we have agreed that we will not meet again until March 2021. Hopefully, things will be safer by then.

For more details about the Garden Club, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01884 33828 or email me on [cbarwa@mail.com](mailto:cbarwa@mail.com). We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from March to December, excluding June and August. Our membership fee is only £5 a year. This includes all meetings, refreshments and a subsidised annual club meal, so is very good value. Visitors are welcome at £1 per meeting. **Carol Allan Garden Club Secretary**

## WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)



Sadly the world of Theatre like nearly everywhere else is on hold. The Covid-19 epidemic has prevented normal life from continuing as we would like.

Wits are not planning any productions at the moment until September 2021 when we hope to put on “Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders.”

It is so strange not to be getting ready for a Pantomime for February 2021 but we feel there will be too little time to rehearse to make it a great production even if a magic cure is found later this year.

At the moment we are planning to get together in April 2021 with our AGM being held in May 2021 situation permitting. WiTS AGM is open to all comers and previous years have seen many new members who have gone on to star in our shows.

So please watch this space should anything change. We Hope everyone is safe and our thoughts go out to anyone caught up in this horrible pandemic.

I'll leave you with this:

***It's always rather scary, when standing on the stage  
It can scare old troupers, and actors of any age  
When all the eyes are on you, just like the fatted calf  
Nerves just fade away, when the audience starts to laugh  
Sam Fincher***

## WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

In response to our article about Dean Hill, the History Group has received welcome correspondence from Geraldine ‘Geri’ Holloway, who grew up in the village during the 1940s. She recalled how the walk around Dean Hill Road “... was my favourite in my early years, partly because the narrow road meanders for much of its way alongside the main Paddington-Penzance railway line, which

meant there was always the exciting possibility of seeing at least one long passenger train, its steam engine belching huge clouds of white acrid smoke as it sped on its way. In the spring the grassy railway banks were smothered in lovely fragrant primroses, many dozens of which were picked and bunched by my Gran, Mary Ann Holloway, and myself to decorate the village church on Easter Sunday. Strictly speaking, I suppose we were trespassing on railway property! ... On the sharp bend, right alongside the road opposite Dean Hill Farm, was a large, very muddy-edged pond, often occupied by several ducks. For most of the year the lush, green hedgerows provided a veritable haven for a delightful variety of colourful wildflowers ... primroses, buttercups, celandines, dandelions, ragged robins, cuckoo flowers, red campions, cuckoo pints – and fascinating snap-jacks, so called because their small round seed pod popped audibly when squeezed.

If you have any similar memories or experiences of Willand's wilder side, on this or other walking routes around the parish, we'd love to hear from you! Geri notes how the walk around Dean Hill Road was, "always known locally as 'Round the World'," and earlier this year we posed the question as to why this is so. Research suggests that the name was probably coined by one of the Traceys, being the family of Dr Tracey, a lively local character, who was the local doctor during the late-Victorian / Edwardian era, and who built and lived at The Gables (the large house on Gables Road that was knocked down a few years ago). One of his sons, another doctor, Dr John Broderick Tracey, wrote a pamphlet in 1986 entitled the 'Personal Remembrances of a Native of Willand' – he was born at The Gables in 1906 – and in it he recalled that: "Burn Rew Farm bordered on the Spratford Stream ... this was off a routine family walk, called by us 'Round the World' via Dean Hill Farm and, at the 'Jubilee Tree', on the main road and back through the village to The Gables." This, at least, is the earliest reference we can find to 'Round the World' being used.

Dean Hill Farm itself once boasted a traditional old cob and thatch Devon farmhouse, but unfortunately, soon after Roy and Hilda Bussell took over tenancy of the farm in the 1950s, the farmhouse was found to be infected with 'cob-eating beetles'. It was demolished and replaced by the bungalow that's still there today. Not long afterwards, in the early-1960s, disaster struck again.

This time it was fire. The local press reported how: "The fire was discovered by Mrs Hilda Bussell. She was walking across the orchard after picking up some eggs when she saw smoke coming out of the barn doors. She immediately informed her husband. 'I ran into the barn and saw that the straw was all on fire. I immediately telephoned the fire brigade,' said Mr Bussell.

Fire engines came from Cullompton and Tiverton, but their efforts were at first hampered by a shortage of water. Hoses were initially laid to a hydrant 500

yards away, but because the mains pressure was so low they had to use a tractor fitted with a buck-rake to take a pump and many reels of hose across the fields to Spratford Stream. The Bussells' neighbours and friends were quickly at the scene to assist but could do little to stop the fire destroying the harvest, which many of them had helped to bring in earlier that summer. "The brigade were busy all the afternoon damping down the blaze and they were expected to go on well into the night. No animals were harmed and, apart from the hay and straw, about 40 feet of roofing on one cow shed and roofing on an adjoining dairy was severely damaged." While Mr Bussell admitted, "This is a disaster," particularly with the loss of so much of his livestock's winter fodder, he was relieved his cattle had been moved in time and the dairy had more or less been saved. **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

### **WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS).**

**NEWS - WE ARE UP AND RUNNING: - OUR OPENINGS ARE: -  
SUNDAYS + WEDNESDAYS - EACH DAY 10.00AM – 12 NOON**

We ask that all visitors comply and maintain the social distancing **OF 2 METRES**. To assist there are signs marked out.

To those who have recently visited we thank you for your cooperation. Long may this continue.

Finally, we have as yet not asked visitors to wear masks but in future, if deemed necessary, please accept our request to do so. We will either, ask you to wear immediately or, from a specified date which will be notified on signage displayed on both the gate and notice board at the site.

**TonyMander: Mob. 07980472242 Email tmander931@gmail.com**



## **DEAR RESIDENTS**

Please see my report for Aug/Sept, not sure if there are any burning issues in and around this area, please let me know if there are any that I can help you with. Things move on quickly and by the time you read this, it may be out of date or updated.

Most Parish Councils have had contact with Phil Morgan (DCC Highway's Officer) on doing what matters, by the 17<sup>th</sup> July, he has to collate all the Parish Council's request and put it into priority for funding.

Restrictions at our recycling centres have eased, so personal vans are now allowed to bring household waste as long as it's only the same amount that would fit in a normal sized family car or trailer. Following on, this is an update of some of the issues relating to the Coronavirus which is still with us, we still need to be careful and keep to social distancing.

The DCC spend on directly procured stock was £1.748m. Reimbursement of adult social care providers PPE costs stands at £1.803m

Indications are that there may be further Pandemic funding for Local Government but it seems unlikely it will cover the full cost. Current approved and pipeline response plans already exceed the main grant of £36.7 millions by £8.5 millions, and this is without taking account of the significant loss in Council Tax our Districts are projecting. It is imperative that as we transition from Response to Recovery, that we do so in a measured and affordable way.

Council Tax and Business Rates: Assessing the impact the Pandemic is having on Council Tax collection and the tax base is very difficult this early in the year. Estimates provided on the Government's returns indicate losses of up to 13%. It is however, unclear if these losses will be permanent or just a matter of cash-flow with payments being made later in the year or even next year.

There is an added complication relating to increased Universal Credit claimants and the impact this may have on the Tax Base for next year along with the impact of the furlough scheme ending later in the year and the ongoing economic situation.

Due to the level of Business Rates Relief the Government has introduced, the risk to lost Business Rates is much lower and estimates from the Districts are around £1 million. The vast majority of Devon people have behaved with great sense and responsibility throughout the pandemic and that's meant we've had the lowest number of outbreaks by some way throughout the crisis.

We obviously want to keep it that way and reduce it still further. We can now build on this effort and extend the work we have done together as Team Devon to protect our residents and support the most vulnerable. Team Devon is a public and private sector partnership drawing in expertise from business, education, skills and public sector organisations, has developed the plan with the backing of business representatives.

We will now be at the forefront of responding and managing the outbreak at a local level. And if there's a hotspot in a town or village we'll be able to get onto it swiftly before it spreads too far.

We've ensured that our plan includes a strong focus on prevention and early intervention to ensure key settings such as care homes and schools and high-risk locations and communities identify and prioritise preventative measures.

The good sense of the people of Devon has helped protect us all so far and they continue to have a vital role in reducing the spread of the virus and preventing further outbreaks.

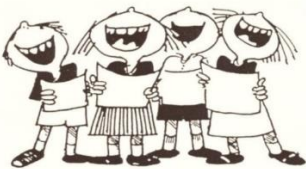
I would urge all of us to continue to follow national guidance and advice and keep up social distancing, wash our hands regularly and, if we think we might have the virus, get a test and self-isolate if that's necessary, we need to do all we can to avoid a second spike.

Needless to say, this will have knock on effects to our budgets, to which the Government has said they will reimburse us, let's see.

I would like to let any organisation, or Club know, that I have a Locality Budget and can help out any good cause, it will not be huge amounts, but every little helps, just go to DCC website and look for `Locality Budget` fill the application in and return to me, or, any problems, give me a call.

**Ray Radford Devon County Councillor Willand & Uffculme Division**

Email: [ray.radford@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ray.radford@devon.gov.uk)



**THE MID DEVON SINGERS** The MiDS have not met since the lockdown in March and we are very much missing our singing! We were disappointed not to have held the Musical Evening being organised with the Halberton Community Association and not being able to perform at the

Uffculme Show in May. We have kept in touch, checking that everyone is safe and coping. Our group covers the whole age range; its members include those unable to attend school and those shielding. We have held regular zoom meetings to maintain morale. This is a really friendly group; we genuinely care for each other. We've held virtual coffee mornings, tea and chat sessions, glass of wine evenings and, all being well, will have held a (socially-distanced) BBQ at Sampford Peverell home of our treasurer in late July, by the time you read this.

A questionnaire to find out which songs, our singers have enjoyed most (and least) in the first two terms of our existence (and suggest new songs for our repertoire), has been completed to help in our future programme planning.

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 cause by the varied speeds of the lines connecting us all, making

synchronisation virtually impossible, although we did manage to sing *Happy Birthday* to Isabel Jepps several times, experimenting

In this first year, thanks to an energetic, hand-on management team, we have created a very well run group; singers come from across the district. We've put in place a constitution, legal policies, joined *Making Music* and own vital equipment such as our electric piano, enabling us to perform anywhere.

At a future date, as soon as possible, we SHALL resume singing and reform to welcome former and new singers. If you'd like to enjoy singing for fun in a very non-cliquey group that sings a little of everything, do get in touch and we'll update you directly. It will be a good time to join when many are new.

There are no auditions, no charge for trying us out and it's free for youngsters but we do have a vitally important coffee break. We shall continue to meet at Halberton Village Hall, on Fridays and look forward to this as soon as it's safe to do so. Contact us: [singers@halberton.org](mailto:singers@halberton.org) or 01884 820081 or 252910.

**Terry Payne** (Chairman)

### **BOB EVANS MDDC LOWER CULM**

You know local politics is a funny old world, take this newsletter, my first issue is a moan, no not about politicians or the weather, it's about many that live amongst us, you if you like. A dangerous route for anybody that needs votes to stay doing what they do, but come on, we have to be honest with each other. Let's talk 2 sisters, yet again last week ( this is early July) there were many comments on social media around odours, so as I have done so many times, I sent a real humdinger of a rocket to the Environment officer who deals with the site, one of those I've had enough and I'm going to escalate this type E mails. The response was sadly a little embarrassing, I'm told that she is "bemused" yes that was the word used "bemused" given the tone of my note as there had been NO reports over the weekend period, so there is no documented evidence, no reference numbers, no record.

I am and have always been happy to fight the fight, send the E mail, have the meeting, escalate to MP level, whatever it takes , yet I need your help.

Please please don't just post on instatwitter or giggle or whatever, if you smell it, report it , **call 0800807060**, it's free, it takes about 2 minutes, about the same time to write a comment on social media, it provides a record and the required details.

**Seriously if it's bad enough to share it's surely bad enough to report ?**

Moving on .....

I am hoping by the time you read this the local plan will have been formally adopted , this has taken far far too long and was held up for several reasons, but we finally received the inspectors report that said that with a couple of final modifications we are there , the plan lasts for 20 years and runs from 2013 to 2033 yes that's 2013 , so it's a little late, yet it's absolutely vital if we are to



prevent continued development in areas that we have not planned for and has huge impacts on local infrastructure and communities.

As soon as full council has voted to accept ( I hope) we will start to look at the next plan, so thinking caps on as you can and should influence this process, just let your local councillors know what issues you feel need addressing.

GESP.....What ?

The next really BIG issue is the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP)

Again I would ask you to a look at the web pages detailed below, this project is a Devon wide strategic plan looking to influence jobs, infrastructure, housing numbers and housing sites, and yes this affects us all, Mid Devon would if agreed, need to build many thousands of houses above those agreed in the local plan! They should be moving into the public consultations very soon, September, so I would ask that if you are interested that you take a few moments to have a look at the information that can be found on the attached web site, or just google GESP.

The consultation document is published on the GESP website <https://www.gesp.org.uk/>

You will hear much more about GESP in the coming weeks and months.

Finally, as this is the summer edition, I hope we have some descent weather, that we can enjoy the company of friends and family and can stay safe and well. Having finally got that long awaited hug from my grandchildren, spoiled them with pop and sweets (grandparents privilege) apparently next up are a few nights camping in the back garden over their summer school holidays, well you're only young once! Stay safe, be well.

#### **A RECIPE SHARED BY A RESIDENT WHICH HAS BEEN PROVING POPULAR DURING LOCKDOWN**

##### **Oaty Biscuits**

###### **Ingredients:**

4oz self-raising flour  
4oz porridge oats  
6oz butter (softened)  
2oz sugar  
Dessert spoonful golden syrup  
Flavour as desired,  
eg. Glace cherries (chopped),  
candied peel, lemon zest, chopped  
nuts, ginger (crystallised or  
powdered)

###### **Method:**

Mix all ingredients together.  
Roll into small balls, about the size  
of a walnut.  
Put on a greased baking tray or line  
with baking parchment.  
Press lightly with a damp fork.  
In oven, gas 3 or 170 C for 20  
minutes or until golden brown.  
Let biscuits stand for a minute or  
two to firm up before transferring to  
a wire cooling rack.  
Makes 25 to 30 biscuits.

## Lockdown Continues:

by Sam Fincher

The lawn's looking good, no weeds can be seen.  
No dandelions, daisies it's all looking green.  
Trimmed all the edges and made it look neat.  
A plush green carpet now under my feet.  
The very next day, to my total surprise.  
A field of buttercups in front of my eyes.  
I researched online for a suitable spray.  
It was quite cheap and delivered next day.  
I followed instructions written on the pack.  
Kills all the weeds and leaves grass intact.  
I sprayed with gusto, to spread it around  
Woke up next day and my lawn is all brown

The cupboards are next, for years they've been crammed.  
Can't get nothing else in, not even my hand.  
Not been any use now for many a year.  
I'm going to be ruthless of that have no fear.  
Going through the stuff, can't throw that away.  
And that will be useful on a rainy day.  
I'm keeping that, not even opened it.  
There's no way I'll ever throw that in the skip.  
That's too expensive to chuck in the bin.  
And throwing that out will be really a sin.  
That will be handy, I forgot I'd got that.  
And that's when I found I'd put everything back.

Those shelves can go up, I bought them last summer  
Need a pencil, a drill, level and a hammer  
I marked where they go, drawn a line on the wall  
I'll have these shelves up in no time at all  
The Chinese instructions were surely no aid.  
So down on the floor parts were carefully laid.  
Now, it looks like this bit goes into that.  
Then that over there screws into the back  
I'm sure that goes there, but it's awfully tight  
I wiggled and pushed it with all of my might.  
I grabbed for my hammer to give it a whack.  
Let out a huge roar, now my nail's going black.

Then I went online to order some jeans.  
You know the ones with double stitched seams  
Waist size first, I thought it right to assume.  
The other size then would be for legroom.  
They duly arrived, I'd done something wrong  
I can't do them up and the legs are too long.  
Undaunted by this, I needed a top.  
I knew this size was the same as the shop.  
A picture of hand claps for our NHS  
Is printed on it, now displayed on my chest  
The colour is right, it fits me just fine.  
Hard to believe I got it right this time.

A trip to the shops, for a card for my spouse  
Still a bit nervous on leaving the house  
Not very good cards it was plain to see  
Couldn't find a verse to say it for me  
The choice of cards was really quite crappy  
I'll write a love poem, should keep her happy  
Essential purchase mumbled sarcastically  
You'd better believe, it's life or death for me  
On my wife's Birthday and not buy a card  
Life would go on, but be incredibly hard  
She wouldn't care if I didn't buy a present  
But no card, my life would be terribly unpleasant.

I'm at home now and penning a few lines  
With lots of love, remembering the times  
Evoking memories of things in the past  
And reminding me of a love that can last  
The second of June nineteen sixty nine  
We went out together the very first time  
Though there's been storms we've managed to weather  
There's very few days we've not spent together  
Raising our children and building a home  
United together and never alone  
We've stuck by the words we said at the start  
I promise to love you, till death us do part.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Thanks to all who completed our questionnaire just before the Coronavirus outbreak, we were on hold for a bit, but we think it is now time to move things on. A Neighbourhood Plan can:

- Protect open spaces and community facilities.
- Protect areas of land for conservation, biodiversity and landscape value.
- Suggest improvements to public and green spaces and infrastructure (roads, schools, community facilities etc.).
- Help secure funding for infrastructure and other projects.
- Require green measures as part of developments of land and buildings

A Neighbourhood Plan can refer to but not put any legal force behind:

- Any policies which conflict with the national or District Council strategic planning policies
- Improving services such as social care, refuse collections, grass cutting, etc.
- Setting speeding limits or enforce parking restrictions
- Controlling development of land and buildings that do not need planning permission.

The legal force of a plan concerns development of land and buildings in the area. The District Council must take the proposals and policies on board when it makes planning decisions about the plan area. We think that any development on the land from just north of the Halfway House up to Waterloo Cross will have a major impact on Willand, but this is in Halberton, Burlescombe (and to an extent Uffculme) Parishes. We need the District Council's approval to include this in our plan area – and we are talking to their Parish Councils about this before asking the District.

We can and will include other matters that are important to the community, many of which have already been raised by you in the survey. These include paths and cycleways; the range of traffic issues; housing and employment; improved infrastructure and strengthening the already strong sense of united community. All Neighbourhood Plans must be based on what local people think – the report has to evidence this and before it can have any weight it must be subject to a referendum open to all the people in a Neighbourhood Area,

We will have a page on the Parish Council website <https://www.willand-pc.org.uk/> where we will be putting our project plan and all other information, and we will also post updates onto the Willand Parish Facebook Group. You can contact us by email at:

**[npg@willand-pc.org.uk](mailto:npg@willand-pc.org.uk). Steven Little.**

## **WILLAND ROVERS – WE’LL MEET AGAIN, SOMETIME SOON**

As the government slowly relaxes the lockdown measures last Friday their announcement was that contact sport could start at a non-league level. Although it has already done so in the professional game that is because they have access to daily testing and can play without a crowd, something small non-league clubs cannot afford to do.

So we await guidance from the FA when we can start playing again, I would envisage that the league season may well start in September but it will mean more mid-week games for us all.

So our plan is to open the clubhouse to all and their families from 2pm on August 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have a risk assessment completed and additional facilities and signage so familiar in our shops available. It will be lovely to see as many of you and your families as possible, let’s hope the sun shines.

By then we are expecting the new grandstand to have arrived and been installed on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, this will enable us to retain our Southern League status by having enough seating for spectators. It will certainly make the place look a bit different.



On the playing front pre-season training started in earnest this week, the original pre-season games have been postponed with a new set of fixtures being finalised.

I hope that our first home pre-season games will on the Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> against Westbury United followed by Bridgwater on the Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm ko and Plymouth Parkway on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> again 7.30pm ko. There may be more after those dates.

It is also planned to start our world famous and fabulously supported Bingo on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> August.

Last time I used the words 'we will meet again', sadly since then the signer of those words has passed away another of that generation no longer with us but in those memorable lines hopefully we can all see the blue skies ahead soon.

We'll meet again,

Don't know where,

Don't know when

But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

Keep smiling through,

Just like you always do

'Til the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away.

It will be lovely to see you at the club sometime soon. **Dominic Clark**

### **Hug-rate Zero**

Suffering from hug deprivation,

Weeping in isolation,

Though friends may now meet,

The gap is six feet

From their arms of consolation.

So hugging what's within my reach,

I'm practicing what I preach,

"Be kind to yourself"

Biscuits call from the shelf,

Some comfort is found within each.

Peering through tears, strike a match

To bake another batch

Of biscuits to share

With the world out there,

Thrown hugs and our smiles we will catch.

**Clare Matanle July 2020**

**CUT-OFF DATE FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE IS:**

**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**