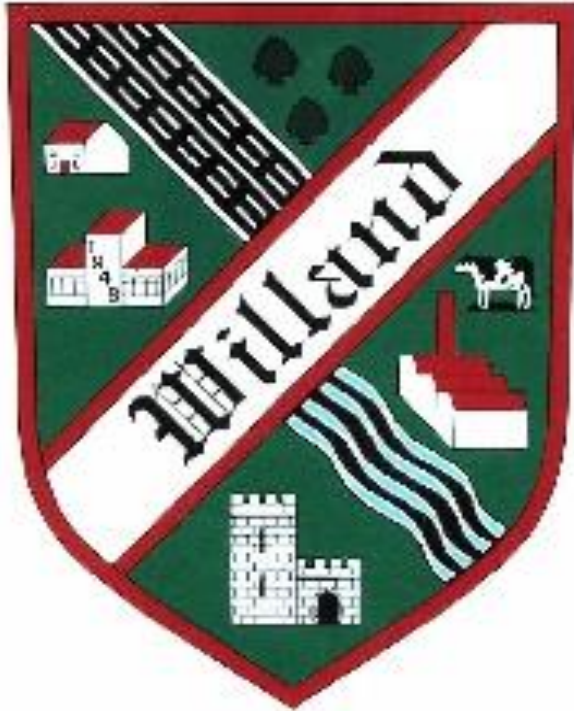


**WILLAND MAGAZINE
JANUARY & FEBRUARY
2020**



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

Delivered Free to Every Home

EDITORIAL

No 146

As a new year starts let's look forward to some bright and beautiful days ahead. We welcome Sam to the editorial team and thank him for his input so far. Watch this space as we try to take the magazine forward.

WILLAND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas Lights have been up since the end of November and we would like to thank wholeheartedly the generous local businesses who made this possible with their kind donations. These are the companies who have supported the lights so far.

Homeweb

Pall-Ex South West Limited

PenCarrie

Western Commodities Limited

Rayda Plastics

Hitchcocks Business Park

Willand Community Composting

Victoria Windows

Willand Rovers

Any further donations will be acknowledged on the Willand Parish Facebook page and in the next issue of the magazine.

HOSPICECARE EVENT - HUNTSHAM COURT 23 JANUARY 2020

Enjoy a traditional supper, dance a cèilidh and ponder Robert Burns' "Address to a Haggis", read by esteemed bagpiper Paul Jackson, all in the stunning surroundings of Huntsham Court. **Time:** Arrival at 7pm, Carriages at 11:30pm

Venue: Huntsham Court, Huntsham EX16 7NA **Dress Code:** Black Tie

Ticket Price: £55. Please purchase tickets via the Hospiscare website

www.hospiscare.co.uk/events/burns-night-at-huntsham-court

Accommodation: If you are planning on booking overnight accommodation near Huntsham, rooms are available at the Ginger Peanut.

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

As I write this it is the beginning of December but it has to be done now for the Editor and Printers to do their bit and for the willing band of helpers to deliver the magazines to your door. A very big and sincere thank you to all involved. Please do not shoot me if something I tell you about has already happened or does not happen as predicted.

The Christmas lights are up in the village although there appears to be a bit of a false start in that the provider has put some on the wrong poles [hopefully resolved by the time you read this. A number of local companies have contributed very generously to the cost of the lights and their generosity will be recognised elsewhere in the magazine – from me a very personal thank you for supporting your local community.

By the time you read this the election will be over and who knows what the future will bring after we have voted! I just hope that it did not cause too much chaos in the festivities and plans in the run up to Christmas.

What we can be sure of is that life will have to go on and budgets will have to be set for the 2020/2021 financial year to pay for the various services we have taken on in the Parish to try and keep our village looking tidy and a nice place to live. The Parish Council has started work on this already but the uncertainty of possible rises in the minimum wage and other unknowns is not going to make that an exact science. Quotations have been sought and contracts awarded in relation to the cutting of the roadside grass verges, the maintenance of the hedges and grass in the play areas and the cemetery and the kerbside weed spraying. We hope that those volunteers who help with some of this work by looking after facilities in their immediate area will continue to give their help and support. Fencing and hedge planting is also to be carried out to extend the area of the cemetery – planning for the future. Monies for this has been slowly built up in the reserve fund over past years and so that will not be a big shock to the finances.

Things are moving on in the village and as I write the new Amazon Jungle Climber has been finished and has been open for use as of 2 December 2019. The total cost has been raised without touching Parish monies courtesy of The Big Lottery Fund, money from our County Councillors Locality Budget and then a very generous top up of the shortfall by the owner of PenCarrie, one of our local businesses. Thank you all and let us hope that the new facilities are respected and enjoyed. A little touching story came back to me from the two chaps who were putting up the Climber – a lady stopped her car on the road and walked into the site and gave them a packet of biscuits. She told them that her granddaughter was so excited about the new structure that she had asked Granny to give the men some biscuits. Well I thought it was a nice gesture and so did they.

The new bus shelter is appearing in South View Road again as the result of the generosity of PenCarrie. PenCarrie has also acquired the old Durban Works site and they have been tidying up the area with new fencing and gates and this has led to improvements to the footpath through to Fir Close which hopefully will improve the surface water drainage issues in the area.

Work has started on Phase 2 of the Mid Devon Business Park and the Parish Council has been advised that some supervised work has been carried out where the new entrance from Phase 1 will go through to make sure that the dormice are not injured. Screening planting will take place along the motorway boundary. In the New Year machinery will be on site levelling it for the buildings but it is intended that no soil will be moved from site as it will be used as part of the approved landscaping requirements. Hopefully disturbance by extra Lorries and mud on our roads will be minimal. It is intended that the new entrance which was made from Muxbeare Lane will be closed up and reinstated as a hedge.

Speaking of plans have you noticed that the Biogas Plant behind 2 Sisters has put in an application to increase the tonnage of 'feedstock' delivered by road to the site from 55 tonnes per year to 120 tonnes – 118% increase with all the extra lorry movements down Station Road that this will mean. They are also applying to have 24 gas burning generators added to the rear of the site and, if past history is anything to go by, this will lead to further applications for facilities on the site. There are occasionally some smells coming from the site now and these need to be reported at the time to the Environment Agency. There should be no smells as everything should be stored and processed in closed procedures.

The Mid Devon Local Plan Review has to have some Main Modifications made to some of the wording and this will all be put out for public consultation in the New Year. Make sure that you make your views known as once approved it will be the policy to be followed for planning applications in the next few years.

I started with good news but I am getting the feeling that things are slowly going downhill with this update for you. We have some people in or visiting our community who do not seem to care what adverse effect they have on the rest of us. There have been some serious and harmful instances of fly tipping along Lloyd Maunder Road and Dean Hill Road. Mid Devon District Council operatives have shifted a couple of small truck loads in the last month or so. Bags and bags of household waste, old luggage, mattress and much more. A lot has been thrown in the roadside ditches which in turn could contaminate the watercourses. If you see any of this please report it right away to MDCC Customer Services. If you should see anyone dumping rubbish try and remember to note the vehicle number and if you have your phone take a picture but do not put yourself in danger. We even had some builders rubbish dumped in the South View Close Play Area which we (you) had to pay for it to be removed. There are also a number of instances of damage and anti-social behaviour occurring in the village. Some have been caught on CCTV but the police response has not been as positive as one would hope for. With my MDCC hat on I have raised the issue with our Community Safety Partnership Officer and she is seeing what can be done. If you see something wrong please make sure the police know. Do not leave it to someone else to do.

We have sadly lost Simon Dilke-Wing from the Parish Council due to pressure of work looking after our very valued Post Office. Fortunately he is still helping with some of our work as a volunteer. There is now a vacancy on the Parish Council so if you feel you can help your community in this way please get in touch with our Clerk. Thank you for what you did achieve Simon.

I would like to thank Ken Broom for the work he has done for the Parish Council over the years, including ground maintenance in the churchyard, play areas and grass verges. We hope that he has a long and happy retirement.

May I end by wishing everyone the compliments of the season. Let us hope that the bank accounts and credit cards are not too traumatised. Look on the bright side – there will soon be Easter Eggs in the shops. **Barry Warren**

BOB EVANS MDDC LOWER CULM

I sincerely hope the coming year brings you much of what you hope for you and your family. This time of year brings a huge amount of joy to many with children and grandchildren as well as expense. It can also bring the worst that the great British weather can throw at us, on that point can I ask that those readers who know they have elderly or vulnerable neighbours please keep an eye to make sure they are at least warm safe and fed.

The new year will bring many challenges and questions for Politicians at all levels, I guess there will be further challenges within our own ward and the wider Mid Devon communities, what we do can in some instances makes a huge difference to some individuals, to others very little will change, what I will say is that we should do what we do with humility and accept that we will not always get it right, when this happens we should accept the facts, try to learn and NOT deny what may be evidently obvious.

I will continue to engage with local business, working with the likes of 2 sisters may bring greater benefits than working against them, we can still hold them to account given their everyday impact within the village.

My time as a councillor has taught me that having a goal is one thing, having the patience to see the results is quite another, past examples such as the zebra crossing in South View road show that patience can be rewarded, that took an enormous amount of time but finally I got it across the line, I always smile as I drive past it.

A recent agreement by Aggregate Industries will see a public path built around part of the quarry that sits adjacent to the A38, my request is some five or six years old and the arguments have been many , however the path will be open to all by March 2020, another example of local politicians making a real difference in their own area, even when taking on the big boys. In conclusion I wish you well, I'm here to help, it's true we can and do sometimes get it wrong, yet sometimes we really do make a difference and that's why I love representing my community, because sometimes we get it right and that really does on occasions make a difference. Happy new-year. **Bob Evans MDDC**

ST MARY'S WILLAND

As the New Year begins it is often a time for reflection and taking stock. If you would appreciate the time to think about some of life's big questions about who Jesus was and whether he is still relevant to our lives we will be running a course starting in early February. The course, "Christianity Explored," is perfect for those who are thinking about what they believe or would value a "refresher".

As the new term begins there are a range of groups organised by St Mary's which will be beginning again. Our website, www.stmaryswilland.org has a diary of all our events and times of the services on the front page.

Over Christmas we were reflecting on how Jesus was called Emmanuel which means "God with us." I hope that in this new-year you will know the reality and reassurance of accepting God's presence with us - whatever the new-year brings. **Rev Simon Talbot Rector, St Mary's Willand 01884 562570**
simon@thetalbots.org.uk

WILLAND POPPY APPEAL

A big thank you and well done Willand. Our volunteers and helpful businesses this year raised £2,273.37. Special thanks to Nick and the Scout Group for going out on a very wet Wednesday to cover a large area in just two hours. Ordering rain proof boxes for you for next year! Thank you, Claire Davey, for ten years-service, I hope I can give as many. Eddie Dennis has to be mentioned for his amazing fortitude. Bless you all.

Margaret Dennis Willand Poppy Appeal Organiser.

At the time of writing we do not know the result but a very big thank you to those who voted for me. If any help is needed both Eddie and I can help point you to the right people. Working together for our area is a part of our lives.

Margaret Dennis UKIP Candidate Tiverton and Honiton

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held on

Thursday 19 March at 6.30 pm in Willand Village Hall.

Reports are received from village organisations and clubs, a time to catch up on things happening where you live.

Please put the date in your brand new calendar and come along to meet the Parish Council and have your say. Tea, coffee & cake will be served

Kate Taylor Parish Clerk

SAMPFORD PEVERELL HISTORIC VEHICLES SHOW

The date for next year's show will be 16th August 2020. Any help would be appreciated as the show is getting bigger and the organisers are getting older Please ring **Keith Astbury on 01884 820 527**

"If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed"

WILLAND SCHOOL PTFA

Many thanks to everyone that attended the Willand School Christmas Fayre. We all had a wonderful night, eating hot dogs, drinking mulled wine, playing games and seeing Santa Claus. Special thanks go to Sue Leach and Lesley Smith from St Mary's church, and Peta Jackman, Pat Urdsley, and Christine Pearce from the Cameo group. Who all gave up their evening to run the stalls.

The children are already benefitting from the funds raised and have enjoyed a recent visit from Theatre Alibi. In the spring term we are planning a family quiz evening, more details to follow soon. Many thanks from Willand School PTFA.

Joanna Jacobs & Rachael Talbot

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WITS)

Rehearsals are continuing for the next pantomime "**Little Mermaid**" with some exciting new cast members adding a different slant to a classic tale.

With Mermaids, sea creatures Princes and Sailors not forgetting the dastardly wicked Octopus we hope to enthral the youngsters and Adults alike.

Look out for the posters and banners around the village for the performances on **Friday 21st 7:30pm and Saturday 22nd February at 2:30pm and 7:30 pm**

Willand Theatrical Society is a non profit making society and each year we give 25% of our Panto door takings to a local worthy endeavour, organisation, charity etc We have supported Willand Brownies, Willand Parish Church, Community centre Air ambulance to name just a few over the years. We perform plays murder Mysteries as well as the annual pantomime at the Village hall and surrounding district. We are always on the look out for new members. Generally we meet each Friday evening from 7:30pm at the Village hall so if anyone wants to find out what it is all about please feel free to turn up. Or contact Karen Goodchild on 38122 who would love to hear from you.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Fiona Bartlett Dance Studio** for all the support she has given WITS over the years. Also our lovely audiences that turn up rain or shine to watch us perform. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year. **Sam Fincher.**

NEWS from COLDHARBOUR MILL

With Best wishes for a Happy New Year. The Museum is currently closed for the winter season except for special events and will reopen to the public in spring 2020.

Groups, including school groups, can visit the Museum in the closed season by prior arrangement, please email info@coldharbourmill.org.uk or phone 01884 840960 for more information and to book.

In the meantime, do visit the Mill's website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk to find out about the benefits of membership and to keep up to speed on events or buy discounted tickets for them.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday 1st January 2020 10.30m-4pm New Year's Day STEAM UP

The Mill's traditional way to start the New Year – do come and join us in blowing away the post-Christmas cobwebs.

An ideal family day out, and a trip down memory lane for those of us old enough to remember how things used to be. Guided tours of the Steam complex and the Working Factory, children's trail and other activities. Mill shop, cafe, free parking. Visit the Mill website to find out about discounted advance tickets

Volunteering

Although the Mill is closed to the public over the winter we still need volunteers. Among the many opportunities available: we are seeking people to help with maintenance and repairs, with our Victorian Drama for school visits, and in the cafe for a couple of hours on Thursday mornings for coach parties, and also on Steam Days. Email or phone to find out more about volunteering at the Mill.

Susan Wasfi

A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.

WILLAND ROVERS START TO FIND THEIR FEET

After a difficult start where every individual error seemed to get punished and the loss of a number of last year's squad Rovers are started to produce the free flowing football they are renowned for.

The last two home games have produced 11 goals and some of the football played is pretty good. A trip to Slimbridge was sandwiched in between I have to say it was joy to watch with both sides wanting to play crisp quick passing football both sides gave everything and we prevailed with a 1 nil win.

Dean Stamp cracked a hat trick the game before scoring those all-important goals which put him 9 goals clear of David Steele as Willand Rovers leading goal scorer of all time.

You will have seen in the press that we were expelled from the FA Trophy and fined by the FA. This is because one of our player played in Wales in 2015 for a few games for a university side. He has only played for 3 clubs all his life 2 in Devon and the University team. But every club has to ensure that they know the provenance of every player signed on for them from the age of 10 until the day they sign for you. The international clearance rules apply to every league

including youth leagues and county leagues. Whilst some might say the punishment was harsh the FA followed the letter of the law where they don't have any discretion in the matter. What it has done is galvanise the club and team bringing everyone in a tight knit community closer together.

As we approach the season of good will but by the time you read this we will be in the depths of chilly January winter, clubs like our can't survive without volunteers to help run things off the pitch. I will not apologise for naming these individuals but without their support the club would cease to function correctly, to Mel Barrs, Tony Mitchell on the gate, to Andy Barnard who paints the lines and repairs the pitch, to Pete Vile who helps on the pitch, To Celia Force who washes and repairs the kit, to Jenny Mitchell and Wendy Frost in the kitchen – simply thank you.

One final thank you should also go to Caroline Dummett who has been responsible for the kit ordering and sponsoring for a number of years, she will be hanging up her clipboard at the end of the season.

On the 8th December will hold our Santa Run kindly sponsored by **MS Heating** raising money for Caylas fight, we hope for a good turn out and fine weather and thank everyone who contributed to this important cause.

On **New Year Eve** we have a well-known local band **Leave Before Dawn** playing at the club, tickets are still available for £10 per head please contact the club for your order. In order to stay in the league we have been promoted to we have a number of jobs that we need to do to become compliant to play in this league and satisfy the FA. So you will see in the coming months on the entrance gate an extension to stop people watching the game from outside the ground. We have new outside toilet facilities so spectators don't have to use the club house.

We have a planning application in with the Council to erect a new 75 seater grandstand next to the existing grandstand so all exciting times for Willand Rovers. **Dominic Clark**

THE MID DEVON SINGERS AUTUMN TERM REPORT

The new choir met for the first time on Friday 6th September for a Welcoming Party. After an official welcome, and toast to our new venture, Andre Hague, the Interim Musical Director talked about his approach and pieces we'd attempt. During the first weeks, we sang a 16th century canon; a funky Doobie Brothers (Seventies, American rock band) number; a Bulgarian folk song in 7/8 time; Andrew's arrangements of *Sailing*; the Beatles' *Hello Goodbye*; African songs and an Abba song, *Like an Angel Passing through my Room*.

Most in the friendly group are from Halberton and the neighbouring villages but some singers travel from more distant places such as Witheridge, Wellington and Wiveliscombe. *The Singers* enjoy singing in a non-cliquey, welcoming group that sings a little of everything. It is a social and a cultural group with an age range from 9 to 80+. Many like the opportunity to sing in a new choir where

it doesn't matter if you can't read music well or haven't sung since school. There are no tests, but you do need commitment, enthusiasm and a willingness to try new things! It meets on Fridays from 7.30 to 9.30pm at Halberton Village Hall. *The Singers* will play an active part in our community. Its first concert was in October, for friends of the choir, at Andrew's last session. Since Half Term, I have been Acting Director and we have been tackling new carols and old favourites in all genres.

On Saturday 14 December we are having a mini-concert at 8.00pm before our Christmas Party at the VH; all are welcome. On Friday 20 December we shall lead the singing and perform items at the Halberton Carol Festival. Our new term starts on Friday 10 January. You are welcome! Email or call Terry Payne: singers@halberton.org or 01884 820081 or see our Facebook page.

WILLAND GARDEN CLUB

We had a lovely Club meal at the Weary Traveller in Cullompton. The food was very good and the company pleasant. We had a record number of 23 attending.

We had a very interesting talk on Wildlife Gardening at our November meeting, where we learnt how to encourage beneficial wildlife into our gardens, which make up an enormous area of green space throughout the country. Our December meeting is our AGM and then we take a break until March 11th, 2020, when our speaker will be Terry Underhill, talking about Alpines. We will then be holding our first coffee morning of the year on 14th March, so hope to see you there. Our Flower and Vegetable Show is on 8th August. Open to everyone to enter, so please consider putting in some flowers, vegetables, craft, flower arrangement, photo or cookery. More details about the topics for photos and cookery classes.

For more details about the Garden Club, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01884 33828 or email me on 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**

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Are looking for micro businesses, sole-traders and freelancers!

Devon County Council has launched a new trial looking at how to better support rural micro businesses in Devon. If you run a micro business in a rural area, help to shape the future of business support by joining their **Engaging Rural Micros research trial**. **Businesses can sign-up until the end of December 2019 at www.engagingruralmicros.com**

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

Happy New Year to you all. If your aim is to enjoy 2020 by learning a new skill, then try out our adult gymnastics or our weightlifting classes.

You can also check out our YouTube channel **excelsiorgroupsport** for tutorials on the Joy of Movement, gymnastics, healthy eating and weightlifting.

December saw our end of term gymnastics displays, these are a great opportunity for the boys and girls to show off their new skills and routines. Somersaults, aerials, handsprings and plain old forward rolls were all combined. Thank you to all our parent helpers who make this possible.

One of our club weightlifters came 3rd in the Welsh Open. Cerys Head got a personal best in the snatch and the total. A Welsh native, 24 year old Cerys has recovered from cancer and is now fully fit and training well.

Our winter athletics sessions continue, with a focus on 'Strength and co-ordination'. These youngsters have been selected to star in a series of videos made by 'UK Coaching'. Their technique has improved so much, they will be watched by thousands of other coaches around the country. Well done to them.

James Marshall

CAMEO

It was full house for our November meeting and Peta welcomed three visitors. Peta thanked the Singles group for their gift of £100, the proceeds from a raffle at their monthly meetings, which goes towards our 2019 charity. Sandra and Peta, together with a couple of members, raised £240 for McMillan nurses at their tea party at Peta's house.

The November coffee morning was at the Little Bakery in Cullompton. The Walking Group had had a lovely autumnal walk around Knightshayes enjoying the sunshine and changing colours of the leaves. The Singles Group had their second monthly lunch out at the Exe Vale Centre and this is proving to be a very popular new venture for the Group. We had a successful day at Clarke's Village doing our Christmas shopping. The Speaker for the evening was "Chris," who stepped in at the last minute to talk to us about massage and reflexology. He said massage could help relieve stress and he practised massaging Cynthia's shoulders to release tension Ann volunteered to be treated with reflexology and we watched "Chris," working on her feet. We then worked in pairs massaging each other's hands and shoulders and we felt we had learned a good deal. We had a chat and laugh over tea and coffee and the evening ended with a draw.

December saw us at one of our favourite occupations, eating! A super Christmas dinner was held at the Globe Inn in Sampford Peverell complete with a Secret Santa. Three days later, the Singles held their Christmas tea party at Marion's with plenty to eat and drink, games, lucky dip, crackers and Christmas cake, we all had a lovely afternoon. We are all looking forward to our Christmas lunch at the Exe Vale Centre. The January meeting will be a party with a-bring and share supper, please bring your food contribution and your own cutlery, cups etc. and drinks will be provided.

We're off to the panto in Plymouth, oh no you're not, then we are having a coach to Otter Nurseries later in the month. In February we have a lunch booked at

the Beam Bridge Hotel. If you think you would like to come to one of our meetings, you will be very welcome. We meet in the Village Hall at 7p.m. on the first Thursday of the month (unless otherwise stated) Cameo members wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. **Betty Penberthy.**

NEWS FROM WESTBANK. Love to save money and be creative?

Then why not join our friendly new sewing sessions? Westbank's Healthy Neighbourhood's project have started a brand new project called **Make do and Mend** in Cullompton. You can learn sewing skills both with a machine and by hand and discover ideas on how to upgrade or alter your old or unused clothes to recycle them and support textile sustainability in the area. Sessions run every week and you can make something new such as cushion covers, bags and aprons, scarves and even children's toys for Christmas. Join our new creative sewing sessions at The Walronds on Fore St every **Tuesday 10am-12midday** and weekly until 10th December and fortnightly in the new-year. The cost is £4 per session which includes all materials. Do just turn up.

For more information and to book please contact Katheryn Hope, Westbank Healthy Neighbourhood Activity Coordinator (Mid-Devon) on 01395 446896 or email katheryn.hope@westbank.org.uk

EAST DEVON SLOT RACING CLUB

All the fun of real motor racing – on a smaller scale...

Electric cars may be the future but they've been about for over 50 years in miniature! **Racing Slot Cars is just like real motor racing and has a worldwide following and growing media interest.** The club was started in Honiton in the late 80's and there are still two or three of the original members racing. The circuits have grown larger and faster over the years and things like lap counting and timing are performed by state-of-the-art computer systems.



Our track is a custom built 5 lane 'figure of eight' for equal lane lengths (75 ft / 23 mtrs).

Our membership includes both sexes and ranges in age from early teens to enthusiastic octogenarians. First and foremost we aim to make racing fun, naturally it is competitive but improving is more important than winning and sharing tips, advice and anecdotes over tea and cakes is more important than ability. **We race (almost) every Friday evening in Awliscombe Village Hall, EX14 3PJ. Why not come along and have a go?!** A warm welcome awaits you and members will happily loan cars and controllers.

Doors open from 7:00 pm and once the track is assembled, we aim to start racing at 8:00 pm. There are no age limits although children under the age of 14 need to be accompanied by an adult. **Best of all the first two visits are free.** For info or a chat call Dave Stevens on **01404 811187**
Email: **daves.winters-lane@hotmail.co.uk**.

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Our Christmas Activities started with our **annual joint coffee morning** with the scouts. The hall was busy all morning and both groups benefitted from your support. Thank you.

The hall was almost full on Sunday 1st December, Advent Sunday, when many village organisations were represented at the **annual carol service**. It is always a pleasure to welcome everyone to join in the carol singing and remember what **Christmas** is all about. The donations amounted to £254 for CHAT-a local Christian charity supporting among others the homeless in our area. Our usual **monthly coffee mornings will be on Friday 3rd January and Friday 7th February**. Just call in for a drink and biscuit, you will be made very welcome. Our **Soup and Something lunches will be on Friday 17th January and Friday 21st February** at 12noon. There's no need for anyone to eat at home alone when you can enjoy a free lunch at The Methodist church surrounded by friendly faces.

We will be holding our annual **Pancake party** on Tuesday 25th February from 3.30pm when donations will go to Action for Children. We wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year. **David and Joan Greet**

WILLAND SCHOOL

We are nearing the end of our autumn term and have as usual, packed a lot into a half-term

Years 5 and 6 took part in Sports hall Athletics (indoor athletics) at Cullompton Community College, which they won so they have qualified for the finals in the spring term. Our football teams (Y3/4 and Y5/6) played against Sampford Peverell and showed great sportsmanship throughout the games. The 5/6 team won 1:0 and the 3/4 team won 7:1!

We welcomed our parents into school to take part in maths afternoons with us we think they enjoyed themselves! A few Year 6 children represented the school in the Wellington Maths Challenge and competed against 48 other schools.

We also welcomed a whole load of new parents to the school during an open afternoon – their children will be joining our Reception classes in September 2020.

All of the children took part in activities during Anti-Bullying Week and this coincided with the Life Bus, which helps us to understand topics and decision-

making pertinent to our age groups. We were also reminded of how to look after ourselves during Road Safety Week.

Reception, Years 5 and 6 were given an awesome experience with Space Odyssey – this is an enormous tent in which three-dimensional images are projected. Reception and Year 5 learnt about Earth and Space and Year 6 about evolution – complete with asteroids hitting earth and dinosaurs running towards them.

We were lucky enough to have Theatre Alibi come in and perform `I Believe in Unicorns based on the book by Michael Morpurgo. Theatre Alibi are an amazing theatre performance group who come to our school every year and perform for us. It is partly thanks to the PTFA that we get to have this wonderful experience.

Our Christmas Fayre was a fantastic event and Santa himself was there! The choir took part in the village Christmas Carol service and sang to the Over 60's club. Our term ended with two huge Christmas lunches when we all sat down to enjoy a festive meal. We look forward to letting you know what we get up to in the spring term.

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS) OPENING TIMES Wednesdays and Sundays - 10.00 am - 12 Noon CLOSED FROM 12 noon Sunday 22nd December 2019 REOPEN FROM 10.00am Sunday 5th January 2020. Christmas trees without decoration accepted as long as the branches are no bigger than 2" in diameter.

We don't accept - Cordyline or palm leaves as they do not compost down and cause havoc in the shredding process.

COMPOST SALES: We offer two types of compost: - **Sieved** (with next to no twigs) compost is £1.50/bag. **Sieved Waste** - this material is compost that has been sieved but contains more twigs. Our information is that when dug in and left to winter the subsequent growth is very satisfactory. We offer this at £1.00/wheelbarrow; if required please ask you may use our wheelbarrow which is at the shed allotment side. When finished please return.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – WE OFFER SIEVED WASTE FOR FREE
Please return empty bags.

ADVANCE NOTICE: - We are keeping an eye on our costs which have radically increased during the year. We will undertake a review soon from which is likely there will be an increase in price of bags to £2.00. We will advise you early in the new year.

In the meantime, we continue to ask you to compost garden waste by either doing it yourself, deposit down here at the site or use either one of the local councils. MDDC garden waste collection scheme or, the DCC at Ashely Recycling Centre. From all of us we wish you a Happy New Year. **Tony Mander Mob.09780472242 Email: tmander931@gmail.com**

CULLOMPTON & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

At 6.30 p.m. in Willand Village Hall, on Monday 2nd December, there was the sound of good humoured chortle and the munching of mince pies and macaroons. At 7.30 p.m. the stage curtains opened. The drums dressed in blue/grey cloth, the long grey flower boxes neatly lined up on long tables, silhouetted against the white back wall. This was different! We were at The Cullompton and District Flower Club's Open Meeting and were awaiting a demonstration of "It's Christmas Let's Sparkle" and within minutes, Lorena Dyer, a National Demonstrator from Coventry, was cheerfully putting together her first arrangement. This was accompanied by one she had done earlier in Blue Peter style. The arrangement was full of the most gorgeous, fresh flowers and began to sparkle until by the end of the evening the whole stage was a glow with her creative and imaginative designs. Lorena's demonstration was not only informative, with plenty of flower arranging tips, but inspiring and full of fun. It was a truly wonderful and memorable evening. Anyone wishing to learn more about the Cullompton and District Flower Club can contact me on 01823 680175. **Mrs D Cooper, Vice Chairman**

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

We're delighted that, **Willand Health and Community Centre**, has been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund. At a time when funds for community groups and charitable organisations are becoming more difficult to access, we're incredibly grateful for this opportunity to make a real difference in Willand.

To help us raise vital funds, we'll be relying on Co-op members. When a member buys selected products or services from the Co-op they earn a five per cent reward for themselves, with a further one per cent for local causes like ours.

The Co-op is looking to support organisations that make a difference in their local communities by protecting & improving community spaces, helping people reach their full potential by developing their skills, or promoting health and wellbeing.

Co-op members can choose a cause by going online www.coop.co.uk/membership. We really hope that people will visit the website and choose to support us.

If you're not a member and would like to support us, you can join at your local store or online at www.coop.co.uk.

When a community comes together, we're able to achieve great things, so we hope you can help promote our project. For more information about us, please **email info@whacc.org.uk**

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Our Christmas decorations are now up – thank you to Sam, John and Rita who put them up.

The steps to the Tennis Club pavilion have now been replaced by a ramp, so access for disabled users is better. The drain under the path is also being altered to make sure the lake that appears in very wet weather does not go under the foundations of the hall.

We now have enough quotes to look at refurbishing the annexe toilets and replacing lighting in all the side rooms. This should help with our electricity bills, as we are replacing the strip lights with LED lighting. We are also putting in suspended ceilings in the side rooms, to help with insulation. We may not be able to do all of this at once, as we will have to depend on grants to help our funds.

Please look on the website for availability of the hall if you wish to make a booking. We are very busy, mainly during school term times, when a lot of clubs meet, so you need to book well in advance if you want a particular date.,

Now that the weather is getting cooler, please make sure that you close all the outside doors once you have started your event. It is amazing how much heat is lost when the doors are open.

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

DIARY DATES WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

January				
Friday	24 th	Blood Donor Session	W.V.H.	12 pm
February				
Saturday	15 th	Las Torders	W.V.H.	7.30 pm
Friday	21 st	Panto – Little Mermaid	W.V.H.	7.00 pm
Saturday	22 nd	Panto – Little Mermaid	W.V.H.	2.00 pm
Saturday	22 nd	Panto – Little Mermaid	W.V.H.	7.00 pm
Saturday	29 th	Northern Night	W.V.H.	7.30 pm

A FUND RAISING EVENT FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH UK - Northern Night - Willand Village Hall - 29 February 2020 at 7pm. Tickets £10.00 Entertainment will include a pie supper, music from Wellington Silver Band with audience participation, licenced bar, raffle, prize for best flat cap & much more (including the opportunity for village spinsters to propose). Tickets available from 1st January 2020. Contact Sue Leach on 07 732 952 829.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO DELIVER THE MAGAZINE TO YOU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Pilates with Diana	Mondays	10:00 am
Purelesque Knitting Group	Mondays	2:00 pm
Cull. & Dist. Flower Club	1 st Monday	2:00 pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5:30 pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7:00 pm
Kettle Bell Pump	Mondays	7:00 pm
Pilates with Ellie	Tuesday	From 9:15 am
Flower Arranging (Sept-Mar)	Tuesday	1:15 pm
Move it or Lose it	Tuesday	2.00 pm
Gymnastics Club	Tuesday	4:00 pm
Tiny Tots (Term Time)	Wednesday	9:30 am
Flower Arranging (Sept-March)	Wednesday	1:15 pm
Pilates with Leanne	Wednesday	5.30 pm
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7:00 pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7:30 pm
Pilates with Ellie	Thursday	8.15 am
University of the 3rd Age (U3A)	1 st Thursday	2.00pm
CAMEO	1 st Thursday	7.00 pm
U3A - Craft Group	3 rd Thursday	10.30am
Karate	3 ^r & 4 th Thursday	6.00 pm
Folk Dance Club	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	8.00 pm
Parish Council Meetings	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7:00 pm
Zumba	Fridays	9.30am
U3A – Quizzing Group	Fridays	10.30am
WITS Sept-Feb	Fridays	7:00 pm
Cowgirl Twisters	3 rd Saturday	7:30 pm
Folk Dance	2 nd Saturday	8:00 pm
Rugby Tots	Sundays	9:30 am
Martial Arts	Sundays	6:30 pm

CLOSING DATE NEXT ISSUE 12th FEBRUARY 2020