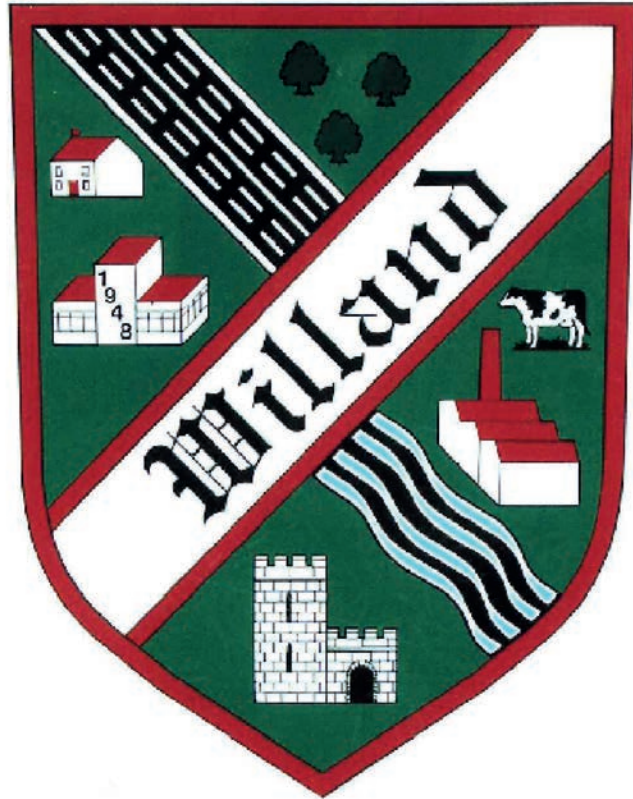


WILLAND MAGAZINE

June & July 2021



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Bridge Club	Wendy Boothroyd		01398 331219
Brownies	Bridget Pearse		07814 569054
C.A.M.E.O. Ladies Grp	Peta Jackman		07900 904822
Club 55	Margaret Atherton	27 Townlands	38217
Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom		01404 47200
Garden Club	Mrs Carol Allan	4 Orchard Way	33828
Tiny Tots	Karly Cousins	Cullompton	07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	weirmilldevon@gmail.com	820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub	
Village Hall Bookings	Frances Wilcox	bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk	
Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher - caretaker@willandvillagehall.org.uk		07377 556946
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner		07775 550436
Willand Art Group	Jenny Baker	Gables Road	822882
Willand Community Composting	Tony Mander		821174
Willand Cycle Club	Alan Smith - biggiggsy@hotmail.com		07545 273085
Willand History Group	James Morrison - jamorrison235@gmail.com		01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	John Crocker	12 Maple Close	35589
Willand Theatrical Society	Karen Goodchild		38122
Willand United Charities	Rev Simon Talbot		562570
Youth Club (35218)	Mrs M. Billings	Cullompton	07766 141361

CHURCHES / EDUCATION

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

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Neil Parish	(M.P)	neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7172
Ray Radford	(Devon County Council)	ray.radford@devon.gov.uk	820000
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Bob Evans	(MD Dist Councillor)	revans@middevon.gov.uk	849248
Barry Warren	(MD Dist Councillor)	bwarren@middevon.gov.uk	07971 808423
Parish Council	Parish Council Website	www.willand-pc.org.uk	
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.org.uk	840780
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Lisa Mastrolacasa	(Councillor)	lisa.mastrolacasa@willand-pc.org.uk	
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Jason Scott	(Councillor)	jason.scott@willand-pc.org.uk	07818 045215
Bill Tobin	(Councillor)	bill.tobin@willand-pc.org.uk	821571
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.org.uk	07971 808423
Karen Whatley	(Councillor)	karen.whatley@willand-pc.org.uk	01884 822894
Frances Wilcox	(Councillor)	frances.wilcox@willand-pc.org.uk	
Barbara Bodkin	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

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College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries	831300
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National Blood Service (Donors) Glenda Frost	820641
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Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E)	01392 411611
Tiverton & District Hospital (24hr Casualty)	01884 235400
Willand Surgery	821878

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SOUTH WESTERN ELECTRICITY	0800 365900
SOUTH WEST WATER	0344 346 2020
STREET LIGHTING/HIGHWAYS	0345 155 1004
TREE WARDEN - MRS DENNIS	01884 34050

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Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.05am - 12.05pm

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Fir Close	9.00am	7.00am
Willand Moor Road	4.00pm	11.00am

COMMUNITY POLICE

NON EMERGENCY DIAL 101 or Email: 101_p@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
Or Email: cullompton@dc.police.uk

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

WILLAND WEBSITE www.willandmatters.org.uk

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EDITORIAL

We have lots to offer this issue some news and even some events so all being well a summer of good weather and good health.

UNEXPLODED WW1 BOMB

Having lived in Willand for almost ten years, I recently made the decision to have a new patio installed. I engaged Peter Hart, a very experienced builder, from Tiverton, to carry out the work, at which time, I also decided to have a new boundary fence installed. Part of this work consisted of removing a section of the bank which borders my house and the neighbour's and in between the bank and the neighbouring property is a very old footpath, which has been inaccessible for several years.

When the builders began digging into the bank, they came across a small bottle-shaped object, which on first glance, they assumed to be an old plastic drinks bottle caked in mud, but on closer inspection, the object appeared to have a rather-bizarre looking lid. Pete's labourer bent down, scooped up the object and was instantly taken aback by the sheer weight of it, questioning whether it could indeed actually be something rather more sinister, so gently laid it down again.

Meanwhile, I am in the kitchen, getting ready to start the day with my usual morning cuppa, totally unaware of the events about to unfold. Next thing I know, Pete's knocking on my door, "I think we've uncovered a bomb!" Now, Pete is a joker who constantly pulls my leg and loves a good wind-up. Me, I'm extremely naïve, gullible and will believe absolutely anything anyone tells me. In other words, Pete's perfect victim. I honestly never know when to believe him or not. So, instant reaction, of course, is one of 'oh here we go again, yet another wind-up'. I just don't believe a word he tells me. He continues, "I'm being deadly serious. Come and take a look for yourself". I make absolutely no rush at all in my efforts to view this alleged world war bomb sitting at the bottom of my back garden. Eventually, I get dressed, stroll outside still believing it's just yet another wind up. I stare at the object for a minute or two. I then look at the builders' faces individually, trying to deduce whether this is just some kind of crazy joke or not. Hesitantly, I picked up the object, but I, too, am immediately amazed at the weight of it, so instantly put it down again...ever so gently!

I texted my partner and informed him. I texted a few other people and they advise me to contact the police. I think really?? An hour or so passes and in the end I decide to give the police a call. I also sent them a picture of this "so called bomb" (see pic). I have to admit, I was extremely impressed with their service - two police officers were on my doorstep within half an hour. One served in the military and said he would be able to identify if it was a bomb. He confirmed it was!!!! He thought it was a WW2 bomb, so instantly rings the bomb disposals experts in Plymouth. He then tells me I have to vacate the premises, as did the neighbouring properties so myself, and my sons went over to my mother's house in Tiverton. A few hours later, I receive a call from one of the officers who informs me the bomb was in fact a WW1 bomb that they believe



someone had brought back as a souvenir, realised it was still live and put it down the bottom of the garden. Apparently it was anti-personnel, designed to kill or injure people rather than damage buildings. I could not believe it. My garden of all people's a quiet, little village like Willand Who'd have thought it.

The bomb disposal experts took it away with them to blow it up, at which time, the police officer informed me it was safe for us all to return home. A truly surreal day. One I will certainly never forget. **Helen Kirby**

WILAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

Hopefully with restrictions ending on 21st June things can start to get back to normal. WiTS are holding our AGM on Friday 25th June at Willand Village Hall. Please feel free to come along and meet us and see what we are all about.

Willand Theatrical Society (WiTS) AGM

Friday 25th June 2021 @ 7.00pm
At Willand Village Hall

Over the last few months we have been publishing scenes and snippets from some of our performances on the WiTS Face-Book page. Judging by the amount of views and likes we can see we still have a great audience in Willand who

we hope are eager to come to the next performance. There is something magical about live entertainment that you can feel in the air of the Theatre.

Because of the time needed to prepare we will be unable to put on our usual September show as originally planned which was to be "**Agatha Crusty and the Village hall Murders**" we have put this play on the back burner until 2022. Nevertheless immediately after the AGM we will be starting work on the usual Pantomime for the school half term holidays in February 2022. As yet we have not decided what panto to perform, please watch this space for updates.

Lastly we would like to thank all the residents of Willand for their fabulous support over the years and look forward to seeing all your faces, smiling and laughing with us from the audience seating. **Sam Fincher.**

An actor I know fell through the floor recently. It's just a stage he was going through.

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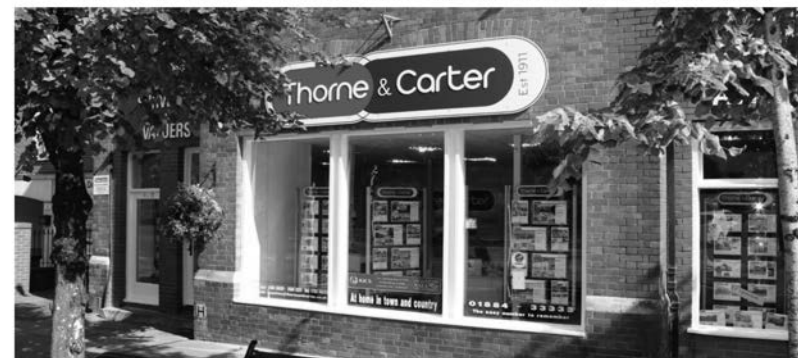
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WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Hello everyone. I hope you are all keeping safe and well and have had your vaccinations, if eligible. Let's hope this is a beginning of the return to normality.

The Hall is starting to be used more frequently now, as adult exercise classes can start again after 17th May, However, some clubs will be unable to start until after all restrictions have lifted at the end of June. We are really looking forward to seeing lots of our regular users back again and to seeing the Hall return to being a very important social hub for the village.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, 25th May, in the annexe at the Hall at 7.00 p.m. Every-one is welcome to attend. Please contact me if you would like to come, as we have to ensure there is sufficient room for everyone to socially distance. There is a hand sanitiser unit at the annexe entrance and we ask that you wear a mask or other facial covering whilst inside the building.

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

COLDHARBOUR MILL IS OPEN AGAIN

Our 2021 season began on 31st May.

Do come and help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Museum
OPENING TIMES: 31st May-31st October 2021

Monday-Friday 10.30am-4:30pm (Last admissions 3pm)

Please book in advance to secure a time slot for your visit

By phone on 01884 840960, by email at info@coldharbourmill.org.uk

Or online through the Mill website www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/visit

STATIC DAYS: Monday-Wednesday & Friday

Explore Coldharbour Mill and learn about the processes of spinning and weaving through the ages, Victorian engineering, and the innovations brought in by the Quaker Fox Brothers Company that originally owned the factory with the help of our self-guided tours.

PRODUCTION DAYS: Thursdays

All the fun of a Static day with the added bonus of experiencing the buzz of a lively factory floor as our volunteers and production manager work on our heritage machinery. They might be spinning yarn, or weaving rugs, cloth or tartan, giving you a feeling for what it was really like to work in Coldharbour Mill.

Whenever you visit, you will also have the opportunity to discover our wildlife and well-being community space – Project Splash as you enjoy a peaceful meander in the Devon countryside. And of course you will be able to find some special gifts for yourself or a loved one in our Shop, which is now combined with the Grist Mill Café Bar with a new improved all-weather outdoor seating area with waterside view & children's play area.

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Keeping you Safe:

We have created bookable time slots for tickets - we do encourage booking in advance to avoid disappointment. *This means we can effectively manage how many people are on-site, so there will be plenty of space for social distancing and viewing the exhibits without feeling rushed.*

We have installed numerous hand-sanitisation points around the site and in the buildings, and we ask that **face coverings be worn in all indoor areas to provide additional safety to other visitors, our volunteers and staff.** **Though we are aware those with certain conditions may be unable to wear a covering, we do encourage all who can to wear one. Additional disposable face coverings will be available from Reception.**

Advance notice: We hope to start our 2021 EVENTS with a Steam Day on Sunday 25th July, followed by our Summer Craft Fair on Sunday 22nd August. Peter Holdway-Bradley General Manager

To contact Coldharbour Mill:

Phone: 01884 840960 or email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk

WILLAND YOUTH CLUB

We are hoping to relaunch in September 2021 after a much longer break than we were all expecting. We will be working hard over the summer to make sure the club is ready to welcome the children back, we have missed them.

For those who are new the village or with children who haven't been before, the Youth Club is based at the end of the Village Hall Car Park, in our own, purpose built building, we have a sports hall, craft room, chill out room and a tuck shop and in the summer we make use of the park next door as well.

There are games consoles, a pool table, karaoke, crafts, a bouncy castle, football, basketball, roller blading and a lot more so there is something for everyone.

We welcome all school age children, primary & secondary and have separate nights for the different age groups – these are yet to be determined but we will let you know as soon as we can. For newcomers the first night is free, after that it is £1 per child.

Volunteers are also needed – if you have any special interests or skills you could share with the kids then that would be great but equally if you just want a couple hours out of the house and to meet some new people then that is just as fantastic. It's fun and rewarding and if you are bringing your child/ren as well then they get free entry, please contact us via our Facebook page or email willandyouthclub@outlook.com if you would be interested in helping out.

Jen Thomas (WYC Secretary)

Youth is, after all, just a moment, but it is the moment, the spark, that you always carry in your heart

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EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT GROUPAs we go to print, it looks like our club can fully reopen from May 17th. We still have reduced numbers, a strict cleaning routine and a Covid-19 screening protocol in place to protect our staff and members from infection.

We have been back coaching gymnastics and the boys love the new Parkour blocks that were bought with Sport England funding. We have had several new boys join and it is great to see them enjoy moving and tumbling.

We have invested in new javelins for our athletics sessions: longer practice ones as our members have grown taller over Lockdown. We are currently focussing on sprints, hurdles and throwing the javelin and shot.

We have been able to hold, 'open gym' sessions for our adult weight lifters and classes for our under-18 members. We will be able to run classes for adults from May 17th: including a mid-morning session if people want to try out this Olympic Sport for the first time.

Adult gymnastics will resume later in May, we have some new recruits that James has been training with in the park during lockdown.

Once again, new members are welcome: our club is designed to help people develop their athletic skills and enjoy movement. **James Marshall**

ASHLEY JONES REGIONAL FRAUD PROTECT ADVISOR

By way of an initial introduction, my name is Ashley Jones and I am the **Regional Fraud Protect Advisor** employed by the **South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SWROCU)** that being a Home Office funded, Law Enforcement body serving all the police force areas of the South West of England. For more information on the SWROCU, you may wish to visit our website. My role is to undertake activity that reduces economic crime (fraud), through improving awareness and promoting preventative measures with individuals and organisations, to enable them to better protect themselves from economic crime. Fraud makes up approximately a third of all reported crime and between 2020 around 4.4 million frauds were reported in the UK, with a loss to individuals of around £7-billion in total. Frauds against individuals are frequently targeted at elderly and vulnerable citizens, for whom the consequences of victimisation can be devastating, both psychologically, as well as financially. However, as much as **80% of fraud is preventable** with relatively simple safety measures that can be employed to protect us from the scammers that we may encounter on a daily basis.

OFFER OF FREE FRAUD SAFETY PRESENTATIONS (Virtual or In-person)

As part of my mission to help protect people from fraud, I am able to join the meetings of your organisation, or any larger gatherings to give an official fraud prevention presentation to your members – the presentation seeks to raise awareness of the dangers of economic crime, highlight typical case studies of previous offences and offer advice and tips to help keep the audience members safe, as well as signposting people to resources that will help keep them safe in the future.

These sessions can be tailored in length, but typically take 35 -45 minutes with additional time for questions and answers – the presentations can be delivered in-person, or via Zoom/MS Teams/Skype/etc.

NARRATED FRAUD SAFETY PRESENTATION VIA YOUTUBE

If an in-person, or Zoom fraud safety presentation is not suitable for the specific needs of your community, I have filmed a narrated version presentation, which can be viewed via the YouTube video sharing platform. This means that it can be viewed by anyone who has this link: <https://youtu.be/Oyc3IT0xvsY> on any device and at their leisure and is an alternative way for residents to receive the fraud safety input.

OFFER OF FREE ‘SPOTTING FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION’ TRAINING

In addition to the provision of standard fraud protection sessions, I am also able to offer training that has been customised for individuals/groups that have frequent contact with potentially vulnerable community members and may benefit from specialised training, to help identify the signs and symptoms of financial exploitation and what steps they should take to ameliorate the situation. These sessions are particularly valuable for individuals or teams who frequently encounter and interact with the groups of citizens most likely to be targeted by frauds, such as; the elderly, disabled, those with some form of cognitive impairment, or those impacted by other socio-economic circumstances, such as loneliness and isolation.

I would be obliged if you would be able to pass along my offer of free training and support to anyone who may benefit – I will attend team meetings, etc. with all the required presentation equipment (or virtually via Zoom/Skype/Teams/etc. I can be available for meetings in both the daytime and evening as required – **there is no charge** whatever for these presentations, as they are delivered as part of a public service.

LITTLE BOOK OF BIG SCAMS

A copy of the Little Book of Big Scams can be found on the Willand Parish Council Website under the Councillor Police Advocate Section in Messages. This excellent fraud prevention resource has been created to help raise awareness of the dangers of fraud and offer preventative measures to help keep everyone safe from the insidious creep we are seeing in financial crimes in recent years. I can be contacted either by this email, or on the telephone number below for bookings. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the above, or to speak to me directly about my offer of presentations, please feel free to call at any time. Best regards, **Ashley Jones Tel: 07889660015**

Email ashley.jones@avonandsomerset.police.uk

WILLAND GARDEN CLUB Hello everyone,

We are all chomping at the bit, waiting for our club meetings to recommence, but will not be able to start up again until 14th July. We will meet at 7.30 in the Annexe and one of our members, Sylvia, will be showing slides about her stay in New Zealand. Visitors are welcome to come along.

We are looking forward to our annual Flower and Vegetable Show on 14th August. We hope to see you there. Schedules will be available in July, unless COVID regulations change.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and subscriptions are just £5 per person. The subscription entitles you to a 10% discount on all garden items at The Old Well Garden Centre.

.If you would like to know more about the Club, please do not hesitate to contact myself. **Carol Allan. cbarwa@mail.com. 01884 33828**

HOSPISCARE OPEN GARDENS

Gardens are opening again for Hospiscare. With spaces big and small to visit, and delicious tea and cake to be enjoyed, this is a wonderful way to spend a day out and support a local charity. You're able to take well behaved dogs on leads to some of the gardens, so a day out for your canine friends too.

List of gardens as follows:

Location	Day Date	Time
Woodside Bampton	Fridays 2 April to 24 Sept	10am – last entry 4pm
West Barton Thorverton	Sunday 13 June	2pm - 5pm
Rose Cottage Thorverton	Sunday 13 June	2.pm – 5pm
Felstead Budleigh Salterton	Saturday 19 June Sunday 20 June	11am-4pm
Hillside Sidmouth	Sat and Sun 19 and 20 June	1pm-6pm
The Pollinator Garden Colyton	Friday, Wed, 25 and 30 June Friday, Wed 9 and 14 July	10.am – 4pm 10am – 4pm
Orchard House Exeter	Saturday 26 June	2pm - 5pm
Plymtree Open Gardens Two Gardens	Sat and Sun 26 and 27 June	2pm – 5pm
Springdale Honiton	Sunday 27 June	2pm – 5pm
Dunsford Open Gardens Three Gardens	Saturday 3 July	2pm -5pm
Little Ash Farm Bungalow	Sat and Sun 3 and 4 July	1pm to 5pm
Prospect House Axminster	Sat and Sun 3 and 4 July	1pm to 5pm
South Wood Farm Honiton	Sat and Sun 3 and 4 July	1pm to 5pm
Sowden Edge Lypstone	Sunday 4 July	2pm – 5pm
Briar House Exeter	Sunday 18 th July	12pm – 5pm
Fursdon House Exeter	Wednesday 28 July	2pm – 5pm
Topsham open Gardens 3 Gardens Tea on the Quay	Sunday 18 July	2pm – 5pm
Axminster Open Gardens Two Gardens	Sat 21 Sund 22 August Sat 16 Sun 17 October	1.30pm – 5pm 1.30pm – 5pm
Jazz in the Garden Topsham	Sunday 22 August	4pm – 7pm
Rossli Woodbury Salterton	Monday 30 August	10am -4pm
White Cottage Crediton	Sat 4 Sun 5 September	12pm – 5pm

Ali McGeown

TAKE ON INCREDIBLE HIKE FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST

From this May (National Walking Month), we're asking people to get out, grab some fresh air and take on a hike of their choice to raise a few pounds for Children's Hospice South West.

As it's the charity's 30th anniversary this year, we've lined up 30 stunning routes across Devon, Cornwall and Somerset for people to choose from ...or they can pick one of their own and 'Hike as they like'

Every penny they can raise will help ensure local children and families continue to receive the vital hospice care they need.



After a day's walk, everything has twice its usual value

CAMEO

The walking group have been able to get out in small socially distanced groups. We had a lovely get together at Bridwell. We are looking forward to getting going properly again. A newsletter went out to all our members in May about events and all being well we will be having a coffee morning at the home of our Chair on the 3rd of June and our first meeting in the village hall on Thursday 1st July. Any queries contact Peta Jackman details can be found in the information pages.



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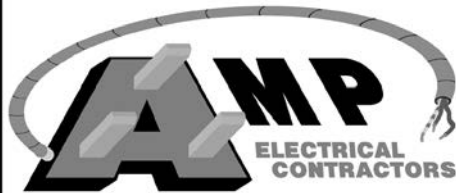
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ST MARY'S CHURCH

In April, after a year-long application process, I was commissioned as an Army Reserve Chaplain. This is an extra role on top of my day-to-day ministry, but one I am passionate about and thoroughly looking forward to.

I was thrilled to be assigned to 6th Battalion The Rifles who have their headquarters in Exeter, but units spread around the South West.

My role will be similar to being a vicar in many ways but working with the Riflemen in a part time capacity (in the Rifles you are a Rifleman whatever your rank and whether you are male or female!). This will involve occasional church services, from their big Christmas Carol service with the amazing Salamanca Band to services in the field. The biggest part of the role, however, will be providing pastoral care to the just over 500 Riflemen who make up 6 RIFLES.



The privilege of being a Padre is that I am one of the few that people can talk to in confidence about anything they want knowing that it won't be put on their record unless they have agreed for me to pass it on. This means a large part of my role will be getting to know people and chatting to them over a brew (Army word for a cuppa.).

I am, of course, also still a Christian minister, so whilst I am there for people of all faiths and those who don't hold to a particular faith, I am also there to speak about how a relationship with Jesus makes a difference to our lives. One of the interesting things I have found so far is how interested many of the people I have met are in finding out more about what I believe. From late nights at my officer selection board as I was grilled by others applying to be officers in the Army to casual conversation about Christianity with the Quartermaster as I plundered his stores for all the kit I could lay my hands on.

As exciting as this role is I am still your full time vicar! Whilst I will be touring the different companies a little more to get to know people initially the main commitment will be 3 or 4 evenings a month, a few weekends a year and a 2 week annual camp.

If you are reading this as a member of the armed forces, or a veteran and would be interested in meeting with other members of the armed forces or veterans, or just fancy a brew or wet (depending on your preference!) please do get in touch.

The church building remains open every day from 9.30am to 4pm for anyone who would like to visit, whether it be for a time of quiet, private prayer or just to shelter from the rain! The seats and regularly touched surfaces are cleaned daily and hand sanitizer is available at the door.

St Mary's is also open for services each Sunday at 10am. Face masks need to be worn, and we are not allowed to sing at the moment, but we are trying to keep everything else as normal as possible. We hope later in June the Government will change regulations allowing us to get more back to normal. When regulations change we will do all we can to keep a balance between returning to normal and helping people feel safe.

If you would prefer to join us for a service whilst you are at home we also have a Zoom service at 11am each week. This can be accessed on a computer, tablet, Mobile-phone or on a normal landline telephone. For those joining on the Zoom app you will need the Zoom Meeting ID: 844 4111 7745

& Passcode: 094000. We understand this is an unusual experience so if you would prefer to leave your camera off you are welcome to do so. A recording of this service is also put on the St Mary's Facebook page by 1pm each week, but can also be emailed to you if you would prefer.

Over the coming weeks I hope we will also be able to reopen some of our different groups in the church hall, but until we know what social distancing is going to be advised after 21 June it is hard to plan - please keep an eye out on Facebook, or give me a ring in July if you'd like to check if we have restarted a group you are part of.

Rev Simon Talbot. Tel: 01884 562570 email: simon@thetalbots.org.uk

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

We along with many other organisations usually use these pages to advertise our events, to encourage you to come along and join in.

Whilst it is nearly possible to hold events we have not planned anything yet. There is something that every church and every Christian is actively doing. Through the last months everyone in the area has been even more involved in caring for each other. The extra that people of faith bring is that they also pray.

In our prayers we remember: people we know and those we only hear of in the news, people for whom Covid-19 has made them feel isolated or have lost loved ones and those whose usual care and treatment has been disrupted. We pray for our neighbourhood and people across the world.

There is a letter box on the outside of our church building, if you or anyone you know would like to be prayed for you are welcome to drop a note in and we will include your concerns in our prayers. You do not need to include your name if you do not wish to. May God Bless you **Rev Paul Booth.**

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

'Times they are a changing' – a studio album by Bob Dylan – but I doubt he knew about Covid 19 and the changes to our lives that would bring when he wrote the song. We 'oldies' should now have had our vaccinations and should be feeling a little more confident about getting out and about. What a great job they have been doing at the Cullompton Surgeries. I for one am looking forward



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to going to Wales and seeing family. By the time you read this we hopefully will have had our belated 'Christmas' dinner – Oh yes we will. Please all act sensibly when you are getting about so that we do not end up spreading the virus around again and ending up in another lockdown. Please follow the guidance and wear masks, follow social distancing and regularly wash/sanitize hands as required or advised. It will be good to see business getting back to some form of normality.

Willand is still alive and functioning as a community thanks to a number of our residents who are working for the good of others. Thank you all but please do not let enthusiasm run away from taking sensible precautions with regard to 'safeguarding' and accountability where money is involved, and 'risk assessments' may be necessary. Rules is Rules as they say.

Hopefully the Village Hall will be able to get back into full use as a hub for many community activities. The WH&CC part of the Gables site is nearing completion and will soon come into use as a meeting place with the book swap. Hopefully the Youth Club will have new life and be able to find the help needed to give our youngsters a focal point. Do not forget Scouts, Guides, Brownies etc. are always looking for support and volunteers. Karate Club, Tennis Club, WITS and other organisations all play their part. Volunteers have set up a 'food larder' to help those in the village experiencing difficult times and the generosity of individuals and local businesses does not go unnoticed. Thank you all.

The Parish Council is beginning to get back to public meetings and as the year progresses we would like to see and hear from more of our residents. How else can we know if we are doing the right thing? If you want to come to a meeting in the next month or so please speak to the Clerk first so that we can arrange for the necessary precautions.

The Parish Council has acquired a VAS kit which monitors and warns speeding motorists. It will also give some idea of the speeds of vehicles and any relevant times. It does not identify individual offenders so please do not go worrying about your human rights. We hope that this will make motorists aware of their speeds and that they will respond by slowing down. It is being concentrated in the Silver Street area at present to protect the crossings and school entrance. Data collected and reviewed will then guide any future action.

As I said at the beginning 'Times they are a changing' and sadly we are losing our Parish Clerk, Kate Taylor, at the end of May 2021. Kate has been with us for all my time as Chair of the Parish Council and has been extremely efficient and supportive. She has even been known to put me right on the odd occasion which earned her the affectionate nick name of 'Auntie'. Thank you Kate for all you have done and do not be a stranger. I am sure you will not as you will be involved in all sorts knowing you. I have to 'train' a new Auntie now and we have appointed Barbara Bodkin as our new Clerk. She has been working alongside Kate for her last 6 weeks and so hopefully there will be a smooth handover. Welcome Barbara. For those of you needing to contact the Clerk

the email address and telephone number will be the same and I am sure that Barbara will respond to being called Kate for a while.

With my MDDC hat on I can report that the budget has been set and although you will note a rise in your Council Tax MDDC are only responsible for a small proportion of that after Devon CC, the Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner have added their bit. The recent elections have filled three vacancies with Conservative Councillors and so the numerical makeup of the Council has changed slightly.

You may have noted that there will be a trial with 3 weekly bin collections but this will not affect our area at present. At the Annual Meeting of the District Council I was elected to Chair the Scrutiny Committee which can oversee decisions made by the Cabinet amongst other things.

You may have your own thoughts about it but Lower Culm Ward has three councillors who are quite influential in the Mid Devon area in that Bob Evans and Richard Chesterton are on the Cabinet and Bob is also Deputy Leader. You then have me keeping an eye on what they are doing – tongue in cheek of course. Richard has also been elected as a Devon County Council member for part of Tiverton. Worry not – I shall not be neglecting my allegiance to Willand. Keep well, keep safe and enjoy our community. **Barry G J Warren**

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE (WH&CC)

Good news the building is ready to be partially opened. It has been a long road but we can now move forward and start being another valuable resource to serve the community. We recently took part in the table top sale organised by Helen Jones, which helped us raise some more funds. Thank you Helen. Now it is over to you to suggest what you would like to see the space used for.

Covid-19 and Government guidance permitting we are hoping to open up on Thursday 8th July for people to drop in for a coffee and chat 9-11 and 1-3. The book swap will be available and a tombola. Look out for the posters. Hope to see you there.

Our **AGM** will be at the centre on 5th July at 7pm everyone welcome.


If you would like to hire WH&CC please email: info@whacc.org.uk for more information. **Tania Edworthy.**



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Although, COVID appears to be retreating we request that you continue to respect any current guidelines that apply down on the site. Where necessary and to assist there are signs marked out.

To those who have recently visited we thank you for your cooperation. Hopefully, we will see you down here, depositing both your garden waste material and purchasing compost; this we consider as your contribution to the green recycling. **Tony Mander.** (Secretary)

Mob. 07980472242. Email: tmander931@gmail.com

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

So much has happened since my last article. Lockdown has eased and will hopefully continue to ease and apparently we are getting ever closer to summer.

Local elections have come and gone. There are no changes in your local representation, yet things are happening at a pace at MDDC.

The tree planting policy is at last starting to see some action. I have been working with a number of local businesses and land-owners one being Aggregate Industries who have a base in Uffculme to secure a partnership with them to agree tree planting on their land. This has been agreed and the first site is identified. Watch out for news of local community involvement in this project.

Other sites have also been identified throughout Mid Devon with a site next to Morrison's in Tiverton being identified as our inaugural site it is already attracting much attention. I am pleased to have been directly responsible for such an important policy and involved locally in obtaining land for this vital project.

MDDC will shortly be moving forward with trialling a new three-week cycle residual waste collection service. We are one of the last local authorities to look at this but it makes sense to trial it first. Trials will take place in both the town and rural locations. Many people focus on the fact that this will mean less collections, it doesn't.

Food waste will continue to be collected every week - as now to all properties. Your residual waste - the stuff that you cannot recycle, reuse or reduce and currently goes to landfill will be collected every three weeks. Many of you tell us is what you want, less landfill more recycling. We still see far too many black bags left out for landfill.

By reducing the current two-week collection to a three weekly collection we are hoping many people will look again at what they put out for landfill and recycle much more. Time and time again this has proven to be the case in every authority that has introduced such a scheme.

The small electrical goods scheme introduced by MDDC is proving popular with residents. Your toaster, kettle, or iron is now sent for recycling instead of going to landfill.

We are hoping to announce a social housing scheme by the time you read this. Social housing is a complex and expensive area but I'm determined that I will lead MDDC into re-introducing social housing provision in greater numbers. Land is expensive, build costs are expensive and skilled labour is in short supply, these are barriers not excuses not to act. A three year plan is drawn up and waiting for final details on funding to be finalised but I'm confident we will commence a programme of social housing provision this year.

I hope you find the above useful informative and encouraging, if you have any questions please do contact me directly, email or a phone call, evenings are better for calls.

In the mean-time, keep doing what you have been doing to stay safe and soon very soon we may be closer to what many called normality.

Bob Evans MDDC Councillor, Lower Culm email: revans@middevon.gov.uk
Telephone: 01884 849248.

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

Thank you to everyone who responded so positively to the article in the last Parish Magazine, especially those of you who have related further memories of Willand's waterways. Several, including Betty Penberthy, fondly recalled the days when there was access to the River Culm down Dye House Lane from the 'Old' Village. My own memories from the 1980s confirm this – summer picnics, minnowing in the shallows, and on at least one occasion our whole class from Willand Primary School trooped over to have a lesson on the river bank, learning about wildlife, farming and how to behave in the outdoors. Here are just a few of the vivid memories kindly sent to us by Geraldine 'Geri' Holloway from a much earlier time:

"For me the brief statement "going down to the river" conjures up countless childhood memories from the 1930/40s. My sister, Pamela, three years my junior, and I lived with our parents in Carr Cottage, the end cottage of the row of seven, on the left hand corner of Dye House Lane. On the right hand corner was Pitfield, the large detached house occupied by Major & Mrs Lane. The River Culm was only a few minutes' walk away via Dye House Lane and its muddy extension leading directly to an old lop-sided footbridge spanning the river. The bridge was made of well-worn wooden planks and a none too secure handrail on its right hand side. Dare-devil village lad, Eric Potter, would walk precariously along the top of that handrail with the same agility as he used to climb to the very summits of the trees alongside the village road outside Pitfield to touch the

telegraph wires. How we admired him! He lived four doors down from Carr Cottage next to Mr White's sweet shop, with Winnie, his single mother, and Sid, her father, a retired 'seadog' who often sat at his front door wearing an ancient naval peaked cap.

Dye House Lane was bordered on its left hand side by my father's expertly tilled vegetable garden and beyond it an apple orchard belonging to our neighbour, Harry Mortimore, who was the village postman and chimney sweep. The right hand side of the Lane was bounded by Pitfield's high garden wall, the Parish Room and beyond that by the spacious low-lying vegetable patch tended by Major Lane. Facing the end of Dye House Lane with its rough, rutted surface, was an attractive stone wall about six feet high which formed part of the garden boundary of the pair of cottages, the original Dye House, built at right angles to the Lane. Bill Griffiths and his wife, Pam, a Welsh couple, lived in the nearer cottage. Bill did not enjoy good health: he had been gassed whilst serving in the First World War. The adjoining cottage accommodated Harold Saunders, his wife and their six young children. Each child had a name of only three letters: Ann, Roy, Joy, Fay, Jan and Max.

To the left of the aforementioned stone wall was a large cobbled farmyard at the rear of the two cottages, enclosed by a variety of barns and sheds including the long "milking parlour" for Reg Rowe's dozen or so dairy cows. Leading off one corner of the yard was a narrow winding footpath wending its way between two cottages and their large vegetable gardens to a small gate right opposite the main door of the parish Church Jack Sellick lived in one of the cottages – a pump close to his front door – and in the adjoining one were Mr & Mrs Dart with Enid and Dick, their teenaged daughter and son. I have a vague recollection of being told Dick used to catch eels in the deep water slightly downstream from the footbridge but I am not sure if that was true. To the right of the stone wall and almost immediately on one's left was a traditional wooden five-barred farm gate marking the start of the lane leading straight down to the footbridge spanning the Culm. In the late summer luscious blackberries enticed passers by along this stretch. On the right was a large apple orchard and beyond it towards the river a field in which a few mushrooms could be found at times. In the spring the hedgerows were dotted with sweet scented primroses and later in the year, the less common foxgloves stood tall at intervals along the tops of the hedges.

But it was "down by the river" that was the real attraction. We spent many happy hours there catching minnows and sticklebacks, paddling in the shallow parts of the river and enjoying Saturday afternoon picnics and Sunday evening walks with our parents. Our efforts to catch unsuspecting minnows – sticklebacks didn't have the same appeal – required large glass jam jars with long pieces of string tied around their necks and then thrust hopefully into the water. Although we often did catch five or six minnows and carried them home very carefully to be transferred to an old tin bath outdoors, they only survived a couple of days before rising to the surface, belly upwards, very obviously dead. Our picnics

were always very enjoyable family occasions. With the essentials packed into the boot of his car Dad would drive the four of us “down to the river”, straight through the same stretch of shallow water that the cows splashed through every day, into the large field. All very exciting! Just inside the gateway connecting the first and second field was a huge tree. Underneath it was a large patch of bare earth. It was here that Dad would light a small fire – for which we had collected twigs and small branches – on which to boil a battered tin kettle of water brought from home. He suspended the kettle over the fire on a branch stuck in the ground. Those cups of tea, and of course the sandwiches and homemade cakes, were delicious”.

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

The Mid Devon Singers
WELCOME YOU!
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The MiDS have not met since February 2020, but are now planning to restart on Friday June 11 – still keeping safe – firstly, for two weeks in the courtyard at Swallow Court, Jersey Farm, EX16 7EJ, near J27 with a welcome session at 7.30pm followed by a first rehearsal from 8.00 to 9.30pm. When we start, we shall include songs listed in our last report, songs from all times, places, in all genres and styles, but beginning, appropriately, with (*The Sun'll Come Out*), *Tomorrow* (from Annie) and *Here Comes the Sun* (Beatles) with two songs by Carole King: *I Feel the Earth Move* and *Will You (Still) Love me Tomorrow?*

We are adding many new singers, beginners and experienced, to our all-age, inclusive, social and musical group. Fortunately, we have not lost any singers since February 2020. You will spot our new, unmissable, banners as we restart. Anyone who would like to sing for fun should call for a chat or visit our Facebook. It's an ideal time to join, when others are new too. Please tell friends, especially new colleagues and neighbours about the MiDS. There are no auditions, no charge for trying us and it's always free for under 18s. We'll resume meeting at Halberton Village Hall, from Friday 25 June.

Membership will be FREE this summer, in June and from July onwards for members who have restarted their monthly standing order to begin on September 1. We have been asked to sing at the Uffculme Show at Bridwell Park on Sunday 5 September. Please reserve the date and if you are a singer Friday 3 September too, for a rehearsal. We hope to resume social activities (outdoors) as soon as possible and have our full welcoming party in early September. Contact: singers@halberton.org or 820081(Terry) or 252910 (Bernard). **Terry Payne** (Chairman) 07973 890947

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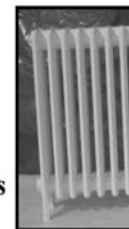
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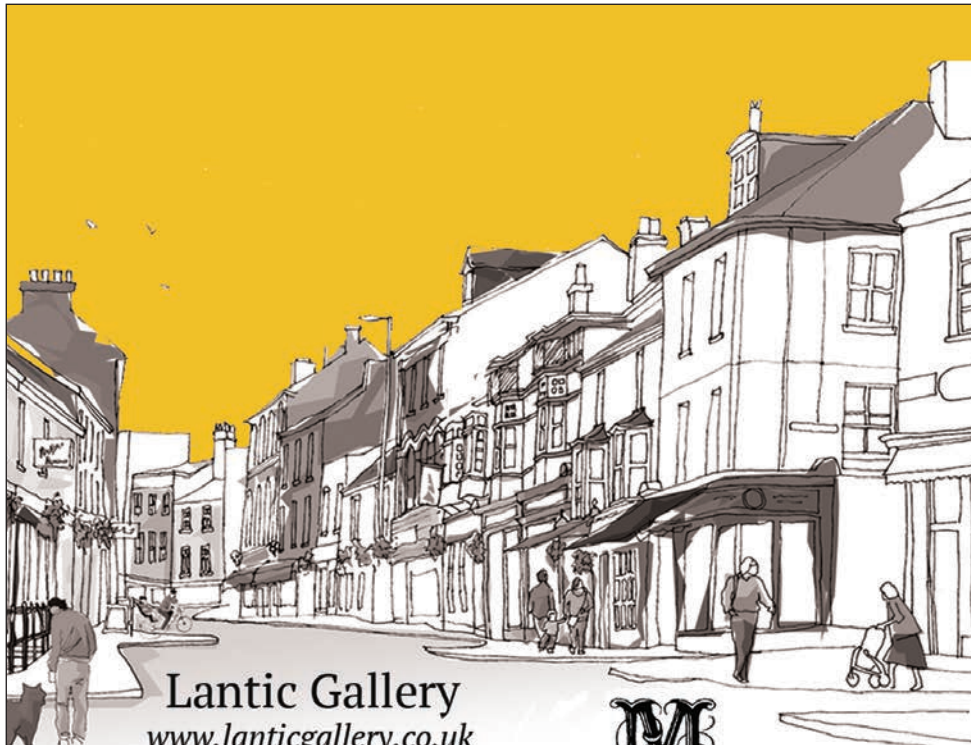
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