

# WILLAND MAGAZINE

December & January 2024



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

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## WILLAND PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Allotment Holders	Sylvia Statham	Secretary/Contact	peterandsylviaastatham@hotmail.com
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Brownies	Bridget Pearse		07814 569054
C.A.M.E.O. Ladies Grp	Peta Jackman		07900 904822
Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom		01404 47200
Garden Club	Sylvia Statham		peterandsylviaastatham@hotmail.com
Tiny Tots	Karly Holley - willandtinytots@gmail.com		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		07377 556946
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner		07775 550436
Willand Art Group	Jenny Baker	Gables Road	822882
Willand Crafty Family and Friends	Emma Worth -willandcraftyfamily2021@gmail.com		07843811230
Willand Community Composting	Truly Rose	willandcommunitycomposting@gmail.com	
Willand Health & Community Centre			info@whacc.org.uk
Willand History Group	James Morrison - jamorrison235@gmail.com		01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	John Crocker	12 Maple Close	35589
Willand Theatrical Society		witsthesecretary@gmail.com	01884 32152
Willand United Charities		unitedcharities@whacc.org.uk	
Youth Club (35218)	Mrs M. Billings	Cullompton	07766 141361

## CHURCHES / EDUCATION

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham		34077
Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev Nick Lakin nicholas.lakin@methodist.org.uk		07895 740286
Quakers	Pat Bell		840823
Roman Catholic Church	Canon Kristian Paver - St Boniface, Cullompton		252292
St. Mary's Church	Churchwarden Lesley Smith		07944 295002
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

Richard Foord	(M.P)	Richard.Foord.MP@Parliament.UK	0207 2197172
Ray Radford	(Devon County Council)	ray.radford@devon.gov.uk	820000
Andrea Glover	(MD Dist Councillor)	aglover@middevon.gov.uk	07908 734368
Cathy Connor	(MD Dist Councillor)	cconnor@middevon.gov.uk	07548 872107
John Poynton	(MD Dist Councillor)	jpynton@middevon.gov.uk	07834 869284
<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>Parish Council Website</b>	<b>www.willand-pc.org.uk</b>	
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.org.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.org.uk	07795821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.org.uk	07496 113135
John Sellick	(Councillor)	john.sellick@willand-pc.org.uk	07865 570755
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.org.uk	07971 808423
Andrea Glover	(Councillor)	andrea.glover@willand-pc.org.uk	07908 734368
Neil James	(Councillor)	neil.james@willand-pc.org.uk	07733 083158
Jason Scott	(Councillor)	jason.scott@willand-pc.org.uk	07818 045215
Helen Jones	(Councillor)	helen.jones@willand-pc.org.uk	07454 510573
Jack Hughes	(Councillor)	jack.hughes@willand-pc.org.uk	
Sue Leach	(Councillor)	sue.leach@willand-pc.org.uk	07732 952829
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

Bramblehaies Surgery.....	33536
College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries.....	831300
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	Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.25am - 12.25pm

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Meadow Park	9.00am	7.00am
Station Road	9.00am	7.00am
Fir Close	9.00am	7.00am
Willand Moor Road	9.00am	7.00am

Non-crime events can be reported to **101** by telephone or by email to **101@dc.police.uk**  
Any crimes need to be reported through **101** by telephone or on the web-form in the link:  
**[www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting)**

**MAGAZINE** Please send Editorial items to [willandparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:willandparishmag@gmail.com)  
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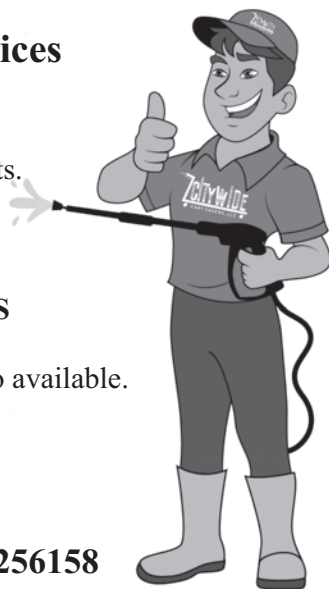
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Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year from Sam, Penny, Richard and Peggy the volunteer staff on Willand Magazine. We hope you find the magazine informative and helpful.

**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES**

It was a pleasure to welcome Sue Leach and Jack Hughes as Parish Councillors at our October meeting. We now have 11 of our compliment of 12 Councillors and so we can coopt one more willing volunteer if you come forward, please.

The pump track seems to be getting plenty of use and after some initial teething problems with some behaviour of a minority things are settling down. With all the heavy rain we have been having there has been some flooding on the track as the drainage system has struggled to cope. Some have seen this as a challenge to ride through the water not recommended. Speaking of drainage that is topped by the stones in the middle of the track in several places. The stones are part of the drainage and not for certain individuals to use as ammunition to throw around and cause damage so those sensible ones in the community are asked to help with education of the few. Litter is still a problem and so the Parish – all of we council taxpayers is providing another bin right by the track in the hope that it will be used.

Planning permission has been received for the new skateboard ramps and a contractor has been appointed. As soon as Mid Devon District Council release the money to the Parish Council the work will be put into the contractor's schedule.

Lighting is being explored for the pump track, but no other ideas have been put forward to the Clerk as to what other 'teen' facilities our community may like to see. Help with ideas would be appreciated please as I did ask in the last issue of the magazine.

We have had no feedback from residents as to the cutting of the grass verges so we can only assume that you are all content with what the Parish Council are doing on your behalf. We have had some representation as to leaving some more areas wild and for not weed spraying the pavement edges and the block pavements. A lot of thought and work was put into the document provided to us and we have some councillors working on the ideas put forward.

Our October meeting received a presentation from the developers proposing to build housing at the rear of the Halfway House/Muxbeare Lane in Halberton Parish. A small number of parishioners attended, and we were joined by the District Councillor from Halberton. This is one to watch as I am not sure where the sewage will all go for a start. I saw on Facebook that someone was raising issues about the development off Meadow Park regarding sewage disposal.

It is pleasing to note that the Youth Club is to reopen under new management as they say. Our thanks go out to them for stepping forward to provide a much-needed facility within the village. Thank you to those who have worked hard to provide the facility in the past.

It will have been my privilege to have represented the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service at the Church and to lay a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of our community. Thank you to all those who attended and participated.

We have the festive season fast approaching and for some money will be tight to provide all that parents would wish for their children by way of presents. Heating and food will be another problem.

Nikki Woollatt has been coming to the WHCC coffee mornings at the Gables with her offers of assistance and advice in relation to energy use in the home and she will try and help anyone who approaches her. We have her contact details if needed. The Pantry volunteers are still working hard to help those who need it, I am sure that they will be working hard to help all they can to at least have a good Christmas dinner. Please keep an eye out for the elderly and those living alone and help where you can even if it is only giving some of your time and a listening ear.

It just remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the Parish Council. **Barry G J Warren**

**SUDUKO. No. 103**

	T	E		O		S	R	
P			M					
		R		U	E	A		O
	E				R	M	U	S
	O			E			A	
R	P	S	U				E	
E		M	P	S		T		
					O			U
	U	T		A		P	S	

**SUDUKO** This is the same as Sudoku but with letters instead of numbers. Each column and each square must Have one letter each.

Letters used AEMOPRSTU

Clue to middle line: "Rodent Catcher"

Life is more fun if you play games **Roald Dahl**

Solution later in magazine.



## **WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)**

Rehearsals are in full swing for our annual pantomime that we will be performing on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with doors open at 7pm each evening and 2pm on Saturday for the matinee.

This year we are bringing to you **“Sing a Song a Sixpence”** An original panto from a local writer who had a great response with Cinderella what Happened Next. Keep your eye on local media for details over the coming months.

With upgraded lighting and sound for this panto will be new and even more exciting. (Oh yes it will)

New members have joined us this year and all will play some part in this Panto we are always open to anyone who wants to join and be a part of WiTS from backstage, to set design, costume design, front of house to treading the boards. We meet every Friday evening at the Village Hall at 7:30pm, why not pop along to see what we are about. Enquiries: **witsthesecretary@gmail.com**.

## **WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**

All the trustees were very sad to hear of the death of Diane Batchelor. She had been a trustee at the Village Hall for many years and was always happy to help when she could. Diane was taken into hospital in the middle of October and died there peacefully at the end of the month. Diane was also a stalwart member of Willand Garden Club and CAMEO. Her happy disposition made her many friends in the village, and she will be missed by all of them. We extend our condolences to her son, Gary, and his family and to her brother, Alan.

The Hall continues to be very well used and we hope that the village residents appreciate what an asset the Hall is to Willand. Ours is now one of the best in Devon, with refurbished rooms, a large car park and very competitive hire charges. As mentioned previously, we have a new booking system in place, which seems to be working very well. Thanks to Frances, our Booking Secretary, and Doug, our accounts person, for getting it up and running.

**Carol Allan Treasurer** [www.willandvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.willandvillagehall.org.uk)

## **SANTA RUN**

This year the WRFC Santa Run, again kindly sponsored by Marcus Smith of MS Heating, will be raising money for the “Running for Shelly” charity established by local man Adam Webb to raise awareness of ovarian cancer when Shelly, Adam’s wife, was battling this dreadful disease.

10.30 am Junior Santa Run: 1.0 miles (Once around the pitch, out of the club back gate, up Orchard Way, down Jaycroft, onto Orchard Way via the park, through Cherry Close, B3181 and back into WRFC through the front gate.)

11.15 am Adult Route: 3.0 miles (up Silver St, down Station Rd, Lloyd Maunder Rd, B3181 past the Esso Garage, through Willand Old Village and back into WRFC through the front gate.) Entry Fees: £6 Adult, £3 Juniors. A Family run pass is £15 (up to 3 Juniors & 2 Adults) Email Catherine Dinner at [willandroversfc@outlook.com](mailto:willandroversfc@outlook.com) or telephone her on 07775 550436 by 6pm



## **PANTRY.**

Father Christmas has confirmed he will be visiting the WHCC on Saturday 9th December. Last year he bought snow with him!

The cost will remain at £5 per child. Booking is essential.

Hampers, last year we produced 84 hampers in total, these are distributed in Willand. Each hamper contains everything for a decent Christmas dinner and tea for a family of 6.

We work hard all year to achieve this. If you would like to donate goods towards then, please drop them at the pantry between 9.30 and 11 am. Monday-Friday. If you have someone you would like to nominate to receive one, please get in touch.

You will notice we have now returned to our winter opening times, Monday-Friday 9.30-11am. There will be no evening opening during the winter months. We have been lucky enough to be one of the Co-op community interests this year, if you haven't already, please choose The Pantry! It doesn't affect the points you personally earn.

Remember the Pantry is open to everyone in Willand, we have no criteria to meet, we are completely non-judgemental, we look forward to meeting with you! On a more personal note, I would like to THANK the pantry volunteers. They give up their time week in week out... it's not just opening for an hour and half a day, lots goes on behind the scenes, which is very time consuming and sometimes extremely frustrating. So, a huge THANK YOU for supporting my crazy ideas.

The Pantry team wish everyone in the village a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a peaceful 2024.

If you require any information on the above or regarding the pantry.

Please call Helen 07454 510 573. **Helen Jones.**

***I wanted to organize my spice rack, but I didn't have the thyme.***

## **WILLAND GARDEN CLUB**

WGC meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.00 p.m. Our next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup>. December in the Club Room at the Willand Village Hall. We have an interesting range of speakers.

We were particularly spoilt in October and November with Peter Cantrill of Dayspring Plants, the wholesale nursery near Exeter, showing some of his 2500 plants, offering them for sale at very competitive prices. Also, in November by Tim Nichols of RoseTime Flowers, Bampton Street, Tiverton, demonstrating the making of five large displays, which he donated for the raffle afterwards.

Our next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup>. December with a prize quiz and Christmassy refreshments. Next year's programme is complete, with copies available to view. Each paid up member receives a membership card which entitles them to a 10% discount at The Old Well Garden Centre, Waterloo Cross.

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## **WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Football update:** WRFC have had a cracking start to the new Southern Football League season. We sit very healthily in the top six in the league table, so all credit to David Steele, our manager, and the team. The hard work Dave put in through the summer in retaining many of the players who served us well last year and bringing in some new and exciting young players is starting to pay dividends.

The quality of football being played by the team and the entertainment they give the spectators is excellent so if you have never attended a match at Silver Street then I'd encourage you to come along and see what we have to offer: I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Our upcoming home fixtures through until the beginning of March are:

- Saturday 2 December 2023, kick off 3pm: Yate Town
- Monday 1 January 2024, kick off 3pm: Paulton Rovers
- Saturday 13 January 2024, kick off 3pm: Westbury Utd
- Saturday 27 January 2024, kick off 3pm: Mousehole AFC
- Saturday 10 February 2024, kick off 3pm: Bideford AFC
- Saturday 2 March 2024, kick off 3pm: Frome Town

**Volunteers needed:** The Club is run entirely by volunteers. We are always looking for new enthusiastic and dynamic people to join our merry band and help with the day to day running of the club. No special skills are needed – but, of course, your “day job” skills may be very useful. The amount of time you give can be as little or as much as you like: this can be from just an hour each week to ... well, for as long as you like! We would really like your help and to hear from you if you have a passion to assist us with:

- Promotional marketing and dealing with sponsors.
- Organising social events
- Catering and hospitality on match days
- General help on match days
- Pitch and grounds maintenance

**If you think you may be able to help, please send me an email at [mikehawkins.willandrovers@gmail.com](mailto:mikehawkins.willandrovers@gmail.com)**

**A date for your diary:** We will be hosting a **New Year's Eve Party** on 31 December when we will be entertained by local band Turnette Doone. Tickets will be going on sale soon: this event is usually a sell-out, so keep your eye on our social media streams. Why not dust off your dancing shoes and join us.

**Bingo:** We also run regular Bingo sessions on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. These are very popular, regularly attracting 50+ players. Doors open 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.30pm.

We would welcome anyone in the local area, and particularly residents of Willand, to make more use of the excellent facilities we have at the Club. Our aim is for the club to be seen as a valuable community asset.

The facilities that are available include a licenced bar, skittles alley and kitchen facilities: The clubhouse can be inexpensively hired for parties, discos, live-band functions, christening celebrations, wakes, business meetings, skittles matches and for regular meetings of any group or organisation. For more details and to check availability please email **willandroversfc@outlook.com** or call 01884 33885.

Why not come in and see us to watch a match, have a social swift-half with us on a Friday - the bar is open every Friday afternoon from 4pm and on matchdays - or just to inspect the facilities we have. You can always be assured of a very friendly and warm welcome, and you may be surprised what we have to offer. I'll close by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at Willand Rovers. **Mike Hawkins, Chairman, Willand Rovers Football Club.**



***What do you call a footballer who brings a length of rope onto the football pitch?  
The skipper.***



## **WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (WH&CC)**

After our recent AGM we have some additional Trustees and would like to welcome Gerri Taylor, Linda Grantham and Annie Hooper to the team. I hope that we can collectively drive our centre forward.

The centre has performed well in the last year. We have a pretty stable number of regular users which run nicely alongside our community endeavours. We celebrated the kings coronation at our coffee and chat re using the bunting which our users had made the previous year. We are very lucky to have a strong core of volunteers for these sessions without which they would not be possible. So, thanks to you all.

The book swap is running well and provides another opportunity for the community to get together, perusing the books and maybe having a drink and a chat at the same time we have a wide range of books so do come along and have a look.

We continue to support other local charity groups with use of the centre, like the food pantry with their events. We have been lucky enough to be selected by the co-op this year as one of their community causes. Frances has been busy promoting this on social media and attending instore events as well. The money we receive from this will be used to help refurbish and update the kitchen so that we can introduce some cooking classes at the centre to help show how to cook healthy meals on a budget.

Going forward the trustees and I would love to hear of any ideas for new groups and volunteers to run them. We are here for the community and would love for it to be used for the purpose it was established. **Tania Edworthy Chairman.**

### **Late Night Shopping Event At The Old Well Garden Centre on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Father Christmas from 4pm (charity donation only)  
Carol Singers  
Tastings  
Charity Christmas Draw (great prizes)  
Coffee Bar Team in fancy dress  
Christmas Teas in the restaurant  
Open till 8-30pm  
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## **WILLAND TENNIS CLUB**

Willand Tennis is a friendly club, located beside the Village Hall. We are always keen to welcome new members with both Adult & Junior membership rates are available at very competitive rates throughout the year. Winter rates now available.

The 4 courts can be booked by tennis members and the public all year for 'Pay & Play'. You can cancel your booking up to 24 hours before and obtain a full refund. For more details and to book a court, please look at our website: [www.willandtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.willandtennisclub.co.uk)

All bookings and payment are only available online.

Junior level coaching with our club coach, Nigel Little, takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons (term time only). Minimum age for these sessions is 3 years. Adult coaching is also available either as a group or 1:1. Please contact Nigel on 07951140974 for more information.

**Helen Richardson**, Club Secretary.

## **FESTIVE FUNDRAISING FOR HOSPISCARE**

The festive season is almost upon us and what better way to spread Christmas cheer than by raising funds for your local hospice? The hospice is charity and always needs donations to help fund its expert care for local people living with terminal illnesses. Throughout November and December, please consider joining the hospice's supporters to fundraise in a variety of ways, from making mince pies and carol-singing to raffles and fancy dress. There are so many ways to help and there are lots of fundraising ideas on the hospice's website (see below for the address).

**Christmas Tree Recycling** Leave the effort of getting rid of your Christmas tree to Hospiscare. Their volunteers will collect and recycle your Christmas tree between 11-13 January 2024 in return for a donation to the hospice. Registration opens on their website in November, where you can find out more and book in your collection.

**Reindeer Run.** Hospiscare has introduced a new Reindeer Run school challenge this festive season. Get ready to dash, prance, and make a difference in your local community. Sign up for FREE as a school, pre-school, nursery or group and receive a pack filled with make-your-own antlers, stickers, games, activities, colouring-in cards and more.

**Light Up a Life 2023** Light Up a Life is the hospice's annual celebration of the lives of departed loved ones. There will be three beautiful memorial events at Exeter Cathedral and in Honiton and Cullompton of hand-picked readings, poems, music and carols in remembrance of all lost loved ones. There is also an online Gallery of Memories where you can leave a dedication in the memory of those dear to you.

To find out more about these events and other festive fundraising ideas, please visit [www.hospiscare.co.uk/festive](http://www.hospiscare.co.uk/festive) Thank you for your ongoing support, Kind regards, **Eleni Greenwood**

## FIND DETAILS OF OUR PANTO AND OTHER SHOWS ONLINE!

**FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

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**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

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**TOM STADE**

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**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

**JOHN LYDON**

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JOHN LYDON – AKA JOHNNY ROTTEN

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Manager: Mrs Sadie White





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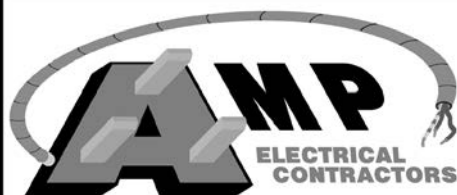
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- Bingo every fortnight (Tues) – Eyes down at 7:30pm
- Football on August – May, come along and support your village teams, see the board outside the club for updates.
- Everyone is welcome

**Website:** [www.willandrovers.co.uk](http://www.willandrovers.co.uk)

**Follow us on Twitter:**

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**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY**

**Closed** From 12 noon – Wednesday 20th December 2023

**Re-Open** From 10.00am till 12 Noon – Wednesday 3rd January 2024

**We accept:**

**Green Garden Waste** (Fresh Grass & Hedge Clippings, Prunings that can be cut with secateurs, Flowers, Vegetables & Plants).

**Christmas Trees** Providing, they have **no decorations**, and the branches are **no more** than 2inch in diameter.

**Leaves** We gratefully receive Leaves which we cut up with our mowers and add to the shredded material for composting.

However, we would be most grateful if you could check that the leaves you are going to deposit have no other items included that are not leaves. With particular regard to stones as they damage the mowers and can be a hazard.

**We don't accept:** Cordyline and Palm leaves as they cause both damage and time in clearing the shredding machine. No Vegetation with soil attached. No labels or stones. **Compost Sales:**

**Sieved** (with next to no twigs) compost is £2.00/bag. **The returning of your empty bags will be gratefully received.**

Un-Sieved Waste at £2.00/wheelbarrow.

We are very pleased to say that we have received a donation of PPE for our volunteers from our Chairman, Paul Duffy's employer AECOM, which was gratefully received, below are some of our volunteers modelling this attire.



From L-R:  
**John,  
Derrick,  
Paul,  
Jason &  
Bruce**

Email: [willandcommunitycomposting@gmail.com](mailto:willandcommunitycomposting@gmail.com) Truly Rose

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH

As we approach Christmas there are lots of occasions to celebrate again this year. Whether you are a regular member, have never been to church before or somewhere in-between you are most welcome.

In conjunction with Culm Valley Methodist Church there will be a Carol service in the Village Hall, Gables Road at 6.30 pm on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. I am sure this will be a wonderful occasion as different groups, churches and the school come together.

Other Christmas services and events in December include:

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm **Christingle** service, always very popular so do arrive in plenty of time to guarantee a seat.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am Holy Communion and 6.30pm Willand Church Carol Service

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> No morning service in Willand, instead there will be a joint service at Uffculme Church at 11.00am. There **won't** be a Midnight Mass service this year as there are no vicars available to take it.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am Christmas Day Service for all the family.**

St. Mary's Church is in Old Village, next to the Post Office. The building is open from 9.30am – 4pm every day.

This December we are excited to have **The Animals' Christmas** - a walking nativity trail around Willand with large wooden animals hosted at locations throughout the village. Each animal helps us to explore more about the Christmas story. Can you find them all? Also, back again this year are **The Wandering Wisemen** who go on a playful journey from 3<sup>rd</sup> December to 6<sup>th</sup> Jan to find the baby Jesus and bring daily joy to our Church Facebook page. Follow our St Mary's Willand Facebook page for more information and to discover the locations of the animals.

**Other groups running in the Church Hall, Rectory Close include.**

'Rockers' - Baby and Toddler Group (school term time only) Mondays from 9.15 am. Coffee & Chat (tea is also available) Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec & 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Jan – 10.30am – 12.00.

Film Club Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec and 6<sup>th</sup> Jan from 7pm

**Lesley Smith Church Warden Tel 07944 295002 E:**

**Lesley.smith757@gmail.com**





## DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Potholes are always a hot potato, I thought you might like to know the latest Devon pothole numbers for the last six months.

April 2022 -(3493), 2023 (4181): May 2022 -3493 (4181): June -2022 -2948 (3731): July 2022 -2759 (3466): Aug 2022 -2343 (3766); Sept -2132 (3643). You will see that potholes are significantly up for 2023 (in brackets), than last year. The worst month this year, January, was 7376, but the last 5 years have been improving, year on year. It looks as though this year might be much higher than last year's 39755 potholes in total. We can only assume that the last 6 months the weather has influenced this.

In 2022/23 Devon's combined Recycling Rate, reduced by -1.1% to 54.0%. For Torbay, performance increased to 38.2% from 37.1% in 2021/22, and whilst reductions were noted for many waste streams, service improvements including more reliable collections, the introduction of a chargeable garden waste collection service, and 2022 'Right stuff, right box' campaign, which included enhanced community engagement, all contributed to this overall increase.

Apart from Mid Devon (+1.8%) and Torbay (+1.1%), all remaining Devon Authorities experienced a reduction in recycling rate last year in a range between -0.2% (West Devon) and -2.6% (North Devon). Mid Devon introduced service improvements through its 'Bin-It 123' scheme, including 3 weekly residual collections from October 2022. Wheeled bins also replaced black sack collections which had the benefit of restricting household residue to equitable levels and reducing litter. This service change also encourages residents to fully utilise the recycling collections, in particular organic food waste. East Devon operates similar residual waste arrangements with great success, and high resident satisfaction.

In 2018/19 Six Devon WCAs achieved recycling rates over 50%. Mid Devon achieved 55.4%. Exeter, currently the lowest performing Devon Waste Authority, at 24.5%.

I have had several emails relating to the Mobile Library Service, I have received emails from the Secretary of the friends of Uffculme and emails from Hemyock Residents.

Devon County's Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee (CIRS), recommends the library cuts that Cabinet:

- (a) Reconsiders the decision to decommission the mobile library vehicles and looks again at continuing to provide the mobile library service.
- (b) Gets precise figures on leasing vehicles to review opportunities to continue to provide a cost-effective service.
- (c) Looks into opportunities to reduce cost of delivery including commercial sponsorship opportunities on vehicles, crowdfunding and or support from Parish Councils and community groups.

(d) Develops alternative library provision before taking the decision to remove services, and reports findings back to CIRS.

The recommendation of the Cabinet will follow.

Integrated Adult Social Care Operations is forecasting an underspend of just under £500,000. Older People services continue to experience pressures with increasing personal care costs because of improved personal care market sufficiency.

As of 31 July 2023: • We were supporting 11,076 people, a net increase of 116 or 1.1% compared to the same period in 2022. • We have seen a reduction of 80 or (1.3%) in the working aged adult cohort, which may be reflecting increased review activity. • However, we are now supporting 196 or 3.2% more older people than on 31 July 2022. • Net growth (from June) of 39 placements, 43 for people 65 and over in residential and nursing care.

We are working towards next year's budget which will be challenging, although not as tough as we thought it might be after taking drastic action, looking at line by line of all department's budgets and costings, to see where we can make savings.

My next report I will be able to go into more detail.

I picked this up on a national survey for Q3 2023 and found the following statistics, you might be interested:

- 40 per cent of Federation of Master Builders (FMB) members reported a decrease in enquiries.
- 39 per cent of members are struggling to hire carpenters, while 35 per cent are struggling to hire bricklayers.
- 34 per cent are having difficulty hiring general labourers, up from 25 per cent in Q2.
- 50 per cent report that jobs are delayed because they are struggling to hire skilled workers.
- 71 per cent of members report that material costs increased in Q3 2023 with 55 per cent expecting this to continue into the next quarter, which is an improvement on previous quarters.
- Increased outgoings have led 71 per cent of members to raise the prices they charge, with half reporting that the business is on track to make a loss or fall below expected margins.
- More than a quarter report that they are restricting hiring new staff because of increased outgoings.

I can't believe another year has gone by and here I am wishing everyone a Happy Xmas and a Healthy New year. Business stills goes on, so if you think I can help from a county perspective, please feel free to contact me at any time.

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

***"Potholes are like speed bumps you didn't ask for."***

## EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

"As this magazine drops on your doorstep, you might be in the middle of Christmas preparations. This could be exciting or stressful. Starting a new exercise habit is probably far from your thoughts.

But why wait? Even 5 minutes extra a day of brisk walking, body weight exercises or using the park equipment will help improve the quality of your life: and they are all free.

Three of our weightlifters competed at the Wild Boar Competition in Lydney last month: Becca (16), Jakin (18) and James (32). They all achieved personal bests and represented themselves and the club in great fashion.

This was James's first competition and he lost an incredible 10kg to make the 89kg weight category. He Snatched 52x (nerves) 52, 55 and then Clean and Jerked 62, 65 (p.b.), 68 (p.b.) for a total of 123kg.

James had this to say afterwards, "This was a difficult but very rewarding challenge. Having the target weight to make as well as trying to learn the technique required to compete wasn't something I went into lightly. With Coach James and Excelsior Athletic Development Club there, it made it all possible. I'm so pleased with the progress I have made and look forward to the next competition. Thanks again to James for everything and to Chris for coming to support."

If you want to achieve something, then surround yourself with positive people, listen to an experienced mentor/coach and set out specific goals.

Beginners are welcome at our club for gymnastics, athletics and weightlifting."

**James Marshall Carlton House**

## CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

An amazing total of **138 Shoeboxes** were collected from Culm Valley by the Link to Hope charity to send to eastern Europe. A very big thank you to everyone who contributed, whether by items, money or their time and talents. Please, if you get new shoes for Christmas keep the box for us to use next year.

Our attention now turns to Christmas activities at home. The first Sunday in December (3<sup>rd</sup>) is our **Prospects** Christmas celebration from 3pm - lots of activities, singing, dancing, feasting. Then it's on to the Village Hall for the **annual Village Carol Service** at 6.30pm. The carols are chosen on behalf of all the various village organisations and a monetary collection will be taken for CHAT.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December you will be treated to a festive themed **Soup & Something lunch** from 12noon.

Our **candlelight carol service** is at 4pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, once again all are welcome. We'll be having a **Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service at 4pm** - ideal for those who do not like going out late at night.

In January our **coffee morning** is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am. We wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. **David and Joan Greet.**

## LET'S TALK MID DEVON, RESIDENTS' SURVEY 2023

1<sup>st</sup> November to 13<sup>th</sup> December  
Residents in Mid Devon are  
being urged to share their views  
about services provided by Mid  
Devon District Council.

A new residents' survey is now  
open to share your views and  
priorities for your council.

The link to take part in the survey  
is on the Willand Parish Council's  
Facebook page and Webpage.  
Please take a look and make  
your thoughts known. **Editor**



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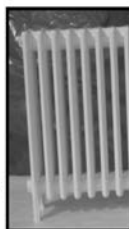
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## **NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL**

**OPENING TIMES:** the Museum, Cafe and Shop are open for event days.

and for pre-booked group and school visits.

*(to check up-to-date information and book please go to [www.coldharbourmill.org.uk](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk))*

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm Friends of the Mill Christmas Afternoon Tea with Big Raffle Draw in the Mill Cafe. All proceeds support the Mill. All welcome. Free parking.**

**NEW YEAR'S STEAM DAY - Celebrate the New Year and the power of STEAM! Monday 1st January 2024 10.30am – 4.30pm** (Steam Engines will run until 3pm) Come and explore our 19<sup>th</sup> century steam complex and factory floor in action, as well as a selection of family crafts and trails to enjoy. Free Parking.

Book online in advance to receive **15%** off your ticket price or become a Coldharbour Mill Member and enjoy every steam day – and all other events **FREE** for a year.

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To book online go to: <https://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/workshops/>  
or phone the Mill office (see contact details below).

**Saturday 9th December: Christmas Wreaths.** Get creative this Christmas - you will use foraged foliage to create a beautiful Christmas wreath for your home with our skilled volunteer Liz.

**Saturday 20th January: Beginners Knitting Course.** Learn the basics of knitting with our skilled volunteers Karin & Mandy.

**Wednesday 31st January: Crochet a love heart coaster.** You will be guided by our wonderful craft volunteer Liz. This workshop is not for beginners.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

Do you have a spare half day or even a full day (or two?) each week – to volunteer at our unique heritage site? We are looking for more curatorial volunteers to help care for exhibits and archives.

For all the volunteering opportunities available, see [www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/volunteer/](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/volunteer/) for more info and an informal chat, and to arrange a taster session, please contact us by phone or email (see contact details below).  
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## CAMEO

In October, we met for coffee at Tiverton golf club and later in the month we went to Fordmore farm also for coffee. The singles group had their annual holiday with a return visit to Nidd Hall in Yorkshire where they had a lovely time visiting Harrogate, York and Thirsk. The walking group had three rambles, one around the lanes in Halberton and onto the swans neck, with another around the lanes at Kentisbeare followed by lunch at Fordmore farm. They climbed the steep hills around Ashill with wonderful views over to Culmstock Beacon. There were a few deer about, an added bonus, then lunched at the Old Well.

The October meeting was a social evening with fish and chips supper, followed by bingo run by Frances Wilcox and helped by Judith Dawson. We had lunch at the Bluebell Restaurant. Unfortunately, we were back there two weeks later to say goodbye to our friend and fellow member, Diane Batchelor, who had sadly died. Diane had been a Cameo Member for over 20 years serving on the committee and as chairman. Diane loved the singles holidays where we had such fun and laughter. £165 was collected and will be donated to Cancer Research.

The November meeting was not as planned owing to the stormy weather. The speaker had to be cancelled, but the brave souls who came enjoyed a chat and draw. As Peta, our chairman, was unable to attend Pat Eardley ran the meeting. Our next get-together is in December at Redwoods Inn, Uplowman for our Christmas dinner. Cameo members, wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year **Betty Penberthy**

## CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

An amazing total of **138 Shoeboxes** were collected from Culm Valley by the Link to Hope charity to send to eastern Europe. A very big thank you to everyone who contributed, whether by items, money or their time and talents. Please, if you get new shoes for Christmas keep the box for us to use next year.

Our attention now turns to Christmas activities at home. The first Sunday in December (3<sup>rd</sup>) is our **Prospects** Christmas celebration from 3pm - lots of activities, singing, dancing, feasting. Then it's on to the Village Hall for the **annual Village Carol Service** at 6.30pm. The carols are chosen on behalf of all the various village organisations and a monetary collection will be taken for CHAT.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December you will be treated to a festive themed **Soup & Something lunch** from 12noon.

Our **candlelight carol service** is at 4pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, once again all are welcome. We'll be having a **Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service at 4pm** - ideal for those who do not like going out late at night.

In January our **coffee morning** is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am. We wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. **David and Joan Greet.**



## MID DEVON SINGERS

Why did the choir have to cancel their carol concert? They caught Tinselitis.

Hopefully that doesn't tempt fate and by time you read this article we'll be well prepared for Christmas, having performed in Uffculme at the Coldharbour Mill Christmas Fayre without catching Tinselitis 😊

If you haven't seen us in person, why not come along for our last performance of 2023? We'll be in Halberton at the Hickory Inn's Christmas Fayre on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December – taking to the stage at around 4-4.30pm.

Research shows that singing can be good for you on many levels – releasing endorphins which reduce stress and anxiety levels and contribute to a positive mental state, as well as promoting social bonding, contributing to a sense of belonging and joy. So, why not resolve to try us out in the New Year? New members are always very welcome - there are no auditions to join our friendly and sociable community choir & there's no charge for trying us out for a couple of weeks - membership subs are then a very reasonable £12.50 per month.

We rehearse every Friday evening during school term time at Halberton Village Hall, starting promptly at 7.15pm. The last rehearsal of this term is on 15<sup>th</sup> December, and we will return for the 2024 Spring term on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

If you would like to find out more, contact our Membership Secretary, Lisa, either by email at [membership@mids.org.uk](mailto:membership@mids.org.uk) or on 07446 877714.

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We wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a prosperous & healthy 2024. **Michael Cuthbertson**

## WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

It was recently brought to our attention by James Marshall of Excelsior Athletic Development Club (thanks James), that Willand has an interesting connection with one of the country's best known dialect comedians of the twentieth century: Albert John Coles, better known as Jan Stewer (named after Jan Stewer from the folk song 'Widdecombe Fair'. It was from 1900, when he was a teacher at Puddington school in deepest, darkest Mid Devon, that Albert Coles started writing comic articles for local newspapers as Jan Stewer, always in broad Devon dialect, weaving together funny stories of life in the fictional Devon village of Muddlecombe. These stories were later published in several books, but it was in performing sketches and monologues as Jan Stewer in his popular one-man stage show touring theatres and village halls throughout the Westcountry and further afield that made Albert something of a celebrity of his age. He also wrote and produced several plays, the most accomplished of which – *Barnet's Folly* – had a successful run in the London West End and was televised by the BBC in 1955. The music hall style performances as Jan Stewer were considered bit of an acquired taste by some, with his caricatures perhaps helping create an

unfavourable stereotype of Devon bumpkins, but most people recognised it as an affectionate, nostalgic and invariably hilarious celebration of old Devon customs and the often-colourful characters that inhabited the countryside, whilst keeping a much-loved mode of speech alive. Indeed, when he was teaching – after Puddington he also taught at schools in Teignmouth, Poltimore and Bovey Tracey Albert used to engage his pupils by using the local dialect to develop their understanding of language, a progressive teaching philosophy for the time. For instance, he would throw out phrases in Devonian and expect a quick translation into English – *where be to?* (where are you?); *be gwain or no?* (are you going or not?); *let 'n bide where he's to* (leave it where it is); *you'm proper mazed* (you are completely out of your mind).

So where does Willand come into all this? Albert Coles was born in 1876 in Woolwich, London, and grew up in Kent, but his parents were both proper Devonians and both were born in Willand, his father William Coles having joined the army, serving with the Royal Artillery (who were based at the Woolwich Arsenal). As a child, Albert would spend holidays with family in Devon, but it was to his mother, Elizabeth Coles (nee Stephens), that he attributed his passion for the county, once writing: “The county of Devon as the only place on earth for my mother and she often used to tell me about the countryside around Willand and speak to me in the Devon dialect.” We know that his mother grew up at Dean Hill Farm, where her father Thomas Stephens was the farmer, but she had many connections with the area – one of her brothers later farmed at Park Farm, while one of her sisters married into the Broom family, who were associated with several local farms. The History Group hope to further explore connections that both the Coles and Stephens families with our parish, and perhaps shed new light on how Willand and the countryside hereabouts inspired Jan Stewer, one of the great comic celebrations of Devonian identity.

If you think you can help or would like to get involved in any way with the History Group, our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5 December, at 7.00pm in The Annex at Willand Village Hall – please do come along! In the meantime, as Jan Stewer might say, *‘ere’s wishin’ ‘ee a vury murry Kursmus, an’ ‘appy New Yur.* **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

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We hope you enjoyed this edition of your magazine.

**CUT OFF DATE FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

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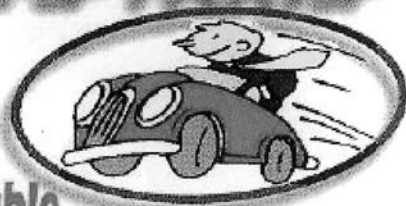
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