# **WILLAND MAGAZINE**

June & July 2023



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EDITORIAL 167

### WILLAND MAGAZINE

We have been so lucky having **Gerri Taylor** producing our Village magazine with a small team of helpers for the last 6+ years. Gerri is taking a step back now as a new team moves in. Having been copy editor for the last four years I have seen first-hand how dedicated and hard-working Gerri has been to produce a magazine to such a high standard.

The new team will consist of General Editor **Penny Thomas** in charge of advertising and general admin. I **Sam Fincher** will remain as copy editor and talks are ongoing for someone to take over distribution that Gerri is still coordinating. Between the three of us we hope to keep up the excellent standard of magazine Gerri has always produced. Thank you, Gerri.

### PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Another two months have gone by and there are some notable changes on the political scene after the elections at the beginning of May. We now have three new District Councillors and their details are contained within the magazine. We welcome them and hope that they are able to represent and achieve the wishes of the local electorate within our Parish.

Willand Parish did not have to have an election like our three main towns and some Parishes. We should now have 12 Councillors but only 8 residents put their names forward to represent the Parish and they are all existing councillors. One notable loss to our number is Mrs Frances Wilcox who decided not to stand again. She has been a major worker on the Parish Council but she is also involved in working with a number of other organisations within the village and to be honest you can work a willing horse [person] too much. Frances has realised that something had to give and sadly the loss is to the Parish Council. Frances has offered to continue to help whilst others pick up the tasks she undertook and this is really appreciated. Thank you, Frances for all you have done for the Parish Council and all you continue to do for the benefit of our community.

We have four vacancies on the Parish Council and we are looking to co-opt new members and so if you feel that you can help or would like to know more, please feel free to contact one of the current councillors or Clerk for an informal chat and to obtain more information.

We have also been able to find a new Clerk in Mrs Debbie Bird. She joined us at the beginning of May working alongside Mrs Barbara Bodkin who leaves us for the second time at the end of May. Welcome Debbie and may you have 'staying power'. The email address and telephone number are the same so there should be no problem with contact. As many will recall Barbara came out of retirement to help out as an interim Clerk and we are extremely grateful to her for stepping up as she did. Thank you again Barbara.

Some may have noticed that our grass verges around the village have not been quite so well attended to as in the past few years. Some may be very happy, particularly the bees, to see the grass longer and the dandelions and celandines flowering. There is a downside to this in that with the grass longer when it is cut it makes more of a mess and has the potential to block gutters and the cut grass stays in ridges and rots what is underneath thereby making ideal conditions for more dandelions and weeds to grow rather than grass. We are working on it with the new contractor who does work for other councils and so it is just a case of education into our ways. Any feedback from residents would be appreciated, particularly if constructive.

The refurbishment of the Chestnut Drive play area has been delayed for a short while to resolve a contractual anomaly with the appointed contractor but please rest assured it will happen.

The pump track in the Jubilee Field is still going ahead but the bad weather earlier in the year has put the contractor behind on other projects and he is in the process of catching up. Sadly, it will not be available for use during the school summer holidays.

Some youngsters started digging and altering the current facility and a request for this not to happen on the Parish Website and Facebook page led to some rather unfortunate and ill-informed comments which were critical of the actions taken by the Parish Council, particularly when it was pointed out that these actions were costing the Parish [in other words you/we Council Tax Payers].

It may help that now things have calmed down a bit a reasoned explanation may be receivable by those critics. A couple of years or so ago the Parish Council were sued by a parent as he twisted his ankle when jumping off one of the low balance beams in the Jubilee Field that are there for the use of children. There was a small pit in the grass that appeared to have been dug by a dog. Our handyman is forever filling in such holes as they are reported. Our [your] insurers dealt with it but it cost the Parish money even though the equipment was being misused. We are aware that under the mounds of the BMX track is buried a lot of concrete and other potentially dangerous materials. In the past youngsters have exposed these dangers and we [council tax payers] had to pay to get it removed as it was exposed. We even had to consider removing the facility completely. In the latest incident which led to the Facebook 'commentators', a safety inspection by a qualified person employed to do monthly inspections of all our play areas, raised the danger potential of what was being done and so it could not be ignored. If someone was injured as the result of the unauthorised works the Parish Council could be liable and our insurers could have possibly not covered any claim. Hopefully this puts it into perspective but if anyone has any concerns or issues, please talk to me or come along to a Parish Council Meeting. On the other hand, if you feel you can do better than those of us who try and serve our community, we have four vacancies on the Parish Council so come and join us.

A Consultant has been appointed and started work towards replacing the skateboard facilities with a more challenging structure but this will be some time away as we have to go through a planning process amongst other 'hoops'.

Volunteers will shortly be tidying up the planters around the village as the new plants become available. We hope that they give some enjoyment to those who see them. Thank you to the volunteers yet again and to The Old Well Garden Centre for being generous with their discounts on the price of the plants.

It is that time of year again where landowners are being asked to cut back shrubs or other growth which is encroaching onto footpaths and the highways. The Parish Council do contact some landowners seeking their cooperation and, in some cases, we have to contact Devon County Highways to use their legal powers. Thank you to all of you who do your bit without being asked and to those who respond positively when being contacted.

What with the Coronation and Eurovision there is much going on to attract people's time and interest but please do not forget to help and support the many clubs and organisations that go on within our community. Thank you to all who contribute in a positive manner for the good of our community.

Barry G J Warren. Chairman. Willand Parish Council. Tel: 07971 808423

### **WILLAND PANTRY**

We've had a busy few months at the Pantry.

We have been lucky enough to receive a kind donation to repair the remaining damage caused when the pesky storm took our roof on an adventure.

We would like to thank Steve Belsom (S Belsom handyman services) who has done a fantastic job. We had enough money left to purchase a new extra-large Chest Freezer.

Fund raising for the Pantry is always ongoing. We have recently held a jumble sale; we raised a massive £402.

We will be holding a village door step sale; we have been waiting for the weather to improve before setting a firm date. Hopefully this will be towards the end of June.

We have an afternoon tea planned, date to be confirmed.

We've been asked again this year to Marshall the 10k run along the Tiverton canal. We are needing a few more volunteers this year to enable us to achieve this. If you are interested in helping out, it's on Sunday 16th July. Please get in touch.

We made a difficult decision at the end of last year to impose a £3 for 10 items donation, this is working well. All money we raise goes to restock the Pantry.

If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch. Helen Jones 07454 510 573

### WILLAND VILLAGE HALL - CORONATION EVENT

Thank you to the Parish Council for funding the weekend's events, for the support in organising from Willand History Group, Beavers/Cubs, Church and volunteers the Coronation weekend events at the Hall. There was a disappointing turnout to the live streaming events, but the large screen and new sound system worked very well, and it was a great opportunity to try it out.

The History display was very interesting with a mix of history from Willand with tales from villagers that have experienced Royal occasions in other parts of the Country and even the World we really do live next door to some very interesting people. I hope James and the history group will be persuaded to share more of the history in the village magazine.

The Community Sing along and Choirs went down very well. Thank you to Anne for bringing the school choir, and for St Marys for bringing their choir, and those who attended enjoyed the celebrations. A big thank you to Paul Hockey for playing the keyboard and Alan Dodds joining in on Guitar (For those of you that missed it Alan used to be in a band with David Bowie).

The Crafts were a big hit with our young people and so a big thank you to Pennie Hockey and her volunteers for overseeing and organising this I hope you enjoyed their creations.

We had a lovely parade of our uniformed groups from the church to the hall. They had also made the bunting at the hall along with Tiny Tots and a big thank you to Kate Watson and her husband (sorry I didn't get your name) for putting the bunting up and the balloons. The parade was followed by a nearly full hall for the united church service lead by Rev Simon Talbot.

For the younger people though (and some adults) the highlight was Mr Phil who kept the children in the palm of his hand for a full two hours of entertainment, it was so lovely to hear the shrills of laughter just what we all needed.

A big thank you also to everyone who helped in the kitchen and kept everyone topped up with refreshments on the Saturday it was Bridget Westcott and Sandy Hancock from the history group and the Sunday Tony Donald and Carol Howe. There was also help setting up and putting away you know who you are thank you. **Frances Wilcox Booking Secretary** 

### WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

As another long season draws to a close, I am pleased to announce that WRFC retained its coveted Southern Football League status by convincingly winning the final league match of the season 2-0 away at Cinderford Town. This is deserved reward for all the hard works put in by manager David Steele, in his first year in the manager's hot-seat, his backroom team and all the players.

At the time of writing this article we still have the Devon FA Bayside Graphics St Luke's Bowl final, against our friends and near-neighbours Tiverton Town, to look forward to. I'm sure this will be a great match and all at WRFC are looking forward to closing the season by bringing some silverware back to Silver Street.

# **IVERTON**

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It's fair to say that the quality of football played by the team and the entertainment they gave the spectators was excellent throughout the season. It was just one of those years when we didn't get the "rub of the green" and were punished cruelly for the mistakes we made.

Hopefully we can retain the players for next season, David can work his magic and build on the sound foundation he has set in place and we can attain a mid to top-half of the table finish come May 2024 ... and in so doing not give the Chairman such a stressful time again in the final few weeks of the season!

We held our Annual Presentation Evening on Saturday 29 April, when we were able to celebrate the achievements of the team and acknowledge the behind-the-scenes work, that goes unnoticed by most people, undertaken by our many volunteers. The winners of the awards for the 22/23 season were:

- Young Player of the Year Bailey Kempster
- Players' Player of the Year Ryan Guppy (Dave S & Cath)
- Supporters Player of the Year Ash Hewitt
- Club Person of the Year John Hooper
- Manager's Player of the Year Ash Hewitt

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with the day to day running of the club. No particular skills are needed and the amount of time you give can be as much or as little as you can spare: this can be from just an hour each week to ... well, for as long as you like!

We currently have a vacancy for one of the more senior roles in the club, this is for Football Secretary. This vacancy has arisen as our long-standing incumbent, Dom Clark, will be moving away from the area due to new work commitments.

If anyone is interested in this role, or in assisting the club in any other capacity, then please contact me, Mike Hawkins, on 07870 727120 or by email at mikehawkins.willandrovers@gmail.com

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

The facilities that are available include a licenced bar, skittles alley and kitchen facilities: The clubhouse can be booked 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. **Mike Hawkins, Chairman,** Willand Rovers Football Club

#### **CAMEO**

Several members braved a bitterly cold day and met for lunch at the Antiques Centre at Hele. Better luck with the next 2 at the Bluebell and Padbrook Park. 15 members went on the service bus to Exeter. After lunch at Bella Italia, they had a very interesting visit to the Underground Passages, with a video of this part of historical Exeter.

Our speaker in April was Kerry Knight who brought along her young daughter. They are keen environmentalists and visit local beaches picking up litter. They were appalled at the amount they collect each time. They recycle bits of plastic and use to make jewellery which they sell, part of the profit going to support green projects.

The walking group went along an old favourite the old Tiverton railway path followed by lunch at the Old Well. They enjoyed a walk around Halberton village with lunch at the farm shop. Another trip was to 10 pin bowling in Exmouth. New member Sue won the cup having never played before. After lunch they had a lovely walk-in gorgeous sunshine along the front. After 22 years of the very successful Singles Group, it was time for a change. As several members no longer drive, we will meet in the village hall. This will enable us to have more members but everything will continue as usual.

Our May meeting was a mystery trip and after a lovely scenic drive we ended up at Haytor. On to the Moorland Hotel for a meal. This was 2 days before the Coronation and the hotel was decorated in red, white and blue and so were we. We raised a glass to toast the new king. In June we will learn about caring for fuchsias. We have many activities planned for the summer and if you think you would like to come along, we meet in the village hall at 7pm first Thursday of every month. **Betty Penberthy** 

### **CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Food seems to be a big part of our fellowship activities at **Culm Valley**. We are hoping for some summer sunshine for **Cream teas** on the lawn on **Saturday 8**<sup>th</sup> **July 3-5pm**.

The next **Soup and Something lunch is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon,** when donations will go towards A Rocha, the organisation which administers Eco church. We are now working towards our Gold Award at Culm Valley. The following soup lunch will be on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August.** 

Our usual **coffee morning** will be on **Friday 21 July from 10.30-12**. Call in for a chat, coffee and biscuits are free. If you have any empty shoe-boxes we would be pleased to receive them, ready to fill and send to Eastern Europe for Christmas.

**Prospects** continues to be an excellent and inclusive form of worship for disabled people and their Carers with participation from everyone. The next meetings are on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June & Sunday 6 August at 3pm.** This, too, includes food with a Bring and Share tea at the close of each meeting.

### **David and Joan Greet**

### **EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB.**

"The rain stopped long enough for us to restart athletics training in May. Our first competition is in the May half term. We have several new athletes keen to test their skills.

Athletics is a tough sport for teenagers: the vagaries of growth spurts and age categories mean that the younger and or late developing teenager is at a temporary disadvantage. The bigger, early maturing children win. And in a public manner. There is no hiding in the athletics arena.

That is why we focus on personal improvement. We teach the kids how to run faster, throw further and jump higher and longer. They compete with each other in training and then try to beat their personal bests at bigger competitions. We can't promise to develop great athletes, but we can promise to help everyone improve.

Two of our club volunteers, Kath Maguire and Brent Stephens, attended the British Gymnastics 'Coaching Assistant' course in Torquay. Neither has a gymnastics background but both have children who enjoy our gymnastics sessions. They wanted to put something back into the community. Good for them for trying something new.

Coach James Marshall competed in the European Masters' Weightlifting Championships in Waterford, Ireland. He came second.

If anyone wants to learn a new skill, get fit and be around positive people, then come along to our club. "James Marshall: Carlton House, Elmside, Willand

### **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

Another Council year has just gone, how quick it goes. Things are hectic at County, it has been a challenging year, more so than any previous years, finances are very tight, there are services we have to supply, irrespective of the cost and the government do not allow enough for those services.

As a County Councillor you have to serve on various committees, for me I am on the Corporate Services and Infrastructure some of whose main responsibilities are roads, waste, planning, properties, etc. There are other committees I serve on such as Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) and the Canal Advisory Committee.

The sort of financial pressures includes Adult Services and Children and Young People, both of these suck up 79% of available revenue, this is mandatory, we have to do it. Because of the cost of these services, other departments revenues are squeezed.

The Council finds itself in a very challenging internal position in that Children's Services, SEND provision and budget sustainability face serious challenge along with concern from stakeholders regarding confidence in the Council to address these challenges. The continuous failure of the Council to improve the Inadequate judgement by Ofsted of Children's Services over a 12-year period has resulted in the children's minister issuing a Revised Statutory Direction for

social care specifically citing failures of corporate governance and escalating to the appointment of a commissioner to oversee Improvement and hold the Council to account. There is also government intervention for SEND and a material threat of a s114 notice because of the High Needs Block deficit now approaching £130 M. These are serious, failures of the County Council's governance in response the Leader and Chief Executive in meetings with the children's minister have agreed the urgent need for a Review of Corporate Governance as a priority in conjunction with the formal work of the Improvement Boards in Children's Services where oversight of progress is led by the Commissioner appointed by the Minister and the SEND Improvement Board.

The services the Council provide, and the context of delivery have significantly changed; equally so our staff are impacted by these contexts too. In summary the Council finds itself in a very different operating context and the need for a review of priorities is required.

The continuous failure of the Council to be able to improve the Inadequate judgement by Ofsted of Children's Services, has resulted in the children's minister issuing a Revised Statutory Direction for social care specifically corporate governance and escalating to the appointment of a commissioner to oversee improvement and hold the Council to account.

In response the Leader and Chief Executive in meetings with the children's minister have agreed the urgent need for a Review of Corporate Governance as a priority in conjunction with the formal work of the Improvement Boards in Children's Services where oversight of progress is led by the Commissioner appointed by the Minister and the SEND Improvement Board.

The Adult Social Services Budget is £336m per year and the Children and Young People Budget is £233m per year, these are all mandatory, we have to supply the service. This represents almost 80% of our total revenue/income.

Highways for maintenance of Devon roads had gradually fallen from around £35 million in 2012/13 to approximately £25 million in 2022/23. Coupled with inflationary change, in particular the rapid increase in inflation seen in 2022/23, this meant that the maintenance budget had halved in real terms compared to a decade ago.

This also has the knock-on impact of forcing change in priorities with safety taking higher consideration and proactive works being stopped, leading to rapid deterioration of roads. Having said that, the Government have advanced DCC with an extra £9.4m for this coming year, this will help.

It is worth noting that 80% of traffic use 20% of the 8,000miles of Devon's highway.

A well-defined asset management approach enables the County Council to demonstrate it has a clear methodology for valuing highway infrastructure assets and determining their condition. The Plan will be a key document used by the officers, consultants, and contractors enabling the effective management



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and maintenance of the highway asset. It will provide Elected Members with the background to help decision making, and it is available to members of the public so that they can understand the challenges faced by the Service in managing the highway asset and the reasons for the actions being taken. It is unavoidable that deteriorating condition will lead to an increase in revenue funded reactive repairs and increased future planned maintenance costs. In the long term there will also be an impact on the selection of journey routes and the reliability of journey times. Ray Radford, Devon County Councillor, Willand & Uffculme Division, Email: ray.radford@devon.gov.uk

### **WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**

As the Hall is being used almost every day of the year, administration takes up much more time. We are looking for someone to help us with our accounts – sending out invoices, liaising with the bank, paying bills etc. We need someone who is computer literate and has had some experience of accounts. We think around 4 hours a week would be needed. If you are interested, please contact me, Carol Allan (treasurer@willandvillagehall.org.uk) or our Bookings Secretary, Frances Wilcox (bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk) to arrange a preliminary chat.

If you would like to book the hall, please check availability first on the hall website and look on the Events Calendar. You will then need to fill in a booking form (also on the website) and send it to bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk.

Our caretaker, Sam Fincher, is now back working, although Graham Bodkin is still doing some of the heavier duties. Karen has joined our team to help with cleaning duties. **Carol Allan. Treasurer** 

# WH&CC WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE Diary dates

| Yoga               | Tuesday                    | 7.30pm  |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Pilates with Sarah | Wednesday                  | 6.30pm  |
| Tea & Chat         | 1 <sup>st</sup> . Thursday | 9.30am  |
| Pilates with Sarah | Fridays                    | 9.15am  |
| U3A Quiz           | 3 rd. Friday               | 10.30am |

### **A Double Treat -**

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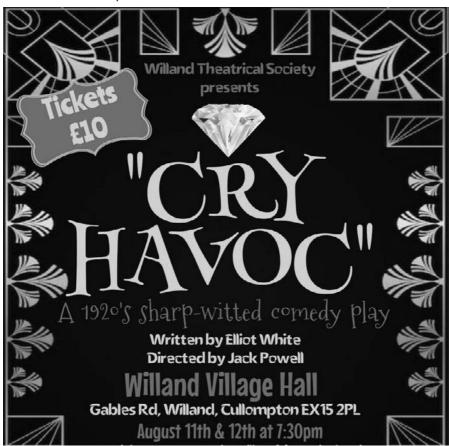
In Concert – 8pm 4<sup>th</sup> July at the Waldrons, Cullompton

### WILLAND VILLAGE HALL REGULAR BOOKINGS

| U3A Art in Action               | 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday                                     | 1.30pm  |
|---------------------------------|--|---------|
| Cull. & Dist. Flower Club       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday                                     | 2.00pm  |
| Beavers (Term Time)             | Monday   | 5.30pb  |
| Cub Scouts (Term Time)          | Monday   | 7.00pm  |
| Kettle Bell Pump                | Monday   | 6.30pm  |
| Pilates with Ellie              | Tuesday  | 9.30am  |
| Move it or Lose it              | Tuesday  | 2.00pm  |
| Gymnastics Club                 | Tuesday  | 4.00pm  |
| Cowgirl Twisters                | Tuesday  | 7.30pm  |
| Tiny Tots (Term Time)           | Wednesday  | 9.30am  |
| U3A Craft Group                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday                | 9.30am  |
| Pilates with Ellie              | Wednesday  | 4.30pm  |
| Indoor Bowls Club               | Wednesday  | 7.00pm  |
| Garden Club                     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday                                  | 7.30pm  |
| Pilates with Ellie              | Thursday   | 9.30am  |
| University of the Third Age U3A | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday                                   | 2.00pm  |
| CAMEO                           | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday                                   | 7.00pm  |
| Karate                          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday | 6.00pm  |
| Folk Dance Club                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday                 | 8.00pm  |
| Parish Council Meetings         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday                                   | 7.00pm  |
| Zumba                           | Friday   | 9.30am  |
| WiTS                            | Friday   | 7.30pm  |
| Exeter Theatre Train            | Saturday   | 2.00pm  |
| Cowgirl Twisters                | Saturday (Monthly)   | 7.30pm  |
| Folk Dance                      | Saturday (Monthly)   | 8.00pm  |
| Karate                          | Sundays  | 10.00am |
| Marshall Arts                   | Sundays  | 5.15pm  |
|                                 |  |         |

### **WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WITS)**

With our AGM over a new Committee formed it's all hands to the pumps for our next production called "CRY HAVOC" This is a totally original script and its world Premiere will be on Friday August 11<sup>th</sup> with second performance on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>. August 2023. There is something special about original live theatre that can enthral and captivate an audience. Not to be missed. Tickets on sale soon.



### TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Also, on 5th August **WiTS** are celebrating 10 years since forming with a fabulous **Grand Ball**, to be held at Willand Village Hall with a disco, hog roast, magician, table top games, Bar, silent Auction (with profits going to Devon Air Ambulance) and much more Tickets £15 adults. child £7.50 under 5's free. Evening attire. We hope you will come and join us for a great night out. See WiTS Web and Face Book page or What's on Willand nearer the time for details. **Sam Fincher** 

### WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

It's almost Wimbledon time again. If you would like to dust off your racket in 2023 then please come along to Willand Tennis Club. It is a friendly club, located beside the Village Hall. We are always keen to welcome new members and both Adult and Junior membership rates are available at very competitive rates. All 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

Booking and payment is 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** 

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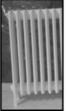
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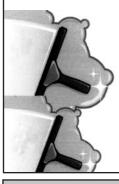
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#### **NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL**

**OPENING TIMES**: Museum, Cafe and Shop open Wed Sat 10.30am-4.30pm **SUMMER FAYRE**. **Sunday 30th July 2023, 11am – 4pm** 

Interested in having a stall in the Mill at this event? Contact us by phone or email for pricing and more information. We also have limited gazebo spaces in our paddock area. Join us for a fantastic day out for all the family. Members can visit for FREE, £2 suggested donation for non-members. No pre booking needed. Live music all day, BBQ, Face painting, 'Otto' The Ice Cream Van and much, much, more. Over 40 stalls selling a range of handmade crafts, food and fantastic local products.

#### Are you a carer in Devon?

We are delighted to be able to offer **FREE ENTRY** to the Mill for you and the person you care for. Contact us for more information on how to book.

**CRAFT WORKSHOPS 4-hour workshops (inc. 45-minute lunch break), £20 each.** 11am until 3pm. All materials supplied. Please bring your own packed lunch. For more information and to book, please see **www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/workshops** or contact the Mill by phone or email – see details below.

Mill Macramé - Join us to craft your very own macramé plant hanger out of our heritage-spun British wool yarn. Friday  $30^{\rm th}$  June 2023

**VOLUNTEERING** Do you have a spare few hours to volunteer at our unique heritage site? We are looking for volunteers in our Mill to assist our Production Skills Manager. For an informal chat, and to arrange a taster session, please contact us by phone or email (see contact details below).

See www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/volunteer/

Uffculme, Cullompton EX15 3EE Email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk Phone: 01884 840960.

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

The last couple of months have been fairly busy. The volunteers have busy decorating the centre for the coronation. You would have to agree they did a fabulous job. Thankyou Gerri, Clare, Kate, Di, Frances, Tony, and Stephen.

The pre coronation coffee and chat was well attended and it was nice to see some new faces.

Thanks to Home and Gifts in Tiverton we had some lovely Coronation Souvenirs donated to add to our Raffle.

The gardens are well looked after by Linda and Keith and looking great, thankyou both. We are getting new chairs which our crafter's, the coffee and chatters tested out to choose the best one. We have regular groups, like yoga, Pilates and a lovely craft group, lots of things to join in with. We are still raising funds with the Co-op #itswhatwedo, so if you are stuck to choose a good cause to support then please choose us. **Tania Edworthy** 

#### WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

First of all, we would like to thank everybody who contributed memories or memorabilia that featured in our Coronation exhibition – it is all much appreciated. Attendance on the Saturday was disappointing, but it was great to see a good crowd in the Village Hall on the Sunday of Coronation weekend, with lots of happy faces and people enjoying themselves.

One interesting piece of information that came out of research for the exhibition was the story of Willand Playing Field, which was meant 'for the pleasure and recreation of the younger generation' and formally opened by Mrs Tracey to the start of the day's festivities for the Coronation of George VI in 1937. The origin of this scheme was described in a speech by Mr Honeywill, local JP and former stationmaster of Tiverton Junction Railway Station, who said, "The idea of a playing field for Willand originated after the Silver Jubilee [of George V in 1935]. A committee was formed under the chairmanship of their old friend and veteran, Mr Albert Chick, with Mr Little as Hons, treasurer and Mr Holloway as Hons. secretary. The last-named post has certainly been no easy one; Mr Holloway had put a lot of hard work not only into this scheme, but other things at Willand. (Applause). By whist drives and dances £70 was raised, and Willand's first carnival yielded £130. That brought the scheme to fruition earlier than was expected, and the committee were able to rent the Playing Field from the Tiverton Rural District Council. It was the hope of the committee that some beneficent person would in time come forward and give them a bit of land. Meanwhile this field was for the free and unfettered use of all residents of Willand, free of debt and free of rates. (Applause) He hoped parents would encourage their children to use the field, and that all would get full enjoyment out of it.

We recently received a query regarding Bramber Engineering, the engineering company that set up a factory in Willand during the Second World War to escape the bombing of London which threatened their headquarters in Cricklewood. The company went on to maintain a presence in Willand until 2011. Information is being sought about Albert Henry Pearson, who worked for Bramber's until 1964. His grandson is keen to know if anyone can remember Mr Pearson or might have any information about him. If you do, please get in touch with us at Willand History Group, and we would be happy to put you in touch.

Finally, we would like to congratulate our friends at Halberton History Group (HHG), for hosting a successful and fascinating exhibition back in April on Twose, the family business of agricultural machinery makers started in the 1830's by William Twose, the Halberton village blacksmith. The company became 'one of the most illustrious names' in agricultural engineering, with a global reach, and eventually became MST (Medland, Sanders & Twose) of Tiverton, which sadly went into liquidation last year. The story is told an excellent booklet produced by HHG, a testament to some well-kept archives, much treasured local knowledge, and a lot of hard work researching.

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

#### WILLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

As you probably know the Parish Council has been consulting on what to put into a Neighbourhood Plan. All your suggestions have resulted in a draft Plan. It sets out to describe what we have heard villagers say about where we would like Willand to get to. At the heart of what we have heard is that in future villagers wish to see Willand

- 1. Sustaining its identity, facilities and considerable community strengths both as a rural and as a mixed community.
- 2. Securing sustainability now and for the long-term future.
- 3. Engaging with its rural context.

Our Plan puts forward proposals to further these hopes which will have a certain amount of force if agreed.

In June and July, we will be advertising opportunities for you to make your final comments and contribution to this Plan. Please look out for these. Your comments are still important in forming the end result.

Stephen Little, (Convenor Willand Neighbourhood Planning Group)

#### WILLAND COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (WCSW)

The team held its first proper session of the year at the beginning of May and, disappointingly, 7.4% of vehicles along Silver Street were over the speed limit. Since we've been operating, the % had dropped from around 7% to around 5% and we had hoped that it would keep falling.

Currently, the VAS system on Silver Street (the box that flashes the speed limit) isn't operating because no-one on the Parish Council was prepared to manage it however, at the time of writing, I hope that is about to change. Without it, and the data it provides, we can't easily monitor the traffic.

Now that we appear to have decent weather and, of course, the daylight hours are longer, we will be out regularly so, **please stick to the speed limits.** 

David Marrow, Group Co-ordinator, WCSW





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

HI THERE ME OLD CHINA – WHAT IS HE ON ABOUT? WELL, "CHINA" IS THE SYMBOL FOR 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY!!!! YES, WE HAVE BEEN OPEN FOR 20 YEARS SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF WILLAND.

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All of this from your garden waste deposited and we processing as compost to be used by you.

We sincerely hope with your continuing support of using your site and providing assistance as "Composters" we will be able to continue. In addition, we have off site jobs – Secretary and Treasurer. Both these will shortly be vacant. This is me doing these roles for 20 years. In return you will have the satisfaction of being an integral member. With full training and support - to those who wish further information, you can contact me (see below). Time required about 4 hours/month.

#### **GREEN COMPOSTING SITE**

'Going green' for WCCS means that we are asking that you kindly bring green garden waste to the site nothing else. Over the last few months, we have seen quantities of tree and bush pruning left in the bays. This material has had to be removed from the bays and disposed of by non-composting means, contributing in some small measure to air pollution. Not good. So big request – hedge and plant pruning's up to 1/2" thick ok - with no soil IS GOOD - nothing else - big help. Further information is displayed on notices regarding garden waste on the fence **OPENING TIMES** 

Wednesdays and Sundays only - 10.00 am - 12 Noon.

• COMPOST SALES: We offer two types of compost: -

Sieved (with next to no twigs) compost is £2.00/bag.

PLEASE, the returning of your empty bags will be gratefully received.

Sieved Waste - this material has been composted then sieved. But because it contains more twigs, we do not offer this as bagged compost. However, we do offer this waste at £1.00/wheelbarrow. We are told by users that when dug in and left to winter it improves the soil quality.

Hopefully see you down at the site. **Tony Mander** Mob.07980 472242

Email: tmander931gmail.com

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