

WILLAND MAGAZINE

April & May 2024



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		<i>Secretary/Contact</i>
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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	peterandsylviastatham@hotmail.com
Tiny Tots	Karly Holley	willandtintytots@gmail.com 07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	weirmilldevon@gmail.com 820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub
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Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher	07377 556946
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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	Janey Parrett	07593 996991
Willand Theatrical Society		witsthesecretary@gmail.com 01884 32152
Willand United Charities		unitedcharities@whacc.org.uk
Youth Club (35218)		willandyouthclub@outlook.com

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Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev Nick Lakin	nicholas.lakin@methoodist.org.uk 07895 740286
Quakers	Pat Bell	840823
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St. Mary's Church Churchwarden	Lesley Smith	07944 295002
St. Mary Parochial CC	Secretary Sandy Hancock	35165
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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
Parish Council Website www.willand-pc.org.uk			
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
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)		
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

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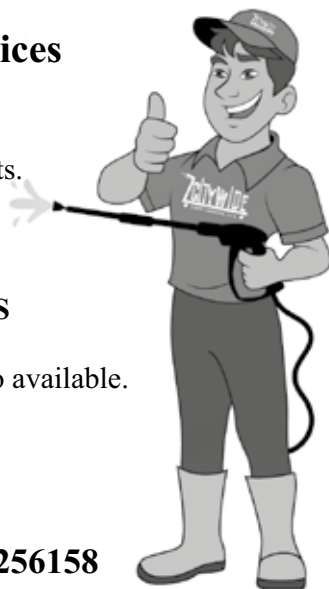
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Spring is in the air we know this by the sound of all the lawnmowers starting up, hopefully the weather will be nice and springlike. Hope you enjoy this issue.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

In my last note in the February/March magazine I reported the massive hike in playground safety inspection prices that Mid Devon were trying to charge us as of April 2024. We have cut back on our contract with Mid Devon and from now on the playground safety inspections for the play areas managed or owned by the Parish will be as follows. Weekly visual inspections carried out by our litter picker on his rounds. Bi-monthly technical inspections carried out by MDDC, and an annual inspection carried out by ROSPA. We have checked the law, advice from ROSPA and our public liability insurers and this is still above that which is required. The Parish will now be within the planned budget for this item this coming year. If anyone should see anything wrong with any of the playgrounds or facilities, please make sure you contact the Clerk and report it.

Our Statutory Annual Parish Meeting took place on the 14th of March 2024 and a number of local organisations submitted reports on their activities for the past year. Their efforts are much appreciated, and the details will be recorded on the website for all to see. If you do not have access to the internet, then if you contact the Clerk, she will help with the information required.

We now have the monies in the Parish Accounts to pay for the proposed new skate ramps and the contractor hopes to start in May. If all goes to plan, they will be ready for use in the school summer holidays. The Parish Council are still looking for ideas from our young people as to other facilities which may be made available as we will have some money left.

The Parish Council are now in the process of deciding what to do in relation to Christmas lights for the future years as if we are to have some a new contract needs to be negotiated. There are a number of people who have said they would like some but that is as far as we have got to date and so the Councillors are 'flying blind' to a degree. Any ideas, positive or negative, would be appreciated.

The Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to MDDC and they take over from here on and somewhere along the line there will be a local referendum to accept or reject it. Many thanks to Stephen Little and his team of volunteers for all the hard work to get us to this point. Please participate when you have the opportunity as it is the future of our Parish that will be affected by what is decided.

The training equipment for defibrillator and CPR training has been purchased so make sure that you watch out for the training opportunities and take them please. I am at an age where I may need you one day. The Parish could do with more defibrillators which could be accessed by members of the public under the direction of the ambulance service who would have the locations and access codes.

Are there any businesses which could fund and place defibrillators on the outside of their premises to increase the wellbeing of our community?

There are a number of planning applications being referred to the Parish Council as consultees and our responses are available on the website. Please make sure that your views are made known to the planners and our District Councillors if you wish to support or object. At the time of writing, we have heard no more about the proposed 170 houses off of Muxbeare Lane.

The precept has been set and the full detail will be contained somewhere in the magazine and is also on the website. Hopefully it is self-explanatory but if anyone has any concerns or wishes further information, please contact the Clerk or one of the Parish Councillors. We can only help with information on the Parish portion of your new Council Tax bill when you get it shortly.

Now your chairman has had to admit his age and the fact that mobility is becoming an issue as those that know me will have seen me walking [hobbling] with the aid of a stick. I am still able to drive but you cannot get up the footpaths and/or talk to people or make a fuss of the numerous dogs being walked around the village. I have given in and bought an electric powered fold up mobility scooter. I am still getting used to it but one thing I have learned already is that the state of some of our pavements leave a lot to be desired. My head is also at a level to get an eye taken out by protruding hedges and brambles which overhang the pavements or footpaths. I can now really appreciate the position of others in a similar position. This can also apply to the Mums [and Dads before I get told off] who are walking the youngsters around the pavements in pushchairs. So, a really heartfelt plea from me to everyone to keep our pavements and footpaths clear.

Spring is here and Summer is coming, the broad beans planted last month are up and the pigeons nesting in the neighbour's tree appear to think it is time to start breeding again. The rooks from the Gables trees think my garden is their personal feeding station. I wish you all well and let us all contribute to and enjoy our community. **Barry G J Warren Parish Council Chairman.**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY

Wow what a great reception our audiences gave this year's Panto with tons of audience participation making each performance special, written by one of our members and based on the song "**Sing a Song of Sixpence**" it went down a storm. The panto featured new members who were having their first taste of the theatre and didn't they do well. WiTS would like to thank our audiences for such a great response. Below is the National Operatic and Dramatic Association NODA review of Sing a Song of Sixpence.

During 2024 WiTS will be performing two **Murder Mysteries** the first will be on **Saturday 8th June** at Willand Village Hall with a parody of the Oscars and a "Who done it" at the end. Our audiences usually love to join in with Murder Mysteries and with food provided in the ticket price it is always an enjoyable and interesting night out. Another is planned for September. **Sam Fincher**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY

Six a Song of Sixpence – A Pantomime Written by Alison Holly

16th February 2024 at Willand village hall

Directed by Jeannette Simmons and Sam Fincher

Musical Director Alan Gage

As the curtains open, we find ourselves transported to Meadow Land where the nursery rhyme characters, we are to meet, live and thrive. This is a well-written creation of Alison Holly, a local writer, who also plays Queen Bee in this production. She is also responsible for costuming the whole production which I will mention later.

There are a number of characters in this production all based on famous nursery rhymes. The scenery is produced by projection, onto a backcloth, of farm buildings and fields of corn growing producing a lovely effect for staging. The company sings "The Sun has got his hat on" accompanied by Alan Gage the MD on his piano. We meet Bo Peep in purple and white lace outfit with her fluffy sheep under her arm, a strong actor with presence, Mary Mary in a flowing dress of yellow and green and hat to match with a fine Devon accent along with lazy Boy Blue in a blue suit, blue wig, lace cravat and shirt, who was perfectly permanently tired. Nice characterization from all three.

Dilly and Dally, two scarecrows whose costumes were beautifully designed, held the stage on every occasion they entered, narrating the story with strong clear diction and sweet, individual personalities. I loved their simple rendition of "Busy doing nothing". Then we meet our Dame, Pretty Polly, played by an enthusiastic actor who loved interacting with the audience and had some cracking lines such as "You nearly blew my knickers off", which he relished. In high heels, this actor towered over the rest of the cast in gorgeous outfits such as a yellow and green patched dress with a lovely floppy hat and a stunning red spotted dress with, red wig and blue ribbons. Her children, Silly Sally and Simple Simon each brought a different dimension to the production, Sally being far brighter than her very simple brother, played dopily and naively by this actor. These two worked perfectly together and complimented each other's characters.

Queen Bee was perfectly portrayed by an actor with superb diction and stage presence in a brilliant costume, which she created. A costume cleverly designed and consisting of a tunic with connected legs which all moved together, a superb headdress with goggles and a crown (well she is a Queen), brown leggings and boots. With smaller versions created for her four bees (who also play the four villagers), this swarm or colony looked incredible. Not only that, these four junior actors were exceptional throughout the production, with individual personalities they acted with confidence, clear diction and really impressed me.

Old Macdonald and Spiller were delightful cameo roles. Spiller with a northern accent (I believe) and Old Macdonald a posh Devonian who falls for Pretty Polly's charms, poor man.

The royal family of Meadowland consisted of Old King Cole and the Queen of Hearts, with their enthusiastic son, Prince Jasper. Old King Cole was a perfect statesman-like character alongside his Queen with a lovely stage presence and sparkly shoes, both experienced performers. This was Prince Jasper's first production with WITS, but you would never have known as his enjoyment in the role was palpable. His confidence exhibited when he asked for his play-on music.

The role of the baddy is crucial in any pantomime and in this one it was played by not only one but three characters, those blessed crows. Dressed in a handsome, exquisitely created costume of black feather-like material and impressive head-dresses, their leader, King Crow, was exceptional in this role. Every line was hilarious and the ability to ad-lib with the audience was remarkable and had the audience roaring with laughter. Her 'crow-horts', Blackbeard and Blackhead matched their boss in their comedic timing and were a joy to watch. I really believe that you would not see any better on a professional pantomime stage. Superb performances and all three wonderfully costumed.

With everyone pairing off at the end this panto had its happy ending with the crows being baked in an incredibly huge pie, a superbly created prop.

The staging was simple but very effective with nice touches such as the barn cloth brought in with a doorway cut-out showing the projection of the field beyond and the placing of the huge pie in the finale.

It was lit well, with lovely oranges and yellow for the scarecrow scenes and fields of corn. The sound was perfect with the use of individual mics, which can be problematic if the script is not closely followed by the sound engineer. In this case there were no issues at all. Well done.

The costumes were created and produced by Alison Harris (Queen Bee) and were fantastic. Dilly and Dally were dressed in either a colourful dress (skirt and top) or trousers with clever touches of red/purple and yellow wigs under straw protruding hats, with straw bracelets and fluffy grey boots again with straw coming out. The Crows costumes, all three sewn and created individually, mimicking shiny black feathers and wings of a crow, headdresses with large crow beaks and feathered or crowned headdress. The beautiful bee costumes... the list goes on. The attention to details of every character costumed was outstanding and immense praise should go to Alison. Not only that, but she also wrote this pantomime too. A very funny story with excellent use of nursery rhyme characters within the plot. My congratulations to everyone involved in this production which was thoroughly enjoyed by every member of the audience and once again a triumph for the cast, crew, production team and front of house.

Enormous thanks to Mike and the front of house team who always make my husband and I feel like we are part of the WITS family.

Lyn Burgoyne Noda South West Representative (District 5, Mid and East Devon)

CAMEO

At our February meeting we were all shocked and deeply saddened to hear that our friend and fellow member Sonia Chapman had died after a short illness. Sonia had been a brilliant and popular chairman for six years and was still on the committee, always full of good ideas and innovations. She will be greatly missed by all her Cameo friends. About 25 members were privileged to attend her celebration.

The walking group had a lovely walk through the woods at Knightshayes to see the early spring flowers, followed by lunch at the restaurant. Next walk was along the canal to Ashford and back to Sampford Peverell with refreshments at the Globe Inn. Two volunteers from the memory café held at College Surgery came to thank us for our donation. Our charity for this year is Marie Curie. We enjoyed a keep fit session called Use it or lose it with Sue Jackson. Our outings included coffee at the Nosh Cafe in Cullompton and a delicious lunch at the Keeper's Cottage. We had a fun evening at our March meeting, we all sat down with a variety of hats and trimmings and created Easter bonnets. The results were amazing. We voted for our favourites and Sylvia, Marion and Brigitte all tied for first place, a very happy evening.

Our speaker for next month is from the Co-Op. We have a very busy year ahead with lots of events planned. If you would like to come to one of our meetings, you will get a warm welcome. We meet at the Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm. **Betty Penberthy.**

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

As all of you will have noticed in your homes, fuel bills have risen astronomically over the past couple of years. We like to keep the Hall at a comfortable temperature for our hirers, so our fuel costs account for a large proportion of our running costs. We keep our charges to the minimum in order to make hiring our premises affordable. However, we will have to increase our charges from 1st April to help offset the additional costs. The new charges are shown below.

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Class C £36.00	£18.50	£17.00	£20.60

Class A is for Village organisations and private hirers living in the parish of Willand, Class B is for classes where charges are made, e.g. exercise classes, and for people outside the village and Class C is for commercial hire.

There will also be an increase to the cleaning charge for Licensed Bars and BYOB events to £20 to reflect the increase in the National Minimum Wage.

In order to book, please look at our online calendar - just Google Willand Village Hall and go to the Events Calendar. If the date you require looks free, please email the booking secretary with a completed booking form. We ask for a £30 non-refundable deposit and cannot confirm a booking until the deposit has been received. **Carol Allan Treasurer**

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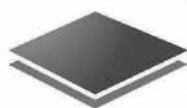
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WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS)

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We accept:

Green Garden Waste - Fresh Grass & Hedge Clippings, Prunings that can be cut with secateurs, up to 1 inch diameter, Flowers, Vegetables & Plants. Depositing in the bay where directed by our team, would be most helpful. Further information is displayed on notices regarding garden waste on the fence.

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:

Cordylone 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.

Un-Sieved Waste at £2.00/wheelbarrow.

Please help us as Volunteers:

The return of your empty bags will be gratefully received.

Please try to get to us by 11.45am to give our volunteers the time they need to clean & close up.

You are always welcome to drop into the site and have a chat with the volunteers. Email: **willandcommunitycomposting@gmail.com**. **Truly Rose.**

WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

If you would like to be more active in 2024 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.**

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2024-25

Below is the precept requested by Willand Parish Council for the year April 2024 to March 2025. The Parish Council carefully considered the current income and expenditure which enables it to do the things it has to do within the Parish and those that improve the village for everyone. The percentage rise is 3%, equating to £1.73 per annum or 3.3 pence per week, on a Band D Property.

The income figures are based on our known income for the year. We have received generous donations from local businesses towards the Christmas lights in recent years, but this is not guaranteed income so cannot be factored in. Money has also been secured from Devon County Council towards the cost of verge cutting, which has been included in our income figure, and grant funding was obtained towards weed spraying this last financial year, but the grant funding is not guaranteed for this coming year and so cannot be budgeted for.

Our contractual costs increase annually in-line with inflation, and this is factored into the precept.

Total income expected **£16,567.**

Total expenditure predicted **£93,122.**

Precept requested **£76,555** (difference between income & expenditure)

Precept 2023/2024 was **£74,297.**

Increase for Willand **£2,258**



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	2023/24 Precept	2023/24 end Dec. 2023	2024/25 Budget
INCOME			
Precept	74297	74297	76555
Bank Interest	100	548	500
Magazine Income	5000	4834	5000
Cemetery	3300	6020	3650
Allotments	2370	2282	2437
Ground Maintenance	4694	4835	4980
TOTAL	89761	92816	93122
EXPENDITURE			
Staff	27118	18971	27089
Office administration	10143	4201	7926
Allotments	2370	1170	2437
Cemetery	4947	2543	7592
Magazine	6800	5625	6800
All Ground management	13982	10554	15153
Village projects	8441	5631	9315
Donations to groups	360	110	360
Play areas equipment	4500	1776	5350
TOTAL	78661	50581	82022
Capital expenditure			
Legal expenses	1000		1000
CCTV replacements	500		600
Office Equipment	1000	22	1000
Cemetery contingency	100		0
Play areas new equipment	6000	0	6000
Play areas development	2500		2500
TOTAL	11100	22	11100

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TOMMY BLAIZE
20 GLORIOUS YEARS OF STRICTLY

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024

PAUL YOUNG
BEHIND THE LENS

FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2024

ALFIE MOORE
A FACE FOR RADIO

THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2024

JOHN LYDON
I COULD BE WRONG, I COULD BE RIGHT -
JOHN LYDON – AKA JOHNNY ROTTEN

SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024

I'M EVERY WHITNEY LIVE!
TRIBUTE TO THE LATE, GREAT WHITNEY
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SATURDAY 1ST JUNE

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SATURDAY 8TH JUNE

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SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2024

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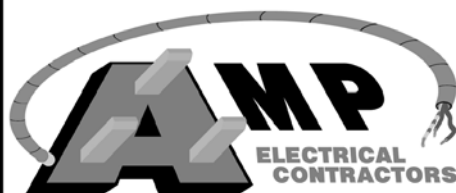
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NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL

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Visits by groups and schools can be booked for any day – email
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EASTER STEAM UP Mad Hatters and March Hares

Bank Holiday Monday 1st April 10.30am – 4.30pm

Come and explore our steam complex and factory floor in action, as well as a selection of family crafts, meeting the Easter Bunny, and an Egg Hunt. Book online in advance to receive 15% off ticket price, become a Coldharbour Mill Member and enjoy every Steam Day FREE for a year. See Mill Website What's On page.

Wednesday 1st May: DEVON AT WAR: "FROM UFFCULME TO OMAHA BEACH" WWII / D Day commemoration Exhibition & Talk – in the Fox Gallery at the Mill. The exhibition will be open from 6.30pm, with talk commencing at 7.30pm and finishing at 9.30pm. Tickets £4 each – please obtain in advance via *the What's On page of the Mill website, or phone 01884 840960. Places are limited so do book soon.*

SPRING STEAM UP. Monday 27th

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Late May Bank

Holiday Steam Day 10:30am-4:30pm (Steam Engines will run until 3pm)

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Wednesday 10th April 10am-1pm

Rope Bowl Making £25

Tuesday 23rd April 10am-2pm

Crochet for St. George's Day £25

Friday 10th May 11am-3pm

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Friday 24th May 11am-3pm

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All materials supplied, refreshments available. For more info and to book – visit the *What's On page of the Mill website, or phone 01884 840960. Places are limited so do book soon.*

Advance notice: **Sat 1st & Sun 2nd June THE GREAT BRITISH FIBRE FESTIVAL at COLDHARBOUR MILL** Visit the website: **www.thegreatbritishfibrefestival.co.uk.**

VOLUNTEERING The Volunteer Programme at Coldharbour Mill was recently awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. If you have some spare time each week to join one of the volunteer teams at our unique heritage site, please contact us by phone or email (see contact details below) **for more info and an informal chat,** and to arrange a taster session.

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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

At Month 10 (Jan) it is estimated that budgets will break-even by year end, with a small overspend by £291,000 currently forecast. This is an improvement of £4.3 million compared to the Month 8 (Nov) forecast.

On Wednesday 14 February, councillors agreed a 4.99 per cent increase for our part of the council tax for this coming financial year. It comprises 2.99 per cent for general services with an extra two per cent specifically for adult care.

This means an extra £1.56 a week on their bill for the average Band D householder. It allows an increase of 10.4 per cent in spending on children's services, six per cent on adult services and 4.7 per cent on climate change, environment and transport.

Councillors also agreed an extra £1.5 million to boost regular road drainage since the target budget was set last month to tackle the increase in potholes caused by this winter's heavy rainfall.

Agreement was also given to bring the homelessness budget back up to £1.45 million to support the work of district councils and homeless organisations for another year.

This is a well-constructed budget increasing expenditure for adults and children and looking after the old, the young and the vulnerable who account for almost four fifths of the budget.

We have a finite amount of money to spend, and we have to allocate it to protect those most in need. But we will ensure that we get the best possible value from every pound we spend on behalf of our residents.

A six-week public consultation was launched on Monday 12 February, on the draft proposal to create a Combined County Authority (CCA) for Devon and Torbay to oversee new powers and funding transferred from Government.

The ground-breaking devolution deal announced by Levelling Up Minister Jacob Young last month, proposes to create the CCA, which would be a formal partnership of elected members drawn from the councils of Devon and Torbay, including district councils, together with representatives from business and education.

People are being invited to have their say on how the CCA would work, the powers that it would have and the functions it would be responsible for. These include investment in local economic growth, delivering affordable housing, improving public transport, and meeting net zero ambitions. Further information about our joint consultation with Torbay Council and details of how to respond are available at **www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk**.

By far the biggest issues raised at Parish Council meetings are roads and their maintenance, very rarely anything about Adults and Children's services, with a combined budget of £588.7k out of County's overall revenue budget of £743.3k. That only leaves £155k to run all other services, including Roads/Highways.

Devon has the largest road network in England with 8,953 miles of roads, whilst Cornwall has over 4,500 miles of roads (Department for Transport (DfT), 2022).

In 2023, we assessed 57,000 public reports of potholes of which 12,000 were ultimately assessed as duplicates. We repaired over 53,000 potholes. Every report we receive is assessed onsite by a trained highway safety inspector. We do not ignore any reports that we receive, however, we do have to prioritise our funding as we cannot afford to fix all of the problems that are reported to us.

We prioritise repairing potholes, on roads, that have a 40 mm (4 cm) vertical edge and are 300 mm (30 cm) wide as these are the biggest risk to highway users. All reports should be assessed onsite within seven calendar days. Following the assessment, repairs will be carried out by the end of the next working day, seven or 28 calendar days (depending on the outcome of the assessment) if confirmed as a priority pothole. We will repair smaller potholes, and other road surface issues, as and when resources are available and as part of our planned works programmes. We have employed extra repair gangs, to increase repairs, hopefully with better weather we will catch up.

We have had our Locality Budget restored for small donations to local organisations/clubs etc. they would need to apply to Locality Budgets at County.

If anyone has any issues that they are not sure about, by all means contact me, I may be able to help. **ray.radford@devon.gov.uk**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Our annual Easter time coffee morning with the Willand Scout group is on Saturday 13th April from 10am. There will be all the usual stalls; cakes, books, raffle, tombola etc. and the opportunity for anyone to rent a table for £8 to sell their own wares. Please contact Joan on 01884 840942 to secure a space.

The pancake party was a resounding success with approximately 200 pancakes being served and £208 being raised for Action for Children. There will be more opportunities to share food with us on Saturday 20th April at midday, when we will be serving soup and sandwiches, followed by delicious desserts and two dates for your diaries – Cream teas on Saturday 29th June and a coffee morning at the church on Friday 17th May from 10.30am.

The Warm Space on Thursdays was greatly appreciated by the few who came but we could have supported many more folk if only they had been brave enough to enter the building. Maybe next year?

The Prospects worship group, primarily for people with learning difficulties will meet on Sunday 7th April at 3pm when we'll be celebrating Easter with help from Speedy the Fox and a bring and share tea. **David and Joan Greet**

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The new roof across the outdoor space between the nursery and the WH&CC was completed at the start of 2024 and we were able to move our regular day time events safely back inside. Many thanks to the Village Hall for accommodating us at the end of last year while the work was in progress.

Some of our regular users had the idea of fundraising for the centre by holding a 60's and 70's disco and it was agreed to hold it in February at the Village Hall. The night was a great success everyone brought their own refreshments, and a great deal of dancing took place. Thank you to all the volunteers for all their help and to DJ Frances for all the work she put into the play list and keeping the music flowing. Thank you to the Tea & Chat members for a great fundraising idea and selling the raffle tickets on the night. Thank you to Simon and Robyn at the Post Office and Willand Pharmacy for selling the tickets for us.

At the moment we have a book swap on the fourth Wednesday of the month between 10 and 11 in the morning but we are hoping that this will be developed in the coming months so please look out for more information on social media and posters around the village.

Tea and chat sessions on the first Thursday and third Tuesday of the month are going well with a lively atmosphere and good humour always room for new faces to join! We have had regular opportunities for residents to meet a representative of Exeter Community Energy and book appointments to have energy saving advice in the home. In the future they will be attending quarterly on the first Thursday of the month.

Having had the issues with the electricity supply sorted out the kitchens will be fitted in April, and it is hoped to keep disruption to the minimum.



The centre is run by volunteers so if you are looking for an opportunity to get involved then please contact us on the email below or come along to one of our Tea & Chat sessions. We are looking for ideas to develop the activities within the centre but need more volunteers to help.

The centre is available for private bookings, if you have not been inside come and

look round when we are open or email us at info@whacc.org.uk

Tania Edworthy Chair of Trustees

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities was set up to benefit residents of Willand who were in need. The Trustees would like to thank two Willand groups for their generous donations in 2023 these were the History Group and Willand Theatrical Society. Donations such as these increase the amount of funding we have available to help those who need it.

The money available for distribution is quite limited but the Trustees are able to make small grants to support individuals and local groups each year. The Trustees meet regularly twice a year, usually in September and February. Extra meetings are held to discuss applications outside of these times so people should not be put off from contacting us when necessary.

The current Trustees are Stephen Little, Neil James, Jason Scott and Kate Taylor

If you or someone you know would benefit from some support, then please contact the charity by using our email address **unitedcharities@whacc.org.uk** or contact one of the trustees, to receive an application form.

Kate Taylor Trustee

HOSPISCARE

Don't let anything stand between you and supporting your local hospice. Be a Hospiscare hero, take on a challenge this year and help raise vital funds to support end-of-life care across Exeter, central and east Devon.

Great West Run 2024

Join Team Hospiscare and take on Exeter's Great West Run - an exciting half marathon through the heart of Devon's capital. The 13.1-mile run is the only half marathon in Exeter where you can run the closed roads. Individuals from far and wide participate and Hospiscare is on a mission to get local people running the local half marathon to support your local hospice. When you sign up you will get a race space, running vest, sponsorship form and fundraising hints and tips.

Exeter Inflatable 5K

Put the fun in fundraising and take on an inflatable challenge for Hospiscare! The world's largest Inflatable 5k obstacle course is coming to Exeter on Saturday 27 April 2024. There are four different distances – 2.5K, 5K, 10K, 15K to choose from.

Hospiscare Skydive 2024

Fancy an adrenaline-filled morning of skydives, all in aid of Hospiscare? Whether you're jumping in memory of someone special or to fulfil a bucket list challenge, support your local hospice and sign up in 2024. We have a special Hospiscare Skydive days, Sunday 12 May, Wednesday 24 July and Saturday 7 September. But if you can't make any of those dates, you could book a day that suits you. For more information and to sign up today, visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/challenges for more challenges and inspiration or email **events@hospiscare.co.uk**. **Eleni Greenwood.**

TIVERTON LIONS

Charity begins at Home.

How difficult is it for local people to obtain help from Government agencies when needed?

We at Tiverton Lions Club firmly believe in the above slogan. Our aim is to help local people in need.

This year we supported, amongst others, the Children's Hospice SW, Force, McMillan Nurses, United Carers, Tiverton High School students, Local Scout teenagers, a teenage Cullompton gymnast and the Keystone project. All local agencies.

The Club was formed in 1973 and so the members are now reaching advanced age. Would you consider joining this charitable organisation with a view to rejuvenating it and making it your own?

Together with a few friends you could make a great difference to the Tiverton and Culm Vale area needy.

To obtain further information please contact our Secretary, Michael, on 0345 833280. **Mr I Payne** Club President

LITTLE BISHOPS ORGANICS

Recipe: Stir-fry with peanut sauce – this is an endlessly adaptable recipe that works well with some of the more Asian veg we have on the farm now such as Pak choi, black Spanish radish, shallots/onions, carrots, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and kale. But you can use pretty much any veg you have to hand – mushrooms work particularly well. You can add tofu or chicken too.

1 tbsp coconut oil/rapeseed oil - 2 tbsp peanut butter

1 thumb-sized piece of ginger grated - 2 tbsp soy sauce.

1 tsp chilli flakes -1 tsp honey or maple syrup or apple sauce

Sliced mixed veg. - Coriander to serve (optional)

To make the sauce, put the peanut butter into a bowl and slacken with the soy sauce and a dash of hot water to make a sauce like consistency. Add the chilli flakes and honey and stir well. Meanwhile, heat the oil on a medium heat, and add onions/leeks first. Cook them until they begin to soften. Then add the ginger and any 'hard' veg such as carrots, radish, Brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower and cook for a couple of minutes until they begin to soften. Finally, add any softer veg such as shredded cabbage, Pak choi, mushrooms, peppers and chard and cook for a couple of minutes longer. Once the veg is almost ready, add the sauce and give it a minute to heat through. Then serve over rice or noodles and sprinkle with fresh coriander. **Chloe Blackmore**, Little Bishops Organic. www.littlebishopsorganics.co.uk

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CUT OFF DATE FOR NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY 2024

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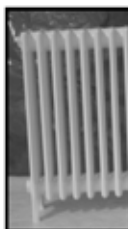
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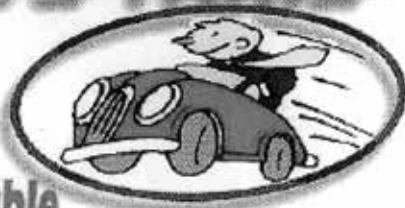
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