

WILLAND MAGAZINE

December 2024 & January 2025



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WILLAND PARISH ORGANISATIONS

		<i>Secretary/Contact</i>
Allotment Holders	Sylvia Statham	peterandsylviastatham@hotmail.com
Bridge Club	Wendy Boothroyd	01398 331219
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
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	Barbara & Graham Bodkin	willandccs24sec@outlook.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

CHURCHES / EDUCATION

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham	34077
Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev Nick Lakin nicholas.lakin@methoodist.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

Rachel Gilmore	(M.P)	rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk	
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
Sue Leach	(Councillor)	sue.leach@willand-pc.org.uk	07732 952829
Sam Sycamore	(Councillor)	sam.sycamore@willand-pc.org.uk	07429 266786
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

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College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries	831300
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N.H.S. DIRECT	111
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Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E)	01392 411611
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Devon County Council	0345 1551015
Environment Agency (24 Hour)	0800 807060
Fire, Police, Ambulance, Coastguard	999 Or 112
Gas	0800 111999
Injured Wildlife Exeter	01392 439898
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www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting

MAGAZINE

Please send Editorial items to willandparishmag@gmail.com
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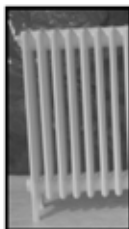
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EDITORIAL.

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Welcome to the new Willand residents moving into **Fox Mill Gardens**. Willand Magazine is delivered freely to all the homes in Willand every two months so residents can be informed about what's going on in our Village. Associations, Clubs and Willand groups keep us apprised with news etc. The Parish Council keep us up to date with any changes and news in general. The Magazine is 80% funded by advertisements with any remaining costs paid for by the Parish Council. Completely run by a volunteer team and delivered by our fantastic volunteers it remains a vital link for all our residents to get involved in our Village in any way they may want to. Fox Mill Gardens already has two volunteers lining themselves up to deliver the Magazine, but more volunteers are always appreciated. We hope to expand deliveries as and when new residents move in. Once again Welcome. Happy Christmas to all our readers and a Happy New Year.

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

Rehearsals are well underway for our next production **“ROBIN HOOD”**

“The fine folk of Sherwood Forest are terrorised by the mounting taxes imposed by the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham who'll stop at nothing to seize the throne of England and claim the fair Maid Marian as his bride. Only the outlaw Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men can save the day”



We will be performing the annual Pantomime on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st of February @7:30pm Also Saturday 22nd February @2:30pm and 7:30pm. Look out for advertisements on social media more details to follow. WiTS would like to thank all our dear friends in Willand that support our performances. Also Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

We are moving fast to the end of another year which will be full of memories for most of us. Some sad but hopefully most of them will be positive and happy.

I had the honour to attend the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in Willand Parish Churchyard on the 10th of November. I was joined by our Vice Chairman, Richard Phare with Councillor Stephen Little officiating as vicar at the War Memorial and another councillor Sue Leach had organised the display of poppies around the area. It was pleasing to see so many from the community in attendance and the support from the Scouts, Guides, Brownies and is all really heartening for the future. Their participation in reading the lesson and leading prayers was a tribute to them all. The weather was kind to us and the Churchwardens and other organisers are to be congratulated. The live organ playing was also a bonus. Thank you all.

All monies for planned improvements to some of our play areas has been released by the District Council and orders have been placed. Hopefully we may see the new goal posts in the Jubilee Field before Christmas. In the New Year there will be some changes in the Jubilee Field fenced play area and also at Chestnut Drive. The biggest change will be in Orchard Way with new monkey bars and bucket swing and quite a few bits of fitness equipment which some will use for imaginative play as well.

Our play areas have recently undergone the ROSPA annual inspection and there are no major problems raised. Most areas where they have raised issues are in the Orchard Way area and the equipment identified there is being replaced in the New Year. Mid Devon District Council are again raising the cost of regular inspections and so we are having to reconsider our arrangements with them when showing due diligence with how the Parish Council treat your money.

David Williams, who has been our invaluable handyman for a number of years will be retiring in January 2025. He has been invaluable to the parish from looking after the cemetery and maintenance and grass cutting in play areas. Thank you David and have a long and happy retirement and may your narrowboat have safe journeys on the various canals you visit. We are looking for a replacement to David and the position has been advertised and there has been interest so hopefully a replacement will be found in time. At the same time the Parish Council are seeking contractors to cut grass and hedges in some of the play areas and the cemetery. The decisions may well have been made by the time you read this.

We are also considering representations as to stopping weed spraying and not cutting areas of grass in the interests of wildlife. We have to balance this with other residents in the village who like to see everything clean, neat and tidy. We also have to bear in mind safety requirements in relation to visibility splays at junctions and the practicalities and cost of 'fragmenting' contracts.

Please let us know what you think, and this is one area where maintaining your position as one of the 'silent majority' will not help. I, and I am sure some other councillors feel the same, consider I am damned if I do and damned if I don't. Thoughtful compromise will probably be the order of the day.

A few minor changes are being made in the cemetery by the planting of some trees and some wildlife friendly screening hedge. We are also considering having an area of 'wildlife meadow' until such time as it is needed for burials in years to come. The cost of creating it is quite high and then we have to balance future maintenance cost against 'normal' grass cutting. Another decision where we will probably be on the losing side with someone whichever decision is finally made. We are also in the process of taking the plants around to our volunteers to provide the 'winter' planting of the planters/troughs and we thank all our volunteers for their efforts. The trees, hedging and plants have all come from The Old Well Garden Centre where the staff have risen to the challenge to meet our needs in spite of their recent fire. Although outside our Parish boundary I am sure that we all wish them well as they move to rebuild in the future.

The Parish Councillors are all volunteers and give of their time freely for the benefit of our community and to comply with legal requirements. We welcome a new lady member with Sam Sycamore but we still have two vacancies that can be filled by 'volunteers'.

We are in the process of setting next year's budget to apply for the precept for the year 2025/26. This is quite a task, and our Clerk has already started putting spreadsheets together. There will be a budget meeting towards the end of December and then the final precept will be set at our January 2025 meeting. As always any views or ideas for consideration from our community are welcome. Apart from various things set in the budget which may lead to cost rises for us from suppliers and contractors - the one big thing that has jumped out at us is the rise to the employers contribution to National Insurance. It was £1,300.00 which will now rise by about £1,700.00 to a total of £3,000.00. The threshold has been reduced which means that we now have to contribute for the part time litter picker. We will do our best to keep our portion of the Council tax as low as possible, but we have no control over what Devon County and Mid Devon District Councils charge and then we have to add the Fire and Rescue Service and the almost uncontrolled demands of the Police and Crime Commissioner. On that cheerful note to end on can I try and lift spirits by wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Please support our local clubs and organisations and at this time of year see what you can do to help and cheer those in our community who are not so well placed or lonely.

Barry G J Warren Chairman

STOP PRESS. It has been brought to attention that MDDC have put up signs in the Victoria Road recreation area saying that dogs must be on leads. The Parish Council have not agreed to this, and we are on the case.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

As I am the newly appointed Rector of St Mary's, and this being my first article for the Parish News, I thought I would take some time to introduce myself and the family. My name is Ben, I am married to Sarah, and we have eight children. Their names can be hard to remember, so here they are in age order descending: Evie-Grace, Keziah, Elliana, Abia, Noah, Titus, Caleb and Hadassah.

Sarah and I are very familiar with this area having grown up in Tiverton, where we both attended St Paul and St George's Church. I was the Youth Worker at St Paul's Church for six years before the family and I moved to Bristol so I could train for ordained ministry in the Church of England. Two years later, in 2020, we moved to Newton Abbot where I served as a Curate in the town-wide Parish which comprised of six very different church communities.

Like many of you, we have a real love for the beautiful county of Devon, and especially this area, so we were thrilled when the position here became vacant. Having completed my curacy, I applied for the role and, as they say, the rest is history.

We moved from one village (East Ogwell) to another (Uffculme) in October and we are beginning to feel settled as we enjoy the local walks and reacquaint ourselves with the area. Thank you to all of you from the churches and the wider community who have made us feel welcome.

While we may live in Uffculme, I am the Rector of the Culm Valley Mission Community, and therefore I have responsibility for the Parishes of Willand, Kentisbeare and Blackborough, as well as Uffculme. I have enjoyed learning my way around the country lanes, as well as occasionally getting lost! I have also enjoyed visiting these places and beginning to pray for the various communities, each with the unique atmosphere.

If you see me walking around the village, please feel free to say hi and have a chat. I'd also love to talk to you if you are interested in baptism or confirmation or making use of one of our lovely church buildings for your wedding. I know that many of you will see your local church as an important part of the village, so please do feel free to come along and get involved as much as you would like, you are always very welcome.

This leads me nicely to our Christmas services.

St Mary's Willand Christmas Services

1st December, Village Hall Carol Service at 6:30pm.

8th December, Christingle Service 4pm.

22nd December, Carol Service at 6:30pm.

24th December, Midnight Service at 11:30pm.

25th December, Christmas Day Service 10am.

Ben Maynard



MID DEVON SINGERS NEWS

All too soon it's time for the last news update of 2024 – how did we get here so quickly?

We are now fully immersed in the rehearsing of our Christmas repertoire, ready for our performances at the Tiverton Christmas Lights switch on (approx. 5pm on Saturday 23rd November), “Dulverton by Starlight” (2 performances on Sunday 1st December: 3.20pm outside Woods Bar/restaurant and 5.45pm at the Town Hall) and the Waterloo Cross pub in Uffculme (7pm on Saturday 14th December). Keep your eyes peeled on our socials for further details.

Singing is a great way to get a serotonin boost and combat the darkness of winter– why not make a new year's resolution to sing with the MiDS? New members are always very welcome, with no auditions to join our friendly and sociable community choir. There's no charge to try us out for your first 2 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 **7.30pm** and ending at **9.30pm** - with an all-important tea/coffee/chat break about halfway through.

If you would like to find out more about joining us or booking us for a performance, please contact us by email at info@mids.org.uk. Otherwise, be sure to keep an eye on our social media feeds for general news & performance information:

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Our last rehearsal before Christmas will be on Friday 13th December, and we will return in the new year on Friday 10th January. We hope you and your families enjoy a very merry Christmas and a healthy & prosperous 2025.

Michael Cuthbertson

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities was established in the early 20th century and was formed from a number of small charities set up in the previous century to benefit residents of Willand who were in need, and this is still the purpose of the United Charities.

At a recent meeting of the Charity Trustees we realised that there may be people in Willand who are finding it difficult to make ends meet with the increase in general living costs and the disappearance of the heating allowance for many pensioners. If a small grant would make a big difference during these winter months to you or someone you know 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.

The current Trustees are Stephen Little, Neil James, Jason Scott, Kate Taylor and the Rector. **Kate Taylor (Trustee)**

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

We celebrated the 10th anniversary of our club being open in the village in October. Head Coach, James Marshall, and Yasmin Rashid, one of our weightlifters, were interviewed on BBC Devon Radio in November. James emphasised the importance of having good local facilities and putting children, rather than competitive parents, first. Yasmin said how welcome she felt as a woman of colour in a supportive and non-judgmental environment.

As this goes to press, our gymnasts will be preparing for their Christmas display. For the new boys, it will be their first chance to demonstrate their new skills. We do not put the youngsters into competitions at 7-years-old, nor get them chasing certificates because we are thinking of their long-term development. Each child progresses at a different rate, and we want them all to fulfil their potential rather than 'fail' at a competition or a certification.

Teenagers and adults are different, they choose rather than being pushed by parents, and we are preparing for a weightlifting competition in Lydney, Gloucestershire in January. We took a group of spectators, lifters and a referee to the Plymouth Open in September. Lucy, 16, described the event as 'empowering.' She enjoyed seeing women encourage each other and demonstrate their skills, no matter how old. This was a different experience from her school p.e.

Our track and field athletes are in the middle of winter-training, working on strength and power, while the days are short. These sessions are suitable for other sporting teenagers who want to improve their physical skills too. New members are always welcome.

Contact **James Marshall** on [**excelsiorathletic@gmail.com**](mailto:excelsiorathletic@gmail.com)

CAMEO

Autumn at Cameo has been fairly quiet after a busy, enjoyable summer. Our meetings always begin with a short business meeting keeping everyone up to date with what's happening.

In October our speaker Brenda Salter, an award-winning sugar crafter, she showed us how to approach making Christmas cake decorations using specially prepared icing. Working in such small scale is intricate and fiddly but worth the time and effort as the results are lovely.

In November we had a social evening, with fish and chips ordered in and followed by an entertaining game of bingo.

As we move toward the end of the year we have a coffee meet at Nosh in Cullompton, a day out at Clarkes Village and our December meal at Redwoods in Uplowman to look forward to, before we begin again in January with our AGM and a bring and share supper.

If you would like to come and join us you will get a warm welcome. Meetings are held in the village hall on the first Thursday in the month at 7pm unless otherwise stated. **Kay Morris**



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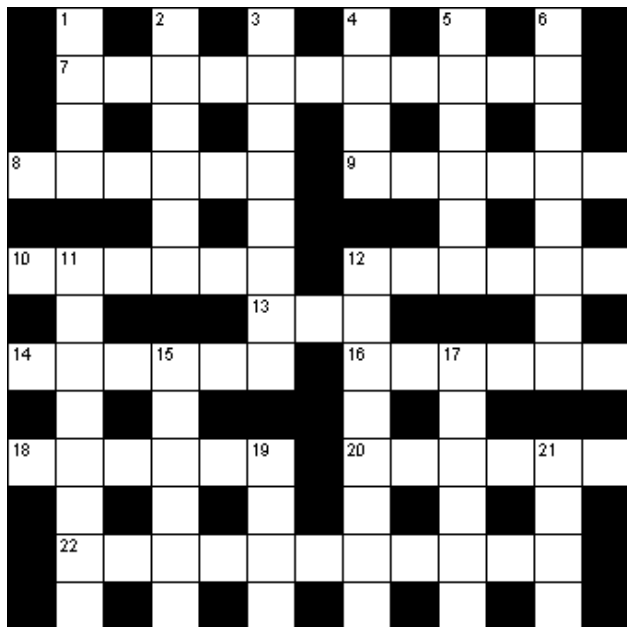




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 Moorhayes Community Centre, Tiverton
 Stokehouse Farm, Bradninch


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Quick Crossword for
December/January
Answers later in this
issue, no peeking
now.

Across

- 7 Delighted (4,3,4)
- 8 Leisurely Walk (6)
- 9 Shake with cold (6)
- 10 Wooden hammer (6)
- 12 Peak (6)
- 13 Nervous twitch (3)
- 14 Colour of the spectrum (6)
- 16 Nonsensical (6)
- 18 Belly laugh (6)
- 20 Fair-haired (6)
- 22 Plotter (11)

Down

- 1 Young horse (4)
- 2 Draw back, as with fear (6)
- 3 Long dagger (8)
- 4 A smaller amount (4)
- 5 Speaker's platform (6)
- 6 Inside (8)
- 11 Proclaim (8)
- 12 Sheath for a sword (8)
- 15 Very young child (6)
- 17 Unwrinkled (6)
- 19 Cried (4)
- 21 Highland dagger (4)

MUSIC GROUP

I run a small musical group in Willand mainly for people with memory problems but open to anyone. We sit and sing and play well known songs and basically chat and socialise generally. We meet alternate Thursdays at 2pm in Willand Church Hall. We have about 15 members but unfortunately we are all old and for some it's not possible for them to get out anymore. We could really do with a few new members who like singing, you do not have to play an instrument. If you think you might be interested email me colinbritton951@yahoo.com or if you don't do email ring me on 01884 841434.

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS)

OPENING TIMES Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10.00am – 12 noon.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY We are CLOSED from 12 noon on Wednesday 18th December and will REOPEN from 10.00am on Wednesday 8th January 2025.

CHRISTMAS TREES In addition to our list of Garden Waste we accept real Christmas Trees providing they have no decorations, and the branches are no more than 2" in diameter.

AUTUMN LEAVES We accept leaves, which must be clean and free from stones/other objects please.

WE DON'T ACCEPT Cordyline and Palm leaves as they can block or damage the shredding machine.

COMPOST SALES Sieved compost (with next to no twigs) costs £2.50 per bag. Un-sieved waste costs £2.50 per wheelbarrow. If required, we have a wheelbarrow for you to use – just ask.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US...

WCCS is run by a small group of volunteers, and we'd warmly welcome some new members. Read on to see how one of our volunteers describes his experience of joining WCCS:

"I was (un)fortunate enough to give up work in my late 40s and felt a need to do something useful that might help the community. Whilst walking the dog I quite literally stumbled across the composters on a Sunday morning. A friendly chat later and I've not looked back. For a few hours I get out with like-minded individuals and get a good dose of fresh air and exercise sprinkled liberally with coffee and chat. It's a great opportunity to give something back to the community and meet lots of friendly faces, many of whom like a little chat while they're on site. Which is more valuable though: community spirit, chatting to the public, recycling garden waste, fresh air and exercise or producing a chemical-free compost for the garden? Who knows, for me, they're all good reasons to be involved."

If you'd like to find out more please call in at the WCCS site (in the corner of the Willand Allotments) during opening hours or email our secretaries.

AND FINALLY... The composting volunteers would like to thank you for all your support during 2024 and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Barbara & Graham Bodkin, email: willandccs24sec@outlook.com



CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH.

When you pick up this magazine, it will be less than a month till Christmas. Busy, Busy and so, are we.

We have already, with the Willand Scouts, had our **Christmas Sale on November 23rd** and our lorry will now be well on the way to Eastern Europe, with over 230 Christmas Shoebox Gifts, for families and the elderly. All these have been donated by you and for which, on their behalf, we thank you so very much.

Truly the Christmas Spirit of giving, has already started. For this is a very remarkable number of parcels for any village to send and this year we have been kindly helped by our friends within the Culm Valley Mission Community.

We'll join with them again at **6.30pm. on Sunday December 1st at The Village Hall**, with the Children and Organisations of the Village, to sing out loud **Christmas Carols** for this joyful Season, with hot mince pies to follow. Then on **Saturday December 14th from 12 noon** you're invited to our **free Christmas Light Lunch**. Piping hot soup, festive sandwiches with traditional fillings, and Christmas Pudding and Mince Pies for dessert.

We have our own **Candlelit Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday 22nd December** and a **Christmas Eve Service at 4pm on Tuesday December 24th**. All with mince pies and coffee to follow.

We'll be singing **Carols at Somerville House on Thursday 19th December at 2pm**. We'll be happy to accommodate a few more voices.

If you know anyone who might like to join our **"Prospects Group"** in Christmas Celebration mood that will be on **Sunday December 1st at 3pm**, with easy wheelchair access and safe parking and with a festive tea to follow.

As always, each week we have our Sunday Worship at 10.30 am. always with a coffee cafe to follow. People tell us that our welcome is warm, our Fellowship is sincere, and our singing is a delight. Why not come along to see if they are right?

So do please have a very loving Christmas. Please do not feel alone, as we'd be so pleased to see you.

And for the New Year from January 9th. on Thursday afternoons from 3 – 5pm, we'll be holding our

"Warm Space" gatherings. Games, jigsaws, Wi-Fi, board games, dominoes, wordsearch and much more for all ages. Warmed by the heating, warmed by the hot drinks and warm snacks and warmed by the company and Fellowship from its friendly warm heartedness. Perhaps you might even find a moment in all these busy busies, to think on the idea of the various understandings of "warmth" that came from that stable scene, very early on the morning on that First Christmas. Busy, Busy! Ho! Ho! Ho! **David and Joan Greet**

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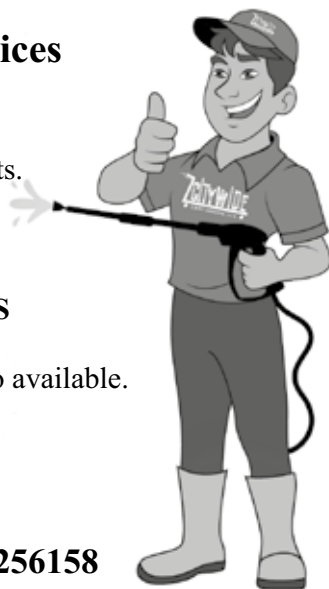
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VILLAGE HALL REGULAR BOOKINGS

U3A Gaming	2nd Monday	10.30pm
U3A Art in Action	2 nd & 4 th Monday	1.30pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5.30pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7.00pm
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 st & 3 rd Wednesday	9.30am
Pilates with Ellie	Wednesday	5.30pm
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7.00pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7.30pm
Pilates with Ellie	Thursday	9.30am
University of the Third Age U3A	1 st Thursday	2.00pm
CAMEO	1 st Thursday	7.00pm
Karate	2 nd 3 rd & 4 th Thursday	6.00pm
Folk Dance Club	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	8.00pm
Parish Council Meetings	2 nd Thursday	7.00pm
Zumba	Friday	9.30am
WITS	Friday	7.30pm
Cowgirl Twisters	Saturday (Monthly)	7.30pm
Folk Dance	Saturday (Monthly)	8.00pm
Karate	Sundays	10.00am
Marshall Arts	Sundays	5.15pm

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR EVENTS

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



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

This is just a flavour of what has been happening at County. We will be getting into the budget preparation within the next two months, we have to have the budget agreed by February.

At Month 6 it is estimated that budgets will overspend by just over £4 million an improvement of £2 million on the month 4 position. However, it is important to note that this excludes the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit.

Financial risks within Integrated Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Futures are still being experienced, but the work underway across the whole authority to support these pressures continues to ensure the whole organisation is focused on achieving a break-even position for the end of the year.

Pressures continue to be felt within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) around demand for Special Educational Needs services both locally and nationally. As part of the Chancellor's Budget on 30th October, the Government has recognised these pressures and has allocated an additional £1 billion to support Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

More than 1,600 primary school children from across Devon got 'Farmwise' this month and saw for themselves where our food comes from and how it's made.

We invited Key Stage 2 primary school children from 40 primary schools, and they rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into a range of activities.

It's the 11th time this annual event has been held and teachers and children tell us it's the absolute highlight of their year.

The event is a collaboration between Southwest Norse, Devon County Agricultural Association, Mole Valley Farmers and us and takes place at Westpoint.

This year it was attended by our Leader, Councillor James McInnes, Chair of the Council, John Hart and members of our Strategic Leadership Team, Maria Price and Maria Chakraborty.

The Council's Revenue Budget for 2024/25 was £743 million, which was 6.3% higher than the previous year (£699 million) and made provision for £48.5 million or inflation and national living wage (NLW), £44.8 million for growth and other pressures and included savings, alternative funding or additional income of £49.5 million.

For the Children and Young People's Futures Directorate, the Budget was set at £227.7 million, an increase of 10.4%. This excludes the Dedicated Schools Grant which is allocated directly to schools.

The Council receives funding for its services in a variety of ways. This includes general funding through local taxation including council tax and a share of business rates; general grants from Government through the annual finance settlement for example revenue support grant, rural services delivery grant, social care grant; and other grant funding specific to services such as the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Council also receives income directly from service users in some cases, for example in contributions towards social care. The additional £21.5 million investment in Children's Services was made up from £30.6 million in inflation, national living wage and other pressures, £8.5 million in savings and £564,000 in alternative sources of funding and additional income.

In 2023-24, the average recycling rate (N192) for Devon's WCAs was 50.1%, an increase of 1.3% on the previous year. For authorities signed up to the mutually beneficial 'Shared Savings Scheme' (SSS), the average rate last year was 54.3%, with founding SSS member East Devon returning to 60%+ performance which it first achieved in 2019-20. During 2023-24, East Devon (60.1%), Mid Devon (57.9%), Teignbridge (54.2%), West Devon (53.7%), and Torridge (53.5%) all achieved recycling rates over 50% which places these authorities in the top 20% of English WCAs. With the exception of West Devon (- 0.2%), all DASWC authorities increased their recycling performance. Devon's rate, as Torbay, also includes Recycling Centres, and achieved a recycling rate of 54.5% (+0.5%) following consecutive reductions in performance since its peak performance (56.6%) achieved in 2019-20. Torbay also showed a welcome return to performance growth at 40.1%, but this is 4.6% lower than its highest rate achieved in 2012-13 (44.7%)

Homes England: Mid Devon District Council has recently announced securing £34m towards the Cullompton Eastern Relief Road, which will relieve congestion in the town and open up opportunities for improved walking, cycling and more reliable bus routes. Devon County Council has been a key partner in securing these funds, being the lead on the planning, design and will likely be responsible for delivering the scheme.

It is that time of year again, soon comes around, for me to wish you all a happy Xmas and a healthy and happy new year. As always I am here to help if I can.

Ray Radford Devon County Councillor

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

We are looking for Trustees to join our team and develop the centre to enhance the service to our community. If you are interested, please get in touch info@whacc.org.uk

Have a look at our Facebook page where you can see what events are on and go through to our booking site to get more information on the centre.

Book swap will be on Monday 16th December 6.30-7.30 and Monday 29th of January same times. Also Wednesday morning of the 29th of January 10.00am to 11.30am You can also pop in during tea and chat sessions in December and January to collect a book or two for your holiday reading.

Tea and Chat will be on the 5th of December (no raffle) 9.30 till 12.00 and the 17th of December. We will hold our Christmas raffle on 17th December.

A **new men's mental health group/men's club** is starting on the 1st of December 2.00pm till 4.00pm a safe space for men to talk. Tea and coffee provided and maybe even cake or biscuits! Look out on Facebook for information on future sessions.

We have a **Christmas Table decoration workshop** on the 12th of December 10.00 -12.30 £8.00 a ticket to include your decoration and refreshments. Limited spaces available tickets must be purchased before the event enquiries can be sent to info@whacc.org.uk with your contact details. **Gerri Taylor**



Keep Warm this Winter

Worried about the changes to winter fuel payments? Energy price cap increase? Or struggling in a cold and hard to heat home?

Get free energy advice and support from ECOE Advice, a Devon charity helping residents save money and stay warm in their homes.

Set your heating controls

Set it to come on just before you get up and switch off just before you go to bed.



Hot water bottles!

Stay warm with a hot water bottle or electric blanket, but don't use both at the same time.



Close the curtains

Tuck them behind the radiator and shut the doors to rooms you use most to keep the heat in after it gets dark.

Warm food & drinks

Have regular hot drinks & eat at least one hot meal a day if possible. Eating regularly helps keep your energy levels up.



Prioritise one room

Which room do you spend most of your time in? Prioritising this room will keep your overall heating costs down, as you won't be trying to heat your whole home.

Layer clothes to keep warm

Layer clothes, and keep your feet warm with rugs, thermal socks & slippers.



Draught-proof your home

Use draught-proofing strips, which you can find online or in DIY stores, to improve the seal of your window frames, and cover wooden floors with rugs & carpets.

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HOSPISECARE

Please let me introduce you our new 'Festive campaign'.

With the festive season fast approaching, there's no better way to spread Christmas cheer than by raising funds for Hospiscare, your local hospice supporting the communities of Exeter, central, and East Devon.

From baking mince pies and singing carols to organising raffles or hosting a seasonal quiz, any effort you make will contribute directly to helping Hospiscare's nurses, doctors, and therapists provide compassionate care to local patients and their families this Christmas. Throughout November and December, Hospiscare has created a variety of online fundraising resources to help you get started.

This holiday season, a small act of kindness can make a world of difference.

Visit the Hospiscare website at www.hospiscare.co.uk and join us in making this Christmas truly special. Martin Niebroj. 01392 343720

FOR PEOPLE YOU MAY KNOW WITH PRINT DISABILITY

Seeing AI is a free app that tells you about the world around you. harnesses the power to open the visual world by describing nearby people, text and objects

The app is available on iPhone and iPad. Both Android and iOS versions include updated features like photo descriptions with more details and an option to ask questions about a document you've scanned, such as what's on a menu or the price of an item on a receipt. You can also ask it to summarize an article.

Seeing AI uses the power of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to describe everything from printed text to photos, and to identify money, nearby people, and things in your cupboard. It's a free app created by Microsoft for iPhones, iPads, and Android devices. Available from Apple Store

Seeing AI is a free app that narrates the world available to all but a great help for blind and low vision people, on a mobile device to hand

Check out tutorials with this YouTube playlist: <http://aka.ms/SeeingAIPlaylis>



Answers to
December/January

Hope you enjoyed this
puzzle

COLDHARBOUR MILL

Current opening Times: Tuesday to Saturday

Museum & Shop: 11am – 4pm (last admission to Museum 3pm)

Grist Mill Café Bar: 10:30am-2:30pm Closed Friday 20th December.
Please check our website (or phone) for full info about our Winter closure.

15% discount on entry prices for Museum and events if you book online in advance.

Visit the Mill website to book: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/visit-us/ or phone 01884 840960
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DEVON AT WAR: WW2 EXHIBITION by the Uffculme History Group until January 2025

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CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING Fri 6th Dec 10am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 4pm

For more info and to book, visit the 'What's On' page of the Mill website, or phone 01884 840960.

PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION AT THE MILL.

Fri 13th Dec 8pm - Sat 14th Dec 2am

Join us for a spine-chilling exploration led by investigator Gemma. Delve into Victorian and modern ghost-hunting techniques, from spirit boards to spirit boxes. Are you brave enough to uncover the secrets of Coldharbour Mill? Participants must be over 18 and sign an accident waiver. For more info and to book, visit the 'What's On' page of the Mill website.

NEW YEAR'S STEAM DAY - Celebrate the power of STEAM.

Monday 1st January 2024 10.30am-4.30pm (Steam Engines will run until 3pm)

Our traditional New Year's Day Steam Up The 19th century steam complex and factory floor will be in action, as well as family crafts and trails to enjoy. Mill Shop and Cafe, 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.

VOLUNTEERING

If you have some spare time each week to join one of the volunteer teams at this unique heritage site, please contact us by phone or email (see below) for more info and an informal chat, and to arrange a taster session. See also www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/volunteer/.

Email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk Phone: 01884 840960

Website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk Susan Wasfi

TOWNLANDS ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Due to age and safety concerns, sadly some trees needed to be felled in Townlands it was agreed at the AGM that perhaps other Willand residents might make use of them for their log burners. A small fee secures access to the logs.

To arrange a visit, and discuss costs please call Stuart 07756 344420



CUT OFF FOR NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2025

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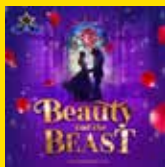
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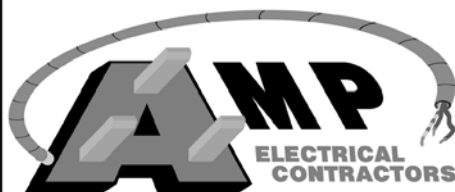
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