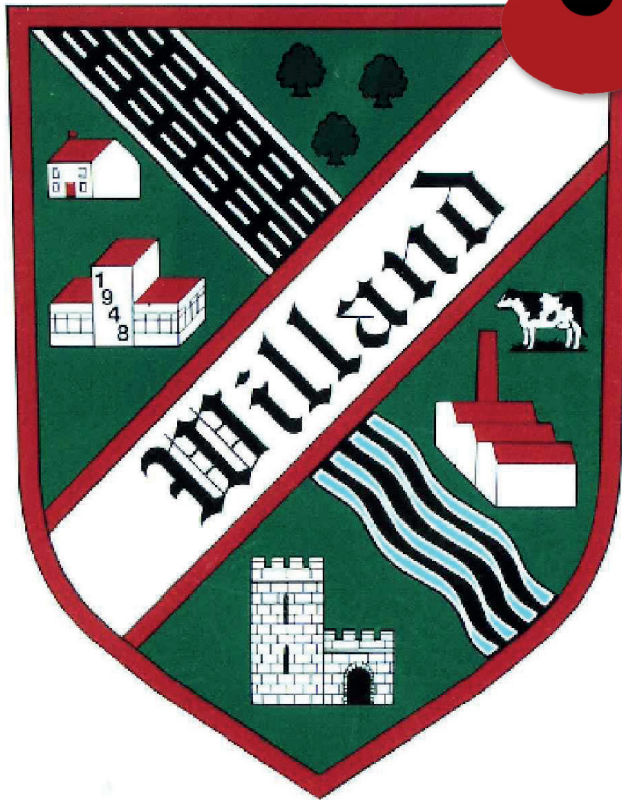


WILLAND MAGAZINE

October & November 2025



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		<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	willandtintots@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 Crafty Family and Friends	Emma Worth	willandcraftyfamily2021@gmail.com 07843811230
Willand Community Composting		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
Rector	Rev Ben Maynard ben.culmvalleychurches@outlook.com	07777 177112
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	
Simon Clist	(Devon County Council)	simon.clist@devon.gov.uk	07855 027595
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)	jpoynton@middevon.gov.uk	07834 869284
Parish Council	Parish Council Website	www.willand-pc.org.uk	
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.gov.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.gov.uk	07795821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.gov.uk	07496 113135
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.gov.uk	07971 808423
Andrea Glover	(Councillor)	andrea.glover@willand-pc.gov.uk	07908 734368
Neil James	(Councillor)	neil.james@willand-pc.gov.uk	07733 083158
Jason Scott	(Councillor)	Jason.scott@willand-pc.gov.uk	07818 045215
Helen Jones	(Councillor)	helen.jones@willand-pc.gov.uk	07454 510573
Sue Leach	(Councillor)	sue.leach@willand-pc.gov.uk	07732 952829
Sam Sycamore	(Councillor)	sam.sycamore@willand-pc.gov.uk	07429 266786
Stevie Anne Hutter	(Councillor)	stevie.hutter@willand-pc.gov.uk	07710226139
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.gov.uk	07920 014407

MEDICAL

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College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries	831300
Gables Road Pharmacy	32604
N.H.S. DIRECT	111
Out-of-Hours GP	111
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E)	01392 411611
Urgent Care Centre (Currently open 08.00-20.00 7 days a week)	01884 235400

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National Express Coach Services	0371 781 818
Traveline	0871 200 2233
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Culm Voluntary Car Scheme	07546 525683

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Devon County Council	0345 1551015
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MAGAZINE

Please send Editorial items to willandparishmag@gmail.com
Advertising queries to willandmagadvertising2023@gmail.com

WILLAND WEBSITE

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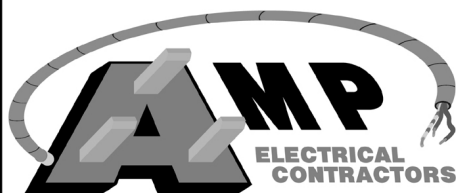
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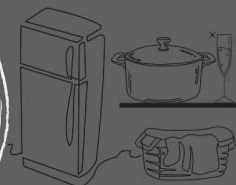


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Interestingly I have received a submission from Brian Holmes who was the Founder and original Editor of this magazine. He has sent us a copy of the second magazine (Shown below) I believe the first print run was 900 copies today it is 1650 copies.

Brian says, The October November is the thirtieth anniversary of its 'birth'. The VERY first edition was a folded-in-half sheet of A3 paper, a copy of which was delivered to every house in the parish in November 1995, by about a half dozen people. It's come a long way since then (and a lot of water under the bridge), the 'Amstrad' computer that was used to type it is long since gone. The original printers, Astra Print in Cullompton, moved away and have been taken over by, I think, the current printers. **Brian Holmes.**

WILLAND PARISH ORGANISATIONS - Secretary/Contacts		
British Legion	Mrs M O'Neill, 18 Somerville Park	821170
Gardening Club	Mrs J Foster, c/o 24 Elmside	33232
Guides/Brownies	Mrs C. Grant, 2 Chestnut Drive	32957
Mums & Toddlers	Mrs L. Lindsell, 1 Silver Street	820146
Playgroup	Mrs C. Osmond, 20 Webbers Way	38004
Youth Club	Mrs A. Troake, 62 Somerlea	820195
Square Dance Club	Mrs G. Godfrey, Gables Road	820597
Over 60's	Mr R. Sanders, Elm View, Willand O.V.	33479
Village Hall	Mrs L. Head, 12 Sycamore Close	38147
Womens Institute	Mrs K. Davis, 49 Culin Lea Cullompton	32313
Willand Rovers FC	Mr A. Appleby, 24 Elmside	33232
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish, Weir Mill Farm	820803
Indoor Bowls	Mrs T. Sherre, Muttonton Dairy	33209
CHURCHES		
St. Mary the Virgin	The Rev. Kenneth Agnew	33247
Methodist Church	Mrs M. Davies, 15 Tamar Drive	820577
Parochial C.C.	Mrs P. McMurray, 60 Somerlea	821284
EDUCATION		
Willand Primary School		820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs S. Hancock, 9 Elmside	35165
Cullompton Comm. Coll.		33364
PARISH COUNCIL		
County Cllr.	Mrs C. Bulley, Ashculme	01823 681075
Dist. Cllr.	Mr E. Dennis, 2 Damsion Close	34050
Chairman	Mr J. Sparing, Somerlea House	821400
Cllr.	Mr B. Blackmore, Dean Hill Rd	33409
Cllr.	Mrs G. Godfrey, Gables Road	820597
Cllr.	Mrs B. Graham, Station Road	820546
Cllr.	Mr B. Holmes, 12 Somerlea	820771
Cllr.	Mr D. Maynard, Dean Hill Rd	35101
Cllr.	Mr D. Parish, Weir Mill Farm	820803
Cllr.	Mr R. Steele, Silver Street	820981
Cllr.	Mr R. Vile, 18 Somerlea	820911
Cllr.	Mr G. Vearcombe, 6 Elmside	33398
Clerk	Mr A. Appleby, 24 Elmside	33232
COMMUNITY POLICEMAN	P.C., John Adams	0990 777444

EDITORIAL

No. 2 - JANUARY 1996

Here we are again - looks a bit different this time, doesn't it? There's still a bit more 'fine tuning' to do (this is something of a 'dummy run') but I hope we haven't made more than one major slip-up. To bring you up-to-date with the details, each two-sided sheet in this issue has cost just under five pence to print and each of the magazines has been collated, stapled, folded and delivered by hand to avoid any further cost. (The 'assembly line' is a planned but untried activity scheduled for a day or two after Christmas. Wow!) The front/rear cover format will be a permanent feature (probably for the next twelve months, whilst the advertisers have chosen to appear for the next three or six bi-monthly issues. The cost of advertising space is intended to cover the total print cost for the next twelve months and roughly equates to one sheet of advertising paying for itself and one sheet of text.

Tarmac Homes have written to wish us every success with our new venture but we owe a very sincere vote of thanks to Bramber Engineering for their donation and also to Alfred McAlpine Homes (South West) Limited, who have very generously offered to support us in our initial start-up costs by providing £300.00 to "help in establishing a parish magazine for the benefit of all residents, new and old, of Willand."

A number of people have very kindly offered their services with regard to typing and its distribution - I could do with many more of the latter, please. And another reminder that articles for inclusion need to be here by the 10th of the month prior to the distribution date at the latest.

Brian Holmes

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Autumn is officially upon us and certainly the rain has returned with vengeance. Lawns look to be recovering in some places and the playing fields, and the allotments are looking pretty good and the latter productive. I am not looking forward to seeing the allotment water bill when it comes. It is a good job that our Clerk is good with our budgets.

There is quite a bit going on in the village which has resulted in residents contacting the Clerk and myself. The Facebook pages have also been active from time to time with some useful facts and the usual ill-informed comment from some. Our Council has had a 'descriptive word' used about it and one of the meanings given on Google certainly is not anatomically applicable to the male councillors.

As a follow on from last month with regard to damage and other anti-social behaviour in the village we hope that the situation will settle down now that the children are back at school. The damage, or the repair of it, has cost the council taxpayers money. Reports have been made to the police with no known action. The CCTV picture of offender(s) were not good enough for the police as he had a hoodie up. No thought of talking to other children who were in the picture but behaving. The Clerk has even had one response from the police that it was not 'proportionate' to do anything. It must be said it all seems to be coming out of a police office at Exeter without any contact from our local officers. Parish Council will be taking matters up with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was interesting that there was a police presence when MDDC officers were talking to residents of Somerlea about clearing off their normal parking spaces to allow the builders to start. There might have been a problem apparently! We had problems and got no action on the ground.

We have had a number of contacts over the person sleeping in the red tent in the North corner of the Jubilee Field. I have been told by a resident that the police did visit the person, but they will be doing nothing. MDDC Homeless Team have made contact, but the person does not want their help. If the tent remains then it will cause problems for our contractors cutting the grass and hedges and so the Parish Council will have to look into whether or not removal will be sought under the law. More cost to us all if we follow that route.

Residents living in the vicinity of the Somerlea Housing project have had a number of problems with loss of parking, more parking on the grass verges and roads – some 20 cars spaces have been lost – delivery lorries, damage to pavements, times of working and a number of other breaches of planning conditions by the contractor. On behalf of the Parish Council, I have been chasing MDDC Planning Services supported by District Councillor Andrea Glover and the recent involvement of Councillor John Poynton. Responses have been mixed, and I have submitted formal complaints and am experiencing the anticipated prevarication and time delays. I had to smile when a direct complaint was responded to by thanking me for my 'feedback'. We are continuing to follow up our concerns with the relevant parties.

Parish Council are discussing trying to have more parking spaces made available on the grass verges, much as they did when they built houses on the car park in Fir Close. We chased this back in 2018 and MDDC Officers turned it down. Some of our paperwork will be on our website but if anyone wishes to know more please feel free to contact the Clerk or myself. Watch this space as they say.

Residents should have received a letter from a potential developer carrying out a public consultation prior to submitting an outline planning application for 130 houses on the land between Silver Street and the motorway and Fox Mill Gardens and the Esso Garage. The consultation at the village hall will have passed by the time you read this. As the process proceeds please make sure that you make your voices heard during the planning process. Please do not

leave it to others and then moan about it afterwards. We will have to await the detail to see how utilities will be provided for and what improvements or provision of infrastructure are going to be forthcoming. It is no good just saying we need more houses without ensuring that our current residents and any new ones do not have a reduction in quality of life. Just a couple of thoughts of my own press for the speed limit on the main road to be reduced to 30mph it was promised when Fox Mill Gardens, Ash Close and Rowan Lea were approved but not happened yet. We could also press for the footpath out to the garage to be widened to a minimum of 3m to become a pedestrian and cycle space. Will not need a hedge to keep growing out over it and restricting it though.

We have received some positive responses as to the work for the inclusion of a wildflower meadow at the cemetery. Our new contractors seem to be settling in now but if there are any problems please contact the Clerk in preference to offensive comment on Facebook. It does not help to write negative or insulting remarks on Facebook.

Moving from wildflowers to weeds. It will be known that the parish council have had the weeds, which grow in the pavement kerb edges and the road pavements, sprayed twice a year to try and keep things looking tidy and it also prevents some of the weeds growing larger and damaging the pavements or pavements. Up until, and including, this year our County Councillor has contributed roughly half the cost from his allocated locality budget. We have now heard that this help will not be available next year. To continue will mean a cost to the Parish of over £1,500.00 per year. We are aware that some in the village do not want the weeds sprayed to allow more scope for the wildlife to feed. Others want things to look tidy and not to have damaged pavements or road surfaces – all Devon County Council Highways matters. The question is – do residents want the Parish Council, on residents behalf, to continue with the weed spraying? Please respond to the Clerk by email or telephone to help us decide what you want and what is best. Please do not leave it to others and then moan afterwards.

We still have a vacancy on the Parish Council if you are interested. It would be great to have one of the younger members of the community join us. If you are over 18 years old you would be really welcome.

The Bluebell café has changed owner, and we wish Sue a pleasant retirement. Good luck to the new owners and I hope that the venue will still be available as a meeting venue with outside people. The quality of the Bacon Baps and the coffee will need to be maintained!

Before you know it preparations will be being made for Christmas, and I have already seen notifications for Christmas Fairs. Please do your best to support all the events you can within the village as this is what keeps our community going. Oh yes it does just practicing for the pantomime in the New Year.

Barry G J Warren Chairman Willand Parish Council.

WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

The new 25/26 season is at last upon us. We have spent a busy summer preparing, with much work done to the pitch, the pitch surrounds, the stadium generally and to the clubhouse: my sincere thanks to all the volunteers that have helped throughout the close season with these works.

David Steele, our manager, has been very busy through the summer too. He has retained many of the players who served us well last year and has brought in some new and exciting young players to give the squad a real boost. Everyone at the club is looking forward excitedly to another successful season in the Southern League. I'd encourage you to come along and see what we have to offer: I think you will be pleasantly surprised how the team is performing and with the high quality of football they play. Our upcoming home fixtures are:

Weds 24 September 7.30pm ko (Devon St Lukes Cup) v **Exmouth Town**

- Sat 4 October 3pm ko (League) v **Frome Town**
- Weds 15 October 7.30pm ko (League) v **Mousehole**
- Sat 25 October 3pm ko (League) v **Hartpury**
- Sat 1 November 3pm ko (League) v **Westbury United**
- Weds 12 November 7.30pm ko (League) v **Malvern Town**

We are pleased to announce that we have a new under-18 team representing Willand Rovers this season: they will be playing their home games on Monday evenings, with 7.30pm kick offs, throughout the season. Entry to all u-18 league matches is free, so come along and enjoy the club facilities and possibly spot a future first team star. The upcoming u-18 home fixtures are:

- Mon 22 September 7.30pm ko (League) v **Axminster**
- Mon 6 October 7.30pm ko (League Cup) v **Mangotsfield United**
- Mon 27 October 7.30pm ko (League) v **Wellington**
- Mon 10 November 7.30pm ko (League) v **Frome Town**

Volunteers needed: The Club is run entirely by volunteers. We are always looking for new, enthusiastic and dynamic people to join our merry band and help with the day to day running of the club and maintenance of the pitch. No special skills are needed – but, of course, your “day job” skills may be very useful. If you would like to help, please send me an email at mikehawkins.willandrovers@gmail.com

Dates for your diary: We are hosting several events over the next few months: why not join us.

Saturday 4 Oct 2025, 8pm – Live band: the **Dirty Blueprint**. A brilliant local Covers and Originals band playing songs you can get your dancing shoes on for. **This is a FREE Entry event.**

Saturday 8 November 2025 - **Stillyano**: Tickets on sale in September; see social media for details.

Sunday 7 December 2025, 10am – **Charity Santa Run** for Juniors (1 mile) and Adults (3 miles)

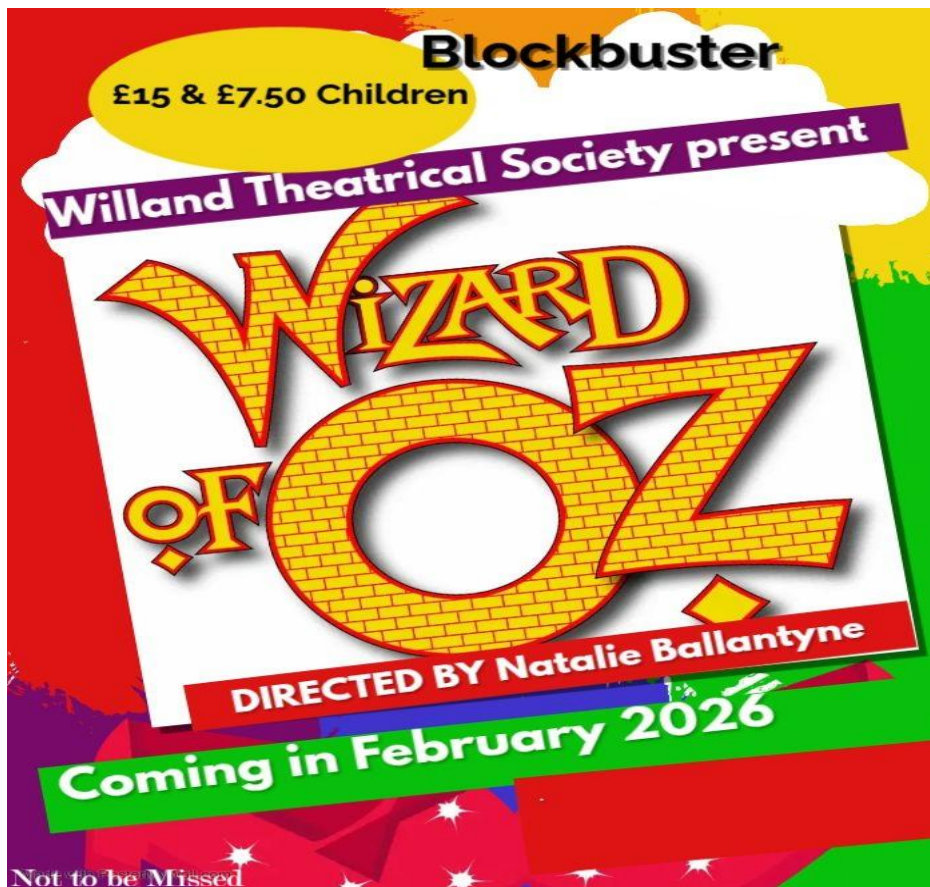
Sun14 December 2025, 12.00 noon to 5pm **Trina's Christmas Family Fun Day**
Bingo: We also run regular Bingo sessions generally on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. These are very popular, regularly attracting 50+ players. Doors open 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.30pm.

Functions: 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. These can be inexpensively hired for any type of function. For more details and to check availability please email willandroversfc@outlook.com or call 01884 33885.

Why not come in to watch a match, have a social swift-half with us - the bar is open every Friday & Saturday afternoon from 4pm, matchdays from 1pm - or just to inspect the facilities we have. You will 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

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CAMEO

We had a trip to Dawlish, the weather couldn't have been kinder to us, perhaps a trifle too warm. Peta and Chrissie just had to have a paddle in the sea, rude not too. Delicious lunch in a hotel followed the paddle and an ice cream smothered with clotted cream. Brenda got to see the Black Swans for the first time.

Another of our coffee mornings was held at Fagans and an outside coffee morning at Tiverton Canal, one of our favourite stop offs, whether weather is fine, of course.

Next on our agenda was the annual Garden Party at Peta's. The Gazebos were out. We were entertained by the group Wasp in the Apple, a small group of musicians. We were also entertained by Chrissie have a jig about. Mary and Chrissie also had a dance. We were hoping to get up and dance, but the rain came down. We had a very delicious lunch, main and dessert prepared by the Committee. Then rain stopped play, such a shame, we had the draw and packed up, homeward bound.

We always seem to be eating and drinking! Our next lunch was at the fish and chip shop in Tiverton and then The Beam Bridge. Where a nice group of us met up for another delicious lunch.

Our walking ladies have had a few jaunts too. Wimbleball, followed by lunch in Bampton at the Toucan. Next was a stroll around Vennford Reservoir on Dartmoor with lunch at The Forrest Inn. No incidents to report.

The singles group have just come back from their annual holiday, this year in the Cotswolds. Amongst our day trips we visited Didley Squat Farm. One place that we won't be going to again. We had a good time anyway. We have to decide on where to go next year now.

Come and join us ladies, we will soon be off to Goosey Fair and our Christmas (dare I say that word yet) shopping trip. **Valerie Newberry**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, GABLES ROAD

Many of you have told us that during the hot summer weather you enjoyed a leisurely and peaceful sit, on one of our lawn benches. We are delighted. We also thank you for your responsibly giving and receiving from our charity cupboard, which we are happy to fund at our gate. You keep it well used and so very tidy. In the week before Christmas, we hope it might, (with your help), contain some excellent recycled presents. Then Christmas really will be all about giving as well as receiving. If you'd then like to, even venture inside with us, maybe the following events might take your fancy. Please just pop in and join us. Always be assured of the very warmest of welcomes.

Soup and Something free lunch. Saturday October 18th from 12-2pm. and the bi-monthly **Coffee Morning will be on Friday November 21st from 10.30-12 noon.**

Please realise there is no charge made for any of these events, and everyone is truly welcomed. However sometimes people say, "but I don't like to give nothing!". So, to try and please you all, we always leave an unobtrusive collecting plate at the door. Please remember as a charity all your freewill donations allow us to claim up to 25% tax relief to add to your gift. So, thank you.

Our Prospect's **Harvest Worship Group, for disabled people of all ages, will meet on Sunday 5th October at 3pm.** If you know of someone who'd enjoy this Fellowship, please put them in touch with us. greetdj@hotmail.com. We have started packing shoeboxes destined for Ukraine and Eastern Europe, for Christmas. Together with the St Mary's Mission Community and with the help of **U.3.A.** we aim to send off at least 150 boxes. Once again if you would like to contribute anything please get in touch. Any donations from our October lunch will go towards the cost of transporting them. We will dedicate them all at a **Special Service on Sunday October 26th. at 10.30 am.**

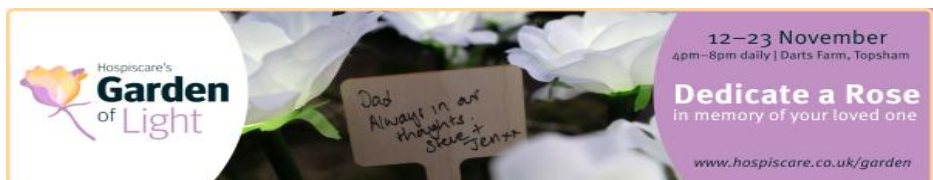
If you have helped with them in anyway, please feel free to join with us, when we'll send them off, in peace, in love and in prayer. Working together with Willand cubs and scouts we will be holding a joint **Coffee Morning and Sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 29th November from 10am.** Also, in the **Village Hall is our Annual Village Carol Service on Sunday 7th December at 6.30pm.** It is designed for the whole village community, for all ages to take part. We will be contacting all Village Organisations to choose a special Carol there, and if you wish, to say why.

Please trawl your emails to reply, thus ensuring your favourite hasn't already been picked.

Our regular **Worship Service is at 10.30am. each Sunday Morning.** Then our **Fellowship** continues over **Coffee at 11.30am.** Sometimes people join us just for a coffee and a chat. If that suits you, please come along too.

We now have an **Evening Service. Once a month on the 3rd. Sunday.** This for people who may not be able to make a morning. A time to gather for a gentle, reflective, spiritual act. You could even call it; "**An evening, for the evening**". A time to confirm our joint faith, by the use music, scripture, quiet and prayer. To calm, reassure and renew.

These dates are **September 21st. 6.30pm, October 19th 6.30pm.+ November 16th at 3pm.** Hope to see you soon. Every Blessing, **David Greet. Steward.** greetdj@hotmail.com.



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WCCS is run by a small and friendly group of volunteers. Our mission is to protect the natural environment by reducing waste to landfill by composting. We need your Green Waste to help us to continue our Community Composting site.

Remember we take your Green Garden Waste for FREE.

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.

We don't accept:

Cordylines 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 **£2.50/bag**

The return of your empty bags will be gratefully received.

Volunteers Needed:

We need volunteers to help with the day to day running of the site. If you could spare a couple of hours per week to help it would help to ensure that the site continues to provide the local service. We need Volunteers not only to help with the physical running of the site but also to help with the Administration for the site. Any help would be gratefully received. Please pop in or email for more information. Thank you for supporting this community facility. You are always welcome to drop into the site and have a chat with the volunteers. Hope to see you soon. Email: **willandccs24sec@outlook.com. Paul Duffy.**

WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

If you would like to be more active in 2025 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.

We have 4 courts of which two are due to be resurfaced in September. Courts can be booked by tennis members and the public all year for 'Pay and Play'.

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. **Sally Allaway, Club Secretary**

MID DEVON SINGERS NEWS

We returned for the Autumn term on 5th September with a special themed evening where we sang various songs from the musicals – notably Les Misérables, Lion King, Oliver, Grease and others – we had a great time! It was such a success, we've decided to do another in place of our last regular rehearsal of the term – so, on Friday 19th December we'll be having a "Beatles week" with a fantastic line up of songs by the Fab 4. Non-members are more than welcome to join us for a one-off fee of £5.00 - no music required and song lyrics will be provided – just let us know by email (see below) if you want to come along and have a fun singalong.

With the speed that this year is vanishing, we're also finalising our plans for Christmas performances – so far, we'll be singing at:

- Tiverton lights switch-on (Saturday 22nd November)
- Dulverton by Starlight (Sunday 7th December), and
- The Waterloo Cross, Uffculme (Saturday 13th December)

It'd be great to see you at one or more of these performances, please see our socials (below) for more updates nearer the time. In the meantime, our regular Friday evening term-time rehearsals will be at Halberton Village Hall as usual, starting promptly at **7.30pm** and ending at **9.30pm** (with an all-important tea/coffee/biscuit chat break about halfway through).

These friendly rehearsals are a great way to unwind at the end of the week, especially now that the evenings have started drawing in, so why not come along & give us a try? New members are always very welcome, with no auditions to join our sociable singing group. Your first 4 regular rehearsals are free with absolutely no obligation – if you want to sign up after that, membership subs are a very reasonable £15.00 per month.

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/updates:

Facebook themiddevonsingers Twitter/"X" @MidDevonSingers
Instagram @middevonsingers. **Michael Cuthbertson**

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY See Mill Website What's On page for more information and to book tickets in advance

Sunday 26th October STEAM & SCREAM HALLOWEEN STEAM DAY. 10:30am - 4pm enjoy a day packed with fascinating demonstrations, family-friendly activities, and the spooky atmosphere of autumn. Join us for a memorable day out, experiencing the perfect blend of history and frightening fun. A great family day out.

Saturday 15th November: COLDHARBOUR MILL'S CHRISTMAS 11am –3pm Join us for a festive day filled with amazing local stallholders offering unique gifts, crafts, and delicious treats. Enjoy live entertainment, our heritage factory in production, seasonal cheer, and much more in our beautiful historic setting. It's the perfect way to kick off your Christmas celebrations—don't miss it.

Willow Orb Workshop Friday 3rd October: 10:30am - 12:30pm

Broomstick Crochet Mitten Workshop Wednesday 8th October: 11am 3pm

Autumn Needle Felted Garland Workshop Friday 10th October: 11am 3pm

Tote Bag Printing Wednesday 29th October Morning Session: 10 –12am

Afternoon Session: 2 – 4pm Tickets required per child (ages 6-16years). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Christmas Bauble Making Workshop Tuesday 25th November: 11am 3pm

VOLUNTEERING

Boost your well-being and make a difference. If you have some spare time, why not join the award-winning volunteers at this unique heritage site for a few hours each week? Please contact us by phone or email (see below) for more info and an informal chat, and to arrange a taster session. Visit www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/volunteer/ to see the wide range of volunteer teams. **Susan Wasfi**



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ST. MARY'S CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL

During the month of October, we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival at St Mary's. The primary function of this event is to thank God for his faithfulness and provision. Back in ancient Israel, it was the custom to wave the first fruits of the harvest and place them before God in thanksgiving and faith that He would continue to provide. The people engaging in this worship were subsistence farmers who had to ek out a living from year to year in tough times. Life was hard! Alongside this, these struggling farmers were called to leave some of the harvest for the poor. God commanded them not to reap to the very edge of the field and not to go twice over the fruit trees and vines. All this equated to trusting in God, that as they acted honourably, He would honour them.

I know that there are so many challenges facing the farmers who grow the food we eat. In the most recent series of Clarkson's Farm, viewers get to see the impact of unpredictable weather. Jeremy finds out that his Durum wheat crop has too low a Hagberg rating to be used for pasta. He comments saying, "imagine if the success of a surgeon's work depended on the weather! In fact, imagine being in any line of work that was so dependent upon the weather." He has a point that there is no other line of work that relies so heavily upon having the right weather at the right time. Jeremy is fortunate that his livelihood does not rest upon the success of his farm, but he does want to run a successful business. However, other farmers are not so fortunate to have the celebrity backing he does.

As I walk around our village, and see the fields full of crops or herds, I am constantly reminded that farming is at the centre of our community. In view of this, I want to say a big thank you to our local farmers who work hard to provide home-grown food.

As part of our Harvest Festival services, we will give thanks to God for those who work to produce the food we eat. We will thank God for how blessed we are to live in a country where food is so readily available. Finally, we'll bring gifts of food for CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team) to benefit those who struggle to put food on the table. This year we are going to have two Harvest celebrations in Willand. One will be a more traditional service in St Mary's Church on Sunday the 5th of October. The other will be an informal family friendly service in the Church Hall on Sunday the 12th of October. Even if you don't usually attend church, please feel free to come along to either of these services and acknowledge the harvest season. **Reverend Ben Maynard**

DEFIBRILATOR

If you are interested in training on how to use a defibrillator, please contact Dave Maynard on 07447 089498 or email your details to the Parish Clerk on clerk@willand-pc.gov.uk

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities was set up to benefit residents of Willand who were in need.

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 the Rector Ben Maynard, 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.

Kat e Taylor Trustee



Keep Warm this Winter



Worried about energy price cap increases? Or struggling in a cold and hard to heat home?

Get free energy advice and support from ECOE Advice, an award winning 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.

Contact our award winning energy advice team to see how we can help you.

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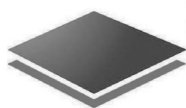
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