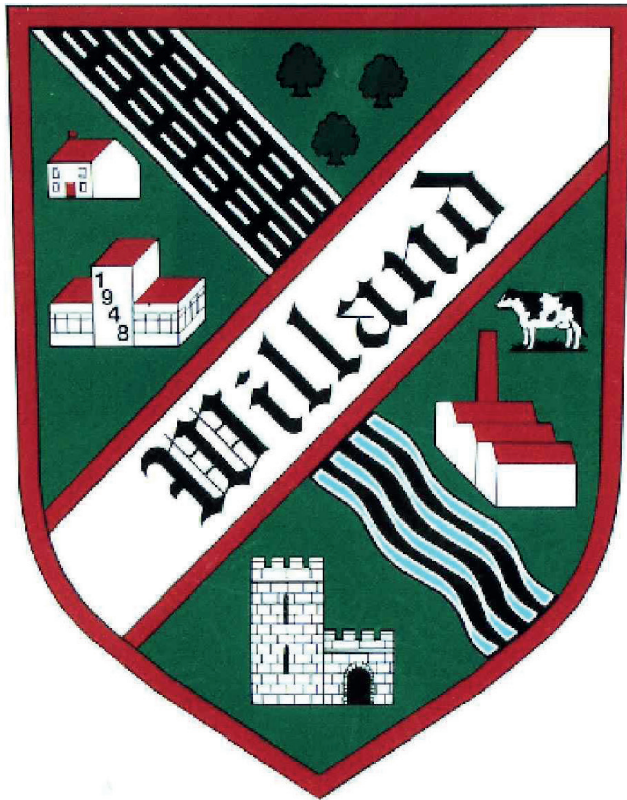


WILLAND MAGAZINE

August & September 2025



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

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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		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)	jpynton@middevon.gov.uk	07834 869284
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

Bramblehaies Surgery	33536
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

TRANSPORT

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
National Express Coach Services	0371 781 818
Traveline	0871 200 2233
Stagecoach Devon	01392 427711
Devon Bus (All bus timetables are displayed outside the Post Office)	01392 382800
Culm Voluntary Car Scheme	07546 525683

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Childline	0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau, Tiverton	03444 111 444
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
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
M.D.D.C./Dog Warden	01884 255255
R.S.P.C.A	0300 1234999
Samaritans	116 123
Western Power Distribution (Power Cuts etc)	105 Or 0800 6783 105
South West Water	0344 346 2020
Street Lighting/Highways	0345 155 1004

DEFIBRILLATORS - Can be accessed outside the Post Office, the Pre School buildings and Pencarrie dial 999 to get the access code.

MOBILE LIBRARY - visits four weekly

Thursday	Townlands	10.35am - 11.20am
Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.25am - 12.25pm

LATEST POSTAL COLLECTIONS

Post Office (01884 32430)	Mon to Fri	Saturday
Currently a Priority Post Box on Sat and Sun.	5.00pm	11.00am
Meadow Park	9.00am	7.00am
Station Road	9.00am	7.00am
Fir Close	9.00am	7.00am
Willand Moor Road	9.00am	7.00am

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

MAGAZINE

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

WILLAND WEBSITE

www.willandmatters.org.uk

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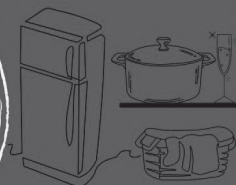


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for Mum & Baby

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- **Supports Development** – Enhances natural flexibility & activates muscles
- **Deeper Bonding** – Nurtures beautiful connection between parent and baby
- **Postnatal Recovery** – Rebuilds strength, stability, & confidence for mum
- **Pain Relief** – Mindful movements to ease postnatal aches and restore comfort
- **Mum's Restoration** – Yoga postures that gently open areas tight from holding, carrying & nursing babies
- **Peacefulness & Joy** – Relaxation techniques, plus laughter for adults & babies
- **Sisterhood** – A warm, inviting community of compassionate real-life mothers sharing experiences & practical wisdom

*** CONTINUING THROUGH SUMMER! ***

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WILLAND VILLAGE HALL - FRIDAYS - 10 AM

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OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY
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SATURDAY
08.00-12NOON



As Editor I'd like to pay a tribute to all the volunteers in Willand who make our village a lovely place to live. From the Parish Council, Willand Village Hall, Willand Health & Community Centre, Willand Pantry, Willand Magazine, Willand Rovers, Willand Composting Scheme, The Schools helpers, Our Churches, The Tennis Club, The Youth Club, Scouts Beavers and Cubs, to name just a few and all the other clubs and associations who report their activities in this magazine. Apologies if I've missed you out but you are all greatly appreciated. So, this month we Salute your unselfish commitment to making our Village a special place to live. **Thank You. Sam Fincher.**

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As I write this in the cool of the early morning I hope that the rest of you are managing to cope with the hot weather. Some relish it but I must admit to being one who likes things when it is a bit cooler. I have been watching some of the tennis from Wimbledon and feel for the players and the spectators. I expect they are glad when the roof is closed, and the air conditioning is on.

In spite of the limited rainfall everything seems to be growing, and garden bushes and hedges are beginning to encroach on the footpaths. It is the landowner's responsibility to cut back and leave the pavements and footpaths clear. At the end of the day Devon County Council have the final responsibility and they have the powers to require landowners to cut back and clear up and if they do not the Council can do it and charge the landowner. The Parish Council do approach landowners, but we can only seek their cooperation. The fun begins when the land is believed to belong to Mid Devon District Council, and they say it belongs to Devon County Council. We then get a pass the parcel start but I do try and stop the music. It helps if everyone who encounters a problem reports it to Devon County Council and remember to copy in your County Councillor and where relevant, District Councillors.

You may have noticed that there are surveys and discussions going on about doing away with the County Council and District Councils and forming just two or three councils to cover Devon – in my book that also includes Plymouth. Please make your views known. The Parish Council are trying to find out how this will affect us locally and it is not an easy task to try and maintain local representation when things are bigger and further removed. We can be sure of one thing and that is it will cost us a lot more money. What will be 'dumped' onto town and parish councils and then professional staff will have to be employed to run it. Watch this space but make sure you take the opportunity to make your views known in the advertised survey. You never know, someone may listen and take note.

The Parish Council are now beginning the process of seeking contractors to start looking after the verges and certain play areas and open spaces. Weed spraying of the pavement edges and central islands and paviour road features are also being looked at. All the papers will be available to view on the Parish Website with the meeting papers so please let the Clerk know if you have any

thoughts. We do not meet in August so letting us know before our September meeting will be ideal.

Now I need to move into 'grumpy old git' mode. We are beginning to see minor, but still costly, incidents of criminal damage – because that is what it is – around the village. In the Jubilee Field the waste bin at the entrance to the Pump Track was forced from its fixings. The safety sign has been bent and damaged and forced from its fixings and discarded. The handyman repaired it, and someone has had another go at forcing it off. Netting put over the stones in the drains has been ripped up and made useless so will have to be replaced. All costing council taxpayers money. The only thing with this is that the culprits are on CCTV and have been passed to the police. If the parents of the young people would like to pay for the cost of the repairs/replacements then the Clerk would be pleased to hear from them. The fenced play areas are for the use of younger children. That being the case can someone please tell me why two women were seen riding the new spring see saw in the Jubilee Field. It is not designed to take such bulk. One of the other sprung rides in the same area has been broken off and had to be removed. I wonder if one of the ladies tried to ride this one. That item has had to be removed for safety, cannot be repaired, and so may not be replaced. What mindless so and so thought it would be fun to damage the Tiny Tots bear on the planter on the corner of Gables Road and Meadow Park? Moaning old git done.

The speed sign is still functioning and the reading for last month were similar in average, but the number of really fast speeds recorded had thankfully reduced. The information collected is shared with the police. We also have some Community Speed watch volunteers active in the village again, but they would be pleased for more help.

We have a community with a lot of assets which need to be looked after and with the school holidays coming there will be those who will fail to be amused unless they are destroying something. I notice that the Youth Club is not attracting sufficient secondary school aged youngsters to justify arranging sessions. This is sad as it will be a case of 'use it or lose it'. Those giving of their time to provide such a facility deserve better support than this.

Please, if you see someone causing damage, challenge them. If you do not feel confident enough to confront please try and recall enough information to identify the perpetrator – even take a picture. Report it to the police and in any case please contact the Parish Clerk with the information so that things can be made safe.

Those people who walk by and ignore trouble remind me of the parable of the good Samaritan where someone did do something – Luke Chapter 10 versus 24 to 37 if you are interested. I am not after the vicars job, but I thought I would prove to some that I do remember some things I was taught at primary school some 70 years ago. Remembering what I did this morning is another story. Keep smiling and have an enjoyable and safe summer. **Barry G J Warren.**

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS) located at the top end of Jaycroft in the corner of the Allotment site.

OPENING TIMES Wednesdays and Sundays - 10.00 am - 12 Noon plus Monday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

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:

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 **£2.50/bag**

Please help us as Volunteers:

The return of your empty bags will be gratefully received.

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**

WILLAND ALLOTMENTS

We have all had a very good year in the allotment this year. You can't beat a bit of sunshine. I have been eating fresh fruit and vegetables from my allotment now for some time. On the whole, the allotments have been kept tidy this year by the majority of tenants.

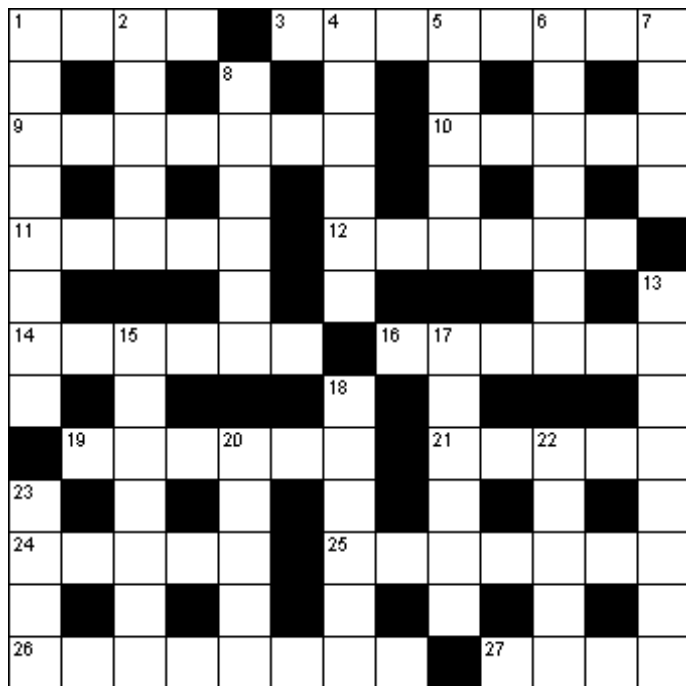
Having an allotment is an enjoyable, but hard work occupation, you get lots of exercise. It is regarded by some as a green gym.

We will have some availability of allotments coming up soon. If you would like an allotment, please contact me and I will show you which ones are available. My email is in the front of this magazine. **Sylvia Statham**

Hon Sec Willand Allotments Association

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**



Across

- 1** Offensive to the sight (4)
3 Scattered, irregular (8)
9 Holy place (7)
10 Brag (5)
11 Roots (anag) (5)
12 Hue (6)
14 Probable (6)
16 Acid neutraliser (6)
19 Capsicum (6)
21 Instrument with 88 keys (5)
24 Not illuminated (5)
25 Native of Tyneside (7)
26 Vexatious (8)
27 Dutch cheese (4)

Down

- 1** Disturb (8)
2 Passenger ship (5)
4 Solidified lava used as an abrasive (6)
5 Insurgent (5)
6 Fictional vampire (7)
7 Andrew Lloyd Webber musical (4)
8 Leisurely walk (6)
13 Floor covering (8)
15 Moscow citadel (7)
17 Portable computer (6)
18 Fire-breathing monster (6)
20 Concise and full of meaning (5)
22 Extra (5)
23 Mountain lion (4)

Solution later in Magazine

LIBRARIES UNLIMITED STORYFEST IN ASSOCIATION WITH AARDMAN Charity announces exciting festival of reading across Devon & Torbay

Libraries Unlimited are collaborating with Aardman to bring Story Fest to Devon & Torbay later this year. The week-long festival of reading takes place in October half term

Story Fest kicks off at Exeter Library on 25th October for a full day of exciting live events including the Vegetable Orchestra, Shaun Dares Ewe, and special guest appearances from Shaun the Sheep himself! It's set to be a *Grand Day Out*!

This is followed by model making and animation workshops at Barnstaple, Paignton and Exeter Libraries. Aardman's expert model makers will be leading three days of hands-on workshops where children can learn clay modelling and animation techniques. A fantastic opportunity for young creators!

There will also be other activities at a variety of libraries, with further details announced nearer the time. This includes libraries screening classic Aardman films, along with Aardman's brand-new interactive AR trail, Wallace & Gromit: All Systems Go available in Exeter, Barnstaple, and Paignton.

Kate Turner, Head of Library Service & Customer Experience at Libraries Unlimited said: "We are proud to be working with Aardman to be bring this exciting festival to children in Devon and Torbay. It's a great way to engage families and showcase what libraries have to offer! With this collaboration we are aiming to foster a love of reading and engage children by using characters they know and love. It's also an amazing opportunity to develop long-term skills in animation and creative arts. We are hoping that the connection between Aardman and Libraries Unlimited will foster ongoing cultural enrichment for local communities. Jointly, we want Story Fest to leave a lasting impression on young participants, igniting a passion for reading, creativity, and libraries."

Molly Van Den Brink, Senior Attractions & Live Experiences Manager at Aardman added: "We love to use our characters to engage our fans with educational objectives and messaging, and this partnership is a fantastic way to encourage families to visit their local libraries, encourage them to get reading and highlight the wonderful work Libraries Unlimited have been doing to refresh these spaces and create an exciting programme of activities featuring our classic characters." **Agnes Finlayson 07985 697034**



LITERATURE

HOST A COFFEE MORNING FOR HOSPISCARE THIS SEPTEMBER

Whether you're famous in the village for your flapjacks or just love a good natter over a slice of cake, why not rally your neighbours and host a Coffee Morning for Hospiscare?

In kitchens, church halls, village greens and garden sheds across Devon, we've seen how a simple cuppa can bring people together – and bring comfort to those facing life-limiting illness.

By hosting a Coffee Morning in your community, you're not just sharing bakes – you're helping us provide expert care to local people when they need it most.

Visit **www.hospiscare.co.uk/coffee** and sign up today and we'll send you a free fundraising pack full of tips, recipes, and everything you need to make your event a success.

So go on – stick the kettle on, invite the neighbours, and help raise vital funds for your local hospice. **Martin Niebroj**



**Hold a Coffee Morning
for your local hospice**

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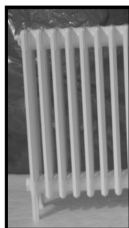
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FORMER TIVERTON SCHOOL STAFF LUNCH GROUP THRIVING

Members of staff of a former school in Tiverton are meeting each month for lunch in a different pub or restaurant for lunch - but there are still teachers and non-teaching colleagues that the group have been unable to contact. Can you help?

Tiverton School was created by the amalgamation of Tiverton Grammar School, Heathcoat Secondary School and Bampton Secondary Modern School in 1977 with an age-range of 13-18 (including a large sixth form). As Tiverton's first comprehensive school it operated as Tiverton's upper school in a three-tier system, being fed by pupils from five 9-13 middle schools; the youngest pupils attended first schools (5-9) until 1992, when the area changed from its three-tier, middle school system back to the current two-tier primary/secondary system and Tiverton School became Tiverton High School with its 11-16 age range.

The group, which includes non-teaching colleagues as well as teachers from Tiverton School and its predecessor schools, has almost forty members, mostly living locally but some travel greater distances to attend. The day the group meets rotates each month to enable everyone to attend whenever they can.

Most of the living former staff have been invited but the group, which includes teaching, support, administrative and premises staff, is still trying to locate these colleagues (and maybe others) if they are still alive:

Rupert Atherton, Karen Barker, Joe Barnett, Ann Bazley (Faulkner), Geoff Blythe, Bob Burt, Molly Clarke, Roger Clay, Peter Coates, Paul Crowther, Libby David, Chris Diamond, Chris Field, Chris Fox, Jill Greenslade, Alan Hayden, Mrs R Hudson, Chris Hunneyball, Sonia Kerrigan, Paul Layton, Colin Logan, Peter Matthews, Mrs C Morgan, Lynn Norman, Sara Osment, Alan Pearce, Jenny Raines, Sue Rumble, Nick Rumney, Chris Sherry, Graeme Slade, Sarah Smith, Roger Scrutton, Les Stevens, Sue Stodgell, Jeff Weldon, John Whitely, Pat Yeo.

If you, or anyone you know, especially former students, even those living elsewhere now, can help, please tell them about the group or pass the contact information on to Terry Payne, the group's co-ordinator directly or through the group's email address: tivstaff77@gmail.com



CULM VALLEY MODEL RAILWAY SHOW Saturday 20th September

Kids can drive trains on our SOLDOR model railway layout. The little blue engine and his friends will be driven around the tracks by children (& adults) at our 15th Model Railway Show on **SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER at WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**. It is open as usual from 10am until 4.00pm. The cost is £6.00 for adults and only £1.00 for children & all visitors will be issued with an old-time card rail ticket franked by a genuine 100-year-old railway ticket machine. There is of course free parking and wheelchair access to most of the hall.

Bring your children to let them have a drive of their favourite engines on our scenic Soldor model railway. There are 2 controllers so 2 children at a time can drive & there are also sidings for the older kids who would like to use their skill at shunting. For the younger ones push buttons allow them to drive the tram engine into a tunnel & then watch it come back from a different tunnel.

This is a great day out for families and enthusiasts and will be super fun for visitors and club members alike.

For the enthusiasts Exhibition Manager, Malc Trump, has assembled 15 top quality layouts, most of which have never been seen in Mid Devon before. They will cover different gauges, styles and eras.

Harvey's Hobbies are again sponsoring the show and will have a superb collection of top-quality second-hand models for sale at bargain prices.

As usual the ladies will be providing excellent refreshments with bacon baps, hot dogs, pasties, sandwiches etc. as well as tea, coffee and cold drinks.

We hope to see you there on the 20th as the show is not just for enthusiasts but also a great family day out.

For further information about our show or the club visit our webpage **www.cvmrc.weebly.com** or phone Malc Trump on 07716699140 or me, **Peter Fosberry** on 01884 821811. You can contact us by email at **cvmrc83c@gmail.com**



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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Further to an article I wrote at the start of the year in relation to dog fouling, Mid Devon District Council has received a number of complaints with respect to the public litter bins, which are being used to dispose of household waste, either inside of the bin or alongside the bins.

We have also received reports of a fuel can being left inside a bin, and what appears to be business waste.

Not only is the above concerning in respect of public safety, it also prevents the bins from being used properly i.e. for the purpose of disposing litter. They are becoming fuller quicker, which can lead to littering issues and the area looking unsightly.

Household waste should be disposed of as per your normal collection dates, any household waste found within or around a public litter bin could lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued.

If you have considerable waste requirements you may be eligible for a 2nd bin, information on this and how to apply can be found on Mid Devon District Council's website or by calling our Customer First Team on 01884 255255.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact myself, Andrew Green by email: agreen@middevon.gov.uk

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR EVENTS

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Yoga	Tuesday	6.00pm
Tea & Chat	3 rd Tuesday	10.00am
U3A Garden Club	3 rd or 4 th Tuesday	2.00pm
Book Swap	Last Wednesday	10.00am
Pilates with Sarah	Wednesday	6.30pm
Dragon Fly Crafts	Wednesday	7.00pm
Tea & Chat	1 st . Thursday	9.30am
Games Group	2 nd Thursday	10.00am
Pilates with Sarah	Fridays	9.15am
U3A Live for Today, Plan for Tomorrow	2 nd & 4 th Friday	10.30am

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WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

First of all, we would like to thank everyone who came along to our Archive Open Morning at the end of May. It was great to catch up with old friends and meet lots of new people, welcoming them to our community. The morning exceeded our expectations: new members joined, and new contacts were made, with much positive feedback, interest and engagement. We would especially like to thank everyone who brought along new information, plus kindly loaning us photos and documents, of which we are in the process of making copies for the Archive. There was so much that we have not seen before – for example, a brilliant group photo of Great Western Railway staff at Tiverton Junction railway station, taken in 1917/18, complete with a First World War army recruitment poster clearly visible on the wall in the background. It certainly gives us encouragement for the future of the History Group, but we are still few in number and there is lots to do – any help or support is much appreciated, so please do get in touch.

We look forward to expanding on all this enthusiasm through our Buildings Project, as many people were very interested in how much the parish has changed, even over the last few decades. We had fun trying to pin down and make a record of some of the more recent events – like exactly when the Willand Moor estate was built or even trying to remember when the Co-Op first opened. There was also interest in some of the big houses that we have recently lost – for example, Townlands house, knocked down in 1970/71 to make way for the Townlands estate, and The Gables, a much-loved part of Willand's landscape, demolished only ten years ago, over the winter of 2014/15.

Since the open morning, we have also received a couple of queries about Willand buildings that you may be able to help with. Firstly, the houses at the top of Dean Hill Road (to the south of the parish, backing onto the M5). Maps and aerial photo evidence suggests the first of these were built between the wars, and the rest at some time after the Second World War – can you tell us anything about these houses, when they were built, or do you have any photos of them? Secondly, the Somerlea estate: we know this was built as a council estate soon after Second World War, but can you tell us exactly when, or have any photos of the estate, or tell us who used to live where, or have any memories of Somerlea, maybe growing up there, that you would be happy to share?

Finally, 6 July saw the 340th anniversary of the Battle of Sedgemoor, the last battle to be fought on English soil and the bloody culmination of the Monmouth Rebellion – an event of national significance, with a Willand connection. To give some background, the Duke of Monmouth, the exiled illegitimate son of the previous monarch, Charles II, had challenged the succession of his uncle, James II, a Catholic, because of fears that his religion threatened the established Protestant religion and the liberties of the English Parliament. After landing at Lyme Regis in June 1685 the Duke gathered an army of Westcountry men prepared to fight and die for their way of life and religion. They marched

north through Somerset and almost reached Bristol before turning back after skirmishes with Royalist forces and the onset by poor weather, returning to Bridgwater, closely followed by the main Royalist force. Despite fearing his cause was doomed, at dawn on 6 July 1685 Monmouth, a skilled and experienced military commander, attempted a surprise attack on the Royalist army encamped at Westonzoyland on the Somerset Levels. But the alarm was raised before Monmouth's troops could attack, and despite a brave fight Monmouth's amateur army was defeated by the king's professional soldiers at what became known as the Battle of Sedgemoor.

The aftermath of the battle was bloody, with the rebels cut down as they fled the battlefield, and then through the King's programme of retribution known as the 'Bloody Assizes', whereby the rebels, who had been rounded up, were put on trial and given harsh punishments by the ruthless Lord Chief Justice 'Judge' Jeffreys. Overall, around 300 men were sentenced to death and 800 were deported to the West Indies – around 26 Devon men were executed, through being hung drawn and quartered, with their body parts boiled and tarred, and publicly displayed as a warning; Monmouth himself was found hiding in a ditch many miles away and later beheaded. Amongst the list of rebels was one Thomas Ellis, yeoman, of Willand – there were also 12 men from Cullompton, and two from Uffculme. Our ongoing research suggests that Thomas Ellis was a farmer, although we do not yet know at which farm holding, and he left behind him a wife, Elizabeth, and at least two daughters. He escaped from the battle but was later captured and imprisoned in Wiltshire, and then put on trial at Wells in Somerset, where he was 'bound over', and so avoided the severest punishments.



Charles II of England

Three hundred and forty years later there was again a Willand presence on the battlefield, as one member of the History Group attended the service to commemorate the anniversary, held at the Battle of Sedgemoor memorial, which is located close to the mass grave of so many of the rebels – there were prayers and hymns, and perhaps most poignantly the words of a contemporary folk song were read aloud: "Oh Lord, where is my husband now – Where once he stood beside me? – His body lies at Sedgemoor – In grave of oak and ivy". Thankfully,

this end did not befall Thomas Ellis, yeoman, of Willand, and his family, though undoubtedly their lives were changed forever by this ill-fated rebellion. **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, GABLES ROAD

If any of the following events takes your fancy, then please just come and join us. You can always be assured of the very warmest of welcomes.

Soup and Something free lunch, will be on Saturday August 16th from 12-2pm. and the bi-monthly **Coffee Morning will be on Friday September 19th from 10.30-12 noon.** September is the month when we celebrate **Harvest Festival** with all donations of food and provisions going to the CHAT foodbank. Our **Harvest service will be on Sunday 21st September** led by our own superintendent minister, Rev. Nick Lakin, at 10.30am followed with a Bring & Share lunch. There is no charge made for any of these events and everyone is truly welcomed.

Our Prospect's **worship group for disabled people of all ages, will meet on Sunday August 3rd at 3pm.** If you know of someone who'd enjoy this fellowship, please put them in touch with us.

If you also know of a local group who might be seeking a base, with all level access, inclusive facilities and private and safe parking, get in touch to see if any of our free time spaces suit your organisation. **greetdj@hotmail.com.**

We are truly grateful for your continued, quality donations to, what we call "The Free Cupboard". Recently referred to as "The Methodist Giving and Gifting Station".

(We don't mind what you call us, provided we all benefit)

We are told how and by so many of all ages, of its great value. Also, we are very grateful to the several people who kindly offer to keep it up to date, tidy and organised. Long may it continue. And it is so nice to see people using our lawn's benches, to grab a moments rest and take in the lavender scent. It has of course been the perfect weather for sitting and reflecting on the joys of Creation.

Every Blessing, **Joan Greet. Steward.**

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL WWW.WILLANDVILLAGEHALL.ORG.UK

We are still experiencing a very high volume of bookings, which means the Hall is in use almost every day of the year. We are continuing to improve our facilities in order to maintain the high standards our users expect.

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All charges are per hour.

A reminder that the Village Hall entrances, and car park are now fully covered by CCTV, thanks to help from the Parish Council. We are able to identify vehicles and people, but, because of GDPR, are not able to show any of the footage to anyone except the Police or Insurance companies. **Carol Allan**

NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - FORTHCOMING EVENTS at the Mill

19th-30th August (except Sun 24th) **HERITAGE CRAFT FESTIVAL** 11am-4pm A festival to showcase the work of artists and makers who use heritage crafts and natural textiles and fibres, with a strong emphasis on demonstrating techniques and skill-sharing with visitors.

Bank Holiday Monday 25th August: SUMMER STEAM DAY 10.30am – 4pm Marvel at the power of steam with Live Entertainment, Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Garden Plants stand, Crafting ... a great family day out.

CRAFT WORKSHOPS at the MILL

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

Willow Flower Workshop - Youth Session Friday 1st August: 10:30am – 12:30pm Suitable for ages 8 and above, children must be accompanied by an adult. £10 per person

Willow Bullrush Workshop Friday 5th September: 10:30am – 12:30pm £10 per person

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?

We are currently seeking volunteers to help in the Cafe and Shop, to help with caring for the Museum collections and with a project to put the wonderful Millennium Screen back on display. No previous experience needed.

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**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

The next panto will be “**The Wizard of Oz**” auditions have taken place and the panto is cast. We will be performing it in February 2026 during half term on Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st look out for more details later on social media, What’s on Willand and Willand Matters also in this magazine.

Robin Hood 2025



We are always on the lookout for new talent not necessary just actors but most skills that can help with production including Costumes makers, set designers, prop makers, Stage painters, those with a musical skill, even tea makers, in fact anyone who thinks their talents and ideas can be utilised for live theatre. Starting again in September we will be meeting every Friday Evening at Willand Village Hall at 7.30pm. Rehearsals start for our next major production. Why don't you pop along and meet us, we are always looking for new members to expand our Family Friendly gang. You never know you may catch the acting bug.

Sam Fincher

“There is a kind of invisible thread between the actor and the audience, and when it's there it's stunning and there is nothing to match that.”

Solution to crossword on page 4



Cut off dates for Willand Magazine

Dates 2025 December 2024 & January 2025	Cut off dates are all a Wednesday. Wednesday 13th November
February & March	08 th January
April & May	12 th March
June & July	07 th May
August & September	09 th July
October & November	10 th September
December & January 25	12 th November

CUT OFF FOR NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2025



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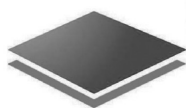
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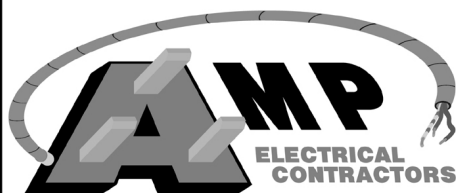
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