

WILLAND MAGAZINE

June & July 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	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
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	willandschoolpta@gmail.com

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Rachel Gilmore	(M.P)	rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk	
Simon Clist	(Devon County Council)		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

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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

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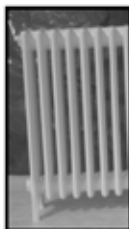
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We are looking for a new volunteer to deliver this magazine to Park Street and Beech Street, due to the previous deliverer moving away. Usually doesn't take long and only six times a year. Ideal for someone retired who is looking for something to do. (that's how I got into it) I take this opportunity in thanking the volunteers who have been distributing and delivering the magazine for us up to now, we couldn't do it without you Thank You. Please email me at **willandparishmag@gmail.com** or call me on **07377556946**. **If you would like to help.**

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I am at an age now where one is inclined to have many moments of reflection of the past and sometimes struggling in remembering what you did yesterday. Having said that, how many of us will admit to going upstairs and then having to go downstairs again to try and remember why you went upstairs in the first place. Not so painful for me now that I have the stair lift, but it does push the electricity bill up.

As I write this I am mindful that the target date for submission of this article is a day before the Annual Parish Council Meeting when the first item on the agenda is the election of Chairman for the next year and that is followed by the election of the Vice Chairman. We will have to ask the Magazine Editor to hold a small slot for 'Stop Press' with the result. Will the majority of the Parish Councillors wish me to carry on as Chairman or will they feel that it is time for a change. I am not as mobile as I was, but the brain still works, and it retains a considerable amount of 'corporate knowledge' which has been called upon many times when there has been a new Parish Clerk come into post. My computer helps out at times. This may be my last effort for the magazine, and some may consider that a relief!

I think I was coopted onto the Parish Council during 2011. I have never been elected as there has never been sufficient candidates coming forward to have to hold an election. We still have one vacancy on the Parish Council at present. I was elected Chairman in 2015 and the only current person who has served as a Parish Councillor longer than me is our Vice Chairman, Richard Phare. I have even been an Independent District Councillor for the area of Lower Culm for four years during that time which brought more knowledge of local authority working to the fore.

One thing we all learn as Councillors is if you please some you upset others. The bulk of people are quite content to take little or no interest at all until it really affects them personally. We do suffer from time to time with comments on social media, many of which result from misinformation or a lack of factual understanding. Few people come to Parish Council meetings. Some expect much from the Parish Councillors forgetting we are all 'volunteers' trying to do something for our community. There are other volunteers who look after the village hall, work to keep our churches and various clubs going and those that just help a neighbour. None get paid and invariably it costs them money.

No one should not know what is going on in the Parish if they are the least bit interested. There is this magazine, all run by volunteers [thank you] and it is delivered free to all households. Some admit to never reading it but will still moan that they do not know what is going on. There is the Parish Council Website and Facebook pages and then the three notice boards. If you need to know anything you can always contact the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors. All the papers in respect of items discussed at Parish Council meetings are available on the website.

The Parish Council can always be expected to do more by some, but it is very encouraging when I get the odd call from someone outside of the village complimenting us on the state of the village as opposed to where they live.

Let us reflect on what has been achieved over the past 14 years or so, bearing in mind there are many things that come under the jurisdiction of the District or County Councils which we can do little or nothing about.

Our roadside verges are regularly cut by a contractor appointed by the Parish Council. Some finance comes from Devon County Council, but they will only cut visibility splays. MDDC used to cut them on contract for DCC, but it has been found that the Parish get them cut to a better standard and more often. We do leave some wildlife areas where we can but always try and make sure that a margin by the roadside is cut regularly to enable dog walkers to 'pick up' after their charges.

We have our own cemetery which has been extended looking to the future. The boundary has been 'hedged' with wildlife friendly planting, some trees have been placed, and an area has been seeded to be a 'wildlife meadow' until needed for burials. An area is also being made available for the scattering of ashes for those who do not wish a lasting memorial. Extra seating has been provided.

There are nine play areas and a number of other smaller open spaces in the village. The Jubilee Field is owned by the Parish, but the Gables Lea end is leased from MDDC. Five other play areas are leased from MDDC. The grass and hedges are cut by contractors for the Parish and grass is cut 15 times a year in the larger areas of Jubilee Field and Orchard Way and 9 times a year in the smaller play areas – MDDC controlled areas are cut less often. Chestnut Drive play area has been completely refurbished recently. Considerable extra equipment has been made available in Orchard Way area which has resulted in considerably more people using this area. The Jubilee Field has had much equipment added and some replaced. The Pump Track has been a great addition over the past years and is very popular with all age groups – even from outside of the area. Please can we stop the children throwing the stones from the track drainage points around the field. It costs money to replace them apart from the potential damage to the mowing machines or causing injury to people who may fall on them.

Do not forget the provision of the Air Ambulance night landing site. The Scouts have also painted the fence by Gables Court as part of their community work – thank you.

Working with the Village Hall Trustees new CCTV has been installed to aid safety/security and any police or Council enquiries. Most of the Jubilee Field is also covered and the cameras have recorded a couple of serious assault and robbery incidents recently. Hopefully the police will use the evidence and take some positive action as we do not want such incidents in our community. Please remember to report all incidents to the police as they need to have a full picture on which to plan action.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and fully approved and adopted by MDDC and a Parish Group will be formed to oversee and move things forward for the benefit of the village. We have our VAS machine checking speeds within the village and there is a working group formed with adjoining villages to look at road safety issues. One Councillor is working toward reforming the Speedwatch Group within the village, but he needs more support from volunteers please.

We still have no idea as yet as to what the Government proposals for reorganisation of Local Government will mean for Parish Councils but hopefully we are doing the best we can to be prepared for any eventuality by having up to date policies and procedures which will be fit for purpose. We also have a comprehensive Asset Register which can be viewed on the website. On a personal note, I bet it will cost we, the public, a lot of money whatever they do!

Volunteers are preparing to receive new plants for the planters around the village and we hope that we will have a good show again. Thank you to our volunteers.

Please do all you can to support and enjoy living in our community and do not be afraid to offer to help as I am sure someone will be only too pleased to receive your help. **Barry G J Warren.**

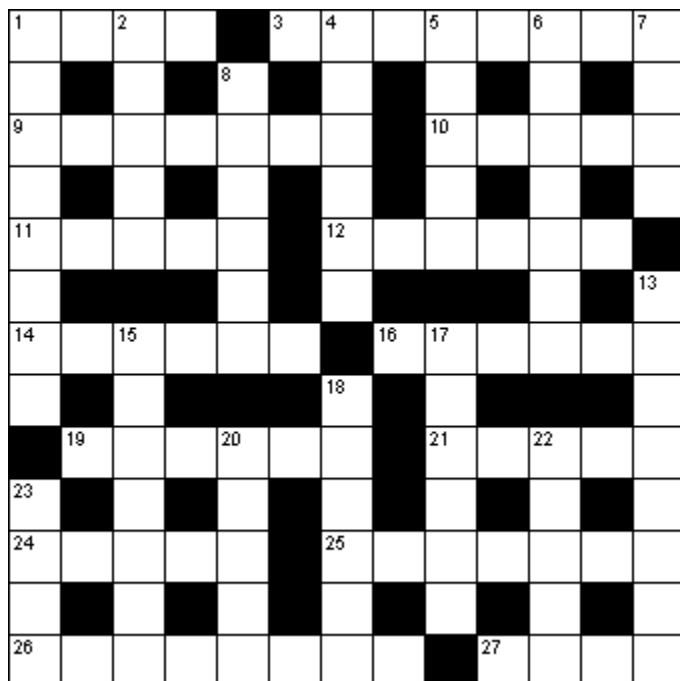
At the Willand Parish Council meeting on the 8th of May 2025 Members elected Barry Warren as their chairman and Richard Phare as their vice chairman for the forthcoming year until May 2026

Defibrillator Training

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**

Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing.

JUNE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Solution later
In the
Magazine

Across

- 1 Tolerable (2-2)
- 3 Veracious (8)
- 9 Jittery (7)
- 10 Rich sweet cake (5)
- 11 Pulsate (5)
- 12 Paradise Lost poet (6)
- 14 A score (6)
- 16 Altitude (6)
- 19 Shut (6)
- 21 High-spirited escapade (5)
- 24 Mayhem (5)
- 25 Indian rice (7)
- 26 Storage container (8)
- 27 Cosy (4)

Down

- 1 Holiness (8)
- 2 More certain (5)
- 4 Start again after a break (6)
- 5 Aggregate (5)
- 6 220 yards (7)
- 7 Sediment in wine (4)
- 8 Water ice (6)
- 13 Dying of hunger (8)
- 15 Invigorate (7)
- 17 Overindulgence (6)
- 18 Fit for eating (6)
- 20 Hosiery items (5)
- 22 Unadorned (5)
- 23 Elegantly stylish (4)

The philosophy of one century is the common sense of the next.

CAMEO

Our March and April entertainment and speakers cancelled. What shall we do to fill the gaps? At the March meeting, we had a table with 27 items on it covered so no cheating. A table at a time went up to memorise all the items, then go back, and write them down. It was harder than you think. Only one table came up trumps. At the April meeting, decorating Easter biscuits was our task. The winner was a new member, Sandy McNeil. I don't think many biscuits went home. They disappeared at tea/coffee time.

Our May meeting was our annual mystery trip, where were we going? Up to Sampford Peverell, Upplowman, Huntsham, well we ended up at The Anchor Inn at Exbridge. It was a lovely evening. We had a delicious meal with lots of laughter and chat, well we are all ladies!

Our walking group managed to get out and about – Culmstock Beacon and a short walk at Knightshayes. No disasters to report.

A trip to Bernaville Nurseries, was enjoyed by several members. We also managed to have coffee at Padbrook and Bridwell with a luncheon at Tiverton Golf Club. Our next trip out is Bowling at Exmouth, who is going to win the trophy this year.

Ladies do come and join us, the first Thursday of the month. We also have a singles group who meet the third Sunday of the month. **Valerie Newberry**

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR EVENTS

Book Swap	3 rd . Monday	6.30pm
Yoga	Tuesday	6.00pm
Tea & Chat	3 rd . Tuesday	10.00am
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
Pilates with Sarah	Fridays	9.15am

The Centre is available for booking for groups, meetings and training 7 days per week. Book via our Facebook page or email info@whacc.org.uk we are here for the community to use so get in touch and we will see how we can help. **Gerri Taylor**

For U3A Bookings please check their website www.culmvalleyu3a.org

Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are and doing things as they ought to be done.

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, GABLES ROAD

Firstly, thank you for the comments commending our floral Easter Cross, which we dressed on Easter Sunday morning and displayed outside for all, including those on the Bus, to see. Transforming it from a gnarled old used Christmas tree, into a colourful visual statement of rebirth. We delight in the new growth of God's creation, seen all around us not least from and in our church lawn. Come and sit there a while on the bench and all we ask is that you kindly just close the gate after you! Then have a look at our various **Sunday Worship Services at 10.30am.** and our weekday activities too on the notice board. Perhaps even read the text there, which will always be thought provoking.

If any of the following events takes your fancy, then please just come and join in with them too.

You can always be assured of the very warmest of welcomes.

For your diary, we have **Summer West Country Cream Tea from 3pm on Saturday June 7th,**

Soup and Something free lunch, will be on Saturday June 21st. from 12-2pm.

and the bi-monthly **Coffee Morning will be on Friday July 18th. from 10.30-12 noon.** There is no charge made for any of these events and everyone is truly welcomed.

Our Prospect's **worship group for disabled people, will meet on Sunday June 1st. at 3pm.**

(As you might have guessed, with a tea and **CAKE** to follow) If you know of someone who'd enjoy this fellowship, please put them in touch with us.

We also need to thank you, for your remarkably generous donations to our free exchange cupboard at the church gate. In our lobby we are also have a collecting stand, as a local base for the C.H.A.T. Food Bank. As sometimes happens we also provide such gifts of food, to local people in desperate need. Happy to be available.

If you also know of a local group who might be seeking a base, with all level access, inclusive facilities and



private parking, get in touch to see if any of our free time spaces suit your organisation. **greetdj@hotmail.com. Joan Greet. Steward.**

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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.

We have had a few problems recently with our dishwasher not being used properly and with dishes left in it after use. The programme is only a few minutes long, so you do need to wait a long time before dishes are clean. It is important that the machine is emptied after use as well. If you are not sure how to operate it, please mention it on your booking form and we can arrange a demonstration. There have also been complaints about incorrect use of the PA /stage lighting system. This is a very expensive piece of equipment, so please ask for instruction before you use it.

We have now repaired and repainted the front of the stage in the Main Hall and also made the under-stage area safer and more accessible.

We still have a few vacancies on the trustee board for the Hall. If any of you are interested, please contact Michael at chairman@willandvillagehall.org.uk. There are only 6 meetings a year and they are very short (usually less than an hour). The Hall is a vital part of Willand Community, and we need trustees to help run it efficiently.

Because of the increasing costs of fuel, wages and repairs / maintenance, we will be increasing our hire charges from 1st April 2025. Below is a list of the new rates. We will also be asking for full payment in advance if a hire charge is less than £40. This will save a lot of admin work, which happens with the present £30 deposit, which means an additional invoice has to be raised for just a few pounds.

	Hall	Clubroom	Committee Room	Annex
Class A	£12.00	£6.60	£6.10	£7.70
Class B	£18.00	£9.80	£8.70	£11.30
Class C	£36.00	£19.00	£17.40	£22.00

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.

We were very sorry to hear that our caretaker, Sam Fincher, has decided to retire because of ill health. We are looking to recruit one or two people to join our maintenance / cleaning team. This could be voluntary or PAYE and would be suitable for a job share. Please contact our Chairman, Michael Hollings on chair@willandvillagehall.org.uk if you might be interested. **Carol Allan.**

Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Are we in a Meaning Crisis

I wonder how often you step back to consider some of the big questions of life. Things like, 'why am I here?' 'What is the purpose of my life?' and 'what happens to me when I die?' Back in 2002 there was an Xbox advert showing a human hurtling through life at breakneck speed with no time to reflect or think about what's going on before they met their inevitable end. The ad finishes with the words, 'life is short, play more!' Whilst I'm all for computer games and enjoying other leisure activities, thankfully life is not as short as the advert suggests and we do have time to consider the bigger questions. This is something we have been doing in our churches over the last month.

One of the questions that has so far evaded the scope of science is the origin of the universe. Yes, we are pretty sure that there was a big bang but what there was before that is in the realm of faith or guesswork. The Bible has a compelling picture of what existed in the nothingness before the universe was propelled into existence. In the Gospel of John (17:24) Jesus prays "Father, you loved me before the creation of the world". Therefore, before anything came into existence, there was love. Perfect love that existed between the Father, Son and Spirit. The upshot of this is that the creative force which brought everything into being is love. Dr Martin Luther King stated, "love is the greatest force in the universe."

There are many people and experts who have noted that we in the west have entered a meaning crisis characterised by feelings of disconnect and purposelessness. No doubt there are lots of reasons for this, but the erosion of belief in God is seen as a contributing factor. The world's most famous atheist- Richard Dawkins- said this, "The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference." If this sort of statement doesn't propel the reader into a meaning crisis, I don't know what would!

Richard Dawkins is a great scientist, but I want to side with Jesus and Martin Luther King on this issue. Love is the greatest force in the universe and its existence tells us something about who we are. We were made for relationship. Relationships with one another and most importantly a relationship with God. In John 17, as Jesus acknowledged his eternal relationship of Love with the Father, he also prays that his followers would be brought into that relationship of love. This is why Jesus came at Christmas, died on Good Friday and rose on Easter Sunday. He came to show us God's love, remove our doubts and become the way by which we can enter back into love. The Christian story has love at the beginning, love in the middle and eternal love at the end. Now that is a story worth investigating to see whether it's true. **Rev. Ben Maynard**

Faith is believing in things when common sense tells you not to.

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS)

A huge “thank you” to the Willand community for your continued support, which resulted in a significant increase in compost sales from April 2024 to March 2025. We need your help to continue to build on our success, not only with bringing your green waste and buying compost, but also to become involved as a volunteer.

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; proceeds from the sale of compost can support local causes.

We need and would really like more volunteers to work with us. Could you spare 2 hours on either a Wednesday or Sunday morning, or just one hour on a Monday evening? Often called the Green Gym for the exercise offered by working at the site, it will help you to keep fit and active. No previous experience is needed although enthusiasm and a sense of humour help.

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more, please pop into the site and speak to any of the team. We look forward to meeting you ☺

Now just a quick reminder of when, what, where...

OPENING TIMES The site is open on **Mondays** from 6.30 – 7.30pm, plus **Wednesdays** and **Sundays** from 10.00am – 12 noon.

WE ACCEPT Green Garden waste, such as fresh grass (please keep this separate) & hedge clippings, pruning's that can be cut with secateurs up to 1 inch diameter. Also, flowers, vegetables & plants. **PLEASE ENSURE ALL LABELS, STONES, EXCESS SOIL HAS BEEN REMOVED BEFORE DONATING YOUR GREEN WASTE FOR COMPOSTING.**



LEAVES We gratefully receive 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 TO BUY Sieved compost costs £2.50 per bag. **PLEASE RETURN EMPTY BAGS FOR RE-USE.**

COME AND VISIT US 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 at willandccs24sec@outlook.com. **Barbara & Graham Bodkin**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

WiTS had the Premiere of our panto Robin Hood on the evening of 25th April giving the actors and members a chance to see what they looked like from the audience's viewpoint. An evening of glitter and food a two-course meal of i.e. 1st.Course fish and 2nd.Course Chips. You lucky people.



We took the opportunity to present WiTS donation to Willand School PTA as WiTS donate a percentage of our profits from the Panto each year to a local club or organisation.



New Members are always welcome. We meet most Friday evenings at the Village Hall for rehearsals at 7.30pm. Keep your eye open on **Willand Matters** and **What's on Willand** for announcement of our next Pantomime read through & come along, you never know you may get the bug for Theatre. **Sam Fincher.**

It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something.

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U3A Art in Action	2 nd Monday	1.30pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5.30pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7.00pm
U3A Quilting Group	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	9.30am
Pilates with Ellie	Tuesday	9.30am
Flower Arranging	Tuesday	1.30pm
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
Flower Arranging	Wednesday	1.30pm
Pilates with Ellie	Wednesday	5.45pm
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7.00pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7.00pm
Pilates with Ellie	Thursday	9.30am
University of the Third Age	1 st Thursday	2.00pm
U3A Drawing Group	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	9.30am
U3A Bridge Group	Thursday	12.30pm
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
U3A Quiz Group	3 rd Friday	10.30am
Zumba	Friday	1.15pm
WiTS	Friday	7.30pm
Cowgirl Twisters	2 nd & 4 th Saturday	7.30pm
Folk Dance	1 st Saturday	8.00pm
Karate	Sundays	10.00am
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For U3A Bookings please check their website www.culmvalleyu3a.org

LIBRARIES UNLIMITED LAUNCHES THE SUMMER BOOK QUEST FOR KIDS

Children across Devon are going to be able to take a Deep-Sea Adventure at their local library this summer as Libraries Unlimited launch their very own reading challenge. Based on the charity's popular reading challenge for five to twelve-year-olds 'The Secret Book Quest', The Summer Book Quest sees beloved characters Pip, Zena and Libro head off on a new adventure. The theme for the first year is The Deep-Sea Adventure, based on the Underwater Zone in The Secret Book Quest.



The aim with creating this unique quest, is to engage as many children as possible in reading over the summer holidays and making it fun and engaging. To complete the quest, children are challenged to do three things: visit the library, read what they love and complete one or more of The Summer Book Quest activities. Each completed task gives them a sticker and once they have them all they get a finisher sticker, keyring and certificate.

Activities are tied into the theme of The Deep-Sea Adventure and offer lots of choices including 'draw a sea creature, real or imagined' try a water activity like swimming or rock pooling' and 'tell a member of staff an underwater fact. To be more inclusive, children can now count how often they read for ten minutes or more or count how many books they read - they choose.

Devon children's author Dan Metcalf was commissioned to create the story which introduces new characters including ninja starfish. And Emily Fox, who created the illustrations for The Secret Book Quest and Libros Friends, has done the illustrations.

Libraries Unlimited have linked up with Active Devon, Surfers Against Sewage and Surfing England for The Summer Book Quest. Surfing England will be sharing the information with their surf clubs across the county and providing prizes. Surfers Against Sewage are providing activity resources to libraries including access to their online Ocean School, they're also providing prizes. Active Devon is supporting by promoting the challenge and encouraging families to visit their local community pools. Libraries across Devon are also teaming up with their local sports centers, including Mid Devon Leisure and Fusion Lifestyle, to offer free or discounted swim sessions as part of The Summer Book Quest, encouraging families to get active and enjoy time together as part of the challenge.

It has been proven that reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background. Reading for pleasure develops vital literacy skills, empathy, increased confidence and well-being too. As Devon is a coastal county, the underwater theme allows connection with our communities, and we can promote the importance of

looking after our oceans and planet. More than anything, we are trying to make it fun and inclusive. Who doesn't love a ninja starfish?"

The Summer Book Quest will be launched on 12th July and is available until 6th September.

It's completely free to join the library and take

on the quest, just head down to your local library and they will give you a pack to get you started on The Deep-Sea Adventure. **Agnes Finlayson 07985 697034**



WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

First of all, we would like to invite you all to our Willand Archive Open Morning on Saturday, 31 May 2025, running from 10am to 12 noon, in The Annex of Willand Village Hall (the room nearest the Youth Club, towards the end of the car park). Everyone is welcome to drop in for a few minutes for a quick look, or to linger as long as you like – and there will be teas, coffees and biscuits! We will have on display a wide selection of items, from original documents and artefacts, including some of the many pictures we have of bygone Willand, to research collections and other resources, showing what we have collected on behalf of the parish, and what has been kindly donated to the Archive over the past 25 years. For example, we will have our (almost complete) collection of Willand Parish Magazines out to celebrate what will be the magazine's 30th anniversary this November.

It will be the launch of our Willand Buildings Project (we've yet to think of a snappy name for it – any ideas?), through which we hope to trace the history of all buildings in the parish – from businesses and public halls to residential homes – including those that are no longer here. We hope to create a timeline of changes right up to the latest housing developments. We will have on display some of the records that we will be using, such as old maps, property legal documents, census returns and other records tracing who lived where in Willand over the last 200 years or so. So please do come along if you would like to know about the history of your house, or the people who lived there. We are more than happy to assist, if we can. Or if you have any queries or there's anything you would like to know about the history of Willand or would like to know more about the History Group and what we do, please drop by. We also invite you to bring along anything connected to Willand's past that you think might be of interest, whether that be documents or photos, memories or information – we would love to see you there!

The report of a somewhat tragic incident of national significance, which took place early in the Second World War and was connected to a Willand house, has recently been rediscovered in the Archive. It concerns Rydon House, located between the ESSO garage and the M5 motorway bridge to the south of the parish. This property is famously known as 'the house that moved' – so-called because it was deconstructed to make way for the motorway in the early-

1970s and rebuilt, exactly the same, in its current location. The story relates to Eric Batten, who had lived at Rydon House since his marriage, in 1934, to Beata Maunder who the daughter of local farmer and entrepreneur, Edwin Maunder (brother to Lloyd Maunder, founder of the meat processing business now owned by 2 Sisters). Eric Batten served throughout the war as an officer in the Somerset Light Infantry, ending up with the rank of Captain. In September 1940 an article appeared in the local press under the headline 'Willand Officer Captures a Spy' and reported: "The following extremely interesting letter was received; In connection with the recent case published in the daily papers, in which two German spies were hung at Pentonville Prison, Sec.-Lieut. Eric A. Batten, of a battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry (whose home is at Rydon House, Willand), was responsible for the capture of one of the spies and was the chief witness during their trial at the Old Bailey. The trial took place in secret and no members of the public were admitted. Mr Batten disarmed the spy, whom he captured at 4am, and handed him over to headquarters. He later found the transmitting [radio] set near where the spy had been hiding."

The History Group will be meeting to discuss and plan forthcoming projects and ongoing research on Tuesday, 29 April 2024, at 7pm, in The Annex of Willand Village Hall – anyone with an interest in local history is welcome.

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

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.

Kate Taylor Trustee

FANCY A FILM? HEAD TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Snuggle up for a low-cost screening at libraries around Devon and Torbay

A new season of 'Films at the Library' is being launched by Libraries Unlimited across Devon and Torbay in February.

The charity, which runs the 54 libraries across the county, has hand-picked a variety of big box office hits and less well-known movies for the latest season of screenings.

The new season kicks off on **Friday 7th February** and the films on offer include ***The King's Speech*** starring Colin Firth, Donald Trump biopic ***The Apprentice*** and last year's hit comedy ***Thelma***.

Eight libraries will be running the screenings and each film costs just £3 plus a booking fee if booked online.

The season is organised by Libraries Unlimited with funding from Arts Council England.

Libraries Unlimited Creative Communities Producer Rae Hoole said: "We're pleased to be able to roll out another season of films which are proving so popular in our libraries. We're committed to keeping our prices low in comparison to standard cinema costs, so more people can enjoy a great film with their friends or family in a cosy setting. Bring your own popcorn and a blanket and relax. For more information and bookings: **Films at your local library by Libraries Unlimited | Eventbrite.**

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LITTLE VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER

Get ready for the Little Valley Grand Prize Draw – an exciting chance to win amazing prizes while supporting the animals that need us most. This year, we're aiming to raise £4,000 to help fund our vital work at the shelter, and we need YOU to get involved.

Enter our Summer Grand Prize Draw for a chance to win £250 Cash, plus many other great prizes! The best part is, you will be raising money for RSPCA Little Valley Animal Shelter, helping to fund our vital work rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming dogs, cats, rabbits and other small animals across the county.

Tickets are just £1 each or £5 for a book of five! You can also grab yours at any of our 7 retail shops across Exeter, Budleigh, Brixham, Bideford, Newton Abbot, and Tiverton. Or come visit us at the shelter in Black Hat Lane, Exeter. You can even find us at county shows and events throughout the spring and summer.



Hayley
Hayley Hukku
Grants and Trusts Fundraiser



We very much appreciate all the support that Devon shows us, and that support helps us to be here when animals are in need. We only receive 5% funding from the national RSPCA, so we rely on you and our communities.

Hayley Hukku

It is a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense

HOSPICE SPRING APPEAL

It's been a difficult few years for Hospiscare. Faced with a financial shortfall of over £2 million due to government underfunding and rising costs, our adult hospice charity had no choice but to restructure our services. It was a heartbreaking time.

Despite these challenges, providing compassionate, expert end-of-life care to those living with terminal illnesses, and their families in Exeter, central and East Devon, remains at the heart of what we do. We know how deeply our care impacts the community that relies on us.

The support we receive from our local community makes all the difference. It is through your generosity that we can help local families during the most challenging times.

If you are in a position to make a donation to Hospiscare's spring appeal we'd be so grateful. Please give whatever you can to help us be there for every family who needs us. Thank you for your kindness.

To make your donation, please visit - hospiscare.co.uk/spring **Martin Niebroj**

There is nothing more uncommon than common sense.



**Answers to your
June Crossword
How did you do?**

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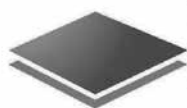
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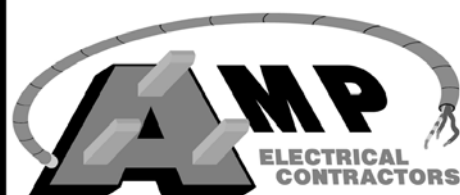
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