

# WILLAND MAGAZINE

March & April 2019



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

Delivered Free to Every Home

Welcome to this spring edition we have lots of contributors, so I hope you enjoy your read. If you would be interested in joining an editorial team to take the magazine forward, then please get in touch.

**WILLAND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS**

Willand is already a really good community with many good activities undertaken by lots of residents for the benefit of the whole village. However, as the village grows, and we get increasingly less support and engagement from public bodies, we need to take steps to ensure that the community continues to look after itself and also formulates plans to make Willand an even nicer, and safer, place to live.

This is especially true of MDDC and the police team. As their budgets come under even more pressure, we are the ones who suffer when they neglect, or cease, some of the activities they have traditionally undertaken but some of these activities could be taken on by a network of community volunteers. Some of the activities would need to have the blessing of the police and/or MDDC and need some form of training from them. This would include things like Community Speedwatch, parking and hedge trimming (not, I hasten to add, as a team of vigilantes!!). It will also include established activities such as Neighbourhood Watch.

So, over the coming weeks we will be setting up the Willand Community Volunteers network, a formal team of volunteers, each responsible for a specific part of the village. We will start by breaking the village down into 5 areas, each with a Community Co-ordinator, to make it easier to engage with residents to find out what issues they would like to see tackled in their area some issues will be specific to a particular area and some common across the village, eg people not picking up their dog's mess.

Over time, as we learn how best to do things and we get more volunteers, these areas can be broken down so that co-ordinators look after say 20 houses. That way, they get to know the vulnerable/elderly/lonely residents as well as everyone else. We get to look out for each other.

The volunteer team would be separate to the parish council but work closely alongside them to help implement agreed plans and get feedback when required. That's as far as we've got at the time of writing and we hope it meets with everyone's approval. Watch this space! **David Marrow**

**NOTES FROM BOB EVANS WARD COUNCILLOR LOWER CULM**

Is it me or does time go quicker as you get older? I'm sure it was only last week I was sat writing my last comments for the magazine!

I'm going to start with some useful info and numbers, as one of your ward members I have received information from Wales and West Utilities , the text below is a simply cut and paste job from their communication, I hope it does not

need to be used however you may wish to keep this edition of the magazine in a drawer just in case.

Wales and West Utilities launched a social media campaign reminding people who to contact if they have problems with their heating or their gas supply over the coming weeks.

**Twitter** If you're having issues with your boiler in the cold weather, this is what you need to know. Please only call @wwutilities National Gas Emergency Number if you have a gas emergency, a gas leak or suspect carbon monoxide [wwutilities.co.uk/boilerproblems](http://wwutilities.co.uk/boilerproblems)

**Facebook/LinkedIn** with the weather getting cold, it's really important that only people who smell gas, have a gas leak, low gas pressure or suspect the presence of carbon monoxide should call the National Gas Emergency Number on 0800 111 999 so Wales & West Utilities can keep them safe.

If you have frozen boiler condensate pipes you can try and defrost them yourself using heat wraps or warm water but if this doesn't work, please call a Gas Safe Registered engineer or your gas supplier. For a Gas Safe Registered engineer in your area call 0800 408 5500 or visit [gassaferegister.co.uk](http://gassaferegister.co.uk). You can find the contact details of your gas supplier on your bill. [wwutilities.co.uk/boilerproblems/](http://wwutilities.co.uk/boilerproblems/)

Moving forward it's fantastic to see the crossing now in place in South View Road, I think 'better late than never' covers it.

As somebody who has represented the ward of Lower Culm for very nearly 8 years now you may not be surprised to find I am a great believer in democracy and that local politics is about local people and local issues and I believe it takes local people to represent local residents. So, for the final time may I remind all that we have full District council elections on 2nd May and if anybody reading this is interested in standing for election or you think you know somebody who may be, look on the MDDC web pages.

I would also encourage all to ensure you have a say, local elections attract far fewer voters than national elections, so if you are able to vote and do so your vote really does count.

I would like to move on to my in box and the most prevalent issues being raised, well let me concentrate on one, dog mess!

The issue is probably one of the easiest and cheapest issues that can be sorted out, no need to incur any cost, no need to seek enforcement, for the few lazy, selfish, inconsiderate individuals, PICK IT UP! It's your dog, it's your responsibility.

I make no apology that individuals who have written to me asking that the District Council sort the problem out have met with a consistent argument that it's not their job, why should all residents pay for the few that can't be bothered to respect their own village.

Your council have a number of statutory duties ( legally required ) to perform, bin collection, planning, enforcement, licensing the list goes on, with tight budgets why would MDDC choose to spend money in an area that is discretionary and almost impossible to catch people walking on by after their dog has messed, any sight of an enforcement officer or a MDDC van and they don't leave it on that day.

Your parish council have requested MDDC to provide a new dog poo bin in Willand Moor road, this is currently being reviewed by MDDC under the process that covers the request, unfortunately placing another bin adds costs on both supply and collection, I have suggested that given MDDC have a policy that "any bin will do" so bagged dog poo can be placed in any rubbish bin ( except those within play areas) that one of the two bins that sit by the bench at the top of Willand Old Village , garage end , could be moved, the PC would need to pay for the transfer but there would be no on costs as the bin already exists so is part of the collection numbers, I await their decision.

If moved let's hope people use it!!

It's been stated that other councils use fines as an income stream and deterrent and a specific council was named given the volumes of fines they report, unfortunately it's not the council doing the fines, they have employed a private enforcement company who evidently need to raise revenue to pay for the contract. Their own web site proudly details officials with body cams and plain clothes teams, local press carries stories of parents being pursued after toddlers drop sweet wrappers out of push chairs Not a path, I would support but would be interested in your opinions?

Finally, and as always if you have any issues please do not hesitate to contact me direct, my home number is 01884 849248 or [revans@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:revans@middevon.gov.uk)

You can of course contact any of your other ward members, details on the MDDC web pages under councillors.

## **CAMEO**

Cameo has celebrated its 20th anniversary following the break away from the W.I. It has gone from strength to strength with a growth in membership and a healthy bank balance. Over the last 20 years Cameo has raised several thousand pounds for local charities and continues to do so. All in all, a very happy and successful group.

Cameo offers a number of different activities catering for the many and diverse interests of members, including a craft group that works throughout the year making items to sell at charity events. Members who enjoy walking are always out and tend to do a local walk in the winter months but going further afield for day-long trips in the better weather. In January there were two local walks one along the Tiverton Canal and railway line with tea at the Flying Pickle and another from Halberton along the Canal with tea at the Old Well. The Singles group is very popular catering for members who live alone, with monthly tea

parties, a Christmas party and summer picnic or outing. Once a year they enjoy a holiday away together. Other activities include skittles evenings, meals out, outings for shopping and theatre and always excellent speakers.

We were delighted to learn that, in spite of atrocious weather on our Coffee Morning, along with other fundraising efforts, we are giving a cheque for £800 to our charity for 2018, Devon Freewheelers. thanks to everyone who braved the weather to support us.

In January there was a lovely celebration meal with a beautiful cake made and donated by member Helen. The evening ended with line dancing which was thoroughly enjoyed both by those dancing and the less energetic ones, watching and singing along.

In February we atoned for our over-eating during the last few weeks as our Speaker was Sue Jackson with "Use it or lose it" easy exercises for keeping fit and supple. There will be a Coffee Morning at the Little Bakery in Cullompton later in the month.

March will see us having a look round The Boutique Hair and Beauty Salon in Cullompton, and the Speaker in March will be Brian Phelps on Gypsy Caravans. A SPRING FAIR will be held on SATURDAY 13th APRIL in ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL at 10.30. Please put this in your diaries and on your calendars as we hope you will be able to come along and support us. Cameo will be raising money this year for LITTLE BRIDGE HOUSE, SOUTH WEST CHILDREN'S HOSPICE a wonderful charity. We are having lunch at the Beambridge Hotel and in June an afternoon outing to Exeter with a boat trip to Exmouth, and of course, a cream tea!

If you would like to come along to one of our meetings, we meet in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of every month at 7p.m unless stated otherwise. You will get a warm welcome. **Betty Penberthy**

## **WHAT'S ON at COLDHARBOUR MILL**

The **Working Wool Museum and Mill Shop** are open **9.30am-4.30pm** throughout the year **Tuesday to Sunday** and some bank holiday Mondays under steam, along with the **Brazier Café**, which is run by Brazier Coffee Roasters of Wellington.

**Groups** and **coach parties** are welcome for pre-booked fully guided visits any day as are **school groups** for whom we have a range of activity days – see website. Please contact the Mill office (see below) for info/to make a booking.

**Dates for your diary:** Our next **STEAM DAYS** are **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**. 10.30am-4pm. Guided tours and activities for all the family. Free car park.

**Wednesday 3rd April** 7-9pm. **Public presentation:** review of 2018 and plans for 2019 and beyond. In the Fox Gallery (Level 4) of the Mill.

In **April and May** we hope to see the **new spring meadow walk** in the country park by the millpond – the result of over 4000 bulbs planted by groups

and school children will flower for first time!

**The 'SPRING LAMBS' craft club** for under 8s and over 55s runs **every Tuesday** 10am-11am. Taking part is FREE (it's a community well-being project funded by Postcode Lottery) so come along and have fun together! Transport can be provided by prior arrangement for over 55s. Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

To join this lively group, please contact Hayley or Sara at the Mill in advance (see below).

**VOLUNTEERS are always welcome** at this unique heritage site. There's a wide range of roles available, including gardening, maintenance, office work, factory production, shop work, tour guiding and helping with the education programme, just let us know what you're good at or would like to learn about, and we'll find something to suit you!

**MILLPOND RESTORATION PROJECT:** please support our fund-raising! We are applying to Viridor Credits and other funders for grants to help us with further restoration of the millpond and leat area next to the Mill as a community amenity. This will mean dredging a channel through the silted up millpond so as to allow the water to flow through unimpeded, and increase the leisure and wildlife area, with free access for all to enjoy. Our fund-raising target is £150,000, and to support our applications we need to provide a large amount of evidence of community support for the project.

**You can help!** Before the end of March, please write or email a letter of support to us, sign a petition of support when you visit the Mill or Mill Shop, or add your name to the petition of support on the Mill website (you can donate to the project there too!) Thank you. To contact the Mill about any of the above, please phone 01884 840960, or email: [info@coldharbourmill.org.uk](mailto:info@coldharbourmill.org.uk),

## **CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

You are invited to join us for a **Pancake Party** on Tuesday 5th March from 3pm-5pm. Pancake tossing, pancake race-weather permitting, kid's colouring competition, wordsearch and loads of pancakes! It's FREE- everyone is welcome. Any donations will be given to Action for Children.

Our **monthly coffee mornings** will be on Friday 1st March and Friday 5th April from 10.30am.

Our **monthly lunches** will be on Friday 15th March and Friday 12th April (note change of date from the usual pattern to avoid Good Friday)

On Saturday 6th April we are holding a special **Easter Coffee morning** in the village hall, jointly with the Scout group. There will be lots of bargains on the stalls, some Easter eggs and a plenty of time to chat over a coffee. Please come along.

Each Sunday in Lent we focus on a particular symbol of Christ's Passion. Our notice board will reflect these. During our **Easter Day Service at 10.30am** we

fill the empty cross with beautiful fresh flowers and it will be placed outside for all to see and remember Jesus's sacrifice for us.

The **Prospects Worship group** for learning disabled people will meet on Sunday 17th March from 3-5pm. It includes crafts, prayer time, singing and tea. All ages and abilities welcome. Just turn up or for more details please contact our Minister, Rev Paul Booth. **Happy Easter to you all**

## **WILLAND HISTORY GROUP**

First of all, it gives us considerable pride to report that Willand's first blue plaque 'to commemorate the life and achievements' of Margaret Mary Partridge BSc, MIEE (1891-1967) will be unveiled at Harpitt House on Wednesday, 6 March 2019, at 2pm. The plaque, which has been organised and funded by Devon History Society, recognises Miss Partridge's pioneering work as a woman engineer.

We have discussed elements of Miss Partridge's life and times before in these articles, but it is worth reiterating her groundbreaking role in a male-dominated profession. During the First World War, Miss Partridge was employed by an engineering firm in London, working in munitions, but after the war opportunities for women within the industry diminished as men returned to employment. Therefore, in 1919 Miss Partridge returned to Devon and courageously set up her own business as an independent consulting engineer, specialising in 'providing lighting and electric power', particularly to farms and country houses. She worked hard not only to overcome suspicion of this newfangled electric technology, but also underlying suspicion of her, as a business woman forging a path in a man's world. However, through strength of willpower, meticulous attention to detail and considerable engineering skill, Miss Partridge made a success of her business, and among other achievements was responsible for the electrification of Bampton, Cheriton Fitzpaine and South Molton. During the Second World War she founded and became the first secretary of Exeter Munitions Ltd and was appointed Women's Technical Officer for the South West. And, revealing the esteem in which she was held by her peers, she was appointed president of the Women's Engineering Society of Great Britain from 1943-45.

Miss Partridge retired to Willand in 1946, living at Harpitt House with her lifelong friend and former business partner, Miss Margaret Robotham, who was also a renowned woman engineer. Miss Partridge became fully engaged in parish life, including proactive terms as president of the Willand branch of the Women's Institute, and Willand Produce Association. It is often repeated, but true nonetheless, that her most celebrated achievement in Willand was her instruction and supervision of women from the WI who wired the new Willand Village Hall in 1956/57. Working on Wednesdays and Saturdays they installed 21 lights, 21 switches, 6 three kilowatt heating and all the wiring that goes with it. The work done by the WI saved around £250 from the hall budget, and Miss Partridge told the local press: "I had little doubt that the WI members could carry

out the task although most of them were nervous about their ability for the job ... They were apt pupils, particularly those who are normally good at needlework, for their fingers are supple and quick,”

In the years after her retirement, Miss Partridge also proved to be a pioneer in the research of Willand's history and was the first person to make a methodical study of parish documents. Writing in private correspondence in November 1952 she describes how: “The parish history section of the Devonshire Association invited ‘Willand’ to attend one of their meetings ... [we] went for a whole afternoon we were lectured about how to write a parish history – we left rather confounded and confused, but I did bring away one conviction: that the first thing to do is to list what documents there are at hand ... For some curious reason there are, in Willand, 2 copies of Tithe Maps and Tithe Apportionment books, one with Mr Thorne and one, 2 or 3 years earlier date, was with Mr Rowe. *When* the village gets history-minded we may find other parish documents in possession of one or another – and we hope that private title deeds may prove interesting.” Hopefully the village is a bit more ‘history-minded’ these days, and on 6 March we will pay just tribute to a remarkable woman. **James Morrison, 01884 250057**  
**(jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

### **EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB**

Two activities were held in February half term. The first was showing E.T: The Extra Terrestrial at the Tivoli Cinema in Tiverton to raise funds to buy new gymnastics equipment. The second was a one day “Foundation in Athletic Development” coaching course for five of our junior members. Jakin, Flora, Daisy, Stephanie and Rebecca attended and received their certificate. The mixture of theory, observation, practise and planning was designed to help them understand the Athletic Development process and how to apply it with others. This was funded by Teignbridge Community Volunteers, so thanks to them.

Our new weight lifting equipment is currently being built by Eleiko in their Swedish factory, it is due to be delivered in March. The weight lifting club is busy at present, with people driving from Ottery, Exeter and Powderham to train alongside our Willand residents. We shall be hosting an Open competition at Easter.

Now that we have more daylight, our athletes are able to do more running, jumping and throwing outside. Our upcoming sessions are open for 10-18 year olds who want to learn how to sprint faster, jump further and throw longer. All our sessions are based in Willand, so children and adults don't have to use the car to have fun.” **James Marshall**

### **COMMUNITY COOKING SESSIONS IN CULLOMPTON**

Westbank's Healthy Neighbourhoods project has linked up with People Matter and Cullompton Community Centre to provide some fabulous community cooking sessions at The Walronds. Each session gives tips on cooking on a

budget, cooking for one, making tasty dishes with leftovers and how to prepare healthier meals.

Do you need ideas on how to cook healthy budget meals for your family or are you alone and would like to learn easy ways to start cooking? Whether you're a complete beginner or need new ideas, join our small friendly hands-on monthly cooking sessions in a safe, fun environment. Ingredients are provided and sessions finish with everyone sharing the delicious food together.

The sessions run once each month on the third Friday. **For more information please contact Katheryn Hope, Westbank Healthy Neighbourhood Activity Coordinator (Mid-Devon) on 01395 446896 or email [katheryn.hope@westbank.org.uk](mailto:katheryn.hope@westbank.org.uk)**



We are now into the second half of our Club Programme and are always pleased to see new faces. So, why not some along to one of our Club Nights held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month in the Village Hall 8.00-10.30pm. We have live music and a caller and tea/coffee, and biscuits are served in the interval. The first night is free and we are happy to give tuition on the basic moves between 7.30 and 8.00pm before the Cub Night starts.

We also hold regular Saturday Dances, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month depending on Bank Holiday Weekends until July. Our January and February Saturday Dances have been very well attended with numbers in excess of 75 at each. We are a friendly bunch of dancers and would like to offer anyone out there the chance to come and exercise to live music – even the chuckle muscles get an exercise!

More details can be found on our Website – [willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk](http://willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk)., or if you would like to speak to me give me ring on **01404 47200**. **Marilyn Broom**  
**Chairperson**

### **WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT**

At the time of writing this we are five weeks into 2019 but there is good and positive news before we get to the not so good news.

A trio of musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra spent a day in Willand on 31<sup>st</sup> January as the result of liaison between the Orchestra and the Parish Council. In the morning they spent time at the Primary School with the whole school in attendance. In the afternoon the village hall was turned into a café and those living with dementia, family, friends and carers were treated to a Cake Concert. An enjoyable time appears to have been had by all and thanks must go to the willing volunteers who helped on the day and particularly Willand Post Office and The Old Well Garden Centre who provided all the cakes free of

charge. We must see what more can be done to try and bring our community together more often.

The Parish Council has successfully bid for funding to provide more seats on the Jubilee Field to meet a need expressed by many parents who stand around, particularly after school, whilst the children play on the various equipment. Hopefully these will be installed in the next couple of months.

The Willand Preschool has started work on The Gables site so after the initial upheaval that area will look a lot better and fit in with the school and village hall by providing more preschool and community facilities to add to forming a good social hub for the village.

The allotment hedge against Jaycroft has been reduced in height and layered to try and maintain the 'country feel'.

Dog mess is still an issue and a few individuals appear intent on being objectionable to most of us in the village who do not want to stand in the mess or have children exposed to potential disease contamination. Ripping down and stealing warning signs and leaving piles near signs and bins just convinces of their contempt for the rest of the community. As MDDC are not being proactive in this field the Parish Council are looking at preparing an action plan to try and improve things. This could mean responsible dog owners having restrictions placed on them to keep dogs on leads and be banned from some sensitive areas in order to protect the children at play. Not what is wanted so it is hoped that volunteers and responsible dog owners will identify the persistent offenders and we will have them fined and shamed. Not good for community cohesion but one must ask if the offenders want to be an acceptable part of our community? Anyone wanting to help please let us know through the Clerk.

There has been much on social media about parking, or inconsiderate parking. Do we want double yellow lines all around the village? There are a number of 'road safety' issues being considered at the moment, but the village will be consulted before anything is done as it will cost us a lot of money and Devon County Council say they will not pay. Someone put forward the suggestion of creating parking areas on the grass verges around the Somerville Road and Somerlea area. The Parish Council put that idea to MDDC a long time ago and are still awaiting a response. Lots of reasons and excuses and a lack of 'can do' attitude on the part of some!

On the planning front it has been fairly quiet except for the number of applications to cut down or trim trees that were there before the houses were built. It still surprises me how planning permission is given to build houses so close to established trees when there is ample advice as to what size trees grow and the margins which should be given to allow for root and canopy areas. Some will have seen the 'conversations' as to the trees being cut down and hedgerows decimated on phase two of the Mid Devon Business Park. To remove any doubt this is in Halberton Parish but your councillors have received communications from a number of officers of MDDC trying to justify what has gone

on. Apparently taking all the vegetation from a hedge and removing wildlife habitat is OK as it is 'coppicing'??? Have a look in the dictionary as to what that really means! I do not think that the dormice will be impressed. Oak trees have been cut down but that is OK as they were not protected but those that are left have now been made the subject of protection orders. If everything is OK then some have asked why it is necessary to put the orders in place now. Why were they not put in place at the time the outline planning permission was granted? Something about 'shutting the stable door' comes to mind!

The local plan review hearings will have been completed by the time you read this and then the findings of the Inspector will be awaited. We have not heard anything further about the appeal into the refusal of 125 houses at Meadow Park. Consultations are taking place in relation to the Garden Village proposed on the East of Cullompton. Please have a look at what is proposed as it will come right up to our parish boundary on its northern edge.

The pedestrian crossing in South View Road is up and working and there may be more improvements in the vicinity in the future so watch this space.

Sadly there was a chemical leak at 2 Sisters which appears to have been dealt with promptly with a good turnout from the Fire and Ambulance Services. People taken to hospital, residential properties evacuated but the police declined to attend when requested. Whatever happened to their priority of 'the protection of life and property' which every officer used to include in their oath on appointment? Not criticising the officers on the ground as they are doing their best but surely the gimmicks and politics at a higher level needs questioning?

We have elections coming up for 11 Parish Councillors and 3 District Councillors for our area. The last time there was no election in this area as not enough candidates came forward. If the same happens again due to apathy, or whatever, we cannot really complain if we get what we deserve. We, in the Parish, can make a difference but there are a lot of obstructions and frustrations put in our way at times.

Let us look after our community and do what is best for it. **Barry Warren Chair Parish Council**

## **UFFCULME BOWLING**

Uffculme Bowling club was formed in 1912 and is situated in the centre of Uffculme, opposite the Post Office and next to the War Memorial. If you are interested in joining Uffculme Bowling Club, a warm welcome awaits bowlers of all ages and abilities, guidance and coaching is available for beginners. Our bowls season is from Mid April to Mid September, Membership is just £15 per year. Our Club night is on Fridays from 6.00pm and all are welcome. All you need to start is a pair of flat shoes.

For more information please contact our Chairman **Steve Wildey on 01884 840376** or our secretary **Alan George on 01884 277500**

## **NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL MICRO BUSINESSES TO VOICE THEIR OPINIONS AND HELP DESIGN FUTURE SUPPORT PROGRAMMES**

Devon County Council is launching a research project which aims to engage with rural businesses and sole traders to find out what might be preventing them from boosting their productivity and what help they may need.

The 'Engaging Rural Micros' project will initially look to engage with over 100 micro businesses, targeting the Mid Devon and North Devon area through short surveys, detailed conversations, focus groups and other research.

Micro businesses\* make up 90 percent of the rural economy in Devon, which makes their continued development essential to the future of the County's economy.

The Engaging Rural Micros research is calling for micro businesses in four less productive sectors to share their experiences. These sectors are health and social care; manufacturing; trades (e.g. construction, market traders, lifestyle businesses); and tourism (including accommodation, food and retail).

The aim of the initiative will be to find out more about the needs of these businesses and how to make it easier for them to access and engage with business support programmes in Devon. Micro businesses or sole traders in any of these four sectors (outlined above) are invited to contact the project team about their needs, what they think of the current support on offer, to help ensure future support programmes are right for their business.

There are lots of ways to get involved, ranging from a two minute questionnaire, to a whole day discussing needs and helping to design a support programme that's right for local businesses.

The findings of this project will be used to inform the design of a new trial to help prepare businesses to embrace development opportunities. The trial could enable them to confidently take advantage of mainstream business support and use their time and resources more effectively to increase profitability and productivity. Businesses taking part in the research will have the opportunity to express an interest in taking part in the business support trial.

**Councillor Rufus Gilbert, Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Economy, Enterprise and Skills, said:** "This is an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand what the barriers to rural economic growth really are, and a stepping stone towards better engagement with micro businesses. This provides them with a platform to make their voices heard and tell us about their needs. Micro businesses underpin our local economy, so encouraging the four target sectors to embrace innovation and modern business practises will have a much wider impact, stimulating productivity across our economy."

Rural micro businesses and sole traders in Mid Devon and North Devon in the sectors of health and social care; manufacturing; trades; and tourism, can

have their say by contacting Devon County Council's Engaging Rural Micros project team.

To take part in this research or find out more:

- Email: [Rio.Bayley@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Rio.Bayley@devon.gov.uk) about taking part in surveys, business case studies, and focus groups.
- Call: 01392 380753 to chat to the team, or take part in a quick survey-style telephone conversation.
- Follow and Like: [fb.com/RuralMicros](https://www.facebook.com/RuralMicros) and [@RuralMicros](https://twitter.com/RuralMicros) on Twitter to stay up to date with the project team's whereabouts each week as they visit local market towns, industrial parks and business hotspots.
- Or visit <https://new.devon.gov.uk/economy/business-support/engaging-rural-micros>

**FOUND – A small mountain bike has been found near the underpass if you know who it belongs to contact Jason on 07818045215**

### **WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2019 -2020**

Willand Parish Council have requested a precept of £56,317 from Mid Devon District Council for the coming financial year. This represents a modest increase of £895 on the year 2018/19. Last year was the final year for the Local Authority grant so this year the total sum will be raised from the residents. According to the figures provided by MDDC this rise will mean an increase in the Willand Parish portion of the Council Tax bill of £1.48 for a band D household - an extra 03pence a week.

The Parish Council have continued to raise funds from other sources during this year to support the projects it has undertaken, so for example the budget for new play equipment is showing as overspent but in fact a grant of £3,000 was received towards it. There were also generous contributions from business' and groups for the Christmas lights. The Parish Council will actively seek money to support the work it is doing in the parish for the coming year. When the precept was set it was agreed to increase the expected income from the cemetery, although this is difficult to predict. The company that prints the magazine has amalgamated with a larger concern and it is not known how this may affect the printing costs during the coming year hence the slight increase in costs to allow for this. The Parish Council are in negotiation with MDDC to take on the Orchard Way open space and have allowed for this in the projected costs for play areas. The heading Village projects covers the expected expenditure on Christmas lights, planters, bus shelters, CCTV etc that the Parish Council have supported for a number of years.

If you have any questions about the precept, please do ask me and I will be happy to give any further explanation you require.

**Kate Taylor Clerk to Willand Parish Council**

## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2019-20

|                               | 2018/19<br>Precept | 2018/19 e/o<br>Jan 2019 | 2019/20<br>Precept | VAT            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                 |                    |                         |                    |                |
| Precept                       | 54573.00           | 54573.00                | 56137.00           |                |
| LCT Grant                     | 669.00             | 669.00                  | 0.00               |                |
| Cemetery                      | 2000.00            | 5306.00                 | 3000.00            |                |
| Allotments                    | 1330.00            | 1362.07                 | 1436.00            |                |
| Bank Interest                 | 25.00              | 31.78                   | 32.00              |                |
| Magazine Advertising          | 4900.00            | 3187.50                 | 4990.00            |                |
| VAT Reclaim                   | 5120.00            | 5104.00                 | 7020.00            |                |
| Projects                      |                    | 6464.80                 |                    |                |
| DCC Grass cutting grant       | 4171.00            | 4171.00                 | 4296.00            |                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>72788.00</b>    | <b>80869.15</b>         | 76911.00           |                |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>            |                    |                         |                    |                |
| Staff                         | 15291.00           | 11387.00                | 15500.00           |                |
| Office                        | 4574.00            | 3026.00                 | 5475.00            | 800.00         |
| Allotments                    | 1360.00            | 2065.00                 | 1436.00            |                |
| Cemetery                      | 3470.00            | 3891.00                 | 3500.00            |                |
| Magazine                      | 5800.00            | 4718.00                 | 6000.00            |                |
| General ground management     | 8770.00            | 5816.00                 | 10000.00           | 2000.00        |
| Village projects              | 7718.00            | 4559.00                 | 8000.00            |                |
| new wifi                      | 260.00             | 219.83                  | 300.00             | 60.00          |
| Donations to groups           | 150.00             | 200.00                  | 200.00             |                |
| Play areas ground maintenance | 7355.00            | 3514.00                 | 4500.00            | 760.00         |
| Play areas equipment          | 2800.00            | 765.00                  | 5000.00            | 1000.00        |
| <b>Totals</b>                 | <b>57548.00</b>    | <b>40160.83</b>         | <b>59911.00</b>    | <b>4620.00</b> |
| <b>Capital expenditure</b>    |                    |                         |                    |                |
| legal expenses                | 2000.00            |                         | 4000.00            | 800.00         |
| Community Event               | 1000.00            | 250.00                  | 1000.00            |                |
| CCTV replacements             | 240.00             |                         | 500.00             | 100.00         |
| Office Admin                  | 4000.00            | 1450.00                 | 2500.00            | 500.00         |
| Cemetery contingency          | 1500.00            |                         | 1500.00            |                |
| Play areas new equipment      | 4000.00            | 6866.00                 | 5000.00            | 1000.00        |
| play areas development        | 2500.00            |                         | 2500.00            |                |
|                               | <b>15240.00</b>    | <b>8566.00</b>          | <b>17000.00</b>    | <b>2400.00</b> |
| Total income expected         | 20774.00           |                         |                    |                |
| Total expenditure predicted   | 76911.00           |                         |                    |                |
| Precept                       | 56137.00           |                         |                    |                |
| precept 2018/19               | 55242.00           |                         |                    |                |
| Increase                      | 895.00             |                         |                    |                |

## **ST. MARY'S RESTORATION APPEAL – UPDATE REPORT DECEMBER 2018**

For both congregation and community in Willand, we have been truly blessed, as against all odds we have achieved our target and signed the contract to restore our beautiful and precious parish church to preserve it for future generations. Since my last report we have received most generous grants from the Garfield Weston Foundation and Foxglove Trust which, together with contributions from a wonderful choral evening led by the Wyndham Singers and gifts from adjacent parish groups, led us to hope that we might be able to achieve our target before the end of the year. Then to our delight, in late November, we were given the news that our application to Viridor Credits for the balance of funding required had been accepted in full.

Within two weeks we had completed all necessary clarification with the DAC and were able to sign the contract with Corbel Conservation, who started work before Christmas with a programme to complete before the end of March 2019. The Cypress tree that threatened the East End has already gone and some minor preparation work has been initiated, aiming to start in earnest after the Christmas/New Year break. There will inevitably be some interruption to church opening times, but we have been assured that our services will be able to continue as usual.

Once again, I cannot emphasise too strongly how grateful we all are, PCC, congregation and members of our community of Willand, for the latest of these most generous contributions. Our prayers have certainly been answered, and with the Lord's help, we can now look forward to re-dedicating a fully restored St. Mary's parish church before Easter, secure in the knowledge that this generation has played its part in full to safeguard its future now and for generations to come. **Simon Talbot Rector 5 January 2019**

## **WILLAND ROVERS -- MONUMENTAL MEN, LADIES AND LADS**

Well I am sure you will have seen or heard the Willand roar on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The club for only its second time played in the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the FA Vase we were drawn at home to Deeping Rangers who hail from Lincoln and are geographically pretty close to Peterborough. Due to the miles they had to travel to get to us they came down to the West Country on Friday.

Of course what we could have done without was a snow bomb dumping 3 inches of the white stuff 48 hours before kick-off. Well what do you do? Do you just sit there and hope it all melts away leaving puddles everywhere or do you think well if we clear this off the pitch we may have a chance of playing. Social media shouts were sent out and slowly the volunteers arrived armed with shovels, brooms, wheel barrows and started the momentous task of removing the snow, for the first couple hours it seemed to be a forlorn hope, but by lunchtime some 27 volunteers, men, lasses and lads aged between 10 and 80 were hard at it removing the snow and freeing the grass from its wintry blanket. However, there is always a risk of removing the snow allowed the pitch to freeze

overnight and all that effort would have been to no avail. Saturday came and we passed the 10am pitch inspection – game on.

Now of course the pressure was on the management and players to produce a cup victory. The pitch of course was heavy with the frost gone leaving the top inch sodden. Deeping came at us and put us under pressure for the first 15 minutes and their efforts were rewarded by a goal, they also hit the crossbar and had one disallowed for off side. Willand tried to play and get themselves back in the game, we had a goal disallowed and hit the post but a strike from Brett Worbey took a slight deflection and drew us level. Within a minute Deeping responded to go back ahead. But the half was not done yet Angus Wilson slotted home to again draw us level.

Whatever was in the half time tea and what words of wisdom were spoken? After a slightly low key first half, Willand bossed the second, the post again came to Deeping rescue, two were cleared off the line with the keeper beaten, was it going to be one of the cruel footballing days. But no Willand still had the guile, fight, fitness and strength to make one of the chances count, a delightful through ball found Dean Stamp haring in on goal, the big defender desperately trying to pull him down and on what was now a glue pot of a pitch the ball fell on Deans left foot and once there it was only going in one direction into the back of net between the keepers legs. Much to the raptures of the Willand faithful and the other 700+ support the team in purple from the West Country won the day.

What a game, what 48 hours, who says Willand Community spirit is dead? Everyone volunteers, committee, supporters, management and players have all played their part in creating history.

630 sides started on the journey to Wembley only 8 are left. Willand are now 2 wins away from playing there.

As you read this we should be about to start the last two months of the league season, and what a season it has been. Entertainment is what our Management duo set out to achieve, in the calendar year of 2018 we scored no less than 120 goals averaging over 2 goals a game.

At the time of writing we sit top of the Western league with one defeat in the first 23 games. Even now the wet weather has arrived we continue to play exciting football. In fact we are the top scoring step 5 side in the country.

As mentioned previously the squad has been enhanced by the return of local boy Dean Stamp whose partnership with Craig Duff is now becoming the most feared in the league, with Duff pulling the strings just behind the main striker his arrival has also enhanced the flying wingers Luke Mortimore and Alden play. Goals are aplenty. Veteran David Steele has reached a remarkable landmark with his 150<sup>th</sup> goal for Willand a fantastic strike from the edge of the area into the bottom corner at Shortwood Dean is close behind with 142 goals for Willand and if he stays for a few more years will undoubtedly become Willand top goal scorer ever. Another in the goals is Luke Mortimore who after 24 in his debut

season which ended in March due to injury has scored 26 already this season, taking him to 50 goals in 73 games which is remarkable for a winger – we are very lucky to have him.

We have been successful in obtaining funding from **Invest in Devon** for some more ground work, the plan is to complete the pitch in fill during the current season.

We are also very grateful to **Lee Waterman, Willand Service Centre** who has provided 2 boots sponsor prizes to the player who has received the most man of the match nominations. For the period of August to the end of December Joe Curtis received his award from Lee after a number of imperious midfield displays, Brad Ausden was a close second.

As mentioned previously we are more than a football club, we have held a number of events all of which have been a great success and lots of fun.

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Bingo we hope you won and had some fun at the same time. Don't forget that the bingo continues on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. **Dominic Clark.**

### **WILLAND GARDEN CLUB**

At our AGM in December we had a fun general knowledge quiz, compiled by Mrs Eira Brown, followed by mince pies and wine and an exchange of Christmas gifts. We were pleased to welcome five new members and hope to have some more at our first meeting of 2019 on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Our speaker then will be Chris Allen, talking about Amazing Plants.

We have a coffee morning on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, where everyone will be welcome , and Simon Dell, M.B.E, Director of the Moorland Guides, will be telling us about the Two Moors Way at our April meeting.

We are hoping to have a webpage set up on the Village Hall website in the near future, where there will be details of our programme and events, as well as a schedule for our Flower Show in August.

We have room for some more people to join us at our monthly meetings - 2nd Wednesday each month, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

For more details about the Garden Club, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01884 33828 or email me on **cbarwa@mail.com**. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from March to December, excluding June and August. Our membership fee is only £5 a year. This includes all meetings, refreshments and a subsidised annual club meal, so is very good value. **Carol Allan Garden Club Secretary**

**THANK YOU TO WILLAND CO-OP WHO GAVE A GENEROUS  
DONTATION TOWARDS THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

## **WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY**

Twass the night of the Panto, the audience were in,  
A murmur of voices, was heard from within.  
The cast were ready, had rehearsed many times,  
Quietly praying, please remember my lines.  
With the usual message about mobile phones,  
The curtain was opening with musical tones.  
Excitement was rising the lights were so bright,  
The players determined for a magical night.  
All nervousness gone with the opening rendition,  
The plot was unveiling as was the tradition.  
The Audience were smiling, the kids looked in wonder  
Then everyone laughed when the cast made a blunder.  
When the baddie was beaten and the goodies had won,  
The community singing is always such fun.  
With only the walk-down it's nearly the end,  
A smiling audience to home we will send.  
It never goes smoothly, but that's half the pleasure,  
The Pantos great fun, a National Treasure  
So bring all your family, don't care what you wear,  
You know you'll have fun, when you come back next year.

We would like to thank all our sponsors and advertisers and the good people of Willand for their support this year and every year since we formed. We hope we've entertained you and look forward to seeing you next year. Thank you.

**Sam Fincher**

**SPRING CONCERT THE  
WYNDHAM SINGERS**  
With special guests  
**THE STUART SINGERS**  
DAVIDA GUPPY  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH  
CULLOMPTON

**Saturday April 6th  
7:00pm**

Tickets £10 (£5 under 18s)  
From Cullompton Library  
Kentisbeare P.O. or

Email:  
[wyndhamsingers@gmail.com](mailto:wyndhamsingers@gmail.com)  
Refreshments included  
All proceeds to Exeter  
Leukaemia Fund

## **WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME**

**OPENING TIMES  
WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY  
10.00AM – 12.00 noon**  
**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY  
CLOSED FROM**

12 noon - Wednesday 19th December 2018.

**TO**

10.00am Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

**COMPOST SALES  
SIEVED £1.50 a BAG  
UNSIEVED £1.00 PER BARROW**

When closed bags of sieved are left outside the gate please place money in the tube and replace the lid.

If there are no bags left or not enough **text**

**COMPOST to  
07514 033305**

Someone will contact you.

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - at 7.00pm on Thursday 21 March** **Come and discover what your Parish Council has been doing this year and find out about joining it. This will be followed by a Finance and Administration Committee meeting**

### **ELECTIONS**

2 May this year is election day and Willand should elect 11 Parish Councillors.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/your-council/voting-elections/2019-elections/standing-for-election-and-being-a-councillor/>

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please do have a look at the information provided by Mid Devon District Council on the website. Or speak to one of the current Parish Councillors or the Clerk who can provide you with a copy of the form to complete. Your parish really does need your input and it would be wonderful to have a full complement of councillors from May. Your application to stand for the Parish Council must be in by 4.00pm on 3 April.

### **BLACKDOWN HILLS REPAIR CAFE**

A rainy day in Hemyock it may have been but that certainly didn't deter visitors to the sixth Blackdown Hills Repair Café, completing the first year of our bi-monthly events. The Parish Hall was packed with volunteer repairers and customers alike and we took in around 120 items during the morning, of which about 60% were mended or fixed and another 15% either taken offsite for repair in a proper workshop or details given of where to access required spare parts.

Let me give you a couple more statistics. At our launch in March 2018, we had 16 volunteer repairers, in January 2019 this figure was 28, covering electrical items, clothing and textiles, bikes, computers, garden tools and knife sharpening, clocks and watches, ceramics, jewellery and small items of furniture. In fact, pretty much everything! And when we began, there were 3 other Repair Cafes in Devon, now we are 8, with more at the starting blocks, including nearby Wellington.

Here is a handful of comments from some of our customers. "The Repair Cafe is a treasure trove of practical skills", "I was most impressed, not just by the service but by the lively atmosphere", "Upcycling at its best!", "Take it along to a Repair Café and let them work their magic", "A village hall packed with enthusiastic volunteers with a multiplicity of skills", and "There's always a lovely warm atmosphere, where I meet old friends & new, have some homemade cake & a cup of tea. What's not to like?!"

And from one of our repairers: "I use each 'job' as a way to engage people in thinking about the repairs being carried out and how to purchase items based on a more repair-centric ideology. The positive and encouraging atmosphere

shows there is huge support in the community for these concepts and people clearly prefer to extend the life of items instead of simply buying new”.

So we at the Blackdown Hills Transition Group want to thank everyone who has been part of this enterprise – be they volunteer repairers, administrative helpers, loyal customers, Parish Councils and Magazine editors, media contacts, cake makers and anyone else we may have missed – for their wonderful support during our first year. We always welcome your comments and suggestions that can be made at [www.blackdownhillstransition.net](http://www.blackdownhillstransition.net). Hopefully, we shall see you at our next Repair Café in Hemyock on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

## **WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**

We must apologise for the inconvenience (excuse the pun) whilst we had the main toilets decorated. This is just a stop gap until we have them completely refurbished in the future.

In March, we will be hosting a celebration tea in memory of Miss Partridge, who did all the electrical installations at the Village Hall when it was first built. That was quite an achievement for a woman in the early 1950's.

We have had two new seated exercise classes starting this month, one on Tuesday afternoons and the other on Thursday mornings, for those who are unable to attend regular classes where you have to get down on the floor (and back up again!).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Willand Theatrical Society held its annual village pantomime at the hall, making good use of our new stage curtains.

We have appointed a new caretaker, Sam Fincher. We hope he enjoys working for us. Sam is a stalwart member of WiTS, so don't be concerned if you see him going about his work talking to himself – he is only rehearsing his lines!

Now that the cold weather is here, please help us to conserve heat by keeping the outside doors closed when you are using the hall.

Please visit our website, [www.willandvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.willandvillagehall.org.uk), to check availability for hire and to download booking forms. The email for booking is [bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk). **Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer**

## **VILLAGE HALL DIARY**

| <b>March</b> |      |   |         |
|--------------|------|---|---------|
| Saturday     | 9th  | Crafty Market                               | 11.00am |
| Saturday     | 23rd | Garden Club coffee Morning                  | 10.00am |
| Saturday     | 30th | Evergreen Coffee Morning                    | 10.00am |
|              |      |   |         |
| <b>April</b> |      |   |         |
| Saturday     | 6th  | Culm Valley Methodist Church Coffee Morning | 10.00am |
| Saturday     | 13th | Bramblehaies Coffee Morning                 | 10.00am |

## REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

|                                      |  |          |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|
| <b>Pilates with Diana</b>            | Mondays                                    | 10:00 am |
| <b>Purelesque Knitting Group</b>     | Mondays                                    | 2:00 pm  |
| <b>Cull. &amp; Dist. Flower Club</b> | 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday                     | 2:00 pm  |
| <b>Beavers (Term Time)</b>           | Mondays                                    | 5:30 pm  |
| <b>Cub Scouts (Term Time)</b>        | Mondays                                    | 7:00 pm  |
| <b>Kettle Bell Pump</b>              | Mondays                                    | 7:00 pm  |
|                                      |  |          |
| <b>Pilates with Ellie</b>            | Tuesday                                    | 9:15 am  |
| <b>Flower Arranging (Sept-Mar)</b>   | Tuesday                                    | 1:15 pm  |
| <b>Move it or Lose it</b>            | Tuesday                                    | 2.00 pm  |
| <b>Gymnastics Club</b>               | Tuesday                                    | 4:00 pm  |
| <b>Pilates with Ellie</b>            | Tuesday                                    | 7.45 pm  |
|                                      |  |          |
| <b>Tiny Tots (Term Time)</b>         | Wednesday                                  | 9:30 am  |
| <b>Flower Arranging (Sept-March)</b> | Wednesday                                  | 1:15 pm  |
| <b>Indoor Bowls Club</b>             | Wednesday                                  | 7:00 pm  |
| <b>Garden Club</b>                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday                  | 7:30 pm  |
|                                      |  |          |
| <b>Pilates with Ellie</b>            | Thursday                                   | 8.15 am  |
| <b>CAMEO</b>                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday                   | 7.00 pm  |
| <b>Karate</b>                        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday | 6.00 pm  |
| <b>Folk Dance Club</b>               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday | 8.00 pm  |
| <b>Parish Council Meetings</b>       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday | 7:00 pm  |
|                                      |  |          |
| <b>Zumba</b>                         | Fridays                                    | 9.30am   |
| <b>WiTS Sept-Feb</b>                 | Fridays                                    | 7:00 pm  |
|                                      |  |          |
| <b>Cowgirl Twisters</b>              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday                   | 7:30 pm  |
| <b>Folk Dance</b>                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday                   | 8:00 pm  |
|                                      |  |          |
| <b>Rugby Tots</b>                    | Sundays                                    | 9:30 am  |
| <b>Martial Arts</b>                  | Sundays                                    | 6:30 pm  |

THE CUT OFF DATE FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL