

EDITORIAL

No 135

Welcome to the new edition of the magazine I do hope your all keeping well and looking forward to the spring! As you will see there is lots to catch up on and a lot going to be happening in Willand this year.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

On behalf of the RBL a very big thank you to those who so kindly donated to the 2017 Poppy Appeal, and whose generosity resulted in the village raising £2530.06. Thank you again.

These appeals don't just happen, to that end can I also say thank you to you the great team of dedicated volunteers who by knocking on doors, coupled with the support of local businesses and the school who displayed the Poppy boxes, without whom we would have got nowhere.

Let us never forget: For our Today's so many gave their Tomorrows.

Claire Davey & Eddie Dennis. On behalf of the RBL.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all residents and local organisations are usually represented and often make short reports.

In 2018 the meeting is due to take place on Friday 23 March and it would be good if you could let me know if your organisations require space for a display and also if you require a table.

If you know of any organisations with the Parish who have not been invited to attend please do let me know.

The plan for this year is similar to last year in that the hall will be open to the public from 6.30 so that they can view the stalls and displays. There will be refreshments available at this time.

The formal meeting will start at 7.00 and it is hoped that some of you will make a short report.

If you cannot attend but would like to give a report please do send it to me and I will arrange for it to be read out. **Kate Taylor Clerk to the Parish Council.**

JOHN TREAGOOD

You may have read elsewhere that John Treagood, he of the caravan and 'faithful horse and dogs', who travels through and parks occasionally just outside of the village, has written a couple of booklets. His most recent, The Last Musings, is available either via John's Facebook site (John Treagood) or the printers, Ink Print, 3 Station Road, Okehampton, EX20 1DY, tel: 01837 52937. The booklets cost £5 + post and packing and profits from the book go to a Relief Fund for John (82 this year) and the World Horse Welfare. **Brian Holmes.**

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Thank you for your support in sending your used postage stamps to raise vital funds for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. We would be very grateful if you could continue to send in stamps from Christmas cards etc on a regular basis. If you can, please save them up and send them to:

Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

P.O Box 6198

Leighton Buzzard

Beds LU7 9XT.

UK.

Unfortunately we cannot afford to reply to all donations of stamps.

Please cut/ tear the stamps from the envelope leaving approximately 1/2 cm of paper around the stamp.

Foreign stamps can be sent separately and marked clearly on the front of the package 'Foreign Stamps Only' as these generate a greater revenue. Thank you for your continued support.

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.

COUNCILLOR BOB EVANS

The trouble with having to write an article in early February for the March April edition is so much can happen, still let's hope the sunshine I'm looking at today continues and we are benefiting from some much needed increase in temperature and less of the wet stuff.

Given the article will be being read in March I'm going to dedicate it to the next stage in the local plan, for those that have or are following this very important issue we have a new timetable and a new opportunity to give comment and opinion.

By the time this is read I expect both Cabinet and Full Council will have agreed that the local plan including the J27 Policy can go back to the Inspector, preceding this we will enter a six week period of consultation, so PLEASE PLEASE if you have comments on J27 on any aspect of what is being proposed at J27 good and bad you have an opportunity to make your

feeling known to the Inspector, all details on how to do this will be on the MDDC web pages and will no doubt have been in the local press.

I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is that you take this opportunity, the Inspector is totally neutral and will listen to what you say, the more people that comment the louder the voice, please DONT let apathy be the developers friend as is all too often the case., if you wish to speak at the hearings this is also permissible and all you need to do is indicate this on your response.

Following this consultation period that I expect will run until late April MDCC will need to collate all the responses into an order of the issues raised to send to the Inspector, this may take a couple of weeks, then we can ask the Inspector for a new hearing date, remember this initial date is ONLY FOR J27 not the full plan, that will follow after the Inspector has held his initial hearing on J27.

The Inspector must give a six week lead time for any hearing dates so we are looking at late June at the earliest, I suspect it may be later but will await the Inspectors' confirmation.

My plea to you is please get involved, don't think somebody else will say it or make the point for you, it's your area, it's your district and it's your voice, please use it.

Any questions on this or any other council related issue please contact any of your local councillors who will be happy to assist or contact Phoenix House direct. **Bob Evans MDDC Lower Culm**

WILLAND GARDEN CLUB

At our AGM in December, the committee was re-elected, with the addition of Mrs Jennifer Catley, who will be taking over the duties of Show Secretary in 2019. This year, the show will be held at Sampford Peverell. As the cost of speakers has risen so much, it was decided to raise the annual subscription to £5, with a visitor charge of £1 per meeting.

Our first meeting this year is on Wednesday, 14th March at 7.30 in the Club room at the Village Hall. We will be hearing about Kitchen Remedies and, on 11th April, we will have a fun quiz. Our plant sale this year will be on Saturday, 26th May.

I would like to invite you all to our first coffee morning of 2018 on Saturday, 7th April. If you have not been to a coffee morning before, why not try one? You may get to know some more people from the village, while you have a cup of coffee / tea and a biscuit (or two). We have a raffle, bring and buy and cakes for sale. The coffee morning starts at 10.00 and we usually draw the raffle just before 11.00. I hope to see you there. **For more details about the Garden Club, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01884 33828 or email me on cbarwa@mail.com. Carol Allan Garden Club Secretary**

MS FREDA WELLS

Freda passed away on the 13 January 2018 in Cullompton nursing home. Born on the 1st January 1918 she was 100 years and 13 days old. A feat she said recently she could hardly believe.

Born and living in London for most of her life, she came to Willand to live in the early 80's after getting to know the village through her cousin Sonia who lived in Pump Cottage.

She was one of two girls, though her sister died at an early age and Freda was 18 years old when her mother died of Tuberculosis.

Trained and working in clerical work until the early part of the Second World War. She joined the Woman's Auxiliary Air force, (WAAF) and became attached to the radar and tracking section of the service.

After her training, which was very intense, she was posted to various stations around the country. Bath and Northern Ireland being two very important sites. She remembered on a few occasions Winston Churchill and other senior figures coming into the operations room where she was working to view certain events. All her work was top secret, none more than when she was once selected to track Winston Churchill's aircraft crossing the Atlantic on one of his meetings with President Roosevelt.

Freda lived right through the London blitz, 'night after night'. She said it was absolutely terrible. Her Father was a fire watcher, standing on tall buildings to direct the fire services. She never knew at times whether he would make it back home.

After the war she worked in the civil service, in the department of employment and other sections until her retirement.

She travelled abroad occasionally to visit family and friends in the USA, Canada, Africa and Ireland.

She was a very clever and wise lady, living quietly and privately until her illness before Christmas took her into hospital.

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH (GABLES ROAD)

Every month we remind people of our church services, our Coffee Mornings (first Friday) and our Soup and Something Lunches (3rd Friday).

A different invitation this time.

A prayer event. Around 8th April we will be open for people to explore different ways of praying. You may see things outside the church, though there will be more inside.

Please come in and see what is happening, you will not be made or expected to do anything.

Many of our churches in the area are putting on these events, this will culminate in a gathering at Willand Village Hall on May 20th in the afternoon. Again anyone can come and join in.

REGULAR EVENTS

Date	Event	Time
Sunday	Service	10.30am
Monday	Willand Art Group	2pm - 4pm
First Friday of Month	Coffee morning and bring and buy	10.30am
Third Friday of Month	Soup and Something No cost all donations go to charity.	12.00 midday

WILLAND SCHOOL

Willand School have been very busy this term so far with a range of exciting trips and engaging lessons.

Reception went on a winter walk on the school grounds. In science they have been learning about freezing and melting and they investigated that with a Lego man ice experiment.

Year One had a teddy bear celebration and made jam sandwiches in class.

In an experiment, Year Two have planted seeds and are waiting to see how well they grow. Later this week, a visitor from the Met Office is coming to talk to Key Stage One about the weather!

We were all delighted when a child in Year Three was the runner-up in the Moto writing competition. This meant that we won £1000 worth of new books for our school library and £50 for the clever writer!

Last week, children in Years 5 and 6 attended the East Devon High Fives and Basketball finals, coming first in Basketball and runners up in High Fives! The Culm Valley Sports Hall Athletics final also took place last week. We are waiting to hear how well we got on.

Year Six went on a trip to the Houses of Parliament in London. They had a fantastic (albeit long) day learning all about how Parliament works and enjoyed some of the famous sights on the journey. Neil Parish, our local Member of Parliament, came and met us when we were there.

Years Five and Six also took part in the Big Schools Garden Bird Watch. It was a chilly but sunny day when we sat in our environmental area and counted the birds that we saw. We saw most of the birds after the children had gone in to register for the day!

Everybody has had fun in many ways this half-term and we are all looking forward to the next half-term.

PLEASE DO YOU HAVE ANY SPARE PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS WE COUD USE FOR THE MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION? CALL GERRI ON 01884 821528

HIGHWAY CODE RULE 243 – INCLUDES DO NOT STOP OR PARK

- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- in front of an entrance to a property
- near a school entrance

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

At last our new internal doors have been fitted, and they are looking very good. We will now be getting quotes to have the hall, lobby and toilets area decorated. We hope to have the main hall decorated over a weekend, to minimise disruption to users. We had a problem with the heating system in the main hall recently, but this has been resolved now, after a lot of investigation and expense. We have also had some plumbing issues. This shows how much maintenance is needed at the hall. There is never a dull moment!

Our caretaker, John Holmes, will be leaving us in March. He has been with us for a number of years and we hope he enjoys his retirement. We will be interviewing at the beginning of March for a replacement.

Please remember that we are no longer collecting paper for recycling. Thank you to all of you who have supported this initiative in the past. We have earned a substantial income over the years, but the return has fallen by over 80% during the past couple of years, so it is no longer viable.

The Hall is very well used, so there are few regular spaces available. If you are thinking of booking for a special event, please check on the website below to see what dates are still free before contacting Frances, our Booking Secretary.

Website www.willandmatters.org.uk/organisations for our diary and community page. **Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer**

VILLAGE HALL DIARY

March				
Saturday	3 rd	Crafty Market	W.V.H.	11.00 am
Friday	9 th	Blood Donors	W.V.H.	12.00 pm
Saturday	17 th	Bramblehaies Coffee Morning	W.V.H.	10.00 am
Saturday	17 th	Scouts Easter Bingo	W.V.H.	7.00 pm
Friday	23 rd	Parish Annual General Meeting	W.V.H.	7.00 pm
Saturday	24 th	Culm Valley Methodist CM	W.V.H.	10.00 am
Saturday	24 th	Maddies Race Night	W.V.H.	7.00 pm
April				
Monday	2 nd	Blood Donors	W.V.H.	10.00 am
Saturday	7 th	Garden Club Coffee Morning	W.V.H.	10.00 am
Saturday	16 th	WHCC Barn Dance	WVH	7.30pm
Saturday	21 st	CV Evergreen's Coffee Morning	W.V.H.	10.00 am
Saturday	21 st	College Surgery Fundraiser	W.V.H.	2.00 pm

REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL		
Pilates	Mondays	10:00 am
Purelesque Knitting Group	Mondays	2:00 pm
Cull. & Dist. Flower Club	1 st Monday	2:00 pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5:30 pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7:00 pm
Kettle Bell Pump	Mondays	7:00 pm
Pilates	Tuesday	9:30 am
Seated Exercise Class	Tuesday	10.30am
Flower Arranging	Tuesday	1:15 pm
Gymnastics Club	Tuesday	4:00 pm
Pilates	Tuesday	7.30pm
Tiny Tots (Term Time)	Wednesday	9:30 am
Flower Arranging	Wednesday	1:15 pm
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7:00 pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7:30 pm
Pilates	Thursday	9:30 am
CAMEO	1 st Thursday	7.00 pm
Karate	Thursday	5:30 pm
Folk Dance Club	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7:30 pm
Parish Council Meetings	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7:00 pm
Zumba	Fridays	9.30am
WITS	Fridays	7:00 pm
Cowgirl Twisters	3 rd Saturday	7:30 pm
Folk Dance	2 nd Saturday	7:00 pm
Rugby Tots	Sundays	9:30 am
Martial Arts	Sundays	6:30 pm

ADVANCED NOTICE Willand Car Museum Open Day – 7th July, Longacre, (on the Willand road to Halberton) 2.00 – 4.00pm.

DON'T FORGET TO FILL IN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED SURVEY FOR THE WHCC

PRECEPT

Willand Parish Council have requested a precept of £55,242 from Mid Devon District Council for the coming year. This represents an increase of £6,166 on the year 2017/18. The Local Authority grant last year reduced the amount raised from the residents by £1819, this year the grant will be £669. According to the figures provided by MDDC this rise will mean an increase in the Willand Parish portion of the Council Tax bill of £6 a year for a band D household - an extra 12pence a week. You will note that the figures are presented differently this year this is due to attending a training course and being informed that VAT should be identified separately in the planned annual precept.

Looking at the income to the Parish Council during this year so far, it can be seen that there has been income to support the projects that the Council has undertaken. For example, the footpath renewal through the Jubilee Park, the DAAT light and weed spraying. There were also generous contributions from business' and groups for the Christmas lights. The Parish Council will continue to try to obtain money to support the work it is doing in the parish for the coming year. Income also increased from the allotments due to the sub dividing of some larger plots to enable more people to become allotment holders. The projected income for the new year reflects this. When the precept was set there had been significantly less income in the cemetery than in previous years so the expected income for next year was reduced. The income for the magazine has increased to reflect the increase in cost of the inserts into the magazine, it was decided to keep the costs to advertisers at the same level for another year. The increase in the expenditure for ground management is due to the Parish Council taking on responsibility for the DCC verges following the complaints during the last two years of DCC cuts.

South View play area has been leased from MDDC this year, it is hoped to take on another large area and the increase in play area ground maintenance allows for this. 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 but costs for the WiFi installation at the village hall is identified. The Parish Council have taken the decision to have a website and an increase in the Office Admin capital budget is to allow for this as well as any replacement to equipment that might be required.

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

	2017/18 original precept budget	2017/18 Current Actuals e/o January	2018/19 Precept	VAT
INCOME				
Precept	47256.49	47256.49	54573.00	
LCT Grant	1819.51	1819.51	669.00	
Cemetery	5500.00	4666.00	2000.00	
Allotments	1200.00	1378.00	1330.00	
Bank Interest	25.00	23.00	25.00	
Magazine Advertising	4700.00	2848.00	4900.00	
VAT Reclaim	3500.00	6223.00	5120.00	
Projects		5373.00		
DCC Grass cutting grant			4171.00	
TOTAL	64001.00	69587.00	72788.00	
EXPENDITURE				
Staff	15000.00	12617	15291.00	
Office	4541.00	3004	4574.00	163.00
Allotments	1200.00	372	1360.00	
Cemetery	3270.00	2574.43	3470.00	
Magazine	5800.00	4717.00	5800.00	
General ground management	2880.00	2832.00	8770.00	1654.00
Village projects	5200.00	5506.09	7718.00	520.00
new wifi		1639.91	260.00	52.00
Donations to groups	100.00	150.00	150.00	
Play areas ground maintenance	4310.00	2467.00	7355.00	1071.00
Play areas equipment	1800.00	1332.00	2800.00	200.00
Totals	44101.00	37211.43	57548.00	3660.00
Capital expenditure				
legal expenses	2000		2000.00	
Community Event	1000		1000.00	
CCTV replacements	300.00		240.00	60
Office Admin	1600.00		4000.00	800
Cemetery contingency	2500.00		1500.00	
Community Facilities	5000.00	1988.00		
Play areas new equipment	5000.00	1221.00	4000.00	600
play areas development	2500.00	10110.00	2500.00	
	19900.00	13319.00	15240.00	1460.00
Total income expected	72788.00			
Total expenditure predicted	72788.00			
Precept	55242.00			
precept 2017/18	49076.00			
Increase	6166.00			

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dear Fellow parishioners - People keep asking the question, what is happening regarding the progress of the building of the Willand Health & Community Centre? The truthful answer is very little, until the lease is agreed and signed the trustees cannot further mobilise the project. This does not mean progress has not been made in other directions, work is continuing with preliminary designs, the architect selection and fund raising is an ongoing requirement.

The current situation with the lease between the trustees and the WPC is the failure to agree on certain issues that would affect the legal position of the trustees with the Charities Commission. The trustees have received a review of the lease with alternative recommendations from their solicitor, this was presented by the trustees and discussed at the full WPC council meeting held on the 11th January. The details are currently being considered by the WPC solicitor and both parties are working to reach some understanding which will allow the project to move forward. Time is now of the essence and a satisfactory conclusion for both parties needs to be reached with the minimum of delay.

Planning Appeal Decision 03 November 2017

Following is an extract from the hearing relating to the planning application made for the building of 259 houses on the Meadow Park site. It is interesting to note that reference is made to the limited facilities available to the residents in Willand, and whilst we do not want to see this type and size of development in the village, it does however reinforce the need to bring additional services and facilities which will benefit the whole of the existing community.

APPEAL OF 259 HOUSES - MEADOW PARK.

17. The proposal would very substantially increase the size of Willand. Within the village, there are a number of dispersed services and facilities. However, taking into account the existing size of the settlement, they represent a somewhat basic and modest level of provision

54. Moreover, all of this must be considered in the wider context of creating a mixed and balanced community as promoted by the Framework. I am not persuaded that the proposal would make satisfactory provision for the shops and services that would be necessary to meet the growing needs of a village resulting from such rapid and substantial expansion. The influx of new households on the scale proposed would place additional pressure on the overall limited range of services and facilities in the village and whilst I accept that it is not necessary for the proposed development to be self-contained, I consider it would unbalance the settlement and undermine social cohesion. I give significant weight to the appeal scheme's conflict with the development plan and the Framework in this regard. This in turn limits the weight that I give to the appeal scheme's contribution to market and affordable housing.

In the last issue of the Willand Magazine reference was made to the Draft Feasibility Study that has been prepared, and that a survey was being delivered to all residents in the post code area EX15 2P, this being the catchment area for the proposed Willand Health & Community Centre. **This is now an insert**

in this issue of the Parish Magazine and the trustees would ask all recipients to respond and please complete the questionnaire. This information will provide the valuable analysis required to complete the study, which is a mandatory documentary requirement when submitting applications for major fund raising. On completion of the study, copies will be available to any resident who is interested.

As the project gains momentum it will need additional inputs and assistance from anyone who can give a little time to help with the development of the administration, financial analysis and planning of the Centre. If you can give about three hours a month please contact Ken Wood on 01884839419 or **ken38wood@gmail.com** any help will be greatly appreciated.

The WH&CC are sponsoring a "Springtime Barn Dance" on the 16th March 2018 at the Willand Village Hall, this is featuring the Lucy Lastic Band and promises to be a great unmissable evening. Please come along and enjoy yourselves and at the same time help support the project to bring a new Community centre to Willand. **Ken J Wood Vice Chairman**

THE REPAIR REVOLUTION IS COMING TO THE BLACKDOWNS!

Start searching your lofts, scouring your garages and rummaging in your spare rooms for those broken, and sometimes cherished, items that otherwise might end up in landfill. On Saturday 24th March, at Hemyock Village Hall, there will be experts on hand who will try their best to lovingly restore them to full working order, all for the "price" of a small donation!

Over the past few months, we've been gathering together volunteer repairers with skills in clothing and textiles, bikes, small electrical appliances, garden tools, small items of furniture, computers and toys who are happy to pass on their knowledge and expertise so that fewer items that could otherwise be repaired find their way to the tip. Other than the obvious environmental advantages, this is a wonderful way to pass on much needed skills (people bringing items for repair are encouraged to watch and learn from their volunteer "buddy") while, at the same time, honouring those who have these, often dying, skills.

We could still do with one or two more qualified "sparks" and "computer buffs" on our team and as we are, initially at least, only going to run the Repair Cafe once every two months (on the fourth Saturday of March, May etc), hopefully this won't be too onerous. So, if this could be YOU, please get in touch because you'll be helping a great community initiative get up and running!

Look out for further details on our Facebook page (RepairCafeBlackdowns) and here next month. And, oh yes, did I mention there will be cake? **Trisha Comrie trishacomrie@gmail.com 01823 602908 Blackdown Hills Transition Group**

INVOLVE

New Trustees needed for Involve. Do you have the skills to become a Trustee of Involve? Involve is an infrastructure support organisation for voluntary action in Mid Devon supporting groups and individuals throughout the District

from an office in Tiverton. It aims to develop, support and empower voluntary and community action to improve communities in Mid Devon. To enable individuals to participate in their communities through the promotion of an access to, volunteering opportunities.

How much time is needed?

The Involve management committee meets four times a year for a two hour meeting. One of these is usually combined with our Annual General Meeting and is a four hour meeting.

There are two sub groups which trustees are asked to participate in: Finance and Personnel. These also meet four times a year if required prior to the management committee meetings. Not all trustees will need to participate in the sub groups.

What skills?

Currently we are looking for trustees with skills in the area of

- Finance
- HR
- Fundraising
- Business Planning
- Local experience (ie in a community in Mid Devon)

All trustees will be registered with the Charity Commission and will need to provide the information required to enable this to happen.

Involve is in the process of changing its legal structure so that there will be a limit on the liability of individual trustees (£1). If you would like more information then contact Councillor Andrew Moore amoore@middevon.gov.uk.

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE – PARISH COUNCIL VIEW ON DELAY.

It has been noted that in the past couple of issues of the magazine the Trustees of the Willand Health & Community Centre Charity infer that the delay in this project rests with the Parish Council. Although we have held our counsel in the interests of harmony and trying to move forward it is felt that the views expressed need to be now balanced.

The first model lease was presented to Parish Council by the then Chair of Trustees in October 2015. It was a 'Model Commercial Lease'. Further discussions took place between the parties to resolve some differences as the Parish Council were of the view that the land and buildings were a public asset and had to be retained as such in perpetuity. A revised lease prepared by the Parish Council's solicitor was forwarded to the Trustees on 13 May 2016. There then followed several exchanges and the lease and comments from the Trustees were referred back to the Parish Council Solicitors. On 15 March 2017 a revised lease was sent to the Trustees with a covering letter which included solicitor comment on some points raised by the Trustees. A letter dated 30 March 2017 from the Trustees advised that they would be signing the lease and

the requisite statutory declarations. A statutory notice was signed and returned but the lease was not signed. Due to the passage of time an agreement with Mid Devon District council had to be amended and due to changes in names and addresses the lease was updated and sent back to the Trustees, with the latest comments from the Parish Council solicitor, at the beginning of August 2017. The Trustees have now supplied the Parish Council with another amended version of the lease together with various other documents to explain the changes.

On 11 January 2018 the Trustees suggested another change which, if agreed, would mean that they would not sign a lease until after the current buildings were demolished and a new building built. They have now sent that suggestion in writing. One must make one's own judgement as to where the delay lies.

WILLAND SCOUT GROUP

We are having a successful start to the year with growing numbers in all sections.

Willand Beavers have completed several badges over the winter months such as astronomy, air activities and emergency 1st aid which ended up in many families being put in the recovery position!

We have several camps organised for the year the first being in March. This year we are fundraising for the British heart foundation by collecting 1ps and 2ps for an attempt at a penny mile challenge.

We are looking forward to the lighter evenings so that we can get out and about again burning off that energy they all have.

Willand Cubs have enjoyed muddy walks, a sleepover at Halberton scout hut followed by a walk back to Willand! They are currently working on their animal care badge with a trip to pets at home. With a planned camp to Crealy as well as more exciting things planned it's going to be a dirty spring term no doubt.

Willand Scout Group has doubled its numbers in the new year with many transferring from cubs to scouts. In November the scouts helped with the poppy appeal collection around the village. They too have been working on badges, such as hobbies and sports enthusiast and a challenge badge. With activities such as scuba diving, climbing and orienteering at Knightshayes and Killerton they are learning new skills every week.

We have had some fabulous support from Tesco's over the Christmas and New Year period with the Cubs and Scouts bag packing and the book sale all providing gratefully received funds to allow us to provide a varied and adventurous programme for the children of the Village and surrounding areas. So again thank you to Tesco's for your continued support.

We have two fundraising events for March that we hope many will attend. On Saturday March 17th we are holding another bingo night at the village hall, so keep your eyes peeled for the posters nearer the time.

We are fortunate enough to again be holding a joint coffee morning with the Methodist Church on Saturday 24th March from 10am again at the village hall. Finally I would like to mention how honoured we felt back in November when

we paraded from the village hall with the brownies and guides to the remembrance service in the village church. It was an inspiring sight to see all the young folk of the village and their families walking along silver Street showing their respect to those before us.

If you or someone you know maybe interested in joining our group as Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or even as adult help please don't hesitate to get in touch at liesa.a.milligan@hotmail.com. We hope to see you at our fundraising events.

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

It is good to be able to start with some good news. For the first time that I can remember in my time as a Parish Councillor we have a full complement of 11 councillors. Three new members were co-opted at our January meeting. Welcome to Andrea Glover, Steve Manktelow and Jason Scott. They bring some diverse experience and views to the table. They have also helped reduce the average age of the Parish Council.

Planning Matters

Parish Councillors were pleased to be joined by some parishioners at the planning meeting on the 31 January when the application was heard for 30 houses and some commercial buildings at the Esso Garage site. Seven public questions were asked but although some points were answered by the officer a considerable number of points went unanswered. When it came to the debate I was able to speak for three minutes and our Ward Councillors were allowed five minutes. All three Ward Members spoke against and they were restricted to five minutes each. The Officers were recommending approval but at the end of debate the Planning Committee voted 10 to 1 against the application. The officers now prepare an 'implications report' for Councillors as they are going against officer advice. It will come back to committee but we will not be able to speak then but we can still ask questions so when it is scheduled to be heard again we still need to be seen to be there. If Committee confirm their refusal then the applicant has the option to appeal to a Government Inspector and we have to go through it all again. Watch the website and Facebook for updates please.

We have been told that although the 259 house application was turned down the developers have now put in an application for 125 houses on part of the same site. We have just received details as I write this and the message will have gone out. Views need to be made known. The entrance this time looks to be into Meadow Park. Imagine the fun in the morning getting onto Silver Street from Gables Road, particularly if you wish to turn right.

The Parish Council have a difficult path to tread with planning as more houses and people in the village will be a bonus for the local shops and some other businesses but we also have to balance that with how it will affect the community as a whole. Can our facilities cope with more people – school, doctors' surgery, youth club, village hall, play areas, allotments, roads, parking,

the list can go on. Talk to us or better still come to our meetings as they are open to the public. We need to know what you think.

The local plan with J27 and all that will soon be published as reported by Councillor Evans, for further consultation. Look out for the notices and try and make your views known as it will affect you in some way or other.

Other Bits and Bobs

Christmas lights have come and gone and we have to now consider whether or not to enter into a new contract, different lights and the other issues which go with it. A survey has been run on Facebook and although the majority who have responded appear to be in favour the response has been small. If you have a view please speak up as if we continue with lights we are all paying!

Although in theory Devon County Council do not start paying us towards the cost of cutting the verges until 1 April 2018 our contractors may do an earlier cut if the grass starts growing so that we do not get faced with great piles of grass everywhere after the first cut as we have in the past. If you want to continue to cut your own bit of verge by your house please continue to do so and the contractors have been told to leave it alone. Whatever you do please stay safe.

Talking of safety brings me to the night landing facilities for the air ambulance. Up until now we have witness practice landings but on 2 February it was used for real. The aircraft landed and a police car collected the crew and took them to the scene of an accident on the straight towards Uffculme (Halberton Parish). A land ambulance brought the casualty back to the aircraft and I understand that he was flown to Plymouth. A worthwhile facility in the parish I hope you will agree.

The Parish Council has engaged a local contractor to keep the grass cut in the Mallow Court and South View play areas. Hopefully the volunteers in Worcester Crescent will continue to look after their area please. The Parish Council have not taken up the option of a lease on Orchard Way open space and play area as MDDC would not replace the chain link fence before we took it on. They did make an offer to contribute to its replacement in the future but it was rather 'open ended' and the light of experience elsewhere it was considered unwise to proceed with such an inconclusive set of options.

We really do have some inconsiderate dog owners in the village who are not picking up the mess after their dogs. Some people have been noted walking four or more dogs at a time. Others are taking two or more dogs into open space areas and letting them run – how do you watch them all? You may find that the pink spray will be in evidence around the village again. People are talking of using cameras at bad spots but we need to be a little careful with that. MDDC have been asked for attention from Enforcement Officers but they will also act on photographs or statements from witnesses. We need to identify and deal with the offenders for the benefit of responsible owners. It is not good for children to be turning up at school in the morning with dog mess on their shoes.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting will be held in the Village Hall at **1830 hours on Friday 23 March 2018**. It is a statutory requirement for us to hold this meeting and it is an opportunity for local organisations to report on their activities and for people to come along and informally meet with organisers of groups and Parish Councillors. Our District Councillors and County Councillor try and make it as well. You can hear what has been going on and being done in your name and you can ask questions. There will be free drinks and cake – all non-fattening! One thing you can be sure of with your Parish Council is that you will get an answer – whether you like it or agree with it will be another matter BUT the main thing should be that we talk to one another and respect alternative views.

Keep smiling and get involved with your community. **Barry G Warren Chair to Parish Council**

CAMEO

We had a cracking start to 2018 welcoming Richard from the Devon Air Ambulance service and presenting him with a cheque for £800 raised throughout the year. We also agreed to give a donation to the Village Hall and a contribution to the village Christmas lights. We agreed to save our 20p pieces in Smartie tubes again as this proved to be a good money raiser and the Singles Group are continuing with their raffle at their monthly meetings, all this is towards our charity for 2018, Devon Freewheelers. After the business of the meeting we enjoyed some candlelit Greek and European dancing led by Judith Thompson.

The Singles Group enjoyed their annual New Year lunch at the Halfway House and we made a return visit to Petrocs for a delicious lunch. In February we are having lunch at the Exe Vale Centre on the Petrocs campus where we will have a lunch cooked and served by the special needs students. We are looking forward to this as we had a lovely meal on our last visit and we enjoyed meeting the students.

Our monthly Coffee mornings are proving very popular and we went to the Little Bakery in Cullompton for our January get-together and in February we are meeting up at the Old Well, this is a good way to meet up between our monthly meetings and support our local businesses. Seven members went to the pantomime in Plymouth and the Walking Group had a brisk walk along the Canal, Linda invited them back to her house for tea and cakes. They also went for a walk around Tiverton in the St. Andrews Street and Collipriest area before venturing into the countryside. They are looking forward to some longer walks as the weather improves.

Our February meeting was well-attended in spite of the bitterly cold evening and we were well rewarded by a return visit of Angela and John White. We heard about their early years living and working in Hong Kong during the 1980s and into the middle of the 1990s Angela joined the Y.W.C.A. which enabled her to meet other ex-pats and take part in the many activities they organised. She soon realised that she needed to learn to speak Cantonese if she was going

to cope with shopping in the local markets. Hong Kong is densely packed but even so crime, as we know it, rarely happened and she felt quite safe going around on public transport on her own. She eventually learned to do Cantonese cooking and was able to teach it herself. It was a fascinating talk accompanied by lots of photographs but on the whole we think we prefer our life, in spite of everything, in the U.K.

We had a letter of thanks from the Village Hall committee for our donation which came from the profits from our Coffee morning the bulk of which went to the Devon Air Ambulance. Due to unforeseen circumstances our Annual meeting will be held in September this year and Sonia asked members to consider going on to the committee so that our future is assured.

In January 2019 we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary of what has proved to be a remarkable success with so many activities, outings, excellent speakers and groups catering for the many diverse interests our members. Our meeting at the Village Hall on 2nd March should be very enlightening, Driving Safer for Longer! Maybe we should invite some of the idiots on the roads to come along and hopefully learn something! **Betty Penberthy.**

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

The lighter evenings have meant that our athletics sessions will be moving outdoors after a few months of training weekly in the gym. The work on posture, strength, co-ordination and acceleration techniques has helped all the athletes prepare for the vigorous outdoor work. The children have really enjoyed the variety of training and have been a big help to each other.

Our gymnasts have been working towards their end of term display. Did you know that the word Parkour comes from "parcours du combattant" which is what the French military call their obstacle courses? Parkour was developed by David Belle as a way of challenging his body and finding interesting ways to get fit. This is very similar to what Father Jahn did in 1810 Germany as he prepared boys to defend their country against Napoleon. In the summer they trained in the woods, in winter they moved indoors and built equipment so that they could still practice. This was where modern gymnastics started. Our club gives young people the chance to develop their movement and go over the many obstacles in the gym.

We have completed our last set of "Love to Lift" weightlifting sessions in the village and also at Cullompton Community College. Our four new Level 1 assistant coaches have been a great help in introducing weight lifting to young women in the local area. We have had over 50 new people take part in this project over the last year. Anyone interested in learning a new sport which requires speed, co-ordination and flexibility is welcome to try it out. **James Marshall**

WILLAND BROWNIES

Willand Brownies have been having a busy few months since the start of the New Academic Year back in September.

We started with a badge in a night, with all the girls earning their science investigator badge in an evening by building marshmallow and spaghetti towers, and colour chromatography with skittles. This was followed by a very wet and muddy evening at the Bear Trail, which was loved by all the girls, but possibly less by the parents when they saw the state of their kit!

We held our promise ceremony welcoming our new starters families for an evening of entertainment, and some lovely refreshments prepared and served by the girls themselves.

The village Remembrance service was well attended, and in the run up to Christmas we made, and decorated, individual Christmas cakes, and visited Somerville House for our annual carol singing, before our Christmas Meal with the Guides at the Hickory Inn.

The older girls had a fantastic spy themed weekend in Sidmouth, with a murder mystery trail around the town, escape room puzzle, human cluedo and murder mystery dinner party, to name just a few of the activities.

So far in the spring term we have made a start on our friends to animals badge, visited Morrison's in Tiverton for a behind the scenes tour and fundraising bag pack, and made nail art thanks to a donation from Bradfords.

Looking forward for the rest of this term, we will be going lambing, finishing our Shoptastic badge, and starting on our gardeners' badge.

We are going to have our Pack Holiday in March at Payhembury, and we are also camping at Crealy for their uniformed organisations weekend in May.

We have a couple of spaces at Brownies, for girls aged 7 to 10 years old; please contact us at willandbrownies@outlook.com, or www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

WILLAND GUIDES

Willand Guides officially reformed on the 12th September 2017, and we were very pleased to open with 16 girls, a mixture of Brownies moving up, Guides transferring from Cullompton, and some girls brand new to guiding.

In our first week the girls designed our new neckers, and hopefully you will see them around. They are very striking in green, purple and white in honour of the suffragette movement. We then had a week learning about the traditions of Guiding and earned their first interest badge.

The Guides joined the Brownies on the trip to the Bear Trail, and were just as enthusiastic for getting muddy and wet.

In October a lot of the guides travelled up to Wembley for a fantastic concert called The Big Gig, just for guides, and even had a little time for some retail therapy. Our new guides made their promise after the concert, with the Wembley arch in the background.

The girls worked very hard on their own patrol challenges, and we had 4 weeks looking at Space, Fitness, Entertainment and Healthy Eating.

We were lucky that our night walk 'around the world' was dry, if cold, and while we were out we did some stargazing, talked about light pollution, sang Christmas carols, and even a spot of geocaching.

Many of the Guides were able to attend the Remembrance Parade, and it was lovely to fly the old Willand Guides flag, for the first time in around 22 years we believe. We then joined the Brownies for a joint Christmas dinner at the Hickory Inn.

So far since Christmas we have done some tie dying, visited Morrisons for a fair trade talk and shopping on a budget, and providing items for the CHAT. The following week we had a Ready Steady Cook challenge with the ingredients they had bought.

We had an amazing weekend in January in a cottage on Dartmoor with the older guides, who visited Hogwarts for the weekend, making potions, casting spells, and doing lots of other Harry Potter themed activities, including a lovely long walk which was only raining for the last half an hour or so!

Looking forward we will be joining the Brownies for a lambing session, having a campfire evening, and finishing our Patrol challenges, which this term are, Animals, Global issues, Experiments and Party planning.

We will be going camping at Crealy for their uniformed organisations weekend in May, we hope to attend the South West Region Camp at Wimbleball in July for a weekend of water sports, and we have a unit camp planned for the August holidays near Dartmoor.

We have spaces at Guides for girls aged 10 to 14 years old; please contact us at willandguides@outlook.com, or www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

In addition if there are any adults who feel they wish to get involved, even only once or twice a term, please do also get in touch.

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

Since the last Parish Magazine, the History Group has received a query about the smart new cover, particularly the Willand 'coat of arms', and we are embarrassed to admit that we do not know much about it. We understand that its origin is fairly recent, but can you help us out with any of the details? Do you know when, why and by whom the badge was designed? Or can you confirm what all the symbols represent? We look forward to hearing from you!

As the First World War continued into 1918, even on the Home Front there was an understandable war weariness. The increased demands placed on some employment sectors – long hours and low wages – started to provoke labour unrest, even in Willand. Under wartime circumstances, workers discovered an unprecedented degree of leverage and started to mobilise with increasing strength through trade unions. For many decades the farm labourers of Willand and surrounding district had been poorly paid and poorly represented, but one hundred years ago this March, in March 1918, the Tiverton Junction Branch of the Agricultural Labourers' Union was formed, the first of its kind in the area.

Meetings were held in the Assembly Room (on Station Road) and initial administrative assistance was provided by railwaymen and active trade unionists from Tiverton Junction Railway Station – described as ‘agitators’ by their critics.

The meetings were well attended – over 200 people on one occasion – and discussions were often heated. The aims of the movement were essentially to campaign for better wages, better working conditions and shorter hours for farm workers, but also to provide a counterbalance to the influence of the Farmers’ Union in local agricultural policy. The farm workers wanted £2 a week for a week of six 10-hour days and Saturday finishing at 1pm; they also wanted young boys and women to be paid the same as men for doing the same jobs. In effect, they wanted fairness and the right not to be exploited. Agricultural workers had long been considered the ‘bottom dog’ of workers, but in spring 1918 it appeared that change was possible.

Farmers were often berated at the meetings, and horror stories were shared of farmers paying particularly poor wages, or keeping their workers in tied cottages that were ‘not fit for pigs’. They were also criticised for being unpatriotic by keeping their own sons on the farm and protecting them from conscription into the military by claiming they were vital to the running of the farm – as opposed to skilled farm workers who were readily despatched. However, some farmers were brave enough to attend meetings to listen to their labourers’ demands, and if necessary argue their own case; and the point was rightly made that many local farmers did indeed have sons fighting in the war.

One such farmer was Arthur Eveleigh of Park Farm in Willand (now the Stoneman Engineering premises on Station Road). At the meeting on 16 March 1918, he told those present: “As an employer, I came here to listen.” Someone in the audience shouted, “You’re one of the good ‘uns.” Mr Eveleigh continued: “I have been much hurt by one of the speakers suggesting that farmers’ sons were not doing their duty by the country ... others present know I have two sons only, and that both went freely to fight for their country. To hear it said that farmers’ sons are not doing their duty has hit me hard.”

Arthur Eveleigh’s youngest son, George Victor Eveleigh, known as Victor, had joined the Royal Navy in April 1915, and after a short period of training at Devonport, soon saw active service in the eastern Mediterranean. Whilst enforcing the Allied blockade of Turkey in the Gulf of Smyrna in May 1916, Victor’s ship *HMS M30* had been sunk by a shore howitzer battery, but Victor had made a miraculous escape. Then, after resting in Malta, he returned to Britain and joined *HMS Bittern* patrolling the Channel. On 4 April 1918, less than a month after Mr Eveleigh made his impassioned speech to the Agricultural Labourers’ Union, *HMS Bittern* collided with *SS Kenilworth* off the Isle of Portland in thick fog and rapidly sunk with the loss of all men, including Victor, within a week of his twenty-first birthday. Arthur Eveleigh’s eldest son, Henry Eveleigh, was serving on the Western Front – he survived the war and later took

over Park Farm, farming there for many years. **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

**WILLAND COMMUNITY
COMPOSTING SCHEME**

**OPENING TIMES
WEDNESDAY AND
SUNDAY**

10.00AM – 12.00 noon

**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.

Please return any empty bags

**WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING
SCHEME IS BACK**

We managed to complete most of our “to do” list while we were closed despite the weather and availability of personnel! Thank you for your patience. We are pleased to welcome a new member into our team of volunteers, it would only need another one or two to offer a couple of hours every two weeks or so for us to be able open the site for more than two days a week. For opening times and sales information see our advert.

Garden Waste/Pruning's: When you visit us with your waste if you are not sure what and where to deposit please ask us and we will be pleased to assist. This assistance may include advice as to what material we can accept and the quality. This particularly applies to grass cuttings as the **FRESHER** they are the better for composting. Please do not leave your

grass cuttings to rot in bags/wheelie bins as we cannot accept them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bags: If you have any empty bags - please deposit at the site when we are open where they will be gratefully received. If we are closed please deposit outside main gate folded in a neat pile and weighted down so they don't blow away.

Operation: It is our intention that we continue with operation of the site. With this in mind when you visit the site please come and chat to us about what we do and hopefully, from the low down of what we are about and the benefits of being a volunteer to both the community and to yourself you would feel able to join us. If you not able to visit and would like to hear more about what we do then please contact me **Tony Mander09780472242**
tony@tonymander.plus.com

ARE YOU A KEEN GARDENER

Come and join us for a day of Soil and Compost training on Saturday 17th March 2018, 10am to 4pm at the beautiful Knightshayes Gardens, Tiverton. This hands on day is brought to you by the Tiverton Area Communities Transition (TACT) Celebration of Soil group, and Community Action Groups (CAG) Devon. Participants will come away with:

- An understanding of what soil is, why we need to look after it, life in the soil and why compost is such a vital part;
- An understanding of the composting process, including composting garden and food scraps, how to demonstrate composting to others and how to answer frequently asked questions;
- Access to display materials to demonstrate composting;
- Links to groups and areas where composting support is needed;
- The opportunity to take part in the Celebration of Soil events in 2018, and be part of a network of Soil and Compost Dr's in Mid-Devon.

This day follows on from the training day in March, so will contain new material for those who came, but no prior knowledge is needed, just enthusiasm for soil and compost and willingness to spread the word. The cost is just £5, and includes lunch and materials. Book through www.Eventbrite.com here or contact info@cagdevon.org.uk; or 07725760081.

HALBERTON CRICKET CLUB

We are a bunch of amateurs who think they can play cricket. During fine summer evenings we stand around on a pitch and try to hit and catch a ball. Of course really we are all itching to get the game over in order to get to the pub for a decent pint and natter.

If you know how to play cricket properly then we need you to join us, although a few of us are on the mature side we would welcome some keen younger players. We are a Halberton club but our home ground is in Butterleigh and we play all over the place so you need to be able to travel. If you are interested and would like more information then please contact Colin Brewer 07720293635.

EASTER TIME FOR PETS

Easter time is a lovely time for us humans, family and friends getting together and a chance to indulge in delicious Easter delights such as hot cross buns and special cakes and biscuits. As vets we want to make sure that you and your pets have a fantastic Easter, without a trip to the practice.

What Easter is complete without chocolate? Unfortunately many dogs, and sometimes cats, also believe this to be true! Chocolate can cause vomiting and diarrhoea and in larger doses, liver failure and can be fatal. The higher the cocoa content the more the risk, so keep those expensive dark chocolate truffles out of the way of any investigative hounds in the house! Be aware of children's chocolate eggs that maybe accessible, dogs can unwrap and gobble down a chocolate egg in record time if they are left in reach!

Dried fruit is also a risk to dogs and can cause renal failure so keep Hot Cross Buns and Simnel cake away from low tables or other places your crafty hound may be able to get to.

It is wonderful to see the daffodils coming up, but we need to be aware that they are highly poisonous to dogs, if your dog is a digger and likes to help you in the garden, make sure daffodil bulbs and flowers are inaccessible and lifted bulbs are stored out of reach.

For some of us, it can all get a bit much at these busy family times. We may like our house being filled with family, friends and music but not all our pets do. For some, the bustle and noise can be very stressful. If you have a timid pet who enjoys the quiet, make sure there is somewhere peaceful that they can go to not be disturbed. They may prefer to have their food and litter tray in a hidden corner.

Most importantly, have a wonderful Easter with your furry friends and if you have any worries or suspect your pet has eaten something they shouldn't, don't hesitate to call your vet for advice. Happy Easter!

*COME AND JOIN US
FOR A*

SPRINGTIME BARN DANCE

*MUSIC BY THE EVER POPULAR
LUCY LASTIC BAND*

*FRIDAY 16TH MARCH
WILLAND VILLAGE HALL
7.30-10.30*

*ADULTS £7
UNDER 16 £3.50*

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WILLAND PHARMACY AND POST OFFICE.

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD, DRINK AND GLASSES!

HOSTED BY

CHECK OUT THE INSERTS IN THIS MAGAZINE YOU MIGHT FIND THEM USEFUL AND ONE OF THEM NEEDS YOUR RESPONSE

**SOIL AND DOCTOR COMPOST
TRAINING**
Knightshayes National Trust
Tiverton

Saturday 17th March 2018
10.00am - 4.00pm

Cost
£5.00 to cover lunch and
refreshments
Booking Essential

For more information contact
Melissa Harvey Devon
Community Engagement
Assistant Community Action
Group Project Devon
Mob 07725760081
www.cagdevon.org.uk

REROOTed

**TIVERTON SURPLUS FOOD
CAFÉ**

First Saturday of every month
St Georges Extension
Fore Street

MORNING DRINKS AND SNACK
FROM 11
LUNCH FROM 12.30

All welcome

A monthly volunteer run
community café using surplus food
from supermarkets and shops.
Join us for a tasty meal and pay us
what you feel, help fill bellies not
bins and pick up top tips for
reducing food waste at home. If
you would like to volunteer or want
more information call or text Claire
on 07941 330450.

COLDHARBOUR MILL EVENTS

**Drawing the Line – A Creative
Approach**

March 21 10.30 – 4.00

Spinning Workshop

March 28 10.30 -4.00

**Steam Day – Easter
Eggscitement!**

April 2 10.30 – 4.00

Steam Experience

April 2 10.30 - 4.00

Learn To Weave

April 20 10.30- 4.00

**Drawing the line – a Creative
Approach**

April 25 10.30 – 4.00

For more information Telephone
01884 840960 or Email
Info@coldharbourmill.org.uk

Blackdown Hills Repair Café
An initiative of the
Blackdown Hills Transition
Group

First cafe Hemyock Village
Hall Saturday 24th March
10am to 12 noon

Bring along items that need
repair, electricals, bicycles,
textiles, furniture, ceramics and
garden tools.

Volunteers will be on hand to help
with repairs. A selection of repair
materials will be available or
please do bring your own.

**Tea coffee and cake will be
on sale.**

CUT OFF DATE FOR NEXT MAGAZINE 11TH APRIL