

I hope you will enjoy this edition of the magazine, read on for information and comment on what's happening in the village. We have quite a bit on grass cutting and planning with contributions from local Councillors and our Parish Council. The issue of grass cutting seems to have been at the forefront of people's minds this last couple of months if not longer! We have a couple of new Parish Councillors and I think there is still space for another one so if you think you would like to consider joining then do approach the Clerk to the Council her number is in the front of this magazine, go on, if you have some strong opinions on issues then that's the best place to get them heard!

### **DAY TRIP TO MEVAGISSEY 24 JULY 2017**

Join an outing to Mevagissey on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> July, the coach will be leaving Willand Village Hall at 9.15am and will be picking up in Cullompton. The fare will be £6 and everybody is welcome. To book a seat on the coach please contact **Margaret Atherton on 01884 38217**

### **1<sup>ST</sup> WILLAND BROWNIES**

The Brownies have had a very busy term so far. We have completed our First Aid and First Aid Advanced badges, and we are working on our Out and About badge, so you may see us around the village!

One of our Leaders, Bubbles, got married at the end of April, and we were invited to sing a selection of camp fire songs at her wedding reception. These were well received, and the sun shone beautifully. We were also joined by some of the girls who have left Willand Brownies and moved on to Guides, and it was lovely to see so many of our old girls there.

We have had our first real camp under canvas, for some of the older girls. We spent a weekend at Caddihoe near Broadclyst, and although the weather chose to rain heavily on and off, we had enough time to have 3 campfires, ice-creams, games and activities. We looked at activities which introduced the girls to Guides as they will all be leaving us in July to start the next stage in their Guiding journey.

We have been fortunate enough to be selected for the Co-op Community fund, to help us raise money for our new camping equipment, and if anyone local would like to choose us as their nominated cause, this would be much appreciated.

We are all now looking forward to the highlight of the summer term; our unit camp near Okehampton. We will be challenged to find out more about the woodlands around us, as well as craft and games, and the obligatory camp fires.

We will soon be having a joint meeting with the Willand Cubs, it is our turn to host this year, and so we are busy planning some exciting activities for all 60 or so children.

Our annual water evening on the last night of term is promising to be a good one, we are hoping for good weather, but we can just as easily get wet in the rain! This will be the last night for a lot of our older Brownies, so we will be presenting them with their leavers badges and wishing them good luck in the future.

We currently have a few girls on our waiting list, but we may have 1 or 2 spaces in September. If you have or know a girl aged 7 -10, who would like to join us, the link is [www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus) or contact us at [willandbrownies@outlook.com](mailto:willandbrownies@outlook.com) for more information.

### **1<sup>ST</sup> WILLAND GUIDES**

We are starting up this unit in September for girls aged 10 – 14. We have plans for camps, holidays, adventurous activities as well as crafts and games, with our first term trip to The Big Gig already booked. Girls will learn independence and team work, as well as having lots of fun with other likeminded girls in the area.

If you would like more information please contact us on [willandguides@outlook.com](mailto:willandguides@outlook.com), or to join, please use the link as above.

### **A plea from both units**

As we are now starting to camp we are acquiring a lot of equipment and we are looking for a storage solution. Ideally this would be in Willand, and would need to be dry, and lockable. If you or someone you know has a garage, shed, lockup, or securable area that you would be happy for us to use or lease, please get in touch. We would be glad to hear from you. Many thanks  
The Willand Brownies and Guides leadership team

### **WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

You have no doubt heard the one about waiting for a bus for ages and then two come along at the same time. It seems as if the same applies to volunteers to be co-opted as Parish Councillors. We have been struggling along for ages with only 8 of us instead of the allowed 11 and now I am pleased to welcome Margaret Dennis, well known to many, and Simon Dilke-Wing, our Postmaster, to the team. We still have room for one more if you are interested and can help. Please get in touch with the Clerk if you would like to help with the management and wellbeing of the village. If we get too many we can hold an election and perhaps give me the sack!

## PLAY AREAS

*Worcester Crescent* - The grass damaged by weed killer sprayed by MDDC staff in error seems to have recovered after they re-seeded the areas and our local team of volunteers are doing an excellent job – thank you.

*Mallow Court* – Volunteers are managing to cut the grass but we could do with some more help please. There is some encroaching and untidy growth coming onto the site from MDDC and DCC responsibility land and we are chasing to get that sorted but if you get an urge to use your clippers or hedge trimmers please feel free – we won't tell.

*Jubilee Parish Field* – Quite a bit going on here. The new trim trail is well used but some of the posts are working loose in the ground. Someone has pulled up some of the safety matting under the Monkey Bars which will also have to be fixed back. Whereas the posts will be put right under guarantee the vandalism will have to be paid for by the Parish Council – in other words all of us. If you know who did it please tell us. The same goes for those who cannot resist damaging the litter bin by the youth shelter. The skate ramp was removed for repair and there has been a slight problem with getting it back in place. A work in progress but hopefully soon resolved if not already done so by the time you read this.

There have been a number of approaches with regard to repairing and widening the footpath between the end of the School Drive and Somerlea. We are seriously having a look at this and have an idea of costs and are now looking to see if we can get any grants. This will have to be done in the next few years if not sooner, particularly as people wanting access to the school are using this route. Any views for or against will be welcome. Anyone with some spare cash or a local business willing to be involved please contact us. The field is getting more and more use with youth football matches [the main goalposts will be painted soon] and some organisations using the village hall are expanding into the field for some activities.

Some dogs are still performing well with their owners ignoring the consequences. Good dodge to send the children out with the dog and not clear up after it as people think that they will not be prosecuted. Surprising what can be achieved via Facebook and the like to name and shame. Please do not put us in that position. What about new gates at each end of the footpath with strong springs to keep them closed and stop people just turning their dogs out into the road to go to the field. Someone independent of the Parish Council has started a debate on Facebook as to dogs being on leads and the potential consequences. That is being watched with interest.

*South View* – We have the lease ready to sign to take over this area but we have to sort out some detail from the Land Registry as to boundary ownership. We also want to make sure that MDDC carry out some necessary works

before handing over. Any volunteers in the area to help keep an eye on the site and cut the grass and keep it tidy please?

*Orchard Way* – We are in an early stage of enquiry as to the possibility of taking over this area as it certainly needs the grass to be cut more frequently and it could benefit from some better equipment for older children. It would also come with quite a bit of hedge to manage and some trees. What do you good people think? We are obtaining some costs for maintenance to see if it is viable but it would be nice to improve the area with some more fitness or older children play equipment.

MDDC are looking at implementing policies to cut down the number of litter and dog mess bins and also to encourage people to put dog mess into ordinary litter bins as it all goes into the same landfill. Ideally they want you to take everything home. Do we really want to have dog mess in the litter bins situated in the fenced children's play areas used mainly by the smaller children? Parish Councillors have been attending MDDC meetings and raising concerns and have had some support from some members but we feel that in the main we are not being listened to. Watch out for the removal of play area fencing as experienced by Crediton and Cullompton. We have been assured that there are no plans to remove any fencing in Willand but please be vigilant and watch points as there appears to be no consultation – it just happens.

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

There seems to be a determination to fill in between the motorway and the B3181 with housing from the Woodland to the Esso Garage. Yet again little thought appears to be given to improving our infrastructure.

We have the 7 Houses in Ash Close. A developer has tied up with DCH to look at putting a further 29 houses on the field next to it. Some will be for rent and others joint ownership. They have spoken to the Parish Council and we have raised some issues over it being an exception site and the requirement for need for Willand residents – not to move in people from outside of the area. Expect a planning application through the summer. The developer is the same one as has built the houses by the Cullompton Bowling Club.

At the time of writing all is quiet on an appeal over the refusal of the 259 houses application but we doubt it will go away.

A decision is awaited on the Esso Garage demolition and 30 houses and business units application. Facebook subscribers certainly circulated detail of that application and the response to MDDC was excellent – thank you. I think we will need to make Facebook and the Willand Matters website an even more important vehicle to advise people of what is going on.

Hitchcocks Farm Business Park and land around it is continuing to expand. Hopefully people will have looked into the proposal for the large glasshouses which may appear along the Uffculme Road to enhance the view and

compliment the solar panels. That coupled with the 60 houses and possibly a further 30 along the straight will really enhance our countryside. Some are asking how long it will be before Cullompton, Willand and Uffculme are all one joined by ribbon development.

We are having some planning approvals where the applicant is not complying with conditions and others who have signs or fences and buildings which are not approved. These have all been raised with the Planning Department and whereas in the past we had a very good planning enforcement officer who dealt with these matters, currently little or no action is being taken which is not sending out the right message to those who do try and do things properly. One of our Ward Councillors has the portfolio for planning and regeneration but does not appear to be doing anything – not even answering emails or letters on the subject.

## **GRASS**

It is the green stuff which seems to be everywhere and harbours all sorts of weeds and then when 'cut' *{I use the word in its widest of definitions}* looks worse than it did before but at least you are then supposed to be able to see around the corner and pick up dog mess.

It is a complicated topic but in simplistic terms it goes something like this:

**Devon County Council [DCC]** is responsible for roads and most of the grass verges around the village.

**Mid Devon District Council [MDDC]** is responsible for most of the public, green open spaces, play areas and some areas within housing estates.

**Willand Parish Council** is responsible for the cemetery, Jubilee Parish Field *{all of it now}*, Worcester Crescent and Mallow Court Play Areas. Do not believe it if DCC or MDDC try and tell you differently.

When you look at the available 'grass cutting' maps held by MDDC you find areas which are the responsibility of no one – Meadow Park in front of The Gables and the visibility splays at South View Close/South View Road Junction to name but two.

There is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding going on at the moment. The bottom line is that if the Parish want the roadside grass verges cut the Parish is going to have to pay for it. DCC will make a contribution to reflect the cost of what they do. MDDC want us to give them money and they will do it but there is a concern that if we do we will have no control as to when it is done or to what standard is done. Another option is we look to a private contractor where there is a set contract and if they fail to meet it they do not get paid. Ray Radford, our DCC councillor and Bob Evans one of our Ward Councillors are trying to facilitate the sorting out of the problem.

If the Parish Council are to put up their share of the precept for you all to pay more it is only right that everyone should have their say. There are numerous

comments on Facebook which do help but there are some which appear to have been made as the result of a lack of understanding. The Parish Council are going to have to make a decision to take over responsibility for the roadside verges or else we go on as we are with visibility splays being cut four times a year by DCC and we know what that looks like. The rest of the verges get nothing.

There are about 1,500 households in the parish and so if about 20 people are saying on Facebook that we should put the Council Tax up then it hardly gives us confidence that we are representing the majority view. On the other hand we have to draw a line somewhere and so I personally am taking the view that **IF YOU SAY NOTHING YOU ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHATEVER THE PARISH COUNCIL DECIDE – if we decide to get the grass cut please do not come back and moan at us if your Council Tax goes up to pay for it.** If you do not like that view then you need to get involved and make your views known or forever hold thy peace.

When we have them I will try and get the maps showing areas of responsibility put on our website unless we get hit with the 'copyright card' by DCC and/or MDDC wanting to keep things a secret.

If you have a problem with areas looked after by MDDC please complain to them direct or bother the Ward Councillors – preferably in writing – and please copy in the Parish Clerk in order that we can gauge your concerns.

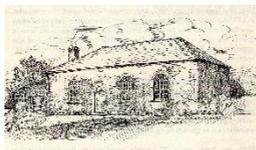
We can make a difference if we all get involved and let our views be known.

**Barry G J Warren Chair of the Parish Council**

### **SPICELAND QUAKER MEETING UFFCULME EX15 3AZ**

Quaker Meetings for Worship are open to all. Quakers sit together in silent worship, receiving spoken Ministry when it is led. After Meeting for Worship, we have notices and refreshments. We are a small but active community. We hold events which are also open to all.

On **Saturday 22 July** between 12noon and 4pm we are holding a **Garden Party at Spiceland** and looking around the grounds. Bring your own picnic in the space where children can play, partake of afternoon tea, listen to music or a talk on the history of Spiceland Quakers and find out more about sustainability activities in our area. The Meeting House is 1.5 miles east of Uffculme. Contact **Katie 01823 672301** Meeting for Worship 10.30 – 12noon every Sunday.





## **GROWING BASKETBALL CLUB KEEN TO NET A SPONSOR**

Numbers continue to rise at a community basketball club, with many Willand youngsters among its members, as it heads from strength to strength – and now the club is eager to find a local sponsor.

Coach and club co-founder Steve Green is delighted with their progress and said continuing to develop the club is the way forward and vital for its future. There is training for U/12 and U/14s on a Wednesday from 5pm till 7pm, a Girls only session on Thursdays from 5pm till 7pm, these sessions are proving to be particularly popular with an average of 26 girls, many from the Willand area, attending training on a regular basis. The U/16 U/19 and Senior Men's train on Fridays from 6pm till 9pm.

Steve, who runs the club along with long standing committee members Julian Hicks, Tim Porter and Christine Porter, added, "We are proud to have such committed volunteers and players and recognise the importance of having a safe, well organised club providing a fun training environment. Without the dedication and hard work of those giving up their time we would not be where we are today. We would like to thank all those involved in supporting the club and pay tribute to all the hard work put in.

Any local businesses interested in finding out more about sponsoring the Culm Valley Comets, and anyone keen to find out more about training sessions, should contact **Steve on 07748 267047**.

## **DEAR EDITOR**

Many thanks for asking me to comment on the broader issues of planning and where MDDC are at present and it would be remiss of me not to touch on grass cutting given recent issues. So let's start with the easier one, grass cutting.

I am aware that Devon County Councillor, Ray Radford, is attempting to get Willand Parish Council representatives around the table with MDDC and DCC officers to find a way forward. For my sins I have offered to attend if it's felt that would be beneficial. If I'm honest I see this as an uncomplicated issue:

Question One, what areas will be cut?

Question Two, how often?

Question Three, who's cutting it?

Question Four, how much will it cost.

The latter is the only one that I believe will give any issues. The answer is the full costs will be met by a combination of monies from all three, the PC will be asked to contribute possibly by £2500 maybe a tad more. How much is that to you? Last year Willand increased their precept by 3.32% (30 other PC's

raised theirs by more) or £1.32 a year for a band "D" property. That is a total precept to the PC of £41.13. This latest rise raised £2,422.78 extra for the PC and although Willand is the fourth largest conurbation in Mid Devon you pay less per head than 13 other areas. I'm hoping you agree to get the grass cut Willand residents pay another 2.5p a week? So come on PC let's get round the table!!

I'm sure somebody will want to ask how much I pay, well I come under Uffculme and they raised the precept by 6.2% and we pay a total precept to the PC of £75.01 for a band "D" property.

Planning - where do I start?

I'm not going to comment in any detail on individual applications. The general picture is not brilliant as MDDC do not have an up to date local plan, nor do we have an adequate 5 year land supply. This means, in simple terms, the whole of Mid Devon is open to planning applications. In order to be able to defend, if they are not in our housing strategy, we have to prove would cause harm within the community affected. A very difficult thing to do.

Of course we do all we can to defend any of the larger applications. Recently, with the assistance of DCC, we have refused an application for over 250 houses in Willand on transport grounds. We await any decision to possibly appeal this refusal.

The local plan was submitted in late March and is likely to be examined by an inspector around September time. Examination of the plan involves examining all aspects not just planning and includes a public hearing. This all takes time but we are hoping to have an adopted plan by late 2017 early 2018.

What I would encourage all readers to do is should they feel strongly about any application to make a comment by utilising the MDDC planning portal. All too often we are told that lots of people object or have concerns but very few fill out the on line form that is available on all MDDC planning applications. You can should you wish send a letter to the planning department with your issues but don't forget the planning reference (some do).

Apathy is the developer's friend so please if you have a concern raise it.

Should anybody wish to discuss any local issues either myself or any of your two other ward members will be happy to talk to you and assist if we can. Our details are on the MDDC web site but if it helps my number is 01884 849248.

**Bob Evans Mid Devon District Council Lower Culm**

**NOTE TO EDITOR** - a white, Sainsbury's-sized articulated lorry was being driven by its Sat-Nav through the village and in trying to get out of the way of something coming in the opposite direction, it broke the Halberton & Tiverton arm off the signpost in Willand Old Village. Name & address supplied

*Was this result of too many vans and building crews parking on the roads around that area? It certainly has been chaos around the post office area lately not least because the builder's did not comply with planners instructions to make the site good for parking before commencing the works. Did the driver stop? You will be pleased to know the sign has been repaired. - Editor*

## **CAMEO**

Due to local elections being held in the Village Hall our May meeting was a mystery trip and we had a beautiful coach ride over the hills towards Crediton. The weather couldn't have been better. We ended up in the Village of Spreyton stopping at the Tom Copley pub where we had a superb meal. Several members enjoyed a visit to Exeter Guildhall and also a Skittles evening at Ash Thomas. The Walking Group had been to Killerton and Culmstock. The June meeting saw us back in the Village Hall. Once again we had a change of Speaker, but Sue Leach stepped into the breach and gave us an excellent presentation of her life working and teaching at the Royal Masonic Boarding school for girls. We saw lovely slides of the buildings and learned about the founding of the school a couple of hundred years ago. Sue taught, among other things, craft work and we saw examples of the girls work. It was a most interesting talk. We were delighted to welcome Lillian back after her really long spell of ill health and also to see two visitors at the meeting.

Several members had a lovely afternoon visiting Yelland Farm near Payhembury. Janet East farms this with her husband and they also run a Bed and breakfast business there. Janet had given us two hilarious talks on her life there so it was a great pleasure to look round her farm and again, we were blessed with glorious weather. We watched Janet training one of her younger dogs in the art of rounding up sheep. This being Cameo, we, of course, ended up with a delicious cream tea. More delicious food when 18 of us went for lunch at Petrocs. We have got a couple of other trips planned. One to Topsham visiting the Antiques centre and town in place of the meeting at the Hall in August, and another to either Dawlish or Teignmouth. The Walking Group had a lovely day out at Bowood House in Wiltshire enjoying a picnic in the beautiful grounds.

The Singles group are having a change this year and instead of a picnic are going to Blackdown Garden Centre for lunch and shopping. We have all been invited to a Coffee Morning at the Church Hall on 14th July at 10.30 in aid of Bowel cancer. As our Chairman Sonia was on holiday, Linda took charge of the meeting and led us through another one of her mind-blowing quizzes! On 6th of July our meeting begins at 7p.m. with a talk by Renee Harvey, on "My Life in Tap dancing". I wonder if we will be asked to have a go! Wow, that will be a sight to behold!! If you think you would like to come and join in the fun that is Cameo, we will be very happy to welcome you, so do come along to one of

our meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Village Hall unless otherwise stated and our meetings begin at 7p.m. **Betty Penberthy.**

### **CONTRIBUTION FROM RAY RADFORD**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer views from a County Council perspective. I will start with grass management. I think we all agree it is a mess in Willand. Although County own some of the grass verges in Willand, there are no statutory commitments to cut them. Because of austerity, they do cut bends, junctions and visibility splays four times a year for safety reasons.

This leaves us with some verges cut at various times, some by DCC and some by MDDC and some not at all. This I believe is quite unsatisfactory. Because of this I offered the Parish Council to purchase an industrial grass cutting machine to cut the grass themselves. To help recover their cost, they would have picked up contributions from DCC and MDDC. Because of H & S, other issues and as the contributions were unclear, this we were unable to proceed with.

Because of purdah (meaning that as County Councillor I was unable to do or promise anything until after the elections) for this current year. This meant that the grass is still a mess. And anxious to sort it out, I have had negotiations with DCC and MDDC, including MDDC Councillors to see if we could put something together.

What is on the table at the moment is a proposition that DCC will forward their costs to Willand Parish Council, circa £2500, and if we can match the £2500, MDDC will cut all the grass verges at least eight times a year, may not be enough, but much better than the current situation. Of course we will have to look at the contract and the small print. We can negotiate from here if need be. I have put this to the Parish Council Environment committee and the Full Council. I will await their response. The question is, where the £2500 will come from. If we want the place looking as it used to, perhaps we will have to find it, or part of it, ourselves. Surprising what £1/£2 per household will produce. Hope this explains where we are at the moment, of course the year is ticking by and we have not got an agreement yet  
Ray Radford Devon County Councillor Willand & Uffculme Division  
**Email: [ray.radford@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ray.radford@devon.gov.uk)**

### **NEWS from the FRIENDS of COLDHARBOUR MILL**

The **WORKING WOOL MUSEUM** is now open for the 2017 season. For all other information about the Mill and its history, admission prices, volunteering opportunities, shop and products, or to book guided tours for school or adult groups, contact the Mill Office by phone on 01884 840960 (Mon-Fri 9.30am-1pm) or by e-mail: [info@coldharbourmill.org.uk](mailto:info@coldharbourmill.org.uk) or view the Mill website: [www.coldharbourmill.org.uk](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk).

## **SPECIAL EVENTS and ACTIVITIES**

The Mill has two new exhibitions on show during the summer.

**“The Foxes: a Family Business”** – fascinating insights into the development of the family that founded Coldharbour Mill in Uffculme and Tonedale Mill in Wellington.

**Industrial Abstract Art** – a work in progress by local artist Neill Ellis-Brookes – intriguing recycling of factory artifacts!

**The Friends** need more members for their Committee. If you feel you could join our friendly group and help out with fund-raising events and on Steam Days, please ring Jenny (secretary) on 01884 243071. In addition, we need more Friends to join us in supporting the Mill. For a small annual membership you receive free entrance to the Mill on any day it is open and 10% discount on any Mill goods purchased. Again please contact Jenny.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – please help to make a difference at this unique heritage site! Volunteers are always needed for a range of activities including, repairs, painting, gardening, sweeping, helping with school visits, working in the Mill Office and as part of the Steam Group. For more information, phone or e-mail the Mill Office 01884 840960, [info@coldharbourmill.org.uk](mailto:info@coldharbourmill.org.uk)

**NOTE FROM MARGARET DENNIS** - Thank you to the 414 voters who helped me, as a Local Independent candidate, achieve 11.3% of the total cast. It was an interesting time for me, finding issues in Willand mirrored in most other areas of the division.

Although disappointed to come third I am active locally and have just joined Willand Parish Council. If you need help or would like to voice concerns about our important village do please contact any councillor via the [willandmatters.org.uk](http://willandmatters.org.uk) website or find our details at the front inside cover of this magazine. We cannot promise to change everything for the better but will do our utmost to help.

## **WILLAND MUSEUM OPEN DAY & CAR RALLY IN AID OF TIVERTON GUIDE DOGS**

Ron and Glenda (Frosty) Frost are holding their Annual Charity Car Rally at Longacre Museum, Willand (on the Halberton to Willand Road) on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, from 2.00 to 4.00pm. There will be Stalls, Hot Dogs, Cream Teas and a Prize draw. If you would like to hire a table, **telephone Frosty 01884 820641**

## **GARDEN PARTY AT SOMERVILLE HOUSE**

Somerville House in Willand would like to welcome everyone to our annual garden party on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 2.00pm.

As always there will be plenty to do, why not try one of our home made cream teas, browse the stalls or just enjoy the gardens? We look forward to seeing you.

## **PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE FOR YOUR PET**

We as humans practice preventative health care for ourselves (cleaning our teeth, taking supplements) but we can do the same for our pets too and prevent disease. In fact, of the most common ailments suffered by pets, many are very easily preventable with little cost involved. Some common preventable problems include:

### **Infectious diseases**

Vaccination against many of the more common and often fatal diseases (such as parvovirus, leptospirosis and kennel cough), is usually annually and is relatively inexpensive.

### **Neutering**

Animals that are not neutered can get a range of hormone related problems including womb infections, mammary tumours, testicular cancer and prostate problems. Neutering your pet at an early age can reduce the risk of contracting these problems sometimes by 100%. Neutering can also prevent unwanted litters, straying, scent marking and aggression.

### **Tooth Decay**

We always clean our teeth, but have you ever thought about cleaning your pet's teeth?? Nearly all animals over 7 years have some form of tooth decay. This leads to infections and bad breath, and can make heart problems worse. This may result in your pet needing an anaesthetic to remove teeth which can be a very lengthy procedure for an elderly animal. Fortunately cleaning your pet's teeth even weekly can dramatically reduce the risk of tooth decay.

### **Fleas, Ticks and Worms**

Fleas are not only uncomfortable for your pet, but also for you! They rapidly multiply in your house causing painful bites and can also cause fatal anaemia in young animals. Ticks also carry nasty diseases affecting our pets and ourselves. Worms can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and malnutrition, especially in young animals. Some worms can cause serious health problems in people, especially during pregnancy and for young children. Lungworm easily goes undetected and is commonly fatal. For more in depth information visit the website [www.jungleforpets.co.uk](http://www.jungleforpets.co.uk)

### **Dietary Supplements**

Supplements are an important part of caring for our pets' individual needs. There are many available for our pets that can support them through times of ill-health and old age. They can be an important part of supporting Liver and Kidney health, joint problems, skin problems and gastrointestinal upsets. It is important to use a product that has been carefully formulated to give our pets the best support. Check with your vet that the product you are using is the best one to maximise your pet's health.

Visit your veterinary practice today to help promote a happy and healthy life for your pet! **Vale Veterinary Centre**



# *The Muddifords Cheese Run 2017*

*Grand Western canal 5 Mile*

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017*

*Run, Jog or walk 5 miles along the canal to Muddifords Court. Raising core funds for the Exeter Dementia Action alliance.*

SPONSORED By Wyke, Ashfords Solicitors Tiverton, The Globe @ Sampford Peverell, Kingdom Coaches, Garden Quirks, and Scoff Catering.



To receive your registration pack for this event please email: [marketing@muddifords.co.uk](mailto:marketing@muddifords.co.uk) you can also pick up a pack from our sponsors.

**Places will be limited so register now!**

There will be a family fun day for everyone taking part and their families/friends at the finish line of Muddifords Court - bouncy castle, live band, food stalls and the bar from midday. For further information please contact Muddifords Court Country House. Look forward to seeing in you there.

Keep up to date with information by liking the Muddifords Court face book page.

## **WE'RE ALL WORKING ON THE CHAIN GANG**

*All day long they work so hard  
Till the sun is goin' down  
Working on the highways and byways*

It is weird how things come to mind when thinking of other things. These words are from a song by Sam Cooke which was released on 26 July 1960 just after I had completed my 'O' levels and left school.

I was reminded of them when our Parish Clerk received an email from Devon County Council after she had sent in a request for them to tidy up land in Mallow Court which is their responsibility. It went like this:

*Dear Ms Taylor*

*Thank you for your email regarding weeds.*

*There have been some changes in policy regarding this issue. As a result, some services previously carried out by the council have had to be reduced or stopped altogether. Devon County's policy on grass cutting and weeds can be found in more detail here:*

*<https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/maintaining-roads/trees-and-vegetation/grass-cutting/>*

*Devon County Councils 'Tough Choices' consultation proposed to reduce our grass cutting service to only allow for the maintenance of visibility areas for highway users, which includes junctions, inside of bends and lay-bys. Weed killing operations would also cease under the proposals. Feedback from the consultation can be found at the following address on the County Councils website: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/highwaysbudget/>. The consultation period ended in December 2014 and these proposals have been passed by cabinet and now adopted as policy.*

*You will unfortunately notice that there are more weeds in evidence than previously and that some areas of grass remain uncut. A programme of cutting visibility areas is currently underway and should be completed shortly. If these patches of scrub are affecting visibility, please let us know.*

***We are looking very much towards community self-help to make up the shortfall, having to focus our limited resources on safety related matters rather than ones of aesthetic appearance. I trust you appreciate that unless there is a safety concern we are unable to take further action in respect of this matter and thank you in anticipation of your future patience and co-operation.***

*Kind Regards*

*Rebecca Lee*

*Devon Highways*

So self-help, or the formation of our own chain gang, looks to be the order of the day if we want to make our village look tidy again. We are required to cut the grass that DCC leave uncut [and tidy up after them where they have cut]; remove the weeds that are growing in the kerb edges, pavements and footpaths

[not sure how not treating them saves money when over time the roots will lift surfaces or push out kerbs which will then have to be repaired!]; cut hedges and anything else which is encroaching on and restricting the use of pavements and footpaths; clear out ditches which will become overgrown with uncut grass and untreated weeds; fill potholes and then salt and grit the roads off the main roads if there is ice and snow [probably buy our own salt as well!]. DCC will help by training us; provide some basic equipment, materials and advice; not sure about the insurance, signs, cones and safety clothing that may be required for Health and Safety? We have to find our own premises to store things so that could be more cost. They will provide some guidance and supervision.

If you see me with a smile on my face it is because I have this vision in my head of our County Councillor on horseback with a shotgun supervising the chain gang – on the other hand I may have wind. The things age does to you!

Seriously folks – do we have people in our community who are prepared to undertake any of these tasks as volunteers please and would like to know more about what it may entail. Some of you already cut the verges outside of your houses or help look after play areas for which we are very appreciative but how far do we go? Please let the Clerk know if you are able to help and we will see what can be achieved.

Any other comments about the policy should be directed to our County Councillor [or Ward Councillors if the grass and weeds are in other public areas which MDDC are responsible for.] **Barry G J Warren**

**Note from Editor** – I watched an operative spraying weeds in the village not so long ago he wiggled his way up the road was not particularly concentrating on the weeds and totally missed one clump going around it!!

## **WILLAND HISTORY GROUP**

We have had a lovely letter from Geraldine 'Geri' Holloway with some vivid personal memories of her aunt, Mrs Little, who was mentioned in the last parish magazine. She writes: "Mrs Beatrice Little's father, Albert Chick, and my mother's father, Henry Chick, were brothers so Beatrice and my mother, Mabel Grace, were first cousins. Beatrice had two brothers, Harold and Frank. Harold served in the navy in the First World War and afterwards lived in Kent. Frank was employed in his father's carpentry business and lived opposite the premises at 'Kirkside' with Lilian, his wife, and son John.

"Betty Penberthy recalls Mrs Little running 'the library which was held in a cupboard in Willand School'. Prior to that, in the 1940s, she organised it in similar circumstances in the Parish Room in Dye House Lane on Saturday afternoons. I used to help her take out and pack away the books stored in one of the huge cupboards and displayed, titles uppermost, in rows on tables. [Betty Penberthy] also stated that in addition to her musical talents Mrs Little was 'an

excellent dressmaker'. My sister and I attended Greenway Convent School in Tiverton and our Auntie Bea expertly made our regulation navy long sleeved winter dresses with their detachable white collars and cuffs, as well as our pale blue summer dresses. The two of us, like many other schoolchildren, used to travel the five miles to Tiverton from Tiverton Junction [Railway Station]. There was a period when Pamela and myself cycled from Carr Cottage in the old village and left our bicycles at her house before collecting them in the late afternoon. To my sister and myself, Beatrice was known as Auntie Bea and her husband, Oswald Little, as Uncle Oz. They lived at 'Trelawney' in Station Road, Willand. Beatrice spent much of her time leaning on her front gate eager to chat to passers by on their way to and from the few nearby shops which in those days included Salter's Stores. She was an inquisitive personality and wanted to know everyone's business! In her more advanced years, she took an active interest in the game of bowls.

"Oswald and Beatrice Little had three children, Harold, Jack and Sybil. Harold was a Church of England vicar and for several years had a parish in Dulwich in London. When he came to Willand with his wife, Joan, and their two children, to visit his parents he would often take the Morning Service at Willand Parish Church. On retirement he and his wife lived in his grandfather's original house, now called 'Howden Lodge', opposite the Post Office. In her later years, Joan lost her sight completely. No doubt some present day Willand residents will remember her and her guide dog. Oswald Little was employed at the Duchess of Devonshire Dairy just a short distance from 'Trelawney'. Like my father, Frederick John Holloway, he was a keen Freemason and together they used to attend their Lodge at Uffculme regularly. I have one special memory of my Uncle Oz: he promised me five shillings (25p) if I passed my school certificate examination. I did pass and lost no time in reminding him of my reward!" Thank you Geri for kindly sharing these memories. If anyone else had similar memories of bygone Willand, any events or characters from our villages past, we would love to hear from you.

One hundred years ago William Lee, son of the headmaster of Willand School, was serving in the Royal Navy on *HMS Vanguard*, then stationed at Scapa Flow in Scotland. It was just before midnight on 9 July 1917 that an explosion caused *HMS Vanguard* to sink with the immediate loss of 800 men, one of the greatest naval disasters of First World War (the reason for the explosion is uncertain, possibly an undetected fire causing explosives to overheat).

On 17 July 1917 the *Tiverton Gazette* reported: "LOST ON THE VANGUARD. Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Lee, of the School House, Willand, were on Friday officially informed by the Admiralty that the name of their only son, Wm. George Lee, was not in the list of survivors of the internal explosion on H.M.S. Vanguard, and that therefore it was presumed he had lost his life. With this sad intimation came a letter of royal sympathy from the King and Queen.

"Willie Lee, aged 22, was educated under his father, who is headmaster of the Willand Council School, and for six years at Hele's School, Exeter. He was

intended for the scholastic profession, and after a year's practical teaching at Heathcoat Boys' School, Tiverton, proceeded to Saltley College, Birmingham, where he had two more terms to run when he joined the Royal Navy, and after a short course of training at Devonport was posted to H.M.S. Vanguard, where he has since been steward's assistant, with the exception of some weeks on two minesweepers last winter. Dated the very day of the explosion he sent a postcard to his betrothed (Miss Dorothy Jarrett, of Tiverton Junction) saying with what pleasure he was looking forward to a short leave next month.

"Willie Lee stood over six feet high; not only in physique but also in mental caliber he was a young man of great promise. In disposition he was cheery, chivalrous, unselfish, with delightful manners and address, and he was truly well-liked by all who knew him. To Mr. and Mrs. Lee, Miss Lee (sister), and Miss Jarrett (fiancée) the sincere sympathy of a wide circle of friends is extended."

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

## **LIFELINE ALARM SERVICE - HELP AVAILABLE AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON**

Our Lifeline alarm service is available to give peace of mind to people who feel at risk in their own home and is available to any Mid Devon resident of any age. It removes the worry of getting help or assistance and is monitored by specially trained operators who will never leave a call unanswered.

Other benefits:

- Access to help and support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Independence
- Peace of mind
- A no hassle repair service
- No assessment process or waiting list
- Useful security aid

We also offer additional bespoke packages to assist lifeline users with other needs such as:

- Key safes
- Big button phones
- Bogus caller buttons
- Fall detectors
- Flood detectors
- Fashion Watch
- Mobile alarm
- Safe socket
- Smoke detector
- Temperature detector
- Wireless Carbon Monoxide

If you would like to find out more about how it works, the costs or to arrange a free demonstration, please contact our lifeline alarm service on 01884 234383 or email [lifeline@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:lifeline@middevon.gov.uk)

## **WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME**

Is summer arriving at last? The quantity of material being deposited seems to support a yes to this question.

Talking about deposits - DO NOT dump outside when we are closed!

This is not neighbourly and is FLY TIPPING.

Would anyone who witness or has any information please report to Mid Devon Council (01884) 255255, or contact me details below.

Continuing with deposits please drop in with your garden waste especially grass cuttings ASAP - the fresher the better for composting.

### **OPENING PERIODS**

Wednesdays and Sundays 10.00am - 12 Noon

We have been asked many times if the current periods can be expanded

YES - this can be achieved by having more members

HOW - By having a chat on site or, contact me. Even if you can offer two hours/month would be good. Being in the fresh air and creating a lot of hot air chats on this and that with lots of laughs!! We are a friendly group. So come on down it's a win win - calories down and wellbeing up.

**COMPOST:** We OFFER for sale bagged sieved compost £1.50/BAG. Unsieved compost at £1/ wheelbarrow. Talk to the members about this.

When Closed: - you can purchase by: - TEXTING - "COMPOST" to 0787 138726307.

**BAGS:** We would be grateful if you could return empty bags. Thank you to those who do. This keeps our costs down and with the proceeds of sales contributing towards both the maintenance of the site and donations to local causes.

**CONDUCT ON SITE:** Big thanks for your cooperation in depositing in the required location and tidying up (use of fork provided). This keeps the site both safe and tidy for the benefit of all. If in need of assistance or information please do not hesitate to ask.

**Tony Mander email: [tony@tonymander.plus.com](mailto:tony@tonymander.plus.com), mobile: 07980472242**



## **VILLAGE HALL WIFI**

At the village hall meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May I made the committee aware of comments made on social media with regards to a number of hall users wanting the hall to have Wi-Fi available.

I have done some extensive research into the subject to get some idea of the costs involved. I have been advised that due to the size of the hall and the potential of people who may wish to access it that unless we installed a fibre connection with access points throughout the hall then it would be of little use to anyone.

On speaking to a couple of broadband suppliers I found out that the fibre connection in Willand that the hall would connect to is already at capacity and unless we had a normal connection installed at the hall then we could not be put on a waiting list for a fibre connection.

To have access points put throughout the hall and to install a standard Wi-Fi connection initially will cost about £2000 which would include the broadband fee for two years and line installation. This would not generate any extra income to the hall. The committee has agreed to ask the groups that use the hall if they would like us to install a Wi-Fi connection at the hall knowing that initially the connection would not be very good and in the hope that more capacity on the fibre connection will eventually become available.

If the money can be raised to cover the £2000 required then the committee will get it installed. Please ask your group/activity users if they are prepared to make a donation towards this and pass the donations to the hall.

Hall bank details are as follows CAF Bank Ltd Sort Code 40-52-40 Account No. 00012464. It is up to you, if you want the hall to have Wi-Fi then please donate towards it. If the money can be raised then we can have the Wi-Fi (but understand that initially the connection won't be very good and we do not know how long we will have to wait for a better one). **Frances Wilcox**

## **WILLAND GARDEN CLUB**

Thank you to those who came along to our coffee morning in April and plant sale in May. It was lovely to see some new faces at both. Our May talk, which was about Hestercombe Gardens, was very interesting, and we learnt that the restoration is ongoing. At the time of writing, we have not yet been on our visit to Marwood Hill Gardens, but we are hoping for some better weather than we are having at the moment. At our July meeting on 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be hearing about the secret nature of Dartmoor.

Our Flower Show is again being held with Sampford Peverell Garden Club, but this year it will be in Willand Village Hall on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> August. If you would like a schedule, please contact me. This year, we are reintroducing some cookery classes and hope to have some children entering the children's classes.

We meet in the Club Room at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from March to December and our subscription is only £3.50 a year. We do have room for some more members, so please come along. You can visit one meeting for just 50p, so you can see how we operate.

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

## **UFFCULME MUSIC & REAL ALE FESTIVAL 7–8 JULY**

This year's festival takes place from 7pm on Friday 7th July and closes at midnight on Saturday 8th July.

As I'm sure many of you are already aware this is a major fundraiser for Uffculme's wonderful Christmas lights. Admission is £6, or £10 for a 2-day pass. You won't be disappointed!

There is a terrific array of music on offer, not to mention a variety of ales and ciders to try. There is also a general bar open, which includes soft drinks. Plus we have three food outlets in operation throughout.

Headlining on Friday evening will see the welcome return of **Adam Isaac**, this time fronting his 4-piece band **Bloc Off The Wall (BOTW)**. It promises to be a fantastic evening, as does Saturday when the 6-piece **Blue Room Baboons** entertain us with their exciting mixture of funk, rock and pop. There are plenty of other bands to enjoy too which will be announced in the next issue of Spotlight.

**Jim Clancy @ <https://www.facebook.com/Uffculmereale>**

## **WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**

We have had two new external doors fitted – not without a few teething problems with the locks. As they have vision panels, they will make the entrance halls much lighter. The others will be fitted when the hall is not being used. The internal hall doors may not be fitted until September, as the carpenter is extremely busy throughout the summer. The external security lights are also being changed, so that they automatically come on when light levels fall. These will help the CCTV cameras during the darker hours.

We had a problem with a recent 21<sup>st</sup> party, when the new floor took nearly three days of very hard work to clean, partly because of the amount of spilt drinks, but also because of the residue from a smoke machine. As smoke and bubble machines make an oily deposit on the floor, which is very difficult to remove, the trustees agreed to ban them from all future events, in order to protect our new floor.

There has been a lot of discussion on Facebook about there being no WiFi at the hall. On the website there is a short explanation of the costs involved.

There is no fibre capacity left in Willand and an ordinary broadband line would be very slow if more than a few people tried to use it at one time. However, the trustees would be willing to consider it if people who wanted it installed were willing to pay the costs of both installing and running it. All organisations using the hall are being canvassed to see if they want it. (Some have already replied saying that it is lovely to go somewhere where mobiles are not going all the time!).

There were no members of the public at our AGM in May. You may not know, but the Village Hall is a registered charity, whose governance is entrusted to a board of trustees. Trustees are elected annually at the AGM and are drawn from organisations which use the hall or from people living in Willand. Officers elected were:

Chairman: John Crocker

Vice-Chairman: Sandy Hancock

Bookings Secretary: Frances Wilcox - email franceswilcox1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Carol Allan – 01884 33828; email cbarwa@mail.com

Trustees: Mrs D Batchelor, Mr E Dennis, Mrs M Dennis, Mr K Grantham, Mrs A Hooper, Mr P Palfrey, Mrs J Simmons, Mrs R Parish and Mrs E Patterson

The trustees are legally responsible for all decisions made about the Hall. If you would like to have any input to their decisions, why not consider becoming a trustee yourself? We meet only 6 times a year and meetings usually last less than an hour

**Website: [www.willandmatters.org.uk/organisations](http://www.willandmatters.org.uk/organisations) for our diary and community page. Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer**

## WILLAND VILLAGE HALL DIARY

<b>July</b>				
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Evergreens Coffee Morning	W.V.H.	10.00 am
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Willand Crafty Market	W.V.H.	2.00 pm
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	WVH Bingo	W.V.H.	7.30 pm
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Messy Church	W.V.H.	3.30 pm
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Blood Donor Session	W.V.H.	12.00 pm
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Crafty Market	W.V.H.	14.00 pm
<b>August</b>				
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup>	WVH Bingo	W.V.H.	7.30 pm
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Blood Donor Session	W.V.H.	14.00 pm
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club Show	W.V.H.	10.00 am
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Willand Theatrical Society AGM	W.V.H.	7.30 pm

<b>REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL</b>		
<b>Pilates</b>	Mondays	10:30 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</b>	Mondays	5:30 pm
<b>Cub Scouts</b>	Mondays	7:00 pm
<b>Kettle Bell Pump</b>	Mondays	7:00 pm
<b>Pilates</b>	Tuesday	9:30 am
<b>W.V.H Bingo</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	7.30 pm
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	1:15 pm
<b>Gymnastics Club</b>	Tuesday	4:00 pm
<b>Tiny Tots</b>	Wednesday	9:30 am
<b>Indoor Bowls Club</b>	Wednesday	7:00 pm
<b>Garden Club</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	7:30 pm
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	1:15 pm
<b>Pilates</b>	Thursday	9:30 am
<b>CAMEO</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	6:30 pm
<b>Karate</b>	Thursday	5:30 pm
<b>Folk Dance Club</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:30 pm
<b>Parish Council Meetings</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm
<b>Wits (Restarts 1<sup>st</sup> September)</b>	Fridays	7:30 pm
<b>Cowgirl Twisters</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	7:30 pm
<b>Folk Dance</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	7:00 pm
<b>Rugby Tots</b>	Sundays	9:00 am
<b>Martial Arts</b>	Sundays	6:30 pm

***Don't forget you can support the Cullompton Swimming pool project by playing bingo at Cullompton Town Hall next eyes down 7.30pm Friday 7 July 2017.***

## FENCING AND PLAY PARKS

Andrew Pritchard Director of Operations at MDDC has issued a statement in response to concerns over the fencing of play areas. In the light of comments elsewhere in the magazine I thought you might find it interesting.

I understand there is a growing perception that the council has implemented a policy regard the fencing of play areas. I think the very clear message from the outset is that it is not council policy to remove fencing from play areas. That is something I am happy to clarify.

I am bringing forward a paper to Environment PDG for members to start a discussion on how they want open spaces to develop over the next 10 years; this is being referred to as the design principles paper. That paper does include play areas; the intent being to leave open the ability to deal with each play area in consultation with local communities but frame that discussion within a consistent framework. The point of reference we will be using to help the PDG discussion is "Play England - Making Space for Play". The following link [www.playengland.org.uk](http://www.playengland.org.uk) contains useful source material; a sound and tested starting position for any concerned parties to familiarise themselves with current thinking.

I can confirm we would only remove existing fencing where it has become unsafe or it is in a state of disrepair. There isn't any suggestion to unilaterally remove perfectly serviceable fencing. When repairs or work is required we will need to take a view on whether or not to reinstate fencing. The design principles paper starts the discussion with PDG on how that decision should be taken.

I am also aware Parish and Town Councils have taken on responsibility for some play areas; the design principles paper relates to those open spaces under the direct control of Mid Devon District Council

## CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH (GABLES ROAD) EVENTS OPEN TO ALL IN THE COMMUNITY

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

Thank you to everyone who attended the cream tea on the 17 June it was lovely to be able to be outside.

## **ST MARY'S WILLAND**

On 21st July our popular "Messy Church" will be going on tour as we hold a Family Fun afternoon on the Jubilee Field (or Village Hall if weather is bad). Alongside having games and activities we also hope to have a bouncy castle and a free ice-cream on arrival! If you would like to join us please note that children need to be accompanied by an adult.

Alongside this we continue to hold our regular activities; St Mary's Guild 2.30-4pm on 2nd Thursday of the month; Lunch Club for seniors on 3rd Wednesday; our parent and toddler group "Rockers" each Monday morning during term time to name just a few! Please do join us for one of our church services either in church each week (10.15am on 1st Sunday or 11am on other Sundays) or 9.30am for our more informal service in the church hall on 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month with children's groups and crèche.  
**Rev Simon Talbot**

## **IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?**

The Willand Magazine has had the same cover for a number of years do you think it's time for a change? If you have any ideas for a new cover then please get in touch I have thought of a couple of options below but would appreciate your thoughts. You will find my contact details on the inside back cover of the magazine. **Gerri Taylor Editor**



As I write this we are having a heatwave, let's hope it continues. Enjoy it but don't forget to slop on the sun cream, slip on a shirt and slap on a hat, and please remember not to leave children and dogs in cars or conservatories.

**Please note the cutoff date for the next magazine is Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> August.**