

# Willand Magazine

May 2020



**LOCAL NEWS: LOCAL EVENTS: LOCAL CONTACTS**

Delivered Free to Every Home

**WILLAND PARISH ORGANISATIONS***Secretary/Contact*

Allotment Holders	Sylvia Statham	peteralsylviaastatham@hotmail.com	
Bridge Club	Wendy Boothroyd		01398 331219
Brownies	Bridget Pearse		07814 569054
C.A.M.E.O Ladies Group	Peta Jackman		07900 904822
Club 55	Margaret Atherton	27 Townlands	38217
Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom		01404 47200
Garden Club	Mrs Carol Allan	4 Orchard Way	33828
Tiny Tots	Karly Cousins	Cullompton	07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	Weir Mill Farm	820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)	Margaret Morrison, Driftwood, Gables Road		32331
Village Hall Bookings	Frances Wilcox	bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk	
Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher-caretaker@willandvillagehall.org.uk		07377 556946
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner		07775 550436
Willand Art Group	Jenny Baker	Gables Road	822882
Willand Community Composting	Tony Mander		821174
Willand Cycle Club	Alan Smith - biggiggsy@hotmail.com		07545 273085
Willand History Group	James Morrison – jamorrison235@gmail.com		01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	John Crocker	12 Maple Close	35589
Willand Theatrical Society	Karen Goodchild		38122
Willand United Charities	Rev. Simon Talbot		562570
Youth Club (35218)	Mrs M Billings	Cullompton	07766 141361

**CHURCHES / EDUCATION**

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham		34077
Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev. Paul Booth		32679
Quakers	Pat Bell		840823
Roman Catholic Church	Canon. Christian Paver – St Boniface, Cullompton		252292
St. Mary's Church	Rev. Simon Talbot		01884 562570
St. Mary Parochial CC	Secretary Sandy Hancock		35165
Cullompton Community College			33364
Uffculme School			840458
Willand Pre-School			33711
Willand Primary School			820367
Parent/Teacher Association	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolpta@gmail.com	

**LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Neil Parish	(MP)	neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7172
Ray Radford	(Devon County Council)	ray.radford@devon.gov.uk	820000
Richard Chesterton	(MD Dist. Councillor)	rchesterton@middevon.gov.uk	33480
Bob Evans	(MD Dist. Councillor)	revans@middevon.gov.uk	849248
Barry Warren	(MD Dist. Councillor)	bwarren@middevon.gov.uk	07971 808423

**Parish Council Parish Council Website [www.willand-pc.org.uk](http://www.willand-pc.org.uk)**

Andrea Glover	(Councillor)	andrea.glover@willand-pc.org.uk	01884 798913
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.org.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	Stephen.little@willand-pc.org.uk	07795 821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	Richard.phare@willand-pc.org.uk	821910
John Sellick	(Councillor)	john.sellick@willand-pc.org.uk	07865 570755
Jason Scott	(Councillor)	Jason.scott@willand-pc.org.uk	07818 045215
Bill Tobin	(Councillor)	bill.tobin@willand-pc.org.uk	821571
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.org.uk	07971 808423
Karen Whatley	(Councillor)	Karen.whatley@willand-pc.org.uk	01884 822894
Frances Wilcox	(Councillor)	frances.wilcox@willand-pc.org.uk	
Kate Taylor	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

## MEDICAL

Bramblehaies Surgery.....	33536
College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries.....	831300
Gables Road Pharmacy.....	32604
N.H.S. DIRECT.....	111
National Blood Service (Donors) Glenda Frost.....	820641
Out-of-Hours GP.....	111
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E).....	01392 411611
Tiverton & District Hospital (24hr Casualty).....	01884 235400
Willand Surgery.....	821878

## TRANSPORT

National Rail Enquiries.....	03457 484950
National Express Coach Services.....	0371 781818
Traveline.....	0871 2002233
Stagecoach Devon.....	01392 427711
Devon Bus (All bus timetables are displayed outside the Post Office).....	01392 382800
Culm Voluntary CarScheme.....	07546 525683

## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

CHILDLINE.....	0800 1111
CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU, TIVERTON.....	03444 111 444
CRIMESTOPPERS.....	0800 555111
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.....	0345 1551015
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (24 HOUR).....	0800807060
FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE, COASTGUARD.....	999 or 112
GAS.....	0800 111999
INJURED WILDLIFE Exeter.....	01392 439898
M.D.D.C./DOG WARDEN.....	01884 255255
R.S.P.C.A.....	0300 1234999
SAMARITANS.....	116123
SOUTH WESTERN ELECTRICITY.....	0800365900
SOUTH WEST WATER.....	0344 3462020
STREET LIGHTING/HIGHWAYS.....	0345 1551004
TREE WARDEN - MRS DENNIS.....	0188434050

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

**MOBILE LIBRARY** - visits four weekly

Thursday	Townlands	10.15am - 11.00am
Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.05am - 12.05pm

**LATEST POSTAL COLLECTIONS**

Post Office (01884 32430)	Monday	5.30pm	Saturday	11.00am
Meadow Park		5.30pm		9.00am
Station Road		5.30pm		9.30am
Fir Close		9.00am		7.00am
Willand Moor Road		4.00pm		11.00am

## COMMUNITY POLICE.

NON EMERGENCY DIAL 101 or Email: 101\_p@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk  
PCSO Danielle McNeill (30658@dc.police.uk)

**MAGAZINE** Gerri Taylor 01884 821528 Editor: willandparishmag@gmail.com

## WILLAND WEBSITE

[www.willandmatters.org.uk](http://www.willandmatters.org.uk)

<b>SERVICES TO HELP IN THIS TIME</b>		
<b>Willand Volunteer Helpline</b>	Helpline giving information and access to help services	01884 35455
Age (Concern) UK		0800 6781602
Cullompton's Volunteer Group		01884 799420
Devon Communities Together	Helpline	0808 1963390
It's Time to Talk	Helpline	0300 303 3691
Mid Devon Mobility	Transport and Chat Service	01884 242099
Parkways Taxis (Travel/Shopping)	<b>Will shop for you. They will pick up a list &amp; cash to value of £30 from doorstep and go &amp; do shopping &amp; return with goods, receipt &amp; change to doorstep.</b>	01884 38899
Police (Non Urgent)		101
Samaritans		116123
Willand Pharmacy	Linacre House Gables Road	01884 32604
<b>FOOD</b>		
Ashill Inn (Food and Meals)	Ashill	01884 840506
CHAT (Food Bank)	Tiverton	01884 255606
Co-op Food Store	Willand	01884 820071
Farmers Market	Cullompton	01884 277471
Daisy Chain Dairy		01404 371475
Forest Foods	Hitchcock's Farm	01884 849274
Fresh Fruit and Hampers		07588 464555
Halberton Court Farm	Halberton Farm Shop	01884 821741
J&R Food Services	Clyst St. Mary, Exeter	01392 445510
Kellands Fruit & Veg	Tiverton Pannier Market	07483 277090
Morrisons	For Vulnerable and Elderly	0345 611 6111
SJB Foods Ltd		01395 568918
Tesco	Cullompton	0345 6719351
Veg in a Box	Exeter	07951 786653
Veyseys Butchers	Cullompton	01884 33442
<b>HOME COOKED MEALS</b>		
Devon Fresh Foods		01395 267540
Hearty/Homemade Meals		01884 685937
Wiltshire Farm Foods		01392 829970
<b>COUNCILS</b>		

Community Support Hub		01884 234387
Devon County Council	Devon County Council	0845 155 1015
Involve in Mid Devon	Voluntary Action Support	01884 255734
John Bodley Scott	Covid 19 Community Support	01884 234387
Shielding List	Shielding Hub List for Vulnerable	0345 1551015
Social services	Tiverton	0345 155 1078
	MISC	
Cullompton Pet Shop	Pet Shop	01884 32751
Devon Grown	Plant Supplier	01404 823221
BBC Radio Devon	Local Radio	01752 234511

## EDITORIAL

148

Welcome to this special edition of the magazine we hope that you are keeping well and safe. This edition is online and we are asking that if you know of anyone who does not have access to it and would enjoy a copy, if you have the means please can you print it out and deliver it to them. Obviously do this in the safest possible way. Any problems then please let me know and I will see what I can do. I can be contacted on 01884 821528.

We all need to have some human contact and enjoy a chat and a laugh if this is something you are missing or just fancy talking to someone different then we have some volunteers who are happy to call and chat. Find out more by contacting the volunteer information line on 01884 35455.

We had planned to change the publications slightly this year to bring them in line with the financial year so we are taking this opportunity to do this now. This will mean that we will reschedule all cut off and delivery dates for the rest of the year. We aim to print and deliver the magazine at the end of May. We would like to have some stories and pictures of life in lockdown from both children and adults for this edition. The cut off date for this edition will be Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>.



“I need my prescription!” call Willand Volunteers on 01884 35455

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

We are now in very worrying times which many will not have seen the like of before. Some will remember the lockdown with foot & mouth disease and the worries of Spanish flu so there is some experience among we older members of our community. Those who have been through these things before or have been involved with major incidents, as some of us who served in the Emergency Services have, will know that it takes time for things to happen. Whatever your contingency plans or emergency stocks of materials you can always be assured that something happens which has not been planned for or it happens in some place which is different from where the supplies are. With this in mind, and some practical experience, it does annoy me when I hear some of the journalist on the radio and television being so negative and knocking those who are trying to do something positive. I sometimes wonder if some of them have ever done anything positive.

I have been trying to ensure, with others in the community, that information has been put out on social media. I appreciate some do not have access to computers and that is where neighbours can help by passing information on either verbally or printing off some information. It is pleasing to note that most of our community are complying with the advice given in respect of social distancing, yet we see that in some places people are still trying to hold parties and travel around for no good reason. We are aware of second homeowners coming down to the area from cities and then falling ill and putting strain on our local services. We have a problem very local to us which could be a source of trouble. A lot of hard work and negotiation, in particular by Councillor Bob Evans may now resolve a lot of concerns and there will be more information on that elsewhere.

We are continuing to try and keep the village looking tidy and the areas looked after by the Parish Council, on your behalf, are receiving grass cuts and weed control as appropriate by the contractors. Some have questioned why they are doing it but have you ever tried to get an area of grass back to normal after it has been neglected for some time? Some kind comments have been received by our clerk as the result of the work of the contractors and it has been passed on and gratefully received.

There has been an outpouring of recognition and praise for our NHS staff and now that is extending to recognising the work of carers who look after people in their own homes and in care homes. Let us hope that memories are not too short after this is all over. MDDC 'bin men' (including some ladies) have been keeping going and they have been supplemented by some of the ground staff who have been trained to work on the bin/recycling-lorries. They have been receiving praise for keeping the service going and for those people who have taken the trouble to leave them a note or to say 'thank you' it is really appreciated.

A lot of MDDC staff are multitasking or doing jobs completely alien to their normal work. Check the MDDC website and press releases for more detail.

Our Clerk, Kate Taylor, is keeping the work of the Parish Council going and is even working with the volunteers set up in the village to help those who need it with shopping and collecting medicines etc. Thank you to Chris and Andrea and Simon who got it off the ground and to all those who then pitched in and made it work. Willand got going very early compared to some other areas.

People have questioned as to what John our Litter Picker is doing. Some say his work is not essential. We have reduced his work but he is still doing quite a bit to keep the Jubilee Field and Orchard Way areas safe for exercise and play. We can all help by not dropping litter or picking it up if we see it. He is also working with other volunteers to work out how to look after our planters rather than let them deteriorate.

The Parish Council are now starting to arrange meetings over the internet and if you check the website and Facebook pages or look on the noticeboards the public can still be involved.

We should also recognise the work being put in by our local shops and the staff who are keeping us fed. The fact that we have a local pharmacy that does deliveries is also a bonus. Make sure we look after them all as they are looking after us.

We would hope that as a community we will come out the other side of this problem even stronger and vibrant. Our businesses will need our support as will those who serve the community in various ways. Please stay safe and follow the advice and do not put friends, neighbours or our community at risk through any selfishness on your part.

**Barry G J Warren Chair Willand Parish Council**

### **TIVERTON CHARITY SHOP**

We're not sure when shops will be reopening but we are asking supporters who are having a bit of a spring clear-out during lockdown to

please hold on to any items they'd like to donate until we're in a position to receive them again. If you have the space and it's not too much trouble. I will try to send out a reminder once we've reopened. Many thanks and stay safe.

**Andy Keeble**



**Self-isolating?**

**Do you need shopping collected?**

**You have options Willand 01884 35455**

## **NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL**

In common with all other museums and heritage sites, Coldharbour Mill is currently closed owing to Covid-19.

As a charity we rely on the support and generosity of many people to preserve our local treasure for future generations. This is even more important now, as the enforced closure of the Museum means that our main source of income from visitor admission fees has ceased, and the Trust has limited cash reserves.

We need £20,000 just to survive until June, so that staff can continue to work from home to keep systems running and support our volunteers, and be ready to reopen to the public as soon as that is allowed.

There is a way you can help us to keep going until we can reopen.

If you take out Mill membership now for just £20 per person or £45 per family, it will be valid until December 2021, so will be able to take advantage of all the benefits for well over a year, including free entry and discounts in the shop and cafe. For more details, please visit the Membership page on the Mill website:

**[www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/become-a-member/](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/become-a-member/)**

Thank you for your support, please stay safe,

**Coldharbour Mill Trustees, Staff and Volunteers**



## **MISSING YOUR DAILY NEWSPAPER?**

Honiton Paper Shop are making deliveries in Cullompton and would extend to Willand provided they had adequate support from customers. You may already know that vouchers for free delivery are available for several weeks via online site "DeliverMyNewspaper" with the Honiton shop. This excludes the cost of the paper which could be paid with other vouchers or by settlement with the agent.

If you are interested in this service, please call Duncan from the Honiton Paper Shop, on 01404 41222 or drop him an email on [papershophoniton@aol.com](mailto:papershophoniton@aol.com) to discuss further (24 New St, Honiton EX14 1EX)

## **BLACKDOWN HILLS REPAIR CAFE**

Our Green Drinks events are slowly – and surely – gathering momentum and already, for example, we've attracted 4 new volunteer repairers for our Blackdown Hills Repair Café. Also, a number of really sound and innovative new ideas for how we might tackle our climate emergency are coming forward, and all this largely in part due to your kindly including our monthly events in your Parish Magazine or on your website. Thank you, it is very much appreciated.

**Trica Comrie**

## **WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**

I hope you are all safe and well.

The annexe room and toilets were almost finished before lockdown started, but should not take long to complete. We were hoping to do the Club and Committee rooms too, but, because of the virus forcing us to cancel all bookings, we will not have the necessary funds until later this year or possibly 2021.

Our AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> May has been postponed until the pandemic is over.

More details will follow



In order to keep up with our rising running costs, we have increased our fees slightly. We are still very competitive with other halls in the area with smaller car parks and fewer facilities, so hiring the hall is still excellent value for money. Please find new charges below.

**Class A: Willand organisations and Willand Residents for private functions.**

**Class B: All other Categories except Commercial.**

**Class C: Commercial organisations.**

	<b>Hall</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Annexe</b>
<b>Class A</b>	£10.20	£5.40	£4.85	£6.45
<b>Class B</b>	£16.10	£8.10	£7.50	£9.70
<b>Class C</b>	£32.15	£16.10	£15.10	£18.75

**Each booking must be for a minimum of one hour and can be increased by multiples of 30 minutes.**

**Extra Charges applicable: Licensed Bar or BYOB: £16 per event.** Payable to Village Hall for additional cleaning costs.

Please visit our website, [www.willandvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.willandvillagehall.org.uk) to check the calendar to see when the hall is free. The email for booking is [bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk).

**Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer**

**Feeling lonely call Willand 01884 35455**

# Protect Willand Pharmacy Stay Home

## Ask for prescription delivery

### **AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL HOSPICE CHARITY, HOSPISCARE**

Firstly, we hope that you and your family are keeping safe and well at this worrying time. Hospiscare is very much part of this local community and we hope you will find our website helpful: [www.hospiscare.co.uk](http://www.hospiscare.co.uk). You will also find useful information and advice on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

These are unprecedented times and our staff and volunteers have all been working incredibly hard to ensure our expert end of life services continue. We are keeping up to date with all the government advice and moving as quickly as we can to adjust and ensure we provide our care as safely as possible. Here are a couple of essential points we would like to share with you:

#### **What effect is Covid-19 having on our services?**

Our specialist in-patient ward and community nursing services are continuing as priority. Providing safe and effective care to vulnerable patients and keeping our staff well so they can continue to care for our patients are our main concerns. We have decided to suspend our Day Hospice services at all sites as a precautionary measure for the foreseeable future – these patients will continue to be cared for by the Hospiscare Community Nursing Team.

Other services affected include:

Outpatient and nurse-led clinics will be managed over the phone or by Skype

Care navigators will be making phone calls rather than face-to-face visits

Film Club, Bereavement Teas, our cafes at Kings House and Searle House and other gatherings are currently postponed

Complementary Therapy outpatient treatments are being postponed

#### **If you wanted to visit the hospice at Searle House?**

We are asking only close loved ones visit to reduce the risk to our patients and staff. All visitors are asked to call ahead on 01392 688000. We have asked all non-clinical volunteers, visitors, contractors and suppliers not to visit Searle House. We are also working to enable staff to work remotely where possible to reduce footfall to our specialist ward. **How can you help?** Hospiscare is reliant on raising 85% of its £8m funding needs from a range of fundraising activities, events and gifts in Wills. These are incredibly difficult times with cancellations of events and other activities that will hugely impact on our income. If you are in a position to make a donation, set-up a regular monthly direct debit, or consider us for a gift in your Will, we would be extremely grateful. Just visit [www.hospiscare.co.uk/donate](http://www.hospiscare.co.uk/donate) or call 01392 688020 to make a difference today. On behalf of our nurses, our clinical team and the patients they care for, thank you. **Ali McGeown**

## WILLAND BEAVERS, CUBS & SCOUTS

Luckily just before we had to suspend sessions Willand beavers, Cubs and scouts went to go ape at Haldon forest. A group of 60 not only conquered their fears but also the weather as it rained heavily most of the morning. But in great scouting style they didn't let that get in the way of taking on brave rope bridges that got harder the further on they went. Watching them all come down the zip wire was lovely to see the smiles and expressions on faces



Since then the beavers have been completing badge work at home. There has been a lot of cooking happening around the village, from cakes, pizzas and soup. The gardening badge is a popular one at the moment. Seedlings of tomatoes, peppers, carrots and the odd sunflower competition are taking place and helping to maintain the gardens which is ideal in this weather to help them be outside safely.

Other badges being undertaken are cyclist badge, science experiments, junk model making which is always a popular session even at the village hall

As the uncertainty of the next few months lie in front of us we at Willand scout group hope that we may be able to think about future plans for the group soon. With activities such as the Exmoor challenge and camping trips being postponed we look forward to when we can make new adventures and memories.

The main thing at the moment is to remain safe.



Thank you to the parents of the beavers for giving permission for the photos to be added to the magazine.



If after all this you are over 18 and feel that you have some time to help our group we would be very grateful. Whether it be in administration, organisation, Fund-raising or more importantly helping with the groups please get in touch, we would love to talk to you. [Liesa.a.milligan@hotmail.com](mailto:Liesa.a.milligan@hotmail.com) or 07999802679  
**Liesa Milligan**

### **WALKING FOR HEALTH**

The fantastic walking for health scheme that operates in Mid Devon and Exeter is in desperate need of volunteers in order to keep our walks going and the community healthy.

We want everyone to live happy and healthy lives. Please help us achieve this by volunteering with your local walking for health scheme. You will lead and assist with walks; you can also help to develop new routes. We will provide full training and support and all agreed out of pocket expenses are reimbursed.

If you want to get active, meet new people and make a difference to your local community we would love to hear from you. For more information please contact Claire Ridge, Health Walks Coordinator on: tel: 01392 824752 or email: [claire.ridge@westbank.org.uk](mailto:claire.ridge@westbank.org.uk) Sarah Forde

## **SHORT STORY 24: COURAGE**

I squinted as the sun rose above the hedgerow. The birds were quiet, resting their voices after a vibrant chorus. I counted five different types of daffodils on the grassy banks behind the ditches as I walked along the lane:

Yellow on yellow,  
Orange on yellow,  
Pale yellow on yellow,  
Orange on pale yellow,  
Yellow on pale yellow.

A black and yellow mini mechanical digger sat parked inside the iron gates of the new parish cemetery. An open grave laid empty, red earth piled beside it. Spiders' webs, visible in their intricate glory, sagged underneath the remaining dew, hanging between shiny headstones; too many headstones.

I carried on my walk. There used to be a stream of vans, bikes and cars doing fifty on their way to work, avoiding the queues on the main roads. Now, two cars passed me in twenty minutes.

I climbed over the stile onto the footpath behind the white bungalows at the edge of the village boundary. I breathed in the cool, silent air. No dogs barked as I walked past. The footpath was blocked by a five bar gate that had been opened. I climbed on the bottom rung and looked around. I could see a flock of sheep through the gaps in the hedge of the last bungalow's garden.

'Sit down. Git. Sit. Get.' A male voice issued commands from the garden. The voice got closer and an average sized man with short grey hair appeared. His light blue overalls were tucked into green wellies. He walked across the footpath and called out, 'Get down.'

Sheep emerged from the garden, gathered together in one big ball of white fluff, black heads bobbing up and down. They turned away from the shepherd and ran into the field they had escaped from. A sheepdog followed them in; an unusual breed with sleek, short brown hair. The shepherd resumed his calls until his dog had herded the sheep back out of the wrong field and into the correct one. I counted eight, still wide awake, before the ninth got stuck behind the fence. The shepherd reached in and tried to pull the ewe out. She resisted and leapt over his shoulder, landing with splayed legs, before making a break into the garden.

I turned and followed my shadow home; watching the sheep's athleticism had drained me. I kicked off my boots on the front porch and went indoors to wash my hands. I half-filled the small saucepan with water to boil an egg, put the coffee machine on and set the kitchen table for one. The house was quiet now so I turned on the radio. The first three channels were too cheery for me so I

broke my promise and tuned into 'Today'. The statistics, economics and meaningless soundbites were different from 6 months ago, but the message was the same. I switched it off. The silence sapped my dawn optimism.

I sat down and sliced the top off my egg and then dipped my toast into the orange yolk. I looked at the empty seats around the table and remembered how I had longed for peace and quiet. I used to despair at the petty bickering and squabbling; the one-upmanship, the competing for attention and shouting at each other.

I regretted every cross word, every slammed door, every vengeful stare. The very stuff of life was missing now. I washed my plate and mug. The dishwasher was just redundant space under the worktop.

I walked into my office and sat at my desk. *Why?* I could work in the kitchen uninterrupted. I watched the dust particles dancing in the sunrays, wincing as they landed on the black backing card of the photo frame that lay face down on the bookshelves. I needed to work to get paid, but I didn't need to get paid now. The insurance had paid off the mortgage. I had the cash in the bank. My 14 hour days had meant we, no I, was financially secure. But I couldn't buy back the moments that I had missed. I should be the one that had died. I have lived and worked and raised a family. I am too old to start again.

I used to think that courage meant facing an enemy, or overcoming fear. 'Be brave', 'try your best,' I used to tell my children. I would rather the sofas were covered with lazy slackers than empty.

Courage. *What is courage?* I can't face work so I go to the cupboard under the sink and get a duster. I clean the photo frames and stand them upright. Three faces stare back at me. What would they think of my dishevelled countenance? 'Aw Dad, your kisses are tickly,' my daughter would say on Sundays if I didn't shave.

Three pairs of eyes bear into my soul.

I walk upstairs to the bathroom and run my fingers across the dry, stiff bristles of the shaving brush. I lean on the sink and look at my wrinkled, pale skin. No bloodshot flecks or sleep goo in my eyes. I turn on the tap and rotate the brush under the flow of water before swivelling it in the shaving bowl. I work up a lather and cover my beard.

'Courage is taking the first step.' My son's voice echoes in my mind.

**James Marshall**

## **CAMEO**

About 20 members went to our first Coffee morning of the year held at the Bluebell restaurant in Willand. A beautiful sunny day saw us at Exmouth for ten pin bowling and what a great time we had. Cynthia and Chistine were the winners and we went upstairs to the restaurant for lunch where we had glorious views over the estuary. We will certainly be making a return visit. We began our March meeting with a letter of thanks from the South West Children's Hospice thanking us for our donation it was a heart rending letter and one also

from the Mother of one of the children who attend there and we felt that our contribution was going to such a worthwhile cause. The rest of the meeting was hilarious. Rose Chanin was our Speaker and she is so funny we laughed and laughed throughout her talk. Poems and anecdotes where she dressed up to accompany her act. What a tonic, with all the gloom and doom about flooding and the coronavirus she certainly cheered us all up. Peta puzzled us with another of her quizzes this time all about flowers. A lovely evening. After that everything went to pot, all our exciting events we'd planned were obviously cancelled but we must all abide by the rules. Take great care all of you and look after each other and we'll get through it together. After all, we're British and we can do it. **Betty Penberthy.**

## **HELP PROTECT YOUR LOCAL CANCER CHARITY**

**To protect FORCE beyond the Coronavirus pandemic, chief executive Meriel Fishwick has called on communities that the charity serves for their support.**

This is her message to everyone who cares about FORCE: “We are thankful for the Government’s announcement of support for charities, particularly those like FORCE who are still providing services during the Coronavirus pandemic. “However, we will have to put a really strong case to try to get a share of these funds and that’s where you can help.

“Quite simply we are asking people to write a paragraph on:

**Why Devon and its communities need FORCE Cancer Charity.**

“We **must** send the decision-makers a clear message about just how important FORCE is to so many people.

“Help us fight for our survival by joining this campaign.

“Please encourage everyone you can to get involved and give us the people-power we need to fight for FORCE.

“You can email us at **connect@forcecancercharity.co.uk** or contact us via **Facebook** or other social media channels.

“Send your messages, spread the word and help save FORCE. “THANK YOU.”

The charity’s income streams have almost entirely dried up but the Government has promised £370 million for small and medium sized organisations at the heart of local communities which are making a big difference during the COVID-19 outbreak.

With its support centres in Exeter, Okehampton, Tiverton and Honiton temporarily closed, FORCE has redesigned its services to offer ongoing help and advice cancer patients and their families.

Patients are continuing to receive chemotherapy in Okehampton and Honiton – FORCE pays for the nurses who deliver treatment.

Information, including benefits advice, and counselling appointments are happening via phone and video calls.

If you or someone you know is affected by cancer and needs support, please call:

**01392 406151** for cancer support and information, including benefits advice

**01392 406168/406169** for psychological and emotional support. **Sarah Daniels**

## **BOB EVANS MDDC DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Clearly we are in very difficult times, there is very little by way of calling much the norm, some members within our society are asked to shield themselves and not venture out at any time, others are self-isolating and the rest (well the vast majority) are doing all they can to help themselves and others in the best way they can.

Many of us of a particular age see a society that on a occasions is very different from how we remember from our younger days, everybody has a phone, well it's called a phone but few use it to make calls, social media is the way we are now expected to communicate and writing letters apparently went out the last time the ark sailed.

Yet amongst all the concern, worry and the new way we shop standing in lines six foot apart, following a one way system and hoping not to miss anything from the list the wife has prepared as we follow the line, some good things are returning.

The other day I was sent out on my now weekly shopping expedition, list at the ready, sanitiser applied by a very young but helpful assistant and off we go, as I ticked off the items I entered the aisle that I knew would contain the expected black pepper, having moved about three quarters down the aisle I had failed in my quest and so there was only one thing for it. I stopped and turned to the four gents following me and asked loudly "anybody see black pepper I can't see it" this new form of communication with strangers had a very strange effect.

There was an immediate search by four total strangers for black pepper, some banter and comments on how others had missed vital items , the mass search quickly found the elusive pepper and what followed was a strange phenomenon called conversation, the rest of the shopping procession saw five never before introduced individuals chat about many things, assistance was offered in finding other items and a very kind and helpful assistant having heard some had missed items came and offered to go fetch any missing bits.

A small , a very small change but a positive aspect I think, all around us many are going to work, making, packing, delivering and serving, I have no words for

all within the huge thing we call the NHS, quite simply the best health service with the best people in the world.

Your own MDDC officers are retraining, redeployed and doing all they can to make things as normal as possible, delivering vital food deliveries, medicines and yes financial support grants within our communities.

Many staff are working from home with Phoenix house only giving access for very limited times and reasons.

Bin collections are back to normal as we have now managed to get enough HGV drivers to drive the lorry's, a one week break was an exceptional turn around to get back to normal.

For us we need to stay together, stay home, stay safe, maybe even write a letter, I did to my grandchildren, their faces on the resulting video call were full of surprise and love.

Little things make a massive difference. So let's all do a little thing and stay home when necessary. Stay safe, stay well.

**Bob Evans MDDC Councillor Lower Culm**

## “I need to chat!” call Willand 01884 35455

### **WILLAND HISTORY GROUP**

First of all, the History Group sends our best wishes to everyone during these difficult times, from those directly affected by the coronavirus, to those bravely serving on the frontline with the NHS, to so many others, from posties and delivery drivers, to supermarket shelf-stackers, volunteer responders, farmers and food processors; they are all here in our parish of Willand, and are all playing such an important and appreciated role in this crisis. Willand is sometimes criticised as being over-developed, disjointed, lacking unity, and not like it used to be, but history has shown how the people of Willand have always pulled together for the common good when they have to, and meet whatever challenges the world presents, head on. Today is no different, and as we all adapt our lives to these unprecedented circumstances, our generation is proving that Willand's community spirit is as strong as ever.

This May sees the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, when Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered to the Allies on 8 May 1945 – although it should be emphasised that Britain's involvement in the Second World War continued until the Japanese surrendered in August 1945. We do not have any first-hand accounts of how 'Victory in Europe' was received in the parish, but the *Devon & Somerset News* reported that there were “splendid bonfires” in Willand, and “dancing in the flickering, lurid light.” The village's main celebrations appear to

have been a Sports Day held a few days later on Saturday, 19 May in a field lent by Henry Eveleigh of Park Farm – organised by Mr JH Wollacott, helped by a committee of Messrs F Edworthy, G Edworthy and G Welsby. It proved “a great success” and included all manner of races, for all ages, with flat races, crawling races, hopping races, ‘pick-a-back’, skipping and sack races, three-legged, wheelbarrow and egg and spoon races. The ‘running backwards’ race, for example, saw F Vile over the line in first place, followed by T Sparrow and J Spearing; while the under-9s wheelbarrow race, over 25 yards, was won by T Thorne & J Sparrow, with M Russ & F Sparrow second, and M Cottrell & R Vile third. An afternoon tea was laid on for everyone – thanks to the hard work of many of the village’s women – and in the evening there was ‘community singing and dancing’.

Local newspapers reveal how much the local community was pulling together 75 years ago, as the Second World War was drawing to a close. At the end of April, for example, there was a jumble sale held at the Assembly Room to raise money for a ‘Post-War Village Hall’, and on 22 April collections at Willand Parish Church raised over £5 for the Red Cross. Equally commendably, a house-to-house egg collection was made around Bradfield, Stenhill and Willand by Miss Austin and Mrs Taylor of Bradfield; in those days many people kept a few chickens. They collected 16 dozen eggs that were sent to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, and 16 dozen to Tiverton and District Hospital, with “many thanks to those who gave.” In early May 1945 the Willand branch of the Halberton Nursing Association held their annual general meeting, presided over by Revd Andrews – with Mrs Tracey chairperson, Mrs Kerslake hon. secretary, and Miss E Chick hon. treasurer. This is a reminder of the days before the Welfare State, when local organisations organised and raised funds for local healthcare. It was reported that ‘Nurse Jane’, who had been hired by the Halberton Nursing Association, aided by Red Cross volunteers, had made 3,594 visits (of which 1,116 were to Willand), including 2,035 ‘general’ visits, 345 for midwifery, 283 ante-natal, and 80 ‘casual’. It would not be long before the funding and organisation of such services would become a national responsibility – at the 5 July 1945 General Election, the Labour Party were swept into government with a large majority and the National Health Service Act was passed in 1946, paving the way for the establishment of our modern National Health Service in 1948.

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

**Self-isolating?**

**Would you like a chat with a friend?**

**We would like to chat with you. Phone Willand  
01884 35455 we can put you in touch with  
volunteers who will be happy to call you.**

## WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WITS)

Along with the rest of the country it seems normal life is temporarily on hold. My previous article spelt out plans for the year, that's all by the by now.

WiTS are re-considering all future productions.

Our premier for our members of "The Little Mermaid" is on hold and so is our AGM. Plans to stage **Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders** in September will have to be abandoned as the current crisis will use up valuable rehearsal time needed to put on a professional production. We along with the rest of the country hope this crisis will be over soon and hope there are a limited number of casualties. It would be nice if things get back to normal before September when we can start to prepare for next year's Pantomime.

With all the time on my hands I remind myself of some of the memories over the last seven years since we formed.

The oohs from the audience when Cinderella's coach was uncovered, this fabulous painting on the back wall created by Cindy Wilkinson and lit by ultra- violet was a revelation. (Probably not so effective in Black and white) It was so good we couldn't bear to paint over it but carefully boarded over it to give a new backdrop. Perhaps a future Tony Robinson will uncover it.



The cheers that went up when Tommy (Tania Edworthy), Dick Whittington's cat defeated the evil King Rat (Me) as I was dragged off stage



The fabulous comedy duo of Ugly Sisters, Karen Vincent and David Keating who had the audience in stitches. In Cinderella. What a pair of nutters.



And there was Jonathan Widdowson trying to dress in my clothes In "Caught on the Hop" whilst wearing a hunchback outfit I cried with laughter along with the audience.

Not forgetting Willy played by James Jones who with a wardrobe malfunction gave the audience a view much more than they bargained for in Sleeping Beauty. (Daren't show the picture) There have been so many moments never to be forgotten. Stay Safe. **Sam Fincher.**

## **WILLAND ROVERS**

### **SOUTHERN LEAGUE COMES TO ABRUPT STOP AS THE COUNTRY STRUGGLES WITH COVID-19**

With the pandemic striking the world the Southern League stalled as the Government announced that social gatherings were to be curtailed. So we stopped playing and waited.

The Western league from where we had been promoted from wrote to the FA asking for the league to be stopped and records to be expunged. Following this and with no consultation from the league, the leagues from Step 3 to Step 6 all told the FA that they wished for the league to be stopped altogether.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> March the FA non-league committee made the decision that the league would stop all records would be expunged and all results would be null and void.

Now one thing that football is famed for is opinions, and this decision has provoked a lot of comments, some 132 clubs nationally have written to the FA demanding that the decision to null and void the league be reconsidered. Personally, this was probably the only fair way of determining the leagues, whilst there are points and goals to play for anything is possible.

What is more important is that when we do return that the guy you say Hi to who stands on the same terrace as you or the person you sit on the bus next to are still here and they are safe.

Whilst the lockdown has had a massive impact on us financially we've no revenue for what looks like months. We should consider all those business out there equally struggling. If when this is all over you can support local businesses then please do.

When the league was halted our record was P24 W10 D 2 L12 so for our first go at the Southern League that was a good effort given that we lost our first 6 matches. Had we won 5, drawn 1 of our last 14 games we would have finished on 48 points which is a pretty good effort.

We had some great results since the turn of the year with fabulous wins against Frome and Larkhall who were sitting in second and third respectively. It showed when everyone was available and fit, we could challenge anyone in a game.

At the turn of the year Rob Norrish won the player of the season so far as decided by Russ and David, he was pushed all the way by Will Richards.

Below is a photograph of Rob receiving his award a £100 boot voucher from Lee Waterman of Willand Service Centre. We would like to thank Lee for his continuing support of the club. Rob is looking forward to trying out his new boots in pre-season

We have been successful in receiving some funding from the Football Stadium Improvement Fund towards our new grandstand; hopefully, we will be able to have this in place before the season starts.

We have arranged some preseason games in a hope that we can get going again, that maybe optimistic and peoples safety is paramount but everyone hopes that we can get out there kicking a ball around.



We are due to play Taunton Town on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm ko, Plymouth Parkway on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 7.30pm kick off and Bradford Town on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 3pm kick off. It would be brilliant to see you all there. Keep safe.

**Dominic Clark.**

### **BOB EVANS. 2 SISTERS FOOD GROUP**

I am aware that several residents have taken to social media to raise their concerns around aspects of social distancing at 2SFG.

Can I please ask that any issues or concerns you may have are directed away from social media and into the correct agencies to deal with.

You can evidently contact any of your local councillors my E mail address is **Revans@middevon.gov.uk** and I will pass your concerns on.

It may be a good idea for more people to log their individual concerns to the HSE through their website directly

- <https://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/concernsform/answerQuestionnaire?>

Social media may be a seen as getting your concerns out their but it does not report the problem or scale of a problem where it needs to be reported. You can also report odours or noise issues to the National Environment reporting phone line on **0800 807060**.

Please help us to help you by reporting correctly and in a timely manner.

**Bob Evans MDDC Councillor Lower Culm**

**It's been lovely to walk around the Village and see all the Rainbows and Teddy Bears in the windows to support our NHS**

# Protect Willand Pharmacy

## Stay Home

### Ask for prescription delivery



**Uplift** is a community-facing organisation seeking to improve the lives of the under fives and their families. In normal times we offer an open, friendly space for families with young children to meet, read and play. We can also provide materials for families short of some essentials through a Baby Bank. Activities are normally centred around The Den, a cafe by the Clock Tower in Tiverton previously known as Mallards.

### Role for Uplift (Devon) CIC during Covid:

#### **Role:**

Provide materials for families with children <5 yrs. at their request

Clothing, nappies, accessories, toys and books

1. Families local to Tiverton/Cullompton area
2. Support may be co-ordinated with CHAT food bank.
3. Promote “family friendly materials” (e.g. books, games)
4. Signpost those in need of other support to appropriate authority or charity
5. Provide Facebook forum ( UpliftTiverton ) for families to communicate/entertain their children

#### **How:**

- Uplift property (3-4 Lowman Green) may be used for collection with threshold policy in place:

- Deliveries by Uplift possible
  - Home threshold rule applies.
- Deliveries may be co-ordinated with CHAT to go out with Food parcels, if requested.
- Social media presence (primarily through Facebook):

Contacts:

Heidi: [hides41629@gmail.com](mailto:hides41629@gmail.com)

Jo: [jocarpenter78@gmail.com](mailto:jocarpenter78@gmail.com)

John: [blue2@bradninchtogether.org.uk](mailto:blue2@bradninchtogether.org.uk)

 [upliftdevon.org](http://upliftdevon.org)

 UpliftTiverton



We are hoping to produce a magazine for June and July which will be distributed to every home in the village and would love contributions for local people. Tell us about your experience in lockdown

Ask your children and young people to write something or do a picture to put in the next edition.

**Cut-off Date for the next magazine is Friday 15<sup>th</sup>**

**May 2020**

**Stay safe**