**EDITORIAL No. 104 January & February 2013**

The provider of our Christmas cover this year has asked that I add a suitable acknowledgement. It, and the title, are on the rear cover.

**FROM OUR PARISH COUNCIL.**

State of the village

We recently carried out one of our quarterly walks, to assess the state of the village. This time, we covered the Orchard Way and Willand Moor Road areas. We noted they are much tidier than earlier in the year, there is virtually no litter and the incidence of weeds and overhanging branches has been significantly reduced. Some of the residents have helped, others are also commenting on the change. This result has been achieved by a concerted approach to the relevant departments of Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council, with ourselves co-ordinating the clean-up activities. ‘Thank you’ to all involved and we will continue to work to try to keep our village looking its best.

Graveyard wall

You may have noticed that the section of St Mary’s graveyard wall which leaned into the road near Rectory Close is now fenced off, as it has become unstable. As you may imagine, it is not a simple task repairing a graveyard perimeter wall and there are a number of legal implications. We have now been given permission by the Diocese to carry out the repair and expect to see it carried out early in the New Year. We are currently obtaining quotations.

Speeding

We have had a number of concerns expressed by residents about speeding along Silver Street. As a result, the police have carried out some checks and have confirmed that there is a problem. They are looking at designating the road as a problem area which will allow them to use mobile speed vans and cameras. Unfortunately, it seems that 90% of drivers they have stopped are from the village!

Gables

As you will be aware, we have been trying to buy some land on the Gables site in order to develop a community and health centre. We have now had confirmation from Devon County Council that our offer was acknowledged and “parked”. This land has been defined as a community asset and DCC should have given us the opportunity to exercise our “right to buy”. They have failed to do this. Our county councillor has been very supportive but it seems that DCC are intent on selling this site for development at the highest price, which could result in more high density housing, regardless of the needs of our village. We will continue to press our case.

Christmas lights

The Christmas lights have now been switched on and you will note that they are different to previous years. This is because we have a three year contract to keep the costs down and our contract has just been renewed. There are one or two small problems with the timers but I am sure that these will be quickly resolved. We have had donations so far of £650 towards the lights this year which helps us to reduce the pressure on the precept. Our very sincere thanks to those who have donated.

Finally, on behalf of your Parish Council, I wish you a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. We look forward to supporting and representing our residents through 2013**. Ray Ursell**

**Alcohol is not the answer. It just helps you forget the question**

**WILLAND VILLAGE HALL CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Happy Christmas and New Year everyone! On Saturday 8th December, we had an amazing day and raised £402.83 for the Hall funds (Charity Number 301015). With 30 booked stalls it seemed it was going to be hard to fit in but 3 cancelled at the last minute and 5 more just didn't turn up so it all went in the main hall.

The decorations were so beautiful and much appreciated by our visitors and sellers, so ‘thank you’ to the Folk Dance Club and helpers for the loan and the many man hours it took to place them. Santa Claus came with sweets for all (thanks to Claire Cottrell for contacting him), Gazette photographer Marcus took photos (wish I had some pictures of the children's faces full of wonder) our sellers were a happy and entertaining crowd, we sang and sold. Only one entry for Christmas hanging decorations, so the winner was Scarlet.

Our band of volunteers on the day were Sally Taylor, Diane Batchelor, Margaret Howe, Judith Dawson, Mike Howe, and Sylv Davis. A special mention to Keren Sanders and Margaret Atherton, who see a job and do it. You all deserve a huge pat on the back.

Thank you for all donations, for attending, to our sellers, to the school for leaving the Hall clean and tidy and to John Holmes our Hall caretaker.

**Margaret and Eddie Dennis**

**I’ve stopped blaming my parents and**

**started blaming my children**

**CAMEO**

We started our new Cameo year in November with an excellent talk given by the husband of one of our members, Peter Leach. After a long career in the Royal Marines, Peter joined O.S.C.E. – the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. They are part of the United Nations and Peter was mainly employed in the Balkans, Serbia, Kosovo and Albania. His job was to help with the organising of the re-building of schools and hospitals and ensure that electricity and water supplies were in place. One of the main jobs was to help to organise free and democratic elections in these areas of civil unrest and conflicts, where all sorts of weapons were freely available, from hand guns and Kalashnikov rifles to rocket launchers. Sylvia Beckford (who organises our outings and visits) thanked him and said how lucky we are to live in a free and democratic society.

At the December meeting, Sue ran a handicraft stall, selling the Christmas items the Craft Group had made, with all the proceeds going to our chosen charity for next year, Pine Lodge, Tiverton. Then the party began! An hilarious Beetle Drive was followed by a delicious supper, with contributions from the members. After that is was carol singing and the evening ended with a grand Christmas draw organised by Wyn.

The Walking Group have had a very busy couple of months. They enjoyed a beautiful Autumn walk around Selworthy Beacon and another trip saw them at Nynhead Court, near Taunton, looking over the lovely Church there. They had had a super walk around Knightshayes and another around the Uffculme area, ending up at Colharbour Mill for a Christmas tea.

We are off to Petroc's College for our Christmas lunch and the Singles Group are having their Christmas party at Wyn's house this year and looking forward to their New Year Lunch at the Halfway House and a holiday in Wales.

Sylvia is hoping to organise a trip to Trago Mills in the Spring, as well as an outing to The Theatre Royal in Plymouth for "a look behind the scenes".   We are also booking a coach for the next visit on our calendar - to a Gin factory, also in Plymouth. We can't have the ladies "done" for drink-driving!

Cameo members would like to thank you all for your support at our Coffee Mornings and our big Autumn event next year will be a coffee morning for Pine Lodge, Tiverton - we hope to see you all there. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.  **Betty Penberthy**

**It doesn’t matter if the glass is half full or half empty –**

**there is clearly room for more wine.**

**LETTER TO THE ED.**

I thought the small article below may be of interest to your fellow parishioners, and I wondered if you would be kind enough to include it in a forthcoming newsletter or online notice board. We like to communicate with people on a local level and know from past experience how effective parish newsletters/magazines/councils are at communicating with their community.

“Wild plant charity Plantlife ([www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/)), are hoping to reach out to many wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers by inviting them to become wild plant 'pioneers'. They can subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants via the 'Wild About Plants' project website - [www.wildaboutplants.org.uk](http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk/) which aims to help people reconnect with the outdoors and their local green-spaces. Working with schools, families and communities from all walks of life and with free downloadable resources, the team hope to engage people with the nature on their doorstep.

In recent years, subscribers have been asked to record the plant life in their local area and recount what they used to see/pick and forage for. Wild About Plants is funded by Natural England through Access to Nature, as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme. It is a partnership project involving partner organisations throughout the country.

Earlier in the year our Pioneer readers approached their own local parishes with a short article about Plantlife and our Wild About Plants project. We had a really positive response, featuring in several local newsletters, resulting in a new wave of interest and potential awareness for Plantlife. If you have any queries about Plantlife or the Wild About Plants project, then do not hesitate to contact me.” **Katie Cameron, Conservation Assistant** T:(01722) 342759 E:katie.cameron@plantlife.org.uk, [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/) Find us on twitter @Love\_plants. Please follow us! We’re also on facebook: Plantlife – speaking up for wild plants.

**AND ANOTHER………**

MELDON VIADUCT ABSEIL

I work for the events team at Marie Curie Cancer Care and I was wondering if we could promote our forthcoming charity abseil through your local parish newspaper? The money raised from this event will help to support the free care our nurses provide to patients throughout Devon so it would be a fantastic help if you could let your readers know about this exciting event. I’ve written a short description of the event below:

**Meldon Viaduct Abseil – Sunday 24th March 2013**

Abseil from the historic Meldon Viaduct, a Victorian wrought and cast iron structure which spans a wooded valley high on Dartmoor. At over 120 feet the abseil will be a true classic – only for the adventurous! With a spectacular birds eye views over the picturesque setting of Dartmoor this is one abseil not to be missed! No previous experience is necessary, only a sense of adventure!

Registration is £10 and everyone who abseils is asked to raise £100 in sponsorship. All money raised from this event will mean more hours of Marie Curie nursing care in your local community, to patients and their families when it is needed the most. You must be at least 16 years to take part and anyone under the age of 18 years must gain permission from a parent or guardian. Places are limited so apply early to avoid disappointment. For more information please **email:** [**matt.carruthers@mariecurie.org.uk**](mailto:matt.carruthers@mariecurie.org.uk)or call me on 01884 703536. Thank you, **Matt Carruthers, Marie Curie Cancer Care,**

**Youth passes but with luck, immaturity can last a lifetime.**

**COMMUNITY POLICING**

Recently, there was a Community Speed Watch in the Village, conducted by volunteer residents of the parish, although no vehicles were stopped (because members of the public were doing this). A number of vehicle surveys are also currently being carried out by PC Rich and myself, the details of which will then be submitted to highways. Providing the data is high enough, we will then look to get both Silver Street and Uffculme Road approved for a Safety Camera Partnership site (Speed camera van). When and if this happens, we will provide the magazine and Parish council with this information. I would hope this to be completed within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

With regard to dog offences, we work closely with MDDC dog wardens and when an offence has been committed, this will be recorded and investigated just like any other crime. We either look at Prosecution or Restorative Disposal, depending on the offence.  The victim may wish the person in charge of the dog to be dealt with by way of Restorative Disposal, which uses techniques which allow a person to repair the harm caused from committing an offence by encouraging them to take responsibility for their actions.  The reparation can be in the form of an apology, or some other physical or practical reparation. A Person receiving Restorative Disposal will not get a criminal record. A Prosecution will either be civil or criminal, depending on the circumstances and offence.  Although the latter does not normally apply to dog fouling, any such action witnessed by myself or other Officers can, if unlawful, be dealt with by the Police in partnership with MDDC Dog Wardens.

Earlier this month I met with the Willand Cubs at the Village Hall. I gave them a talk about staying safe on the streets and my role as a Police Community Support Officer. They were allowed to handle some of our equipment, including a Stinger device, which Police officers sometimes use when involved in a pursuit. Before the end of the night, they had chance to sit in a patrol car and operate the blue lights.

As we come to the end of 2012 I am pleased to report that this year we have seen less of a problem with Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal damage, which had caused parts of the village much distress in 2011. I hope this improvement will continue in 2013. And on behalf of PC Katie Rich and myself, may I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. My Very Best Wishes,

**PCSO Jonathan Sims**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

I came across this recently in an address book and thought a reminder of the old traditions associated with wedding anniversaries might be useful:

The **1st** is **PAPER,** on which you can write,

The **2nd** is **COTTON**, all crisp and white.

The **3r**d is **LEATHER**, a bag or some gloves,

The **4th i**s **BOOKS**, Lady Chatterley’s loves!

The **5th** is **WOOD**, a box full of dreams,

The **6th** is **IRON**, metal, not steam.

The **7th** is **WOOL**, soft and warm,

The **8th** is **BRONZE**, metal in an elegant form.

The **9th** is **COPPER**, and **10th** is **TIN**,

(If you’ve got this far, you’re bound to win).

The **11th** is **STEEL**, so shiny and bright

The **12th** is **SILK**, so soft and so light.

The **13th** is **LACE**, maybe a cloth for a tray,

The **14th** is **IVORY**, leave it for Jumbo – it’s better that way.

The **15th** is **CRYSTAL**, cut glass at its best,

The **20th** is **CHINA,** cups, plates and the rest.

The **25th** is **SILVER** – really swell,

The **30th** is **PEARL** – from an oyster’s shell.

The **35th** is **CORAL**, from under the sea,

The **40th** is **RUBY**, as red as can be.

The **45th** is **SAPPHIRE**, precious and blue,

The **50th** is **GOLDEN** – Congratulations to you!!

The **55th** is **EMERALD**, so green and so pure,

The **60th** is **DIAMOND** – an achievement, for sure.

The **65th** **BLUE** **SAPPHIRE** and **70th** **PLATINUM**,

These last two are rarely reached by many.

The **75** is **DIAMOND** **AND** **GOLD**

The **80th** is **OAK**, or something suitable for the very old!!

**WILLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Willand School! Another busy term has finished and we thought we would keep you up to speed with what has been happening in the school last term.

The school took part in Remembrance Day; we had an assembly from Year 4. We also showed our support by wearing poppies. Some children sold the poppies to the parents; all the money was given to the poppy appeal.

All the pupils in Willand School took part in the Children In Need campaign. We all wore sports or spots (including the teachers) for this and brought in a contribution. We raised £312.20 for the charity. Year 1RG did a special assembly telling us how and why the charity started. It was amazing.

Some selected people from Years 5 and 6 took part in a tag rugby game against The Duchy School. Willand was playing at home so The Duchy came to us. The score was 7-12 to Duchy. Ben from Willand tag rugby team did an amazing job by scoring 3 tries out of the 7; Jack also scored 2 tries.

On Wednesday 21st November Theatre Alibi came into school and performed a brand new play called Cabbage Heart. Maria from year 6 thought it was the best one they ever did. Miss Shapcott (our newest teacher) thought it was hilarious.

Our Christmas Fair was on the 7th of December. We hope you were able to come - there were lots of different stalls, including one from our favourite old teacher, Mr Lang.  **Maria, Dali, Grace and Ellie**

**Money isn’t everything but it sure keeps the kids in touch.**

**ANOTHER LETTER TO THE ED.**

Keep those winter blues away! Stay healthy, supple and de-stressed with Shiatsu Massage. Based on Traditional Chinese Medicine, an holistic understanding of health, formulated over two and a half thousand years ago, Shiatsu uses compassionate touch and thumb pressure along specified meridians. It strengthens your body’s immune system, alleviates pain and stress. Shiatsu is given through a light layer of clothing and its’ gentle yet profound nature makes it suitable for anyone of any age.

Celebrate the New Year with a New You. Indulge in a Special offer- pay for 3 sessions and get 1 free. Or give the gift of health with a gift voucher. I have twenty years’ experience **Megan Players 01398 331 973 (Cove)**

**CULM VALLEY YOUNG FARMER’S CLUB**

The past year was celebrated at our Harvest Supper, held at Ashill Village Hall with guest speaker Robert Venner from Sedgemoor Auction Centre. Prizes were given out to thirteen members to award their successes in the year, from tug of war trophies to trophies for willingness to take part in activities.

We have also managed to show that Culm Valley YFC are never short of a word or two, with recent speaking successes. Maggie Palmer was chosen to represent Devon YFC in the National Junior Public Speaking competition held in Staffordshire and came 1st with her team. Martin Westcott, Gemma Coles, Stuart Persey, Erie Williams & Clair Cottrell also took part in After Dinner Speaking, coming 2nd with Clair being chosen to go through to the county round, where she excelled and qualified for the South West Area round as well as winning best female speaker.

Culm Valley YFC boys and girls Tug of War teams were also lucky enough to go through to the National TOW finals at Malvern recently. This was a fantastic achievement for the club after months of hard training! Members have also been taking part in the “How to be a Better Shepherd” course in conjunction with the Laura Persey Trust and Mount Vets, as well as a day at Cheltenham Races, Ice Skating and Carol Singing.

We have also decided that our charity for the coming year will be Chicks. Chicks are a very worthwhile cause that gives respite to disadvantaged children. This may be children living in poverty or children from abusive backgrounds for example.

Our twice-monthly meetings are held in Hemyock, starting at 8.00pm.

If anyone is interested in joining or would like more information about the Culm Valley YFC, please feel free to contact chairman Sara Spiller, on 07743127688. **Michelle Batting, Press Secretary**

**Promises are like friends – easier to make than keep.**

**NEW COURSES AT PETROC, TIVERTON, 2013**

Be creative, meet people and learn something new. Try these workshops at Petroc, Tiverton. Starting on 15th January - Life drawing - 8 weeks, 17th January - Modern Mosaics – 5 weeks, 23rd January - Wire Sculpture - 1 week, 6th March - Lino Printing -3 weeks. Ring 01271 852 356 to book your place.

**It’s impossible to watch strangers play without taking sides.**

**CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

We are trying out some different times for services over Christmas. We have tried to make it possible for anyone who would like to enjoy the Christmas Carols in candlelight without having to stay out too late. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Sunday 23rd Carols by Candlelight at 4pm (No morning service)

Monday 24th Christmas Eve - 4pm Carols and Communion

Some of the other special services in the near future:

January 13th 10.30am Annual Covenant service

January 20th 3pm Prospects Worship, focussing on people with learning needs.

**Paul Booth**

Also, we are having a **Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, 12th February 3.30-5.30pm at Culm Valley Methodist Church, Gables Road - all are welcome (no charge, but donations welcome!). There’s a** Pancake tossing competition, a Pancake race (weather permitting), Quizzes and loads of pancakes for you to eat! Hope to see you there!! Many thanks, **Joan Greet**

**Science leaves nothing to the imagination.**

**WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS).**

To the Willand community, all of us down at the compost site wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And with a New Year wish for a better summer than last the one!!

We would like to inform you that we accept Christmas trees but ONLY those not exceeding 2 inches in diameter. Please NO DECORATIONS!!!

DONATIONS. The WCCS has made donations to a number of organisations that benefit the Willand Community. Our selection criteria is that the organisations do not have to be located in the village, but they must provide a benefit to the community. Outside organisations have included both the Bramblehaies and the College Surgeries. We now invite organisations that match our criteria to so apply for a donation. We require that all applications be in writing and give the following information:-.

The Name/Title of the Organisation.

What is the reason for the donation?

Contact: Name, telephone and Email address.

POST your request to, Tony Mander, 3 Tanners Mews, Willand, EX15 2TY.

No requests for donations will be considered unless they benefit the Willand community.

COMPOSTING MATTERS: - ASH DIE BACK. This is the current sad situation relating to ASH trees – could you please not deposit ash tree wood or leaves but to burn them on YOUR site; according to expert advice this will assist in stopping the spread of the spores.

GRASS cuttings - please do one of the following: - put it into your brown wheelie bin, on your own compost pile or, if you want to deposit them on the community site, please do so AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!! NOT storing it beforehand in bags, etc. will greatly help in the composting. Sweaty, clumpy grass is not good!!!

NOTICES: Please help us by complying with the notices displayed on the gates and within the site. This will greatly assist us in our composting work..

Finally, we welcome you visit us down on the site any Sunday between 10 – 12midday, or you can contact me by email - [tony@tonymander.plus.com](mailto:tony@tonymander.plus.com)

**Tony Mander (01884) 821174**.

**Never take the first that come for fear that**

**nothing better will follow.**

**MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE.**

The Mobile Library stops fortnightly on **Thursdays** in Willand Old Village (Townlands), from 10.00 - 10.45am, and at the Village Hall 10.50 - 11.35am. The first scheduled date in January will be the10th.   It also stops at the Village Hall fortnightly on **Saturdays** 09.30 - 12.30. The first scheduled date for January will be the 5th. We are very keen to promote the Mobile Library service, as the stops only thrive if enough borrowers use the service. Please encourage your community to join the library and enjoy the benefits of this wonderful service.

The Devon Libraries Mobile Library Service has something for everyone! Our fleet of 8 mobile libraries visits over 500 locations in communities across Devon, giving access to books, audio books, Large Print and DVDs to people who cannot easily reach one of our 50 static libraries. Membership is FREE, no ID needed. You can join at any age – babies too! There is no charge for borrowing books, and there’s a great choice. You may hire a DVD from as little as £1 for a fortnight. Non-fiction books, Large Print, and children’s books can be reserved FREE. You can even reserve books online, and collect them from the mobile library. Children have extra fun joining the Book Track and Summer Reading Challenge.

Love reading but you can’t get to your library? Devon Libraries also runs a Home Library Service in partnership with the WRVS. This Service can bring books and CDs to your door for FREE. If you’re not able to come to the library, or not able to carry your items, the Home Library Service can deliver books to you! The service provides:

Free delivery and collection at flexible times

Large print books, audio books and CDs

A wide choice of titles

Free reservations

No fines

Items are delivered by trained and security-checked volunteers from WRVS who will treat your confidentiality as a priority. For more information phone 0845 155 1001 or email [devlibs@devon.gov.uk](mailto:devlibs@devon.gov.uk)

Would you like to make a difference to people’s lives? We’re looking for people to spend a few hours each month selecting and delivering books and CDs to people who have difficulty getting out and about. We will pay your mileage and you could make a real difference. For more information phone 0845 155 1001 or email [devlibs@devon.gov.uk](mailto:devlibs@devon.gov.uk)

The Mobile Librarian has timetables for 2013, and fliers for both the Mobile Library Service and the Home Library Service that can be distributed by willing volunteers. If you would like a quantity, please let me know and I will ensure copies are dropped off at your stop.

I am very grateful for your help in supporting this much appreciated service. **Pauline Anderson, Outreach and Rural Services Manager, 01392 384040**

**If you don’t know whether you’re in love, you’re not.**

**NEWS from COLDHARBOUR MILL**

**The WORKING WOOL MUSEUM & MILL SHOP are open to visitors Monday to Friday 10am-4pm through the autumn & winter months, except for the Christmas holiday – both will close on Friday 21st December and reopen at 10am on Monday14th January 2013. However, both will be open for the 'New Year's Day Steam Up!' – see below. For more information, visit the Mill's website:** [www.coldharbourmill.org.uk](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.ukP/) **or contact the Mill office by email** [info@coldharbourmill.org.uk](mailto:info@coldharbourmill.org.uk) **or by phone 01884 840960 (Mon-Fri 10am-1pm).**

**The Gill Box Restaurant at the Mill is open 7 days a week 10am-4pm in winter. Christmas menus (still at 2010 prices!) available, including Senior Citizens' Christmas lunches at special rates, until 21st Dec (2 courses £10.45, 2 courses £8.45). Private evening bookings also available - phone free on 0800 389 3859 (or call restaurant direct on 01884 840066 during opening hours) for more information and to book.**

**SPRING TERM WEAVING WORKSHOPS: learn a new skill in the new year.**

Hand-weaving courses (10 weeks on Thursdays or Fridays) start in January 2013. C**ontact Louise now for more information and/or to book a place - email:** [loucottey@googlemail.com](mailto:loucottey@googlemail.com) **or phone: 01460 259271 or 07527 248178.**

**For info about the knitting & spinning groups phone 01884 839782 or email sgwasfi@btinternet.com.**

**EVENTS:** Tuesday 1st January: New Year's Day STEAM UP! **10.30am-4pm, with engines in steam from 11am, and Victorian spinning & weaving machines in action. Displays of Model Railways & Dolls Houses, Mill Tours, Restaurant, Craft Shop - a great family day out ! (please obtain tickets from Mill Shop on arrival - contact Mill office or see website for prices). Friends of the Mill – free entry – but please show your membership card in the Mill Shop on arrival.**

Wednesday 23th January: WINTER QUIZ with Peter Walter at Uffculme Village Hall. 7.30pm prompt start. Phone 01884 840359 by Wed 16th Jan to book in your team of 4, or if you haven't got a full team, come early (doors open 7pm) and we will arrange teams. Admission £6 per person – includes buffet supper (no license, so please bring your own soft or alcoholic drinks!). Ample parking at Magelake, about 5 minutes walk from Village Hall.

**Wednesday 13th February: SURPRISING DISCOVERIES IN MY FAMILY HISTORY – a fascinating illustrated talk by genealogy expert David Hawking. 7 for 7.30pm in the Old Stables at Coldharbour Mill (park in Mill yard). Admission £6 on the door - includes buffet supper & tea/coffee. Bar available (wine & soft drinks)**

**A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Mill in 2012 - as a small independent charity that depends heavily on revenue from visitors, events and sales of products to keep the Mill going, we are very grateful for all your help! We wish you all a very Happy New Year. Susan Wasfi**

**There’s nothing better than crossing things off a list.**

**ST MARY’S CHURCH**

Planning and training for a new initiative called Messy Church has been going on for many months and it is now ready to be launched. Messy Church starts in Willand Church Hall at 3.30pm on Friday 18th January.

To begin with there is a time of craft activities during which we can relax, join in the fun and get to know each other. This is followed by a short time of worship which includes songs and a Bible story. And to finish we enjoy a meal together. As there are craft activities at the start of the afternoon it is not essential that you are there on the dot of 3.30pm, so just come along at whatever time you can make it. We finish our time together by 6.00pm. Messy Church happens monthly on the third Friday of each month, so the dates of the first three are, Friday 18th January, Friday 15th February and Friday 15th March. **Messy Church is:**

\*An informal church for adults and children to enjoy together

\*Primarily for people who don't belong to another form of church already

\*All-age and fun

\*Its aim is to introduce Jesus, to give an opportunity to encounter him and to

grow closer to Him.

\*It includes some creative time to explore a biblical theme through getting

messy; a celebration time which might involve story, prayer, song, games and

similar; and a meal together

\*Its values are those of hospitality, creativity and celebration

\*It models and promotes good ways of growing as a family: a nuclear family,

an extended family and a global and local church family.

\*The first one started in 2004 and there are now many Messy Churches around

the country

We look forward to welcoming you on the 18th January at our first Messy Church! For additional information on services and activities at St Mary’s Church do look at our web site [www.stmaryswilland.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswilland.org.uk)

**Revd Rob Wilkinson**

**A smile can say a lot but it can also hide a lot.**

**THE ENGLISH PLURAL, BY GEORGE CARLIN – 1937 - 2008...**

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes;  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese;  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen ?  
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet ?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth ?

Then one may be that, & three would be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose;  
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother & also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his & him,  
But imagine the feminine: she, shis & shim !

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; Neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England. We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. Why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce & hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that ....you can make amends but not one amend?  
If you have a bunch of odds and ends - and get rid of all but one of them,  
what do you call it ? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught ? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat ?

Sometimes I think all people who speak English should be in an asylum for the verbally insane. In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? We ship by truck but send cargo by ship... We have noses that run and feet that smell, we park in a driveway & drive in a parkway. And how can a slim chance & a fat chance be the same, while a wise man & a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on. And in closing ....

If Father is Pop ....how come Mother's not Mop ? ? ? ?

**Love of accumulation is the enemy of organisation.**

**ENTERTAINMENT ON A MONTHLY BASIS**

To be held at the MAGELAKE PAVILION, UFFCULME. The purpose is to promote a regular venue that fits well with the monthly circuit and the idea is to put together a showcase for an audience and a platform for local and up and coming talent.

The first evening will be January 30th  2013 and then every last Wednesday of the month, 8.00 p.m. – 11.00 p.m.

Join the audience or play, sing or perform with full P.A. system. There is no age limit – young and old are equally welcome. It is hoped that very soon we will be in a position to book guest artists from near and far. Look out for posters and flyers. Audiences are very important to the success of these events and for the encouragement of up and coming artists……COME AND JOIN US AND HAVE AN ENJOYABLE EVENING!

For further information, or to book spots please ring **Brian or Gwyneth on 01884 840192 or 07790774945.**

**Coffee keeps me busy until it’s acceptable to drink wine.**

**BRIGHT FUTURES – A DEVON YOUNG CARERS PROJECT.**

Unite, a Mid Devon charity that supports unpaid carers, is recruiting more volunteers to help with their various projects. Unite has many opportunities available for volunteers to work with young carers, including a befriending and mentoring scheme, club nights, trips and outings and the provision of transport so young carers can take part in organised activities.

The befriending and mentoring scheme enables young carers to have time away from their caring responsibilities with a trusted adult. This is a very valuable time for young carers as they have some time for themselves and are able to do an activity they may not have had the opportunity to do before. Younf Carers look after someone who is normally in their family and who has an illness, a disability, a mental health problem or a substance abuse problem. The young carer takes on practical and/or emotional caring responsibilities that would normally be expected of an adult.

Unite would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to get involved. No previous experience is required, just enthusiasm and a desire to support young people. Full training is provided and Unite reimburses your expenses. For more details, please contact Unite on 01884 257511, Lara Pope on 07773 446928, or Jonathan Nicholls on 07794 675706

**The difference between a house and a home is the warmth of the reception within.**

**WILLAND HISTORY GROUP**

First of all, we hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and would like to wish you a Happy New Year and all the best for 2013!

At our meeting in November, Andy Bush, our resident ‘metal detectorist’, brought along some recent discoveries from land he has been given permission to survey just outside Willand’s eastern parish boundary, around Skinners Farm and Factory Cottages, on the way out to Stag Corner. This fascinating selection of items includes a range of coins (dated 1697-1965), lead bale seals, a pocket watch, musket balls, snuff tins and spur rowels. A ‘lead bale seal’ is an embossed seal that was attached to bales of cloth and bore markings that indicated information such as ownership or quality of cloth. Unfortunately, the markings have pretty well been eroded away from these seals. However, they provide a material link to what we know about the history of the location, as they were found close to Factory Cottages. These are now private residences, but it had previously been a ‘fulling’ mill, where woollen cloth was cleansed of oils, dirt and other impurities. It was known as Bradfield Mill and became a significant woollen factory, employing numerous men, women and children from Willand. It survived well into the nineteenth century and only closed in 1870, after which it was converted into homes.

This neatly leads me on to a new project that the History Group is soon to become associated with, the ‘Cullompton and Area Cloth Trade Project’, along with other organisations such as Cullompton History Group and Coldharbour Mill. From the Willand perspective, it will be useful to consolidate what we already know, develop research into new areas and come to understand the parish’s place within the wider Culm Valley cloth industry, which was once such an important part of the local and indeed national economy. We have our first meeting in early December, so it will be interesting to see what transpires.

Over the last month or so we have been able to assist with a couple of family history enquiries. One came from a gentleman living in Nottingham who was researching his ancestors, the Addicott family, and their connection with Willand. Combining information he already had and referring to our own parish records, we were able to verify that John Addicott came to Willand from Halberton and in June 1755 he married Mary Welland at St Mary’s Church. The Wellands were another local family, though not resident in the parish. Judging by the date of the baptism of their first son, Mary was already pregnant when they married. They remained in Willand for only around a decade, during which time they had three (known) children, John, Vincent and Abraham. At some stage after 1765, the family left Willand while their children were still young, and by the 1780s they were in North Petherton, Somerset. Whether they went there directly or in stages is not known. This confirms a far greater population mobility during the eighteenth century than is often thought. Even families would stay in one place for only a few years before moving on, presumably for economic reasons. Perhaps John Addicott or Mary Welland were agricultural labourers or in service (fairly transient occupations) and had come to Willand for employment. They might even have been involved in the cloth trade, which by the late-1700s was rapidly declining in the area.

Unfortunately, we were not able to help very much with another enquiry, into the Mills family, Spratford House and the Duchess of Devonshire Dairy. Apart from what we had already published in the Book of Willand and a few other snippets of information, we could come up with very little. We do not even have any pictures of Mr Mills, once the manager of the dairy. If anyone can help further we would be delighted to hear from you. We did find a couple of adverts for domestic servants that Mrs Mills had placed in the Tiverton Gazette – a real reminder of the ‘Downton’ era – such as “Good General Servant Wanted. Plain Cooking. Apply, Mrs Mills, Spratsford, Tiverton Junction” (1908) and “Wanted, capable Cook-General, end of October; good references. Mrs Mills, Spratsford” (1913).

Another quick query that someone may be able to help with relates to the ‘secret’ military spotter planes that flew from a field between Willand and Bradfield House during the Second World War. Were they American or British planes and does anyone know the exact field they flew from?

Finally, we recently received the following reminiscences of Willand from someone who has been in the village for a number years. “Once a year an old man came around the Village on his bicycle. On the carrier on the back of his bike he carried an attaché case. He was selling Pickles Foot Ointment (a very well-known cure-all for feet problems in those days). He would tell us all about the wonderful healing powers of this ointment and then produce a jam-jar containing corns he had removed from peoples feet!!! There was no official library in the Village at that time and once a week, a formidable lady well known in the Village, Mrs Little (in fact, she was the daughter of Mr. Chick the undertaker and carpenter), ran a library from a cupboard in the School Hall. She would censor the books and if she didn't think they were suitable for you, she wouldn’t let you borrow them!” Can you remember the formidable Mrs Little or the travelling ointment salesman with his jar of corns? If you do or if you have any similar memories of bygone Willand and its characters, or if you can help with anything mentioned in this article, we would love to hear from you; please feel free to get in touch at the contact below.

**James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison@supanet.com)**

**I intend to live forever. So far, so good.**

**ARTICLES OR LETTERS FOR THE MAG.**

I obviously haven’t received as many as I need for this issue, so please excuse the blank space below. Ed.

**AND FINALLY**

‘Thank you’ always seems such an insignificant way to say how much I appreciate the help, advice, the written articles, the delivery of each and every magazine around the parish and all the other aspects involved of a regular publication such as this. I rarely have any hassle or difficulties and the bi-monthly content I receive, surprisingly, usually fills the twenty or so pages that make up the text portion – along with the one-liners as ‘packing’ (although this one has really been a struggle). My sincere wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to everyone – and, once again, Thank You.

**WILLAND DIARY**

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| **DECEMBER** |  |  |  |  |
| Sunday | 23rd | Carols by Candlelight | Methodists | 4.00pm |
| Monday | 24th | Carols & Communion | Methodists | 4.00pm |
| Monday | 24th | Crib & Christingle | St Marys | 4.00pm |
| Monday | 24th | Midnight Communion | St Marys | 11.30pm |
| **JANUARY** |  |  |  |  |
| Tuesday | 1st | Steam- up! | C.Harbour | 10.30am |
| Thursday | 3rd | Coffee Morning | Methodists | 10,00am |
| Thursday | 3rd | Cameo Meeting | W.V.H | 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday | 8th | Village Hall Bingo | W.V.H. | 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday | 15th | Village Hall Bingo | W.V.H. | 7.30pm |
| Friday | 18th | Messy Church | ChurchHall | 3.30pm |
| Friday | 18th | Cowgirl Twisters | W.V.H. | 7.00 pm |
| Saturday | 26th | Youth Club Bingo | W.V.H. | 7.30 pm |
| Wednesday | 30th | Entertainment Eve. | Madgelake | 8.00pm |
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| **FEBRUARY** |  |  |  |  |
| Saturday | 2nd | Limited Dog Show | W.V.H. | 9.00 am |
| Tuesday | 5th | Willand Rovers Bingo | W.V.H. | 7.30 pm |
| Thursday | 7th | Coffee Morning | Methodists | 10.00am |
| Thursday | 7th | Cameo Meeting | W.V.H. | 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday | 12th | Pancake Party | Methodists | 3.30pm |
| Tuesday | 12th | Village Hall Bingo | W.V.H. | 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday | 19th | Willand Rovers Bingo | W.V.H | 7.30 pm |
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