

EDITORIAL

No. 126

Are you a keen photographer living in Willand? We are looking for a picture to go on the front of the December issue of the magazine and thought it would be a good idea to run a competition to showcase local talent. Have you any photos of Willand at Christmas or in the snow? Email your entries to willandparishmag@gmail.com Entries must be submitted by the 30th October and the winner will be chosen at the Parish Council Meeting on the 10th November.

GREETINGS FROM THE POST OFFICE!

We're nearly six weeks in now, and it feels like we've been here forever, and no time at all in equal parts. Although a lot of you will have already met us face to face, it seemed about time for an official (ish) introduction.

Simon and I moved up from Cornwall completely unsure of what to expect from our new home, but so far none of our fears have been realised, and it's been an absolute pleasure to be here. While we hoped for a welcome that was at least neutral, we've been blown away at the warmth, helpfulness and friendliness of the people of Willand; it's made what could have been a difficult, and stressful time, into something genuinely enjoyable.

Those of you who have popped in already may have noticed some of the small changes we've made so far, trying to make the most of the space and trying out a few new things! However, there is a big change planned for September, when the old Post Office fortress counter is coming out, and both tills are going onto an open plan counter towards the rear of the shop. We're hoping to expand on a few things, and try out some new ideas that we hope you'll come to enjoy.

We will of course still be doing everything that you're used to seeing, cards, plants, bread etc. but we'll be trying to add more local produce to our inventory, so if you've any ideas, please do let us know! Equally, if you can no longer find something that used to be in stock, just ask and we can almost certainly find it again.

We're looking forward to getting to know you all, helping out in the village where we can, and to being a part of this community for many years to come.

Hope to see you soon!

Robin.

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

Excelsior Athletic Development Club has 105 members in Willand and its surrounds training with us.

We have been busy raising funds to buy equipment for our members. So far, we have raised over £9k this year. This has included donations from Willand United Charities, Willand Composting scheme and Viridor as well as from British Gymnastics. We are buying a specialist Air Trak Mat which means we are able to

move our gymnastics sessions to the Village Hall on Tuesday evenings. We will be offering Freestyle Gymnastics (FreeG) for teenagers in the 3rd session which is an exciting prospect.

We have also applied for a Sport England grant to help buy more kit for our Weightlifters and to set up a new beginners course for adult women. Weightlifting is one of the biggest growing sports amongst women, and we have 14 teenage girls lifting weekly with us on either Monday or Wednesday nights. Some of them do it for their main sport, but others do it to help them get ready for other sports such as Rugby, Hockey and Netball. In August we shall be taking a group of lifters to Crystal Palace to get coached by National Coach Keith Morgan. **James Marshall james@excelsiorgroup.co.uk**

WILLAND HOUSING NEED SURVEY

During March 2016 the Devon Rural Housing Partnership together with Willand Parish Council carried out a local parish housing needs survey. The aim of the survey was to investigate affordable housing need, the housing aspirations of older residents, and the level of support for a small development within the parish. The report is now with the Parish Council.

Survey questionnaires were delivered in the March/April edition of the Willand magazine for completion by 30th March 2016. The main findings are listed below.

- A total of 1450 forms were delivered to households in Willand parish.
- 293 completed forms were returned. This is a response rate of 20% which is slightly below average.
- 77% of those who answered the question supported a small development of affordable housing in the parish.
- The survey initially identified 29 households needing affordable housing over the next 5 years.
- 27 of the households identified were single persons and couples wanting to set up their own home or to move from private rental accommodation to more secure, economic accommodation. As in many villages in Devon, there is a lack of smaller, economical homes in Willand which leads to many people having to stay in unsuitable accommodation with high bills and insecure tenancy.

The results of this survey will be used by the Mid Devon District Council Planning Department to inform their decisions regarding new planning applications within the village and to ensure that the right number, size and type of homes are built. The survey was a chance for everybody in the village to have their say on affordable housing and to voice their opinions on future residential planning for Willand so the return rate was rather disappointing. However, a need for affordable homes has been identified and a good level of support for affordable housing was expressed by those who responded to the survey.

Finally, Devon Rural Housing Partnership and Willand Parish Council would like to thank everybody who responded to the survey. We would encourage residents who feel they have a housing need to make sure that they are registered with Devon Home Choice (the local housing register). This will ensure that if any properties are built in the parish in the future local people in need will be eligible to apply for them. The easiest way to join the Home Choice register is to visit www.devonhomechoice.co.uk and click on the online application form. Alternatively please contact the Rural Housing Enablers at the Devon Rural Housing Partnership on 01392 248919 for further advice.

WILLAND BROWNIES

Willand Brownies have just finished our summer term in spectacular style with a celebration BBQ, and our summer outing. This year our outing was to the iBounce trampoline park in Newton Abbot, followed by a tour at Prickly Ball Farm and hedgehog hospital, finishing with dinner at Pizza Hut.

This term has been very busy, following on from our Pack Holiday in April we have worked on our Road Safety badge, including taking part in a community speed watch, we have made soap, carried out our own version of Olympic Games, completed our Agility badge, had a games night with the cubs, a water evening and culminating in cooking our own celebration dinner on the BBQ

We have also had a day out at Crealy with the rest of the Culm Valley District Girl Guiding members, celebrating the Senior Section Centenary with cake and goody-bags.

We are very sad to say goodbye to our 8 oldest Brownies this term, and wish Rosanna, Kayleigh, Aimee, Freya, Josie, Molly, Sophie and Ellie all the best at their Guide units.

Looking forward to September we are welcoming some new Brownies to our group, and following a trial this year will stay at a higher membership of 30, so we do have some spaces. If you know a girl between 7 and 10, who would like to join us for lots of fun, indoor and outdoor activities, days out and holidays away, crafts, cooking, games, and pretty much anything else you care to think of, then please let us know.

You can sign them up directly at www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or contact us for more information by e-mail to willandbrownies@outlook.com, or by phone to **Bridget on 07814 569054**. Our Website can be found at www.willandbrownies.org.uk with details of what we do, and some links, and we are hoping to have a Facebook page set up shortly.

Any adults who, having read the above, find themselves disappointed not to be a 7-10 year old girl need not be sad; we are always on the lookout for more adults to support or join our core team of leaders. Even if you can only commit for 1 evening a month, or just for day trips we would love to hear from you. Please do get in touch via one of the methods above. For younger adults, do remember volunteer work looks great on your CV, and we have lots of fun!

Next year we are already planning a weekend at PGL activity centre and are hoping to go on our first holiday under canvas. We are also having a day making dens and building fires at Haldon Forest, and we will be doing our Disability Awareness badge in conjunction with the Paralympics. Term begins on 20th September.

In addition if you would be interested in helping if we were to set up a guide unit in the village, for girls aged 10 - 14 please do get in touch.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MID DEVON GROUP

Terrible things can happen to people who simply express a political or religious opinion.

But there is something you can do about it. At our local Amnesty International group, we support:-

- prisoners of conscience
- peaceful human rights activists/groups
- monitor specific long term cases and take action where appropriate

The action we take is writing letters and cards to the prisoners themselves, officials, and government personnel.

As a group, we also enjoy several social activities throughout the year and are an occasional presence at various markets and events.

We would love you to join us! We meet once a month, usually in Halberton, and you would be very welcome to join us. Phone **Heather on 01884 821291**, or e-mail **terroryandheather@hotmail.co.uk**, or see

www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/mid-devon

You can also support us at a forthcoming concert on the 14th October 2016 at Willand Church Hall. Tickets are £10 per head to include food. There will be comedy, songs and poetry and a chance to have a good sing-a-long. **Tickets can be obtained from John and Sheila on 01884 839282.**

CULM VALLEY MODEL RAILWAY SHOW SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

Kids can drive trains on our SOLDOR model railway layout. The little blue engine and his chums will be whizzing around the tracks driven by children (& adults) at our 8th Model Railway Show on SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER at WILLAND VILLAGE HALL. It is open from 10am until 4.30pm. The cost is £4.00 for adults and only £1.50 for children. Remember parking will be limited due to work on the village hall.

Bring your children to let them have a drive of their favourite engines on our scenic Soldor model railway. There are 2 controllers so 2 children at a time can drive & there are also sidings for the older ones who would like to use their skill at shunting. For the younger ones push buttons allow them to drive the tram engine into a tunnel & then watch it come back from a different tunnel.

This will be a good day out for families and will be great fun for visitors and club members alike.

Exhibition Manager, Malc Trump, has assembled 16 top quality layouts of different gauges, styles & era's. Most are new to the area, including our clubs new N gauge layout, which will be completed just in time for the show.

Trade stands this year include regular Ray Heard who has two rooms covering top quality second-hand items at bargain prices in all the popular gauges, including overseas. The Burnham club have their private owner wagons covering most companies that traded by rail in the Devon & Somerset area. For the 3rd year Keith's Bits & Pieces from Nailsea will be here selling – well bits & pieces of anything to do with model railways!

As usual we will be providing excellent refreshments with bacon butties, hot dogs, pasties, sandwiches etc. as well as tea, coffee and cold drinks.

For further information about the show or the club visit **www.cvmrc.co.uk** or **phone Malc Trump on 01884 840369** or **Peter Fosberry on 01884 821811**. You can contact us by email at **cvmrc@hotmail.co.uk**

"A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows." - Doug Larson

SHWISHES AND SHWOPS

Each year in Devon we throw away over £4 million worth of textiles that could have been repaired or simply reused. Recycle Devon would like to help residents to give some of these items another chance!

If you're interested in exchanging your pre-loved belongings for someone else's and in helping others to do the same, Recycle Devon has some tools to help. We have FREE event toolkits to enable you to put on your own swishes (clothes swaps) or shwops ("Give & Take" events for exchanging household/garden items). These events are not only a great way to reduce waste but can also be a fantastic opportunity to fundraise for a charity or cause if you choose to charge for entry or refreshments.

Each kit comprises a detailed guide to help your event run smoothly from beginning to end, as well as useful equipment like clothes rails, hangers, table labels and poster templates. You would also have the assistance of our Reuse Project Co-ordinator for support and advice throughout.

Communities across Devon are already holding swishes and shwops; see the following link to see a Give and Take shop in action:
<https://sustainablecrediton.org.uk/waste/yearbook/2015/pop-up-shed.aspx>.

If you're interested and would like to make use of our kits, or would like to find out more, then get in touch: email **emma.croft@devon.gov.uk** or phone **07966566435**

WILLAND TAEKWON DO SCHOOL

Taekwon Do teaches coordination, discipline, respect, balance, memory, focus, emergency skills, as well as learning a life skill. We are fully qualified instructors, CRB checked and run the school on Mondays 6-7pm at the Willand youth club. We teach children all ages from 4 years in our little puma class and also juniors. We are offering 2 weeks free starter lessons. Come along and get your children motivated, learning a new skill as well as keeping fit and having lots of fun and games. If you would like to come along and give it a go please ring **Donna on 01884 35605 or 07478637813** for more information.

LIFELINE ALARM SERVICE AVAILABLE TO ALL MID DEVON RESIDENTS

The Lifeline Alarm Service provides health care technology which helps older people or those with long-term health needs live an independent life at home. Our technology provides peace of mind to people who may need support and reassurance for relatives who may be concerned about them. For full story see: www.middevonnewscentre.info. If you need more information, please call 01884 255255 or email lifeline@middevon.gov.uk

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	12.00 midday

Our Harvest Meal will be on Saturday 17th September at 6.00 pm. There will be a talk from Donna Robjohns about her experience of working on the Mercy Ships. Free admission. Everyone welcome.

Don't forget our Hall is available to hire. To find out more contact our Treasurer Joan on 840942

PLANTERS

To all the volunteers who have offered to look after the planters and assist John Holmes please accept our thanks. It now appears that we are able to retain all of the planters thanks to volunteers but the one opposite one stop had a last second reprieve. Our contractor arrived on scene and started to remove it when he was approached by a nearby resident who has now taken over looking after it and it looks good. Let us hope that DCC do not lose it for us in the long grass!

*What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?
Pumpkin pi.*



Our new season of dancing will soon be starting.

We start with the first Club Night on September 8th and meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Village Hall – 8.00-10.30 pm, with an interval for tea or coffee and biscuits. We always have live music and a caller. The dances are walked through before they are danced and our members will help by giving you a warm welcome and explain the various moves.

Why not come along and see what a good sociable group we are and have some fun and gentle exercise. I can assure you we always have a good time. Your first evening is free, so you have nothing to lose by trying us out!

For any further information please contact me on 01404 47200 or check out our website www.willandfolkdanceclub.co.uk. We will look forward to seeing you.
Marilyn Broom - Chairperson

CAMEO

At our July meeting, Sonia, our Chairman asked for volunteers for next year's committee as several members of the current committee will be retiring in October 2017. Our Speaker for the evening was Richard Lappas from the Devon Air Ambulance Trust, unfortunately his laptop went on strike so we couldn't have his power point presentation. However he described the growth of DAAT from humble beginnings 24 years ago renting a helicopter, to now owning 2 of their own. All this due to the generosity and fundraising by Devon residents. He related stories of heroic rescues made by the crews and paramedics on board, who are all volunteers, the only paid members are the small team of administrative staff. He answered many questions from members. Their latest project is to find and record landing sites around Devon and they are also investing in more powerful lights so that eventually they will be able to fly and operate in night time conditions. A very interesting insight into the work of these brave and committed people. The evening ended with us all sitting round in a big circle and each in turn talking about an incident in their lives, some hilarious and some about their previous jobs and careers before moving to Willand. No murky secrets from their past however!!!

The Sewing Group have almost finished the patchwork quilt they are making to raise funds for the Willand Health and Community project. We will be selling raffle tickets at various places and events in the Village and the raffle will be drawn at our Autumn Sale on 19th November. Our Charity for this year is the Willand Health and Community project, when it is up and running it will be a real asset for everyone in the Village, young and old alike. We hope you will all support us by buying tickets and coming to our Sale.

The Walking Group have been to Gaddon Down followed by tea at the Gardeners Garden Centre. They had also enjoyed a circular walk around Budleigh Salterton with a picnic. Another long walk was from Winsford and around the Punchbowl with a picnic along the way, returning to Winsford Tea Rooms for a welcome cup of tea, and probably more cakes!

The Singles Group had a lovely holiday on the Isle of Wight, everyone doing their own thing. The more energetic members enjoyed walking and swimming while others opted for browsing in the many small shops and sampling lovely tea and cakes. We visited the famous Model Village and some spent their holiday pocket money at Pearl World. Luckily the weather was very kind to us.

In August for the second time this year we were unable to have our meeting in the Hall. So it was a case of "heave ho me hearties" as we went to Exmouth sailing around the coast and up the river in lovely summer sunshine. This being Devon and Cameo, a delicious Devon cream tea on board. Jenny Baker has invited us to a Coffee morning at her house on 2nd September at 10.30 in aid of Macmillan nurses and everyone is very welcome to come and support this worthwhile charity and no doubt eat yet more cakes! Next meeting Thursday 1st September at 7p.m. Village Hall. Speaker will be Diane Sansome-Smith on Mindfulness. If you would like to come along you will be most welcome **Betty Penberthy**

DOREEN OVERY

As many of the long standing Willand residents will remember my sister Doreen Overy they will be sad to hear that she passed away last week, having been suffering from Dementia for the last two or three years.

Doreen was a Parish Councillor here in Willand for many years and also was involved with Cullompton Magistrates Court. She was President, Secretary and Treasurer of Willand W.I. She and I along with a few others founded and ran Willand playgroup for several years, which has now become Pre School. Doreen was always ready to help in all sorts of Village activities she worked at Willand School for many years as a dinner lady and there are a lot of former pupils still living in the Village who will remember her being there. When health problems came along she moved to Exeter to be nearer the Hospital. This did not hold her back and she became a member of the W. R. V. S. working in the Royal Devon and Exeter Outpatients department, where she met her old Willand friends when they were attending the clinics. She was awarded a medal for her 25 years of service. Although she had moved away, she always thought of Willand as her real home. **Betty Penberthy.**

LETTER TO THE ED

I am again organizing a trip to Widecombe Fayre this year. It will be on Tuesday September 13th. The coach will leave Willand Village Hall at 9.30am and will also pick up in Cullompton. The fare will be £8 and if you would like to come please contact me on 0188438217. Everybody is welcome and I would appreciate it if you would let me know as soon as possible. Margaret Atherton.

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY

Summer will be starting to fade as you read this but fun and excitement is on the horizon as Pantomime rehearsals will be starting!

Firstly though, we would like to thank those of you who supported our summer plays at the end of July. The audience were presented with a Comical Impersonation followed by 'Play Practice' which gave our junior members the opportunity to show off some of their comical skills. 'Caught on The Hop' proved to be hilarious, with cast members enjoying the opportunity to try a French Accent and present a script with comical interactions that the audience had to pay attention to, as the philandering and complications escalated! Great fun for all!

Now we are looking forward to next years' Pantomime which will be Aladdin. Auditions are scheduled for September 2nd but there will always be opportunities for anyone who couldn't make it, so come along to any rehearsal on a Friday evening at the village hall. We are always looking to boost the membership to ensure we have enough people for all the various jobs that are needed to be covered, for the Pantomime to happen.

And remember, 'All the world's a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed!' – Sean O'Casey **David Keating**

DEVON AIR AMBULANCE NIGHT LANDING SITE

A slow work in progress as we have to wait until we have the lease for the field from MDDC. Grateful thanks to Willand Theatrical Society for their very kind donation towards the cost. Thanks are also due to a couple of local business who have kindly offered their services to carry out some of the work. We will still need to raise about £5,000 and so if you are a local business or organisation who can help with a financial contribution or materials please get in touch with me or the Parish Clerk. We will be delighted to hear from you.

DOG MESS

Yes there are still some irresponsible people who are not clearing up after their dogs or worse still just kicking them out to do what they will where they will. Look out for the pink spray!

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Sometimes everything goes wrong! We tried to get the roof and floor at the Village Hall replaced during August so that as few people as possible would be inconvenienced, but fate has decided otherwise. There was a delay with the floor as a moisture survey had to be taken before work started. This was not completed until it was too late for them to start in August. We have now engaged them to do the work at the beginning of January, so the main hall will be out of use from 10th to 14th January inclusive.

Regarding the roof, again some more surveys were needed. Once these had been completed, work was due to start at the beginning of August, but the

suppliers of the new roof are taking a two week break, so the materials will not be available until the end of August. This will mean that car parking at the Village Hall will be severely limited during September. I would like to appeal to our users to bear with us, as it has been entirely beyond our control. Also, please would parents of children at the school consider either walking their children to school or parking away from the hall, otherwise there will be severe congestion at school start and finish times? During the roof work, there will be no access through the Village Hall car park to the Parish Field and Willand School, so the public footpath along the school drive will need to be used. There will be a walkway to the Youth Club entrance and side entrances to the hall only. This is for the Health and Safety of the public, as neither the Village Hall Committee nor the builders would like to see any accidents happen on the premises. There will be scaffolding all around the building, which will be secured when the builders are not on site, but please make sure that your children are not allowed to play in the car park.

There will be some additional work done on the roof and floor, which was not included in the original quotes, so the Village Hall will have to use up all of its reserves to pay for this. That means that we will not now be able to replace the doors and lighting at this time, neither will we be able to install cavity wall insulation. These items will have to wait until we manage to raise some more money.

Thank you very much to everyone who has supported us so far. Without your help, we could not have come to this point. Thank you to Willand Tennis Club, Willand Youth Club, Willand Garden Club, Willand Parish Council, The Leonard Laity Stoa Foundation, The Viscount Amory Trust and Willand Composting Group for their donations / grants.

Our AGM was held at the end of May. Officers and current trustees were re-elected. Since that date, Eddie Dennis has replaced Mel Billings as the Youth Club rep and Sarah Manley has resigned as the school rep. We still have vacancies for trustees, if anyone would like to volunteer their services. We only have 6 meetings a year, so it is not an onerous task, but your support would be very much appreciated.

We have a new Gymnastics class for children starting in September, which we hope will prove beneficial to the children of the village. The Rugby Tots classes on Sunday mornings are proving very popular (and noisy!). The children really seem to throw themselves into the activities and hopefully wear themselves out for the rest of the day.

Bookings: Frances Wilcox - 07748 557107; email franceswilcox1@gmail.com or write to 35 Fir Close, Treasurer: Carol Allan 01884 33828; email cbarwa@mail.com or write to 4 Orchard Way, Willand Website: www.willandmatters.org.uk/organisations for our diary and community page.
Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL DIARY

September				
Tuesday	6th	Blood Donors	W.V.H.	12.00pm
Saturday	17th	Culm Valley Model Railway Exhibition	W.V.H.	10.0am
Saturday	24th	Garden club coffee Morning	W.V.H.	10.00am
October				
Saturday	1st	PTFA Concert	W.V.H.	8.00pm
Saturday	15th	WH&CC Community Day	W.V.H.	2.00pm
Saturday	29th	Blue Cross Bingo	W.V.H.	7.30pm

REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL		
Pilates	Monday	10.30am
Purelesque Knitting club	Monday	2.00pm
Cull. & Dist. Flower Club	1 st Monday	2.00pm
Beavers	Monday	5.30pm
Cub Scouts	Monday	7.00pm
Kettle Bell Pump	Monday	7.00pm
Pilates	Tuesday	9.30am
Upholstery Class	Tuesday	10.00am
Flower Arranging	Tuesday	1.15pm
Gymnastics Club	Tuesday	4.00pm
Willand Vill. Hall Bingo	2 nd Tuesday	7.30pm
Tiny Tots	Wednesday	9.30am
Flower Arranging	Wednesday	1.15pm
Indoor Bowls	Wednesday	7.00pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7.30pm
Pilates	Thursday	9.30am
CAMEO	1 st Thursday	6.30pm
Karate	Thursday	5.30pm
Folk Dance Club	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7.30pm
Parish Council Meetings	2 nd and 4 th Thursday	7.00pm
WiTS	Friday	7.30pm
Cowgirl Twisters	3 rd Saturday	7.30pm
Crafty Market	2 nd Saturday	2.00pm
Folk Dance	2 nd Saturday	7.00pm
Rugby Tots	Sunday	9.00am
Martial Arts	Sunday	6.30pm

ST MARY'S CHURCH

It has been a busy couple of months at St Mary's! We thoroughly enjoyed our visit from members of our link church in Kenya in July. It was amazing to hear about life in Gakui and their reports about how God has been helping the congregation grow both spiritually and numerically over the last few years so they now have a Sunday congregation of 300-400 people. Our visitors were very pleased to meet children from the school to help them with a project on Africa as well as join in with life at St Mary's for a week.

August has also been a special month as Georgina Barnes, a member of our congregation and Willand resident, celebrated her 106th birthday. Georgina is an inspiration and we give thank to God for the blessing it is to know her. Visiting her to wish her a happy birthday Georgina told me she thinks love and friendship are some of the most important things in the world, and I know her love and friendship with the Lord Jesus have been very important to her throughout her life.

Advanced notice of our Harvest Festival service – it will be held 10.15am Sun 2nd October.

Rev Simon Talbot, Rector St Mary's Willand Tel: 562570 email: simon@thetalbots.org.uk

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS)

NEW OPENING TIMES

Due to shortage of volunteers and increased volumes the WCCS reviewed three options:-

- A. close the site - no did not want to.
- B. continue as current - not considered viable.
- C. to revise the opening times. This was agreed with the following action:-

From 1st September 2016 opening times will be:-

Sundays and Wednesdays 10.00am - 12 Noon. During which the site will be manned.

This means that Sunday 4th September will be the first opening Sunday.

All other times the site will be closed. As a reminder please do not leave material outside when closed; this is classed as 'fly tipping' as well as not being neighbourly.

WHEN OPEN:

Deposit your garden waste and **fresh** and not 'stored' grass. This causes a bad smell and flies!

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

We wish to thank the majority who cooperated by using the fork (provided) in knocking back their garden waste and kept the bays tidy. Thank you.

COMPOST SALES:

Purchase bags of sieved compost at £1.50/bag; please note price change.

The return of empty bags will be appreciated.

Unsieved compost no change in cost - £1/wheelbarrow - wheelbarrows beside shed.

NOTICE BOARD

For your information there is a notice board fixed to the fence adjacent to North Jaycroft located between Foxglove Chase and Silver Street - pedestrian crossing.

Residents are invited to display their notices. We ask that they are removed as soon as the event is over. This will help keep the notice board tidy and leave room for others to display.

FINALLY

We are minded that some of you will not be best pleased with this reduction of opening but, we will be able to expand these opening periods if we get more volunteers. It's up to you.

When you next visit the site it would be nice to have a chat or, if you don't have time contact.

Tony Mander 07980472242 Email: tony@tonymander.plus.com

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

As of writing, we have not yet gone on our parish walk around the 'The Old Farms of Willand', but it was nice to receive some feedback regarding the description of Coombe Farm given in the last magazine article. We received a letter from Geraldine Holloway, a Willand exile now living in the sunny climes of Torbay. She writes: "I well remember the disastrous fire at Coombe Farm in 1945. I cannot recall the actual date but it must have been a weekday during school term time, because the first evidence my sister, Pamela, and I had of it was about 4.30pm when we were returning home to Carr Cottage in the Old Village from Tiverton Junction [the railway station; Geri and her sister went to school in Tiverton]. The road surface of School Hill was very wet, strewn with snake-like deflated hoses and there was an overwhelming stench of smoke and burnt materials in the air. As we reached the top of the hill we could see the charred remains of the farm on our left. A very sad sight indeed." Many thanks, Geri, for this eyewitness account, wonderfully fleshing out some of the bare facts that we have of the event. Does anyone else have any memories of Willand's farms or fires – or, for that matter, any aspect of Willand's past? If you do, we would love to hear from you, so feel free to get in touch on the contact details below.

Coombe Farm was not the only Willand farm to be destroyed by fire, as the farmhouse at Weir Mill (one of Willand's ancient farms that still exist today) was similarly devastated in September 1909 (we would be impressed if anyone can remember this one!). The farmhouse, then occupied by George Sanders and his family, was a large thatched residence that caught fire at around 10pm when a beam ignited because of extreme heat from the stove in the front kitchen. George's wife, Lucy, was outside and noticed a patch of fire under the thatch. She shouted to her husband before rushing inside to wake her children who were sleeping not far from where she had seen the flames. The local press reported: "She could hardly enter, so dense and suffocating the smoke. In the room, and

within a yard and a half of the flames and peacefully sleeping, was her son Harold, aged eleven. Mrs Sanders said, "Wake up – fire," but had to repeat this several times and lift the boy up before he awoke. The other children (four in number) heard their mother calling Harold and slipped on outer garments, and got out. Albert Sanders, the eldest son, aged fifteen, cycled towards the village and roused the nearest neighbours."

Meanwhile, George Sanders had grabbed a bucket and was attempting to douse the fire with water. The flames had already been noticed in the village, where there happened to be a policeman, PC Ley, who ran immediately to Weir Mill, together with Ernest Mortimore (who had seen the fire while cycling home to Willand from Bradfield) and at once joined the farmer's efforts to extinguish the fire. Other neighbours and villagers arrived soon after and bravely entered the house in attempt to rescue the furniture. Two brothers, Donald and Walter Marshall, between them managed to save the piano, and by the end everything had been rescued apart from two wooden bedsteads that could not be dismantled in time. The people of Willand had done the Sanders family a great service, as the furniture was not insured, the policy having lapsed. Whilst this was going on, James 'Jesse' Marshall, a builder and renowned local cyclist, set off on his bicycle to raise the local fire brigade in Cullompton; they received the alarm at 10.45pm and by 11.15pm were at the scene plying jets of water from the River Culm on to the farmhouse. The thatched roof was blazing fiercely by then and a portion of the house almost completely destroyed. The fire brigade were successful in saving part of the older section of the house, which was rebuilt the following year - no longer with a thatched roof. **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL GRASS CUTTING

Time has moved on and the grass on the verges still grows. Devon County Council have been back and cut the areas of verge which they consider to be necessary to provide safe visibility splays. Councillor Ray Radford has offered to purchase a mower so that we can cut our own verges but the 'rules of engagement' we're not clear in relation to many points - storage, maintenance, insurance, operational safety responsibility to name but a few. It has since been suggested that we may then be required to share it with Cullompton, Uffculme and possibly Sampford Peverell. None of it appears to have been thought through and so the Parish Council will not be following that suggestion.

The £1000 is still available but we asked for costings and what monies we could expect from DCC if the Parish took on the grass cutting. Councillor Radford could not get an answer from officers and the excuse is that they are negotiating a new contract as of October. We are asked to believe that there is no current budget for cutting grass verges.

The Parish Clerk has contacted a number of her colleagues in other Towns and Parishes in Devon to find out what they are doing in relation to the cutting of verges and support/reimbursement from DCC. The responses were not encouraging and in some cases advised against it.

To those who have cut the areas of verge adjacent to their own gardens thank you and please keep it up and stay safe. Please keep sharing your concerns with our County Councillor and the odd complaint to the DCC Chief Executive would not go unnoticed. Pictures and letters to the press can play their part. The Parish Council is still working on it. MDDC appear to be up to speed on most of their areas.

That is enough about grass for now other than to say that the question to you all about the Parish Council taking over the grass cutting and putting up the precept has really bogged down the Parish Clerk with responses - all one of them!

PLAY AREAS & PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The 25 year leases in respect of the Parish taking on responsibility for Worcester Crescent and Mallow Court Play areas to save them from closure are with the Parish Council Solicitor. The position with the Gables Lea half of the field is also in the same position.

Volunteers will be looking after the two play areas with support from our handyman as needed. Regular safety inspections will take place and so please keep a watchful eye on the areas and quickly bring to the attention of the Clerk any problems.

An order has been placed for some new additional play and fitness equipment for the Jubilee Field and this will be paid for from monies allocated to the Parish for this purpose as the result of contributions made by developers. Sadly lead in times for production and construction will mean that it will not be available until after the summer holidays but it will be worth waiting for.

Over the winter it looks as if the field may be used on some Saturday mornings by junior football teams of the area which must be good in aiding the fitness and wellbeing of our children - grandchildren in my case.

THE CONCRETE JUNGLE (AKA PLANNING)

Developers continue trying to build a lot more houses in the area on sites which have not been allocated as the result of failings in the Local Plan. The Parish Council is to meet with one such developer in September when we will hear what has already been decided with MDDC & DCC. There is no detail and so there is no point in speculating other than to say that hopefully the primary school may achieve some additional building.

Junction 27 still rumbles on as to whether or not land there will be included in the Local Plan for a 'major exciting' development. It is all about the allocation of land and not 'Eden Westwood' but see if you have the same view when you read what is in the press. The logistics element now appears to have been withdrawn but what will happen about the allocation of the land it was to use? As one who has been watching the whole issue as closely as one possibly can I do not know what to believe any more! Lots of ideas, promises and speculation but a real shortage of tangible facts.

A village without trees is no good for dogs.

AND FINALLY

We are also looking at some concerns raised by residents as to parking and speed issues but as has recently been found the answer is in our own hands locally as a lot of the bad and inconsiderate parking around the school is down to parents. Parking on football match days is another issue but could be made easier by visiting drivers being a little more considerate and less selfish. Do we want to cover areas of the village with double yellow lines? Speeding in Silver Street, particularly in the vicinity of the school, is a continuing area of concern. What can we say when a considerable number of those caught are locals - a couple even living in Silver Street!!

Thank you to all those who are doing their bit to keep the village tidy and safe or to volunteer to help organisations or even look in on vulnerable neighbours. Please keep it up and encourage others to join in. **Barry Warren Chair**

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

You are invited to "Celebrating Willand" on Saturday 15th October 1pm - 4pm, Willand Village Hall. An 'even more improved' repeat of the successful 'Community Day' held last October. Local Organisations, Clubs, Groups, Small Businesses, Schools, Churches, etc., have been invited to attend to promote themselves to you the residents and visitors of Willand. The event is being held in the theme of a fete, take a look at the poster within this magazine for more details. Raising awareness, funds and support for the WHCC project. A leaflet has been included within the this issue of the Willand magazine giving information, if you haven't filled in the supporters spreadsheet yet, you can fill in the tear-off slip and hand it in to the Post Office for us to collect and add your details to the Private & Confidential Database.

We are also inviting the public to enter an Art Competition, to draw a picture on A4 paper/card from the title "Celebrating Willand". Bring your picture along to the event, clearly label the picture on the reverse side with your name, age and a contact telephone number. The entries will be divided in to 4 categories, Pre-School, KS1, KS2, and everyone else - of all ages above. There will be one prize for each of the categories; to find out what these prizes are, look out for the Posters around the Village, or via the other means of contact listed below, nearer the date of the event.

Willand's Got Talent - We are also inviting anybody who would like to play some Music, Sing, Dance, Read Poetry, etc., to come along and share their talent up on stage, just for fun, no prizes.

If your organisation has not been invited but would like to attend, please contact me. **Sally Taylor 07990 068537. Facebook: - WOW-What's on Willand Facebook: - Willand Health and Community Centre. Website: -www.willandmatters.org.uk/willandhealthandcommunitycentre**
We look forward to seeing you all on 15th.

Join us at:

Willand Village Hall

Saturday 15 October
1-4pm



Here are just *some* of the many attendees promoting themselves & some of the activities taking place:

Matt's Balloons & Emma's Face Painting

Willand School PTFA – Hook the Duck

Willand Youth Club Open & Children's Clubs

Willand Art Club – Art for Sale

Willand Wobblers – Prize Wheel

CAMEO – Quilt and other prizes Raffle (*Draw at CAMEO Xmas 19th Nov*)

Parish Council – providing Information and Q & A's

Friends of Bramblehaies - Treasure Hunt

Fete type stalls such as:-

Target Bean Bag, Pot Luck, 50/50 draw, Human Fruit Machine,

Plant/Seeds Sale, Tennis Ball Throw, Chocolate Throw and more

Run by:- St Mary's Church, Methodist Church, Willand Post Office,

WiTs, Willand RugbyTots & Various Local Clubs, Groups, Small

Businesses, etc.,

WHCC will be organising:-

Refreshments, Adult & Children's Lucky Dip, Raffle, Tools Sale,

Art Competition: 4 Categories:- Pre-school, KS1, KS2, and everyone else.
there will be one prize for each category

Willand's Got Talent: Anybody who would like to play Music, Sing, Dance, read Poetry, etc., is welcome to come along and share their talent.



Raising awareness, funds and support for Willand Health & Community Centre Project

More information, contact Sally Taylor– 07990 068537

NEWS from the FRIENDS of COLDHARBOUR MILL

The **WORKING WOOL MUSEUM** and **MILL SHOP** is now open every weekend and every Bank Holiday Monday!!! The new opening hours are Friday to Sunday, 10am-4pm every weekend and, during school holidays, Tuesday to Sunday 10am-4pm. The Waterside Café is now open (in the old shop) enjoy a coffee or more in our beautiful leat side setting. 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 or view the Mill website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk.

SPECIAL EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Things are a little quieter now for the summer but we have several things on in the early autumn. We are booked to promote the Mill at the Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycrafts Show at Westpoint from 22nd to 25th September. We are also hoping to have a stall at the Bridwell Fair (Uffculme) on 17th and 18th September although this has not been confirmed as yet.

Advance Notice: Wednesday 9th November – Quiz Night

The Friends would really love to have some new members to join their committee (or even just to help at events) so if you would like to help and can spare a couple of hours now and then, please ring Jenny (secretary) on 01884 243071). We would be very pleased to hear from you.

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.

Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3EE Coldharbour Mill Trust Ltd is a Registered Charity No: 1123386 & Charitable Company No: 06389577, and is supported by the Friends of Coldharbour Mill, Registered Charity No: 289991. *Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter!*

WILLAND GARDEN CLUB

Our May talk was on Ferbeers Garden and, in July, we saw a video of National Trust gardens. Instead of our June meeting, we had a visit to Bennett's Water Gardens, near Dorchester. We had lunch first at a Garden Centre just outside Weymouth, then walked around the very tranquil gardens at Bennett's. They have a national collection of water lilies, most of which were in bloom when we visited. In September, we are having a talk on the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland, where there are 7 million bulbs in bloom in the spring and 800 different varieties of tulips, so we are looking forward to some colourful slides.

Thank you to those of you who came to our Plant Sale at the end of May. We had loads of plants to sell and made a good profit for the club. Most of our funds go towards paying for our speakers at the meetings, as they are getting more and more expensive and difficult to find. Any suggestions for interesting speakers would be very welcome.

We are supporting Sampford Peverell Garden Club with their show this year on August 20th, as our Hall was going to be out of commission, so we hope it goes well. However, a lot of local shows are floundering because of lack of support. Unfortunately, few younger people have the time or enthusiasm to grow a lot in their gardens and most new houses have very small gardens. We have lost a number of members who really enjoyed their gardening and the challenge of producing flowers and produce for the show. We will be holding a show in 2017, but it could possibly be the last one if not supported by the village. If you have any suggestions to make the show more appealing, please let me know. We have a coffee morning on Saturday, 24th September, from 10.00 to around 11.30 in the Village Hall. Please come along, have a chat and a cup of tea / coffee. We have a bring and buy stall, raffle and cake stall.

New members and visitors are always welcome. We meet in the Club Room at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from March to December. We have a Club outing in June, where we visit an interesting garden and usually have a good meal. Our subscription is only £3.50 a year, so is excellent value.

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



DO YOU HAVE AN OLDER PET THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN ASSESSMENT WITH A VETERINARY NURSE?

The older pet population in the UK is increasing all the time. With the advances in veterinary medicine that are now available, the increased focus on preventative healthcare and the fact that our pets are cherished members of the family, it is happy news that many of our pets are now living well into their teenage years.

With this increase in lifespan comes changes to the requirements that our pets have, including nutrition, exercise, lifestyle and veterinary care to name just a few. Tailoring each of these individually to your pet will ensure that their health is maximised and quality of life is maintained for as long as possible.

But how can we tell the difference between a 'normal ageing change' and something that requires closer attention?

Many changes will develop gradually and increase slowly over time, meaning that they may not always be noticed at first. Some tell-tale signs that may be seen are listed below:

- Inability to jump onto a favourite seat or get upstairs, difficulty in getting up after rest
- Change in behaviour
- Reduction in interest or ability to exercise
- Change in eating pattern or preference
- Drinking and/or urinating more
- Disorientation
- Changed sleep patterns and increased time sleeping
- Weight loss or gain

Medications and lifestyle changes can successfully help manage many of these changes. Early identification and intervention will help increase the success of any treatment or management programme and mean that your pet can carry on a healthy and active life for longer.

What can I do if I think my pet is affected by any of these changes?

If you are concerned about your pet's health then it is wise to take them to your surgery for a check-up. Your pet will also need to continue with their routine vaccine and worming treatments so this presents an ideal time to discuss any changes you may have seen with the vet or nurse. Discussing your pets' behaviour at home is very important; we can then decide with you if we need to do anything extra for your pet to keep them in tip-top condition.

If you have any query about your pet's health then please contact your veterinary surgery and get an appointment with a vet for a specific concern or a Veterinary nurse can see him or her for a general check and answer any questions you may have.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank all contributors for submitting their articles on time it really helps with the production. I hope you have enjoyed reading about the village and its activities. Don't forget you can submit feedback ideas and articles to me willandparishmag@gmail.com and I look forward to hearing from you.

Please note the cut-off date for the next magazine is Wednesday 12 October.