

WILLAND MAGAZINE

December 2022 & January 2023



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Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom		01404 47200
Garden Club	Mrs Carol Allan	4 Orchard Way	33828
Tiny Tots	Karly Holley - willandtinytots@gmail.com		07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	weirmildevon@gmail.com	820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub	
Village Hall Bookings	Frances Wilcox	bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk	
Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher		07377 556946
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Willand Community Composting	Tony Mander		821174
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Willand Health & Community Centre		info@whacc.org.uk	
Willand History Group	James Morrison - jamorrison235@gmail.com		01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	John Crocker	12 Maple Close	35589
Willand Theatrical Society	Maggie Fincher - maggie.finch@btopenworld.com		
			01884 32152
Willand United Charities	Rev Simon Talbot	unitedcharities@whacc.org.uk	
Youth Club (35218)	Mrs M. Billings	Cullompton	07766 141361

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St. Mary Parochial CC	Secretary Sandy Hancock		35165
Cullompton Community College			33364
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Willand Primary School			820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolptfa@gmail.com	

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Richard Foord	(M.P)	Richard.Foord.MP@Parliament.UK	0207 2197172
Ray Radford	(Devon County Council)	ray.radford@devon.gov.uk	820000
Richard Chesterton	(MD Dist Councillor)	rchesterton@middevon.gov.uk	07768 526946
Bob Evans	(MD Dist Councillor)	revans@middevon.gov.uk	01884 824082
Barry Warren	(MD Dist Councillor)	bwarren@middevon.gov.uk	07971 808423
Parish Council	Parish Council Website	www.willand-pc.org.uk	
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.org.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.org.uk	07795821476
Paul Major	(Councillor)	paul.major@willand-pc.org.uk	07942 273939
Lisa Mastrolacasa	(Councillor)	lisa.mastrolacasa@willand-pc.org.uk	07816 024489
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.org.uk	07496 113135
John Sellick	(Councillor)	john.sellick@willand-pc.org.uk	07865 570755
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.org.uk	07971 808423
Frances Wilcox	(Councillor)	frances.wilcox@willand-pc.org.uk	07748 557107
Andrea Glover	(Councillor)	andrea.glover@willand-pc.org.uk	07908 734368
Nick Bartlett	(Councillor)	nick.bartlett@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407
Neil James	(Councillor)	neil.james@willand-pc.org.uk	07733 083158
Barbara Bodkin	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

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Non-crime events can be reported to **101** by telephone or by email to **101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk** Any crimes need to be reported through **101** by telephone or on the web-form in the link: **www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting**

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

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Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you are all keeping warm this winter and if you read on there are some opportunities for you to go out in the day to various places in the village to have a hot drink and a warmup.

WILLAND MAGAZINE

The magazine is run by volunteers from the community, funded through its advertising and supported by the Parish Council. We are looking to add new members to the team both on the production, admin, advertising side and the packing and delivery side of the magazine. If you can spare a couple of hours a week or month for production or every couple of months for the packing and delivery and want to find out more then please get in touch.

Gerri Taylor willandparishmag@gmail.com Tel 01884 821528.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

A WALKING TRAIL THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS STORY

This December we will be creating a trail of large wooden angels around the village, each angel helps to tell part of the Christmas story. This year you can also join in by making your own Christmas Angel to display in your window or garden.

How many angels can you find this year?

You can follow this trail all in one go or do it over different days - the choice is yours! You can enter the church and pass through to view the crib scene and take photos. Please follow the current government guidance and be kind to our angels, they love being part of selfies! Get your coats on, put on your walking boots and explore the Christmas story in a new and hope filled way.

Find us on Facebook and share your photos with us
@stmaryswilland





WARM SPACES IN WILLAND THIS WINTER

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS
HERE ARE SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES TO KEEP WARM AND
MEET OTHERS IN THE VILLAGE

TUESDAY

Coffee Tea Cake & Chat – 3rd Tuesday 10am - 12
Willand Health and Community Centre, Gables Road

WEDNESDAY

Hot Drink Choose a book and have a chat - 3rd
Wednesday of the month Willand Health and Community
Centre 10-12

THURSDAY

Coffee Tea Cake & Chat – 1st Thursday 9:30am-12
Willand Health and Community Centre, Gables Road

Methodist Church - hot drinks and light refreshments on
Thursdays January 12, 17 & 24 from 3-6pm. Jigsaws,
table games or a quiet corner for homework!

FRIDAY

Coffee and CHAT – 2nd and 4th Fridays 10:30 'til 12
St Mary's Church Hall, Rectory Road

Coffee Morning Friday January 20th from 10am – 12 in the
Methodist Church

SATURDAY

Soup, Something and Sweet at the Chapel when we
have a Christmas Lunch. On Saturday December 17th from
12 noon to 1.30pm. All are welcome. There is no charge so
no need to be hungry that day.

ALL SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL

**'WARM SPACES' IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
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SODUKO No5.

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This is the same as SODUKO, but with letters instead.

Each line column and square must have each letter once

Letters used AGILNPSTU

Clue to middle line THROBBING

The solution is further into the magazine have fun but no cheating now.

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WITS)

The long-awaited **Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders** was finally performed in September and went down extremely well with our audience.

I have cherry picked comments from **Patricia Barclay's** review for **The National Operatic and Dramatic Association** which was very praising for the whole show and the individual characters.

"This was a large cast representing the motley array of typical village characters and most especially those found in "Agatha Christie" land. Gossip, village politics, misunderstandings and "double entendres" abounded. Everyone worked well together, the various characters were clearly defined, and it was good too to see members of the group stretching themselves into different roles after pantomime. The production also gave good opportunity to gain experience with smaller parts"

"The script was particularly wordy and "tongue twisting" and the cast did well to keep everything on track, although much to the delight of the audience things did go awry at times and the lines "I don't know what you are talking about" proved to be particularly useful"



"There was a lot of setting and resetting of tables and chairs between scenes which was well handled by members of the cast and the backstage crew. Costumes were right for the characters and the lighting and sound suitably designed for the piece" "On reflection of course everything that went wrong or appeared to go wrong could have been part of a craftily contrived plot, cleverly executed by the performers on stage - it really was a mystery" **Patricia Barclay.**

The Auditions over and the cast selected and rehearsals ongoing for the annual Pantomime next February in the half term school holidays. The chosen Panto will be **“Treasure Island”** Which is a rip roaring, swashbuckling adventure that will delight the whole family watch this space for updates.



WiTS also performed a fund-raising Murder Mystery for the Walronds in Cullompton an historic House that was first mentioned in history in 1564 and relies on donations for its upkeep and maintenance. The Murder Mystery was performed at Willand Village Hall and seemed to go down a storm with lots of good feedback on social media. **“Alfurian Fury”** written by **Alison Holly** included food served and a licensed bar much to the

appreciation of our audience with Prizes for the winning sleuth who correctly identified the evil murderer and prizes for the best dressed Tudor outfits, as most of the audience took the trouble to dress in Tudor style. With the hall bedecked in banners and lots of authentic trappings it went down as a truly enjoyable evening.

Lastly, we are so grateful to the people of Willand who support our efforts to entertain, long may we continue doing the things we enjoy treading the boards and hopefully pleasing our audience, **Sam Fincher**.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Another two months have passed since the last set of notes were prepared and how things are changing both Nationally and Internationally. The war in Ukraine continues with all the problems and distress that is causing.

We seem to be changing Prime Ministers and other Ministers faster than some change their underwear. The cost of living is rising and we are daily seeing stories of various people getting into difficulty and struggling with their finances. It is likely to affect us further as time progresses. When one reaches my age and one has some money put away for your final days it is worrying to receive notification that the value of your savings is going down and the companies managing the funds seem to have the cheek to charge you for devaluing your savings. Oh joy.

Let us try and look on the bright side for a while. We welcome a new Parish Councillor in Neil James and hopefully his expertise will be able to advise on our Parish finances. Looking ahead to May 2023, it will be here quicker than you think, there will be elections for a new Parish Council. To hold an election at least 13 of our residents will need to put their names forward so please start thinking now if you will be interested in becoming a councillor and helping our community. The same early thinking will apply to District Council elections where we need three councillors for Lower Culm which will then include Willand, Uffculme and Kentisbeare.

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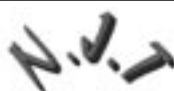
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I have recently again been honoured to represent the Parish at the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in the Churchyard. It was wonderful to see so many people of all ages there and thanks must go to Simon, our Rector, and his team who put the service together. I believe that 150 orders of service were printed and people were having to share so we must have been near to the 200 mark for attendance. Thank you to our serving members of the armed services who attended in uniform. The representation from our Guides, Brownies Rangers, Cubs and Scouts was excellent and they were a credit to their parents and leaders. How wonderful to have the Last Post and Reveille played by a real musician – thank you – it makes all the difference. A big thank you to those who decorated the churchyard with the poppies for the period of remembrance.

Although financially things are becoming harder, we have monies to spend within the village courtesy of agreements entered into by the Developers of the 125 houses being built off Meadow Park. It is ring fenced for a specific purpose so we cannot use it to reduce the Council Tax but it is being used to provide things for the Community Centre [WHCC] at The Gables and then there are to be improvements at the Primary School later. The bulk of the monies are to be used to improve 'teen facilities', mainly within the Jubilee Field, but also elsewhere in the village. An order has been placed to make the current mounds [BMX track] into a proper pump track but it will be in the spring before the work will start as contractors are busy. We are also working towards replacing and improving the facilities at the small skateboard ramp.

Any other ideas such as better goal posts, outdoor gym etc should be given to the Parish Clerk to see what can be achieved if we have any money left over. Some different monies have been obtained which will be used to completely revamp the Chestnut Drive play area. The order is placed so watch this space as the area will be closed whilst the work is taking place.

You will recall that last year the Parish Precept did not rise although District, County, Police and Fire Service tax did. I cannot promise the same this year. We did ask in the last newsletter if you wanted us to reduce services like grass cutting and the like but from **the reply** received there was a 100% vote not to reduce our standards and therefore our precept will have to rise. No, I did not make a mistake using the singular, there was **one** resident who replied. It would be helpful if we had had more views to advise/help so we will have to do what we think is best for the village as a whole. Contracts are out for quotes for the next three years for grass verge cutting, weed spraying and various play area and open space maintenance. Do not be surprised if that goes up by 10 to 15 percent. On top of that the salaries have increased more than expected across all council areas. Having said that we will have more houses coming on line to pay council tax and so that will help a little. A £1,000 increase in our precept amounts to about 2p per week per Band D household. Not much if you say it quickly.

We have been seeking volunteers to look after the planters around the village and are grateful for those of our community who have come forward. You may notice a difference with the layout of some as individualistic ideas may come to the fore. We are having to make some changes as John Holmes, our 'litter picker' has not been well and is having to slow down a bit. We are grateful for Graham Bodkin stepping in as a temporary replacement. If any of you see litter about and can pick it up and put it in one of the bins or take it home, please feel free to do so. We are grateful for the management of 2 Sisters who are doing their best to keep the area around the factory and approaches clear of litter. There have been some rather disgusting deposits left in the motorway underpass which Highways England staff have had to deal with. I do not think dogs use newspaper to wipe their bottoms if you get my drift. The Village Hall Car Park had a similar experience but the CCTV footage will not be appearing on Facebook.

Some will have noticed that the Christmas Lights have been up around the village for some time and we are one short at Four Cross Way Roundabout due to a damaged lamp post which has since been repaired but we cannot get the light moved without paying out £400 not going to happen in these difficult times. The contractors put them up early for reasons best known to themselves without telling the Clerk. If any local businesses, or individuals, would like to contribute towards the cost of the lights our Clerk would be very pleased and grateful to hear from you PLEASE.

We do receive generous support each year which is much appreciated. The lights should be switched on by the time you receive this magazine copy.

Things have been relatively quiet around the Parish on the planning front but the Parish Council has received a briefing from a company wanting to put about 160 acres of solar panels up the bottom of the valley towards Halberton. Only one field appears to be in our parish and the rest will be in Halberton. There is an application in Halberton for another anaerobic digester plant which is going to be catering for more than 'on farm' needs and so you may wish to have a look at that and comment. Please remember if you do not let your views or concerns be known, one way or the other, it is no good moaning about it after it is approved and built.

Potential parish boundary changes are being considered and a final decision will be made at a special Mid Devon District Council meeting on 1 December 2022. You can go and speak if you wish to have your views known by way of asking a question.

May I take this opportunity to thank Gerri Taylor and her helpers for preparing the magazine and getting it through your letter boxes before Christmas. On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please enjoy the festive season safely and please do not forget those who are less fortunate or who may be lonely. Just a few minutes of your time and kindness may mean a great deal to them. **Barry G J Warren.**

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL Merry Christmas to everyone.

The Ladies' toilets have now been refurbished and are looking really lovely. We were going to refurbish the kitchen next year but had the opportunity to buy some good quality units at half price, so decided to go ahead this year. It should be finished by the time you read this article. Apologies to all the hirers who were inconvenienced during this time, but I hope they think it was worth the upheaval.

If anyone is interested in becoming a trustee of the Hall, please contact me or our Chairman, Michael Hollings (**chairman@willandvillagehall.org.uk**) for details. The Hall is used almost every day of the year, so is a very valuable asset for the village. We only meet 6 times a year and meetings only last around an hour, so it is not a very onerous task and you would be helping the community. We would welcome input into how we could improve our facilities, so please consider joining us.

We have experienced large increases in our fuel bills, as have all of us personally, so please be mindful of the costs once the cooler weather comes, making sure outside doors are closed, as well as the windows.

Please visit our website, **www.willandvillagehall.org.uk**, to check the calendar for future bookings. The email for booking is:

bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk. Carol Allan Village Hall Treasurer
email: **treasurer@willandvillagehall.org.uk** Phone: 01884 33828

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

		DECEMBER 2022	
Saturday	3rd	Willand Craft Market	10:00am
Sunday	4th	Willand Village Carol Service	6.30pm
Saturday	10th	Bramblehaies Coffee morning	10.00am

WILLAND GARDEN CLUB

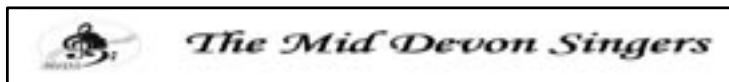
Our Garden Club has suffered with falling numbers, especially since COVID arrived. Speakers are becoming very expensive – usually around £70 – £80. They are likely to be more expensive with recent fuel price rises.

In order for the Club to continue, we need a lot more members and people willing to help at events. At our coffee morning in September, there were only 14 guests. If we cannot appoint officers at our AGM in December, we will either have to merge with another Garden Club or close. This would be very sad, as the Club has been in existence almost since the Village Hall was built. If you do not want it to go, please come along to our AGM on 14th December at the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Carol Allan cbarwa@icloud.com 01884 33828

It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters, it's who is around it



A new era for the Mid Devon Singers is being

marked with this new, fresh branding which you will start to see on posters and banners throughout Mid Devon and on our Facebook page.

Our approach to choir leadership has also changed and following on from the good work started by our founding director, our two new musical directors have been introducing us to a variety of new pieces and harmonies.

Maggie Shiret has been a choir member since its start and says:

"The choir is loving the sound we are making, a number of the pieces are giving us goosebumps when we sing them, others are almost moving some of us to tears".

We are currently preparing for Christmas and have a couple of social events coming up for choir members and their families. We also have Christmas concerts we are looking forward to. Bookings for further performances next year are also starting to be made.

New members are very welcome; there are no auditions to join our friendly and sociable community choir. There's no charge for trying us out and it's free for under 18s. We meet at Halberton Village Hall, on Friday evenings at 7.15pm. If you would like to find out more information, contact us now at **info@mids.org.uk** or call our Membership Secretary, Lisa Pinney on 07446 877714 Alternatively contact our Chairperson, **Bernard Johns** at **Chair@mids.org.uk** or on 07855 583356.

WILLAND COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (WCSW)

I am delighted to say that we now have a team of 7 volunteers, thank you everybody. Ideally, we'd like another 5 to make 12 in total because the other piece of good news is that all the roads in Willand with a speeding issue are now fully approved by the police for CSW. If we get the extra volunteers, we will ask the police for another set of equipment so that we can run more sessions.

So far, the police have sent out 20 letters to drivers reported by WCSW and this will probably rise sharply as we become more active.

The team now has a good network of key relationships with the various police teams, e.g. the Commercial & Agricultural team, Roads Policing Team, etc. You may have seen 3 RPT officers conducting a speed check session at the entrance to Willand Football Club recently and pulling over quite a few vehicles.

We are now working on better communication with the police teams who launch initiatives such as Vision Zero South West (targets of halving deaths and serious injury by 2030, and zero by 2040) so that WCSW can play its part. Take a look at **<https://visionzerosouthwest.co.uk>**

So, we would ask drivers to **stick to the speed limits** - as we always say, we would rather deter drivers from speeding than catch them.

David Marrow, Group Co-ordinator, WCSW

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MID DEVON WILDLIFE WARDEN SCHEME

I am the coordinator for the Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme, a newly established network to support parish environmental projects. We are in the process of rolling out the scheme to all of the parishes in Mid Devon. We are really keen to be in touch with people in your community who are potential wildlife wardens to help nature thrive. Here are some details about the scheme: Play Your Part for Wildlife - Join the Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme Today.

Do you need support to help nature to thrive in your parish? The Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Scheme exists to support parishes in Mid Devon with environmental projects focussing on nature, gardens, public spaces and farming. We offer a simple induction training session and provide opportunities for wildlife wardens to attend talks by experts and visits in the field as well as gain unlimited support. Find out more on more

www.middevonwildlifewardenscheme.co.uk.

What does being a Wildlife Warden involve?

A few hours of training and induction and then as little or as much time as you would like (just a few hours a month)

Championing wildlife in your area - this could mean working on a specific project with others or contributing to a range of nature projects and community events

Working together with 2-5 other Wildlife Wardens representing wildlife in your parish

Reporting in to the MDWWS Coordinator and Parish Council on a monthly basis

Being part of a District-wide scheme offering support and training

If you would like to chat more about how we can help, please contact Mid Devon Wildlife Warden Coordinator, Jess Carter on,

wwcoordinator@middevon@gmail.com or 07722301375 Jess Carter

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

We have been given a statement of the financial position of the County, I thought it would be useful for you know the situation, it is not good, we have a lot of work to do to produce a balanced budget.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has set out the Government's economic plan which includes a further squeeze on public sector spending from April 2023.

Even before this announcement, Devon County Council is projecting that savings of £75 million will be needed next financial year (April 2023 to March 2024) unless the Government intervenes.

Councils are required by law to balance their books, but with few available reserves left in the bank, this leaves Devon, like many other councils, at a very real risk of bankruptcy unless action is taken by the Government. All this comes on top of the huge savings we are already having to make in this financial year,

and we would like to thank everyone for their tremendous efforts so far in helping to find and make these savings.

But today we have taken the decision to issue a stark public warning that if the situation does not change, then radical cuts that have a significant impact on the quality of life for everyone in Devon will be unavoidable.

I know this message is hard to hear and will raise many questions and concerns.

The important services that we help to provide are the lifeblood of our county and directly impact on tens of thousands of local people. Many of you will also, alongside family and friends, use the County Council's wide range of services.

We would like to stress that absolutely no decisions have been made about where any cuts might happen, and some very difficult conversations will be taking place over the coming weeks with our Strategic Leadership Team and elected Members to find savings whilst limiting the impact on everyone as best we can.

We have never witnessed a financial crisis in local government of this magnitude. We have always been rightly proud of the authority's sound fiscal management, our ability to manage the resources we have, and adapt how we work together with our partners in order to protect vital local services and support the most vulnerable.

But these are unprecedented times. Rising demand for services after the pandemic, rising costs and the impact of inflation are all taking their toll.

The interim Chief Executive is determined to do all she can alongside our elected Members and leaders to fight for Devon's corner, for our vital services, for you and for the people of Devon.

Our Leader, Councillor John Hart, is lobbying Devon MPs to make very clear the dire financial situation we find ourselves in and he has also written personally to the new Prime Minister laying out the risk to public services.

As a reminder, through our Financial Sustainability work we are already making £36 million of savings this financial year (April 2022 to March 2023). This has been achieved across all services and includes holding vacancies in non-frontline areas and stopping some routine road maintenance. We are squeezing all our contracts with external service providers and reviewing things like school transport for children with disabilities, as well as delaying planned investments in IT and infrastructure projects, and cutting office heating and lighting bills.

We are reviewing all high-cost activity in both Children's and Adult Services with the focus on transforming and improving the support we give while saving resources. We are also reviewing our properties and will be looking to dispose of assets where they are no longer needed.

Even then we must find a further £37 million this financial year, largely because of rising demand in adult and children's social care, higher prices for care

packages and a higher national pay award to reflect the cost of living increases we all face.

I will, of course, keep you updated on our financial position and response

With the rising costs of food and energy starting to bite, councils are focusing on what they can do to help support individuals and families.

Recently, we made **a few announcements about help or advice available.**

There are national schemes available to help households with the current cost of living, and information about all of them are available on the one central government **Cost of Living Support website**. Discounts and offers are available for businesses to help with the cost of living.

The Local Government Association (LGA) **cost of living hub** continues to share best practice designed to help councils to support their residents with the rising cost of living.

Mobile Boost Scheme

CDS operates the Mobile Boost Scheme, funded through the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership's Growth Deal, which is upgrading indoor 4G mobile phone coverage in rural areas. The initiative has helped over 1,105 small businesses and homes which have inadequate coverage, or only have access to one provider and are struggling with connectivity. Businesses and households in Somerset, Devon, Torbay and Plymouth can apply for a voucher of up to £1,200 towards the cost of a mobile signal booster from a registered supplier. The value of the voucher is dependent on the type of technology most suitable for the premises.

For further information please contact, Connecting Devon and Somerset.

We will soon be at the end of the year, despite all the gloom, I just would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. Please contact me if there is anything I can help with. **Ray Radford** Devon County Councillor Willand & Uffculme Division Email: **ray.radford@devon.gov.uk**

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH.

On Friday November 11th the lorry arrived to take our 105 Christmas **Shoebboxes** (and very many more from across the West Country) on the first part of their journey to Eastern Europe. This is the largest number we have ever sent and we need to thank so many of you for packing your own shoebboxes for us and for donating towards their transporting costs.

They will be especially welcomed this year because of all their terrible turmoil. We have already started work on next year's boxes and we can provide you with all the details and items if you'd like to continue to support us or if you think this a good idea to join us for the first time in this very practicable worthy cause.

Thank you also for all who contribute to the "Cupboard" at our gate. We originally set it up for the workers from the factory who catch the bus from there.

But it is now for everyone to bring, share and take away anything you find to be useful.

Our **Prospects Group** for disabled people Christmas Celebration is at 3 pm on Sunday December 4th

And the joint **Christmas Carol Service** with St. Mary's, for all the village organisations is at the Village Hall at 6.30pm. also on Sunday December 4th.

We'll be singing Carols at Somerville House at 2pm on Thursday 15th December. And eating **Soup, Something and Sweet at the Chapel** when we have a Christmas Lunch. On Saturday December 17th from 12 noon to 1.30pm. All are welcome. There is no charge so no need to be hungry that day.

We have our usual **Coffee Morning** on Friday January 20th from 10am. – 12 noon. Please join us for these **Services**.

10.30am. Sunday 11th December

4pm. Sunday 18th December. Carols by Candlelight.

4pm. Saturday December 24th Holy Communion.

10.30am. Sunday January 1st. New Year's Day.

May you all have a very peaceful Christmastide and we the folk of Culm Valley Methodist Church send you our Sincere Blessings. **David and Joan Greet**

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS).

OPENING TIMES Wednesdays and Sundays - 10.00 am - 12 Noon.

In addition to our list of Garden Waste we accept Christmas Trees providing they have no decorations, and the branches are no more than 2" in diameter.

We also accept leaves which are cut up with our mowers and added to the shredded material for composting. We recently have had leaves deposited that included, tennis balls, a broom head and stones. Please could you check the leaves that you are going to deposit making sure there are no other items included. With regard to stones as they damage the mowers and can be a hazard.

WE DON'T ACCEPT Cordyline and Palm leaves as they cause both damage and time in clearing the shredding machine.

COMPOST SALES: Sieved (with next to no twigs) compost is £2.00/bag.

Unsieved Waste at £1.00/wheelbarrow. If required, we have a wheelbarrow for you to use; just ask.

***CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY**

We are **CLOSED** FROM 12 noon - Sunday 18th December 2022.

REOPEN FROM 10.00am - Sunday 8th January 2023.

The Composter Volunteers wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

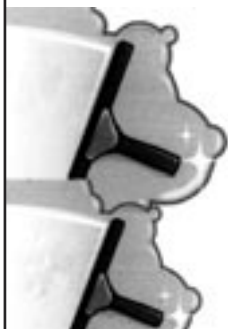
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Wednesday: 10:00-11:00am Pilates
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Watching

*I'm woken well before the light
By flashing beams through curtain,
The farmer's watching flocks by night,
From quad bike, making certain.*

*His ewes he found, all hunkered down
Against the wind and rain.
With sweeping torch and questing frown
He searched the field again.*

*For soon there would be lambs to find
Amongst the damp, dark grass
And shepherds, long gone, came to mind,
Saw wonders come to pass.*

*Above the shepherds, angels sing
Of love – the endless story
Of Jesus, Lord and Saviour King,
- God's gift to us from glory.*

*To shepherds, every lamb's unique,
Is welcomed, celebrated,
And of God's Lamb we sing and speak
At Christmas, hearts elated.*

*But shepherds' lives are hard and cold,
They've no romantic notion.
Protecting flocks in field and fold
With hard work and devotion.*

*And as they watch throughout the night
For signs of coming life,
We too shine torches in our plight,
Seek peace in times of strife.*

*The silhouetted hills stand stark
Against the new day's dawning,
And there, in remnants of the dark
- the bright Star of the Morning.*

Clare Matanle

"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling.

CAMEO

Since the last magazine a coffee morning was enjoyed at Padbrook in Cullompton, eight members from the singles group had a lovely holiday in North Wales staying at Bodelwydden Castle, an old favourite of the group, they had a trip to Betws-y-Coed, Llandudno and Chester. Unfortunately, it ended a bit disastrously as three members caught Covid and another one came home with shingles. All thankfully now on the mend. Members enjoyed a day at Lynton and Lynmouth and the Valley of the Rocks. Eighteen members went to the Great British Fish Restaurant in Tiverton, and we will certainly be going there again. The walking group began a walk along the canal at Sampford Peverell but hadn't gone far when the heavens opened, and they got drenched so they made a hasty retreat to the Old Well for a reviving cup of coffee. They are having a walk near Christmas with Christmas tea at the Old Well. The skittles group were able to enjoy an evening at the Halfway House, Valerie Newberry won the cup and Judith Dawson was presented with the wooden spoon.

At the October meeting, after all the doom and gloom on the news we welcomed Janet East for a return visit. Janet and her husband have a mixed farm near Payhembury, what a laugh and we all came home smiling after hearing her anecdotes about her bed and breakfast guests and the school children's visits to her farm to learn about where their food comes from and where they were able to stroke the lambs, the questions they asked were hilarious. The November meeting was certainly different as unfortunately the speaker had to cancel at the last minute. However, as always Peta came up trumps and we had a real laugh with a beetle drive. There were some new members joining which was good. But first there was a bit of business to get through at the AGM.

Plans include a trip to Street for Christmas shopping, another to the Dartington glass factory and on to Barnstaple, Members to were reminded that they must pay up front when they put their names down for any trips. We are going to the Petroc restaurant in December for a Christmas lunch. Christmas dinner this year will be at Redwoods inn, Uplowman and the committee are arranging a secret Santa.

In January, subs will be due and after the business meeting we will be having a bring-and share supper, all members are expected to contribute, remember to bring your cutlery, crockery and drink..

The committee have planned lots of activities for the new-year, as you can see, we have a really varied agenda to cater for all tastes so if you think you would like to come along and see what we get up to you will be given a warm welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.p.m. unless otherwise stated.

Cameo wishes you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Betty Penberthy

NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL

OPENING TIMES: the **Museum, Shop and Grist Mill Café Bar** are all open to the public Wed-Fri 11.00am-3.30pm until Thursday 15th December. The Mill will reopen on Sunday 1st January 2023 with the traditional

NEW YEAR'S DAY STEAM UP.

Tickets for visits and steam day events are available on the Coldharbour Mill website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/visit/ - or phone 01884 840960 to book.

Become a member and get Free Access to the **Mill and Event Days** for a whole year. **CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOPS** with local crochet and knitwear designer Tracey from Bluebird & Daisy

Christmas Crochet Star Workshop, Wednesday 7th December 10:30am to 12:30pm

Knitted Christmas Tree Workshop, Wednesday 7th December 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Each session only £32, all yarn provided – and coffee & cake. plus **10% discount on the day in the Mill Shop** For more information, and to book, see: <https://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/workshops/> or phone **01884 840960**.

Are you a Carer in Devon?

We are delighted to be able to offer **FREE ENTRY** to the Mill for you and the person you care for. Contact us for more information on how to book.

The Friends of the Mill invite you to CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA in Uffculme Village Hall. Sunday 11th December 2-4 pm

With Bring & Buy for last minute gifts and special Christmas Raffle.

BIG CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - tickets only £1 each.

1st Prize – a two-night break for two in Bath, 2nd Prize - £175, 3rd Prize - £100 **Plus, over 30 extra prizes, including pamper hampers from Molton Brown, Bloomtown and others, shopping vouchers for Next, Tesco, the Mill Shop and others, and lots more.**

If you would like to buy Christmas Raffle tickets in advance, please contact the Friends' Treasurer by email at: friendsofmill@btinternet.com or by phone on 07821 592389 or drop by the Mill Cafe. **Email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk Phone: 01884 840960.**

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB

We have a new British Champion Gabby Sully-Dunbar competed in the British Weightlifting Age Group Championships, in Leeds, on Sunday 13th November. She won the under-23s, 59kg category, with a 62kg snatch and 78kg clean and jerk for a personal best total of 140kg.

Only a third of our weightlifters compete: the rest come along to learn a skill, get fit and train with like-minded people. Beginners are welcome.

As the weather deteriorates, we are more pleased than ever that gymnastics and weightlifting are indoor sports.

Training has now moved indoors until Spring and we have renamed it 'Sports Fitness'. This session is designed for children ages 10-14 who want to improve their strength, coordination, balance and mobility to help them play their sport better. This is a difficult age for children as they navigate growth spurts (or not) and increased skill demands from more complicated sport rules.

Three £500 donations from local trusts were gratefully received by our club in the last month: one each for weightlifting, gymnastics and athletics equipment. Running a sports club requires a lot of administration and expense and these donations help us immensely.

We have also received funding to train some of our volunteers. Rachael Talbot is the first person to complete her training: she did the 'Safeguarding and Welfare' Course. Others will follow before Christmas. This helps improve skills in the local workforce and helps our members train in a safe and enlightened environment. **James Marshall**

WILLAND PANTRY

We have had a busy couple of months at The Pantry, we held a successful afternoon tea in August, at WH&CC and we held a ladies pamper evening/shopping event in October at WRFC. Both events were well attended and raised valuable funds to keep us going.

We are constantly looking at fund raising ideas to keep the Pantry well stocked for everyone in Willand to benefit. We have introduced a rule of £3 per 10 items at The Pantry, this is to ensure items are distributed fairly throughout the whole community.

This year, again we will be making up Christmas Hampers for Willand residents, these are given to ease the financial burden of Christmas dinner. Last year we gave out 48 Hampers, to families and individuals in the village. If you would like to donate, please let me know. If you know of someone who would benefit, please contact me.

Santa has confirmed he will be at WHCC on Saturday 10th December from 10am until 4pm.

Each child will receive a present and sweets, Santa will happily take a letter to give to his elves. Children will receive a reply as long as an address is added. The cost of this is £5 per child. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Please remember the Pantry is there for everyone in Willand, you aren't taking from anyone in more need than yourself. It's a helping hand for everyone during these uncertain times. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am until 11am.

If you would like to volunteer or would like further information, please contact me. We, the Pantry team would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support
Helen Jones 07454510573.

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Cullompton can offer late appointments Monday-Thursday and

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ST MARY'S CHURCH

As we approach Christmas there are lots of occasions to celebrate again this year. Whether you are a regular member, have never been to church before or somewhere in-between you are most welcome.

In conjunction with Culm Valley Methodist Church there will be a Carol service in the Village Hall, Gables Road at 6.30pm Sunday 4th. December. I am sure this will be a wonderful occasion as different groups, churches and the school come together.

Other Christmas services and events in December include:

Friday 16th 3.30pm Messy Church Christmas Special in Church Hall, Rectory Close

Sunday 18th 6.30pm St Mary's Carol service followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Saturday 24th 4.00pm Christingle service, always very popular so do arrive in plenty of time to guarantee a seat.

Saturday 24th 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Sunday 25th 10.00am Christmas Service for all the family.

St Mary's Church is in Old Village, next to the Post Office. The building is open from 9.30am-4pm every day.

Other groups running in the Church Hall, Rectory Close include:

"Rockers" our Baby and Toddler Group (school term time only) Mondays from 9.15am

Coffee & Chat (tea is also available) Friday 9th & 23rd Dec, 13th Jan & 27th Jan - 10.30am-12pm

Film Club. Sat 3rd. Dec & 7th. Jan from 7pm

Rev Simon Talbot Tel: 562570 E: simon@thetalbots.org.uk

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

When you receive this, I am sure we'll be well into the ever-expanding festive season, so Happy Christmas everybody from Willand History Group. Back in October we held our AGM and were pleased to welcome new members, Helen and Peter. It also gave us great pleasure to reflect on a successful year that has seen the History Group get a bit more active again, after a long period of dormancy followed by the pandemic. We began planning our activities for next year, including more 'parish walks', plus an exhibition pencilled in for Saturday, 6 May 2023, to coincide with the King's Coronation, hopefully turning it into an everyone-welcome community event (with more details to follow, so watch this space). There isn't much else to report, other than a curious story that we discovered recently, reported in the *Devon & Somerset News*, about the Pook family. In June 1906, a Mr G.H. Pook arrived at Plymouth from Melbourne, Australia, and promptly declared that he had £30,000 he wished to give away

to families in need of charity. However, not before he had tracked down the relatives of his own late father, John Pook, who had once worked for 'Squire Clarke' at Bridwell House, Uffculme, before emigrating to Australia some 40-odd years previously.

His quest was reported in the local press, and one relative quick to come forward was Sarah Jane Payne of Willand, wife of Alfred Payne, who lived on Silver Street. She said she was a first cousin of Mr G.H. Pook on her mother's side, and could well remember John Pook working at Bridwell, but then having to leave after a 'misunderstanding', and then living for a short while in an old dairy house, subsequently demolished, at the bottom of an orchard, behind the Half Way House, off Muxbeare Lane. Sarah Jane Payne remembered going to see John Pook and his family at the dairy house on the night before they left for Australia; she said it was a lovely evening, and she had a ride on a donkey.

There were a lot of Pooks in Devon, and Sarah Jane Payne wasn't the only relative to come forward. In fact, Mr G.H. Pook hadn't realised quite how many relatives he did have, especially after his offer hit the national press. Thirty grand was a lot of money in 1906, after all. Within a week Mr G.H. Pook had received letters from '73 first cousins, 15 brothers-in-law, 117 second cousins, 56 third cousins, 190 relatives by marriage, 86 ladies whose maiden name was Pook, 19 ladies who have married Pooks, 17 uncles, 14 aunts, 8 grand-aunts. 106 persons tracing decent from his grandfather, 61 friends of his boyhood, 33 persons each claiming to be the head of the original Pook family, and 21 persons who knew his father'. Thankfully, Mr G.H. Pook was of 'religious temperament' and vowed to go through the 'huge pile of letters' and help where charity was genuinely needed. "I'm going to do what I can," he said, "but when I have had enough of it, I'll stop."

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

"History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are."

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

October started with our usual Thursday coffee and chat, then reacting to feedback the trustee's decided to incorporate a Tuesday coffee and chat into our monthly calendar. Our very first one got off to a slow start, but we had a busy Tuesday in November with some new faces. These would not be possible without our lovely volunteers, so I would like to say a huge thank you to: Kate, Gerri, Di, Sue, and Steven. We are always looking for volunteers to help run these sessions. Making drinks, serving cake, washing up and just generally chatting to the people who come. It can make a difference in their lives and yours. Thank you to Helen's diner for donating the lovely cakes, the salted caramel was especially nice. We would also like to say thank you to Linda and Keith for keeping the garden looking so lovely.

We are currently raising funds through the Co-Op's community scheme to fit out the kitchen. Our plan is to help show people how to cook healthy meals from

scratch. So, if you are a Co-Op member and looking for a community group to support, please think about choosing us. Thank you Janine, our Co-Op community pioneer, for helping us navigate this process.

We are going to be selling raffle tickets for our Christmas draw, which will be taking place on Tuesday 20th December the last coffee and chat of the year. We have some lovely prizes available including a bouquet of chocolate, a Christmas cake, and a gift voucher donated by Home and Gifts in Tiverton to name but a few. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far.

In addition to coffee and chat, we also open on the third Wednesday morning of the month for book exchange where you can have a hot drink see what new titles might have come in and bring a book back. There are also Pilates, yoga, a Ukrainian group and a new craft group that has started up. The pantry is going to be back with Santa again this year.

Dates for coffee and chat are: Thursday 1st December
Tuesday 20th December, Thursday 5th January, Tuesday 17th January
Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year from WHCC

Tania Edworthy

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

The last few weeks have seemed to fly by at a pace with more than a few issues keeping councillors busy.

The local parish boundary review is nearly at an end with the hard fought over recommendations going to a full council meeting on 1st December, the Willand, Uffculme & Halberton proposals took about 70% of the total discussion time over all meetings with the final recommendation to be considered below. Therefore, the ERC proposed the following options for Halberton, Willand and Uffculme for part of the stage 2 public consultation:

Option 1 – Lucombe Park move from Halberton to Uffculme and the Mid Devon Business Park move from Halberton to Willand.

Option 2 – Option 1 (as set out above) together with the area northeast of Bridwell Avenue be moved from Halberton to Uffculme.

Option 3 – Options 1 and 2 (as set out above) together with Hitchcock's business park.

Final Vote to be taken by full council on 1st December.

I'm hoping all my hard work in trying to get the zebra crossing and the associated road fixed in South View Rd, will be completed pre Christmas , it's taken so long having to wait for DCC traffic orders and a lot of emails and phone calls, fingers crossed no last minute hiccups.

As with so many councils MDDC face a very uncertain future with predicted financial shortfalls looking likely without some difficult decisions having to be made. I'm hoping we move towards a more income generation way of thinking

and not simply try and cut more and more from the ever decreasing pie, I will be pushing for more investment in such projects.

There is still much to do in our local area and I hope to play my part in making things happen over the new few months, despite elections in May next year elected councillors still have a vital role to play, we were elected for 4 years not three and a half so heads down and keep going.

Finally may I wish you and your families Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year

Thank you for your support, for trusting me with your issues and for reading my column, as always if I can be of assistance please call me direct or E mail me , you may even want to pop into one of my local surgeries. **Bob Evans**
Independent Councillor Lower Culm Ward

"Peace on earth will come to stay when we live Christmas every day."

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