

Welcome to the latest edition I hope you enjoy it, read on for news and information about what is happening in and around the village. Thank you to all our contributors and don't forget if you have any articles for submission or feedback about the magazine then do get in touch via [willandparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:willandparishmag@gmail.com).

**WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

The time has come for me to put pen to paper again to advise you of what has been going on in the Parish. If I am lucky there may be some information as to what is going to happen. Hopefully you find it informative but I am sure that a number do not even look at the magazine. How do I know this – from questions we are asked which would not be asked if the questioner had read and absorbed the content. Let us start with some good news and perhaps go downhill from there!

**COMMUNITY PAYBACK**

In mid January we had another visit from teams having to carry out work for the benefit of the community as part of a court order. We are fortunate that again their work came at no cost to the Parish and the bill was picked up by Devon County Council. There were further footpaths which had vegetation cut back and leaves and other debris swept. Some other public areas were tidied and visibility improved on the Four Cross Way Roundabout. Thanks must also go to the volunteers of our Community Composting Scheme who dealt with quite a lot of the debris. The efforts of those residents who took the trouble to thank the teams for what they were doing is much appreciated and will help ensure that the scheme managers like coming back to Willand and we can get more done to try and keep our community tidy. Anyone with any ideas as to where else we may be able to use this facility should contact the Clerk or myself please and we will see what can be done. Health and safety considerations do place quite a lot of restrictions on some tasks.

**DEVON AIR AMBULANCE – NIGHT LANDING**

The Parish has now received planning permission for this scheme to go ahead. Thanks to the generosity of Willand Theatrical Society and those who attended the Methodist Church Carol Service we have a goodly sum towards the cost of the mast and lights. We can make up the rest from savings we have made during the last year but if anyone else, individual, business or group would like to make a donation it would be gratefully received. We had a very generous offer from Matt Bright of D A Wright Electrical who was going to work with Diggerland to do a lot of the installation work for us which would have saved a lot of money. Things have moved on and the Devon Air Ambulance Trust has

received a considerable sum from the government as the result of fines imposed on our sinning banking industry and they are now paying their preferred contractor to carry out the installations right around the County. In our case that amounts to about £2,700 but it does mean that we have to step back from Matt's generous offer. Hopefully the works will be carried out in a couple of months time if not sooner.

## **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

What do you do when your Devon County Councillor comes to you and advises that there is money available through an Investment in Devon programme which needs to be used before the end of the financial year? It has to be used for the benefit of the community health and wellbeing or recreation. What could we do quickly which could use this money for the benefit of the Parish but did not need too much 'topping up' from reserves. By the time you read this you should see the benefits of this with a nice big slide on the Jubilee Parish Field to add to the equipment provided earlier in the year. We hope it is well used and enjoyed. Thank you Councillor Ray Radford for thinking of Willand.

## **PLAY AREA LEASES AND COSTS**

You will recall that MDDC wished to close some of our small play areas and there was also a suggestion that they would sell off a portion of the Parish field by Gables Lea for housing. The Parish Council, with quite a lot of local support, decided to offer to save the areas by offering to take on the areas on a long term lease. In the end MDDC would only agree to a 25 year lease but agreed with all the rest of our suggestions. Other Parish and Town Councils have followed the 'Willand Model'. One of the deals was that MDDC dealt with all the legal work for the leases at no cost to the parish. It seems to have taken an age to get them prepared but at last they are with the Land Registry. We were advised to get advice from an independent solicitor and so if MDDC Legal Department are giving such advice to we 'volunteers' then you follow it. No mention that we would have to pay and we did not ask as we thought we had an agreement that MDDC was covering legal costs. We have a bill and certain officers and cabinet members of MDDC have declined to pay and used various 'interpretations' of simple words to leave Willand with the bill. Three members of the cabinet did not seem able to achieve a satisfactory way forward. Fortunately Ward member Bob Evans took up our case for us and approached a senior officer who was prepared to compromise and be practical. We will probably have to meet them half way! Thank you Bob – at least you took up the case. Watch the finance section of Full Council minutes to see the final outcome.

On the subject of the playing field behind the village hall does anyone know the identity of the inconsiderate person who is allowing a rather large dog to

defecate on the field and then not pick it up? You only have to see all the children using this area, particularly after school, to realise the dangers of this. The dog wardens/enforcement officers cannot be here all the time but we as residents are. The MDDC Enforcement Officers will now act on photographs or statements from witnesses. I know everyone is reluctant in one degree or another to get involved but in this particular case a stronger line needs to be taken please for the safety of our children. Do we really need to be forced into banning dogs from the field to protect the children? Come on responsible dog owners take the lead – no pun intended – but please do not become involved in any direct confrontation that will lead to a breach of the peace.

### **OH NO DON'T PICK THE DAISYS**

Well I think that is how the song went? The serious side is that someone has been spotted in the village digging up plants from the public banks or verges. Please do not do it as it deprives others from enjoying seeing them and you could be breaking the law in some circumstances.

### **PRECEPT 2016/2017**

The precept has been set for the next year and the full detail will be reported elsewhere within the magazine. We have tried to keep it as modest as possible knowing that County and District Authorities are making cutbacks and attempting to push more responsibilities onto town and parish councils if we wish to maintain a reasonable appearance for our village and to provide some of the facilities which we take for granted which they now argue that they have no statutory responsibility to provide. Self help appears to be the order of the day. Our precept rise for the parish portion of your council tax is 4.65% but MDDC seem to make it a bit less. At the worst scenario we are looking at about £1.63p per house for the year in the village.

### **MDDC LOCAL PLAN**

By the time that you read this the local plan consultation period will have ended. Six weeks for 'consultation' starting on 3 January does leave one with the impression that they do not really want any real consultation as normally a consultation period is considered to be 12 weeks – see the NHS consultations. We had a presentation in Willand which was between 1500 & 1800 hours and comment was made by some that this was done to prevent those at work from being able to attend. At Willand the hall was not available later due to other bookings and repairs to the floor of the main hall were delayed as well. It will be noted that presentations in other areas were mainly during the day and so the availability of our hall may not have been a key factor. Sixty six people visited the presentation at Willand with five members of MDDC Planning staff in attendance. Of those attending there were certainly people there from Burlescombe and Cullompton so compared to a population of over 3,500

Willand interest seemed limited. Your Parish Council have done their best to submit a representative view on the plan and this can be seen by following the link on the Willand Matters website.

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

At the time of writing the application for outline approval for the 259 houses {Just remember that this started off as 300!} off Silver Street is still under discussion. There are recommendations for refusal from Devon County Council on highways and flooding concerns. MDDC Planners have also raised issues with regard to the proportion of affordable housing and green open space. The developers are pressing for more meetings with a view to 'persuasion' to remove the objections. The Parish Council has submitted a response and it is available to read on the website. Not too many of you have responded so we are not sure if we have it right.

The Co-Op proposal at Four Cross Way Roundabout has come to the fore again in that they are now asking for conditions to be changed to remove the need to provide a pedestrian crossing. It was the offer to include this crossing which originally persuaded the Planning Committee at MDDC to grant approval. There are arguments about criteria and the fact that the 'little book of words' used by DCC Highways does not require it. Bob Evans, one of our Ward Councillors is leading the argument to have a means of crossing in the area retained as a condition. Planning Officers say they cannot insist on its retention if DCC do not support it. A number of you have responded for which we are grateful to see. Once the store is open without a crossing then it will be a hard job to get one installed until we get a number of fatal accidents in the area. Do we really want to support a business that is carrying on like this to save about £20,000?

If it has not already happened it looks as if the Solar Panels on the field at the entrance to the village from Cullompton will soon appear. You will recall that MDDC refused the application and it was granted by a Government Inspector with certain conditions. The applicants now want to amend the conditions with some 'creative' explanations but if you look at it you will see that the bottom line is trying to find a less costly way of doing it.

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Please put the date in your diary – Friday 24th March 2017. It will be in the main Village Hall and hopefully there will be a good representation from a number of our groups and organisations from within the village. The format will be similar to last year but we will gather a little later and start the formal meeting a bit earlier.

Any organisations who would like to have a table to advertise their organisation should contact the parish clerk (details in the front of the magazine)

Start time for the event :- Hall open at 18.30 for people to come in. There will be free tea, coffee and soft drinks and I am sure someone will bake a cake or two. The meeting will start at 19.00. Any organisation wishing to present a report for the past year will be welcome.

Please come and support the evening and meet with the Parish Councillors and hopefully Ward and County Councillors will manage to make it. It is your chance to ask questions and put views across. Constructive feedback is always appreciated and helpful otherwise how else do we know if we are representing the views of the village residents. The odd bit of abuse seems to come with the job but do remember we Councillors are volunteers where others cannot be bothered!

We still have vacancies for three Parish Councillors. Can you spare some time to help your community? Come and join us. It is interesting times!

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

### **THE LEMURIAN SISTERHOOD CIRCLES**

The Lemurian sisterhood circles are for women only. The Willand meetings are monthly on a Friday evening between 6pm and 8pm in the village hall. This circle is part of an international movement that aims to provide a safe space for women to re balance their lives supported by other women within their community as we did in the ancient times of Lemuria.

We begin the evening with discussion on current esoteric themes for example Equinox or Solstice or the different stages of womanhood, followed by a guided meditation and sharing circle. From 8pm - 9pm there is a medicine circle that is open to both men and women - this is an opportunity for husbands, brothers, friends or partners to join us.

For more information contact **Laura by email to [laurabarbour@hotmail.com](mailto:laurabarbour@hotmail.com)**

### **UFFCULME BOWLING CLUB**

Uffculme Bowling club was formed in 1912 and is situated in Uffculme centre, opposite the Post Office and next to the War Memorial. If you are interested in joining, a warm welcome awaits bowlers of all ages and abilities, guidance and coaching is available for beginners.

Our bowls season is from Mid April to Mid September. Our Club night is on Fridays from 6.00pm and all are welcome. All you need to start is a pair of flat shoes.

For more information please contact our Chairman Graham Dyson on 01884 840953 or our secretary Alan George on 01884 277500

## **SANTA RUN RAISES £600 FOR FORCE CANCER CHARITY**

More than 50 people set off around Willand for a charity fundraiser which organisers described as “absolutely brilliant”. The first adult Santa was Matthew Gould who completed the course in 20 minutes 14 seconds. The first youngster home was 14-year-old Joshua Milton in an impressive time of 26 minutes 07 seconds. The first female home was Annie Blundell in a time of 27 minutes and six seconds.

The winner of the Junior Santa run was 9 year old Harry Clarke-Hawkins, followed by Jack Marshall and Orlaith O’Donnell.

The event was organised by Willand Rovers FC, the aim of the event was to raise money for football club funds and for The Force Cancer Charity. We managed to raise £600 each for both causes which we believe was an absolutely fantastic result, thank you to everyone that took part on the day whether participating or volunteering.

Tracey Greening, organiser said “We had a great response from local companies donating draw prizes and money to the cause. So thank you to all of them for supporting us together with Marcus Smith of MS Heating who sponsored the whole event”

## **CARING FOR YOUR PET’S TEETH**

Like humans, cats and dogs have a set of baby teeth that fall out and then have a set of adult teeth that need to last for the rest of their life!

Caring for these teeth will help ensure your pet doesn’t suffer from any of the problems associated with poor dental hygiene :-

- Plaque and tartar.
- Swollen/painful gums, sometimes receding from the teeth leaving them loose or falling out.
- Bad breath, caused by bacteria (not nice for them or us!). In severe cases the bacteria can enter the blood stream, potentially damaging internal organs.

## **What can you do to help prevent dental disease?**

### **Brushing**

We brush our teeth every day, so why not brush your pet’s teeth too? There are many different pet toothbrushes and toothpastes available. Don’t use your own toothpaste as this is not safe for pets. It is best to start brushing your pet’s teeth from a young age so they learn to accept it; however, it is possible to start slowly and gently with an older pet too.

## **Diet**

Feeding a biscuit diet that your pet has to crunch on can help to keep the teeth clean. There are many specially formulated dental diets that contain everything your pet needs. Dental chews can be used to keep the teeth clean. Remember, these contain additional calories so reduce daily rations to allow for this.

## **Anti plaque water additives**

It is possible to add a special solution to your pet's drinking water. This contains antibacterial agents and an ingredient that helps stop plaque and tartar formation. This can be purchased from your Veterinary Surgery.

## **Dental treatment**

Sometimes it may be necessary for teeth to be cleaned at the vets. In order to examine the teeth and scale them, it is usually necessary for them to have a general anaesthetic. Some teeth may need to be removed during the procedure. This can be a lengthy and costly process and is not often covered by pet insurance.

So prevention is definitely better than the cure!

***A Veterinary Nurse can check your pet's teeth (normally a free service), and will be able to advise you on the best dental care for your pet.***

## **AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU) OUTBREAK IN THE UK**

As you will be aware there have been a number of Avian Influenza outbreaks in the UK and a Prevention Zone was declared in December that covers all the UK.

The prevention zone means that all poultry keepers – whether on a commercial scale or simply a small backyard flock – are now required by law to house them (keep them under cover) or otherwise keep them separate from wild birds. This requirement (the Prevention Zone) has now been extended until 28 February 2017. Gatherings of poultry across the UK have also been banned.

It is also important that poultry keepers continue to keep a close watch on the health of their birds, and take steps to reduce the risk of infection via the environment, for example in wild bird droppings, by practising good biosecurity. You should do this even if your birds are inside. If they are concerned it is important that they contact their Vet.

This has been necessary because the same Avian Flu strain has also been found in wild birds in England, Scotland and Wales. DEFRA have taken this action to reduce the risks and help protect poultry and captive birds from avian flu.

Although we have been putting the message out on social media, not everyone uses or looks at a computer. So please help us to get this very important message to get out to everyone to raise awareness.

The Food Standards Agency advise that bird flu does not pose a food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

DEFRA has produced a leaflet entitled "How to keep your birds safe from Avian Influenza (bird flu)".

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

**Nicola L J Pearce, Trading Standards Officer**

## **DEVON COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM**

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is seeking new members. It is a statutory local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It has sixteen members who advise on the "improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area." The Forum gives independent advice to a number of Government bodies in addition to Devon County Council, district and borough councils and parish and town councils.

Devon County Council is currently appointing members to the Forum and would like to receive applications from anyone with an interest in recreational access.

We would love to hear from landowners and managers, access users and people with other relevant professional interests such as planning, education, sport, sustainable transport and tourism.

Why don't you consider applying to join the Forum? It's an interesting opportunity and you can:-

- 1 share your experience and expertise from your specific field or interest;
- 2 meet and work with others - listen to and share ideas on access to solve problems;
- 3 be informed - receive regular local and national access information updates;
- 4 help make a difference - influence local and UK policy affecting access.

The Forum holds three public meetings a year plus a training day.

For details and an application form please see [www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf](http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcaf) The closing date is Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Hilary Winter, Forum Officer at :-

Devon Countryside Access Forum, Lucombe House, County Hall, Topsham Road  
Exeter EX2 4QD Tel: 07837 171000

## **SAMPFORD PEVERELL HISTORIC VEHICLE SHOW**

The date for this years show has been changed to **Sunday 13th August** at Uplowman Village Hall once again for the Devon Freewheelers (Blood Bikes) charity. Further details later in the year. Volunteers and Committee members needed please. Any questions please contact me on 01884 820527

**Lindy Astbury, Secretary**

## **“LAST EXIT” GIG**

Local Band Last Exit have offered to play a gig of rock covers spanning the ages from 1970's to now to help Willand School Parents and Teachers Fundraising Association (PTFA) raise money for the School.

PTFA events usually consist of Bake Sales, Christmas and Summer fairs but this one is a little different as Chris Westwood Bass Guitar Player for Last Exit, Willand resident and father of two kindly offered the Band's services for free.

Last Exit currently play various gigs and events around Devon and Somerset. The gig promises to be a great night for those who love Live music.

The event will be held at Willand Village Hall on Saturday 4th March 8pm - 11pm with a cash bar. All Tickets must be purchased in advance of the event and cost £5 each. Tickets can be bought from the School office or ordered online from the following link: <http://buytickets.at/willandcprimaryschoolptfa>

## **NEW PCSO FOR CANNONSLEIGH, WILLAND AND HALBERTON**

After nearly 9 years covering the above parishes as PCSO, Jonathan Sims has chosen to move into Cullompton Town. He will be taking up the position immediately but you will be pleased to know that PCSO Carrie Morris will be taking over this beat.

Carrie is a very experienced PCSO who has been working in Mid Devon for over 10 years. Should you wish to contact Carrie please contact her via the following email [30199@dc.police.uk](mailto:30199@dc.police.uk)

Jonathan sends his grateful thanks for working so well with him over the last 9 years and hopes to bump into you whilst working around Mid Devon.

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH WILLAND**

After 9 years of loyal service David Brister is to hang up his apron strings as co-ordinator of our St Mary's Lunch Club. As many will know Lunch Club is an opportunity for some of the older members of our community to have a cooked lunch and enjoy each other's company once a month. We are hugely thankful to David for all he has done, and will let you know who will take over in due course!

April also sees us celebrating the Lord Jesus' death and resurrection. Easter is at the heart of the Christian faith as we remember how through Jesus' sacrifice we can have a personal relationship with God, the maker of heaven and earth. If you would like to join us we will be having several occasions to reflect on Jesus' love and invitation to trust and follow him:

- **MAUNDY THURSDAY, 13th April** at 6.30pm, Holy Communion Service and meal in Church Hall.
- **GOOD FRIDAY, 14th April**
- 10am-12pm **EASTER EXPLORERS** at St Mary's Uffculme - family event including craft and activities as we remember why Jesus died on the cross
- 12pm-3pm **THREE HOURS AT THE CROSS** at St Mary's Willand A service of Music, Hymns, Readings, Prayers and Meditation. The service is in six half-hour parts, and people are welcome to either come in or leave at any half-hour point during the three hours (or of course stay for the whole time).
- **EASTER SUNDAY, 16th April** 10.15am Easter celebration for all ages – with egg hunt after the service!

For more information, any pastoral needs, or if you would like someone to pray with you please contact:

**Rev Simon Talbot (Rector) Tel: 562570 Email: [simon@thetalbots.org.uk](mailto:simon@thetalbots.org.uk)**

### **EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT CLUB**

Did you know that weightlifting is the fastest growing female sport in the UK? As part of the Sport England "This Girl Can" campaign we held a "Love to Lift" event in February half term. Local girls aged 13-25 came and did a trial session with some of our existing female lifters. Everyone got a Love to Lift t-shirt thanks to funding from Active Devon. The girls like taking part in a challenging activity with like-minded people, but without having to compete week in, week out. A lot of them use it to help their existing sports.

We have had quite a few enquiries from Ladies in their late 20s and 30s about running a day time session. If you would like to take part in a trial block of sessions, please let me know.

Our gymnasts have recently received a new Trampoline thanks to Councillor Ray Radford. This great piece of equipment means we can do even more skills. Our Freestylers will be using it to practice somersaults and gainers.

3 of our Volunteers have been on safeguarding courses this year so far, and 2 on First Aid courses. This helps make the Club safe for young people/vulnerable

adults. Anyone interested in helping at the Club will get similar opportunities.  
James Marshall james@excelsiorgroup.co.uk

### **SUSTAINABLE VILLAGES ([sustainablevillages@btinternet.com](mailto:sustainablevillages@btinternet.com))**

Two events are coming up in March. On Tuesday 14 March there will be a Food Waste Film Show and discussion evening at Tiverton Town Hall Council Chamber. Everyone is welcome. The AGM will start at 7 pm with free refreshments and snacks. A film will be shown at 7:30 pm followed by a discussion about the issue of food waste in the UK where 7 million tonnes of food and drink are thrown away each year.

The second event will be an opportunity to **GIVE OR TAKE**. This will be held from 10am - 3pm each day between Wednesday 22nd and Saturday 25th March in the CreaTIV Hub shop, Tiverton (next to the cinema).

Bring along stuff you don't need  
Take away anything you can use  
You don't have to Give to Take!

**All for Free**

**The purpose is to reduce landfill**

- All items must be in fair condition and useable
- NO clothing please

### **WILLAND VILLAGE HALL**

At last our floor has been replaced and is looking good. Because of the bad weather on the continent, the first consignment was involved in a road accident, so the start was delayed a week. Please help this floor to last as long as the previous one by not dragging tables and chairs across it and by clearing up spillages as soon as they happen.

We still have a lot of work to do on the hall, including replacement of the doors, decoration of the main hall, cavity wall insulation and new, more efficient lighting. We do not have enough funds to do all this at once, so will be making a priority list and carrying out improvements as we get the funding.

We would like to thank all the organisations which have helped with funding for the roof and floor. They are too numerous to mention individually, but the main contributor was Viridor, which gave us over half of the money required.

Our CCTV system is showing that parents from the school are using the hall toilets before picking up their children. The toilets are for the use of people hiring the hall only, and are NOT public conveniences. Some of the parents have even been interrupting events going on at the hall to use the toilets. Please stop this.

The cameras also show some vehicles parking overnight. The Village Hall car park is a PRIVATE car park for use by users of the hall. Fosse Paving parked a pick up van there for three weeks over Christmas and it needed a call from the police to remove it. It belongs to a Willand resident who works for the company, so perhaps he will read this and take note that the police are aware.

In order to pay for further hall improvements and to bring our charges into line with nearby village halls, there will be an increase in hire charges from 1st April. Details will be in the next parish magazine.

**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](http://www.willandmatters.org.uk/organisations)**

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL DIARY FOR MARCH AND APRIL				
<b>March</b>				
Saturday	4 <sup>n</sup>	PTFA Last Exit Gig	W.V.H	8:00 pm
Friday	10 <sup>n</sup>	Blood Donors	W.V.H	12:00 pm
Saturday	11 <sup>n</sup>	Crafty Market	W.V.H	2:00 pm
Tuesday	14 <sup>n</sup>	Willand Village Hall Bingo	W.V.H	7:30 pm
Saturday	18 <sup>n</sup>	College Surgery Market	W.V.H	12:00 pm
Friday	24 <sup>n</sup>	Parish Annual General Meeting	W.V.H	7:00 pm
Saturday	25 <sup>n</sup>	Baby & Children's Market	W.V.H	1:00 pm
Saturday	25 <sup>n</sup>	Blue Cross Bingo	W.V.H	7:30 pm
Thursday	31 <sup>st</sup>	Blood Donors	W.V.H	12:00 pm
<b>April</b>				
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	CVMC & Scouts Coffee Morning	W.V.H	10:00 am
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tiny Tots Pamper Evening	W.V.H	7:30 pm
Saturday	8 <sup>n</sup>	Bramblehaies Coffee Morning	W.V.H	10:00am
Saturday	8 <sup>n</sup>	CVMC & Scouts Coffee Morning	W.V.H	2:00 pm
Tuesday	11 <sup>n</sup>	Tiny Tots Pamper Evening	W.V.H	12:00pm
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Garden Club Coffee Morning	W.V.H	10:00 am
Tuesday	25 <sup>n</sup>	Willand Village Hall Bingo	W.V.H	7:30 pm

<b>REGULAR EVENTS AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL</b>		
<b>Pilates</b>	Mondays	10:30 am
<b>Purelesque Knitting Group</b>	Mondays	2:00 pm
<b>Cull. &amp; Dist. Flower Club</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday	2:00 pm
<b>Beavers</b>	Mondays	5:30 pm
<b>Cub Scouts</b>	Mondays	7:00 pm
<b>Kettle Bell Pump</b>	Mondays	7:00 pm
<b>Pilates</b>	Tuesday	9:30 am
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	Tuesday	1:15 pm
<b>Gymnastics Club</b>	Tuesday	4:00 pm
<b>Tiny Tots</b>	Wednesday	9:30 am
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	Wednesday	1:15 pm
<b>Indoor Bowls Club</b>	Wednesday	7:00 pm
<b>Garden Club</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	7:30 pm
<b>Pilates</b>	Thursday	9:30 am
<b>CAMEO</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	6:30 pm
<b>Karate</b>	Thursday	5:30 pm
<b>Folk Dance Club</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:30 pm
<b>Parish Council Meetings</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	7:00 pm
<b>Wits</b>	Fridays	7:30 pm
<b>Lemurian Sisterhood Meeting</b>	Fridays (Monthly)	6:00 pm
<b>Cowgirl Twisters</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	7:30 pm
<b>Crafty Market</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	2:00 pm
<b>Folk Dance</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	7:00 pm
<b>Rugby Tots</b>	Sundays	9:00 am
<b>Martial Arts</b>	Sundays	6:30 pm

## **WILLAND GARDEN CLUB**

At our AGM in December, our new committee was elected and the officers remain the same as last year. Our first meeting of 2017 will be on 8th March, where we will be having a fun quiz... In April, we will be hearing about how to make up hanging baskets. We have a coffee morning at the Village Hall of 22nd April and our annual plant sale will be on 27th May.

We will be joining with Sampford Peverell Garden Club again this year for the Flower and Vegetable Show, but it will be held at Willand Village Hall this year on Saturday, 12th August. More details will be available in the next parish mag and schedules will be available from May. Please have a go at entering something. It is very much a show for amateur gardeners, so all levels of entries are welcome. This year, we will be reintroducing some cookery and produce classes to encourage more entries.

We meet in the Club Room at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month from March to December.

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**

## **CAMEO**

We have had an absolutely brilliant start to 2017 beginning with a letter of thanks from Willand Health and Community Centre thanking us for our donation to their projects.

As we choose a different local charity each year, this year we are supporting Devon Air Ambulance. They are hoping to be able to have a night landing site in the Jubilee field and need money to finance the necessary lighting so we thought that this was a very worthwhile cause for us to support. We have already begun to raise money at our various meetings. The Singles Group are holding a raffle at each of their monthly meetings and the Craft Group are having a sales stall at our March meeting. We are also being given Smarties tubes to fill with 20p pieces over the year. All these activities will be added to the profit we hope to make at our main charity event at the Hall on Saturday 11th November and we hope you will all come along and give us your usual good support as this new Ambulance Service will be a great asset to everyone in the Village.

We are also starting a support group for all members who may need a little bit of help if they are unwell or had an accident and who maybe need a bit of help with shopping etc. or a friendly chat if they are feeling a bit low-spirited. Pat Sanderson is going to co-ordinate this for us along with some volunteer members.

The Singles Group had a delicious New Year lunch at the Halfway House in January and we are off to the Beam Bridge Hotel for lunch in February. In March we are having a guided tour of Exeter Guildhall.

The Walking Group have been on several lane walks around Sampford Peverell, Halberton, Culmstock and Knightshayes and, weather permitting, they are planning a walk in the Blackdown Hills. As soon as the weather improves with drier walking conditions they will be venturing further afield.

Our Speaker in January was Angela White who had spent several years living in Hong Kong. She told us about Chinese Festivals. There are four main religions in China and they celebrate 17 festivals, some with lighted lantern parades through the streets and one where they all go to their vast cemeteries to clean and sweep the graves. Anne brought along some beautiful Chinese embroideries which they use for decorations mainly red, gold and green. Anne had many interesting anecdotes to tell us of her life in Hong Kong and it was a fascinating talk. We then had fun trying to identify photographs of each other as children. We all looked so sweet and innocent and can't believe the difference when we dare to look in the mirror today!

February came with gales and heavy rain when we went into the Hall and nearly fifty members braved the elements to come, but it was gales of laughter inside when we welcomed the return of Janet East. Janet and her husband run a small farm and bed and breakfast business near Payhembury. It was laughter from the word go and we heard about saucy rams and wayward dogs to say nothing of the eccentric guests they have had over the years. Janet has school parties visiting too and some of the comments of the children were priceless. It was such a lovely way to spend a horrible evening but we all went home with aching ribs and smiling faces and we hope to visit Janet and her husband in the Spring. The fun wasn't over yet though as we were given 6 different plates of assorted flavour potato crisps to taste and identify. Some were truly awful and I don't think we will be buying those.

Our Speaker in March will be Mr. Phillip Altar talking about his life in journalism. If you would like to come to one of our meetings you would be very welcome. We meet in the Village Hall on the first Thursday in every month (unless otherwise stated) at about 6.30pm.

**Betty Penberthy**

## **LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR RAY RADFORD**

**Dear All**

Hope you all had a great Xmas and now that the new year is well under way, it will be a good year for you.

Everything is going well for County, except for a few funding pressures we are facing. Various Council minutes will show how we have used the options

available to us to provide additional funding for Adult care. You will also see that utilising the additional 2% last year failed to meet our costs of the National Living Wages that care providers incurred so the short fall was met within the budget process. There will be options available to provide an increase in social care funding. This is a statutory duty on our behalf and we will balance the budget by the end of the year.

Devon County Council has introduced a recruitment freeze as it takes `firm action` to prevent a multi-million overspend. A job freeze has been introduced at DCC to help manage the overspend. In January, The Council projected an overspend by £8.1m by the end of the financial year, unless it takes firm action. A jobs freeze took effect immediately, but did not apply to posts where the Council would fail to meet it's statutory responsibilities if it did not recruit a replacement worker. We will take the firm action needed.

As you will be aware, as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 County will have a new contractor, Skanska Construction UK Ltd, in place to deal with Highway, Public Footpaths and Pavements. There is a transitional period from Oct 2016 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. As Chair of the Environment, I met with our Officers who are overseeing the transition to make sure that there are no unforeseen problems. They have fortnightly meetings and I am pleased to say that SWH have been very co-operative over this transitional period, which is credit to them, losing the contract, they could have made things difficult. The new Skanska contract will save us £980k in the next year.

Skanska are a very professional outfit employing about 25000 employees, there will be no disruption with the services and SWH will continue until 1<sup>st</sup> April. As far as the public are concerned, all we will notice is a different name on the 540 SWH employee's clothing, it will be a seamless transfer. SWH Construction will still be existence and a supplier of services to DCC.

We are at this time of year when we are well on the way to producing a budget, the increase will, unfortunately be 1.99% with an extra £17m funding being made available for Adult Care, because of funding short falls this current year, we are putting in an extra £17m. Remember, 1% increase in Council Tax, will only bring in £3.5m, well short of the £17m, so we will make further efficiency savings elsewhere. It will be difficult and it gets more difficult every year. We have always produced a balanced budget and we will do the same again. It is very much a time of holding our nerve. We have a good administration running County with a 47% reduction in staff and £244m reduction of income which has been cut from Government Grant. 8 years ago we would get 70% of our income from Government, now it is down to 40% and to go even lower, our choice is not to cut essential services.

At the same time, we have reduced our debt by £106m from £613m down to £507m, We are business minded and will make tough choices to produce a balanced budget.

**Ray Radford, Devon County Councillor,**  
**ray.radford@devon.gov.uk 01884 820000.**

### **WILLAND HISTORY GROUP**

First of all, we would like to thank everyone who responded to the request for information about Miss Rowbotham and Miss Partridge. Betty Penberthy remembers them well, particularly through their involvement with the Willand branch of the Women's Institute (which preceded the Willand CAMEO Club). She recalls that, "*Miss Rowbotham used to drive a very old vintage car ... John Spearing bought the car when Miss Rowbotham no longer drove and it was on view at Spearings Garage. It was loaned to the WI when Devon Federation celebrated their 50th anniversary and several of us dressed up in 1920s clothes and drove down to Cullompton with John Spearing driving.*" With help from Peta Spearing, we think the vintage car was an Austin 7, and it was later sold to a man in Burlescombe. Geraldine 'Geri' Holloway has also been in touch to confirm that Miss Rowbotham did indeed live in part of Harpitt House. Geri also mentions how, "*My grandmother, Mrs Mary Ann Holloway, who lived with us at Carr Cottage was an ardent member of Willand Women's Institute and often spoke admiringly of Miss Partridge.*"

We recently received an enquiry from New Zealand from the descendents of William John Rees, who lived in Willand in the early 1900s, in Parkfield Terrace, Tiverton Junction; he worked at the Duchess of Devonshire Dairy and was the popular scoutmaster of Willand Scouts. William John Rees married Edith Lucy Fenwick at St Mary's Church on Christmas Day 1906. Amongst the gifts received was a tea service and cut glass sugar bowl from the team captain (Dr Tracey of The Gables) and members of Willand Football Club, which suggests that he also played football for Willand. In late 1910, along with his brother-in-law Harry Fenwick, William John Rees emigrated to New Zealand, and they were joined the following year by his wife Edith and son Reginald William Rees. It seems that his father-in-law, Samuel Fenwick, (who had worked many years as a signaller on the railways and also lived on Parkfield Terrace) also headed off to New Zealand in 1911 and amongst the items auctioned off when he left were "well-made and useful antique and modern household furniture, American organ [and] bicycle." Do you have any information about the Rees or Fenwick families of Willand?

Towards the end of last year we received a query from the Devon historian, Todd Gray, who is researching the 'distinctiveness of Devon' and one of his themes is the names that Devonians gave to each other, particularly nicknames of villages and towns. A couple of examples he cites are that Cadeleigh used to

get called 'Hens' and Chagford 'Chuggy Pigs'. Do you know if Willand ever had any nicknames? (And, yes, I know it has been called many things in recent times, and not always very flattering!) Or do you know of nicknames for any other location in the locality? Halberton or Uffculme, perhaps, or even the local conurbations of Cullompton or Tiverton? If you do, please let us know and we will pass it on for this county wide study.

Finally, a sad story from a hundred years ago has recently emerged – in March 1917, at a time when the First World War was still raging, Willand School had to be closed due to a measles epidemic. Measles were a serious matter in those days before a vaccine was introduced (in 1968) and tragically one Willand pupil, 11 year old Margaret Bristow from Stenhill, died. Her funeral was at Bradfield on Saturday, 3 March, and a wreath was sent by her teachers and school friends in Willand. Meanwhile, a hundred years ago, the community of Willand were doing their bit for the Home Front, with the Parish Council ordering six hundredweight (about 305kg) of seed potato to be grown in the parish as part of the national effort to counter food shortages. Closer to the action on the Western Front, in April 1917, Lieutenant Leonard Tracey, son of Dr Tracey – who had joined up in Willand in 1914 and later served in the Royal Field Artillery – was winning the Military Cross at Vimy Ridge “for conspicuous bravery in bringing in wounded under heavy shell fire.”

**James Morrison, 01884 250057 ([jamorrison235@gmail.com](mailto:jamorrison235@gmail.com))**



## **WILLAND FOLK DANCE CLUB**

We are now into the second half of our Club Programme and are always pleased to see new faces, so why not some along to one of our Club Nights held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in the Village Hall 8.00 - 10.30pm.

Our callers are very accommodating to newcomers and we always have live music. We have a break half way through the evening for tea and biscuits. We are a lively jolly 'bunch' and your first evening is free. We are enjoying dancing on the new floor that has been laid in the Village Hall.

We hold regular Saturday Dances on the 2nd Saturday of each month until July.

More details and contacts can be found on our Website – Willand Folk Dance Club.co.uk, or contact me on 01404 47200

**Marilyn Broom – Chairperson**

**WILLAND SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB** Willand Parish Organisations please note that Eddie Hebdon has now retired from the Bowling Club and I will be taking on the role as secretary. **John Crocker, 12 Maple Close. Phone 35589.**

### **CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Methodist Church in Willand and Culmstock

Lots of pancakes for a donation to charity on 28th February 3 - 5 pm. Everyone welcome. Amazing fillings anything from just lemon to a delicious caramel sauce. This years charity is Action for Children.

### **Church Services**

Through Lent we focus on a different aspect of Christ's passion each week. Then on Easter Sunday we all bring flowers to decorate a cross. So look out for the decorated cross outside the church after April 16th.

**Culm Valley Methodist Church (Gables Road) events open to all in the community**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>
Sunday	Service	10.30am
Monday	Willand Art Group	2pm - 4pm
First Friday of Month	Coffee morning and bring and buy	10.30am
Third Friday of Month	Soup and Something No cost all donations go to charity.	12.00 midday

### **PROSPECTS IN WORSHIP**

Prospects is a worship group specially for handicapped and learning disabled people of all ages, their carers and families.

A local group has been meeting at Culm Valley Methodist Church, Gables Road Willand for the past seven years.

People come from as far afield as Bampton and sometimes even Teignmouth to worship with songs, prayers, stories and craft.

We always finish with a bring and share tea. The next meeting will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 3pm-5pm.

If you would like more details please contact David Greet on 01884 840942.

## **WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY**

At last Spring has arrived, although at the time of writing this we are still shivering with winter winds. As I write this, we are busy cramming as many rehearsals in as we can, in preparation for Aladdin the panto and hopefully you will have all been able to come and have a good laugh as the cast recreate a classic panto. This year we really want to acknowledge the support of the local businesses who have supported us with sponsorship or donations. Local clubs rely on the generous support of businesses and this year really has helped us a lot. You will have seen who has helped us in the program at the Panto.

Going forward we are performing a murder mystery for the Tiverton Soroptomists and have been approached to possibly do a murder mystery for a local charity. Please do watch out for information on our Facebook page.

As always if you have enjoyed any of our performances and wish to be involved, please do contact any of the committee for details. We look forward to welcoming new members.

**David Keating**

## **WILLAND SCHOOL**

As ever, this has been a busy half-term at school. On the 26th January, a team of footballers from years 5 and 6 took part in 'The Kid's Cup' at Exeter University competing against schools from all over Devon. Success would have meant a trip to Wembley but sadly, despite a valiant effort, this was not the case.

On Tuesday 7th February, all of year 6 were at school by 6:15 am as they were going to London. First, they went to Buckingham Palace and saw the guards with their tall, furry hats! Then they headed into the House of Parliament for a tour. Amazingly, they got to see a debate in the House of Commons. After a long day, they went to Willand on the coach (seeing sights on the way).

The next day, a group of year 5 and 6 children competed in a netball East Devon Finals tournament. Sadly, they didn't do as well as they thought they would. There were a close few matches but unfortunately they lost them all. In their last match, they drew 0-0 to Payhembury so it went to golden goal. They had kick off and pushed up the pitch, but lost the ball. Payhembury was on the attack and got into the shooting range. They had a shot and scored the winning basket.

Earlier that day, some children from years 4-6 were chosen for the swimming gala trials. If they did well then they may be picked to be in the team for the real swimming gala in May. The first stroke was front crawl followed by breaststroke, then backstroke. The children who tried out for swimming gala will receive a letter saying whether they got in the team or not.

The Reception classes have been taking part in 'Bikeability Balance' this week. This is a series of school-based sessions that aim to prepare children in Reception with the basic balance and co-ordination skills they will need to learn to ride. Bikeability Balance builds confidence, spatial awareness and dynamic balance skills to enable young children to cycle without ever needing stabilisers.

On 30th January the school did a bird watch activity. They had to identify pictures of birds that had been numbered and hidden around the school. The winners got to take part in the Big Garden Bird Watch, counting the birds in our environmental area whilst eating breakfast. It was a cold but fun activity. Our results will be sent to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

To end the half-term, in celebration of Valentine's Day, the staff took to the 'Live Lounge' and sang 'Thinking Out Loud' by Ed Sheeran. It was a fantastic rendition and we look forward to the next performance.

## **WILLAND SCOUTS, BEAVERS & CUBS**

Willand beavers have been taking part in the million hands scouting project. The beavers chose to look at water aid and sanitation and have played games, listened to stories and poems from people living without fresh water facilities as well as making hand hygiene posters and a water filter out of a plastic pop bottle.

To support the charity the beavers undertook good deeds for loose change for family and friends, anything from making their bed to helping with the washing. So far they have raised over £60 and we are very proud of their achievements.

To finish off the water theme we went to Tiverton pool and completed the stage 1 swimming badge. They all did extremely well in completing what was required.

Coming up, we have a coffee morning with the Methodist church in April, and are looking forward to the lighter nights so we can start doing activities outside again.

The cubs are too completing many badges this term like the reading badge, faith badge, home help and also visiting the observatory in Sidmouth towards their astronomy badge.

The scouts with the new leader in place have also looked at fire safety, camp fires and made pheasant burgers so far this term.

Any one interested in joining any of the groups children or adults please get in touch with **liesa.a.milligan@hotmail.com** who can then pass on details to the relevant people.

## **MAKING A SWIMMING POOL IN THE CULM VALLEY A REALITY**

A group of enthusiastic volunteers have been fundraising tirelessly to raise funds for a much needed swimming pool and Mid Devon's first public hydrotherapy suite in Cullompton that will serve all the Culm Valley communities.

So far, the Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign has raised nearly £147,000. £20,000 of this is being held in trust and £40,000 being donated by a local developer. An amazing £86,880 has been raised by various fundraising events, sales from our Charity shop on Fore Street, Cullompton and other generous donations.

We have been allocated a site for the pool in the North-west extension area through the Neighbourhood Plan. The allocation of land has enabled us to look at including other facilities such as a gym and children's soft play area into the complex, which will make the centre a lively leisure, social and fitness hub.

To continue the great fundraising we need your help and support. The small team has achieved so much already but just imagine what a larger team with new skills to bring to the table could achieve.

There are many ways you could help – big or small:

- Do you have fundraising experience – could you help us find and apply for grants?
- Join our team
- Donate money or raffle items
- Volunteer in our Cullompton Charity Shop for a couple of hours a week
- Help deliver leaflets and display posters
- Help at an event or run one of your own
- Sponsor us
- Donate quality items to sell in the charity shop
- Like us on Facebook and Twitter and share our posts

If you are interested in supporting us please contact Liza on 07771 768808 or 01884 260160 or email: [admin@cullypool.org.uk](mailto:admin@cullypool.org.uk). You can also find more information on our website: [www.cullypool.org.uk](http://www.cullypool.org.uk).

*And Spring arose on the garden fair,  
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;  
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast  
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.*

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

## **WILLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Friday 24 March 2017**

**Willnd Village Hall**

**Doors open at 18.30**

**Meeting Starts at 19.00**

**Tea Coffee and Cake Provided**

**Come and meet your Parish Councillors**

**Find out what has been going on in the village over the last  
12 months**

If you are an organisation and would like to have a promotional stand at the meeting please contact the Parish Clerk

### **PRECEPT**

Willand Parish Council are requesting a precept of £49,076 for 2017-2018. This is an increase of £2,089, or 3% on the 2016-2017 precept. It will increase the council tax on a band D house by approximately £1.32 for the year. The current charge for a band D house in Willand is £41.03. This compares with Uffculme at £70.75, Hemyock at £89.30.

The leases for the 3 play areas were finally signed in December and the ground maintenance costs are now established within the annual budget. The Parish Council are pleased to be able to develop the play facilities within Willand and are looking forward to adding new equipment during the coming years.

The Parish Council's policy is to increase the precept to slowly build up reserves for future projects such as the cemetery extension. The government grant that has been available to reduce the precept has been reduced this year by a further £345.

If you have any questions about the precept please contact the Parish Clerk.

**PRECEPT 2017 - 2108**

Running Budget	2017	2016	Capital Budget	2017	2016	Income budget	2017	2016
<b>Allotments</b>								
Hedge/ground maintenance	416	600						
Rent	330	300				Allotment rent	1200	1150
Subscriptions	174	171						
Water	250	200						
Admin		30						
<b>Total</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>1271</b>						
<b>Cemetery</b>								
Grass Cutting	1550	1400	Cemetery Extension	500	500	Burial Fees	5500	5000
Hedge trimming	675	540	Contingency	2500	5500			
Mole Contract	85	80						
General ground maintenance	250	200						
water	60	60						
Waste bin emptying	150	150						
<b>Total</b>	<b>2770</b>	<b>2430</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>6000</b>
<b>Play Areas</b>								
Grass Cutting	2810	2570	Equipment (Play areas)	5000	2000			
Hedge trimming	500	1000	Development of Parish Field	2500	2500			
General ground maintenance	1000	700						
Equipment repair	1000	1000						
Inspection	800	800						
<b>Total</b>	<b>6110</b>	<b>6070</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>7500</b>	<b>4500</b>
<b>General Village Enhancements</b>								
Grass Cutting	1000	2000	Equipment replacement		1350			
Hedge trimming	380	380	Community Event	1000	1000			
Weed spraying	1500	1500	Community facilities	5000	5000			
Christmas lights & timers	4200	3900	CCTV replacements	300	300			
Bus shelter benches clock e	300	900	Grants & Donations	100	100			
Planters	400	800				<b>Total</b>	<b>6400</b>	<b>7750</b>
CCTV	220	210						
Electricity for lights	80	80						
Parish Magazine	5800	5800				Advertising	4700	4700
<b>Total</b>	<b>13880</b>	<b>15570</b>						
<b>Administration</b>								
Clerk and Litter Pickers Exp	321	321	IT & Computer equipment	600	300	Bank interest	25	25
Telephone	140	180	Legal expenses	2000		VAT	3500	3000
Audit Fees	500	500	Website development	1000				
Subscriptions SLCC DALC	830	130						
Meeting Rooms	400	400						
Salaries/wages/NI	15000	13000						
Clr / Staff training	500	500						
Election Costs	250	250						
Insurance	1000	1000						
Stationery	500	500						
Refreshments	100	100						
<b>Total</b>	<b>19541</b>	<b>16881</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total Running Budget</b>	<b>43501</b>	<b>42222</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>3525</b>	<b>3025</b>
<b>Total Capital Budget</b>	<b>20500</b>	<b>18550</b>						
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14925</b>	<b>13875</b>						
<b>Precept</b>	<b>49076</b>	<b>46897</b>						

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

Is spring coming - seen Snowdrops, daffs and crocuses and just to muck things up some white stuff (Snowflakes) well that's our weather. Well as they say a dirty hoe is a happy hoe so high ho into the garden/allotment.

From this activity you will no doubt 'produce' some garden waste being the usual pruning's and clippings etc. If you bring your waste to the site - please be reminded that we only accept wood up to 1" diameter and fresh waste only.

Continuing with reminders - The site is:-

**OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS 10.00am - 12 Noon.**

During these periods you can:-

- Deposit your garden waste - please only bring the waste as shown on the signs we, would be grateful if you push back the waste into the bin with the fork provided. This assists the site being both tidy and safe for all.
- Purchase both Sieved and Unsieved compost. Sieved compost is £1.50/bag and Unsieved compost £1.00/wheelbarrow; if required use of wheelbarrows are located at the allotment side of the shed.
- From time to time we have a surplus of shredding material and at no cost. These (shreddings) are garden waste that has been shredded and periodically mixed with grass cuttings and mowed leaves.

WHEN CLOSED :-

- COMPOST - TEXT COMPOST TO 07514 033305 with your Name & Number.
- SHREDDINGS: - TEXT SHREDDINGS TO 07980472242 again with your Name & Number.

We are pleased to say that we currently have no trespassing and therefore, do not see the need to have a sign saying "Trespassers will be composted". Long may this continue.

If you see any one doing this could you please get as possible detail and either report to MDDC (01884) 255255 or contact me (see below).

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

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

The WORKING WOOL MUSEUM is now closed for the winter (although open for pre-booked tours). It will be open for Steam Day on March 19th 2017. For

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

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

- 19th March 2017 – Steam Day – Warm your hands in front of the boiler!! Open 10.30am-4pm with 100-year-old engines in steam from 11am! Displays of Model Railways & Dolls Houses, early textile machinery, the Puttee Story, the Millennium Tapestry. Visit the Mill Gift Shop for yarns, fabrics, rugs & throws all produced at the Mill, and locally produced crafts goods. Refreshments available in the Waterside Café. Call in at the Friends Bookshop for some winter reading. Free car park. A great day out for the whole family! See the website for more info and admission prices.
- 24th March 2017 – Annual General Meeting 7pm in the Waterside Café
- 15th April 2017 – Easter Coffee Morning at Square Corner. 10am to 12 noon
- 17th April 2017 – Easter Eggstravaganza Steam Day.

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – please help to make a difference at this unique heritage site! Volunteers are always needed for a range of activities including, repairs, painting, gardening, sweeping, helping with school visits, working in the Mill Office and as part of the Steam Group. There will be a Volunteer Recruitment Meeting on Friday 3rd March at 2.30pm in the Riverside Café at the Mill. For more information, phone or e-mail the Mill Office or view the Mill website.



**WILLAND PHARMACY**  
**RAISING FUNDS FOR**  
**WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**EASTER PRIZE DRAW**

Try your luck to win a selection of Easter prizes with our Prize draw to be held at Willand Pharmacy. There will be a chart with squares on it at the Willand Pharmacy from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, purchase a square and you will be in with a chance to win a prize. The draw will be held at midday on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Leaflets and information will be available beside the Chart.



**WHAT IS A VETERINARY EMERGENCY?**

Veterinary practices offer 24hr emergency service for their patients, but not all animal owners are aware of this. Sometimes they worry about calling in the middle of the night, or think the problem can be left until the morning. Although we don't have time to talk in depth about different emergencies, we will highlight common signs in which immediate veterinary attention should be sought:

- Male cats attempting to urinate but not able to pass any urine, or only small amounts. Although this may be a simple cystitis, some are prone to a blocked bladder, which can rapidly become a very serious condition.

- Some large breed dogs are prone to bloated stomachs (GDV). This often occurs after food or exercise. They quickly bloat, start retching, become subdued and can collapse. They need rapid treatment.
- Road traffic accidents are common in cats. Signs vary from scuffed nails, pain, difficulty breathing, bleeding and collapse. Animals should always be checked over as some injuries are not always initially apparent.
- Dogs often pant if hot or excited. If a dog is struggling to breathe or their gums are pale, blue or purple, they need treatment. If a cat pants or is making excessive effort to breathe it needs attention immediately. There are many reasons for this, such as asthma or heart failure but they all need immediate attention.
- Dogs, cats and rabbits may collapse for many different reasons. Any collapsed animal should be seen by a veterinary surgeon to assess the cause and give treatment as necessary.
- Superficial grazes, cuts and wounds that do not bleed or seem painful can be cleaned and dressed at home. If there is continued bleeding, discharge, pain or open wounds, the animal will need pain relief and further treatment.
- With the hotter weather coming, heatstroke becomes a real risk. Dogs left in cars, even for a few minutes, can develop heatstroke and die. They are also at risk if they over exercise in hot weather and do not drink enough. Be aware of excessive panting and increased body temperature.
- Dogs and cats frequently eat things they shouldn't. The common culprits are chocolate, raisins, lilies, rat bait, slug bait, antifreeze, permethrin (found in some flea products) in cats and human medications such as ibuprofen. If you suspect any of these, call a vet immediately.

This is not an exhaustive list but may give you food for thought when worrying whether to call a vet or not. Sometimes a phone call and peace of mind may be all you need!

**Please note the cutoff date for the May June magazine will be Wednesday 12 April.**