

WILLAND MAGAZINE

October & November 2026



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		<i>Secretary/Contact</i>
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Bridge Club	Wendy Boothroyd	01398 331219
Brownies	Bridget Pearse	07814 569054
C.A.M.E.O. Ladies Grp	Peta Jackman	07900 904822
Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom	01404 47200
Garden Club	Sylvia Statham	peterandsylviastatham@hotmail.com
Tiny Tots	Karly Holley	willandtinytots@gmail.com 07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	weirmilldevon@gmail.com 01884 820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub
Village Hall Bookings	Elaine Marshall	bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk
Village Hall Caretaker	Mark Sealey	caretaker@willandvillagehall.org.uk
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner	07775 550436
Willand Crafty Family and Friends	Emma Worth	willandcraftyfamily2021@gmail.com 07843811230
Willand Community Composting		willandccs24sec@outlook.com
Willand Health & Community Centre		clerk@willandhcc.co.uk
Willand History Group	James Morrison	jamorrison235@gmail.com 01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	Janey Parrett	07593 996991
Willand Theatrical Society		witsthesecontact@gmail.com 01884 32152
Willand United Charities		clerk@willandunitedcharities.co.uk
Youth Club (35218)		willandyouthclub@outlook.com

CHURCHES / EDUCATION

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham	01884 34077
Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev Nick Lakin nicholas.lakin@methodist.org.uk	07895 740286
Quakers	Pat Bell	01884 840823
Roman Catholic Church	Canon Kristian Paver - St Boniface, Cullompton	01884 252292
St. Mary's Church Churchwarden	Lesley Smith	07944 295002
Rector	Rev Ben Maynard ben.culmvalleychurches@outlook.com	07777 177112
Cullompton Community College		01884 33364
Uffculme School		01884 840458
Willand Pre-School		01884 33711
Willand Primary School		01884 820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolptfa@gmail.com

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Rachel Gilmore	(M.P)	rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk	
Simon Clist	(Devon County Council)	simon.clist@devon.gov.uk	07855 027595
Andrea Glover	(MD Dist Councillor)	aglover@middevon.gov.uk	07908 734368
Cathy Connor	(MD Dist Councillor)	cconnor@middevon.gov.uk	07548 872107
John Poynton	(MD Dist Councillor)	jpoynton@middevon.gov.uk	07834 869284
Parish Council	Parish Council Website	www.willand-pc.org.uk	
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.gov.uk	01884 840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.gov.uk	07795 821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.gov.uk	07496 113135
Neil James	(Councillor)	neil.james@willand-pc.gov.uk	07733 083158
Jason Scott	(Vice-Chair)	Jason.scott@willand-pc.gov.uk	07818 045215
Helen Jones	(Councillor)	helen.jones@willand-pc.gov.uk	07454 510573
Sam Sycamore	(Chair)	sam.sycamore@willand-pc.gov.uk	07429 266786
Stevie Anne Hutter	(Councillor)	stevie.hutter@willand-pc.gov.uk	07710 226139
Ben Turner	(Councillor)	ben.turner@willand-pc.gov.uk	07976 006063
Toby Fernbank	(Councillor)	toby.fernbank@willand-pc.gov.uk	07875 000007
Andrea Glover	(Councillor)	andrea.glover@willand-pc.gov.uk	07908 734368
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.gov.uk	07920 014407

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Willand Moor Road	9.00am	7.00am

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MAGAZINE

Please contact the magazine for any issues and send editorial items and advertising queries to willandparishmag@gmail.com

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Worried about energy price cap increases?
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Seal your Heating
windows

Seal it to reduce on heat before you get up and switch off your boiler when you go to bed.

Hot water bottles!

They retain heat in hot water bottles or electric blankets, but don't use both at the same time.

Close the curtains

Look them behind the radiator and shut the doors to ensure you are not to keep the heat in after it gets dark.

Preventive car issues

Check your car is in good condition of your car oil. Preventing this can help keep your car in good condition. It's better to fix it now than to have to fix it later.

Layer clothes to keep warm

Layer clothes to keep warm. Layer clothes, and keep your feet warm with socks, thermal socks & slippers.

Thoughts about your home

Use draught proofing strips, which you can find online or in a DIY store, to improve the seal of your window frames, and consider double-glazing with triple & cavity.

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EDITORIAL

No 187

Welcome to the October/November issue of the Willand Parish Magazine. Well what a summer we have had. I hope you were able to keep cool and regularly topped up your factor 50 sun screen.

So, as we look forward to the longer autumn nights and autumn days when mother nature treats us to a wonderful kaleidoscope of colour, our thoughts will go to the traditional celebrations for this time of year, Halloween & Bonfire night which in-turn signals that Christmas will soon be with us. Please let the community know of any events over the festive period and I will do my best to add them in the December/January edition of the magazine. I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact willandparishmag@gmail.com to submit your article.

Helen Watkins - Editor

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S NOTES

Wow, what a summer we have had this year, although it's not been without its challenges, South West Water certainly being one of them. I don't know about you, but I really struggle with the heat, but I guess it's something we are going to experience more frequently and we will need to adapt to.

Although I left school many years ago, somehow, I always still see September as being the start of a new year, and a time to start new projects. This is where it would be great to get some ideas from people who live in the village about what new things they would like to see happening to make Willand an even better place to live.

One of the issues that regularly gets mentioned by residents is road safety and concerns about the speed at which some cars drive through the village. So, thinking along those lines, would you like to see 20mph zones throughout the village? Are there specific roads you would like to see this implemented on? Would you like to see more of the Vehicle Activated Signs reminding motorists of the speed limit?

Our Biodiversity group is very active and has lots of exciting plans and have their own article in the magazine. Perhaps you would like to see even more projects of that nature, maybe a community orchard, a sensory garden or a nature trail, something that could be used by all ages?

Whatever your ideas are we are keen to hear them.

I know that not everyone is online, so you may not have seen a recent post on the Parish Council Facebook page sharing that there are potentially some funds available to support new projects – there is also an article in this edition of the magazine, in addition the Parish Council has some funds available too.

On to something else that I would very much like your help with. I have spoken to several residents who are getting really frustrated with bus services to the village. I've heard about the 1A bus service in particular, buses that are consistently running late, or have failed to turn up at all, or terminating early in Cullompton leaving young people stranded at night, buses that are so full people are unable to get on, or it might be that the buses aren't running early

or late enough for villagers to get to and from work. So whether you rely on the bus as you don't have access to a car, or just prefer to use public transport, whatever your reasons, I would like to hear about your experiences, both the good and the bad. My plan would be to bring this to the attention of County Councillor colleagues to get them to challenge the bus company, but to do this I really need some evidence. If you would like to get more involved or would like to put forward your ideas, please get in touch, the contact details of the Parish Council are listed in the magazine.

Thank you.

Sam Sycamore, Chair Willand Parish Council

WILLAND WILDLIFE REPORT – AUTUMN 2026

Well, what a long hot summer we've had! Were you lucky enough to spot a basking lizard or slow-worm perhaps?

Here's what our resident Willand nature-watcher has spotted over July and August in the village:

MOTHS: included Hummingbird Hawk moth and Jersey Tiger moth, both in daytime, feeding on Buddleia flowers, Copper Underwing, Silver Y, Brimstone moth – the caterpillars look like twigs which helps them hide from predators - and a Grey Dagger moth caterpillar.

MAMMALS: Rat and field mouse at the allotments, hedgehog in Meadow Park and wild rabbits. Bats were observed at dusk, flying and feeding and a bat detector was used (unconfirmed by an expert but the number in brackets is the frequency reading on the detector which is indicative of a particular species): noctule (22), serotine (27), pipistrelle (55), greater horseshoe (108). The whole length of Jaycroft is a favourite place for bats as there's very little light pollution and the darkness helps them when they're hunting for food. Grey squirrels seen bustling in the woods.

AMPHIBIANS: 3 different frogs in damp shady parts of the garden and they enjoyed an occasional dip in a shallow dish.

BUTTERFLIES seen in Willand were Red Admiral, Peacock, Gatekeeper, Large White, Holly Blue, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Small Copper. Also seen nearby Clouded Yellow (Uffculme), Comma (Killerton).

WILD FLOWERS included Ragwort, Knapweed, Rosebay willowherb* and broad-leaved willowherb* (food plant for elephant hawkmoth caterpillars and the flowers provide nectar for pollinators), Field scabious (popular with pollinators like bees, moths and butterflies) and Scarlet pimpernel (or "poor man's weather-glass" as it closes its petals when rain is due).

BIRDS: Blackbird enjoying a dust bath (sparrows do this too), Greenfinches heard at allotments, blue/great/and long-tailed tits. There were lots of juveniles (young birds hatched this summer) – robins, blackbirds, starlings, blue tits.

Numerous Wood pigeons, collared doves, crows, rooks and magpies. Nuthatch often heard in Meadow Park woods and also visited a nearby garden for a quick snack. Wrens, goldfinches, sparrows and the seasonal swallows, swifts and house martins. Have you heard the tawny owls which live in

Meadow Park woods area? Or the Canada geese flying over morning and evening? Look out for a majestic buzzard soaring, or spot a treecreeper in the woods and a handsome great spotted woodpecker. Also, did you know about the Swift Project at Willand Church? To find out more please read a separate article provided by the Swift Local Network (Mid Devon). And if you've been lucky enough to have house martins nesting in your home or outbuilding, please leave the old mud nest where it is as they often return to the same nest the following year.

INSECTS AND OTHER CREEPY CRAWLIES: Earwig, woodlice, earthworms, snails hiding in damp shade until night-time to feed, leopard slug, grasshoppers (especially in long grass in the Cemetery wildflower meadow corner), small green cricket, Soldier beetles on a long grass stem, Shield bugs, dragonflies and everyone's favourite – ladybirds. But...have you seen any Landhoppers? Read on... Turn a log or move a pot and you might be surprised by some crazily jumping arthropods-Landhoppers! Though they might resemble giant fleas, they are actually crustaceans, cousins of the sandhoppers on our beaches; their body is flattened side-to-side, they are dark and certainly can jump! They feed on decaying plant matter and come out at night when they can travel tens of metres in search of food and mates. They're sometimes known as Lawn Shrimp and Woodhopper. Although it lives on land it needs to be somewhere moist to prevent its gills from drying out. Apparently it comes from Australia and is believed to have arrived here in the early 20th century, possibly through imported plants. Thankfully it is not regarded as a "pest" as it does useful work in gardens and countryside, clearing up dead leaves and wood and helping to recycle nutrients in the soil. Fascinating!

As we move into Autumn and the changes of the seasons, you will notice fewer insects, moths and butterflies...where do they go? What can we do to help them? Leaving areas untidy or wild in your garden and in green spaces will provide shelter for hibernating creatures including insects, amphibians, hedgehogs etc. Planting a mixed native hedge offers protection from the wind, climbing plants on walls and fences provide shelter from rain and frost, a log pile or leaf pile left alone provides shelter for insects to hibernate and rest. Willand Parish Council's Biodiversity Working Group will be creating one or more bug hotels in the village – look out for your chance to be involved and maybe you could create one too. Hedgerows are filling up with seeds and berries so it really is vital to leave them as a winter larder for birds who are staying local or flying in from colder parts of Europe. Redwings and thrushes, blackcaps, blackbirds and woodpigeons will enjoy feasting on late-fruiting plants like ivy and holly so by delaying any trimming until Spring you can be rewarded by seeing the birds feeding and knowing you're helping their survival. The Woodland Trust reminds us that ivy does not harm trees and supports around 50 species of wildlife. In fact Autumn ivy flowers are one of the last

sources of food for many insects before they hibernate, such as bees, hoverflies and common wasps.

THINK BONFIRE: THINK HEDGEHOG: your bonfire heap will be the ideal place for hedgehogs to hibernate so you should either build it on the day of burning or move it on the day of burning to ensure the hedgehogs are kept safe.

To find out more you may like to look up the links we've provided to websites such as Wildlife Trusts and Hedgehog Street etc.

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/where-do-bee-and-butterflies-go-winter>

<https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/hibernation>

<https://buglife.b-cdn.net/app/uploads/2025/08/How-to-Make-a-Bee-Hotel-Leaflet-2025-FINAL.pdf>

www.hedgehogstreet.org

Finally, a reminder that if you have any ideas to help conserve and improve biodiversity in Willand, please share your thoughts via the Parish Clerk; likewise please get in touch if you would like to be involved in future projects and look out for details of an exciting Community Biodiversity Event which is planned for 4th April 2027 in Willand Village Hall.

Barbara Bodkin

CAMEO

Once again our brave walkers set off for Knightshayes for walkies and back to the café for the usual round of refreshments. Circumstances meant not so many walks, it was far too hot for our ladies. What a beautiful summer we have had but it meant we curtailed our usual amount of walks. Hopefully normal service will be resumed now that Autumn is here, next one due on 28th September. Not sure where we are off to but no doubt we will be glad to be back to walking with cooler temperature.

August means no meeting but a garden party in our Chairpersons beautiful garden. After last year's party cut short due to rain, this year it was a beautiful sunny day. A slightly smaller version of Wasp in the Apple entertained us. Lovely background music accompanied our lunch, which as usual was delicious. The garden party is in aid of our charity which this year is Air Ambulance.

Our coffee morning at Coldharbour was a very poor show, only five members turned up. Unfortunately, holidays curtailed numbers plus the heat, our ladies wanting to stay in and not fry in the sun, most of our ladies are mature!!

The correspondent has not got a lot to say this time as we have had a quiet couple of months. Normal service will be resumed hopefully now that autumn is here.

Valerie Newberry

Note for your diary - The cut off date for any contributions you would like included in the December - January magazine is **Wednesday 11th November 2026**

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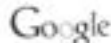
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DEVON GREEN ENERGY COMMUNITY FUND

Do you have a project or an initiative that needs funding?

Will your project/proposals make a positive difference to the local communities of Willand, Halberton and/or the surrounding area?

If you've answered yes to both these questions the Devon Green Energy Community Fund may be able to help.

Acorn Bioenergy has launched a community benefit fund with the aim of bringing positive benefits to local areas hosting their facilities. Up to £20,000 is available annually for a period of 25 years for projects that will make a positive difference to the local area. The fund is index-linked which means that over £500,000 could be used to help local communities.

Funding decisions are made by people who live locally and know and understand the area, helping ensure that support goes to projects and initiatives that will have a meaningful and positive impact on our communities.

The first round of funding is now open, with a deadline of the 30th November 2026 to submit your grant application. But don't worry, if you're not ready yet there will be more opportunities to apply; just keep looking out for details of the next round of funding. Any funds not spent will automatically roll forward to be included with the next funding round, ensuring no loss of funds.

Information on the fund can be found on the Acorn Bioenergy website -

<https://www.acornbioenergy.com/acorn-community-fund-offer>

To apply please use the following link -

<https://www.acornbioenergy.com/devon-green-power-community-benefit-fund>

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www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/visit-us/ or phone 01884 840960

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EVENTS & WORKSHOPS: for more info & to book tickets go to www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/whats-on/

RAILWAY EXHIBITION: Until Saturday 3rd October: View the lovingly restored Model Railway and the Millennium Screen. Entry is with an admission ticket or a Friends membership card.

AUTUMN YARN WREATH WORKSHOP: Thursday 8th October 11am – 3pm

POPPY SECURING: Wed 7, Tues 13, Wed 14 October 2-4pm in the Mill Cafe:
Join us for special sessions to create a beautiful collaborative artwork for Remembrance Day.

WATER WATER EXHIBITION: 17th - 31st October - a collaborative exhibition and public engagement project that brings together eco-conscious artists, makers and organisations to explore how water shapes our lives and how creative practice can inspire environmental awareness and action. Entry is with an admission ticket or a Friends membership card.

STEAMPUNK SUNDAY: Sunday 25th October: 10.30am - 4pm

Join Us for Our Spooktacular Steampunk-themed Halloween Steam Day! Step into a world of gears, goggles and steam as our historic mill comes alive with a day of themed activities and autumn fun for all ages. Entry is with an admission ticket – book in advance for a discount! - or a Friends membership card

GIANT CROCHET MITTEN WORKSHOP: Thursday 5th November 11^{am} to 3^{pm}

POPPY EXHIBITION: Tuesday 3rd - Saturday 28th November

Join us throughout November to experience the breathtaking result of our community Poppy Project. This remarkable installation is a celebration of creativity, community spirit, and remembrance, offering a striking and moving sight for visitors of all ages. Entry is with an admission ticket or a Friends membership card.

CHRISTMAS MARKET: Saturday 14th November 11am-3pm

Get into the festive spirit and join us for a wonderful day of Christmas shopping, local makers, delicious treats, live entertainment, heritage!

With a suggested £2 donation on entry,

ARTIST EXHIBITION: 24th - 28th November in the Fox Gallery, Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme, Cullompton EX15 3EE

Email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk Phone: 01884 840960

Website: www.coldharbourmill.org.uk

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CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH. EX15 2PL.

You're always so welcome, to join us at the Chapel for our many activities.

We meet for Worship every Sunday Morning at 10.30am and on the 3rd Sunday also at 6.30pm. Some people just join us at 11.30am. on Sunday Mornings, as our Worship is always followed by coffee and a chat. (Often with cake! and a jigsaw.) Why not try it and see? (You could call it "a taster!!!") We are told: our Preachers are thought-provoking and inspiring, our singing is a delight and the warmth of our Fellowship, is true and real. Come and see for yourself.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be full out, filling shoe-boxes for Christmas in Eastern Europe. Last year, thankfully with the help of others, maybe even you, we sent off 238! There are ladies knitting hats and toy puppets as I write. If you'd like to help in any way that would be wonderful. At home if that's easier, or by joining our friendly "Boxing" sessions. The more the merrier.

Our Prospect Group meets on Sunday October 4th at 3pm. to celebrate Harvest. If you know of a disabled person or helper who might like to join us, please just turn up for a sincerely, lovely occasion. We've safe parking, all level access and facilities:and of course, with a banquet of a tea to follow! greetdj@hotmail.com

Our next Free Lunch from 12noon is on Saturday October 24th

Our Free Coffee Morning Fellowship Is on Friday September 18th (Often with Cake!)

On Saturday November 28th from 10 -12noon. We hold our Christmas Sale.In our schoolroom, where you'll find all those seasonal items you love to buy, homemade cakes and very high-class bric-a-brac as well as, Coffee and side stalls. Find a present for the one who has everything!

We hold regular Worship Sessions at Somerville House, Trafalgar Court and Kent Farm. If you know of anyone staying there, who might like us to say hello, just email greetdj@hotmail.com

So, from the people of Culm Valley Methodist Church:

Every Blessing, to you all.

ST MARY'S CHURCH WILLAND

In the famous poem 'Jerusalem,' William Blake describes England's fields as being green and pleasant. Yet, if you were a first time visitor here in the middle of August you probably would have thought you had come to the wrong country. According to Sky News reporter, Victoria Seabrook, 'sickly yellow' would be a better description!

Experts declare that we have just had the driest July in 190 years and, because of this and other factors, our country is on track for one of the worst harvests on record.

There is so much going on in the world at the moment, and this is yet another thing that can make everything feel out of control and cause concern.

However, these kinds of things can be good for us. When things happen that are too big for us, or outside of our control they make us stop in our tracks. They make us realise that we do not have all the answers and that there are lots of things that are beyond us. Those of you who know part of my story will know that four years ago my son, Noah, was diagnosed as having a brain tumour. This was one of those moments when I was reminded that I do not have everything under control. Four years later, Noah is still having treatment. Often in life there are no quick answers or quick fixes, but I have come to know that through it all there is a God who loves us and is for us. This is the God who is revealed in Jesus Christ. Despite the constant setbacks and then glimmers of hope and then more setbacks, God has been with us. Through regular prayer, we have learned to trust in him and his plans for our lives.

Philippians 4:6 says, 'Do not be anxious about anything but, in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'

Many people have found that praying changes things. Just the act of giving those deep-felt thoughts, fears and concerns to a higher power is good for us. Even if you do not believe in God, I would encourage you to try praying. Who knows, you might just find a little bit more peace in the chaos of life.

At the moment we are running the Alpha Course which is designed to help people explore the Christian faith in a relaxed environment. We are meeting on Monday evenings in Square Corner in Uffculme. If you are interested in finding out more, please do get in touch. Also, you are very welcome to come and join us for our Harvest Thanksgiving service at St Mary's, here in Willand, where we give both our thanks and concerns to God and trust in his provision.

Every blessing for this Harvest season,

Rev. Ben Maynard

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

As you can see from the list below our volunteers run a range of popular activities each month for you to drop in to.

If you haven't yet visited us we are set back from Gables Road opposite the Village Hall, along with the Pantry and the Nursery. You will find a warm and friendly welcome and good company!!

Stephen Little

PLEASE NOTE SOME DATE AND TIME CHANGES

Month	Date	Day	Time	Event
October	1st	Thursday	10.00 to 12.00	Tea & Chat
October	5th	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
October	8th	Thursday	10.00 to 12.00	Tea, Chat & Games
October	12th	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
October	15th	Thursday	10.00 to 12.00	Tea & Chat
October	19th	Monday	18.30 to 19.30	Book Swap with Coffee
October	19th	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
October	26th	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
October	28th	Wednesday	10.00 to 11.30	Book Swap with Coffee
November	2nd	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
November	5th	Thursday	10.00 to 12.00	Tea & Chat
November	9th	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
November	12th	Thursday	10.00 to 12.00	Tea, Chat & Games
November	16th	Monday	18.30 to 19.30	Book Swap with Coffee
November	16th	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
November	19th	Thursday	10.00 to 12.00	Tea & Chat
November	23rd	Monday	18.30 to 20.00	Knitting & Crochet Group
November	25th	Wednesday	10.00 to 11.30	Book Swap with Coffee

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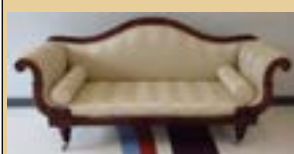
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generosity that enable us to be there for local families during the most difficult moments. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us continue to provide vital care to those who need us most. To make your donation, please visit: hospiscare.co.uk. Thank you for your compassion and support.

Celebrate the life of someone special

At Hospiscare, we understand that the festive season can be both joyful and bittersweet. Light Up a Life is our annual opportunity to come together in remembrance, honouring the lives of those we love and miss. Each year at Exeter Cathedral, a Tree of Lights shines brightly, accompanied by our Book of Memories filled with heartfelt dedications from families and friends.

We invite you to join us on Wednesday 2 December for a moving celebration with carefully chosen readings, poems, music and carols – a chance to reflect, remember, and find comfort in the company of others.

To make your own dedication or learn more, please visit:

hospiscare.co.uk/light

Take on a challenge and help raise vital funds for Hospiscare.

Push your limits, achieve something extraordinary, and help local families receive the care, comfort and support they need when it matters most. Whether you've always dreamed of running a marathon, tackling an open-water swim, taking on a cycling challenge, or trying something completely new, there's a challenge for everyone.

Every step and every pound you raise helps Hospiscare provide specialist care for people living with terminal illness across Exeter, central and east Devon. Find your next adventure, challenge yourself and make a lasting difference to local families.

Get inspired and sign up at hospiscare.co.uk/challenges

CLASSICS GALORE! IS BACK FOR 2026 – WHEN DEVON RAISES ITS VOICE AGAINST CANCER

Cancer touches almost every family in Devon. Whether it's a parent, partner, friend, colleague or neighbour, most of us know someone whose life has been changed by a cancer diagnosis. That's why hundreds of people will come together this autumn for a special evening that combines music, memories, hope and community spirit.

Exeter's very own Last Night of the Proms returns to the University of Exeter's Great Hall on Saturday, November 14, bringing together more than 200 musicians and singers for a spectacular concert in support of FORCE Cancer Charity. Tickets go on sale on July 17.

This year's concert will once again be hosted by BBC Spotlight presenter Victoria Graham, who has become a passionate supporter of FORCE and its work helping local people affected by cancer.

Victoria has a very personal reason for supporting Classics Galore! after losing her father to bowel cancer ten years ago:

“Cancer isn’t just a personal journey - it touches the lives of all those who give their love and support. Any organisation which can help to raise and keep money for research and support locally is vital.

After running a 10K for FORCE this year I’m really looking forward to something a little more relaxing at Classics Galore! in November.”

For many people, Classics Galore! is far more than a concert. It is an opportunity to remember loved ones, celebrate those who have overcome cancer, thank the people who supported them and help ensure others continue to receive the care and support they need. Since it was established in 2007, Classics Galore! has become one of FORCE's most cherished fundraising events. The last concert raised an incredible £23,500, taking the overall total raised through nine concerts to more than £150,000.

Every pound makes a difference. FORCE receives no Government or NHS funding for its charitable services and relies on fundraising, donations and gifts in wills to support local people living with cancer and their families.

This year's audience can expect another unforgettable programme featuring a wonderful mix of much-loved classics and familiar favourites. Highlights include themes from Batman, the classic western Big Country, and William Walton's Majestic Crown Imperial March, alongside a traditional Proms-style finale guaranteed to have the audience singing along.

The specially assembled Classics Galore! Orchestra will once again be joined by Ottery St Mary Choral Society, St David's Players and the Lymington Band, with acclaimed soprano Cheryl Enever returning by popular demand.

Leading the performance will be one of the South West's most respected musical directors, Malcolm Matthews. The concert is able to go ahead thanks to the support of local companies, including lead sponsor, Knight Frank.

At the heart of the event is a remarkable local legacy. Classics Galore! was founded by Exeter resident Dick Passmore, who conceived the event while living with cancer, alongside his wife Posy. Dick believed in the power of music to bring people together and to make a lasting difference to others facing the challenges of cancer. Although Dick sadly died in 2019, his vision lives on. Every concert is a tribute not only to his determination and generosity but also to the thousands of local people who have supported FORCE and those affected by cancer over the years. This November, as the Great Hall fills with music once more, it will also be filled with stories, memories and the shared belief that nobody should face cancer alone.

Tickets are priced from £12 to £30 and are available from July 17 via TicketSource at www.ticketsource.co.uk/classics-galore-exeter or through the FORCE website at : www.forcecancercharity.co.uk/classicsgalore

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities was established in the early 20th century, formed from several small charities set up in the previous century to benefit residents of Willand who were in need, and this is still the purpose of the charity today.

The Trustees meet regularly twice a year, usually in September and February, but extra meetings, or email/telephone discussions are held to discuss applications outside of these times so people should not be put off from contacting us when necessary. The money available for distribution is quite limited but the Trustees are aware that the rising cost of living and unexpected expenses can severely impact day to day life and cause distress which a small grant could help solve. If you or someone you know would benefit from some support, then please either contact the charity by using our email address clerk@willandunitedcharities.co.uk or download an application form. <https://willand-pc.gov.uk/downloads>. The current Trustees are Neil James, Stephen Little, Ben Maynard, Jason Scott, Kate Taylor
Kate Taylor (Trustee)

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS) –located at the top end of Jaycroft in the corner of the Allotment site.

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

Mondays – 6.30pm – 7.30pm (Summertime only)

WCCS is run by a small and friendly group of volunteers. Our mission is to protect the natural environment by reducing waste to landfill by composting. We need your Green Waste to help us to continue our Community Composting site. **Remember we take your Green Garden Waste for FREE.**

URGENT : We Need Your Grass!

Due to the exceptionally dry conditions, we have had no grass cuttings brought to the site for a considerable time period. Please can you help by bringing in your grass (When it starts growing again!) as we need this to help keep producing compost.

We accept:

Green Garden Waste - Fresh Grass; Hedge Clippings, Prunings that can be cut with secateurs, up to 1 inch diameter, Flowers, Vegetables & Plants. Depositing in the bay where directed by our team, would be most helpful. Further information is displayed on notices regarding garden waste on the fence.

We don't accept:

Cordylines and Palm leaves as they cause both damage and time in clearing the shredding machine. No Vegetation with soil attached. No labels or stones.

Compost Sales:

Sieved (with next to no twigs) compost is **£3/bag**

Garden Waste Bags (50cm X 50cm X 50cm) **£4/bag** or **£6/bag** with 1 standard bag of compost. The return of your empty bags will be gratefully received.

Volunteers Needed! - We **need** volunteers to help with the day to day running of the site. If you could spare a couple of hours per week it would help to ensure that the site continues to provide the local service. We need

Volunteers to help with both the administration for the site as well as the day to day operation of the site. Any help would be gratefully received. Please pop in or email for more information.

Thank you for supporting this community facility. You are always welcome to drop into the site and have a chat with the volunteers. Hope to see you soon.

Email: willandccs24sec@outlook.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Willand resident Dorothy Anderson has just won a Large Gold Medal at the Taunton Show this year for her garden which she designed and displayed in the Competition Marquee.



Note for your diary - The cut off date for any contributions you would like included in the December - January magazine is **Wednesday 11th November 2026**



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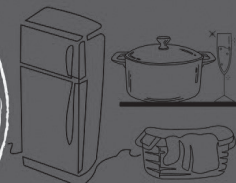





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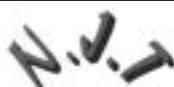
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WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Remember - You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. C S Lewis

REGULAR EVENTS – Willand Village Hall

EVENT	DATE	TIME
U3A Gaming	1 st Monday	10.30am
U3A Mahjong Group	2 nd & 4 th Monday	10.30am
U3A Art in Action	2 nd & 4 th Monday	1.30pm
U3A Coloured Pencil	3 rd Monday	1.30pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5.30pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7.00pm
Pilates with Ellie	Tuesday	9.30am & 6.00pm
U3A Quilting Group	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	9.30am
Move it or Lose it	Tuesday	2.00pm
Cowgirl Twisters	Tuesday	7.30pm
U3A Sewing Group	1 st Wednesday	9.30am
Tiny Tots (Term Time)	Wednesdays	9.30am
U3A Craft Group	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	9.30am
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesdays	7.00pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7.30pm
Pilates with Ellie	Thursday	9.30am
U3A	1 st Thursday	2.00pm
U3A Bridge	2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Thursday	2.00pm
CAMEO	1 st Thursday	7.00pm
Karate	2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Thursday	6.00pm
Folk Dance Club	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	7.00pm
Parish Council Meeting	2 nd Thursday	7.00pm
Fun Football Factory	Fridays	9.15pm
U3A Quiz	3 rd Friday	10.30am
Zumba	Fridays	1.30pm
WiTS	Fridays	7.30pm
Cowgirl Twisters	Saturday (Monthly)	7.30pm
Folk Dance	Saturday (Monthly)	8.00pm
Arate	Sundays	10.15am
Martial Arts	Sundays	5.15pm

For U3A (University of the 3rd Age) events some vary please check their website <https://culmvalley.u3asite.uk/>

WHY IS RECYCLING SO CONFUSING?

Under the district's "Bin-It 123" waste service, residents (although it is a last resort) can be fined or face enforcement if non-recyclables contaminate these designated boxes. It's infuriating. If we don't do it right we get a naughty ticker! I promise you – we are all trying to do our best to stick to the rules.

The good thing about Mid Devon recycling is that the quality of recycling collected here is higher than many other areas of the UK, this is because they only tend to collect items with a high market value.

The council give us a leaflet to read so we know what goes where but in reality it can be simplified and there is not much that cannot be recycled (to go in the black bin).

Simplified – it is 3 boxes. One black box for glass and paper, one black box for plastic/tins/foil and one green box for cardboard and food and drink cartons.

We can remember to do little things;

When we finish a jar – wash it out as it can contaminate everything - Try not to mix the 'ingredients' in the bins so they are easier to recycle

Some supermarkets now take wrappers (crisp packets, bread wrappers, sweet wrappers and pet food pouches to name a few)

All food waste can go in the small blue caddy which can be lined with bags (non-recyclable if you need to as it is sorted at the centre)

All garden waste in the Brown bin if you have one (this one is chargeable and fortnightly). You can also purchase brown bags for garden waste (if you don't want to be tied to the brown bin) which will be collected fortnightly. Did you know that the Willand Community Composting scheme will also accept garden waste - you can read about them in this magazine.

The good thing is that we can have lots of other things recycled too;

All types of batteries and clothes/textiles in bags not black can be placed in the box with bottles and paper. Small electricals and printer cartridges in a bag not black placed in the green box with cardboard and drink and food cartons.

Recycling is fortnightly, black bin is every three weeks and food caddy is weekly. You can print off (or get somebody else to print off for you) an agenda for the year so you know what is going out and when and if you are tech savvy, you can set up an alert for your phone, this is available through the Mid Devon website. You can also order extra bins or lids – we have probably all broken a lid on windy days and then tried to retrieve a bin from the next door garden!

If you are unable to put the recycling/rubbish out yourself, you can apply for assisted collections.

Helen Stone

FROM TODDLER RAVES TO OPERA, LIBRARIES LAUNCH NEW SEASON OF ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

From the lost art of letter writing to sustainable fashion, escape rooms to nature walks, toddler raves to opera – there is an abundance of creativity to be found at libraries over the next few months.

Libraries Unlimited has launched its latest creative programme, Get Creating, bringing an exciting line-up of cultural events to libraries.

Launching 1st August, there's something for every age and interest. The programme transforms local libraries into vibrant cultural venues, offering

opportunities to experience live performances, meet artists and authors, learn new skills, enjoy family days out and connect with others through creativity. Since 2018, Libraries Unlimited has been part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. Thanks to public funding from taxpayers and National Lottery players, the charity's creative programme continues to make high-quality arts and culture accessible in the heart of local communities.

Highlights include:

October

Silent Disco in Barnstaple Library, nature-inspired creative walks, theatre performances, Halloween family events and spooky craft activities.

November

Good Vibes Torbay Festival, Paper Conversations letter-writing workshop, Stay & Rave toddler techno, family classical concerts, film screenings and English Touring Opera's *Mimi and the Golden Touch* for Early Years and SEND audiences.

Rae Hoole, Creative Communities Producer for Libraries Unlimited, said: "Libraries are so much more than places to borrow books. They are vibrant community spaces where people can discover new ideas, develop skills and experience arts and culture close to home. Get Creating celebrates the breadth of creative activity happening across Devon and Torbay, giving people of all ages the chance to try something new, spend time together and be inspired. We're proud to support local artists while making high-quality cultural experiences accessible to everyone."

The Get Creating programme runs from August to November 2026 in libraries across Devon and Torbay. Many events are free or low-cost, with discounts available for Devon and Torbay Library members.

For the full programme and to book tickets, visit: [Current Programme of Events - Libraries Unlimited](#)

Here are some facts about the 1500's:

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers, to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today, of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small

animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top, afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt Poor." The wealthy had slate floors, that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh, until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle, that always hung over the fire. Every day, they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight, then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot, nine days old".

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon, to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the Bacon." They would cut off a little, to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "Chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning & death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided, according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Now, whoever said history was boring !!!

Helen Stone



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