

WILLAND MAGAZINE

February & March 2024



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

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WILLAND PARISH ORGANISATIONS

		<i>Secretary/Contact</i>
Allotment Holders	Sylvia Statham	peterandsylvia ^{statham} @hotmail.com
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	peterandsylvia ^{statham} @hotmail.com
Tiny Tots	Karly Holley	willandtintytots@gmail.com 07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish	weirmilldevon@gmail.com 820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub
Village Hall Bookings	Frances Wilcox	bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk
Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher	07377 556946
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner	07775 550436
Willand Art Group	Jenny Baker	Gables Road 822882
Willand Crafty Family and Friends	Emma Worth	willandcraftyfamily2021@gmail.com 07843811230
Willand Community Composting	Truly Rose	willandcommunitycomposting@gmail.com
Willand Health & Community Centre		info@whacc.org.uk
Willand History Group	James Morrison	jamorrison235@gmail.com 01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	Janey Parrett	07593 996991
Willand Theatrical Society		witsthesecretary@gmail.com 01884 32152
Willand United Charities		unitedcharities@whacc.org.uk
Youth Club (35218)		willandyouthclub@outlook.com

CHURCHES / EDUCATION

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham	34077
Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev Nick Lakin	nicholas.lakin@methodist.org.uk 07895 740286
Quakers	Pat Bell	840823
Roman Catholic Church	Canon Kristian Paver - St Boniface, Cullompton	252292
St. Mary's Church Churchwarden	Lesley Smith	07944 295002
St. Mary Parochial CC	Secretary Sandy Hancock	35165
Cullompton Community College		33364
Uffculme School		840458
Willand Pre-School		33711
Willand Primary School		820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolpta@gmail.com

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Richard Foord	(M.P)	Richard.Foord.MP@Parliament.UK	0207 2197172
Ray Radford	(Devon County Council)	ray.radford@devon.gov.uk	820000
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.org.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.org.uk	07795821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.org.uk	07496 113135
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.org.uk	07971 808423
Andrea Glover	(Councillor)	andrea.glover@willand-pc.org.uk	07908 734368
Neil James	(Councillor)	neil.james@willand-pc.org.uk	07733 083158
Jason Scott	(Councillor)	jason.scott@willand-pc.org.uk	07818 045215
Helen Jones	(Councillor)	helen.jones@willand-pc.org.uk	07454 510573
Jack Hughes	(Councillor)	jack.hughes@willand-pc.org.uk	
Sue Leach	(Councillor)	sue.leach@willand-pc.org.uk	07732 952829
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

MEDICAL

Bramblehaies Surgery	33536
College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries	831300
Gables Road Pharmacy	32604
N.H.S. DIRECT	111
Out-of-Hours GP	111
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E)	01392 411611
Urgent Care Centre (Currently open 08.00-20.00 7 days a week)	01884 235400

TRANSPORT

National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
National Express Coach Services	0371 781 818
Traveline	0871 200 2233
Stagecoach Devon	01392 427711
Devon Bus (All bus timetables are displayed outside the Post Office)	01392 382800
Culm Voluntary Car Scheme	07546 525683

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Childline	0800 1111
Citizens Advice Bureau, Tiverton	03444 111 444
Crimestoppers	0800 555111
Devon County Council	0345 1551015
Environment Agency (24 Hour)	0800 807060
Fire, Police, Ambulance, Coastguard	999 Or 112
Gas	0800 111999
Injured Wildlife Exeter	01392 439898
M.D.D.C./Dog Warden	01884 255255
R.S.P.C.A	0300 1234999
Samaritans	116 123
Western Power Distribution (Power Cuts etc)	105 Or 0800 6783 105
South West Water	0344 346 2020
Street Lighting/Highways	0345 155 1004

DEFIBRILLATORS - Can be accessed outside the Post Office, the Pre School buildings and Pencarrie dial 999 to get the access code.

MOBILE LIBRARY - visits four weekly

Thursday	Townlands	10.35am - 11.20am
Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.25am - 12.25pm

LATEST POSTAL COLLECTIONS

Post Office (01884 32430)	Mon to Fri	Saturday
Currently a Priority Post Box on Sat and Sun.	5.00pm	11.00am
Meadow Park	9.00am	7.00am
Station Road	9.00am	7.00am
Fir Close	9.00am	7.00am
Willand Moor Road	9.00am	7.00am

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

MAGAZINE

Please send Editorial items to willandparishmag@gmail.com
Advertising queries to willandmagadvertising2023@gmail.com

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29 Lower Town, Sampford Peverell - Surgery and Dispensary  (01884) 820304

Cullompton can offer late appointments Monday-Thursday and
early appointments on a Wednesday from 7.30am.

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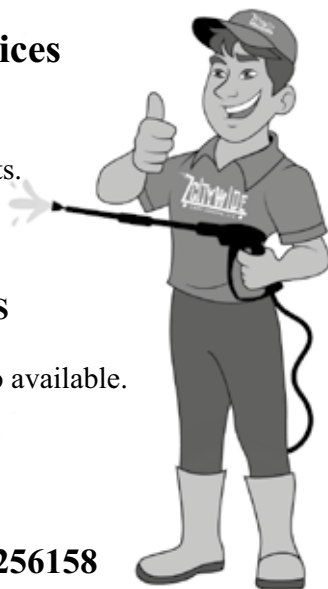
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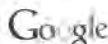
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Welcome to 2024. When you see how many clubs and local organisations are reporting events and activities, it really emphasises how fortunate we are to live in such a lovely Village.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

If you are reading this then, like me, you have made it to 2024 and so may I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Let us hope that you all got through the Christmas period without too many traumas.

Since our last issue John Sellick has sadly resigned as a Parish Councillor due to work pressures. We thank you John for all your work and commitment during your time as a councillor. You will be missed. We now have two vacancies for Parish Councillors so please contact the Clerk if you feel that you could help your community by becoming a Councillor.

We have not got much further forward with the new skateboard ramps as although we have submitted all the right forms and got the right permissions the relevant officers at MDDC have not formally approved the S106 application and released the monies they are holding. Our District Councillors have all tried to help but three months have gone by. Our Clerk has again chased the responsible officer and at the time of writing we have just received an e-mail assuring us that it has been approved but advising us not to place the order until we have everything in writing from the Planning Department. We may now have missed our spring slot with the contractor, and we just have to hope that the agreed price will not have gone up.

It has been a bit frustrating for the Parish Council in wanting to make decisions as to works and projects within the village due to lack of feedback or responses from residents on a number of issues. We are going to have to go ahead and then deal with any flack or moans after the event. We have heard nothing back on the grass cutting from residents barring one. We now have to look at what we do for the future of Christmas lights. May I offer thanks to those businesses who supported the 2023/24 light with their generous donations which have been gratefully acknowledged elsewhere.

The Preschool/Nursery are arranging to offer training on CPR and the use of defibrillators within the village. The Parish Council are working with them to try and ensure the right training aids are available to facilitate this initiative which can only benefit our community when someone needs the equipment to save a life. It would be good to have more defibrillators available for emergency use around the village and some of our businesses could contribute by providing and maintaining such equipment on their premises and located in such a way as to make it available to the community 24/7 as PenCarrie has done. If you would like to be involved, please contact David Maynard c/o the Preschool or the Parish Clerk who will pass on your details to the right persons.

We have heard no more as to the possible provision of an initial 170 dwellings off of the back of Muxbeare Lane. There has been no application as yet, but we are aware that exploratory work has been taking place on the site. Please make sure that you respond when given the opportunity.

MDDC are carrying out a survey at the present as to a number of issues toward the updating of the Local Plan so please make time to let your views be known via the online survey. It is all very well having more houses which are needed but they are going to be lived in by people and they need facilities and infrastructure. Roads, utilities, school, doctors, allotments, larger village hall, youth club, allotments, open space for recreation and so the list goes on but gets ignored by the developers and council planners. They just want to build houses to meet targets. You can find details of the survey on the Parish Website so please make the time to complete it.

We will have set the precept by the time you read this, and the detail will be put on the Website for all to see. Hopefully the detail will be included in the next issue of the magazine. It is hoped that the Parish portion of the council tax will only be a few pence per week more than is being paid now as we have cut back as much as possible whilst still taking account of the rising cost of our various contractors. We are still trying to resolve the cost of the safety inspections of the play equipment with MDDC as it is not clear from their finance papers going before Cabinet as I write this. One way of working out their proposed charges would mean an 83% rise, so it is being raised in the hope that someone has got their sums wrong.

Please support the various voluntary groups and others in the village who try and ensure there are activities and interests for all those who need it or want it. May I yet again thank all those who give of their time to make all these things happen. Remember the question is 'How can I help?' – not 'What's in it for me?' Keep well and smiling if you can.

STOP PRESS

Play Area Inspection Charges.

The Chairman of the Parish Council asked questions at the Cabinet Meeting on the 9th of January 2024 concerning the charges proposed by MDDC for the safety inspections of play areas for 2024/25 which would be imposed from the 1st of April 2024 – AFTER we had set the precept and therefore had the potential to put the Parish Council in a position of overspending on the budget. Bear in mind that we would not have known about this had it not been spotted in a table on page 67 of a bundle of meeting papers by an eagle-eyed member of the public.

The explanation for stating that we had paid £2,293.06, which was an error but not admitted, was that the figure was arrived at by doubling the figure for the invoice for the second half of this financial year. Although Chestnut Drive Play Area was added to the second half of the year the other charges were also increased by 16.89%.

The Chairman was advised that the figure for 2024/25 charged for the monthly safety inspections by MDDC would rise to a total of £3,369.60 which will be a rise of 83% over what we had paid for the previous year which had also seen a rise of nearly 17% halfway through the year.

The Parish Council are looking at reducing the number of inspections to avoid such an increase and are in dialogue with our insurers. We could also explore cancelling the lease on some of the play areas which would mean that MDDC would then have to find the costs of maintaining them, but we know that they will not look after them in terms of grass and hedge cutting as well as the Parish does. They could even close them on cost cutting grounds.

A final decision will be made at the February parish council meeting so please let your views be known to the Parish Clerk or your councillors. Make sure our District Councillors know your views as they are apparently quite happy to see rises of 83% imposed upon our community. **Barry G J Warren Chairman Willand Parish Council.**

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL NOTICES

After the May 2023 election the Parish Council had several unfilled vacancies and four new Councillors have been appointed by co-option since and we had one remaining vacancy. Following the recent resignation of a Councillor, the Parish Council now has two vacancies to fill. If you would be interested in learning more about becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk, Debbie Bird, on clerk@willand-pc.org.uk or call 07920 014407.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th March**, just prior to Full Council. The Parish Meeting will start at 7 p.m. with Full Council at 7.30 p.m.

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Wishes to thank the following local businesses and organisations for generously sponsoring the village Christmas lights.

Victoria Windows & Doors & Willand Rovers Football Club

Willand Community Composting Scheme & Pallex South West.

Hopkins Machinery (St Brides Investments) & PenCarrie.

Rayda Plastics & Stoneman Engineering.

“THANK YOU” Debbie Bird Parish Clerk



WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

The WRFC Santa Run raised over £1300 this year all money raised has been donated to Adam Webber's "Running for Shelly" charity. This was set up by Adam to raise awareness of ovarian cancer when his wife Shelly was battling the disease. A BIG thank you to everyone that took part and contributed.

Movember: our very own Owen Howe mobilised the players and management team to grow their "Movember" 'tashes. The lads raised an amazing £1647 for men's mental health, prostate cancer, testicular cancer and suicide prevention charities. Well done Owen and the lads.

Football update: WRFC finished the first half of their Southern Football League season with a cracking 5-1 home win on 30 December. We sit very healthily in the top ten in the league table, so all credit to David Steele, our manager, and the team.

I'd encourage you to come along and see what we have to offer: I think you will be pleasantly surprised how the team is performing. Our upcoming home fixtures through until the end of April are:

- Wed 7 February 7.30pm ko (League) v **Yate Town**
- Sat 10 February 3pm ko (League) v **Bideford AFC**
- Sat 2 March 3pm ko (League) v **Frome Town**
- Sat 23 March 3pm ko (League) v **Bashley**
- Mon 1 April 3pm ko (League) v **Bristol Manor Farm**
- Sat 13 April 3pm ko (League) v **Wimborne Town**
- Sat 27 April 3pm ko (League) v **Malvern Town**

Volunteers needed: The Club is run entirely by volunteers. We are always looking for new enthusiastic and dynamic people to join our merry band and help with the day to day running of the club. No special skills are needed but, of course, your "day job" skills may be very useful. The amount of time you give can be as little or as much as you like: this can be from just an hour each week to well, for as long as you like. We would really like your help and to hear from you if you have a passion to assist us.

If you think you may be able to help, please send me an email at mikehawkins.willandrovers@gmail.com

Dates for your diary: We are hosting several events over the next few months: why not join us.

- Sat 2 March - **Spikey and the Bandits:** A local 6-piece band covering a wide range of artists to get you dancing! Tickets on sale soon: £10/member & £12/non-member.
- Tuesday 26 March 2024 – **Easter Bingo:** special Easter bingo.

- Sunday 31 March 2024, 12.00 noon to 5pm – **Trina’s Easter Family Fun Day**
- Sat 13 April, 3pm – **Ryan Guppy’s TESTIMONIAL Match** for 10 years of playing-service to WRFC (this is our home league match against current league leaders Wimborne Town)
- Sat 13 April, 7pm - **Race Night. This is a free entry event**, just buy your horses on the night.
- Sat 27 April – **Stillyano**: by popular demand they’re back. Tickets will be on sale soon so watch our social media streams for more details.

Bingo: We also run regular Bingo sessions generally on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. These are very popular, regularly attracting 50+ players. Doors open 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.30pm.

Functions: We would welcome anyone in the local area, and particularly residents of Willand, to make use of the excellent facilities we have at the Club. These can be inexpensively hired for any type of function. For more details and to check availability please email willandroversfc@outlook.com or call 01884 33885.

Why not come in and see us to watch a match, have a social swift-half with us on a Friday the bar is open every Friday afternoon from 4pm and on matchdays or just to inspect the facilities we have. You can always be assured of a very friendly and warm welcome, and you may be surprised what we have to offer.

Mike Hawkins, Chairman, Willand Rovers Football Club

HOSPISCARE

Men’s Walk for Hospiscare Returns in March

If you’re starting to think about making plans for 2024, why not get involved with Hospiscare’s much-loved Men’s Walk when it returns on **Saturday 9 March**.

The iconic annual fundraising event sees supporters come together to raise funds for local people living with terminal illness. All the event favourites are back for 2024, including a seven-mile walk, Exeter Brewery pint, Chunk of Devon pasty and England rugby on the big screen – promising a great day out in support of the local hospice charity. Participants can take part at the Double Locks in Exeter or from afar with ‘Men’s Walk: Your Way’, where walkers choose their own location, route and distance.

Visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/menswalk to sign up and make a difference to local end-of-life care. Thank you for your ongoing support. **Eleni Greenwood**





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SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 2024

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MESMERISING PUPPETRY AND
BEAUTIFUL SONGS, THE BOY
WHO FELL TO EARTH



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20 GLORIOUS YEARS OF STRICTLY

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024

PAUL YOUNG
BEHIND THE LENS

FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2024

ALFIE MOORE
A FACE FOR RADIO



THURSDAY 16TH MAY 2024

JOHN LYDON
I COULD BE WRONG, I COULD BE RIGHT -
JOHN LYDON – AKA JOHNNY ROTTEN



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ST MARY'S CHURCH

Thank you for the support given to our Christmas Programme of village events and Carol Services. Already the lengthening days, an increased birdsong and the early signs of spring bring encouragement. Easter is early this year at the very end of March.

In our church and mission community we have a growing appreciation for all that our retired clergy, church wardens and other church leaders are contributing during the vacancy. Our time without a Rector to lead us will stretch well into 2024. In the meantime, we hope to maintain our programme of services and events as everyone plays their part.

Details of our Easter arrangements are currently being worked out to give even cover to all our churches. Please watch out for precise information on our church Facebook Page, adverts and notices. You will be very welcome to share with us in finding the peace of heart and mind, and the hope for the future, that the Easter Message of new life brings, as God's Love is revealed to us in the Risen Christ. **Peter Thornton**

CAMEO

We have been out and about mainly eating. We went to the Italian restaurant in Tiverton for lunch and to Fordmore farm and the antiques Nick Knacks in Kentisbeare for coffee. We had a trip to Cribbs Causeway for Christmas shopping. The skittles group went to the Pony and Trap in Cullompton. Christine won the cup and Brenda won the wooden spoon. The walking group went along the lanes from Samford Peverill to Uplowman and had lunch at the golf driving range. They had a Christmas tea at the Old Well. Members braved the wind and rain to meet at the hall for our November meeting. Due to the stormy weather, the speaker couldn't come so they had a cup of tea and a chinwag instead. In December, we went to Redwoods Inn, Uplowman where we had a superb Christmas dinner, followed by a secret Santa. The singles group went to Kay for their bring and share Christmas lunch, followed by a lucky dip.

January was our AGM. Peta reported on a very busy year with a variety of events and outings to suit everyone's taste. The committee will remain in place for this year and Valerie will be joining them. We need members to volunteer to stand next year. We welcomed two new members. Treasurer Christine said we had a healthy bank balance and were able to give a useful donation to the memory café at college surgery. Subs are due at the February meeting. Kay gave a vote of thanks to the committee who worked so hard for all of us. After a delicious bring and share supper, we witnessed the birth of a new girls pop group! Peta, Sonia and Christine gave a rendition of the song 'Sisters'. Watch out for their TV debut. We had a singsong and a raffle, which ended a great evening.

If you think you would like to come to one of our meetings, we meet in the hall on the first Thursday in the month at 7 pm, unless otherwise stated you will be welcomed. **Betty Penberthy**

SUDUKO. No. 96

U			T					P
O	C		F				L	T
	K	F	U					
E	F	L	O			T		
	O			E				L
			C			P	E	
	P			F				
		O			U	E	P	
				T	K		C	

SUDUKO This is the same as Sudoku but with letters instead of numbers. Each column and each square must Have one letter each.

Letters used CEFKLOPTU
Clue to middle line: **“Trouser receptacle replete”**

Solution in next magazine issue

THE PANTRY

We held our annual Santa day. A huge thank you to Stephen Little, the 'real' Father Christmas. We laughed, we smiled, we cried...Stephen really is magical.

Christmas hampers, we produced 52 full Christmas dinners, these were distributed in and around Willand.

The system we used worked really well, we will again in 2024 be using an 'opt in' process.

This year we will be holding various fund-raising events, jumble sales, afternoon tea. We will NOT be organising a village sale this year. If anyone would like to take this on, I'm happy to pass on our knowledge. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch. **Helen Jones** 07454 510 573

WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

If you would like to be more active in 2024 then please come along to Willand Tennis Club. It is a friendly club, located beside the Village Hall. We are always keen to welcome new members and both Adult and Junior membership rates are available at very competitive rates. All 4 courts can be booked by tennis members and the public all year for 'Pay & Play'. You can cancel your booking up to 24 hours before and obtain a full refund. For more details and to book a court, please look at our website: **www.willandtennisclub.co.uk**.

Booking and payment is only available online.

Junior level coaching with our club coach, Nigel Little, takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons (term time only). Minimum age for these sessions is 3 years. Adult coaching is also available either as a group or 1:1. Please contact Nigel on 07951140974 for more information.

Helen Richardson, Club Secretary.

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

Rehearsals are in full swing for our annual pantomime that we will be performing on **Thursday 15th Friday 16th and Saturday 17th February 2024** with doors open at 7pm each evening and 2pm on Saturday for the matinee.

This year we are bringing to you **“Sing a song a Sixpence”** A traditional style panto from a local writer who had a great response with Cinderella what Happened Next. You will notice the flyer inserted into this edition of your Magazine.

Let's start a spring feeling with something uplifting and entertaining with new costumes new cast and with upgraded lighting and sound for this panto, it will be new and even more exciting. (Oh yes it will)

As always, we would like to thank the good people of Willand who support us every year and in turn support local charities and organisations as a percentage of our ticket sales are donated each year to help so many good causes in Willand. Within the last year we have donated over £700 With donations going to **Willand Pantry** a fantastic volunteer run local charity and the ever-worthy **Devon Air Ambulance**.

New members have joined us this year and all will play some part in this Panto we are always open to anyone who wants to join and be a part of WiTS from backstage, to set design, costume design, front of house to treading the boards. We meet every Friday evening at the Village Hall at 7:30pm, why not pop along to see what we are about. Enquiries to: **witsthesecretary@gmail.com**.

Sam Fincher.

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Some people might think February is a quiet month when we hibernate and recharge our internal batteries ready for the Spring- but not for our members.

Those who can knit (both male and female) are busily knitting hats, scarves, gloves and Teddy Bear hand puppets for inclusion in our Shoeboxes at the end of the year.

We are providing a Warm Space every Thursday afternoon from 3 -5pm with hot drinks, free WiFi and various activities. Feel free to drop in.

Prospects, our worship specifically for people with learning difficulties is on Sunday 11 February from 3 – 5pm.

Shrove Tuesday, 13th February will see us flipping and serving pancakes with a wide selection of fillings, from 3 – 5pm.

We will be in the kitchen again on Saturday 17th February serving up hot soup, with a choice of sandwiches and desserts 12 -1.30pm. All of these events are free; but donations if offered, are for charities of our choosing.

Sunday Worship is every week at 10.30am; everyone will receive a warm welcome. **David and Joan Greet**

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MID DEVON SINGERS

As this is our first update of 2024, happy new year! Let's hope that this year brings us all peace, joy & happiness.

Hopefully you managed to catch one of our performances at the Christmas Fayres at Coldharbour Mill and the Hickory Inn.

We're looking at our 2024 performance calendar now, so if you're running a local event and would like to book us, please get in touch via email on info@mids.org.uk otherwise, be sure to keep an eye on our social media-feeds. for announcements.

Research shows that singing can be good for you on many levels – releasing endorphins which reduce stress and anxiety levels and contribute to a positive mental state, as well as promoting social bonding, contributing to a sense of belonging and joy. So, why not resolve to try us out this New Year? New members are always very welcome there are no auditions to join our friendly and sociable community choir, there's no charge for trying us out for a couple of weeks (membership subs are then a very reasonable £12.50 per month).

We rehearse every Friday evening during school term time at Halberton Village Hall, starting promptly at 7.15pm. The 2024 Spring term started on Friday 5th January and will run until 22nd March with a 2 week break for half term on 9th & 16th February (we're hoping to run a social event on 9th February).

If you would like to find out more, contact our Membership Secretary by email at membership@mids.org.uk. Don't forget to keep an eye on our social media feeds for general news & performance information:

Facebook [themiddevonsingers](#) Twitter/"X" [@MidDevonSingers](#)

Instagram [@middevonsingers](#). **Michael Cuthbertson.**

WILLAND SCHOOL NEWS

Recently, our previous headteacher, Mrs Hawkins, who has been teaching at Willand school for over 28 years, sadly retired in December 2023. Although it is very upsetting to see her leave, we are very grateful for our new headteacher, Miss Tottle. Despite her not being here very long, she seems to be fitting in wonderfully and all the students are very pleased to have her join our school.

Fundraising at our school is taken very seriously, especially by the school councillors who organise these events. One of our most recent fundraising events was for Children in Need. We had a bake off, which took place after school, alongside a popcorn sale (the popcorn was 20p) that happened the same day at breaktime. The full amount of money we raised was £414.71.

Our school is very passionate about reading. We have very supportive teachers who encourage us to read. Two of our teachers, Mrs Nisbet and Mrs Godfrey, are the heads of reading for Willand. We are currently working with the Open University on the promotion of reading for pleasure, and once a week, the whole school do many reading activities after lunch. We call this 'Book Club'.

We are looking forward to some fun events and activities. We plan to take part in the RSPB's Big Schools Bird Watch in the next few weeks. Year Two are going to visit the SS Great Britain in Bristol and Year Six are planning a visit to Coldharbour Mill in Uffculme. Both visits complement our history topics.



We love sport at Willand and on the 17th of January, we are taking part in a netball tournament at Cullompton Community College. There are lots of sport events taking place, but one of the important ones is the annual swimming gala. Our swimming gala is happening on the 7th of February at the Tiverton Leisure Centre. The team with the most points gets to pick two-year sixes (a boy

and a girl) to lift up the trophy and walk around the pool. We have been delighted to have won this competition several times and hope that we'll be lucky this year. **Phoebe, Lacy & Elliott**

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

First of all, we would like to thank Geri Holloway for getting in touch in response to our article in the last magazine, with some memories of the works of Albert Coles, better known as Jan Stewer: "I recall being told during my early years at Carr Cottage [in Willand old village] that Albert had once lived in the cottage two doors down from my home. His sojourn there must have been prior to my birth; in my day that cottage was occupied by an elderly Mr and Mrs Bass ... Over the years I have read all his Jan Stewer books, several of them borrowed in my teenage years in Willand from Derek Rowe's parents [at The Elms]. For me, one of the funniest was *Ole Biskit*, all about the author's car. What enormous pleasure Jan Stewer has given to people like me".

The History Group has received an enquiry from a descendent of the Oland/Olande family, who lived in Willand during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Unfortunately, apart from the odd mention in the surviving parish registers from that time, we cannot add much information other than to confirm that there is a grave memorial stone in the churchyard dedicated to a Henry Olande, who died in 1586 this being the earliest known burial marked by a memorial at St Mary's.

It was originally inside the church, laid flat on the floor of the north aisle, where Henry Olande's remains are presumably still buried, but the memorial was removed when the floor was resurfaced in 1972, and can now be found outside, in the grassy area to the right of the porch. Due to inevitable weathering, it is becoming more and more difficult to read the inscription: '*Here lyeth the body of Henrye Olande, Clothiere, who desessed the third day of Apryll in the yeare of our God 1 thousand and 586.*'

Henry Olande was a clothier at a time when the internationally important Devon cloth industry was still, just about, in its heyday. One contemporary

commentator, John Hooker, wrote in 1600 that, 'the wool of this county is the best commodity that this county doth field and which keepeth most part of the people in work'. The nearby towns of Tiverton and Cullompton were important centres for local cloth production, and recent research has revealed their significance within Europe-wide trading networks. As a clothier, Henry Olande would have controlled the production of cloth in and around Willand, supplying yarn to the home-based weavers, who usually owned their own looms, and who wove the yarn into cloth, returning the cloth to the clothier in return for the appropriate payment the cloth was then taken away to be dyed and finished. Although we do not know where he lived, we know that Henry Olande was living in Willand in 1581, because he is listed in the Lay Subsidy of that year, a national tax assessment on property owned, being either for land or 'goods'. Henry Olande was assessed on 'goods', probably material and items connected to his work as a clothier, and he was reasonably wealthy; in Willand, only the landowner William Binford was taxed more.

We also have a copy of Henry Olande's will, the original of which is in the National Archives, and this may well shed more light on his business and personal circumstances, but frustratingly it is written in difficult sixteenth century script, which is beyond our current skill-set, and so we have yet to complete a satisfactory transcription if there is anyone of you who can read secretary hand, we'd love to hear from you. The descendent who made this enquiry, Mr Dennis Oland, notes that the Olands had connections with other local parishes, including Uffculme, Culmstock and Halberton, before that branch of the family moved to Somerset, and then onwards to Canada in the 1860s adding to the worldwide Willand Diaspora.

Finally, we recently came across a short report in the local press from 130 years ago, in February 1894, on a talk given by a visiting vicar, extolling to the men of Willand the benefits of giving up alcohol and becoming teetotal: *'Strong Men and Strong Drink' was the subject of a temperance lecture given at the new schoolroom on Thursday evening by Rev. C.J. Valpy French, vicar of Escot. The rough inclement weather prevented a large attendance.*' (Or perhaps they were all down the pub?)

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

SHARE SHOP

News about a New community project we are setting up in Tiverton
The project is a Share Shop which will enable local people to borrow occasionally used items at a low cost. For example, pressure washers, carpet cleaners, party equipment.

The Share Shop is a Sustainable Tiverton project and will be run on a not-for-profit basis. The aim will be to create a community sharing hub which will help local people save money through borrowing rather than buying.

We hope to open in Feb 2024 and would like to raise awareness and attract volunteers. **Catherine Stott**

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WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE Gables Road

The Centre services have been disrupted over the last couple of months with bad weather and building works meaning that groups have either been cancelled or moved to the village hall. We are pleased to be back in since the 4th of January and hope to continue to grow once our new kitchens have been fitted.

Our Christmas Tea and Chat and Raffle was held in the Village Hall, and we would like to thank all of those who donated raffle prizes including **The Fry Station, Littles Coffee, Spearings the Trustees and the users WH&CC.**

Tea and Chat on the first Thursday 9.30 – 12 and the third Tuesday of the month 10 -12. There was a really successful session at the village hall in December followed by an equally successful one in January with new people joining us.

If you are concerned about your energy consumption, we have Nikki Woollatt from Exeter Community Energy coming along to our first Thursday tea and chat. She is happy to talk to people about energy saving practicalities and may be able to get you some help. You may also be able to catch up with one of our Parish Councillors at one of the sessions.

Book Swap on the fourth Wednesday of the month 10 - 11.30 why not come along and stock up on some reading material we have quite a big range of books to peruse.

If we had more volunteers, we would be able to open more often. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, then email: info@whacc.org.

We are holding a 60s and 70s Disco night at the Village Hall on the 24 February to raise some funds for the Centre. Tickets will be available from Willand Pharmacy and Willand Post office and at the tea and chat sessions. For more information see our poster in this magazine and in the usual places around the village. We hope to see you there.

There are groups run at the Centre by various people including a Craft Group, Pilates, Yoga and the U3A Quiz group. If you wish to book the Centre, you can see the availability by following the link from our Facebook page. **Gerri Taylor**

WILLAND VILLAGE HALL www.willandvillagehall.org.uk

Happy New Year to everyone. Let's hope the general economic climate improves in 2024, as well as the weather.

Thank you to WFDC for putting up the Christmas decorations in the Hall it looked very festive.

We had some work done on the drains before Christmas, as we were getting water in through the annexe door, which flooded the committee room. It seems to have worked, as we came through the recent heavy rain unscathed.



We are now back into our normal booking pattern. We have very few time slots available during the evenings and we continue to increase our bookings during the daytime. Some of our hirers, particularly those using the hall during school times, are sometimes finding it difficult to park. We are

happy to allow parents to use our car park to drop off and pick up children from school, but please do not park there during other times, unless you are actually hiring the hall.

If you haven't already used the Hall, please look at our online calendar just Google Willand Village Hall and go to Events Calendar. There are lots of different clubs and activities going on for all ages, from Tiny Tots to U3A groups. If you are at a loose end, why not try something new? Pilates, Seated Exercise, Bowls, Folk Dancing, Garden Club and lots of other activities are available.

Carol Allan Treasurer

NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL - EASTER STEAM DAY. Monday 1st April 10.30am – 4.30pm Book online in advance to receive 15% off your ticket price, or Email: info@coldharbourmill.org.uk Phone: 01884 840960 become a Coldharbour Mill Member and enjoy every Steam Day – and all other events FREE for a year **CRAFT WORKSHOPS AT THE MILL** 4-hour workshops: 11am – 3pm (inc. 45 min lunch break), £20 each. If you like to do crafts using yarns or textiles, do join one (or more!) of our popular Craft Workshops! All materials supplied. Places are limited so do book soon! To book online go to: <https://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/workshops/> or phone the Mill office. **Saturday 2nd March: ‘Easter Wreaths’ Workshop** Get in the Easter spirit by creating a spring wreath. **Susan Wasafi**

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS)

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

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.

Leaves: We gratefully receive Leaves which we cut up with our mowers and add to the shredded material for composting. However, we would be most grateful if you could check that the leaves you are going to deposit have no other items included that are not leaves. With particular regard to stones as they damage the mowers and can be a hazard.

We don't accept: Cordyline and Palm leaves as they cause both damage and time in clearing the shredding machine. **No Vegetation with soil attached. No labels or stones.**

Compost Sales:

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

The returning of your empty bags will be gratefully received.

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You are always welcome to drop into the site and have a chat with the volunteers. mail:willandcommunitycomposting@gmail.com

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