

REPORTS TO WILLAND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 10.03.2022

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

In 2021, after several years of relative dormancy, Willand History Group decided get more active again, with several activities planned for 2022.

We continue to collect material of all kinds and from all eras for the 'Willand Archive', the reorganisation of which is our first major task, with an 'Archive Day' planned for 14 May.

However, this year's programme revolves around our Queen's Jubilee Exhibition, planned for Thursday, 2 June (bank holiday), from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Club Room, Willand Village Hall, including a Jubilee Tea for all-comers at 4 p.m. The exhibition's display will be themed on Willand in the 1950s, plus a look at other Jubilees and celebrations, and considering a few of the changes that have happened in Willand over the last 70 years. While we are still looking to collect more photos or memorabilia to display, we would love people to bring items along on the day.

Other projects include work on a historic buildings and 'heritage asset' list for Willand, and we are currently involved in research in support of the Devon History Society's 'Devon in the 1920s' project. In August we plan to resurrect our annual parish walk, this year exploring the historic landscape to the north of Willand (starting and ending at the Halfway House). Plus, it's an ambition, with support, to eventually improve our online presence.

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every other month at 7 p.m. in the Annex Room, Willand Village Hall, (next meeting 19 April). We have a small membership and are keen to get more people involved, to secure the long term future of the group and to help us engage with more people, so new faces and new ideas are more than welcome!

James Morrison

Secretary,

Willand History Group

Email: jamorrison235@gmail.com

Tel.: 01884 250057

WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

As with most businesses, the past year has been difficult for Willand Rovers!

The 2020/21 football season was curtailed early due to further Government lockdown restrictions that were imposed in December 2020. This significantly restricted our matchday and hospitality venue operations and resulted in a considerable reduction in our income through the year.

We did however manage to reopen the club in May 2021 with Covid measures in place to protect our staff and visitors. We would like to thank everyone in Willand that supported us when we reopened: your attendance during the dark days of the pandemic last summer certainly made all our hard work in setting safe systems in place worthwhile.

We have had some noteworthy successful events since restrictions were eased: an event to raise funds for Willand man Kirk Frost's "Kindness for Kirk" charity; "live music" nights featuring local bands Bad Edukation & Electric Mayhem; one of our best attended Santa Runs for many years; a superb New Years Eve Party with the stunning rock tribute band K2.

On the footballing side, it looks like we may complete our first full season in the Southern Football League this year! This will be at our third year of trying, with both previous seasons having been abandoned early with all results expunged.

We have continued to upgrade and improve both our on-field and off-field facilities. To this end a team of dedicated volunteers has again worked tirelessly; projects of note this year are improvements to our covered spectator stands and redecoration of the interior of the club house. These improvements continue to enhance further the experience for all visitors, players and general community users of the Club.

We strive for the football club to be seen as a valuable community asset. 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.

The facilities that are available include a licenced bar, skittles alley and kitchen facilities: The clubhouse can be booked for parties, discos, live-band functions, christening celebrations, wakes, business meetings, skittles matches and for regular meetings of any local football or non-football club. Please email willandroversfc@outlook.com or call 01884 33885 for more details.

We can comfortably accommodate 150 guests at parties with a disco or live-band, and up to 100 guests at formal sit-down functions.

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!

I would close by thanking all the volunteers that give freely of their time to help manage and sustain the Club, the corporate and personal sponsors without whose generosity we would not be able to compete at the level we now play, the players and football management team for giving the village something to be proud of, and to our supporters who turn up in all weathers to support the players.

We would love to see some new faces at the Club, and we look forward to welcoming you and your families into our Silver Street home in the very near future: We're sure you will enjoy your visit.

Mike Hawkins

Vice Chairman, Willand Rovers Football Club

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY

Willand Theatrical Society has gone from strength to strength over the last couple of years, even with the untimely interruption of the Covid pandemic.

Following on from the successful pantomime of February 2020, The Little Mermaid Premier Night recording of the panto, had to be postponed until August 2021. At this gathering the club members chose the next pantomime to be performed in 2022.

Our committee carried on with zoom meetings when we were able, throughout lockdowns and in September 2021 we commenced the rehearsals for 'Cinderella - What Happened Next'. This was written by Alison Harris one of our own club members. The successful performances took place 25th & 26th February to larger audiences than we have had before. Thank you to all the people who came to see it and support us.

Our membership continues to grow, and we are always happy to welcome new members, as there are so many positions to fill when putting on a production. From backstage to on stage there is much support needed. If anyone is interested in joining us, we will be having our AGM on Friday 13th May 2022 7:30pm at Willand Village Hall. Alternatively, we can be contacted via the number in Willand Parish magazine or via our Facebook page. We look forward to your continued support and producing fun pantomimes for our growing audiences to enjoy.

David Keating - Chairman

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

During the past year we have moved from on-line worship to in-person worship again. In this it felt as though there was a deeper connection with God and with each other. Zoom services were invaluable during lockdown restrictions and are still available for those preferring them.

Social activities were severely curtailed but the church members made good use of their time working towards being an Eco church. Having already installed solar panels on the roof we gradually changed all our cleaning materials to more eco- friendly products and buy fair trade goods wherever possible. We achieved a bronze award from A Rocha UK and are now working towards a silver award. We are fortunate to have land surrounding the church so we have installed bird feeders, bug houses and a hedgehog house to support the local wildlife. Having planted 100 daffodil bulbs in our new border, we are looking to plant lavender for the summer and buddleia for the pollinators. To further provide for community use we are looking to provide a seat within the garden.

Our Christian mission to care for the poor and vulnerable led us to provide a cupboard just outside the gate for public use. It is envisaged that anything no longer required by one individual may be useful to another so items ranging from books to DVDs, saucepans to tea towels, can and are finding new homes from there. This is an accessible recycling drop off point for the whole community.

Our ministry included filling and donating over 100 shoeboxes for distribution in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria & Ukraine. Our bi-monthly creative worship "Prospects" for people with a Learning Disability has restarted and is greatly valued and enjoyed by those taking part. This especially when so many other provisions have been lost. We are looking to restore community relationships in the next year with Coffee mornings, Soup lunches and other social activities.

Our building is also used by several other secular organisations. For Music, Art and Learning. We have some spaces available so let us know if we can accommodate your group too.

WILLAND SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

After a near 2 year interlude we finally restarted in July 2021. Although we had lost a few members during the prolonged lockdown we managed to obtain sufficient members to return to normal activities and have since gained several new members. Some who had

never played before. We are still able to accept old and new members to the sport on our normal Wednesday evenings.

John Crocker, Secretary.

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31.12.21

The objects of Willand United Charities is the prevention or relief of poverty in the area of the parish of Willand by providing: grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or charities, or other organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.

During the course of the year the Trustees met once via zoom and also conducted business on various occasions by email. Since the end of the Covid restrictions business now needs to be conducted in person as according to our constitution.

The Charities received income from a donation, investments and rent from the Allotment Field amounting to £1888.27.

The Charities were able to support parishioners and contribute towards the repair of The Pantry roof following storm damage. Donations amounted to £2000.

During the year the Charities wrote to the Charity Commission to clarify the constitutional arrangements of the Charities and the possibility of registering the Charities as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The Commission forwarded the documentation they hold which includes a constitution dated 11 February 1908. The Trustees decided to maintain the existing constitution for now but will review this during the year.

The Charities welcomes applications for grants according to our objects. Applications can be made by contacting the Chair or Kate Taylor our Clerk.

Rev Simon Talbot
Chair of Trustees

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

Cameo is a ladies group which meets in Willand Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. The evening starts with a speaker on a wide range of topics. This is followed by tea/coffee and a quiz or games.

We have outings, coffee mornings and lunches.

There is a Walking group and a Singles group.

Each year we support a different local charity which we hold fundraising events for.

New members are always welcome.

Pat, Secretary

WILLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The last twelve months have been a difficult period for the school. The children returned to face to face education in March 2021 and whilst many were delighted to get back to their learning and their friends, a significant number have been more challenged by the routines and stamina needed for a whole day in school. Some have also become far more anxious and we have been supporting a much higher number of children with their emotional well-being.

In the third week of September we had a visit from Ofsted. The school had not been inspected since 2006 and sadly the inspectors deemed the school 'Requiring Improvement' for a number of reasons including inconsistencies in early reading, spelling and delivery of special needs. Obviously, the staff have been devastated by this. Having had to adapt to so much in the past two years, they would have appreciated a little more time to get the school back to its normal ways of working and high standards. The leadership team had already identified reading as the highest priority for the year but had not yet had enough time to implement their plans and fulfil all the training needs for staff who had been absent. The whole team is now working hard to address all the areas identified so when Ofsted return next academic year, they can see the impact of the work.

The second half of the autumn term and the first half of the spring term have been the biggest challenge of all as Covid has swept through the school. With so many staff away, this has proved the most testing part of the pandemic as we seek to support the children to catch up with their education. Thankfully, however, for the most part everyone has recovered and there have not been too many residual side effects. We hope the second half of this term will be more stable.

Throughout the pandemic, the Parish Council has been wonderfully responsive and supportive. It has been very much appreciated.

Anne Hawkins
Headteacher



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

2022 Chairman's Report to Parish Meeting

This is our first Parish Meeting since the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. That saw us having remote meetings and then using the Church Hall before we could return to the Village Hall. We were able to work with residents who suggested the setting up of a village helpline which proved to be a great help to some.

We hope that we have kept the village informed as to what has been going on in the interim with the publication of minutes of the meetings, website, Facebook and the Willand Magazine.

We have had one major change in our organisation in that we have changed our Clerk due to the retirement of Kate Taylor and the appointment of Barbara Bodkin. We have a full complement of Councillors at the moment although we have lost some of the older faces and welcomed in some new ones and the return of one member.

The precept has been set for this year and although the costs of wages for our Clerk and Litter Picker and contractors costs have risen, our precept will have arisen very little due to extra houses within the village.

We continue to look after the facilities within the village and are in the process of taking on a lease for the Chestnut Drive play area as MDDC were going to close it. We have been able to agree a substantive financial package which will allow a refurbishment of the area. With S106 monies to come from the new development off Meadow Park we hope to be able to facilitate more improvements within the Jubilee Field and elsewhere in the village.

To all those involved with organisations around the village who work to provide many activities in the village I say a big thank you. It is these volunteers who go toward making our community what it is. Thank you all.

Councillor Barry Warren