

WILLAND MAGAZINE

February & March 2025



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	Barbara & Graham Bodkin	willandccs24sec@outlook.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

Rachel Gilmore	(M.P)	rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk	
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
Sue Leach	(Councillor)	sue.leach@willand-pc.org.uk	07732 952829
Sam Sycamore	(Councillor)	sam.sycamore@willand-pc.org.uk	07429 266786
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

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National Express Coach Services	0371 781 818
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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
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Western Power Distribution (Power Cuts etc)	105 Or 0800 6783 105
South West Water	0344 346 2020
Street Lighting/Highways	0345 155 1004

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Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.25am - 12.25pm

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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

WILLAND WEBSITE

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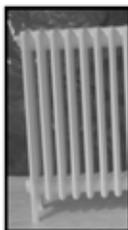
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Let's leave behind the past and embrace the opportunities ahead. Happy New Year 2025. Life is a journey, and every New Year is a chance to take the next step towards your dreams. Wishing you a happy and fulfilling 2025.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I hope that you have all survived Christmas and can now wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

In spite of the odd cases of negativity, usually on social media, we have a good and caring community in Willand and so I thought that I would start with some positive thoughts if I may. Please feel free to join me and share anything that I have missed. Some say, 'What are the Parish Council going to do?' but as will be seen the Parish Council is only one element of our village and the community itself has a number of members who innovate and lead from the front and set example.

Firstly, we have had the Christmas lights up through the main road in the village. Some have been critical and negatively compared us with Uffculme and Cullompton. They have one advantage over Willand in that they have a central square or the main street to start from. The Parish Council organise the lights, we do not have a community volunteer lights committee as they do in Uffculme and we added two more lampposts with lights this year. If we were to have more lights or different types of lights this would add to the cost of the Precept which the community pay. Having said that a number of businesses and organisations make donations to offset the cost. We thank them for their support and their details are recorded elsewhere in the magazine and their involvement has already been recognised on the website and social media pages.

A number of residents also put on Christmas light displays at their homes and invited the community to come and see what they had done. On top of this they collected monies for local projects or services such as the Pantry and Air Ambulance. The Air Ambulance covers the County, but Willand has its own landing site, even in the dark, on the Jubilee Field off of Gables Lea. It was great to see the article, with photographs, in the Tiverton Gazette showing some of the 'private' displays. Thank you for doing your bit for the community.

The Pantry in Gables Road prepared numerous free hampers to give people a good Christmas dinner and these also included the odd extra treat. Apart from those who work hard for the Pantry all year round they were supported with cash and goods donated by other residents who are more fortunate than some. Again, some local businesses generously donated food items. Some of the volunteers from the Pantry plus a number of others, at quite short notice, put on a meal and get together in the Village Hall on Christmas Eve for some 40 plus people who were expected to be on their own over Christmas.

A food company provided a lot of the food for free and then a couple of local businessmen made sure that each person had a present on the day. Thank you to all involved in these projects.

We have volunteers running the Youth Club, the Village Hall, the Gables [WHCC] coffee and chat and book swap get togethers. Our two Churches put on various events for the community. We have our own Composting site, allotments, Cameo, Garden Club and many more which I am bound to get told off for forgetting. How many villages have their own theatre group, football club or tennis club? Let us continue to be positive about our community and even more of us get involved or support. I for one will have to stop saying 'I'm going over to see the old dears at the WHCC coffee morning' because my wife has reminded me that I am older than some who attend. Life goes on and long may we enjoy it.

By the time you read this I am hoping that the various additions to play and fitness equipment will be up and ready for use in the Jubilee Field, Chestnut Drive and Orchard Way. Please enjoy it all, look after it and respect it. It is for all those in the community who would like to use it. These improvements have cost the village nothing in cash terms as it has come from the developers of the site off Meadow Park. I cannot see me doing pull ups or climbing the poles any time soon, but I am quite happy to watch and encourage others.

There are about 60 of the houses on the new development which are now occupied, and they are now on the magazine circulation list with volunteers arranging distribution. Welcome to our new residents and please feel free to join in our various activities.

On the negative side of life, we are a developing community but our infrastructure and services are diminishing. Some years ago we lost our dentist. The doctors surgery closed during the pandemic and it will not reopen now as planning permission has been given for the surgery in South View to be turned into a house. We still have lots of potholes or bad surfacing on a number of our roads. Devon County Highways have put clearing up the footpath out to the garage on their list of things to do but not sure when it will happen. Hopefully there will be action on this front as the firms working on the motorway resurfacing are conscious of the fact that their works has caused problems for the village with extra traffic. They have offered to do some work for the benefit of our community, and we have asked them to see what they can achieve with the footpath and if they have time some other works. At the time of my writing this they hope to start on the 13th of January 2025. Fingers crossed.

There will be new contractors looking after the Cemetery and the small play areas and so there may be some teething problems. If you spot something wrong or are not happy with something please bring it to the attention of the Clerk. We will also be starting with a new 'handyman' and so again tolerance and help would be appreciated if required.

There are still some vacancies on the Parish Council if you feel that you can give of your time. The main requirement is a two-hour meeting once a month and some reading/preparation at home beforehand. Please think about helping the community and contact the Clerk to find out more.

The budget for running the Parish has been worked out and our part has gone up very little on last year – there will be a reduction of 15p per annum for a Band D house as the number of properties in the Village has increased with the development at Meadow Park and therefore the Precept is spread over more houses. There is a breakdown of the Budget elsewhere in the magazine.

The Neighbourhood Plan will hopefully be the subject of a referendum on the 27th of February and we hope you will all participate. A lot of work has gone into this but there will be a separate article on the subject elsewhere. Thank you to all who participated in all the consultations and carried out the work to achieve the final document.

Please take an interest in what is happening in our village. Apart from the magazine there is the website and the Facebook Page. The website has reached the end of its useful lifespan and updates are needed to comply with changes in legislation and regulations. It will mean some disruption so patience will be required please. There is a more detailed article about this elsewhere in the magazine. All are welcome to meetings of the Parish Council. All ideas are welcome because after all it is YOUR community. **Barry G J Warren Chairman**

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL – NEW WEBSITE AND CHANGE OF EMAILS

Willand Parish Council's new website will be going live shortly. The website will be a .gov website, which is for Government departments and Councils only, with a new website address of **www.willand-pc.gov.uk** rather than the current .org website. The new website is more user friendly and easier to navigate. This also means our email addresses will be changing from .org emails to .gov emails, so the Clerk's new email address will be **clerk@willand-pc.gov.uk**. Please look out for the "go live" date on our Facebook page, which will be shared with other local Facebook groups. We will provide an update in the next magazine

CAMEO

2024 saw Cameo ladies enjoying many events including, trips, lunches, coffee mornings, walks and singles get-togethers. Ending with an excellent Christmas meal at the Redwoods Inn in Uplowman. We had many and varied interesting speakers and learnt a lot.

2025 will continue the same way so there is a lot to look forward to. We meet on the first Thursday of the month 7pm at Willand Village Hall. Why not give us a try. New members always welcome. **Pat Sanderson Secretary.**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

Happy New Year to all Willand Residents & theatre goers.

Another exciting year ahead for WiTS

New members have joined us again this year as we go from strength to strength. Our upcoming Pantomime is **ROBIN HOOD**. We will be performing the annual Pantomime on **Thursday 20th and Friday 21st of February @7:30pm** Also **Saturday 22nd February @2:30pm and 7:30pm**. Look out for advertisements on social media. Also, there is a flyer in this Magazine. New songs, Jokes & Costumes, new faces, sets and storyline we can't wait to run this show for your enjoyment.

PANTOMIME 2025

ROBIN HOOD

We are always open to new members who may like to try something like this. If you may be interested please contact witsthesecretary@gmail.com to find out more. Even if you don't want to jump in at the deep end and tread the boards as they say. We feel sure you will have talents that we can use with backstage, set design, make-up, props and all the things that are needed for a successful show. Let out your inner self, express yourself with creativity, and most of all have fun. We meet every Friday evening at Willand Village Hall @7.30pm feel free to pop in and see what we are about. **Sam Fincher**

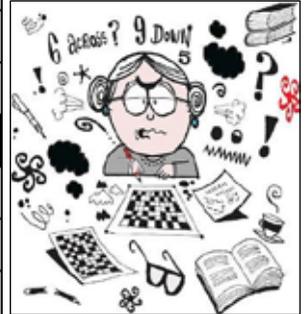
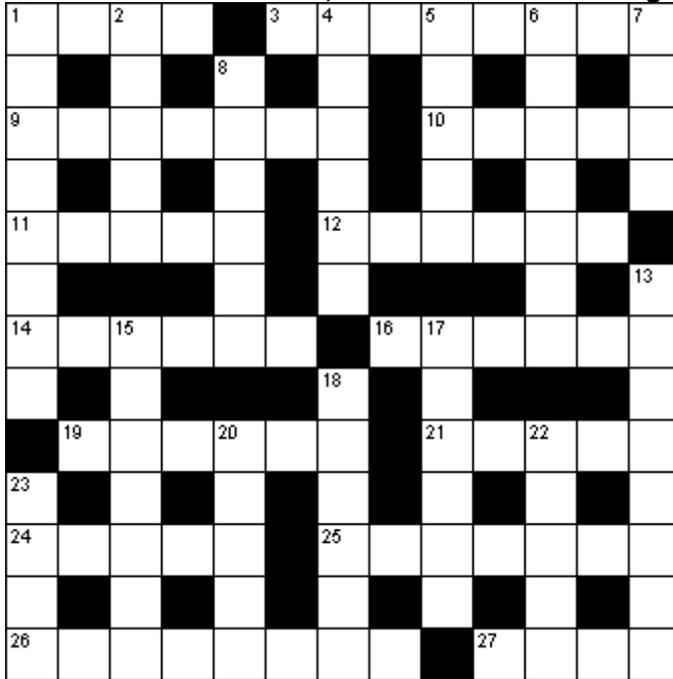
WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR EVENTS

Bookswap	3 rd Monday	6.00pm
Tea & Chat	3 rd Tuesday	10.00am
U3A Gardening Group	4 th Tuesday	2.00pm
Yoga with Lisa	Tuesday	6.00pm
Bookswap	3 rd Wednesday	10.00am
Pilates with Sarah	Wednesday	6.30pm
Dragonfly Crafts	Wednesday	7.00pm
Tea & Chat	1 st Thursday	9.30am
Pilates with Sarah	Fridays	9.15am

VILLAGE HALL REGULAR BOOKINGS

U3A Gaming	2nd Monday	10.30pm
U3A Art in Action	2 nd & 4 th Monday	1.30pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5.30pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7.00pm
Pilates with Ellie	Tuesday	9.30am
U3A Quilting Group	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays	9.30am
Move it or Lose it	Tuesday	2.00pm
Gymnastics Club	Tuesday	4.00pm
Cowgirl Twisters	Tuesday	7.30pm
Tiny Tots (Term Time)	Wednesday	9.30am
U3A Craft Group	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	9.30am
Pilates with Ellie	Wednesday	5.30pm
Flower Arranging	Wednesday	1.15pm
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7.00pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7.30pm
Pilates with Ellie	Thursday	9.30am
University of the Third Age U3A	1 st 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	8.00pm
Parish Council Meetings	2 nd Thursday	7.00pm
Zumba	Friday	9.30am
WiTS	Friday	7.30pm
U3A Quiz	1 st & 3 rd Fridays	10.30am
Craft Market	Saturday Bi-Monthly	1.00pm
Cowgirl Twisters	Saturday (Monthly)	7.30pm
Folk Dance	Saturday (Monthly)	8.00pm
Karate	Sundays	10.00am
Marshall Arts	Sundays	5.15pm

Quick Crossword for You, Answers later in this magazine.



Across

- 1 Jason's ship (4)
- 3 Begin (8)
- 9 Lingered (7)
- 10 Homer Simpson's wife (5)
- 11 Fracture (5)
- 12 Very dirty (6)
- 14 Conan Doyle's detective (6)
- 16 Threefold (6)
- 19 Saw eye to eye (6)
- 21 Make sure (5)
- 24 Tarka, for example (5)
- 25 Get better (7)
- 26 Shortened (8)
- 27 Colouring substances (4)

Down

- 1 German motorway (8)
- 2 Eat gluttonously (5)
- 4 Fall asleep (3,3)
- 5 Language of Sri Lanka (5)
- 6 Zeppelin, for example (7)
- 7 At all times (4)
- 8 Inconstant (6)
- 13 Devil-may-care (8)
- 15 Not so heavy (7)
- 17 Cooking instructions (6)
- 18 Hold in high regard (6)
- 20 Went astray (5)
- 22 Hard dark wood (5)
- 23 Deep unconsciousness

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Willand Parish Council is putting forward a Neighbourhood Plan for Willand. We have worked on this in consultation with villagers over a long period. It is based on what you have told us is good about Willand, and what you think would make it even better. After we put villagers' views into a Plan Mid-Devon had to be asked for comment, and then it had to be checked over by an independent inspector. That is all, at last, complete. The Inspector commented "My compliments to the local community volunteers and Willand Parish Council, who have produced a concise and locally relevant Plan."

It is a legal document It will have considerable weight in the planning process for Willand, so the Government requires that as a final step there must be a majority vote of villagers for the Plan in a referendum.

We heard that the overall vision of villagers for Willand is that we should keep and build our separate identity; strengthen our facilities and our considerable community strengths both as a rural and as a mixed community; that we should plan for and build up a sustainable future for ourselves and our families; and that we should increase the opportunities to engage with our rural surroundings.

The Plan includes a lot of proposals which have come out of our consultations over the last few years. We have grouped them into seven topics. In no particular order these are Sustainable Development, Community, Green Infrastructure, Transport Accessibility and Connectivity, Economy and Employment, Heritage, and Housing.

You can see the plan and details of the referendum on Mid Devon District Council's (MDDC) website at:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/willand-neighbourhood-plan>.

There will be a paper copy in St Mary's Church, which is open every day, and at the Post Office. If you would like a paper copy to look at or have any questions or comments then you can contact me, and I or another person involved will be pleased to be in touch.

Most important – MDDC are holding the referendum in the Village Hall on **Thursday 27th February**. They will be sending you a Poll Card. Please come and vote. Cllr Stephen Little: **stephen.little@willand-pc.org.uk**, 07795 821476





WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2025-26

Below is the precept requested by Willand Parish Council for the year April 2025 to March 2026. The Parish Council carefully considered the current income and expenditure which enables it to carry out the things it must do within the Parish and those that improve the village for everyone. The percentage rise is 2.43%, equating to a reduction of 15p per annum on a Band D Property, this is because the number of properties in Willand has increased following the completion of part of the development at Fox Mill Gardens (Meadow Park), which means that the Precept is spread over a larger number of properties than in the previous year.

The income figures are based on our known income for the year. We have received generous donations from local businesses towards the Christmas lights in recent years, but this is not guaranteed income so cannot be factored in. Money has also been secured from Devon County Council towards the cost of verge cutting, which has been included in our income figure, and grant funding was obtained towards weed spraying this last financial year, but that grant funding is not guaranteed for this coming year and so cannot be budgeted for.

The Capital expenditure budget has been reduced for next year as we will have completed much of the development of the play areas we manage, however there will still be costs for repair and replacement of items and any further development when needed that have been budgeted for in the play area budget and from monies held in reserves. Within the Capital budget there are now funds allocated instead for local community projects that will benefit the village.

Our contractual costs increase annually in-line with inflation and we have appointed new contractors for the cemetery and some of the play areas as well as a new handyman, and these costs are factored into the precept.

Total income expected £18,792

Total expenditure predicted £97,210

Precept requested £78,418 (difference between income & expenditure)

Precept 2024/2025 was £76,555

Increase for Willand £1,863

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2025-26

Cost Centre	2023-24 Actuals	2024-25 Budget	Actuals as at Dec 2024	2024-25 Year End Forecast	2025-26 Budget
INCOME					
Precept	74,297	76,555	76,555	76,555	78,418
Allotment Income	2,282	2,437	2,292	2,292	2,463
Bank Interest	3,439	500	1,862	4,620	700
Cemetery Income	7,820	3,650	5,655	6,855	5,500
Magazine Income	4,891	5,000	4,494	4,629	5,000
DCC - Urban Grass Cutting	4,835	4,980	4,980	4,980	5,129
Totals	97,564	93,122	95,838	99,931	97,210
EXPENDITURE					
Allotment Expenditure	1,401	2,437	2,099	2,399	2,463
Bank Charges	0	0	0	15	60
Capital	22	11,100	1,670	4,282	8,000
Cemetery Expenditure	2,572	7,592	5,281	6,801	6,108
Donations	110	360	260	360	500
Grounds Maintenance	13,033	15,153	13,204	14,652	17,438
Magazine Expenditure	6,605	6,800	5,010	6,260	6,800
Office Admin	5,409	7,926	3,251	5,591	6,670
Play Area Inspections & Equipment	1,938	5,350	1,530	2,230	5,000
Staff	26,389	27,089	18,831	26,754	35,450
Village Services	6,701	9,315	7,077	8,665	8,722
Totals	64,180	93,122	58,213	77,009	97,210

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OPENING TIMES A quick reminder that the site is open on **Wednesdays** and **Sundays**, 10.00am – 12 noon.

WE ACCEPT Green Garden waste, such as fresh grass & hedge clippings, prunings that can be cut with secateurs up to 1 inch diameter. Also, flowers, vegetables & plants. **PLEASE ENSURE ALL LABELS, STONES, EXCESS SOIL HAS BEEN REMOVED BEFORE DONATING YOUR GREEN WASTE FOR COMPOSTING.**

LEAVES We gratefully receive leaves, which must be clean and free from stones/other objects please.

WE DON'T ACCEPT Cordyline and Palm leaves as they can block or damage the shredding machine.

COMPOST TO BUY Sieved compost (with next to no twigs) costs £2.50 per bag. Un-sieved waste costs £2.50 per wheelbarrow. If required, we have a wheelbarrow for you to use – just ask.

THE RETURN OF EMPTY BAGS FOR RE-USE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

COME AND VISIT US WCCS is run by a small group of volunteers, and we're always pleased to see people who would like to know more about what we do and we would welcome new members to the team. If you'd like to find out more please call in at the WCCS site (in the corner of the Willand Allotments) during opening hours or email our secretaries.

AND FINALLY, SOME GOOD NEWS We are delighted to report that WCCS has received funding towards the purchase of new PPE items and tools. Willand Parish Council and DCC Locality Budget (supported by Cllr Radford) have each awarded grants of £265 for which WCCS members are extremely grateful.

Barbara & Graham Bodkin, email: willandccs24sec@outlook.com



CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, GABLES ROAD

Firstly, we wish you all well for this New Year and hope it brings light to you and your family, with good health and God's blessing on your pathway ahead.

Christmas for us at the Chapel, was all about being available and to assist, those who might not be having as festive a time as were, well most of us!

So, we started off in November by sending our filled shoeboxes to Eastern Europe. We sincerely thank those individuals and other Churches who helped make them total 238. Then we had our Christmas Sale with the Scouts, our "Prospect's Party" for Disabled People, and joined together with many of you, from the Village Organisations, Church and School, to sing Carols in the Village Hall. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send £400 to C.H.A.T. This is the charity for homeless people in Mid Devon.

Several of you joined us for a Special Christmas Free Light Lunch and also at our own various Carol Services. In all, we sang nearly 50 different Carols, through the Christmas Season! With, as appropriate, sensitivity, gusto, joy and Love!

Our "Christmas Card in Lieu Fund" was sent to the Salvation Army and the gifts you put in our "Cupboard" at the Chapel Gate, were, I know, really appreciated by other families, not just here in Willand but by those who work here, especially those from Eastern Europe.

So, another year is opening up now and as we look forward, we offer the community a **"Warm Space" every Thursday afternoon throughout January + February from 3-5pm** with games, jigsaws, Wi-Fi, dominoes, painting, wordsearch and much more for all ages. Warmed by the heating, warmed by the hot drinks and warm snacks and warmed by the company.

Our usual **Soup and Something free lunch, will be on Saturday 15th February from 12-2pm.** and the bi-monthly **coffee morning will be on Friday 21st March 10.30-12.** There is no charge for any of these events and everyone is welcome. They all provide another WARM WELCOME to all.

Our much-anticipated **Pancake Party this year is on Tuesday 4th March 3-5pm**, where you will be served pancakes, and you can choose the fillings yourselves. Here we do ask please for a donation, for the Methodist's children's charity Action for Children.

Our Prospect's **worship group for disabled people, will meet on Sunday February 2nd at 3pm.** If anyone you know, might be interested in any of these activities then please just turn up on the day.

We of course always meet for **Worship every Sunday morning at 10.30am.** We are delighted to have had several new faces worship with us recently and on Sunday February 16th at 10.30am with our superintendent minister, we'll fittingly, welcome and unite them, as part of our Fellowship.

Perhaps you might like to join us too. We'd be pleased to see you.

Every Blessing, **Joan Greet. Steward.**

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

We have had another good year in the centre with our usual community events that are always well supported. They would be impossible to run without our brilliant team of volunteers. So, I would like to thank them all for their continued time and support.

We held a successful Country music disco in November a good time was had by all.

At our last Coffee and Chat in December we held our annual Christmas raffle. We would like to thank The Fry Station, Little's Coffee and Di Gudgeon for donating raffle prizes.

In preparation for Christmas, we held a session to create a table centre piece, Di Gudgeon a talented florist and author volunteered her time to organise and run the workshop and it was enjoyed by all who attended.

Anyone who would like to join us on the 30th of January at 10.00am there will be a presentation called Stop Scams from a member of AGE UK coffee and biscuits will be provided. Look out for reminders on our Facebook page.

If you would like to join our team of Volunteers or become a Trustee, please contact us on **info@whacc.org.uk**

February Tea and Chat sessions are Thursday 6th 9.30 -12.00 and Tuesday 18th 10.00-12.00

March Tea and Chat sessions are Thursday 6th 9.30-22112.00 and Tuesday 18th 10.00-12.00

February Books Swap Monday 17th 18.30-19.30 Wednesday 26th 10-11.30.

March Book Swap Monday 17th 18.30-19.30 Wednesday 26th 10.00-11.30.

We are looking forward to a busy and happy 2025. **Gerri Taylor**

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities was established in the early 20th century and was formed from a number of 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 United Charities.

At a recent meeting of the Charity Trustees we realised that there may be people in Willand who are finding it difficult to make ends meet with the increase in general living costs and the disappearance of the heating allowance for many pensioners. If a small grant would make a big difference during these winter months to you or someone you know then please contact the charity by using our email address **unitedcharities@whacc.org.uk** or contact one of the trustees to receive an application form.

The current Trustees are Stephen Little, Neil James, Jason Scott, Kate Taylor and the Rector. **Kate Taylor (Trustee)**

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

Towards the end of last year our Chairman, John Crocker, who was one of our original members, stepped down after many years of service, and we would like to thank him sincerely for all has done for the History Group. Together with a general trend towards falling membership, it has left us to seriously question the viability of the Group's long-term future. Therefore, at our November meeting we put serious thought into whether it was time to call it a day, whilst also considering various options to somehow keep the History Group going. I am pleased to report that the meeting went well, with remaining members unanimously pledging to keep the Group going, certainly for the next year, in an attempt to build on what we have, gather more interest, new members, and hopefully secure a happier future, but for that to happen we will need the help and support of our community.

As a bit of background, Willand History Group was formed in 2001 following a talk given by the county archaeologist, at the Halfway House in December 2000, where he encouraged us to investigate the history and archaeology of our parish. From those early days our main objective has been to study the history of Willand, its buildings and landscape, its people, groups and organisations, and its place within the surrounding region. This has been done through original research and discussion, and we have communicated what we have found through meetings, exhibitions, publications and other activities. Our most significant achievement has been publication of *The Book of Willand: From Domesday to Millennium* back in 2007. We have also gathered and continue to care for the Willand Archive, a diverse collection of original documents, maps, photos, books and objects, plus accumulated research, much of it kindly donated to us, and covering hundreds of years of Willand's past, right up to the present day.

Perhaps we have been less active over recent years, not least due to the changing outside commitments of existing members, but, when we can, we continue to engage in core group activities, holding periodic meetings, dealing with genealogical and local history queries, providing articles for the Parish Magazine, contributing an article to the Parish Magazine, collecting items for the archive and carrying out new research. Most recently, members have collated and transcribed Willand's 1921 Census returns.

Our next step, through 2025, is to promote the Group's presence and role in the community, with the aim of recruiting more members. So, we would love to hear from you if you are interested and able to help in any way, or just if you have an interest in local history and would like to be kept informed. If you do have a little extra time to give in support of group activities and organisation, you would be most welcome. It might be helping us with new research, or getting new projects going, or perhaps you have some computer skills and could help us create an online presence, maybe with a modest website or through social media.

Perhaps you could have some archiving or document preservation skills that you could share: the Willand Archive is in need of reorganisation, with proper cataloguing and conservation techniques introduced for the most valuable material. We would welcome all levels of experience or commitment, and we are open to new ideas and new directions, but we need assistance in putting them into action.

We plan to discuss options further at our next meeting on Tuesday, 11 February 2024, at 7pm, in The Annex of Willand Village Hall – non-members are more than welcome (with no expectation to commit or join!). We are also planning a Willand Archive Open Morning at The Annex, on a Saturday, possibly in May – arrangements to be confirmed – to show everyone what we have in the archive, and to encourage people to bring along their own items of interest. For more information on any of the above, please do get in touch on the email and telephone number below (if you leave a message, I will try my best to get back to you as soon as I can. After all, Willand History Group has achieved over the years, and after the hard work and contributions that have been put in by so many from our community, it would a great pity if the History Group were to slowly fade away. However, with your help, we will do our best to make sure it has a solid future.

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

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Petals & Pins: Craft a Beautiful Flower Brooch - Wed 19th March: 11am –3pm
 £30 **Woven Wall Hangings:** Wed 26th March: 11am – 3pm £30

VOLUNTEERING

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COLIN BRITTON

I run a small musical group in Willand mainly for people with memory problems but open to anyone. We sit and sing and play well known songs and basically chat and socialise generally. We meet alternate Thursdays at 2pm in Willand Church Hall. We have about 15 members but unfortunately we are all old and for some it’s not possible for them to get out anymore. We could really do with a few new members who like singing, you do not have to play an instrument. If you think you might be interested email me colinbritton951@yahoo.com or if you don’t do email ring me on 01884 841434.

Answers to the January Crossword

1	A	R	G	O		3	I	N	I	T	I	A	T	7
	U		O		8	F		O		A		I		V
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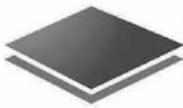
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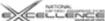
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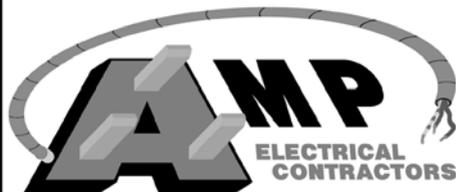
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