

WILLAND MAGAZINE

April & May 2025



LOCAL NEWS : LOCAL EVENTS : LOCAL CONTACTS

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WILLAND PARISH ORGANISATIONS

		<i>Secretary/Contact</i>
Allotment Holders	Sylvia Statham	peterandsylviastatham@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	peterandsylviastatham@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@methoodist.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
Rector	Rev Ben Maynard ben.culmvalleychurches@outlook.com	07777 177112
Cullompton Community College		33364
Uffculme School		840458
Willand Pre-School		33711
Willand Primary School		820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolptfa@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)	jpynton@middevon.gov.uk	07834 869284
Parish Council Website www.willand-pc.org.uk			
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.gov.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.gov.uk	07795821476
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.gov.uk	07496 113135
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.gov.uk	07971 808423
Andrea Glover	(Councillor)	andrea.glover@willand-pc.gov.uk	07908 734368
Neil James	(Councillor)	neil.james@willand-pc.gov.uk	07733 083158
Jason Scott	(Councillor)	Jason.scott@willand-pc.gov.uk	07818 045215
Helen Jones	(Councillor)	helen.jones@willand-pc.gov.uk	07454 510573
Sue Leach	(Councillor)	sue.leach@willand-pc.gov.uk	07732 952829
Sam Sycamore	(Councillor)	sam.sycamore@willand-pc.gov.uk	07429 266786
Stevie Anne Hutter	(Councillor)	stevie.hutter@willand-pc.gov.uk	07710226139
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Debbie Bird	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.gov.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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OPENING HOURS:

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SATURDAY
08.00-12NOON



Hope you are Prepared for Easter. Please take note that the email addresses for your representatives on the Parish council have been changed (Page 1) should you need to contact them.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT

When someone registers an account with the social media platform X (formally Twitter) they are asked to give a brief description of themselves. Some examples are very straight forward like Roger Federer who simply says, "professional tennis player". Some people go for a more inspirational approach like Usain Bolt who declares "Anything is possible, I don't think limits." Others are a bit more off the wall, like the American actress Kaley Cuoco who states, "in my next life I want to come back as one of my dogs. They live nicely". If you had to describe who you are in one sentence, I wonder what you would say.

In the Bible, in Matthew 11:29, Jesus describes himself in one sentence. He says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." In 1st century, Near Eastern language, the heart represented the centre of a person. Jesus is therefore saying that at the very core of who he is, he is gentle and humble. Jesus' yoke is his teaching and the way that of life that he calls people to join, by leaving behind what's not important, or even damaging, and walking with him. In the farming world of the day, a yoke was the wooden crosspiece that connects two animals to a plough. The farmer would choose an older and stronger ox and yoke it with a younger inexperienced animal. The older ox would take most of the weight and the younger one would be free to learn the new way of life. For Christians, Jesus is like that older ox, in that he takes our burdens upon himself and shares his life with us. In the 3rd verse of the famous hymn, How Great Thou Art, Carl Boberg wrote

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing.
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.
that on a cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin

This month, in our churches, we will be celebrating the great event that this Hymn speaks about so eloquently. On Good Friday we will remember the cross where Jesus died, taking the burden of all the world's brokenness; all the things that stop us from being fully alive and fully human upon himself and died to take away its stifling hold. On Easter Sunday we will celebrate the resurrection and the new existence into which he invites us to step; where freedom from those burdens is a reality and the new way of Christ's teaching proves to be light and life giving. If you are around over Easter, please do come and join us in St Mary's as we celebrate this wonderful event and seek to encounter the one who is humble and gentle in heart. **Rev Ben Maynard**

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The year is moving on at pace and by the time you read this Spring should have sprung. Having said that it seems too cold to plant seeds and so I do not know how our allotment holders will be progressing. What I do know is that I planted broad beans in the autumn, and they were doing well but the continued frosts have won the battle, and they will be no good now.

All the improvements planned for the play areas are in place and the Orchard Way area seems to have become very popular. Please look after it. Having said that we are getting reports of youngsters – little ones – riding what looks like small motor or electric bikes around the Jubilee Field. Please do not do it. They will not be insured and so there would be a problem if they hit someone or caused damage. It does not help the grass surface either. Parents – please.

The referendum for the adoption of the village Neighbourhood plan has been held and will be adopted at MDDC Full Council meeting in April. Sadly, only about 10% of the possible electorate voted which is rather sad because from what I saw it was mainly older people who voted but it is the future of the younger members of our community that will be affected.

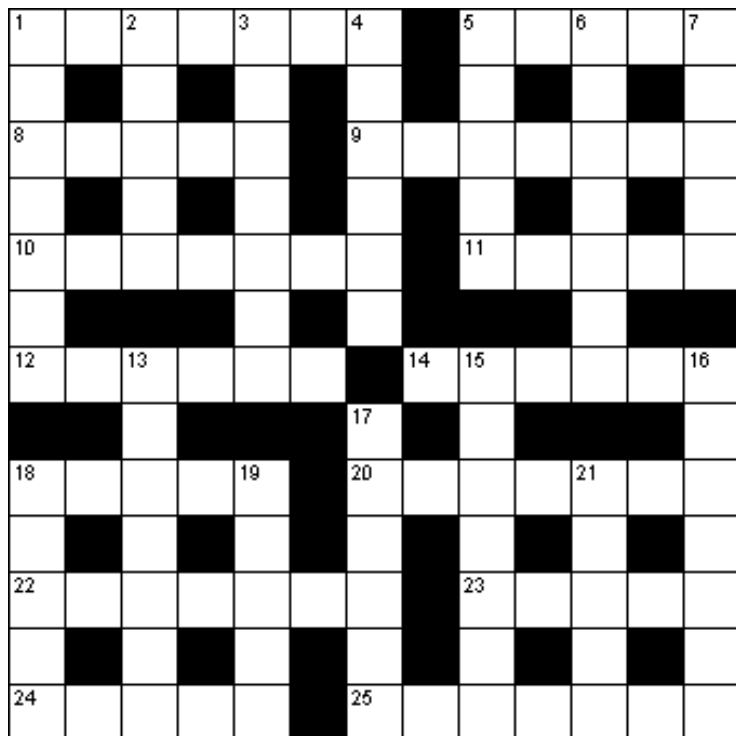
You will no doubt have seen various press reports dealing with the Government wish to do away with our local councils and have much larger areas run by elected Mayors. I have not seen anything that indicates what will happen to Town or Parish Councils or who or what will look after our local assets like the play areas, allotments and cemetery. What will happen to any reserves that are being built up to maintain and run these facilities or to provide replacement equipment when the current kit is no longer serviceable?

The volunteers from the M5 workers certainly improved the width of the footpath out to the garage but unfortunately they did not get the time to finish it. Devon County Highways can now see what needs doing to finish the job and then there are sections of the surface which needs putting right. Not holding my breath and I hope that no one trips over or injures themselves and then sues the council. Being a cynic, they would probably spend our money on lawyers trying to get out of paying any compensation and that would cost more than it would to put things right in the first place. On a positive I have noticed that the potholes in Orchard Way have been filled.

The annual village meeting was held on the 13th of March 2025 and reports submitted by the various organisations within the village, together with the minutes, will be available on the website.

Please support all of the various organisations within the village and do not be afraid to offer to help. Remember my regular saying, The question is 'How can I help' NOT 'What's in it for me?' **Barry G J Warren Chairman**

CROSSWORD FOR APRIL/MAY



Answers
later in this
magazine

Across

- 1 Thrive (7)
- 5 Wash vigorously (5)
- 8 Free of obstructions (5)
- 9 Fast sailing ship (7)
- 10 Cleft (7)
- 11 Ceasefire (5)
- 12 Metallic element (6)
- 14 Extend (6)
- 18 Theme (5)
- 20 Examine (7)
- 22 Dietary requirement (7)
- 23 Anger (5)
- 24 Tell-tale (5)
- 25 Fine wool fabric (7)

Down

- 1 Ocean (7)
- 2 Signs of things to come (5)
- 3 Scent (7)
- 4 Wealthier (6)
- 5 Canonised person (5)
- 6 Ecstasy (7)
- 7 Canal boat (5)
- 13 Native American child (7)
- 15 After 1945 (7)
- 16 Got rid of (7)
- 17 Small freshwater fish (6)
- 18 Recordings (5)
- 19 Impertinence (5)
- 21 Accurate (5)

WILLAND SCOUT GROUP

Here at Willand Scout Group we are passionate about providing opportunities and adventures for our local young people. We believe in building friendships, increasing confidence and learning new skills. Our 6–8-year-old Beavers have been building dens in the woods, pond dipping and have recently enjoyed celebrating Shrove Tuesday with pancake making. Our 8–10-year-old Cubs have been bowling, learning about our very own blue plaque recipient Margaret Partridge and are preparing for our Easter Camp. Scouts are working really hard as they prepare for the Exmoor and Hurdlestone Challenges. It's not all hard work for them; they have recently held a Pinewood Rally and took part in a self-defence evening.

We also use our time to support village life with painting park fences, litter picking, wildflower planting and supporting Poppy donation are some of the activities we have accomplished in the last 12 months.

Bingo evening

We are holding a chocolate bingo evening at Willand Village Hall on Friday 4th April 2025. Doors open at 19:00, eyes down at 19:30.

Please join us for a fun family evening, a great way to start the Easter Holiday. Snacks and drinks will be available and all are welcome.

Can you help?

We are actively looking for a Beaver Leader on a Monday evening (term time) 1730-18:45 to join our team of volunteers. If you would like more information please contact James at james_bicknell@outlook.com.

We have a great supportive team, and I can highly recommend it. If you think it might be right for you, please come and see what we are about! Thank you.

Kate Watson.

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

We have started a games morning on the second Thursday of the month from 10.00 to 12.00 we have some board games and quiz type games cards and silly games too. If this would be your thing then you are welcome to join us. Tea and biscuits warmth and laughter are always here.

Although the centre is getting busier don't forget it is also for hire for community events you can see availability by going to our Facebook page and clicking on the link under about at the right-hand side of the page. If you have any problems email info@whacc.org.uk.

We are really pleased with the way the centre is developing and in order to develop further we are looking to increase our volunteer pool including both new Trustees in particular a secretary as our current Secretary agreed to cover on a temporary basis and those willing to help with developing new activities.

Gerri Taylor

WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS)

Spring has arrived...and if you're looking for good quality, locally produced compost, please come to see us at WCCS.

Also, if you've started cutting grass or clearing up in your garden, remember to bring your green waste to us FOR FREE so it can be made into more compost.

OPENING TIMES The site is open on **Wednesdays** and **Sundays**, 10.00am – 12 noon. *From Monday 28th April we will be adding our seasonal evening opening each Monday from 6.30 – 7.30pm.*

WE ACCEPT Green Garden waste, such as fresh grass (please keep this separate) & hedge clippings, pruning's 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 at willandccs24sec@outlook.com

Barbara & Graham Bodkin

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

Willand United Charities was set up to benefit residents of Willand who were in need.

The money available for distribution is quite limited but the Trustees are able to make small grants to support individuals and local groups each year. The Trustees meet regularly twice a year, usually in September and February. Extra meetings are held to discuss applications outside of these times so people should not be put off from contacting us when necessary.

The current Trustees are the Rector Ben Maynard, Stephen Little, Neil James, Jason Scott and Kate Taylor

If you or someone you know would benefit from some support, 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.

Kate Taylor Trustee

DISTRICT OFFICER FOR MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Hi Willand Residents, my name is Andrew, and I am a District Officer for Mid Devon District Council. One of our roles is to ensure dogs are kept on a lead in areas that are covered by a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) as well as dealing with dog fouling issues. Being a Willand resident myself, visually and through complaints, I have seen a big increase in dog fouling issues and people not adhering to keeping their dogs on a lead in Jubilee Fields.

Notable areas where dog fouling has increased include Gables Road, Jaycroft and the church footpath. Dog fouling is not only unpleasant, but it is DANGEROUS. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause Toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures.

Jubilee Fields is an area where dogs are to be kept on a lead at all times, the enclosed play area is a No Dogs allowed area. As a dog owner myself I understand that residents find it hard to find places to have a dog off the lead, however, Jubilee Fields has a PSPO to ensure that dogs are kept under proper control, as well as to tackle dog fouling, especially as this area is very well used by children.

Our District Officers will be carrying out extra patrols over the coming months. If anybody is seen to be in breach of a PSPO or if we spot anybody that has not cleared up after their dog you could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 (reduced to £50 if paid within 14 days of the notice), or face court action which could result in a conviction and a fine of up to £1000.

You can report dog fouling incidents on Mid Devon District Council's website. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me by email: agreen@middevon.gov.uk **Andrew Green**

OPEN YOUR GARDEN FOR HOSPISCARE

Share the beauty of your garden and raise vital funds for Hospiscare's compassionate care across Exeter, East, and Mid Devon. Open Gardens bring communities together, creating opportunities to connect, share stories, and support specialist end-of-life care—all while celebrating the joy of gardens.

How to get involved:

Open your garden – Welcome visitors between April and September 2025.

Raise funds – Encourage donations to support specialist end-of-life care.

Join a community – Be part of a wonderful network of supporters.

We'll provide everything you need, including a feature in the Hospiscare Open Garden booklet, promotional materials, and guidance to ensure your event is a success. Together, we can create lasting memories while helping more families receive the care they need.

Interested? Contact us at **01392 688020** or fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk – we'd love to hear from you **Martin Niebroj**

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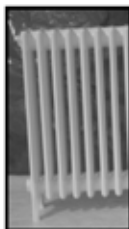
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WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

Another annual pantomime this year “**Robin Hood**” was really well received by our audiences who interacted with the performance with the usual laughs, boos and cheering at the characters, it is such a pleasure when the audience join in with the performance. WiTS now moves on to our Premiere of the Panto performance watching the video, with all our members seeing the Panto from the audiences viewpoint, a Red-Carpet evening with Paparazzi, glitter, fun and fish and chips. This year held Friday 25th April at 7.30 in the village hall. What's not to like?



Our AGM that is to be held on 23rd May at 7pm again in the village hall. All are welcome.

Once again I must give thanks and praise to the wonderful people at Willand Post Office and Willand Pharmacy for selling our tickets, Thank you.

Sam Fincher

CAMEO

We started off 2025 with our January meeting, AGM followed by “bring and share”. A very large table was laden with sweet and savoury delights plus a few bottles!! A good time was had by all. Later in the month a large number of members met at Tiverton Golf Club for coffee, a rather noisy affair.

Our February Speaker was Dr Rew, who was a police surgeon. He gave us all an insight in what that position entailed, with a few rather graphic photos. Also, in February we had a delightful lunch at The Globe Sampford Peverell.

We have several outings lined up for the next few months, meetings, coffee mornings, a trip to Bernaville Nurseries and ten pin bowling. Come and join us the first Thursday of the month, new members always welcomed.

Valerie Newberry

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CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, GABLES ROAD

Hi to each one of you, from the people of the Chapel in the village. As we approach Easter, we delight in, the new growth of God's creation, seen all around us, not least from our chapel lawn.

As I write, the daffodils are stunning here and the songs from the birds around our feeders, are a delight. This is a pleasant place to sit on a sunny afternoon, so please use our newly renovated bench, to take a few quiet moments, from out of your busy life. All we ask is that you kindly just close the gate after you. If you're feeling even braver, you might just, cross over our threshold.

Have a look at our various **Lenten and Easter Services** on the noticeboard. We of course, always meet for **Worship every Sunday morning at 10.30am.** with refreshments to follow.

If any of the following events takes your fancy, please just join in with us too. You can always be assured of the very warmest of welcomes. **Soup and Something free lunch, will be on Saturday 19th April from 12-2pm.** and the bi-monthly **Coffee Morning will be on Friday 16th May 10.30-12pm.**

Not forgetting **West Country Cream Teas, served on Saturday 7th June from 3pm.** There is no charge for any of these events and everyone is welcomed.

Many of you joined our much-anticipated Pancake Party this year. The room was absolutely packed. One lady aged 98 enjoyed them so much she had three and then stayed for another. The choice of toppings was vast. Savory, sweet and even, if you worked on the party quiz answers, some Easter Eggs to take home as prizes as well. And also, from your kind donations, £155 sent to the Methodist Charity, "Action for Children." This all thanks to so many of you attending your kind generosity and your patience in waiting for a table to become available.

(Note to diary) Shrove Tuesday 2026. Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Our Prospect's **worship group for disabled people, will meet on Sunday 6th April at 3pm.** When we hope to have a real live donkey to remind us of the first Palm Sunday. If anyone you know, might be interested in being with us, then please just turn up on the day. (As you might have guessed, with a tea and **CAKE** to follow)

A very big thank you, for those of you who kindly keep our exchange cupboard at the gate, so tidy and well ordered. Your donations through it, are amazingly generous and are so wonderfully received by those less fortunate. (Love only grows, when you gift it away)

We are also happy to use our building as a facility for the Community. So, if you know of a group who might be seeking a base, with all level access, facilities and private parking, get in touch to see if any of our time spaces suit your organisation. **Joan Greet.** Steward. **greetdj@hotmail.com.**

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

First of all, we would like to invite you all to our Willand Archive Open Morning on Saturday, 31 May 2025, running from 10am to 12 noon, in The Annex of Willand Village Hall (the room nearest the Youth Club, towards the end of the car park). Everyone is welcome to drop in for a few minutes for a quick look, or to linger as long as you like – and there will be teas, coffees and biscuits! We will have on display a wide selection of items, from original documents and artefacts, including some of the many pictures we have of bygone Willand, to research collections and other resources, showing what we have collected on behalf of the parish, and what has been kindly donated to the Archive over the past 25 years. For example, we will have our (almost complete) collection of Willand Parish Magazines out to celebrate what will be the magazine's 30th anniversary this November.

It will be the launch of our Willand Buildings Project (we've yet to think of a snappy name for it – any ideas?), through which we hope to trace the history of all buildings in the parish – from businesses and public halls to residential homes – including those that are no longer here. We hope to create a timeline of changes right up to the latest housing developments. We will have on display some of the records that we will be using, such as old maps, property legal documents, census returns and other records tracing who lived where in Willand over the last 200 years or so. So please do come along if you would like to know about the history of your house, or the people who lived there. We are more than happy to assist, if we can. Or if you have any queries or there's anything you would like to know about the history of Willand or would like to know more about the History Group and what we do, please drop by. We also invite you to bring along anything connected to Willand's past that you think might be of interest, whether that be documents or photos, memories or information – we would love to see you there!

The report of a somewhat tragic incident of national significance, which took place early in the Second World War and was connected to a Willand house, has recently been rediscovered in the Archive. It concerns Rydon House, located between the ESSO garage and the M5 motorway bridge to the south of the parish. This property is famously known as 'the house that moved' – so-called because it was deconstructed to make way for the motorway in the early-1970s and rebuilt, exactly the same, in its current location. The story relates to Eric Batten, who had lived at Rydon House since his marriage, in 1934, to Beata Maunder who the daughter of local farmer and entrepreneur, Edwin Maunder (brother to Lloyd Maunder, founder of the meat processing business now owned by 2 Sisters). Eric Batten served throughout the war as an officer in the Somerset Light Infantry, ending up with the rank of Captain. In September 1940 an article appeared in the local press under the headline 'Willand Officer Captures a Spy' and reported: "The following extremely interesting letter was received; In connection with the recent case published in the daily papers, in which two German spies were hung at Pentonville Prison, Sec.-Lieut. Eric A.

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Batten, of a battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry (whose home is at Rydon House, Willand), was responsible for the capture of one of the spies and was the chief witness during their trial at the Old Bailey. The trial took place in secret and no members of the public were admitted. Mr Batten disarmed the spy, whom he captured at 4am, and handed him over to headquarters. He later found the transmitting [radio] set near where the spy had been hiding.”

The History Group will be meeting to discuss and plan forthcoming projects and ongoing research on Tuesday, 29 April 2024, at 7pm, in The Annex of Willand Village Hall – anyone with an interest in local history is welcome.

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

WILLAND HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE REGULAR EVENTS

Book Swap	3 rd Tuesday	6.30pm
Yoga	Tuesday	6.00pm
Tea & Chat	3 rd Tuesday	10.00am
U3A Garden Club	3 rd or 4 th Tuesday	2.00pm
Book Swap	Last Wednesday	10.00am
Pilates with Sarah	Wednesday	6.30pm
Dragon Fly Crafts	Wednesday	7.00pm
Tea & Chat	1 st . Thursday	9.30am
Games Group	2 nd Thursday	10.00am
Pilates with Sarah	Fridays	9.15am
U3A Live for Today, Plan for Tomorrow	2 nd & 4 th Friday	10.30am

For U3A Bookings please check their website **www.culmvalleyu3a.org**



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VILLAGE HALL REGULAR BOOKINGS		
U3A Coloured Pencil Group	1 st & 3 rd Monday	1.30pm
U3A Art in Action	2 nd Monday	1.30pm
Beavers (Term Time)	Mondays	5.30pm
Cub Scouts (Term Time)	Mondays	7.00pm
U3A Quilting Group	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	9.30am
Pilates with Ellie	Tuesday	9.30am
Flower Arranging	Tuesday	1.30pm
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
Flower Arranging	Wednesday	1.30pm
Pilates with Ellie	Wednesday	5.45pm
Indoor Bowls Club	Wednesday	7.00pm
Garden Club	2 nd Wednesday	7.00pm
Pilates with Ellie	Thursday	9.30am
University of the Third Age	1 st Thursday	2.00pm
U3A Drawing Group	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	9.30am
U3A Bridge Group	Thursday	12.30pm
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
U3A Quiz Group	3 rd Friday	10.30am
Zumba	Friday	1.15pm
WITS	Friday	7.30pm
Cowgirl Twisters	2 nd & 4 th Saturday	7.30pm
Folk Dance	1 st Saturday	8.00pm
Karate	Sundays	10.00am
MF Marshall Arts	Sundays	5.30pm

WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Football update: WRFC currently sit just below mid-table in the Southern Football League Division One South. After a promising start to the season, recent results have not been as we would have hoped with some long-term injuries and suspensions to key players conspiring against us and perhaps our style of play not suited to the heavy & wet winter pitches. We are confident that, as the pitches dry out, we will see our results improve in the closing stages of the season and we will move up to a solid mid-table position in the league table: all credit to David Steele, our manager, Liam Raybould, his assistant, and the team for their efforts this year.

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 and with the high quality of football they play. Our upcoming home fixtures through until the end of April are:

Sat 15 March 3pm ko (League) v **Bishops Cleeve**

Weds 26 March 7.30pm ko (League) v **Shaftesbury**

Sat 29 March 3pm ko (League) v **Mousehole**

Sat 12 April 3pm ko (League) v **Thatcham Town**

Mon 21 April 3pm ko (League) v **Bideford AFC**

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.

Tuesday 15 April 2025 – **Easter Bingo:** special Easter bingo: eyes down at 7.30pm.

Sunday 20 April 2025, 12.00 noon to 5pm – **Trina's Easter Family Fun Day**

Saturday 26 April 2025, 8pm – Live band: the **Hundred Faces**. A brilliant Covers and Originals band from Somerset playing songs you can get your dancing shoes on for. Tickets on sale now: £10/member & £12/non-member: please email willandroversfc@outlook.com or go to

Sat 3 May 2025, 7pm – **End of Season Presentation Night and Race Night**

Saturday 14 June 2025 - **Decade** are a feel-good 80s party band from Exeter. Tickets will be on sale in the spring so watch our social media streams for more details.

Saturday 1 November 2025 - **Stillyano**: by popular demand they're back again!! Tickets will be on sale in the autumn 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

MID DEVON SINGERS NEWS

Ah, the first news update of 2025 – Happy New Year.

We hope you had a lovely festive season and are ready for whatever this year has in store. We really enjoyed performing our Christmas repertoire, but now it's back to our regular music as we kick start the new year and start planning performances for 2025.

Singing is a great way to get a serotonin boost and combat the darkness of winter, why not make a new year's resolution to sing with the MiDS? New members are always very welcome, with no auditions to join our friendly and sociable community choir. There's no charge to try us out for your first 2 sessions & membership subs afterwards are a very reasonable £12.50 per month. We restarted for 2025 on Friday 10th January and will rehearse every Friday evening during school term time at Halberton Village Hall. Rehearsals start promptly at **7.30pm** and ending at **9.30pm** - with an all-important tea/coffee/chat break about halfway through.

If you would like to find out more about joining us or booking us for a performance, please contact us by email at **info@mids.org.uk**. Otherwise, be sure to keep an eye on our social media feeds for general news & performance information:

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Bank Holiday Monday April 21st - Easter Steam Day – Mad Hatters & March Hares

10.30am – 4pm. The Mill will be in steam until 3pm.

Bank Holiday Monday May 26th - late May Steam Day

10.30am – 4pm. The Mill will be in steam until 3pm. Advance Notice:

Saturday & Sunday June 7th & 8th - The Great British Fibre Festival

Sunday June 29th - Summer Fayre

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All materials supplied, refreshments available. Places are limited so do book soon. For more info and to book, visit the 'What's on' page of the Mill website, or phone 01884 840960.

Needle Felting Eggs Saturday 5th April 11am – 3pm £30

Spring Wreath Making Saturday 12th April 11am – 3pm £35

Fuzzy Felted Eggs: Children's Workshop Tuesday 15th April 11am – 3pm

Ticket required per child only. All children to be accompanied by adult. Max 2 children per adult.

Willow Hare Decoration Workshop Monday 21st April: 11am – 1pm £15 and 1pm – 3pm £15

Foraging Basket Workshop Saturday 26th April: 10:30am – 3:30pm £45

For May workshops please visit the 'What's On' page of the Mill website, or phone 01884 840960.

VOLUNTEERING

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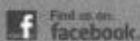
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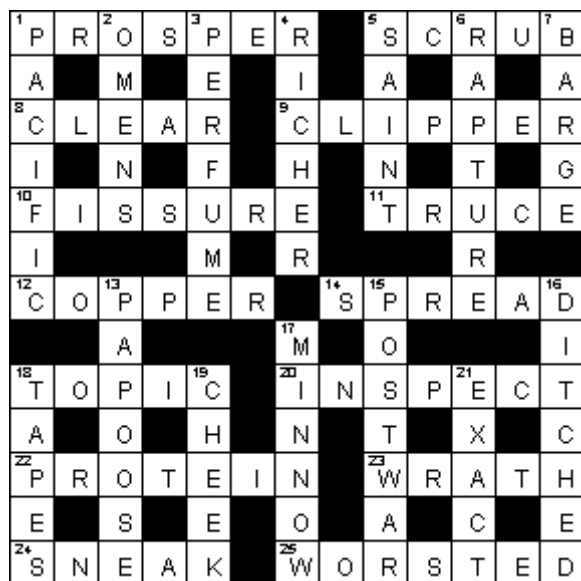


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Answers to April/May
Crossword

CUT OFF FOR NEXT MAGAZINE IS WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2025



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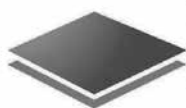
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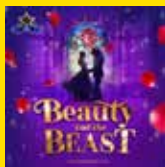
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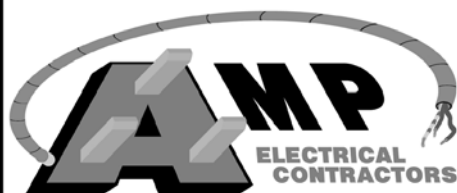
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