

WILLAND MAGAZINE

December 2025 & January 2026



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	willandtinytots@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 Crafty Family and Friends	Emma Worth	willandcraftyfamily2021@gmail.com 07843811230
Willand Community Composting		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		witsthesecontact@gmail.com 01884 32152
Willand United Charities		clerk@willandunitedcharities.co.uk
Youth Club (35218)		willandyouthclub@outlook.com

CHURCHES / EDUCATION

Baptist Church, Cullompton	Rev. Glen Graham	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	
Simon Clist	(Devon County Council)	simon.clist@devon.gov.uk	07855 027595
Andrea Glover	(MD Dist Councillor)	aglover@middevon.gov.uk	07908 734368
Cathy Connor	(MD Dist Councillor)	cconnor@middevon.gov.uk	07548 872107
John Poynton	(MD Dist Councillor)	jpynton@middevon.gov.uk	07834 869284
Parish Council	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
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
Sam Sycamore	(Councillor)	sam.sycamore@willand-pc.gov.uk	07429 266786
Stevie Anne Hutter	(Councillor)	stevie.hutter@willand-pc.gov.uk	07710226139
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
Vacancy	(Councillor)		
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

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National Express Coach Services	0371 781 818
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Stagecoach Devon	01392 427711
Devon Bus (All bus timetables are displayed outside the Post Office)	01392 382800
Culm Voluntary Car Scheme	07546 525683

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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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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

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Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.25am - 12.25pm

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Meadow Park	9.00am	7.00am
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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

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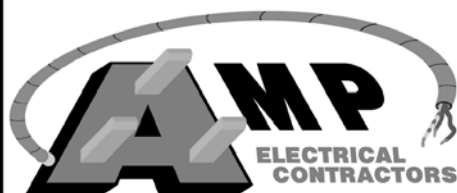
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I Hope you all enjoyed Halloween. Also, Remembrance Day. The next celebration is of course Christmas. The volunteer staff at your Parish Magazine wish all our readers a Very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The year of 2025 is fast moving toward the end of the year and on a personal note there has been a large milestone for me personally during the year in that the wife and I celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary [60 years married for you youngsters]. Those of the family that were available on the day went with us to 'the scene of the crime' at the church at Widecombe-in-the-Moor. Photographs were taken and so we now have 'before and after' records. Sadly, it was also a time of reflection for us as my Best Man is now buried in the churchyard and the wife's Matron of Honour, and two bridesmaids are no longer with us although still remembered.

On the subject of remembering, I had the honour to again represent our community in laying the wreath on the war memorial in the churchyard at the remembrance service. I was supported by our Vice Chairman, and I mean supported, as the aged legs are not as reliable as they were. The weather was kind and we had no rain during the service and it was very pleasing to see so many people there. I saw at least one person in-service uniform and many veterans with medals proudly displayed. The event was well supported by our young people from the Scouts, Guides and their younger organisations. Thank you all for attending and supporting this act of remembrance.

Speaking of the Scouts may I say a big thank you to them and their supporters for volunteering to paint the fence in the Jubilee Field at the Gables Lea end over the summer. Great job done.

Regrettably there is still an amount of Criminal Damage being committed within the village and I have had concerned residents contacting me as other than the police giving the victims a crime number, no other action appears to have been taken. Regrettably the Parish Council found it necessary to send a letter of complaint to the Chief Constable, with a copy to the Police and Crime Commissioner, as to the failure of the police to make enquiries into a number of complaints made to them. The PCC's Office responded with a 'sloped shoulders' response and passed it onto the Police Professional Standards Department of the police. I had to laugh as it said that the PCC did not become involved in 'operational matters'.

I knew that she had been the subject of complaints as to her interference in operational matters made against her by a number of retired officers, many of them had held senior ranks including a former Chief Constable. Before anyone asks – no I was not one of them. Incidentally the complaints were dealt with by the PCC's own Chief Executive! The complaint from the Parish Council did receive press coverage and an Inspector gave a response to the press. Other than an acknowledgement of receipt of the complaint from the Professional Standards Department your Parish Council has heard nothing at the time of writing. The Inspector does not appear to communicate with representatives of your community.

The Anaerobic Digester plant which was Willand Biogas has been purchased by a new company and they are in the process of tidying up the site. It will be known as Devon Green Power and their PR Company has been in touch with me to arrange a meeting so that the Parish Council can be briefed as to what is proposed for the site and they wish to hear of any concerns and problems. More on this in the future but rest assured I shall be asking some very pointed questions. Watch this space and the website for updates.

On the subject of information, I hope that you have all seen the survey and responded to Mid Devon District Council as they seek to hear the views of residents in order to plan for the future and this will also aid future budget setting. Your own views and wishes may not be taken into account but if you do not have your say it is no good moaning about the outcome.

Whilst on the subject of surveys – thank you to those who responded to our request for opinion as to whether or not the Parish Council should continue weed spraying of the pavement edges and paved areas of road surface. Primarily due to the odd weather patterns it was not so effective this past year. The Parish Clerk put together a report for the Parish Council meeting in November and it is available to read on the website. Any decision made will be able to be seen in the minutes of the meeting and apart from being on the website the minutes are displayed on the noticeboards around the village.

After long and loyal service John Holmes, our litter picker has retired, and we have been grateful for Graham filling in. By the time you read this our new man, Paul Bright, will have started work and we hope that you will make him as welcome as you did John. Thank you John for all your service to the village and please have a long and happy retirement but do not be a stranger.

The Parish Council now has three vacancies as Sue Leach has had to give up due to a change in personal circumstances. Thank you Sue for your contribution to the Parish Council and we still see your contributions to various activities around the village. We remember you every time we look at the Post Office window. If anyone can help by becoming a Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk for more information. You will be made very welcome.

Planning applications are coming to the Parish Council for comment. Remember we are only consultees we cannot make the final decision. It is the time of year when many applications are received wanting to do work on trees which are the subject of Tree Protection orders. One real problem for us is the lack of information from the applicants as to the reasons for the need for works. "I just want to cut a branch off because it is shading my garden" does not help, the tree was probably there first before the house was even built. Now I am going to be in trouble with some no doubt.

A request has been received to comment on an application to vary conditions and drawings for the modular homes which have been built in Somerlea. They are changing the parking and landscaping layout to allow rear access to the already established houses which have been purchased by the residents.

This issue was raised in the Parish Council responses to this planning application but was ignored by the planning officers and eventually the planning committee.

We had also considered that it was over development by trying to put so many houses on this site and the parking problems on the roads around would be an issue as more than 20 parking spaces are lost. You can now see what it will look like. I have had them described to me as a 'pile of portacabins'. I cannot use some of the other comments made. I am sure that those who are allocated them will be pleased to have a roof over their heads. Any aggravation or discussions over parking will be another story.

On behalf of the Parish Council and affected residents, I submitted a complaint to MDDC for breaches of the planning conditions and officer failings when discharging required planning conditions. Contrary to the Complaints Policy at MDDC the officer dealing with the complaint was the one that was the subject of the complaint. A complaint about that was met with a response requiring sympathy and understanding regarding staffing levels and management availability but at least they did not use Covid as an excuse this time. A friend of mine looked at the responses received and said "MDDC are getting better at finding 'inventive explanations' for why they are not doing their job properly."

The Parish Council have put forward a suggestion that the adverse parking position could be helped by providing parking spaces on the grass verges as they did in Fir Close when they built on the carpark. The suggestion was detailed and in writing with maps and photographs and shared with our three District Councillors. The Head of Housing has basically ruled it out with the usual wordy meaningless response but has said he would discuss with the Cabinet Member responsible but we have heard nothing more. We are still trying. Any of those residents being affected could help by writing of their difficulties to the MDDC Ward Councillors who appear to be silent on the matter.

The Parish Council has also been consulted on a planning application for outline and access to build up to 130 dwellings on the field between the current site of Foxmill Gardens and the Esso Garage.

The details have been on the website and I hope that people have let their views be known. The Parish Council response will be on the website and although you may see it after the closing date do not be put off from sending in your views. There are already 45 documents to read on the site at the time of writing and I expect that there will be many more. What the document about an application at Helston has to do with it I do not know. They say they are to meet the housing need within the village really. They have already built over a 100 more houses than the current Local Plan stated for Willand and we have had no increase in facilities. If they get the outline permission then the Reserved Matters application, with all the final detail, will follow.

A long report this time but hopefully it will answer some of the people who feel the need to ask, 'What are the Parish Council doing about it?'

By the time you read this hopefully our volunteers will have planted up the planters around the village. The Old Well Garden Centre has provided the plants with a generous discount again and so I hope we support them in return.

Thank you to all involved. I spend too much time at the garden centre drinking coffee and eating cake or having lunch.

Christmas is coming and there are lots of events being arranged in and around the village. Please support all you can as that is what makes us a community that so many appreciate. Please do not forget to keep an eye on any neighbours who are on their own and would appreciate some help and attention. We have to bear in mind that some really cherish their privacy and so we have to be careful not to impose ourselves where not wanted.

May I finish my thanking all my Colleagues on the Parish Council for their help and support in trying to make the right decisions for the benefit of our community. Thank you to all the volunteers and organisers who also make our community what it is. May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. **Barry G J Warren Chairman**

WILLAND UNITED CHARITIES

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

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

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.

If you or someone you know would benefit from some support, then please contact the charity by using our email address

clerk@willandunitedcharities.co.uk or contact one of the trustees, to receive an application form. **Kate Taylor Trustee**



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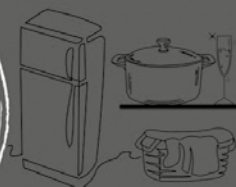
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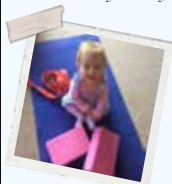
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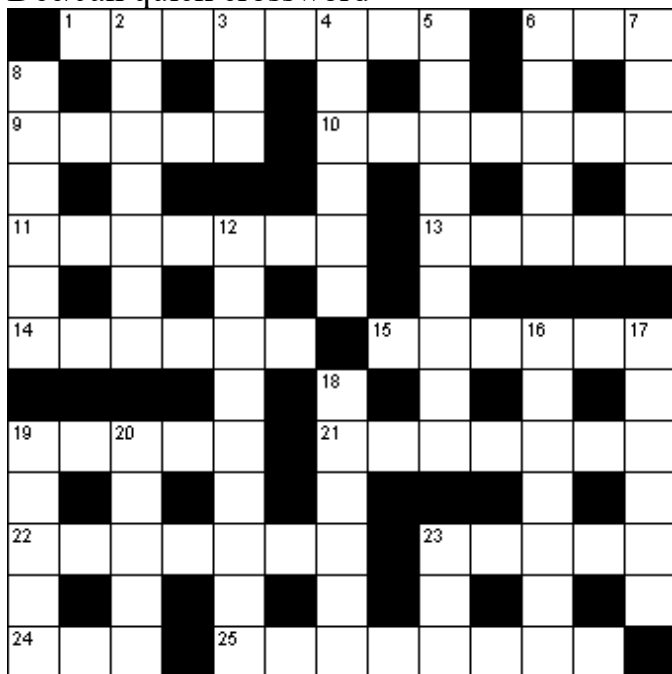
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Dec/Jan quick crossword



Across

- 1 Return on savings (8)
- 6 Mischievous little creature (3)
- 9 Intended (5)
- 10 Sumptuous meal (7)
- 11 Lurch (7)
- 13 Capture (5)
- 14 More expensive (6)
- 15 Sea trip (6)
- 19 Arrive at (5)
- 21 Immediate (7)
- 22 Upset, agitate (7)
- 23 Milk delivery vehicle (5)
- 24 Be indebted (3)
- 25 False teeth (8)

Down

- 2 North American falls (7)
- 3 Devour (3)
- 4 Go aboard (6)
- 5 Dogged, unyielding (9)
- 6 Burst forth (5)
- 7 Go and get (5)
- 8 Entertained (6)
- 12 Racing dog (9)
- 16 Fashionable (1,2,4)
- 17 Housing area (6)
- 18 The capital of Portugal (6)
- 19 Wild West show (5)
- 20 Gangway (5)
- 23 Common viral infection (3)

Solution Later in the Magazine

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, GABLES ROAD

Together with members of St Mary's Mission Community we packed over **250 shoeboxes**, which are now on their way to Ukraine and Eastern Europe, for Christmas. This is an amazing achievement, and we thank everyone who contributed. It's not too early to start saving things for next year, especially any shoeboxes you get with your Christmas presents and during the winter months you may like to knit hats, gloves or scarves for them.

Christmas activities start in earnest with our Prospect's **Worship Group, for disabled people of all ages, on Sunday 7th December at 3pm**. If you know of someone who'd enjoy this Fellowship, please put them in touch with us. **greetdj@hotmail.com** The annual **Village Carol Service in the Village Hall is also on Sunday 7th December, at 6.30pm**. This is designed for the whole village community, for all ages to take part. There will be refreshments and a collection taken for the work of CHAT.

Our **candlelit carol service will be on Sunday 21st December at 4pm** and we have a service of **Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at 4pm** This is ideal for those who don't want to be out late at night. Everyone is very welcome.

Soup and Something free lunch is on Saturday 20th December from 12-2pm.

The bi-monthly **Coffee Morning will be on Friday 16th January from 10.30-12 noon**. Every Blessing, **David Greet. Steward. greetdj@hotmail.com**.

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

Firstly, we would like to congratulate Willand Parish Magazine on its 30th anniversary, and thank all those involved, past and present, for the huge amount of time and effort it takes to bringing this magazine to the parish. Long may it continue to be one of, if not *the* best parish magazines around.

Secondly, we have an appeal for information, as we are trying to track down the family of a former Willand resident, Frank Clarke, who lived in one of the bungalows opposite the ESSO garage until his death in 2010. He had written an unpublished booklet called 'The Rookie Platoon' containing his memories of serving in the 2nd Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment through the Second World War. Frank rose through the ranks from raw recruit to officer, commissioned in the field, and served through the invasion of Europe from D-Day until December 1944, when he stepped on a landmine in the lowlands of the Netherlands, losing a leg. Frank had passed on a copy of this booklet to Brian Holmes, former editor of the parish magazine, who would like to reunite it with one of Frank's family. We know that Frank had two daughters and one son and believe that they are still living in the Tiverton area, if you know them, or have any information on how we could contact them, please do get in touch.

With our world still so afflicted by war, it is worth reflecting on the experiences of people like Frank at a time when conflict raged much closer to home. Frank gives a flavour of the heightened emotions as he describes leading his platoon of Glosters in the liberation of Normandy: "Pushing on into [the French town of

Bayeux, the small number of Germans left to hinder us were soon accounted for. Keeping the French from the German prisoners was almost impossible. Not until they were threatened at muzzle-point did they abandon their militant intentions. No doubt they had suffered severely and had had the Germans earmarked for retribution when the time was propitious. Apart from black eyes and kicked backsides, the thirty-odd prisoners that 10 Platoon had taken were evacuated back to the beach ... The inhabitants of Bayeux turned out en bloc. Our spirits rose and the Calvados [apple brandy] flowed freely. Scenes of exuberance and wild delight gave way to street dancing and singing as the news of the enemy withdrawal became more widely known."

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to the memory of Derek Rowe, who sadly passed away in August, aged 96. The Rowe family have been associated with Willand since the 1820s, as butchers and farmers, and in particular with The Elms in the Old Village – from where Derek and wife, Bernice, moved into Elmscroft next door, the house he had built on retirement from farming. Like generations of his family before him, Derek was at the heart of village life, with particular close associations with St Mary's Church, where he served many years as church warden. He was a keen sportsman, playing football for Willand Rovers, playing cricket for Cullompton, regularly playing skittles and more latterly, with Bernice, a founder member of Willand Short Mat Bowls Club.

Many of us who grew up in the village will have fond memories of Derek, whether happily stopping for a chat when passing by on his tractor, or on hot summer days letting children from the village in to use the swimming pool at the back of The Elms. Ever since the History Group was formed, back in 2001, Derek was always at hand with information about Willand's past, generously supporting our events, freely sharing memories, and loaning us precious family photos and archives for research and display at our exhibitions.

One story Derek told us not so long ago concerns an evening of sketches that was being put on at the Village Hall to raise money for a parish cause, probably in the 1960s. Derek was involved in a comedy sketch with John Spearing and Bob Salter, which involved the three of them sat on a bench, with sequences of them getting up and down, and one or other of them falling off to great comic timing, leaving the audience in fits of laughter. However, as they were due to be on in the second half, Bob Salter had brought along a bottle of whiskey. This they enjoyed as they awaited their turn. By the half time interval, the whiskey was gone, so Bob sent Derek and John staggering up to the Halfway House to get another bottle. Despite this, and their somewhat merry condition, the sketch seemed to go down very well. But later on, when getting back to the farm, Derek discovered that one of his cows was going through a difficult labour, and so, a little worse for wear, he got stuck in to help Harold Saunders, his farm worker, with the successful delivery of a newborn calf. After that Harold had to put him to bed. Derek was a cheerful, kind and generous man, dedicated to his family and community, and will be much missed. **James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)**

ST. MARY'S CHURCH. A CHRISTMAS FAIRY TALE

Soren Kierkegaard tells the story of a king who falls in love with a humble village woman. This king was like no one else, his power was absolute, and his subjects would never dare to deny him anything. However, the king's glory and splendour meant that he was faced with a dilemma. How could he win the girl's true affection? If he used his royal power, riding up with armed escort and banners flying, the young maiden would either say yes due to fear, or yes because she loved the prospect of power and riches. The king did not want a cringing subject but a lover, an equal, someone who loved him freely. He knew there was only one way to bridge the immeasurable gulf and win her genuine love. He must set aside his royal robes for the clothes of a peasant. He must give up his palace and throne for the dirty streets and drafty houses of the village. He must surrender being waited on hand and foot and the never-ending sumptuous food, to embrace poverty and hard labour. In short, he must fully enter her world and meet her there. So, that is what the king did. He walked the roads. He tilled the fields. And later on, with calloused hands, still wearing tattered clothing, he met her in the marketplace and introduced himself. Then he wooed and won the heart of the servant girl. On their wedding day he whispered in her ear, "my dear, now you are a queen" They wed in royal splendour and lived happily ever after.

Kierkegaard's fairy tale draws out one of the crowning truths of Christianity. John chapter 1 is a key Bible passage we read at Christmas. Here are some of the verses, "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"

At Christmas, we remember that God has bridged the immeasurable gulf between heaven and earth. He left his heavenly splendour. He entered into our world. He has become one of us. He has stepped into the marketplace to win our hearts and bring us back to God. Christmas is the beginning of God's big invitation! We are encouraged to look hard at the baby in the manger, and then to follow the story of Jesus through to its wonderful conclusion. To recognise that he is the king of heaven who gives up everything, including his life, to win our hearts. Please do come along to one of our services or family events and find out more about this amazing, good news. Have a Peaceful and joy filled season, **Rev Ben Maynard**

WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WiTS)

Many are not aware that WiTS make a donation each year from ticket sales of the Panto to a local worthy Club or association or group. Over the years WiTS have donated to the Schools, Community centre, Brownies, Air Ambulance, to name just a few. This year we shall be donating to the Tennis Club to give them a bit of help towards the massive expense in re-surfacing two of the Courts

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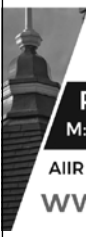
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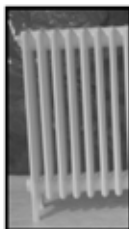
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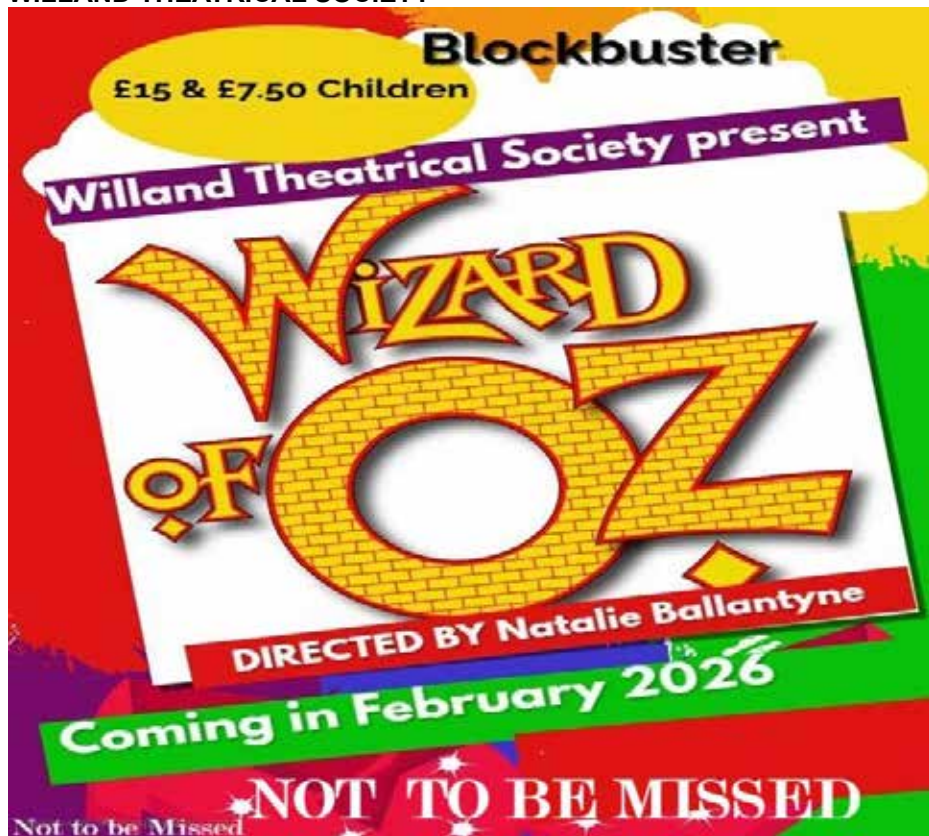
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WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY



WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

If you would like to be more active in 2025 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.

We have 4 courts of which two are due to be resurfaced in September. Courts can be booked by tennis members and the public all year for 'Pay and Play'. 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. **Sally Allaway, Club Secretary**

WILLAND HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Gables Road Willand (Opposite the Village Hall, next to the Willand Nursery)
The winds of change have hit Willand Health and Community Centre.

We would like to say on behalf of all the trustees, that we are very sorry to lose 3 of our long-standing trustees Keith and Linda Grantham and Frances Wilcox.

Keith has been looking after the Gables site right from the start. And was one of the original trustees tasked with fulfilling the parish councils' vision of a health and community centre in Willand. He kept the site safe, painted the interior with help from his family and routinely kept up the maintenance of the building. Together with his wife Linda who joined the trustee's latterly, he planted and maintained the gardens improving the look of the site when entering the gates.

Frances has kept the finances ship shape, implemented the booking system, and has also been instrumental in helping to start up our community groups, and our popular fundraising disco's held in the village hall. All three will be sorely missed and we would like to thank them all for their contribution to the centre, getting it up and running. It couldn't have been done without you. The good news is that Frances is staying on as a volunteer so we will still see her.

The annual meeting in July was well attended, which was lovely to see. It was really productive, and we had some great feedback. This will help the new trustees moving forward. We would like to welcome Stephen, Jason, Lin, Helen, Jackie, Sue and Julie to the team.

The current groups we have will continue and there is a new group started on a Monday evening called Stich without a Hitch. This group runs from 6.30 until 8pm so bring along your knitting or crochet project have a cup of tea and a biscuit and enjoy the chat while you work. Lots of support for those less confident and wanting to learn.

Coffee and chat first Thursday of the month and third Tuesday of the month.

Book swap on the last Wednesday 10am and the third Monday 6.30-7.30pm

Games morning the second Wednesday of the month October until June 10.am.

You can find a list of all the groups run by our volunteers and Trustees on the notice board outside the post office.

Our Christmas raffle will be held on Tuesday 16th December and I am sure we will have some mince pies too, everyone is welcome so come along and join the fun. All our groups and events will be listed on our Facebook page.

Tania Edworthy



WILLAND ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

Football update: WRFC has undergone major personnel changes in the past couple of months: David Steele resigned as manager and has been replaced by Ben Watson, a seasoned ex-pro player, previously with Exeter City. The change in manager has resulted in changes to the playing squad too: many of the players who served us well last year have been retained and some new and exciting young players have been brought in by Ben.

Already there has been an upturn in form and the quality of football being played by the team and the entertainment they give the spectators is excellent, so, if you have never attended a match at Silver Street, I'd encourage you to come along and see what "the new dawn" offers: I think you will be pleasantly surprised. Our upcoming home 1st team fixtures through until the end of January are:

- Saturday 29 November 2025, kick off 3pm: **Bideford AFC**
- Weds 3 December 2025, kick off 7:30pm: **Malvern Town**
- Weds 10 December 2025, kick off 7:30pm: **Mousehole**
- Sat 27 December 2025, kick off 3pm: **Brixham**
- Saturday 10 January 2026, kick off 3pm: **Portishead Town**
- Saturday 24 January 2026, kick off 3pm: **Shaftesbury**

Our u-18 team has started the season very well, & sit top of their league: their upcoming home fixtures are:

- Mon 24 November 7:30pm ko (League) v **Street**
- Mon 5 January 7:30pm ko (League) v **Tiverton Town**
- Mon 19 January 7:30pm ko (League) v **Shepton Mallet**
- Mon 2 February 7:30pm ko (League) v **Bridgwater Utd**

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 and maintenance of the pitch. No special skills are needed – but, of course, your "day job" skills may be very useful.

If you would like to help, please send me an email at mikehawkins.willandrovers@gmail.com

Date for your diary: Come and join us for events that we have organised over the next few months.

- Sun 7 Dec, 10am – Santa Run, sponsored by MS Heating. Childs' race (1mile) & Adults' race (3miles). Entry forms available from the club or on the website. Dress up as Santa & join the festive fun.
- Tues 2 December, 7:30pm – **Christmas Bingo No1**: turkeys and other festive prizes
- Sun 14 December, 12 noon – **Trina's Christmas Family Fun Day**: this is one for the kids. Party games, bingo and a children's entertainer

- Tues 16 December, 7:30pm – **Christmas Bingo No2**: turkeys and other festive prizes
- Weds 31 Dec - **New Year's Eve Party** when we will be entertained by **"We are the Lost Boys"**, an excellent Bristol based band playing a wide range of covers. They will get everyone dancing! Tickets are now on sale at the club or through our ticketing partner **Ticketsource.co.uk**: this event is usually a sell-out, so get your tickets soon.

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 to watch a match, have a social swift-half with us - the bar is open every Friday & Saturday afternoon from 4pm, matchdays from 1pm - or just to inspect the facilities we have. You will always be assured of a very friendly and warm welcome, and you may be surprised what we have to offer!

I'll close by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at Willand Rovers. **Mike Hawkins, Chairman, Willand Rovers Football Club**

HOSPISCARE: Celebrate the life of someone special

At Hospiscare, we understand that the festive season can be both joyful and bittersweet. Light Up a Life is our annual opportunity to come together in remembrance, honouring the lives of those we love and miss.

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To make your own dedication or learn more, please visit: hospiscare.co.uk/light

Festive Fundraising.

With the festive season fast approaching, there's no better way to share the spirit of Christmas than by raising funds for Hospiscare – your local hospice caring for the communities of Exeter, central, and east Devon.

Whether you're baking mince pies, singing carols, organising a raffle, or hosting a festive quiz, every effort you make helps *Hospiscare's* nurses, doctors, and therapists provide compassionate care to local patients and their families this Christmas. To make it even easier, Hospiscare has created a range of online fundraising resources available throughout November and December to help you get started. This holiday season, even the smallest act of kindness can make a world of difference.

Visit hospiscare.co.uk/festive and help make this season truly special for those who need it most. **Martin Niebroj**

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SOMERSET

CAMEO

The September meeting consisted of a wine and cheese evening, which was most enjoyable for those who were there. Unfortunately, the singles group were away on their annual holiday, including me, so we missed out on that. Hopefully, there will be another one soon.

A trip out to Blackdown Nurseries was another of our adventures with plenty of goodies on show. A wander around where you could spend a fortune or just have a cup of coffee.

At our October meeting we didn't have a speaker, but games of bingo and a fish and chip supper evening was enjoyed.

Skittles evening was held at Cullompton Bowling Club where a fairly new member of our club, Sandy, won the cup. Well done Sandy. I won't say who "won" the wooden spoon.

A small group made the trip to Tavistock Goosey Fair. Lovely day out but where were the Geese?

November we had a member of Tiverton Canal came to our meeting with slides and a talk on how the canal came about, its creation and up to modern day. The canal has not been a working canal for many years but is a local attraction for tourists and for locals a nature walks and cycle path. We are lucky to be able to use the canal for those purposes.

Our walking group have been out and about. Starting at the river in Uffculme and up Hunkin Wood and returning to the river and off to The Old Well for refreshments, of course. Next it was a trip to Willowbrook Nurseries, as it was raining, starting inside but after an excellent brunch the rain had stopped, a walk around outside resulted in a few trees purchased! Another walk along the river at Uffculme in the light rain ended up at The Strand café where a very late breakfast was enjoyed by all.

Our last meeting of the year is our Christmas Dinner to be held at Keepers Cottage. A coach is provided so we can have a tipple or two.

The Cameo ladies would like to wish readers of the Willand Parish Magazine a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2026. **Valerie Newberry**

MID DEVON SINGERS NEWS

We hope you heard & enjoyed our performances at the Tiverton lights switch-on & Old Well Garden Centre towards the end of November. There are still 2 performances left to see us over this Christmas period:

Dulverton by Starlight (Sunday 7th December - 3.20pm in Bank Square & 5.15pm at the Town Hall)

The Waterloo Cross pub, Uffculme (Saturday 13th December – 6.00pm)

The last regular rehearsal of this term will be on Friday 19th December. We'll be having a change from singing seasonal music - this will be a special Beatles-themed week with a fantastic line-up of songs by the Fab Four.

Non-members are more than welcome to join us for a one-off fee of £5.00 - no music required and song lyrics will be provided – just let us know if you want to come along for a fun singalong!

After the Christmas break, we'll restart for the Spring term on Friday 9th January 2026 at Halberton Village Hall as usual, starting promptly at **7.30pm** and ending at **9.30pm** (with the all-important tea/coffee/biscuit chat break about halfway through).

Our friendly rehearsals are a great way to unwind at the end of the week, so why not make a new year's resolution to come along & give us a try? New members are always very welcome, with no auditions to join our sociable singing group. Your first 4 regular rehearsals are free with absolutely no obligation – if you want to sign up after that, membership subs are a very reasonable £15.00 per month.

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

Facebook themiddevonsingers

Twitter/"X" @MidDevonSingers

Instagram @middevonsingers

As this will be our last update until February next year, we'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy & prosperous 2026. **Michael Cuthbertson**

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

OPENING TIMES Wednesdays and Sundays - 10.00 am - 12 Noon

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

Remember we take your Green Garden Waste for FREE.

We accept:

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

We don't accept:

Cordylone 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 **£2.50/bag**

The return of your empty bags will be gratefully received.

Volunteers Needed:

We need volunteers to help with the day to day running of the site. If you could spare a couple of hours per week to help it would help to ensure that the site continues to provide the local service. We need Volunteers not only to help with the physical running of the site but also to help with the Administration for the site. Any help would be gratefully received. Please pop in or email for more information.

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

Email: willandccs24sec@outlook.com

NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL

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MILLENNIUM SCREEN

This amazing textile panorama of the Culm Valley will be on display from December after over 10 years in storage.

Thursday 1st January 2026 NEW YEARS DAY STEAM UP. 10:30am - 4ppm

See in 2026 by enjoying a day packed with fascinating demonstrations and family-friendly activities. Join us for a memorable day out, experiencing the perfect blend of history and fun. A great family day out.

CRAFT WORKSHOPS at the MILL

All materials supplied, refreshments available. Places are limited so do book soon. For more info and to book tickets, visit

www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/whats-on/ or phone or email (see below).

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Saturday 6th December

Morning Session: 10 – 12am

Afternoon Session: 1:30 – 3:30pm

Christmas Needle Felted Garlands

Saturday 13th December

Morning Session: 10 – 12am

Afternoon Session: 1:30 – 3:30pm

For January workshops, please check www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/whats-on/

VOLUNTEERING

Boost your well-being and make a difference!! If you have some spare time, why not join the award-winning volunteers at this unique heritage site for a few hours each week? Please contact us by phone or email (see below) for more info and an informal chat, and to arrange a taster session. Visit www.coldharbourmill.org.uk/volunteer/ to see the wide range of volunteer teams. **Susan Wasfi**

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