

WILLITON WINDOW

Photo of the July 2026
Williton Fete



August 2026

Volume 26 Issue 2

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If you would like to advertise in this magazine please refer to the table. If you request the limited space on inside cover pages add 10% to the prices below or 20% for space on the outside back cover. Either black on white or colour advertisements can be accepted at the prices below. Please email the editors at contact@willitonwindow.org.uk.

Please note that the deadline for providing articles and adverts for the October edition of the Williton Window is **11 September**.

Size of Advertisement	One Insertion	Six Insertions
1/8 th page 6 x 4.5 cm	£20.00	£60.00
1/4 page landscape 12.3 x 4.5 cm	£30.00	£90.00
1/4 page portrait 6 x 9.2 cm	£30.00	£90.00
1/2 page 12.3 x 9.2 cm	£45.00	£150.00
Full page 12.3 x 18.3 cm	£65.00	£270.00

A word from the Editors ...

When this edition reaches you, autumn will be not far off, that is if you consider it starts at the beginning of September. We have got two issues off the blocks and the third is now in planning. So far so good would be our assessment if the feedback from our community and advertisers is to be considered. As always, the best is achieved when the community pulls together with one aim.

From an editorial point of view it is very encouraging to receive so many good wishes and compliments about the new magazine. It is only possible because so many people have contributed material or supported the project in many other ways. Please keep it coming in. If you have something in mind, don't sit on it, send it in and we will do our best to put it in the next edition.

Organisations and individuals supplying non-commercial copy are not charged. Which brings us to remember the financial support our advertisers contribute for taking up space to promote their businesses or commercial activities. Without them there would be no Williton Window.

There is nothing like a competition to bring out the best. That is what we are looking for in the way of pictures to go on the front cover. Have you a photo of something appropriate, perhaps relating to the season or a local event. The next edition will come out in October, so any autumn pictures would be welcome. It means that after that edition we are looking at December and all that implies. Send it in attached to an email to: contact@willitonwindow.org.uk in a common format such as jpeg. Make sure you put your name in the email so we can give credit to the photographer and put "Picture for front cover" in the header. The prize is the satisfaction of having contributed to our magazine.

We are also looking for interesting anecdotes about life in Williton from some years ago. Don't worry about how to write it, we will send a reporter to you to sort that out. Then there are all the organisations, large and small, or new ones trying to get off the ground. Give us your information about what you do, where you meet etc. Just one thing, can you bear in mind that we have to edit what you send in, and that is not easy if it is in PDF format, Word format and jpeg images are much easier to work with.

That said it only remains to hope that this second edition is as well received as the first and and success breeds success.

Debbie Schmieder and Ian Aldridge, Co-Editors.

Get in touch through: contact@willitonwindow.org.uk

or phone Debbie on 07527 603622 or Ian on 07977 506063

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*I'd rather get down on my hands
and knees for a deep clean than
dust a pristine property*

Supporting Children in Care

As we head towards summer, it is easy to be drawn into thoughts of lazy holidays and family get-togethers. But you might be looking for something else, a way of giving back to your community and the children of Somerset.

The number of children coming into the care of the Local Authority is at its highest level ever – at over 700. As a result, Route1 is seeing an increase in the number of children who are asking for an **Independent Visitor**.



What is an Independent Visitor?

An Independent Visitor (IV) is a volunteer who makes a commitment to one child in care. They visit the child once or twice each month to build a trusting, supportive relationship and friendship that can sometimes last many years. The visits might involve going out for coffee and a chat, having a picnic, or going for a dog walk. The relationship can bring life-changing experiences and opportunities to a child or young person – and their IV!

Here's what one of volunteers said: "I have been a volunteer with Route1 for five years now. Supporting a child in care has been one of the most rewarding things I have done. Last week I had the privilege of taking my young person to the beach for the first time. The joy on their face will remain with me always."

It sounds rewarding but too difficult for me...

Our youngest volunteer is 19 and our oldest is over 80! Some have experience of being with children, but many don't. If you are kind, fun and reliable then we can support with the rest. There is extensive, free training which is delivered face-to-face – no Zoom breakout rooms for us! And once trained there is ongoing support.

Your life experience will be highly valued, and you will be trained and supported in developing key skills. Your volunteering can be arranged to suit your availability.



For more information about Route1 Advocacy and Independent Visitors, you can contact us by emailing: route1advocacy@somerset.gov.uk, calling 01749 822801 and our website at www.route1advocacy.co.uk



Route1 Advocacy & Independent Visitors



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Wilton Fete

by Ian Aldridge

It's a great day in our community calendar, the first Saturday in July. It seems the weather was especially booked as it was a very sunny day but a steady breeze kept the temperature down. Just as well as the event does not happen without setting up gazebos, tables, marking out pitches, the sound system and many other things. All this was done in good time for the opening at 2pm by when there were queues at the three entrances to buy a programme and come in.



The attractions included the South Coast Waves Cheerleaders, the dog show, craft and produce show, military parade by the Army Cadets, many side stalls run by various organisations, a classic car and a fun car that looked like a cross between a Range Rover and a locomotive from the West Somerset Railway. Many parents and grandparents enjoyed the children's races which children enthusiastically entered.

After three hours it was all over, three hours of meeting friends, drinking a few pints or cups of tea, enjoying a chat and supporting numerous charities, not least our own. What charity is our own? It has a long name shortened to WWMRG and it looks after the Memorial Ground and the Pavilion. All the profits from the fete will go to that charity. It looks like that will be over £4,000.

All that remained to be done was to pack up all that kit set up in the morning. Thanks to the volunteer helpers that was done and the ground and Pavilion restored as it looked the day before. The next day you would not have realised what had gone on, but everyone who was there will have memories of a good day out and doing their bit in supporting our community's most prized asset, the Memorial Ground and Pavilion.

CONSERVATION AND NATURE NOTES

a year of CONTRAST AND challenges

The weather this year in May blasted us with cold air from the north, followed by heatwave after heatwave across the country, 30+ degrees, unprecedented in the UK.

So spare a thought for the numerous birds, insects and mammals that are all busy trying to survive and bring up their off spring in the world come rain or shine. Like us they no doubt would appreciate warmer temperatures but not this hot. The worms go deep, our plants shrivel and trees are under stress. Wildlife is experiencing unfavourable conditions for finding the vital food needed to achieve breeding success.

Humans enjoy the luxury of supermarkets and a safe route to get there from home. Wildlife however, has to find a suitable place to build a nest, then seek out a plentiful supply of food to bring up healthy off spring. Unlike us, they do not have supermarkets or a road leading to it!

The lack of food availability and safe routes to find it, is having a big effect on wildlife populations across the countryside. This dilemma is becoming all too common for wildlife, big and small, as their food resources and habitats are being continually removed and fragmented.

Nature requires numerous components to work together. Trees and plants grow every spring producing leaves, flowers and nectar, all the food needed by insects, birds and mammals alike.

There are winners and this summer we have enjoyed the company of swifts, swallows and house martins. Butterflies and bees have also been on the wing, visiting nectar giving plants. We have in previous years been seeing fewer insects on our car windscreens, so it will be interesting to hear if this hot weather has boosted populations.

As finding food become more challenging for our wild mammals, they have to travel further to find that food. They rely on hedgerows as a network of green highways but many have been removed or are heavily trimmed. We also tidy things away and disturb places that nature likes, including decaying wood and long grass.

Roads are a particular threat to deer, hedgehogs, badgers and hare. I have seen many casualties over the last few weeks.

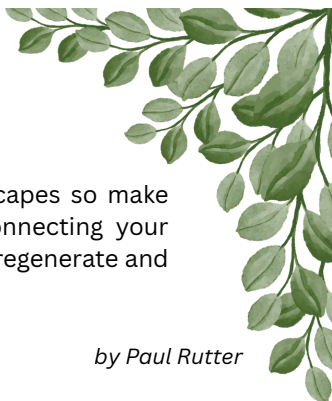
All is far from lost , we can change this situation for the better to help support wildlife to become more resilient to the changing climate and land use, despite this crazy weather. Reconnecting the landscape is a role we can all play whether you are a large landowner or have just a small garden.

Including nectar giving plants, having a dead log or two, mowing grass less often and later in the season all helps. Small ponds also support much wildlife, piles of leaves help to give those niches for creatures, great and small.

All wildlife need to be able to move across landscapes so make sure there are green nature friendly corridors connecting your piece of land to your neighbour's land. Nature can regenerate and thrive, if given the space, time and less disturbance.

Let us hope we all get some rain soon!

by Paul Rutter



Rainbows
1st Williton

For Girls From Reception to 7 Years

Make Friends, Earn Badges
Join in with fun activities like cooking,
crafts and outdoor games!

At rainbows, we welcome all girls to learn,
play and grow in a safe space for all
abilities.

We Meet on Thursdays
from 5:30pm-6:30pm

For more information or to book a place for
your daughter text 07765842747
or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

The poster features the Girlguiding logo, a rainbow, a flower, a kite, and a ladybug. At the bottom are six circular icons representing different activities: singing, dancing, sports, crafts, outdoor games, and learning.



Brownies
1st Williton

For all girls from 7 to 10 years old
for non-stop fun, learning and adventure

Make Friends, Earn Badges
Join in with fun activities
like baking, crafts, outdoor
games and pack holidays!

We meet on Tuesdays
from 5:45pm-7:15pm

For more information or to book a place for
your daughter, text 07765842747
or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

The poster features the Girlguiding logo, a magnifying glass, a paint palette, a robot, a leaf, a frog, and a compass. At the bottom are six circular icons representing different activities: singing, dancing, sports, crafts, outdoor games, and learning.

Did you know....

Doniford bay has Jurassic fossils in the cliffs.
The largest Ichthyosaurus fossil discovered was found in Doniford Bay
and taken to a museum in Hanover. When it was examined in 2017 it
was revealed as the largest specimen described.

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News from the
Williton with Watchet WI

So good to have the Williton Window back in circulation. Here at the WI over the past few months we have had some very interesting and enjoyable speakers with a varied selection of topics. We have heard about Blue Shed Flowers, Easter and its Customs and Watchet Boat Museum with rope making! In June Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance came along with Re-start a Heart and CPR training.

Our annual outing is in **July** when we will be visiting Allerford Forge and Museum, with the obligatory cream tea of course!!

We take a break in August and our next open meeting will be on Thursday the **17th of September** when author, Jenny Kane, will be coming along to tell us about her new cosy crime novel 'The Fish & Chip Shop Detectives' and the Mill Grange series set in Dulverton.

Then on **15th October** Mandy Flynn will come along with a Spinning Wheel demonstration and talk.

We meet in the Brendon Room at Williton Pavilion every third Thursday at 2.00pm. Visitors welcome, so come along and join us for a cup of tea!!

*Irene Draper
on behalf of Williton with Watchet WI*



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Other volunteer roles are available so please contact Somerset Sight on 01823 333818 or email admin@somersetsight.org.uk

The recruitment process is quick and straight forward. We look forward to hearing from you

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A NOURISHING PASTA DINNER

by Ian Aldridge

This recipe takes less than half an hour to prepare from scratch and has a bit of everything, vegetables, cheese, fish and, of course, pasta.

It probably costs less than £2 for the ingredients.

INGREDIENTS

- 4oz or one good mugful of wholemeal pasta twirls (20p)
 - A few drips of olive oil (1p)
 - Pinch of salt (1p)
 - Half a jar of pasta sauce (35p)
 - 3oz approx of cheddar cheese (50p)
 - Small tin of tuna (60p)
 - 6oz or a good mugful of frozen mixed vegetables (25p)
- (Total £1.92)



METHOD

1. Put water, olive oil and salt into a small saucepan and bring to the boil, then add the dried pasta and stir for a moment to make sure the pasta pieces separate. Turn the heat down when the water comes back to the boil to prevent it boiling over. Boil until soft.
2. Put the frozen mixed vegetables into another small saucepan, cover with water and bring to the boil. Turn the heat down once boiling.
3. If you have a warming oven or some other way to warm plates, warm one dinner plate.
4. Meanwhile, take half the jar of pasta sauce and either microwave it or put it in a small saucepan and gently heat it until just boiling.
5. Open the tin of tuna and drain off the salt water.
6. As soon as the pasta is soft and the vegetables are soft, drain them of water and tip them onto the dinner plate and spread them out.
7. Pour the hot pasta sauce over the pasta and vegetables on the plate. Distribute it as evenly as possible.
8. Use a fork to get the tuna out of the tin and to break up the flakes of fish so it can be sprinkled over what is already on the plate.

9. Finally grate the cheese to top off the plate of food and put the plate into a hot oven for about 5 mins to heat it all through really well and to melt the cheese.
10. Take from the oven, remembering the plate will be very hot to handle, and tuck in.



NOTES

1. Putting a few drops of olive oil in the pasta water helps to stop it clogging together.
2. What to do with half a jar of pasta sauce left over? It can be frozen, but not in the jar, and kept for the next time. Alternatively put the open jar with half the sauce in it in the microwave and heat it until it boils. Then take it out of the microwave and immediately screw the lid down tight. It should keep without refrigeration long enough until the next time you make this meal. However, if the lid is bowed upwards when you go to use it, throw it away as some lifeform has survived the simple sterilisation boil-up in the microwave.
3. For me this is a meal for one. If you are cooking for a family then allow half a tin of tuna per person and use a bit more vegetable per person to make up.
4. Ordinary pasta twirls can be used if you prefer them to wholemeal ones. It is just that the wholemeal pasta is better for your digestive system.

**If you have
favourite family recipes
then please do share with us
for others to enjoy.**

contact@willitonwindow.org.uk



Courier Fraud Warning

**In 2025, criminals stole £21 million from victims of courier fraud.
In Avon and Somerset alone, there was a financial loss of £346,000.**

City of London Police are issuing a renewed warning to the public as courier fraud continues to evolve across the UK, with criminals using increasingly sophisticated and persistent tactics. A key feature of this threat is the disproportionate targeting of older people, particularly those aged 70 and above. This group makes up the majority of victims, with those aged between 76 and 96 alone accounting for around 62 per cent of all reports.

Courier fraud typically begins with an unexpected phone call. A criminal impersonates a police officer, bank official, or fraud investigator and convinces the victim that their money, account, or identity is at risk. The victim is told they are helping an investigation and is instructed to withdraw cash or purchase high-value goods such as gold or jewellery.

Criminals are becoming increasingly persistent, sometimes staying in contact with victims for days or weeks, guiding their actions step by step. In many cases, victims are coached on what to say to bank staff or shop employees to avoid raising suspicion.

Criminals stole
£21,000,000 from
victims of courier
fraud in 2025.

Report Fraud

STOP! THINK FRAUD

Report cyber crime and fraud:
reportfraud.police.uk

How to protect yourself from courier fraud:

- **Transferring money:** Your bank or the police will never ask you to transfer money to a safe account.
- **Couriers:** Your bank or the police will never send a courier to your home to collect bank cards, cash, or other valuables such as jewellery.
- **Check if it's genuine:** For any contact you are unsure of, hang up and contact the organisation directly using contact details you know are correct, such as those on official websites, the back of your card or by calling 159 for your bank.
- **Caller ID:** Don't trust the Caller ID display on the phone - it's not proof of ID.
- **Report suspicious calls:** You can report suspected scam calls by sending a text to 7726 with the word 'Call' followed by the caller's number.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud contact Report Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the website: reportfraud.police.uk.



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Keeping devices updated

a series of articles by Edward Martin

Keeping devices updated is one of the easiest ways to stay protected.

Social media also presents risks that many people overlook. We naturally enjoy sharing parts of our lives online, but criminals can gather surprising amounts of information from public posts. Birthdays, addresses, holiday plans, schools, workplaces, and family details can all help scammers build a picture of someone.

It is worth reviewing privacy settings and thinking carefully before posting personal information publicly. Announcing that you are away on holiday for two weeks may not always be wise.

Online shopping has made life more convenient, but it has also opened new opportunities for fraudsters. Fake websites can look remarkably professional, offering goods at prices that seem too good to be true. Often, they are. Before buying from an unfamiliar website, take a few moments to check reviews, confirm contact details, and ensure the website address begins with “https”. Paying by credit card or trusted payment systems can also provide extra protection if something goes wrong.

Children and young people face particular challenges online. The internet offers fantastic educational and social opportunities, but it can also expose younger users to harmful content, scams, or inappropriate contact. Open conversations are far more effective than fear or strict bans. Encouraging children to speak up if something online worries them is extremely important.

Finally, it is important to remember that nobody is immune from mistakes. Even experienced computer users can occasionally be caught out. Cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated every year. Staying safe online is not about being frightened of technology – it is about using it sensibly and confidently.

The internet remains one of the greatest tools ever created. It connects communities, supports businesses, and gives us access to information that previous generations could only dream of. By developing a few good habits and staying alert, we can continue to enjoy its benefits while reducing the risks.

In future articles in this series, we will look more closely at topics including online scams, protecting children online, safe banking, social media risks, and practical ways to secure computers and smartphones at home.

After all, in today's connected world, online safety is no longer just an IT issue — it is a life skill.

Note from the Editors: Edward Martin is writing for us on IT related topics drawing on his many years of experience running Edward Martin Computer Services. His son, Andrew, continues the Martin family involvement in IT through Fluid Labs.

9th and 23rd
August

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In aid of Church Funds

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– 4pm

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What's On at the Williton Pavillion

Tuesday	12noon – 1pm	FOXES COMMUNITY LUNCHES (term time only) Two course meal (also a vegetarian option) Menu is displayed in the parish council window each week
Wednesday	12noon – 1pm	FOXES COMMUNITY LUNCHES (term time only) Light lunch, with homemade cake or pudding
Thursday	2pm – 3.30pm	FOXES COMMUNITY LUNCHES (term time only) Option 1 - Afternoon Tea - meat and vegetarian sandwiches. Fruit, cherry or plain scone with clotted cream and jam, tea or coffee. Option 2 – High tea - A selection of sandwiches, scones with cream and jam and homemade cake, served with tea or coffee. Option 3 – Cream tea - Fruit, cherry or plain scone with clotted cream and jam served with tea or coffee.

For information on booking the Williton Pavilion for Weddings, Birthday Party's, Christening, Exercise Classes, Indoor Markets or any other event, please contact the Parish Council Office on 01984 633979 or email office@willitonpc.org.uk

Regular Events at the Williton Pavillion

Monday	10.30am - 11.30am	TAI CHI QIGONG £6 pay as you go - Qualified Yoga & Tai Chi Qigong Teacher. For more information, please call Julie on 077968 535 84
	2pm – 4pm	SHORT MAT BOWLS
	6pm – 7pm	ZUMBA You can have fun with fitness!! Join Jen for Zumba Fitness Classes held Every Monday Evening 6 - 7pm
	7.30 – 8.30pm	PILATES Join Jayne every Monday evening at 7.30pm for her Pilates classes, which help improve joint mobility and flexibility, plus many more health benefits. Contact Jayne on 07984 796750 for more information on booking a session.
Tuesday	1pm – 3pm	TALKING CAFÉ AND ADVICE CENTRE
	7pm	BINGO (every fortnight)
Wed	4pm – 7.30pm	SLIMMING WORLD Come and join the Slimming World group which is being held in the Hall every Wednesday at 4.30 pm
Thursday	2pm – 4pm	WOMENS INSTITUTE (every 3rd Thursday)
	6pm - 8pm	YOUTH CLUB (term time only)
Friday	11.30am – 12.30pm	SILVER CIRCUITS Improve balance; Increase muscular strength; Improve heart and lung function. Contact Michelle Purnell BSc 07754 144 844 or email carefallexercise@gmail.com
	5pm – 8pm	MARTIAL ARTS

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WHEELS

WHEELS – your local community car scheme.

Wheels has been helping transport people on important journeys that are either not possible or prohibitively expensive by other means. We have been doing this since 2008, serving the parishes of Williton, Watchet and Old Cleeve. In that time 25,000 journeys have been made.

There are two sides to this charitable organisation, the people it serves and the people who provide the service. We take people door-to-door from their homes to such things as medical appointments, to attend local support groups, visit loved ones etc for an at cost charge. At the present there are 458 members in the scheme. To use this service you need to register by contacting the **co-ordinator on 07891 821 861.**

Wheels needs voluntary drivers. If you think you could help with transporting users contact the co-ordinator on 07891 821 861. We will explain how it works including mileage payments, insurance arrangements and how you will be asked if you can take on a specific journey. This a great way to volunteer in our community as and when you can.



PRESERVING HISTORY --- NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS

There will be an event in the **Williton Pavilion on Saturday 17th October** showcasing preserving, bee keeping, brewing, baking, etc, where possible using local produce or fruits, berries or whatever gleaned from the hedgerows. There is no charge for a pitch for non-commercial attendees, Commercial stands will be charged depending on their requirements. This is a fun event, not a competitive show. If you have something like jams, pickles, chutneys, home brewed wines or beer, recipes to share and tips on how to get good results, please get in touch. The whole idea is to keep alive the old methods of preserving food by passing the knowledge onto the next generation.



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A view from the Parish Office



As you may be aware the Parish Council was successful in purchasing the former Library building at the end of the last financial year and although it may not look like it from the outside a lot has been going on behind the closed doors. The final drawings for the conversion of the building into new offices, council chamber and public toilets are almost complete and we hope to submit our application for the works and the change of use to Somerset Council very shortly. The biggest challenge we have had so far has been designing the public toilets to be fully accessible and meet current requirements.

Although we have seen some very warm days over the last month it hasn't stopped the hedges and other vegetation from growing. This has led to many complaints being received about pavements being blocked, causing people to go into the road to get round them. It makes life extremely difficult for those with pushchairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters. Unfortunately, the Parish Council is unable to do anything about this, or any other highway defect, other than report it to Somerset Council. This is something that any resident can also do and, as is often the case, the more people that report any problem connected to the highway, be that blocked drains, damaged kerbs, street lights etc the more likely it is to be corrected. To do this you need to log on to the Somerset Council website www.somerset.gov.uk and follow the link to "roads, travel and parking" and then to "report a problem". If you need help to do this, please contact the parish office.

On other highway issues, namely speeding, the Parish Council has purchased two more speed indicator devices which will soon be installed in North Road and on the A39 in Priest Street. We are also considering the amount of free parking in the village and will be conducting a survey with business owners in the village centre to establish the demand for the number of free parking spaces and the amount of time that will be free of charge. If you have a view on this, again, please can you contact the Parish Office.

Finally, on behalf of the Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground Charity, can I thank everyone who came to the Fete on the 4th of July, and especially the volunteers who helped in so many ways. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves on a wonderful day. It is events like this that make our village and community a great place to live.

*Peter Payne, Chairman
Williton Parish Council*

Beware of Phishing Texts and Emails

This month, Fraud Protect Officers from Avon and Somerset Police want to make people aware of phishing texts and emails. Fraudsters can pretend to be anyone over text or email and they are often influenced by current affairs, such as government announcements and the cost of living crisis. Here are some text message examples on the opposite page where we have removed the links, but these could also come through via email.

When the victim follows the link, they will be asked for personal details such as bank/card information and passwords. However, just clicking on the link alone can result in malicious spyware or viruses being downloaded onto the victim's device.

Unfortunately, there is often a secondary part to these phishing texts, which is particularly sophisticated. It is known as "transfer into a safe account" fraud. The victim, maybe even a few days later, might be contacted by a fraudster, purporting to be from their bank. The fraudster will know who they bank with, along with other personal details, from the information harvested from the phishing text. They will claim that there has been fraud on their account and their funds are at risk, often referring to the phishing text. The victim, remembering the recent phishing text, is often convinced by the fraudster, feeling panicked by the thought of their funds being at risk. The fraudster explains that, to protect their funds, they need to transfer them into a "safe account". The bank details provided simply belong to the fraudster.

REMEMBER:

- Stop and think before responding to any email or text message
- Don't click on links unless you can verify where they came from
- Never provide information to anyone who contacts you out of the blue – take time to verify their credentials through a trusted source
- Just because a text or email purports to be from a government agency or organisation it doesn't mean it is
- Forward scam text messages to 7726 (SPAM) and emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

If you are the victim of fraud contact Report Fraud

Images of possible scams

HMRC: you are eligible for a [£202.62](https://ukgov-claim-refund.com) tax refund due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please visit <https://ukgov-claim-refund.com>

ROYAL MAIL: Your parcel has a £2.99 shipping fee. Please pay this now via: <https://tracking-royalmail.com> or the parcel will be returned to sender.


☐ HM Revenue Customs

Income Tax rates and Personal Allowance

Dear TaxPayer,

You are eligible to receive a refund of up to 425.58 GBP. In order to do so, you are required to submit an official claim application information you have registered with us.

[Claim your tax](#)

Note:
If you will not complete the refund form now, you will not be able to claim refund online

HMRC Customer - Secured E-mail -

Best Regards, Luke Sullivan.

Why you got this email

You registered for a refund Government Gateway

From HMRC Government Gateway



Dear PayPal customer,

Your PayPal account is limited, You have 24 hours to solve the problem or your account will be permanently disabled.

We are sorry to inform you that you no longer have access to PayPal's advantages like purchasing, and sending and receiving money.

Why is my PayPal account limited?

We believe that your account is in danger from unauthorized users.

What can I do to resolve the problem?

You have to confirm all of your account details on our secured server by clicking the link below and following the steps.

[Confirm Your Information](#)

Hundreds of people descended on Williton during the early Bank Holiday Weekend in May , for the West Somerset Railway Spring Steam Spectacular. Journalist, Broadcaster and Local Resident Mike Vince was among them.

You couldn't miss it-vehicles parked beside the A358 at the Sampford Brett turn off gave the game away- each and every one of them with a camera with the Railway Line above offering the perfect backdrop.

And at the stations too they came by the carload, people with cameras, videocams and the kind of technology that would have been unheard of 50 years ago, when the railway took the first tentative steps towards resurrection after Beeching with journeys from Minehead to Blue Anchor.

Some of the engines, of course, predate that era and they are the magnet for steam enthusiasts from across the land-no more so than Sir Nigel Gresley, an iconic engine which entered service in 1937 and set the official post war record for steam traction at 112mph.

Not that it was going anything like that quick through the WSR- but arriving at Minehead Station on an earlier train I wondered what hundreds of people were doing waiting on an empty platform then someone told me - Gresley was at the head of the next one down from Bishops Lydeard - and no one seemed to mind how long they waited for 'that' photograph. Gresley, who has his own website, is due to return to the line later this summer but the thousands who came to the gala over the four days were treated to All Engines Great and Small, with small Tank engines like Victor doing their share of the work, and the most remarkable sight of all was a triple headed train with the three 'Manors' Locomotives pulling together - and then you realise why some of the platforms at the stations are so long!

But there was more to this Steam Gala than just getting the train from A to B- and Williton was one of the busiest stations on the line as it has the principal passing loop on Britain's longest Preserved Railway. Wherever you got off there were things to do, be it exhibitions of the past glories or whatever, at Minehead you could watch the turntable at close quarters which attracted the young as well as the not so young who remembered the good old days of steam- so many people had played their part in what was a shop window weekend for the trains, the line, and the area.

What of the travel experience- I travelled from Bishops Lydeard on the early train on the Bank Holiday Monday and discovered when booking that it was a train with a “Quantock Belle” carriage which meant you could eat a Breakfast cooked on board as you meandered gently through Crowcombe and Stogumber, stopped to pass a train at Williton and then hit the coast at Watchet, through the level crossing with cameras clicking in all directions at Blue Anchor and on into Minehead.

The Quantock Belle is a real jewel and an absolute First Class Experience at a really good price in comparison to train catering of today. A breakfast of fruit juice, substantial Full English and toast and marmalade washed down with tea and/or coffee was on offer- they frequently during the season serve Sunday lunches. The staff on board are superb, and a real source of information for visitors to tap into, always offered with a smile.

Their website will tell you on what services it’s offered, and how to book, but be quick. As I found out the most common words used are ‘sold out’. I easily understood why and I was not alone. They offered cream teas later in the day making 12 hour days for the volunteer staff, who clearly love their work.

This was the kind of event that can only be good news for the local economy and attracts volunteers from across the community. Steam trains have their own brand of magic in attracting people and next month the team will do it all again with diesels.

Just look at Youtube to realise exactly how many people enjoy these events and how lucky we are to be able to stage them. It’s the cash these events raise, though they are expensive to put on, that keeps the Railway operating and acting as a magnet for tourists near and far.

Mike Vince

DISCLAIMER

We do our best to ensure that all advertisements and articles appear correctly in the Williton Window. Advertisements and articles appearing in this publication are accepted in good faith by the publishers, who cannot accept any responsibility for their accuracy, nor does their inclusion imply any recommendation.

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WHERE DO EMUS COME FROM?

by Nicholas Nugent

It sounds like a question from a junior school geography class, but the answer now truly could be Williton! Those of you who walk the path from Williton to Doniford may be familiar with the flock of emus that local farmer Will Sully keeps there, near Egrove Farm. Now, after previous unsuccessful attempts, he has succeeded in breeding from them. Five little emu hatchlings were born in early May, in the nest sat upon by Herbert – for with emus it is usually the father who takes responsibility for sitting. There were four nests and well over 30 bright green eggs laid by the mums since December, but only Herbert's brood hatched.



In previous years we have had hatchlings but only singles and they did not survive long. This year five were born within three days and taken away to safer homes for fear of attracting the attention of foxes or buzzards. They will be reunited with their parents in due course. They are being fed a mix of mealworms and grain and enjoy playing in a small bath.

As this tale suggests, breeding emus is not something easily achieved since the laying of the eggs is only the first stage. Away from their native Australia – which of course is the true answer to the opening question – even their winter egg laying season is different. Farmer Will has tried using an incubator, but this year's successful hatching suggests the skill is in teaching the Dads to sit on the eggs, which involves providing them with the wherewithal to build comfortable ground nests. Then there's the business of collecting the eggs from whichever part of the field they were laid in and moving them to the nests: that was my job!



Only Herbert apparently understood the procedure well enough to bring some of his brood to hatching point, though even he deserted the nest after the five little ones were born.

He deserves an award for perseverance, though the young chicks were reward enough in themselves. It needs to be said that the mums, Henrietta, Hermione and Beatrice, showed little interest in the products of their labour but we hope that will change once the brood are reintroduced to their parents.



Perhaps the real award belongs to Farmer Will for his persistence. He has previously bred sheep, cows and chickens and regularly wins awards at the Dunster Show for his Norfolk Horn sheep. So it was a case of another breed, another challenge. We are wondering what he will try next. We know he is working on tortoises and alpacas!

Incidentally, Will has already made news this year – in the Free Press and on Points West – as one of his Norfolk Horn sheep, Nobby, who lived alongside the emus at their Egrove location, is the star of a recent animated film *The Sheep Detectives*. Yes, even animated films have stars!

Will's success is Williton's too since the baby emus have put plenty of feathers in Williton's cap!



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What has been happening in Robert Street this past year with the Hayley's Shop and what is it all about?

The shop started here in Williton in November 2025 selling clothes and offering a limited number of craft classes run by local artists. Since then it has become a limited Community Interest Company - Hayley's Williton CIC.

Hayley's is a growing community hub with not only affordable seasonal fashion, locally made craft and art, but it also offers a space for wellbeing and connection through its social prescription groups!

Each Friday there is a 'Community Drop In' and look out for our cheeky Saturday dates for **Stitch & Bltch**, which is a friendly open session to just bring along whatever you are working on and have a cuppa with others. We also have an in-house Breast Cancer peer support session called **Booby Birds** where those affected can share their journey with others who understand.

Hayley's is a great place to visit to shop with friends, build connection in your community, access art and wellbeing and also find out about other services where you live.

If you want to get in touch with Hayley's either plan a visit or see what is on through the website www.hayleyscic.com



Weather records for Farmers, gardeners and everyone for June 2026

It was so hot - 150 year temperature records broken : 36.8°C at Fairfield Airport, 36°C here, 36.2°C Porlock on the 25th. (For July see next issue)

Maximum temperature 36°C on the 25th. **Minimum** 8°C on 10th.

Maximum pressure 30 . 2 inches on the 21st. **Minimum** 29.65 on 4th.

Total rainfall 4.2 inches. Most on one day 22in. on the 24th.

More information next issue (due limited space in this one)

Pj (Peterjon) R.



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EDENSTONE

Williton Gardening Club



from Barb Cook

I've been watching the Tour de France of late and although the aerial photography shows spectacular scenery, there isn't much for the keen gardener to drool over!

Exceptions are the chateaux with beautiful formal gardens but generally the French don't do lush lawns and lots of flowers because their summers are hotter than ours. The trouble is that this year, with long periods of drought and high temperatures, we've struggled to maintain our lush lawns and flowers and it's looking as though we'll need to change to drought resistant and heat tolerant planting.

Much for us still to learn!

So in search of enlightenment, we meet monthly on the 4th Monday of the month and our programme for the next 3 months is as follows:

Annual membership costs only £15 but visitors are welcome whenever there is an outside speaker for £2 per person.

Our programme for the next 4 months is as follows:

August 15th Saturday

This will be our annual Members BBQ where I'm hoping that we can avoid setting fire to my very dry thatched roof.

September 28th Monday.

A talk by Ursula Franklin - The Natural Beauty of the Quantocks.

October 26th Monday.

A talk by Jan Boddington – Autumnal Flower Arranging.

November 23rd Monday.

A talk by Neil Clarke – Iceland

All talks are at Danesborough View Common Room starting at 7.30pm.

Thank you to everyone who supported our plant stall at Williton Fete where we made £134.60.

**Look out for our posters around Williton
or phone 01984 639459 for more details**

Down at the Station



By the time that this lands on your door mat we will be well into the holiday season and welcoming visitors from far and near to the station and to Williton.

Unfortunately, in June one of my Assistant Station Masters, Phil Chapman, passed away. Phil was a much-loved character, by both his colleagues on the station, within the railway family and by visitors to the West Somerset Railway. He is very much missed. We also had the passing of a long-time volunteer, Richard Salt, following several years of ill health. Although Richard had not been able to come to the station in recent months, he will be no less missed by everyone who knew him. As Phil would have said "the railway needs to keep on running."

Apart from the normal services operating over the summer we will be welcoming several charters from the main line and we are looking forward to the **"Diesels at 65" weekend over the August Bank Holiday** when we will be celebrating 65 years since the iconic Class 35 "Hymek" entered service on British Railways. We are also looking forward to the **40's weekend on the 13th – 17th September** where we will have a display on the evacuation process and how it was carried out in Williton. If you have any recollection or family stories about either being evacuated to Williton or if you were part of a host family, we would love to hear from you.

Whether you are travelling on the railway or just popping down to the station for a cup of tea or coffee over the summer we look forward to seeing you.

Peter Payne, Station Master

Allison Courtney

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League of Friends
Williton Community Hospital
Charity number 299272

We have enjoyed attending the fetes around the local area and Watchet Carnival and a thank you to the visitors we met, for your time, interest and donations.

We will be at Watchet Summertime on the Quay on Friday 21st August.

We look forward to seeing you on our Open Day & Cream Tea at Williton Hospital on Saturday 29th August 11am to 4pm.

Come along, enjoy a cream tea and admire the garden, greenhouse and also 'The New Car' will be on display. To anyone who is interested in the work that the League of Friends does, and you would like to know more, we offer a welcome for you to join us at our Committee Meetings.

To find out more please contact Elaine on 07749 402309

Hello, everyone.

Last time I wrote for the Williton Window, back in 2024, I talked about a 60s American stand-up comedian called Lenny Bruce who said this: *"Every day people are straying away from the church and going back to God."*

Since I wrote that, I've been introduced to the idea that recently lots more people are taking an interest in God than they were doing in recent decades. Some are finding out about God for the first time while others are revisiting a faith they used to have.

As I said back in 2024, I think that sometimes, the church is a very bad advert for God! But despite this, I hope that people who find themselves asking questions can also find people who will talk to them about the answers. By the way, beware of Christians who seem to have all the answers! Even with the best intentions, they won't have. The best we can do is be together, "sharing every cup of joy and grief" and thinking about the questions. Sometimes, wrestling with the questions is more useful than finding all the answers!

And if you've got questions you're wrestling with, you'll find a safe place to ask them with us.

*Mike Sherburn, Pastor, Watchet
Baptist Church, 07466 195976
watchetbaptist.org.uk*



💧 **Do you have a query about your water bill, how to save water and prevent blockages, or your water and sewerage services?**

Wessex Water is holding sessions across our supply area to give customers the opportunity to speak with us face to face about anything water-related—whether it's bills, supply, wastewater, or support for those struggling with payments. I'll be on hand to offer advice and explain the help available.



Wessex Water will be hosting a community drop-in session on:

📍 **Thursday 10 September** ⌚ **10am-12pm**

📍 **Minehead Town Council, 3 Summerland Road, Minehead TA24 5BP**

👉 **To find out more, visit: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community-drop-ins>**

The Three Ws, but not WWW

There are three local things all beginning with “W” that connect our community with somewhere much more known in certain circles. The three things are the Wyndham family, Williton and Wine.

The connection between these also involves Australia. In 1827 George Wyndham set up home at Dalwood House in the Hunter Valley near Sydney. He took vines with him and the Wyndham Vineyard was set up. It produced wines until 2014, by which time it was owned Pernod Ricard Winemakers. In 1982, at an international wine convention its wines won four gold, seven silver and two bronze medals. What happened then to this renown vineyard, one of the earliest in Australia and the first to introduce the shiraz grape to Australia in 1830?

What has become of the vineyard? In 1984 it was bought by Iris Capital who renamed it to its original name of Dalwood Estate from Wyndham Estate. However, the Wyndham roots are perpetuated in the names of its wines such as the George Wyndham Sauvignon Blanc.

The WORDSEARCH

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D	L	O	W	H	T	U	O	S	W

Inspirational Quotes

*Roy T. Bennett,
The Light in the Heart*

"Don't just learn, experience.
 Don't just read, absorb.
 Don't just change, transform.
 Don't just relate, advocate.
 Don't just promise, prove.
 Don't just criticize, encourage.
 Don't just think, ponder.
 Don't just take, give.
 Don't just see, feel.
 Don't just dream, do.
 Don't just hear, listen.
 Don't just talk, act.
 Don't just tell, show.
 Don't just exist, live."

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