

WILLITON WINDOW



Your Church and Community Magazine
JANUARY 2017
Volume 17, Number 7

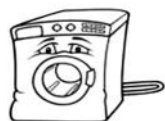
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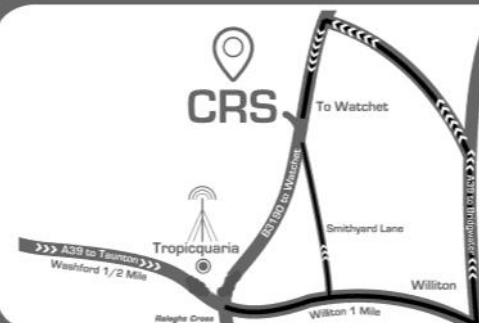


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FROM FRIDAY 27 JANUARY**Please send articles, news, diary dates and advertisements to:**

Jenny or Tony Gibson, "Mill Cottage", 22 Bridge Street, Williton TA4 4NR

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CUT OUT AND KEEP - USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**Church of England (St Peter's)**

Vicar	Rev Clive Gilbert	631005
Readers:	Mrs Bev Machin	568201
	Mrs Donna Marsden	633707
Churchwardens:	Mr Michael Davenport	633672
	Mrs Tracey Copp	633657

Methodist Church

Team Ministry:	Rev Andrew Vidamour	01643	705175
	Rev Tina MacDonald	01643	703178
Stewards:	Mr P Gliddon		632327
	Mr P Hopkins	01278	741542
	Miss M Brooks		632115

Church Bookings	Mrs J Sefton	656652
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Roman Catholic Deacon	Rev Vincent Woods	634681
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Baptist Church contacts	Mrs M Collinson	632537
	Mr J Bowcock	248169

Salvation Army Corps Leader	Miss Sam Searle	07979	575453
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Hall address and telephone:	1 Brendon Road, Watchet	633133
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Williton Window distribution	Mrs P Chidgey	632755
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Williton Parish Council	Clerk: Mrs M Francis	633979
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WELCOME PACK

Have you recently moved to Williton or do you know someone who has? If so, you may like a free Welcome Pack, which gives details of services, clubs and organisations, and how to obtain more information. Please ring Jenny Gibson on 634899 or go to our website: www.willitonwindow.org.uk/welcome-pack

DISCLAIMER: Advertisements and articles appearing in this publication are accepted in good faith by the publishers, St Peter's Parochial Church Council, who can, however, not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, nor does their inclusion imply any recommendation.

The Williton Window wishes all our readers,
contributors, distributors, advertisers and our printers
a happy and healthy new year.

UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON**S T PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES**

Tuesdays	9.00 am	Prayer Time
Tuesdays	10-11.am	Coffee and Chat
Tuesdays	11.00 am	Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion

Saints Day Services as announced

For Home Communion or visits of any kind, please contact:

the Vicar: Revd. Clive Gilbert on 631005

Reader Bev Machin on 01984 568201 or Reader Donna Marsden on 633707

Church is open daily during daylight hours for personal prayer**SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2017**

Sun 1st	8.00 am	Holy Communion, BCP
	10.00am	All Age Worship
Sun 8th	8.00 am	Holy Communion, BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	3.00pm	Christians Together Epiphany Service
Sun 15th	8.00 am	Holy Communion, BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Mon 16th	10.00am	Communion at Danesborough view, all welcome
Tues 17th	7.30pm	Housegroup at Catherine and Lindsay's
Sun 22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00am	Christians Together Service at Danesfield School
Sun 29th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	3.00pm	Launch of Deanery Mission Project Service

THE SALVATION ARMY WATCHET CORPS

(Part of Churches Together in Williton and Watchet)

Salvation Army Hall, 1 Brendon Road, Watchet. All are welcome.

Sunday Worship 11am (followed by coffee and a chat)

Monday Silver Threads 3pm (Over 60s fellowship)

Friday Coffee morning (10am - 12 noon) Home-made cakes for sale.

All enquiries to the Corps leader, Miss Sam Searle on 07979 575 453.

FROM REV ANDREW VIDAMOUR

'Doctor Who' remains popular after many years, reminding us of the elusive possibilities of time travel – and the intriguing idea that many parallel universes may exist. At the start of a new year, a natural point of reflection, all this may set us pondering on the mysteries of time and space.

If time is not static (the same everywhere constantly), but somehow elastic, and if an infinite range of universes may exist alongside the one we are experiencing now, what reality may time (and our artificial ways of measuring time, such as new years) have for us – and can we trust any aspect of our experience to be 'real'?

In Greek, there are two words for time. One is 'chronos', the sense of time being measurable by such devices as clocks and calendars – from this, we get words like 'chronological'. The other Greek word for time, 'kairos', is more complex. It literally means 'crossroads' or 'crisis', and it suggests that there are certain key moments which are significant for us, whether as points of joy or sorrow or understanding, or as great occasions of decision-making.

Sometimes, these 'kairos' points (whatever may prompt them) will seem to lift us out of 'chronos' time altogether, so that we feel we are in a different reality, even if briefly. Now these special moments suggest that even ordinary 'chronos' time may be given extra value, depth and richness, and one Christian writer coined the phrase 'the sacrament of the present moment' to try and describe this possibility.

As we celebrated at Christmas, God has entered our total human life and experience in Jesus, and so has made it holy, with all its difficulties and challenges, its joys and hopes. And in Jesus we may see God showing us the possibility of our lives being made fuller and richer as we seek and know the mercy of God, and as we offer the understanding and compassion of Christ to others, near and far.

In these ways, whatever the complexities of modern physics, time for us now is made holy as God would have it be, and our mistakes and frailties are material for learning, growth and renewal. As we move further into 2017, may time for you increasingly become not just a mundane, mechanical process, but a living reality full of that loving-kindness God offers us in Jesus Christ.

BAPTIST CHURCH (WATCHET)

The Baptist Church meets at Knights Templar School every Sunday at 10.30 am. For more information, **email:** minister@watchetbaptist.org.uk or visit the **website:** www.watchetbaptist.org.uk or telephone the contacts shown on page 8.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass is celebrated at 6.30 pm on Saturdays at the Methodist Church, Watchet. For more information contact Deacon Vincent Woods on 01984 634681.

METHODIST CHURCH Tower Hill, Williton

Do come and join us for:

Services: Sundays at 10.30 am

Bible Fellowship Group : Contact Mollie Brooks on 01984 632115

Coffee and chat: Fridays 10.00 am - 11.30 am - all welcome

This month our preachers are:

1st	Mr Peter Hopkins
8th	Miss Mollie Brooks - Café Church
15th	Mr Peter Hopkins
22nd	Local arrangement
29th	Mrs Jennifer Bates

Mollie is leading a café church on Sunday 8th - please do try to join us for this informal worship. On Saturday 14th from 10am to 12.45, there will be a quiet morning of Christmas reflections with coffee, tea and biscuits available. All are most welcome to join us.

The Holiday at Home on December 16th was well attended and £50 was raised for the Church Roof Fund. Monica would like to thank all the helpers who made this such a success.

SNOWDROP VALLEY

Snowdrop Valley, near Wheddon Cross, will be open to visitors from Saturday 28 January until Sunday 5 March between 10am and 5pm. Park and Ride buses (charge) will run on the middle two weeks: Saturday 4th February to Sunday 19th February inclusive. The first and last weeks are for walkers only and the valley will be closed to traffic. For disabled access please email snowdropvalley@googlemail.com or contact Gemma Wesley on 07986 799243



If you have never been, do go, it's lovely.

www.wheddoncross.org.uk/snowdropvalley.htm

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

To everyone who has helped make Williton look so festive and attractive this Christmas. We love the little Christmas trees along Fore Street, High Street and neighbouring streets, the lights on Bellamy's Corner, the Christmas displays in so many shop windows, the splendid display by St Peter's School children in the Library window and all the residents who have transformed the outside of their home into palaces of light. It is such fun travelling through the village at night!

Thank you, too, to everyone who made the Christmas Festival on 7 December such a success. It is always such a pleasure when the village comes together to celebrate - especially when the weather is kind!

Editors

KEEP ACTIVE - A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM OUR VILLAGE AGENT

In order to feel happy and mentally positive, we need to look after our bodies, because our emotions, mental state and bodies are all related to one another. This means feeding ourselves good food, taking an adequate amount of exercise, and engaging in other activities that make us feel happy and connected to the world.

Locally there are lots of opportunities to join in with activities, some of which I have listed below. I hope you will find something of interest. If nothing there takes your fancy, or you find yourself struggling for transport to get to these activities, do get in touch and I would be happy to discuss what other options are out there.

Table Tennis	Watchet Youth Club	Monday 2 - 4pm	£2 per session
Body focus	Watchet Youth Club	Thursday 11am	£3.50 a session
Pilates	Danesfield School	Monday 7 - 9pm	pay by term
Dunk's easy dance	Roadwater Village Hall	Friday 10 - 11am	£3.50 a session
Stay Strong	Danesborough View Common Room	Monday 2 - 3pm	£3.50 a session
Chair exercise	Williton Hospital	Thursday 10 - 11am	Free!!

Please phone me, Izzy Silvester, your village agent, on 07931 018045, leave me your name and number and I will ring you back. Or email me on izzy@somerset.rcc.org.uk I do only work part-time so it may take a day or two for me to return your call.

Izzy Silvester

WILLITON GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Monday 23 January when Neil Lovesey will be talking about "The History and Future of the Cottage Garden". We meet at Danesborough View Common Room, TA4 4SH and non-members and visitors are always welcome, though we do make a charge of £2. More information from Secretary Barbara Cook on 01984 639459.

WEST SOMERSET VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

The talk on Tuesday 17 January will be by Roddy Storrs-Fox on "Crime and Punishment in the Royal Navy". The Society meets at the EMN Hall, Monksilver TA4 4JE and meetings start at 7.45. Non-members and visitors are welcome at a charge of £2 each. For more information email: nettlecombel@talktalk.net or ring 01984 640787.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

We resume meetings on 3rd January, when we look forward to giving a warm welcome to any new members at 2.30pm at Danesborough View Common Room. We do hope to see some new faces. Meanwhile we all wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

For more information please ring Jenny Berry on 632616. *Joy Elgood*

WILLITON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

The Council Scrutiny Committee on 15th December concerned with bed closures was well attended by members of the Council, Williton parish councillors and members of the public. Andy Heron, Chief Operations Officer for the NHS Trust, and Ann Anderson of the CCG and two other executives gave presentations and answered questions.

However, the meeting coincided with the announcement that Minehead Hospital inpatients ward was to close, due to staff shortages, and patients be transferred to Williton to the ward that was closed five years ago and has now been specifically re-opened. Exactly what the long term implications of all this will be is unknown. **Meanwhile, six of our stroke beds have been closed on a "temporary" basis.**

A Points West TV reporter and cameraman were present at the meeting, as were reporters from the local press and a reporter from BBC Radio Somerset, which gave extensive coverage the following morning to the plights of Williton and Minehead hospitals and broadcast an interview with Barbara Heywood. So our message is getting out to the wider Somerset community.

A petition containing 2193 signatures from across West Somerset was handed to the CCG.

THE FIGHT GOES ON!

Barbara Heywood, League of Friends

WILLITON HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

A happy and healthy 2017 to you all and a big thank you for all your hard work.

Shirley Dee, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Our sincere, if belated, congratulations to Shirley for her well-deserved Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for Services to the Community, presented to her in October 2016 by Cllr Christine Lawrence.

Editors

FRIENDS OF WILLITON LIBRARY

Book of the month: **Midnight Crossroad** by *Charlaine Harris*

A new tenant moves into the oldest building in Midnight, a small town in West Texas, and straightaway the whole town is interested. You are, too, as this hugely atmospheric supernatural novel quickly and skilfully combines a clever plot with an engrossing range of characters.

Your library in Killick Way has books in abundance, but also offers DVDs, computer training (with six terminals for the public), Lego Club, Knit, Chat and Needlework, Family History and more. Book Club meets at 2.30 on the last Monday of each month. The library is open every day except Tuesday and Sunday. Phone: 0300 123 2224. Website: librarieswest.org.uk



WASPS - WILLITON AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

We had a terrific Christmas lunch at the Bicknoller Inn. It was very well attended, amongst our numbers were our Patron, Mrs Anne Luttrell and her husband Julian. The raffle was very well supported. In short we were all well fed and feeling fine.

Our regular meeting will take place on Thursday 5th January 2pm at the Danesborough View Common Room. Our speaker will be Anne Treelogen, one of the two part-time Parkinson's nurses who do their utmost to help people with Parkinson's. We will be discussing ways that we can work together more effectively. Once again it is a situation of inadequate funding and the help that we so desperately need is not always available. The medical professionals are doing a terrific job, but they are stretched to their very limits. It should be a very interesting meeting.

Our February meeting sees us celebrating our **4th anniversary**. We will be holding this meeting at the Williton Hospital. The meeting will take place on **WEDNESDAY, 15th February** to accommodate our speaker Dr Simon Cooper. More about this in the February Williton Window.

We are looking for two volunteers to help us with our tea service. Our members have been doing it, but they end up missing part of the meeting. We would only need help once a month, on the first Thursday from about 3pm to 4pm. If you would be interested please contact me, Linda Bishop, at the telephone number below. Your help would be very much appreciated.

If you would like to attend our meetings please do feel free to come along. We are a very friendly group and we do our very best to make new members and guests welcome. If you are new, just come over and introduce yourself to me and I will make sure that you get to meet as many members as possible. We are always thrilled to see new faces and we will do our best to make you feel welcome. To find out more about our group, or if you wish to discuss Parkinson's and how it affects people, you can reach me at 01984 631472 or email me at queenwasp@outlook.com
Linda Bishop

WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

Don't need your Winter Fuel Payment? Donate it to other people who need it more. Please send a cheque made out to Somerset Community Foundation (SW written on the back), Yeoman House, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN. You can also donate online or call 01749 344949.
Somerset Community Foundation

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

In the past month many Williton W.I. members have been glad that we are part of the Severn Sea Group and able to take part in events run by the Institutes around us. These included the Pudding Stir at Kilve in November with coffee and lovely stalls as well as a chance to stir and buy Christmas pudding mix. On December 2nd more members joined in the Group Carol Service at St Audries Church. Others have been lucky enough to join in Christmas parties at Watchet and Crowcombe, while two members went to Wells Cathedral for the beautiful County Carol Service.

The December meeting held on Thursday, December 15th was also a Christmas Party. Unfortunately our President, Christine Rayner, was ill and unable to be with us, and she was much missed. Jean Hill, her deputy, opened the meeting and it proved to be a happy afternoon. Members had arrived bringing an extremely good selection of delicious refreshments.

Mary Parsons introduced John Whellhams who had brought his impressive keyboard and we enjoyed singing carols to his accompaniment. He also amused us with his tale of Goldilocks told in the style of Dr. Spooner. We are glad he has moved to Watchet from Scotland and will be living among us.

A lunch for members has been planned at the Wyndham Arms at 12:30 on January 5th. Our next meeting will be on Thursday January 19th at 2 pm at Danesborough View Common Room. New members and visitors are very welcome.
Jenny Handisyde

WEST SOMERSET TALKING NEWSPAPER

VOLUNTEERING POSITIONS

The Talking Newspaper is a local charity which provides regular local news broadcasts to blind and partially sighted people across West Somerset and large parts of Exmoor. The charity is run entirely by volunteers and is based at a studio in the Parish Council Offices in Killick Way, Williton.

We are currently seeking an Honorary Treasurer. The position of Treasurer is an unpaid appointment and the applicant should have a basic knowledge of income and expenditure procedures including occasional banking and payment of invoices. This is not a hugely time consuming position but, nevertheless, important to the successful running of the charity with the appointed volunteer being required to attend some five committee meetings in a year and become a Trustee of the organisation. Prospective applicants for this post should contact the Chairman, Roger Hurst on 01984 640060.

The Talking Newspaper also seeks a ***Reserve Recording Engineer.*** Whilst experience is not essential, this voluntary position would suit someone with a technical background. Training would be given and the applicant should be expected to commit to a total of approximately 3 hours every six weeks at an evening recording session but, in the first instance, would work with an experienced engineer in order to learn the recording procedures. Applicants for this post should contact the Studio Manager, Martin Spink on 01984 631827.

Roger Hurst, Chairman

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Tues	3	Probus	The Windmill, West Quantoxhead, 10.30am
Tues	3	Good Neighbours	2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
Thurs	5	Williton Library	3pm Pins and Needles
Thurs	5	WASPS Parkinson Support Group	2pm Danesborough View Common Room Guest: Anne Treelogen, Parkinson's Nurse
Sat	7	Williton Library	10.30am Lego Club
Mon	9	RBL Women's Section	2.30pm Fire Station Lecture Room
Tues	10	Williton Pavilion fund-raising	7.00pm Bingo, St Peter's School
Tues	10	Global Friends	2 - 4pm Children's Centre
Tues	10	Probus	Luncheon at The Windmill, West Quantoxhead, 12.15 for 12.45
Tues	10	Doniford Army Cadets	6.00pm Open Evening see page 21 NEW
Fri	13	Walking Football	7.30pm Danesfield School Gym See page 22 NEW
Tues	17	Probus	10.30am The Windmill, West Quantoxhead
Tues	17	Village History	7.45pm EMN Hall Monksilver, talk on Crime and Punishment in the Royal Navy
Thurs	19	Women's Institute	2.00pm Danesborough View
Mon	23	Gardening Club	7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room, Talk on The History and Future of the Cottage Garden
Tues	24	Watchet & District Audio Society	2.15pm Sampford Brett Village Hall
Tues	24	Probus	The Windmill, West Quantoxhead, 10.30am
Tues	24	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Bingo, St Peter's School
Fri	27	Williton Library	3 - 4 pm Bake Club. Theme: Ginger
Sat	28	Williton Wanderers	10.30am Meet at Exford Car park
Sat	28	Williton Library	10 - 10.30 am Story time for 5-10 year olds

Entry in this diary is free. To have details of your organisation's events included, ring 01984 634899 or email willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

You are never too old to set another goal or dream another dream.

from SD

REGULAR WEEKLY VILLAGE EVENTS

Mon 9.30 am	Pilates	Williton Fire Station Community Room
Mon 2 pm	Table Tennis	Watchet Youth Centre
Mon 2 pm	Shibashi Tai Chi	St Audries Village Hall (634090)
Mon 6.30pm	Pilates (info: Pru Wand 656232 /email: pruwandpilates@hotmail.com)	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Mon 7.30 pm	Badminton	EMN Hall Monksilver (656496)
Tues 9.30 - 10.30am	Mat and floor based yoga	Watchet Community Centre NEW!
11 - 12 am	Chair-based yoga	Julie Bolton 01984 633665
Tues 10.30am-1pm	Bead-weaving group	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Fortnightly. For dates and more information ring Jane Sefton on 01984 656652		
Tue 5.45 pm	Brownies	Guide HQ
Wed 11am	Pilates (See Mondays)	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Wed 6-7.30pm	Cubs	Guide HQ
Wed 6.30-8pm	Guides (info from Lisa on 01984 632319)	The Guide HQ, Market Street Car Park in Watchet
Wed 6.45 pm	Shibashi Tai Chi	Children's Centre, Killick Way
Wed 7-10 pm	Railways Modellers	Long Hall, Carhampton Rec
Thur 9.30-11.30 am	St Peter's Church	Drop in for coffee and cake
Thur 10-11am	Free chair based exercise	Williton Hospital (please ring Shirley on 633529 for information)
Thur 10.30 am	KFA Movement	Danesborough View Common Room
Thur 10.30-noon	Williton Library	Craft and Chat drop-in. All welcome.
Thur 5.15-6.30 pm	Rainbows	Guide HQ
Thur Term time only	Bowmen of Danesfield Juniors	Danesfield School Gym
5 - 7 pm	Seniors	info: doug.human@bowmenofdanefield.co.uk
7 - 9 pm	Pilates	info: Contact John Eastaugh 01643 821521
Fri 9.30 am		Williton Fire Station Community Room
Fri 10am -noon	Coffee and chat	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Fri 12 noon	Health Walk	Meet Killick Way Car park
Fri	Williton RBL Rifle Club	Bridge St. Range. Info 01984 632650
Fri 7.30 pm	Bingo	Danesborough View Common Room

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website: www.capuk.org

NHS HEALTH TRAINER Williton / Watchet / Minehead

Rebecca Pitchers: mobile 075 000 64683 or free phone 0800 412 5502

WILLITON SURGERY Robert Street TA4 4QE Tel: 01984 632701 Out of hours: 111

WEST SOMERSET ADVICE BUREAU Market House Lane, Minehead TA24 5NW Please ring 01643 704624 about appointments in Williton.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL DIARY

The last few weeks of the term were extremely busy, so everyone, children and staff, need the Christmas break.

Oak Class, our reception children, have been busy learning phonic sounds and learning how to write a list in preparation for writing a list to Father Christmas. They had fun doing Christmas crafts and making things to sell at the school fair and the children really enjoyed their first trip out, walking up to Croft House to sing carols.

Ash Class have been very busy doing Christmassy things too. The children have made tree decorations, Father Christmas face plates, personalised elves and Christmas cards. Some of our lovely creations are displayed in Williton library. They also painted Christmas pebbles in the designs of penguins, snowmen and Christmas puddings, which were sold at the fair, in fact, they completely sold out!

Elm Class walked to Mamsey House and thoroughly enjoyed singing to the patients and staff there. They had fun on our craft day too and had fun learning a line dance for the Christmas play.

Fir Class, our year 3 children, have enjoyed carol singing, preparing for the school fair and of course, rehearsing for the school production. Mr Venning, the class teacher, was really pleased with the fantastic table decorations that were made for the school fair. Many thanks to Wendy Symes for supplying a lot of the decorations. They raised at least £125! He would like to thank all staff and parents who made this happen. Well done Fir class!

Yew Class visited Williton Hospital and sang some carols and songs from our Christmas play to the patients and staff. The children also made cards, which they enjoyed delivering. They contributed to the nativity display in the local library window too, as did our year 2 children. Being our oldest children they had most of the speaking parts in the school play, Lights, Camel, Action, and can be very proud of themselves for learning lines, songs and dances! The production, which involved the whole school, was very successful with many parents and relatives complimenting the children on their abilities. At the end of each performance there was a collection for the local charity Elliot's Touch. We would like to thank everyone who supported this.

Our school Christmas fair, organised by our PTA, was also very successful, raising around £1200. This is an amazing total and we are extremely grateful to everyone who supported this event in any way. The funds will be reinvested in the school, enabling our children to enjoy some extra things, enhancing the curriculum.

Finally, we all had Christmas lunch together with staff serving the children and on the last day of term walked to St Peter's Church for our candlelit service. It was lovely hearing the Christmas story interspersed with a Christmas song from each class.

SG

ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES
Being told you don't look your age.

from SD

RECIPE FOR THE MONTH *by Shirley Dee*

MORE FILLINGS FOR BAKED POTATOES

Cook potatoes in the microwave and finish them under the grill to crisp them up.

Sausage and piccalilli for two

2 potatoes baked in their jackets	1 oz butter
2 sausages cooked and sliced	Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons of piccalilli	Chopped parsley

Mushroom and cheese for two

2 potatoes baked in their jackets	3 oz grated cheddar cheese
4 oz chopped button mushrooms	Salt and pepper
Fry mushrooms in 1 oz butter	

GLOBAL FRIENDS

Because all our children were at school, our Christmas session was a bit quiet. However, it was much improved by homemade mince pies and Bangladeshi delicacies.

We have resuscitated the camera after a long lapse, to begin using it again before our itinerant members leave and the children grow up. So many people now use their phones instead of a camera, with the result that prints are hard to find.

We have been asked to explore the possibility of finding teachers of English who would like to work in Bangladesh in a school and college that supports the training of local children and adults from poor backgrounds. UKBET are now in touch with the principal in Sylhet and are planning to provide teacher training, to include: English language, classroom management, how to motivate students, lesson planning and managing differentiation.

Other news: Shienamay is doing well in her A Level studies, while Nina from Bulgaria is now working full time as a doctor in the health service. Our newest member of the group has a son teaching in China. We learned about the importance of 'The Hajj' - the Muslim pilgrimage that everyone in good health and with a reasonable income is expected to make some time in their life; those who cannot afford the journey are often financially supported by relatives.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas, a happy new year and happy holidays. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th January 2017 from 2 - 4pm at the Children's Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information please phone 01984 248392 or 01984 634734.

WILLITON MARKET

The market will be held on Friday 20 January between 9 and 11.30 in the Parish Council Rooms, Killick Way. We sell fresh produce, flowers, eggs, preserves, jewellery, crafts and greetings cards.

ST



WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

To contact Williton Parish Council telephone the Clerk on 01984 633979 or email willitonpc@btconnect.com

We all hope that the residents of Williton enjoyed the Christmas holiday. The winner of this year's best decorated shop window is Tina's Hair Fashions for the second year running, with the Library and Orange Pip in joint second place. Well done to you all.

No doubt you have read in the local press about the possible merging of West Somerset Council with Taunton Deane Council. The fallout from these discussions is the need for the Parish Council to become more active in areas that were previously the responsibility of the District Council, and this has financial implications. The fate of the toilets on Killick Way had been high on our list of priorities. At the time of this Williton Window going to press, the financing of the toilets is still open for further dialogue between the Parish and the District Council. There is no doubt that there is a wish on the part of the Parish Council to take over the running of the toilet facility, but, it has to meet our own financial criteria.

It is very disappointing to record the retirement of two stalwart parish councillors. One has left the area and the other has resigned due to ill health. Your Parish Council really needs to have a full complement of councillors and we therefore are looking for two people to fill these vacancies. Being a Parish Councillor is a very rewarding role, so please come forward and volunteer.

There is an availability of salt bags stored to the side of the Parish Council Office. These are for local residents to use. At this time of year, flooding can be a problem and the need for sand or sand bags might be an issue. The District Council has out of hours help line, called Deane Help Line, the contact number is 01823 257185. Somerset County Council also has a Flood Management Team, e-mail: flooding@somerset.gov.uk. The contact number is 0300 123 2224.

We wish the residents of Williton a happy and prosperous New Year.

Cllr Mike Bennett

FOR SALE

A selection of quality pine furniture to include: 2 double wardrobes; bookcase; full length corner unit; kitchen table and 6 chairs; glass fronted display cabinet; other various small pine tables, stools, chairs, blanket chest and cupboards. Also as new B.H. exercise bike and an orthopaedic fully electrically adjustable single bed. In first instance ring Tony Guest for viewing on 01984 633373

WILLITON LIBRARY

Lego Club takes place on the first Saturday in the month from 10.30 to 11.30 am for 6-12 year olds. £1 per child. Each month there is a different theme or challenge. Please do not bring your own Lego.

Story time for 5-10 year olds is on the last Saturday of the month from 10-10.30. Children under 8 must be accompanied.

Booking is essential for both events, as places are limited.

DONIFORD ARMY CADETS

After nearly 2 years of being closed, the Army Cadet unit at Doniford is now ready to re-open with a new Detachment Commander at the helm! We will be spending most of the festive period bringing the unit back up to scratch with a fresh coat of paint and new material for the Cadets to learn from. There will then be an Open Evening starting at 6pm on Tuesday 10th January which everyone is welcome to attend.

The Army Cadets do a whole range of activities, from adventurous training such as climbing, canoeing and kayaking to learning First Aid from pretty well day one. They will go on camps throughout the year and take part in shooting on ranges as well.

During our Open Evening, we will tell you about everything we do and you will have the opportunity to get involved in some of the activities! Refreshments will be available.

To join the Army Cadets you must be aged 12 and under 18. We will be parading every Wednesday from 7pm until 9.30pm starting on 11th January - and you are more than welcome to turn up on the evening.

We are located on Normandy Avenue (TA23 0TU) in Doniford and further details can be found via www.armycadets.com (ignore the postcode for Doniford on the website if you use the Detachment Locator). You can phone the new Detachment Commander (Nathan Croker) on 07476 001779, if you have any questions or email nc.jcoy@armymail.mod.uk

C/Sjt N Croker

*Doniford Platoon Commander, 2IC Minehead Platoon,
Jellalabad Company, Somerset Cadet Battalion (The Rifles) ACF*

DOWN AT THE STATION

December so far has gone off well with lots of Santa Expresses coming down from Bishops Lydeard full of happy children who happened to meet Santa on the train! The more sedate adults have joined the same train, in the rear carriages, enjoying sherry and mince pies.

Then on the 12 and 13 December the station was awash with carollers and their bands from both ends of the line, on the Carol Trains. These trains meet at Williton, everyone piles out and the bands play a good number of carols while the engines run round to the end of the other train ready to return them to their starting station. These evenings are always very well supported, and fortunately the weather was dry and, indeed, warmer than usual. On the Tuesday evening the staff remained behind and enjoyed their annual Christmas buffet around a real coal fire in the waiting room.

Just to remind travellers that there will be trains running from 27th December right through until and including the 1st January after which there will be no trains at all until February half-term break. For that week there is likely to be a restricted service due to heavy works having to be undertaken at Minehead, including relaying the level crossing on Seaward Way - so look out for traffic delays in that area. Watch this space for fuller details next month.

John Parsons, Acting Station Master

WALKING FOOTBALL KICKS OFF IN WILLITON

Walking Football sessions will be running on Fridays from 7.30 - 8.30pm at Danesfield School gym starting on Friday 13th January 2017. The first session will be a free taster. There is no definitive age requirement (typically players range from 45 to 70+) and all abilities and genders are welcome.

Due to the success of Walking Football across the county, Somerset County Council has provided funding for this to be set up in West Somerset.

"I always liked football but never really played regularly, just played in the odd match when some help was needed. Recently I've realised that I need to do some exercise and saw Walking Football being advertised on TV and in the local paper... The rest is history! It's fun, enjoyable and has so many social benefits too! All abilities are welcome and you don't have to worry about having lots of skill either as everyone makes you feel welcome."
Alan Smith, 67.

Just come along for the free taster on the 13th January, or for more information contact Ian Whitehead on email williton.rockets@gmail.com or ring him on 01984 639628.

Amy Colwill

SMALL PRAYER

Please help me to make better bad decisions in 2017.
Thank you.



WILLITON WALKS

We are always pleased to welcome new walkers on all walks, but please note that you participate in the walks entirely at your own risk.

* **Colin's "Walk and Talk"** walks start **every Friday** at 12 noon by the Library in Killick Way. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. During the winter we usually have a pub or café lunch. For more information, ring Colin Broom on 632721.

CB

* There will be **no Williton walk** in January.

Elizabeth Peeks

* The **Williton Wanderers** will meet at 10.30am on **Saturday 28 January** at Exford car park (on the left as you enter the village - no parking fee and wonderful new toilets) for a 5 mile walk visiting a deserted farm and a mysterious field monument or sheepfold, before returning beside the Exe for lunch at the White Horse at about 1pm. Hilly and undoubtedly wet and muddy (unless frosty). Please let me know if you are coming so I can tell the pub how many to prepare for.

Jenny Gibson 01984 634899

* **West Somerset Mineral Line** Meet at Raleigh's Cross Inn TA23 0LN at 9.45 am on **Wednesday 11th January** for a 3-hour walk. See what it was really like living in Brendon village in winter! Depending on weather, we will visit Raleigh's Cross mine, Beulah Chapel, the Winding House and part of the Incline. Icicles may be wonderful. Walking boots and wind/rain gear are essential. Booking essential. Contact: 01398 323841. Charge: Free, but donations are welcome. wsmla.org.uk

Tessa Wilson

WORDSEARCH FOR JANUARY by Phyllis Chidgey

SHEEP

N	R	O	H	T	E	S	R	O	D
R	L	L	E	F	H	G	U	O	R
O	P	M	B	O	C	A	J	W	E
H	H	E	R	D	W	I	C	K	T
R	T	O	I	V	E	H	C	L	A
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O	L	D	E	N	B	E	R	G	S
M	U	L	A	C	A	U	N	E	E
X	M	D	N	A	L	T	O	G	E
E	L	A	D	E	L	A	W	S	T

MULE

LACAUNE

SWALEDAL

JACOB

HERDWICK

TEESWATER

TEXEL

HEBRIDEAN

DORSET HORN

CHEVIOT

OLDENBERG

EXMOOR HORN

GOTLAND

ROUGH FELL

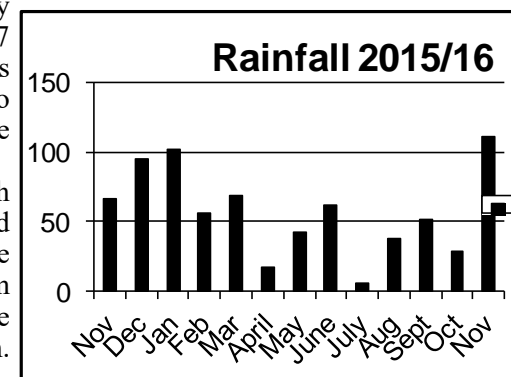
WEATHER NOVEMBER 2016

After local floods at the end of November, the first two weeks of December were very warm, with 17°C on 15th. The average temperatures for 2016 will be above average, quite probably a record warm year!

November itself was very wet with a total of 111mm (4.37 inches) for the month. There was heavy rain on 18th, leading to floods on 20th and 21st, when some roads were closed.

November ended with frosts on 29th to 2nd December and -4°C on 30th. Even so, we saw the sun on 17 days. The maximum pressure was 30.3 inches and the minimum was 29.05 on 19th.

PJ



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Tracey Bland on 01984 635980 (Williton)

Every Thursday: The Sanctuary, Watchet 9.30am-12.30pm; John Bowcock on 01984 248169 (Watchet)

Every Friday: The Bridge @ The Hub, Hopcott Rd, Alcombe, Minehead 9.30am-12pm
John Dickinson on 01643 707598 (Minehead)

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VALUED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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To become a volunteer, you need the desire to help others and a bit of spare time. If you think you would like to be a volunteer please contact hub leaders in your area of choice:

Tracey Bland on 01984 635980 (Williton)

John Bowcock on 01984 248169 (Watchet)

John Dickinson on 01643 707598 (Minehead)

For further information please contact:
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