

# WILLITON WINDOW

Your Church and Community Magazine  
JANUARY 2018  
Volume 18, Number 7



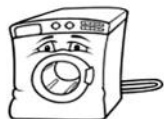
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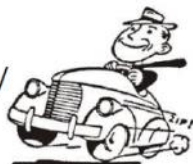
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#### Contacts and information:

**Every Tuesday:** 'The River', West Somerset  
Children's Centre, Williton, 9.30am-12.30pm  
Tel: 01984 635980 (Williton)

**Fortnightly: Wednesdays,** 'The Well' at 'The  
Greyhound Community Room', Lime Street,  
Stogursey, 9.30am-12pm Tel: 01278 733 615

**Every Thursday:** 'The Sanctuary', Watchet 9.30am-  
12.30pm, Tel: 01984 248169 (Watchet)

**Every Friday:** 'The Bridge' @ 'The Hub', Hopcott Rd,  
Alcombe, Minehead 9.30am-12pm  
Tel: 01643 707598 (Minehead)



### VALUED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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If you think you would like to be a  
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area of choice:

**Williton** 01984 635980 on Tuesday  
mornings

**Stogursey** 01278 733615 (Stogursey) on  
Wednesday mornings (fortnightly)

**Watchet** on 01984 248169 Thursday  
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**Minehead** on 01643 707598 on Friday  
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**Dulverton** Soon to open on 07725602445

**For further details contact: West  
Somerset Council on 01984 635221**

**DEADLINE DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE**

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 16 JANUARY

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 19 JANUARY

THE MAGAZINE SHOULD BE READY FOR COLLECTION / DELIVERY  
FROM FRIDAY 26 JANUARY

Please send articles, news, diary dates and advertisements to:

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

☎ 01984 634 899 email: willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk

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

Vicar	Rev Clive Gilbert	631005
Associate Vicar	Rev Kathryn Flenley	633568
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	01984	568417

Stewards:	Mr P Gliddon	632327
	Mr P Hopkins	01278 741542
	Miss M Brooks	632115

Church Bookings	Miss M Brooks	632115
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<b>Roman Catholic Deacon</b>	Rev Vincent Woods	634681
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<b>Baptist Church</b>	Rev Mike Sherburn	633755
	Mrs M Collinson	632537
	Mr J Bowcock	248169

<b>Salvation Army Corps Leader</b>	Miss Sam Searle	07979 575453
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Hall address and telephone:	1 Brendon Road, Watchet	633133
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<b>Williton Window distribution</b>	Mrs P Chidgey	632755
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<b>Williton Parish Council</b>	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](http://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, healthy and prosperous 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: Rev Clive Gilbert on 631005

Associate Vicar: Rev Kathryn Flenley 633568

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 2018**

Sun 7th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00am	All Age Worship
Sun 14th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Sun 21st	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Sun 28th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion

For more information or details about other services,  
please contact the Vicar on the number above.

**MID-WEEK COMMUNION SERVICES AT THE SANCTUARY,  
MSWAIN STREET, WATCHET**

These are held on the following dates in 2018 and are all on a **Wednesday morning at 9.45am** and last for about half an hour. All are very welcome!

January 10th; February 7th; March 7th; April 4th; May 2nd; June 6th; July 4th;  
August 1st; September 5th; October 3rd; November 7th; December 5th.

**BAPTIST CHURCH (WATCHET)**

The Baptist Church meets at Knights Templar School every Sunday at 10.30 am. For more information, visit the **website**: [www.watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://www.watchetbaptist.org.uk) or email [mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk](mailto:mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk) or telephone 01984 633755.

*Cover picture: St Peter's Church in January 2010*

## METHODIST CHURCH Tower Hill, Williton

**Do come and join us for:**

**Services:** Sundays at 10.30 am  
**Coffee and chat:** Fridays 10.00 am - 11.30 am - all welcome

**This month our preachers are:**

7th Rev Tina MacDonald - Covenant Service  
14th Mrs Lynne Wooldridge  
21st United Service at Danesfield School **at 11am**  
28th Mrs Margaret Lintern

**Are you looking for somewhere to hold a CRAFT or maybe EXERCISE CLASS or other activity? Our Church premises are available for hire Monday - Saturday! For information, please phone 01984 632115.**

## 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.

## 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.

## EPIPHANY SERVICE

On **January 7<sup>th</sup>** there will be an Epiphany Service at the Salvation Army Hall in Watchet, starting at 3 pm, to be followed by the opportunity to enjoy a Galette des Rois. If you read Kathryn Flenley's article on page 11, you will see that a Galette des Rois is a type of flat almond cake, often with a toy crown cooked inside, and decorated on top with a gold paper crown.



## IF YOU NEED HELP:

**NHS HEALTH TRAINER** 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.

**CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY** - Free debt help Freephone: 0800

3280006 website: [www/capuk.org](http://www/capuk.org)

**WILLITON POLICE:** Neighbourhood beat manager: PC 4376 Jamie Munro, Mobile: 07889 659436; Police Community Support Officers: PCSO 9273 Sue Thompson, Mobile: 07889 655209 and PCSO 7292 Peter Bolton, Mobile: 07889655193

## FROM REV KATHRYN FLENLEY

What is it about Twelfth Night that encourages us to bring the Christmas celebrations to a close with feasting and the odd glass of cider? Here in the West Country, January 6<sup>th</sup> heralds a good deal of cider drinking at the annual wassail. The word 'wassail' comes from the Anglo-Saxon phrase 'waes hael', which means 'good health'; one legend concerning its origin says that a beautiful Saxon maiden named Rowena presented Prince Vortigen with a bowl of wine while toasting him with the words 'waes hael'.

Originally, the wassail was a drink made of mulled ale, curdled cream, roasted apples, eggs, cloves, ginger, nutmeg and sugar. It was served from huge bowls, often made of silver or pewter. Jesus College, Oxford, has a Wassail bowl which can hold 10 gallons of drink!

The Wassail drink mixture, sometimes called 'Lamb's Wool' because of the froth formed by the pulp of the roasted apples, was believed to scare off worms and maggots that were regarded as 'evil' spirits and to attract the 'good' spirit embodied by the robin.

The ceremony of wassailing takes place around the oldest orchard tree where it is toasted and traditional Wassail songs are sung.

*Here's to thee, old apple-tree,*

*Whence thou mayst bud, and whence thou mayst blow,*

*And whence thou mayst bear apples enow*

*Hats full! caps full!*

*Bushel-bushel-sacks full,*

*And my pockets full, too, huzza!*

Within the Christian Nativity story, January 6<sup>th</sup> commemorates the visit of the Three Kings who have followed a star that reveals the presence of Jesus. In Spain, this important Festival is known as 'The festival of the three Magic Kings' when children receive their presents delivered by the Three Kings! Here you might buy a special cake called a 'Roscón', normally filled with cream or chocolate and decorated with a paper crown. In France you might eat a 'Galette des Rois', a type of flat almond cake, often with a toy crown cooked inside, and decorated on top with a gold paper crown, whilst in Mexico a special cake has a figure of Baby Jesus hidden inside. Whoever finds it is the 'Godparent' of Jesus for that year.

We know the festival as The Feast of the Epiphany and many churches hold a service which also celebrates the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan; people are often sprayed with water as a recognition that a new year has begun when we can start afresh, filled with hope for the year ahead and for a deepening of relationships with each other and Jesus.

In Watchet on January 7<sup>th</sup> there will be an Epiphany Service at the Salvation Army Hall starting at 3 pm to be followed by the opportunity to enjoy a Galette des Rois. So, whether you wish each other 'good health' with a glass of cider or celebrate the visit of the three Kings by enjoying a rather rich cake, remember that these celebrations look to the future with hope. Hope for a good harvest and hope for a deepening of relationships. May we all look forward to 2018 with hope in our hearts. Waes Hael!

## WILLITON CO-OP

Williton Co-op will close at 10pm on Saturday 6 January and reopen on Friday 2 February to allow the shop to be totally refurbished. The Manager would like people to know so that they can make alternative arrangements.

## WILLITON LIBRARY

Here is an update of our activities here at Williton Library:

### Weekly:

UK Online: Monday and Friday 10:15 am - 12:45pm Booking essential

Story & Rhyme Time: Monday (term time only) 10:30 - 11:00am For children 0 - 4 years

Craft and Chat: Thursday 10:30 am - 12 noon. All very welcome

### Fortnightly:

Code Club: Every other Monday (term time only) 4 - 4:45pm For children 9 - 13 years

### Monthly:

Lego Club: First Saturday of every month 10:30 - 11:30am. For children 6 - 11 years. £1 per child. Booking required.

Pins and Needles: First Thursday of the month 3:00 - 4:00pm For adults

Loop the Loop: Second Thursday of the month 3:30 - 4:30pm. For children 6+

Baked Bites: Last Friday of the month 3:30-4:30pm. For adults and children

Story & Craft Time: Last Saturday of the month 10:30 - 11:30am. For children 4 - 10 years. Booking required.

Family History: Wednesday or Saturdays. All welcome. Booking essential

**To book, telephone 0300 123 2224 or pop in and see a member of staff.**

Williton Library would like to wish all a very Happy New Year.  
We look forward to seeing you in 2018.

## FRIENDS OF WILLITON LIBRARY

**Book of the month:** *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

Highly praised recently by the Williton Book Club, this novel takes a fascinating view of Nazi Germany in 1939, by focusing on a nine-year-old girl whose parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel is the book thief of the title. The book gives a detailed and heart-breaking insight into the lives people had to endure.

One of thousands of titles in your library, which also offers DVDs, computer training (with six terminals for the public), Lego Club, Knit, Chat and Needlework. Book Club meets at 2.30 on the last Monday of each month. The Library is open every day except Tuesday and Sunday in Killick Way. Phone 0300 123 2224. Website: [librarieswest.org.uk](http://librarieswest.org.uk)



## FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT, IZZY SILVESTER

January can be the hardest month, dark, cold and lacking in money. Give yourself a mental boost by planning! Take your mind away from the cold and lose yourself in how you are going to spend those long summer evenings! Perhaps engage in some mindfulness by spending time marvelling at the beauty of the setting sun and the spring bulbs already popping up their heads.

Many villages have weekly groups to join such as coffee mornings (great cake and biscuits – I can personally vouch for it!) and special interest groups. Perhaps you could join the gardening group and get inspiration on planning some changes to your own patch. Or look at the events at Williton Library on page 12 of this magazine.



Many groups are free or low priced and will have someone who can come and pick you up. I can support you in making these links - and do look at the Events pages in this Williton Window for information on village groups.

There are lots of opportunities to join an exercise group, which is proven to help depression. If you can't understand where the "fun" is in a "fun run", start gently. You could try walking football, health walks, classes to aid balance and prevent falls and sitting games such as boccia. You don't need a leotard or mankini, just some baggy trousers and a pair of trainers! You are most welcome to go and watch a session first to see what it is all about. Look for local adverts or phone me for more information.

Zing will also help you to start your own group, contact Catherine Devonshire 01935 462347. Perhaps you could call on a neighbour who lives alone and arrange to go with them. People can go days in the winter without seeing anyone when there is no chatting over the garden fence.

There are lots of small grants available to help your group develop, perhaps you could plan a special group trip or buy some equipment. I can support you with this.

Don't forget that we can also advise you on keeping warm in the winter and the new SMART meters.

**Not sure who to turn to? Village Agents are a charity that work with individuals and social groups to give confidential support and advice. We can enable people to be more independent in their home, manage personal finances, care for family members and advise on just about anything!**

**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@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:izzy@somersetccc.org.uk) I do only work part-time so it may take a day or two for me to return your call. Thank you.**





## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Christmas comes but once a year, and when it comes it brings good cheer! Well, that was certainly true for our December Meeting, held on a cold, miserable and wet afternoon. Christmas tea was courtesy of our wonderful Committee, plus a Santa's sack for us all! We were royally entertained by rhyming monologues by Judith, plus poems and readings from our members.

2018 will be our centenary year - one to really celebrate! In May the W.I. will be mounting a display in the Williton Library window.

Our next Meeting will take place on Thursday 18th January 2018 at Danesborough View Common Room, at 2pm. Visitors and new members will always be made extremely welcome.

*Ann Clarke, W.I. Member*

## GLOBAL FRIENDS

This informal group first met in 2008. It was joined in 2009 by Somerset Racial Equality, when Global Friends started to meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the Williton Children's Centre. Its remit is to encourage people of all ages and nationalities, including native English, to meet up and learn about each other's cultures and customs and to celebrate diversity, while enjoying the company of others. Topics covered have included different languages, religious beliefs, local customs and different cuisines, as well as learning about delivering First Aid. The group also offers informal advice and support on local issues, such as housing, education and finances.



Our next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday, 9th January at the Williton Children's Centre. Everyone is welcome to join us for a friendly chat and a cuppa - and new members are always extremely welcome.

For more information on Global Friends, please phone 01984 248392 or 01984 634734.

## WILLITON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday 22 January when Christine Brain will be talking about "Mixed Borders", the part of the garden that I most love (provided someone else does the weeding!). Visitors are always welcome (charge £2). We meet at Danesborough View Common Room, TA4 4SH. More information from Secretary Barbara Cook on 01984 639459.

## WEST SOMERSET VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16 January at the EMN hall, Monksilver, TA4 4JE at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Roddy Storrs-Fox will be continuing his series of talks with a maritime theme, this time speaking about the "Age of Revolutions and Mutinies". Visitors are most welcome at £2.

More information on [www.westsomersetvillagehistorysociety-wsvhs.com](http://www.westsomersetvillagehistorysociety-wsvhs.com)

## WILLITON MARKET

The market will be held on Friday 19 January between 9 and 11.30 in the Parish Council Rooms, Killick Way. We sell fresh produce, flowers, eggs, preserves, jewellery, crafts, greetings cards and seasonal gifts. *ST*

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>** CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

## WASPS - WILLITON AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

It is with great sorrow that I must start our monthly chat by informing you that one of our members, Mr Eddie Richards, passed away on December 4th. Eddie was the first person you encountered when coming to our meetings. He would check you in and make sure that your beverage was sorted out. He kept me in line by making sure that he had all the information, a working pen, his big chair and a table ready before people arrived. He had a wonderful sense of humour and we will miss him terribly.

It is January, the month of good intentions, and it is amazing what happens to them when we put them to the test. Let's hope we remain strong and keep those good intentions, after all it is a brand new year and chance to start afresh!

But before we look forward to the new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the past one. We had a lot of challenges, including starting an exercise programme, trying to help the Parkinson's nurses make the best possible use of their very valuable time, and making our meetings more flexible, thus giving each member a chance to bring something new to the attention of the other WASPS. We hope to continue to grow and learn and hopefully give support to those with Parkinson's or effected by it.

This year is our 5th anniversary and we do not want to let it slip by unnoticed. We will be celebrating by holding a special meeting in February, which will take place at the Williton Community Hospital and be on WEDNESDAY 7th February at 2pm. Dr Simon Cooper will be our guest speaker. Representatives from other Parkinson's groups will also be there. If you wish to attend please contact Linda Bishop at 01984 631472. It should be a terrific meeting.

We are also planning a concert on April 7th in Minehead featuring the Minehead Male Voice Choir and the West Somerset Brass Band. This concert is to raise the awareness of Parkinson's disease. I will expand on this in March but you can mark that evening on your calendar just so you don't forget.

Our January meeting will be on Thursday, 4th January at Danesborough View Common Room with exercises beginning at 1:15pm and the regular meeting starting at 2pm. We know that not all people with Parkinson's will want to become members of support groups - that is understandable - but we are always at the end of the phone and ready to give you information, or just have a chat. You do not need to join a group to get support. We will do our best to keep everyone informed about new developments in Parkinson's. We have new people coming to join us every month, and while it is sad to see more people being diagnosed with Parkinson's, it is good to know that no one has to feel alone.

If you would like to find out more about our group, or wish to discuss Parkinson's and how it affects people, you can reach me at 01984 631472 or email me at [queenwasp@outlook.com](mailto:queenwasp@outlook.com).

*Linda Bishop*

## THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Tues	2	Good Neighbours	2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
Thurs	4	Williton Library	3pm Pins and Needles
Thurs	4	WASPS Parkinson's Support Group	1.15 pm exercises and 2pm main meeting Danesborough View Common Room
Sat	6	Williton Library	10.30 am Lego Club
Mon	8	RBL Women's Section	2.30pm Fire Station Lecture Room
Mon	8	Book Club	2.30pm Williton Library
Tues	9	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Bingo, Danesfield School
Tues	9	Global Friends	Children's Centre, 2pm
Thurs	11	Loop the Loop	3.30-4.30pm Williton Library
Sat	13	Williton Walk	Meet 2.00pm outside St Peter's Church
Tues	16	West Somerset Village History Society	7.45pm EMN Hall Monksilver. Talk about "Age of Revolutions and Mutinies"
Thurs	18	Women's Institute	2.00 pm Danesborough View
Mon	22	Gardening Club	7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room. Talk about "Mixed Borders"
Tues	23	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Bingo, Danesfield School
Tues	23	Watchet & District Audio Society	2.15pm, Sampford Brett Village Hall
Fri	26	Bake Club	3.30-4.30pm Williton Library
Sat	27	Williton Wanderers	10.30am Meet by the Sculpture marking the beginning of the South-West Coast Path on Minehead Prom (see page 24)
Sat	27	Story & Craft Time	10.30-11.30am for children 4-10years
Mon	29	Book Club	2.30pm Williton Library

### WATCHET DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE Fundraising Dinner

at the 'Spice Merchant', Watchet  
**on Monday 29 January at 7 pm**  
Ticket £15 (must be purchased in  
ADVANCE)  
Contact Pat Bryant 01984 632833

Entry in this diary is free. To  
have details of your  
organisation's events included,  
ring Tony or Jenny on  
**01984 634899** or email  
[willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk)

## REGULAR WEEKLY VILLAGE EVENTS

Mon	9.30 am	Pilates	Williton Fire Station Community Room
Mon	10.15-12.45	UK Online	Williton Library, booking essential
Mon	10.30 - 11 am	Story and Rhyme Time 0 - 4 years	Williton Library (term time only)
Mon	2 pm	Table Tennis	Watchet Youth Centre
Mon	2 - 3 pm	Age UK - Stay Strong	Danesborough View Common Room
Mon	7.30 pm	Badminton	EMN Hall Monksilver (656496)
Tues	9.30 - 10.30am 11 - 12 am	Mat and floor based yoga Chair-based yoga	The Salvation Army Hall Watchet (level access and parking). For further details phone Julie Bolton 01984 633665 or email <a href="mailto:julieboltonyoga@gmail.com">julieboltonyoga@gmail.com</a> Guide HQ
Tue	5.45 pm	Brownies	
Wed	4-5.30pm	Williton Youth Club	Danesfield School (Paul 01643 703155) Guide HQ
Wed	6-7.30pm	Cubs	
Wed	7-10 pm	Railway Modellers	Rear of Washford Mill, Washford (info: 07773 892085)
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 ( <i>please ring Shirley on 633529 for information</i> )
Thur	10.30 am	KFA Movement	Danesborough View Common Room
Thur	10.30-noon	Craft and Chat	Drop-in at Williton Library. All welcome.
Thur	5.15-6.30 pm	Rainbows	Guide HQ
Fri	9.30 am	Pilates	Williton Fire Station Community Room
Fri	10am -noon	Coffee and chat	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Fri	10.15-12.45	UK Online	Williton Library, booking essential
Fri	12 noon	Colin's "Walk and talk"	Meet Killick Way Car park
Fri		Williton RBL Rifle Club	Bridge St. Range. Info 01984 632650
Fri	7.15-9pm	Guides ( <i>info from Martha on 01984 248925</i> )	The Guide HQ, Market Street Car Park in Watchet
Fri	7.30 pm	Bingo	Danesborough View Common Room
Fri	7.30pm	Walking football	Danesfield School



## S T PETER'S SCHOOL DIARY

It has been such a busy term, ending with our Christmas play, 'Children Around the World' and a service at church. Everyone, although now tired, enjoyed all the Christmassy activities which included a whole day devoted to crafts. Our PTA organised a very successful fair, raising over £1000, which will go towards 'extras' for the children. We are very grateful to all those who supported us and would like to thank everyone who helped or supported, especially the PTA.

We would like to thank all those people who have regularly come into school to listen to children read over the term. This support is invaluable and the children love to read to you.

Oak class have been busy learning how to write lists and enjoyed writing a list for Father Christmas. They also spent lots of time making Christmas decorations for the classroom and Christmas tree, as well as practising songs for the play and carol service.

Elm class have worked exceptionally hard this term across all subjects and for the school production. Jenson Webber and Luke Swan have shown they are great readers as they have moved onto our Accelerated Reader programme. Ethan Humphries, Becky Plumbley and Poppy Norman have achieved reading awards this term too. Well done everyone!

Children in Fir class really enjoyed making Christmas decorations to sell at the Christmas Fair. Some members of the PTA came in to help the children make the decorations and were impressed by the children's focus and listening skills throughout the activity. The decorations were a huge success and raised a lot of money at the fair.

Yew class enjoyed visiting Croft House and Williton Hospital a few weeks ago, singing Christmas carols and songs from our play to the residents. The children also had fun making cards for them. This class are our oldest children and had the principle roles in the play; it was wonderful to see how well they embraced the task, performing beautifully on stage.

Our nurture group, Happy Stars, were very lucky to get a visit from a local lady, Mrs Marilyn King-Joyner. She knew about Happy Stars and when she met author Laura Shire, who wrote 'The Cloud that Couldn't Cry', got a signed copy of the book and donated it to the group. We are very grateful to her and this book now has pride of place on their bookshelf.

We now look forward to an exciting spring term, after a restful holiday!

SG



## CHILDCARE COSTS

Getting help with your childcare costs is easier than you might think. Childcare Choices brings together all the government childcare offers in one place, including two new schemes for working parents: Tax-free childcare and up to 30 hours a week funded childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

Families in Somerset are already benefitting from these offers. If you are a working parent and you have a child that is three years old by 31 December you can apply now for up to 30 hours a week funded childcare to use from January 2018. If you are successful you will receive an eligibility code to take to your early years provider.

If you already have a 30 hours childcare place, you must re-confirm you are still eligible every three months. It is easy to do - just check the secure messages in your childcare service account. Go to [gov.uk/childcareaccount](http://gov.uk/childcareaccount)

## TIPS ON USING 30 HOURS FUNDED CHILDCARE

Different childcare arrangements work for different families. When deciding, you might want to consider the following:

- \* You can take up your 30 hours between 6am-8pm, but no session can be more than 10 hours.

- \* You don't have to use all 30 hours, just those that meet your needs.

- \* Providers have a choice whether to offer the hours and some may not offer the full 30 hours.

- \* You can split your hours between providers.

Splitting is limited to a maximum of two sites per day. Remember to get your 30 hours code checked by all the providers you use.

30 hours is available for 38 weeks of the year (just like the existing 15 hours scheme). Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' your 30 hours entitlement over 52 weeks of the year meaning fewer hours per week (e.g. you could take 22 hours a week for 52 weeks).

**Find out more information at [www.somerset.gov.uk/eve30](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/eve30)** including which providers in Somerset are offering 30 hours.

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## RECIPE FOR THE MONTH by Shirley Dee

### BACON AND MUSHROOM PASTA FOR TWO - EASY AND TASTY

6 oz (150g) dried or fresh pasta	Black pepper
6 oz (150g) streaky bacon, cut into pieces	2 oz (50 g) tasty cheese grated
Knob of butter	1 tablespoon parmesan cheese
4 oz (100g) mushrooms quartered	Sprinkling of fresh chopped parsley
1 tablespoon oil	

Cook pasta as directed and whilst it is cooking fry the bacon in the butter until starting to crisp. Add the mushrooms and continue to cook for three minutes. Drain the pasta and mix in the oil, and season well. Put into an ovenproof dish, place the bacon and mushrooms on top, cover with the tasty cheese and then the parmesan. Cook under a pre-heated hot grill until the cheese has melted. Sprinkle with the parsley before serving. Very nice served with a tomato salad.

## DOWN AT THE STATION

By the time you receive this issue, the last of the Santa Trains and the Carol Trains will have all gone through, windows steamed up from a whole bunch of happy children, and adults as well. The Carol trains particularly were full this year and the bands were excellent as they played at all the stations en route. At Williton we had two sets of band and singers at the same time and as one band ended a carol the other would start up.

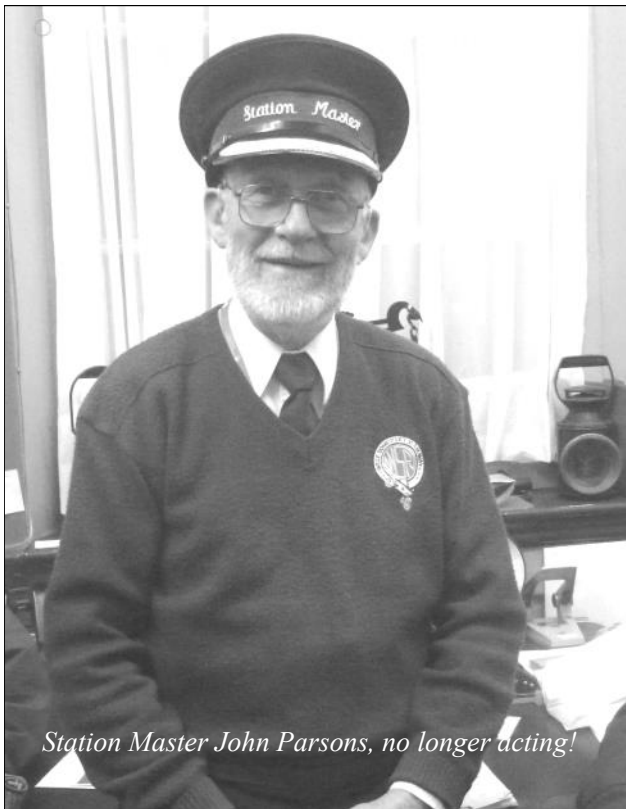
A good time was had by all. Following the last Carol Train several of the station staff squashed into the waiting room for their annual Christmas warmer with lovely home-made soup and mince pies. Thank you, Glenys!

Don't forget if you wish to go out walking to watch out for trains; there will be several running the week after the holiday from 27th December through to 1st January. The 29th and 30th will be the Winter Steam Festival, when seven trains will be running each way on both days. The shop/refreshment room will be open during this period.

On the staff side I should report that after 'Acting' for four years I thought it time I stopped acting and am now a just normal Station Master. Being a volunteer the pay scale is the same, so there is really little difference! I had a lovely surprise when, at the party mentioned above, the staff presented me with a smart new Station Master's peaked hat, complete with the scrambled egg across the front. I've grown two inches already this week!

We wish all our regular visitors and supporters a peaceful and healthy New Year.

*John Parsons, Station Master*



*Station Master John Parsons, no longer acting!*

## ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES

Sitting by a log fire on a cold evening.

by SD

## WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

*To contact Williton Parish Council telephone the Clerk on 01984 633979 or email [willitonnpc@btconnect.com](mailto:willitonnpc@btconnect.com)*

On behalf of Williton Parish Council, we would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year.

The events leading up to the holiday season meant a very busy time for your Parish Council. We would like to thank all the volunteers and supporters who erected all the Christmas trees in the centre of Williton. Also to thank J. Jones and Son for the donated tree on Bellamy's Corner. Despite the weather, we all enjoyed the Christmas Festival which included a procession from Danesfield School to the Children's Centre on Killick Way, where Father Christmas distributed presents. Also as part of the festival, produce stalls were on both floors of the centre, plus a Punch and Judy Show. Again the Parish Council would like to thank Councillors and friends for providing an escort for children during Father Christmas's procession.

The Parish held a training course for volunteers on how to use the defibrillator currently housed in the Spar food shop. There is no doubt that this is a good location, but the Parish would like to make this equipment available at all times and is looking for a suitable area where the equipment can be accessed at any time. Hopefully more training will take place this year. The Parish does provide trained first aiders for any event held under the Parish banner.

The winter period is a time to watch the weather as it can change rapidly. The Flood Wardens in particular have a busy time making sure that there is no local flooding. We would ask all residents to report any obstruction in local rivers and flooding however minimal to the Parish Council Offices.

The Williton Pavilion Project saw work commence in November 2017. This project will expand during 2018 as building work and construction of the Pavilion gets underway.

Wishing you all a successful 2018.

*Councillor Mike Bennett*

## HELP REQUIRED

As many of you already know, an annual fete is held on the Memorial Ground every year on the second Saturday in July. The Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground Charity is looking to form a committee to work with them to help organise and run the fete. Even if you can only give a small amount of time you are very much needed - any amount of input will be gratefully received. Please contact Sarah Towells on 01984633979 or call in to the Parish Office on Killick Way. Thank you.

*Sarah Towells*

## CHRISTMAS TREES and FESTIVAL

We would like to add our thanks and congratulations to everyone who worked so very hard to make Williton look and feel so festive in the run up to Christmas. The trees above the shops and that on Bellamy's Corner twinkle most attractively and we also appreciate all the lovely Christmas scenes in shops and people's houses. It was a shame about the weather for the Festival, but people still seemed to enjoy themselves. People driving through Williton must surely think what a nice village this must be to live in.

*Editors*



## WILLITON PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE

Work continues on the new access road and the footpath should be complete and open by the end of December, weather permitting. During the month we met with several residents from Robert Street who previously have suffered from flooding, the meeting was to discuss the proposed improvements to the access road that may help alleviate the ponding affect that occurs at the entrance to the ground when Robert Street is flooded. As a community funded project, there is no money in the budget for any major flood alleviation work, the budget will however, allow for minor improvements by widening the lane and introducing a small gradient into the ground, this will help hasten the dispersal of any collecting water.

In January we should soon see the ground works commence which will take several weeks to complete, they will then commence the construction of the steel frame for the building. Progress through January and February will be very much weather dependant though to date, we are still on schedule.

At the next charity meeting to be held at the end of January, we shall agree the hire rates for 2018-19 and these will be published within the March edition of the Window.

*Councillor Bill Vaughan*

## WILLITON RBL TARGET SHOOTING CLUB

The winter season is now underway with both postal and shoulder to shoulder competitions taking place each week. Our fundraising activities also continue with the objective of improving our facilities and enabling a larger number of disciplines to be shot. The application for major funds to the EDF CIM fund has been rewritten with the emphasis on accessibility and encouraging more people to take part, under the title "Williton RBL Target Shooting Club – making sport accessible". The building work thus becomes the means of achieving this objective.

As well as that application the club already has two other fundraising streams in place where the local community can show its support for our ambition. The club is fortunate to have been accepted as one of the Co-op Local Community Fund recipients, indeed it is the only one based in Williton. If you shop in the Co-op and have a card then please consider nominating Williton RBL TSC as your chosen recipient.

The club is also one of the good causes which can benefit from tickets bought in the Somerset West Lottery <https://www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk/>. Anyone buying these tickets can choose the club as their good cause. This provides the club with 50p for every £1 ticket bought; a very worthwhile return.

As always, the club welcomes anyone interested in taking up the sport to visit on any Wednesday or Friday evening, but do please call Eric on 01984 632650 to let us know that you're coming.

*Guy Morgan*

## SMALL PRAYER

*please can I be perfect in the year ahead?*



## WORDSEARCH FOR JANUARY by Phyllis Chidgey

### "ORDER ORDER"

E	S	U	O	H	E	T	I	H	W
T	T	N	E	M	D	N	E	M	A
I	A	S	I	S	O	N	E	U	R
C	T	E	C	I	T	I	S	R	S
S	U	C	O	Y	C	P	U	O	A
I	T	E	U	R	A	B	O	U	W
B	E	D	N	O	A	T	H	Q	P
E	L	E	C	T	N	E	S	S	A
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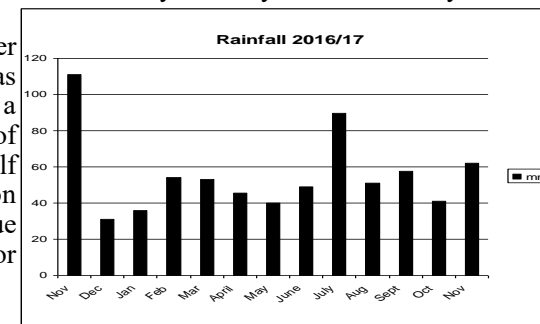
ACT	ELECT	SECEDE	AMENDMENT
BAR	HOUSE	TORYISM	WHITE HOUSE
OPT	ASSENT	COUNCIL	WARSAW PACT
SIT	ENOSIS	STATUTE	PARLIAMENT
OATH	QUORUM	LEGISLATE	PLEBISCITE

## NOVEMBER WEATHER

We had higher than average temperatures of up to 17°C on 1st and 22nd. The coldest nights with frosts were 17th and 25th. On some nights it was as warm as 17 ° C (on 22nd). The maximum pressure was 30.1 inches on 17th and the minimum 29.15 on 22nd/23rd, at the time of the gales. We had a rain total of 62mm(2.4ins) for the month, with the wettest day Monday 27th. It was dry on 12 days!

If you missed the "Super Moon / Perigee Moon" that was 15% larger than normal, there is a second chance on the evening of January 2nd, which will be a "Wolf Moon", and another opportunity on January 31st, this time for a "Blue Moon". This will be the last for several years.

*Pj*



## 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, talk and pause to regain your breath" walks start every **Friday** at 12 noon by the Library in Killick Way. Wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring a picnic. For more information, ring Colin Broom on 632721.

\* This month's **Williton Walk** will be on **Saturday 13 January**. Please meet at St Peter's Church at 2pm. We will walk to Orchard Mill and then onto Shells Lane via country lanes. From Shells Lane we will reach the outskirts of Washford and return to Williton via Bardon and Stream. If you would like any more information please ring me on 632318.

*Elizabeth Peeks*

\* **Williton Wanderers** will meet at 10.30am on **Saturday 27 January** by the sculpture marking the beginning of the South West Coast Path on Minehead sea front, near the Quay Inn just before the harbour, for a walk up and round North Hill, ending with lunch at the Old Ship Aground at about 1.30pm. I suggest you park in Blenheim Road or the beginning of Northfield Road. Please let me know beforehand if you intend lunching, so I can let the pub know. For more information ring *Jenny Gibson* 01984 634899 or email [willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk)

\* **Mineral Line:** There may be rain, snow, frost or icicles! The Brendons are always beautiful. We visit Beulah Chapel and the Mineral Line Winding House, and go down part of the Incline if weather allows. Walking Boots and rain wear are needed. Meet on **Saturday 20th January at 9.45am** at Raleghs Cross Inn TA23 0LN. Booking essential on 01398 323841 Free walk, but donations welcome to West Somerset Mineral Line. More information: [www.wsmla.org.uk](http://www.wsmla.org.uk)

## RECYCLING AND REFUSE COLLECTIONS

**Bank Holiday Changes Christmas and New Year 2017/18**

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 1 to Friday 5 Jan	<b>All one day later</b> , including Friday pickups on <b>Saturday 6 Jan</b>
Monday 8 Jan onwards	Usual collections resume

Revised collection days above also apply to **assisted and clinical waste collections**.

**Garden waste collections** will not take place Monday 25 December - Friday 5 January, resuming from Monday 8 January 2018 on usual days.

**Decoration-free natural Christmas trees under 6ft should be composted.** Take to your local recycling site or, if you pay for garden waste collections, put them out on your usual garden waste collection day from 8 January. (As a very last resort you can send your tree for landfill burial. Place next to your refuse bin on your usual collection day between **8 - 19 January 2017**).

In severe weather, check our website: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk)

## WILLITON HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There is plenty to do, including bed making and the new book stall. Please give me a ring if you would like a chat and a look around the hospital. I will always get back to you. *Shirley Dee, Volunteer Co-ordinator* 01984 635600

## HOW TO GET URGENT HEALTH CARE AT WEEKENDS

If you or someone you care about falls ill at the weekend, it can be a worrying time. It can also be difficult to know what to do. The NHS has a website with much information, including when to call 111. This is the NHS non-emergency number, it is fast, easy and free. When you call 111 you will speak to a highly trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals. They will ask you a series of questions to assess your symptoms and immediately direct you to the best medical care. It is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

You should use the NHS 111 service if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation.

For less urgent health needs, contact your GP or local pharmacist in the usual way.

If a health professional has given you a specific phone number to call when you're concerned about your condition, continue to use that number.

For immediate life-threatening emergencies, continue to call 999. For more information go to the NHS website.

## SOMERSET COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SURVIVING WINTER SCAMPAIGN

A Surviving Winter grant is more than just a donation towards the heating bill. It is also the first step towards connecting people living in fuel poverty to a local community partner; this can become the foundation for a new relationship that can help to overcome the isolation and loneliness many older people experience.

Somerset Community Foundation aims to help at least 500 pensioner households struggling to heat their homes and to stay healthy this winter. To donate some or all of your Winter Fuel Payment, or to make a donation of any size to the Surviving Winter appeal, please send a cheque made payable to Somerset Community Foundation (write SW on the back), Yeoman House, Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN; or telephone 01749 344949. For more information or to donate see Somerset Community Foundation website.



**DRY JANUARY**

Drinkers are being encouraged by Somerset County Council to take a break and have a Dry January. The campaign by Alcohol Concern is aimed at social drinkers and encourages them to give up alcohol for the month.

Imagine waking up feeling full of beans and ready to take on the world! Going hangover free will mean a rejuvenated start to 2018. With better sleep you might even find some spare time to try out a new hobby or sport. On top of that there lots of health benefits to having a break from booze, your skin may glow a bit brighter and hair quality improves. As a single drink can contain hundreds of calories you could also start to reduce your waistline. As if that wasn't enough, you'll save a small fortune and be able to treat yourself at the end of the month.

For more information and to sign up to Dry January 2018, visit [healthysomerset.co.uk/work/dry-January-2018/](http://healthysomerset.co.uk/work/dry-January-2018/) and get your new year off to a great start.



## TIPS AND USEFUL INFORMATION FROM WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### Tips to help you manage your money

Look on [www.moneyservice.org.uk](http://www.moneyservice.org.uk) and get useful tips on managing your money or telephone: 0300 500 5000.

### Are you 'digitally savvy'?

For some interesting and helpful information on what it is to be a "Digitally Savvy" Citizen look at the download on the Carnegie UK Trust website.

### Recycling options

How, why and where to recycle - go to [www.recyclenow.com/](http://www.recyclenow.com/)  
Recycle items you no longer need or want – offer them to the local community for free, go to <https://www.freecycle.org>  
Have some unwanted gifts? Take them to charity shops, sell them on eBay or organise a 'swop shop' party in 2018.

### Cinderella - Minehead Panto People – 30 Dec – 6 Jan

For more information on the Panto go [www.regaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.regaltheatre.co.uk)

### Gambling Commission

For guidance for running community bingo, casino or poker nights visit website: <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-the-public/Fundraising-and-promotions/Fundraising/Bingo-casino-or-poker-nights.asp>

### Volunteer with Engage

Meet new people, learn new skills, build your CV? Come and see us at Taunton Library or Alcombe Village Hall in Minehead. For West Somerset contact Jo Scrimshire, T: 07506 371409, E: [volunteercentre@engagews.org.uk](mailto:volunteercentre@engagews.org.uk).

### Main Grants programme – BBC Children in Need - Deadline 16 January 2018

The BBC Children in Need Main Grants programme is open to charities and not-for-profit organisations applying for grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years. If you are looking for any amount up to £10,000 for one year, see Small Grants.

Under the Main Grants programme, funding is available for projects addressing the needs of children and young people of 18 years and under, experiencing disadvantage through:

1. Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
2. Any kind of disability
3. Behavioural or psychological difficulties
4. Living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

Projects funded aim to make differences in children's lives that help prevent or overcome the effects of the disadvantages they face. Projects achieve these differences by either working directly with children or seeking to improve their social and physical environments. Go to BBC website.

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