



WILLITON WINDOW

Your Church and Community Magazine
DECEMBER 2017
Volume 18, Number 6

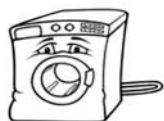
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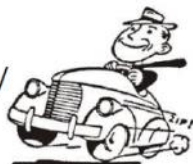
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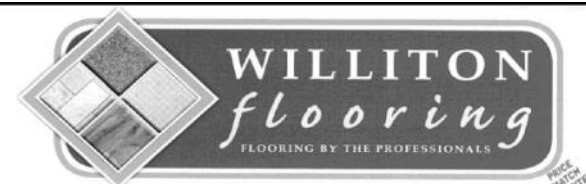
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- Assistance with interview preparation

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!

If the answer's yes you could be just the
valued volunteer we need to help with our
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If you think you would like to be a
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Williton 01984 635980 on Tuesday
mornings

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

Watchet on 01984 248169 Thursday
mornings

Minehead on 01643 707598 on Friday
mornings

Dulverton Soon to open on 07725602445

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

DEADLINE DATES FOR THE JANUARY 2018 ISSUE

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER

THE MAGAZINE SHOULD BE READY FOR COLLECTION / DELIVERY
FROM FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER**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
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

Roman Catholic Deacon Rev Vincent Woods 634681**Baptist Church** Rev Mike Sherburn 633755

Mrs M Collinson 632537

Mr J Bowcock 248169

Salvation Army Corps Leader Miss Sam Searle 07979 575453

Hall address and telephone: 1 Brendon Road, Watchet 633133

Williton Window distribution Mrs P Chidgey 632755**Williton Parish Council** Clerk: Mrs M Francis 633979**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 peaceful and joyous Christmas.*

FROM DEACON VINCENT WOODS

So, here we are, December upon us again and all thoughts begin to turn towards Christmas. But why are all thoughts turning towards Christmas and where are these thoughts taking us?

It may be a good idea to re-evaluate just what Christmas is and why we celebrate so much at this time, and why we spend so much time preparing for it.

Christmas is, put simply, the celebration of Christ, or more so his birth as a human being, so much like us. There really isn't anything else to it. Yet, it is a great reason for celebration and one that we can all associate with. But, how do we prepare?

Yes, of course we all want to celebrate as best we can with festive cheer and there is no harm in this. However, we should consider the possible consequences of over-doing the celebration. Too much spending, eating and drinking is not a good way to celebrate Christmas at all.

Over the next four weeks, a period called Advent in church terms, we have an opportunity of preparing for Christmas which will not involve a lot of over-indulgence and won't cost a lot either. Over this time we can think of just what the arrival of Jesus in this world (either some two thousand years ago or even to us today) meant. Very importantly, it is a good excuse to look again at attending church (any church will do!) and re-engaging with Christ.

God bless you all.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS IN
WILLITON AND WATCHET****ST PETER'S CHURCH, WILLITON**

Friday 15th December - 7pm Evening entertainment

Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th December - Crib Festival

Sunday 17th December - 3.30pm Christingle Service

Sunday 24th December - 4pm Crib Service

Sunday 24th December - 11.30pm Midnight Service

Monday 25th December - 9am Christmas Day Holy Communion BCP

Monday 25th December - 10am Family Christmas celebration

Sunday 31st December - 9.30am Benefice Carol Service

ST DECUMAN'S CHURCH, WATCHET

December 1st - 3rd - Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 3rd December - 4pm Christingle Service

Friday 8th December - 2pm Watchet WI Carol Service at St Decuman's

Sunday 10th December - 3pm The Guides Christingle Service

(Continued from page 9)

Tuesday 12th December - 6.30pm St Margaret's Hospice "Light up a life"

Service, followed by light refreshments

Tuesday 19th December - 10am and 6pm Knights Templar School Christmas production at St Decuman's Church

Sunday 24th December - 4pm Crib Service

Sunday 24th December - 11.30pm Midnight Service

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day 9am Holy Communion at Holy Cross Chapel, Watchet

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day 10am Family Christmas Celebration

WILLITON METHODIST CHURCH

Thursday December 7th 10.15-3.30 Holiday at Home

December 17th Carol service at 10.30 am

December 25th Christmas Day service at 10.30 am

WATCHET METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday December 9th 10am to 4pm Christmas coffee morning and raffle, a display of over 30 nativity sets and opportunity for children to do crafts

Sunday 17th December 10.30am Carol service

Monday 18th December An evening of fun with Watchet Community Choir at 7pm

Sunday December 24th Christmas Eve service at 10.30am

Christmas Day united service with the Baptist church at 10am

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

24 December Vigil Mass of Christmas 6.30pm at the Methodist Church, Watchet

25 December Mass of Christmas Day 11.15am at Sacred Heart Church, Townsend Road, Minehead

WATCHET BAPTIST CHURCH

Blue Christmas: Saturday 16th December at the Sanctuary at 3pm (for those who find Christmas is a difficult time)

Sunday 17th December Carols by Candlelight 6pm @ Knights Templar School

Sunday 24th December Nativity Service (all age service) 10.30am at Knights Templar School

Monday 25th December Christmas Day Service: 10am at Watchet Methodist Church

Sunday 31st December New Year's Eve Service 10.30am at The Sanctuary, Swain Street, Watchet

SALVATION ARMY

Sunday December 9th at 6.30pm Carol service with Wiveliscombe Town Band.

Sunday December 17th at 11am Carol service and enrolment of new soldier, followed by Christmas lunch.

FOR INFORMATION ON ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS PLEASE SEE PAGES 9 AND 10

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 DECEMBER 2017

Sun 3rd 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

10.00am All Age Worship

Sun 10th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am Parish Communion

Mon 11th 10.00am Communion at Meeting Room - all welcome

Sun 17th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am Parish Communion

Sun 24th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

9.30am Parish Communion

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

LIGHT HEARTED CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

at 7pm on Friday 15th December

at St Peter's Church.

Lots of fun and lots of singing, plus a visit from Santa!

T HE 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.

B APTIST 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 or email mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk or telephone 01984 633755.

**FOR INFORMATION ON ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES
AND EVENTS PLEASE SEE PAGES 9 AND 11**

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:

3rd Mrs Ruth Mounfield
10th Rev Andrew Vidamour - Holy Communion
17th Local arrangement - Carol Service
24th Mr Tim Hedgecock
25th Miss Mollie Brooks - Short Christmas Service
31st Rev Jane Sperring

**On Thursday 7th December we are hosting another Holiday at Home.
Please contact Monica Sandy for details and to book a place on 01278 734872.**

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.

FUNDRAISING MEAL for Rohingya refugees

We have all seen reports of the Rohingya people being forced to leave Myanmar and become refugees in Bangladesh. These people have nothing and are living in terrible conditions. Shah and his team from the Bengal Spice restaurant in Williton are planning to go out to Bangladesh in December to take much needed provisions and medicines to them.

To help raise funds for this cause there will be a fundraising meal at the Bengal Spice on Tuesday 5 December arriving at 7.30pm to eat at 8pm. The meal includes a starter and main course and costs £15 per person. As there will be limited places available, tickets **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE**. So why not get friends and family together to book a table for a great evening?

Never tried Indian food before? This is a great opportunity to come and try a variety of dishes whilst supporting a good cause.

The evening will include a raffle and there will be a draw for the lucky ticket number. If you are unable to join us but would still like to support the cause either by a donation or a prize for the raffle, please take this into the Bengal Spice.

Tickets are available from Tracey Copp 01984 633657 or Sara Hempshall 01984 639648.

FOUND - GEO-CACHING WALLET

Someone found the pictured wallet in Long Street early in November. If it is yours, please ring Jenny or Tony on 01984 634899. It contains maps of the Quantocks, other papers and various little pieces of equipment, but no identification and nothing of financial value.



WILLITON CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

At 6pm the procession starts from Danesfield School and makes its way to the Children's Centre, Killick Way

Christmas stalls Hog Roast
Santa's Grotto Watchet Town Band
Refreshments Crafts for Children

Wednesday 13th December

FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT, IZZY SILVESTER

We all know that Christmas can be the loneliest time of year for some people, especially when the bad weather reduces their ability (and willingness) to leave the front door. The great Christmas get away can mean that people are left on their own without visits from friends and family and so may be more in need of a visit.

There are lots of local events in your area such as Carol Singing and Christmas Markets. Perhaps you could invite an elderly neighbour to join you at one of these events?

Waste and recycling always come under strain at this time of year with all that present unwrapping. Another large headache is the number of Christmas trees that need to be chipped after the event. Go to page 26 of this month's Williton Window for all information about recycling over Christmas and New Year.

Remember to save energy and save money!

As I write this, it is definitely feeling a lot colder, even a frost some mornings, so it's a good time to think about reducing your energy use. Wasting energy is easy, but so is saving it and that saves you money!

There are lots of ways to save energy – like boiling the right amount of water for a cuppa, or fitting energy saving light bulbs. Washing clothes at 30°C uses a lot less energy and saves time as well as money. Save even more by turning the light off when you're not in the room.

If you have central heating, turn the thermostat down by one degree – this can save £80 in a year. You need to be comfortably warm, but not hot.

Leaving electrical items like the TV and computer on stand-by wastes lots of money, and so does leaving things like phones and toothbrushes on charge when they are fully charged. It will usually only take a couple of hours, not overnight. Turn them all off at the wall and **SAVE MONEY!**

Not sure who to turn to? Village Agents is a charity that works 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 . I do only work part-time so it may take a day or two for me to return your call particularly over the Christmas / New Year holiday period. Thank you.

NEWS FROM WILLITON POST OFFICE

December posting dates for Christmas delivery.

INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL

11th December International Standard to static HM Forces Mail
16th December Belgium, France, Ireland Luxembourg

U.K. POSTAGE

20th December 2nd Class and 2nd Class Signed For, Parcelforce 48
21st December 1st Class and 1st Class Signed For, Parcelforce 24
21st December Special Delivery
22nd December Guaranteed Saturday Delivery

We have just had our 12th Anniversary of running Williton Post Office! Where have all those years gone?

For those of you who have Facebook accounts, you might be interested in our Facebook page! Look us up on Williton Post Office; we have details of our new merchandise and some events and items we think will be of interest!

Please come and have a mince pie and a sherry or fruit juice with us on the Late Night Shopping evening, 13th December!

All of us at the Post Office send Season's Greetings and our thanks for your support over this past year.

Caroline Tyner

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.

We were a small number meeting up in November and we were very pleased to welcome Charlotte to the group. Everyone took the opportunity to catch up on each other's news and to sign lots of greetings cards for previous members who now live around the world. One member was delighted to take away with her to Bangladesh, many greetings cards, letters and gifts for those members who have returned to Bangladesh.

The next meeting will be held at 2 pm on Tuesday, 12th December 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.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Life can only be understood backwards, but must be lived forward.

from SD

PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

WASPS - WILLITON AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

Our November meeting was very well attended. As usual we had 45 minutes of exercises and at the end of the exercise session we were left with a little treat, courtesy of Jenny Manvell, and it was delicious. Ron Phillips came to tell us all about his life in one of the local bakeries in Williton. It was a very good talk, many of us never realized what a demanding job it was. He and his sister could be found out delivering bread into the wee hours on Christmas Eve. There were lots of questions following his talk and he stayed on with us to enjoy a cup of tea and chat with all our members.

We will not be having a regular meeting in December, but enjoying our Christmas lunch at the Bicknoller Inn. January sees us back at the Danesborough View Common Room. The meeting takes place on Thursday 4th January, 2018 exercises start promptly at 1:15 with the meeting starting at 2pm.

2018 marks the start of our fifth year. It seems impossible to think that the WASPS have been members of the community for that long. It seems only yesterday that we were having our first meeting and wondering if we could get enough members to form a viable support group. Now we have over 50 people and are still growing. We plan to celebrate our fifth anniversary in style, but more about that in January.

This year has been a good one for us. We asked for tea ladies and before we could blink we had two and they are terrific. Both Sandra and Kay are now WASPS and join in all our activities as well as providing us with a lovely cup of tea and a biscuit at the end of the business part of the meeting. We also gained Jenny Manvell, our fitness instructor. She has been with us since September and has already proved two things to us: that chair exercises work well and that exercising can be fun as well as good for you. Jenny is a very welcome addition to the WASPS.

On behalf of all the WASPS I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the very best in 2018. We would also like to thank all the local businesses that have supported us in so many ways. We really feel a real sense of belonging to the community. We know that not all people with Parkinson's want to become members of support groups and that is understandable, but we are 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 but 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

Linda Bishop

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

A big thank you to all our box holders who throughout the year have generously donated a total sum of £486-90p to help disadvantaged children and young people in this country, giving them the chance of a brighter future.

Maureen Heath, House box Parish co-ordinator

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Sat	2	Williton Library	10.30am Lego Club
Sat	2	Williton Hospital	2.00pm Christmas Fair
Tues	5	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Bingo, Danesfield School
Tues	5	Bengal Spice	7.30pm Fund raising meal for Rohingya Refugees
Thurs	7	Williton Library	3pm Pins and Needles
Sat	9	Williton Walk	2.00pm, Danesfield School
Mon	11	RBL Women's Section	2.30pm Fire Station Lecture Room
Tues	12	Global Friends	Children's Centre, 2 - 4pm
Tues	12	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Christmas Bingo, Danesfield School
Tues	12	Watchet & District Audio Society	2.15pm, Sampford Brett Village Hall
Tues	12	Williton Wanderers	10.30am Steart Marshes main car park
Wed	13	Christmas Festival	6.00pm Procession leaves Danesfield to go to the Children's Centre Killick Way
Thurs	14	Women's Institute	2.00pm Danesborough View, Members only
Fri	29	Bake Club	3-4pm Williton Library
Sat	30	Williton Wanderers	10.15am Windmill West Quantoxhead

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

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

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

If you contact our advertisers or other contributors, please tell them that you saw their details in the Williton Window.

REGULAR WEEKLY VILLAGE EVENTS

Mon 9.30 am	Pilates	Williton Fire Station Community Room
Mon 10.30 - 11 am	Story Time 0 - 5 years	Williton Library
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 julieboltonyoga@gmail.com Guide HQ
Tue 5.45 pm	Brownies	
Wed 4-5.30pm	Williton Youth Club	Danesfield School (Paul 01643 703155)
Wed 6-7.30pm	Cubs	Guide HQ
Wed 7-10 pm	Railways 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 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

CLUBBERCISE

Award-winning personal trainer, Sophie Knapp, is holding six-week Clubbercise classes with simple, easy to follow routines in Old Cleeve on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 6.45. Come along for a bit of exercise with a twist while having fun. Hire your glow sticks or purchase some from us.

FITCAMP BOOTCAMP

This will cover all forms of exercise from strength, conditioning, abs, legs, upper body - the lot... Mondays 6 -7pm in Williton. **For more information, please ring Sophie on 01984 634842 or visit <http://skjemsophie.co.uk/>**

ST PETER'S SCHOOL DIARY

It's hard to believe that we are rehearsing for the Christmas play, this term has flown by! The rest of the term will be lots of fun leading up to the holidays.

Oak class are very busy doing activities about space. The children have heard stories and found out information in non-fiction books about space and will be making a large scale planet Earth which will be used as the background in our play. The class are enjoying 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' story and had lots of fun on a troll hunt, spotting footprints in the school grounds!

Ash and Elm classes had an exciting start to this half term with a visit from Williton Fire Brigade. The children are learning about the Great Fire of London, so were able to witness how the fire would have been able to spread so quickly as the Tudor houses they made were set alight. Everyone had the chance to pass the bucket of water along the line from the fire appliance to the fire.

The children in Fir class have enjoyed learning about instructional writing. They had to follow instructions about how to make a Remembrance Day wreath, which they then took out for the 1 minute silence in the playground. The children are now able to list what a set of instructions need in preparation for work on the Stone Ages.

Yew class are enjoying learning the ukulele and are beginning to play some recognisable tunes. They have been rehearsing the school Christmas play and were very enthusiastic to find out what parts they were going to play and the songs they had to learn. As well as the play, the children have been learning about sound and look forward to the experiments they will be doing to discover how we hear and produce different sounds.

Happy Stars, our nurture group, are very excited to have started their Devon and Somerset Swim Safety Award at Knights Templar pool on Wednesday mornings. The six week course develops the children's ability to swim and gives them confidence in the water. It's great fun too!

Our PTA is busy organising a Christmas Fair, which will be held on Friday 8th December at 4.30pm. There will be lots of stalls, games, refreshments and a visit from Father Christmas. Everyone is welcome and all profits will benefit the children.

There will also be many other Christmas activities, including a craft day and the traditional Christmas dinner.



DOWN AT THE STATION

It has been very strange this month with no trains running. Even sitting at home I have missed the sound of the whistles and engines puffing away off towards Stogumber.

However, there has been some action down at the station, where we have at long last had the car park resurfaced. Lynch & Sons of Minehead were the contractors and they have made a smashing job of it. No more pot holes and puddles! I am sure the many visitors will appreciate it. Hopefully there will be some discreet markings to encourage people to park closer than perhaps they have done in the past, allowing us to get more cars parked.



The newly tarmacked car park on 12/11/17

On the station itself, already there are signs of fencing being repainted and some sections in the process of being renewed. I hate to think of how many hundred pieces of wicket fencing there are. The platform lamps are in the process of being cleaned out. Probably four years worth of flies etc in some of them! The winter schedule of work runs to three pages (large print!).

So, the Santa Trains commence on Saturday 2nd December running on Saturdays and Sundays right through till the 24th, with additional trains in the week before Christmas. Most start from Bishops Lydeard, running to Williton and back again. Look them up on line at www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk, where you can also book your seats.

The Carol Trains run on Monday and Tuesday 11th & 12th December from each end of the line, meeting here in Williton and then returning to the start station. These are usually fully booked and are a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Then there will be a limited service from the 27th December through till January 1st, before we close down until the February half-term week. Have a good Christmas.

John Parsons, Station Master

ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES
Finishing a large, difficult jigsaw puzzle.

by SD

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Our October outing took the form of a very good meal at the Wyndham Arms, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The November meeting was very well attended. Congratulations were passed to members with birthdays this month. The talk was given by Jane Lillis on the work done by St Margaret's Hospice. The hospice was first registered as a charity in 1980, then Taunton Hospice was built, followed by Yeovil. We were told about the very many volunteers who raise much needed funds and also those who volunteer at the hospice making life easier for the patients, some of whom have terminal illnesses, while others are there for a respite. We are very lucky indeed to have such a wonderful place available to sick people.

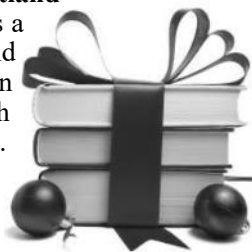
Moving on to December, we are having a Christmas meal at St Audries Bay Holiday Club, which we are very much looking forward to. Members would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and new year and we shall be meeting again on Tuesday 2nd January. Anyone wishing to visit or join us will be very welcome at 2pm at Danesborough View Common Room. All enquiries to Jenny Berry on 632616.

Joy Elgood

FRIENDS OF WILLITON LIBRARY

Book of the month: *Lost for Words* by Stephanie Butland

Definitely a feel-good book, but all the better for that. It's a book about a "straywaif" who works in a bookshop and loves books to the extent of having first lines tattooed on her body. It's moving, gripping, compelling and filled with observations with which you cannot help but identify. Give yourself a Christmas treat that isn't fattening!



One of thousands of titles in your newly refurbished library, which also offers DVDs, computer training (with six terminals for the public), Lego Club, Bake Club, Knit, Chat and Needlework. Book Club will next meet at 2.30 on Monday 8th January 2018. The Library is open every day except Tuesday and Sunday in Killick Way. Phone 0300 123 2224. Website: librarieswest.org.uk

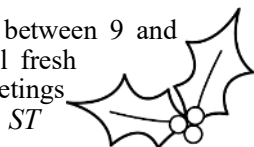
THANK YOU FROM THE COLERIDGE COMMITTEE OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

We would like to thank all the residents of Williton who have attended our fund-raising events this year – The Murder Mystery Evening in the spring; our Annual Garden Fete in August and the "West Country Evening – with The Stoggy men" in November. Your support has been much appreciated and we hope to see you again next year. Happy Christmas to you all.

Maggie Pumphrey

WILLITON MARKET

The market will be held on Friday 15 December 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

WILLITON PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE

On Monday 20th November, work commenced on the Robert Street entrance into the recreation ground. This aspect of the project involves major ground works and, in consequence, the lane and footpath into the ground will be closed to the public from Monday 27th November 2017 until Monday 8th January 2018. It will be open sooner if the works are completed earlier than planned. This phase requires that the earth bank is excavated, the electricity pole relocated and most of the mains services installed. Installing the gas supply will also require the closure of Robert Street for a short period of time.

Our contractor Harris Brothers & Collard Ltd (HBC) has informed all the residents affected by the works and signposts have been placed at all three entrances into the ground.

This work is required before HBC can access the ground with the necessary plant equipment to commence the construction.

The design team at HBC has been working on the floor plans, looking at the detailed design and working with building control. This work has raised an issue with regards to the layout of the foyer and we have had to have a rethink on the position of the stairs and required fire doors. Other than that, the building remains as is, although as we move forward, we should expect other design issues to arise.

During the work, emergency contact numbers will be displayed on the site and in the Parish Office window.

The working group is also active and we will soon complete our research on hire charges for 2018-19. This, along with an indication of our expected operation costs, will allow us to set and agree the hire rates for the coming year. These will be made available on our website.

Work on the new website continues and we hope to be operational by January. We are also looking at setting up a Facebook page and also exploring the use of other media sites to promote the building.

We will provide details of the construction program in the January edition of the Williton Window, along with details on public access into the ground from



Robert Street when the construction work is underway.

Councillor Bill Vaughan

Artist's impression of the new pavilion

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On Thursday 16th November the members of the W.I. enjoyed a fascinating talk by Brian Wright who kindly stepped in when Ian Lee was unable to attend.

Brian's subject was Beating the Bounds, a ceremony which goes back to the Saxon period and still applies today. Basically it could be described as a walk round boundaries asserting the rights of different areas of land and property by town councils, churchmen and interested parties, often accompanied by small boys (who might well have been beaten as part of the ceremony!). Trees, streams and rocks can all be used as well as numbered plaques. This work generally takes place in the fifth week after Easter.

Our next meeting, which is for members only, will be held on Thursday 14th December at 2 pm in Danesborough View Common Room.

We look forward to greeting members and visitors in the New Year. Because 2018 is the Centenary Year for the Women's Institute within the County, as a special concession there will be no charges for visitors.

Mary Tong, WI Member

A WORD OF WARNING!

When a group from the WI went for a meal at the Brewers Fayre in Minehead, one lady was caught with a fine of £50 (or £85 if not paid quickly) for overstaying her time by 1 hour and 34 minutes! Apparently you have to register your car when you order at the bar and then clock out again. Two or three of the drivers were told about the system by the staff, but others were not!

There are signs but these are not particularly obvious when you have other things on your mind.

Apparently cars are photographed when entering and leaving.
BIG BROTHER!



RECIPE FOR THE MONTH by Shirley Dee

APPLE RUM MERINGUE FOR SIX

4 oz (100g) ratafia biscuits	4 oz (100 g) soft brown sugar
4 tablespoons white rum	3 egg whites
1½ lb cooking apples	¼ level teaspoon salt
1 oz (25 g) unsalted butter	3 oz (75 g) granulated sugar
½ level teaspoon cinnamon	3 oz (75 g) caster sugar

Cover the base of an ovenproof flan dish with the ratafias and pour the rum over them. Peel, core and thinly slice the apples into a saucepan, add the butter, cinnamon, brown sugar and 2 or 3 tablespoons of water. Simmer until the apples are just cooked. Leave it to cool, then spoon the apples over the ratafias. Beat the egg whites with the salt until stiff but not dry. Stir in the granulated sugar and beat for about two minutes or until the meringue mixture is smooth and glossy. Fold in the caster sugar and immediately spoon the meringue over the apples in the flan dish. Swirl the meringue into soft peaks. Bake for about 10 - 15 minutes on gas mark 4, oven 350°F, 150°C until pale beige. Serve hot or cold with ice cream.

WORDSEARCH FOR DECEMBER by Phyllis Chidgey

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

S	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C
A	L	Y	A	N	A	M	G	O	H
M	F	T	N	I	A	S	N	L	E
T	A	I	M	C	A	R	O	L	S
S	I	V	Y	H	T	E	S	Y	T
I	R	I	R	O	N	T	N	O	N
R	Y	T	R	L	A	N	I	T	U
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B	R	A	N	D	Y	R	R	E	B

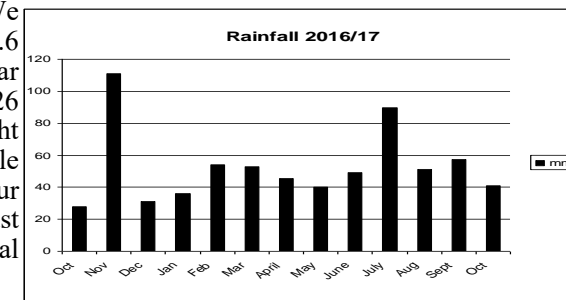
IVY	SONG	SANTA	WINTER
YEW	WISH	HOLLY	HOGMANAY
TOY	FAIRY	ROBINS	NATIVITY
ELF	BERRY	BRANDY	CHRISTMAS
TREE	MYRRH	CAROLS	CHESTNUTS
CHOCOLATES	SAINT/NICHOLAS		

OCTOBER WEATHER

On the morning of 17th November, I looked out to see the sun glistening on the frosty fields for the first time this Autumn.

In October, the temperatures were up to 20°C in the third week. The coldest night was +3°C on the 30th. The maximum pressure was 30.4 inches and the minimum was 29.4 on 19th. We had a rain total of 41mm (1.6 inches) for the month (last year 28). Again, we saw the sun on 26 days! There was an unusual sight of a red ball of sun in the middle of the day on 16th. The colour was caused by the Sahara dust and smoke from Portugal wildfires.

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 9 December** starting at 2pm from outside Danesfield School. We will walk over Watchet Hill to the harbour/marina where we can stop for an ice cream if it is open and if anyone wants one. From there we will walk along the Mineral Line to Kentsford Farm, from where we will visit St Decuman's Well and then on to Parsonage Farm before returning to Williton. If you would like any more information please ring me on 01984 632318.

Elizabeth Peeks

* **Williton Wanderers** are having two walks in December. One will be a guided bird-watching walk on **Tuesday 12 December** on Steart Marshes. We will meet at 10.30am at the WWT Steart Marshes main car park (TA5 2PU). Take A39 direction Bridgwater to the Cannington West roundabout, turn left to Hinkley Point and Combswich, then follow the signs to Steart Marshes. Well-behaved dogs under close control welcome. Bring binoculars and a picnic. The length of the walk will depend mainly on the weather and what birds are around.

* The second walk will be on **Saturday 30 December**, meeting and parking at the Windmill Inn, West Quantoxhead (TA4 4DS). Please meet at 10.15 to get instructions on where to park and to pre-order lunch! The walk will be about 5 miles over the Quantocks. Please let me know beforehand if you intend lunching, so I can let the pub know. For more information ring *Jenny Gibson 01984 634899*

* **Mineral Line:** Join us for a fascinating insight into some of West Somerset's finest feats of Victorian engineering. Meet at Chagot Woods Forestry Commission Car Park (Grid Ref SS975355) at 9.45 am on **Thursday 7 December** for a short easy walk around Langham Engine House, followed by a 2 hour walk down the steep miners' track looking at features connected with iron mining. For information and booking call 01398 323841. Free. Donations to West Somerset Mineral Line Association are welcome. More information: www.wsmla.org.uk

WILLITON BOWLING CLUB

Williton Bowling Club is asking for your help when shopping at Tesco Minehead, to support us in Tesco's Bags of Help initiative. The Club is one of three organisations to receive grants of varying amounts during November and December. Customers cast their votes using a blue token given to them at the checkout each time they shop.

Our project is to provide specialised wheelchairs for disabled bowlers at the club. The Club is committed to providing equal opportunities for disabled bowlers within the local community. We have an accessible car park, have improved the access to the club and installed access ramps to the green. The provision of specialised wheelchairs would complete this project.

Thank you for supporting us.

Dave Sully, President

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PIONEERING MUSGROVE STUDY

Taunton and Somerset 
NHS Foundation Trust

A ground-breaking research study at Musgrove Park Hospital, led by Musgrove consultant Professor Rob Andrews, aimed at helping people with type 1 diabetes safely exercise is appealing for volunteers in Somerset to test it. The study includes a new course which provides people with information so that they can exercise without upsetting their blood sugar levels. The Musgrove EXTOD Education (Exercise in Type One Diabetes) team needs to recruit 50 participants to trial the programme under their supervision. Participants can be any age from 18-70, and should either be doing more than 30 minutes of exercise twice a week, or have signed up to a sporting event in the next six months. They also need to know about counting carbohydrate intake, by having been on a course such as the Dose Adjustment For Normal Eating (DAFNE) or similar.

Professor Andrews is being supported by experts from his team at the hospital and the University of Birmingham and the University of Exeter. Volunteers will need to attend eight appointments over an eight month period. Travel expenses will be covered and the EXTOD team hope to begin the trial – the second phase of the study - at the end of February.

If you are interested in taking part, or want to find out more, contact Catherine Thompson – lead diabetes research nurse on 01823 344986, or email Catherine.thompson@tst.nhs.uk

WILLITON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

We are hoping to start running a book stall in the new year. Please let me know if you have any books in very good condition that we could sell. Also please let me know if you could man the stall now and again.

We are holding a short Christmas service at the hospital on December 13th at 3pm. Everyone is very welcome. Cup of tea and biscuits afterwards.

Christmas cards are on sale on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2 and 4pm while stocks last.

Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 2nd December from 2 - 4.30pm. Crafts, games, bric-a-brac, refreshments.

DUNSTER BY CANDLELIGHT, 1 - 2 DECEMBER

Go back in time in a medieval village lit by candlelight. Entrance is free and all profits from the sale of the festival programme go to the local St Margaret's Hospice. There are no cars allowed in the village during these two evenings (the road through Dunster is closed) so visitors would be well advised to catch one of the special buses (£4 single or return) which leave Williton approximately every half hour in a continuous loop from 4.30pm. The last bus back will leave Dunster at 9.15pm. Children under 12 accompanied by an adult will be free. Bus passes are not accepted as this is a private bus service.



RECYCLING AND REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Bank Holiday Changes Christmas and New Year 2017/18

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 18 to Friday 22 Dec	No change
Monday 25 to Friday 29 Dec	All two days later , including Monday pickups on Wednesday 27 Dec and Friday pickups on Sunday 31 Dec
Monday 1 to Friday 5 Jan	All one day later , including Friday pickups on Saturday 6 Jan
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**).

Recycling centres are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Open all other days on their usual schedule. Vehicle permit conditions apply as usual over the festive season. All recycling sites accept only debit or credit card payments for disposal of soil, hardcore, tyres, gas bottles, vehicle parts and commercial waste, and to purchase Revive compost. Asbestos and plasterboard disposal is by online pre-payment. Crewkerne and Dulverton community recycling sites' £2 entry fees are by cash.

In severe weather, check our website: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk

RECYCLE FOIL IN YOUR BLACK BOX

Somerset residents are being urged to renew efforts to recycle aluminium foil. To make that easier, all foil can now be recycled in the same box – usually the black one – as food and drink cans. Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) wants to collect all aluminium foil, such as from take-away containers, trays from festive mince pies, lids from some food packaging, and clean aluminium wrapping from Christmas cooking. Metallised plastic foil, such as pet food pouches, cannot be taken. To check, squash the foil - if it springs back, it is plastic based and not recyclable. At the end of your washing-up, rinse foil used for food to remove the worst of any contamination, scrunch it all together so it will not blow away, and add it to your black box so it can be easily spotted by the collection crew.

WILLITON HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are always needed. Do come along and have a look round the hospital and a chat about volunteering.

Shirley Dee, Volunteer Co-ordinator
01984 635600



WATCHET & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

presents

A Collection of Christmas Music
through the centuries
for choir and audience

7.30 pm on Thursday 14th December

Watchet Methodist Church TA23 0AQ

Admission at the door £7.50

Advance bookings £7.00

WatchetChoralSociety@gmail.com

or telephone 01984 639004

www.watchetchoralsociety.co.uk

WILLITON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 2nd December

2 - 4.30 pm

at Williton Hospital, TA4 4RA
Crafts, games, bric-a-brac, raffle
and refreshments

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