

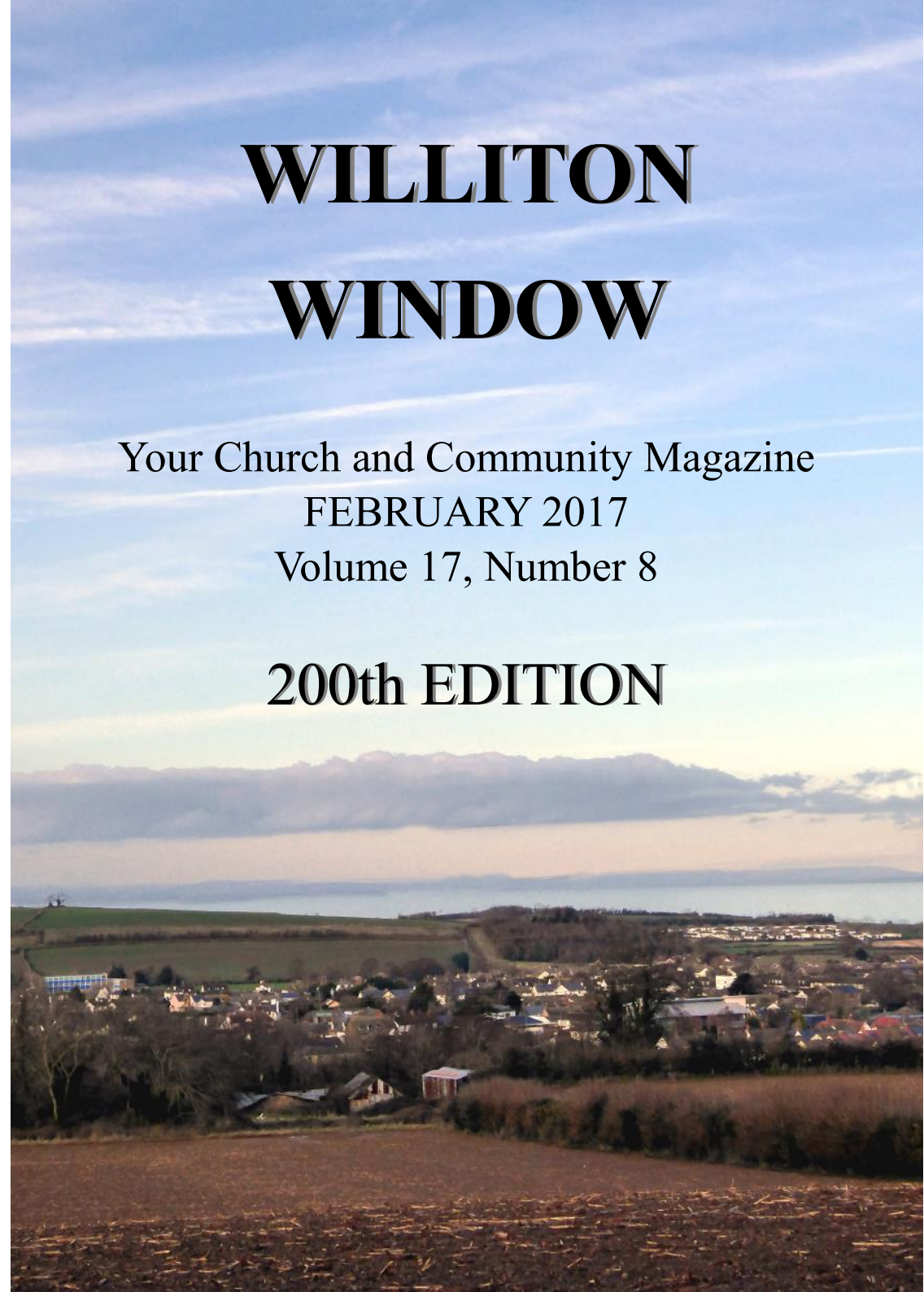
WILLITON WINDOW

Your Church and Community Magazine

FEBRUARY 2017

Volume 17, Number 8

200th EDITION



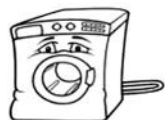
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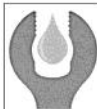
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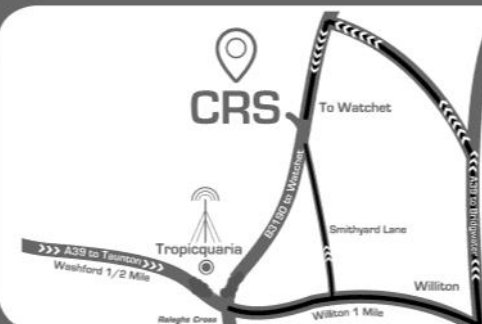
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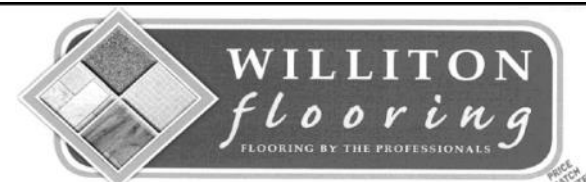
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DEADLINE DATES FOR THE MARCH ISSUE

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

THE MAGAZINE SHOULD BE READY FOR COLLECTION / DELIVERY
FROM FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY

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
Readers:	Mrs Bev Machin	568201
	Mrs Donna Marsden	633707
Churchwardens:	Mr Michael Davenport	633672
	Mrs Tracey Copp	633657

Methodist Church

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

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

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

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

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

WELCOME TO THE 200th EDITION OF THE WILLITON WINDOW

The first edition of the Williton Window was produced in July 2000, to replace the former church newsletter, and was the brainchild of Jane Ninis, who sadly passed away in 2004. Jane wanted a magazine that would be more ambitious than the usual parish magazine, a community publication for the whole village. Right from the start she was adamant that the Williton Window should be free and be delivered to every house in the village.

The only way this could be done was if it was run by volunteers and paid for by advertising. Volunteers foot-slogged around local businesses and, by the time the first edition was published, there were an amazing 64 advertisers.

Distribution also had to be organised, this by Phyllis Chidgey, who is still in charge over 16 years later. As the village has grown, so has the distribution team, rising from 32 originally to the current 39 volunteers, delivering to over 1500 households within Williton Parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our distributors past and present, some of whom have been delivering the magazine every month since its inception. A big thank you, too, to our contributors, who - every month - send in information about their organisation, the service they provide or an item of general interest. Again, some of these people have been doing this since the first edition. Last but not least, thank you to the editorial committee, especially our "money men" Gary Dyer and Tony Guest, who keep us on the straight and narrow.

Following Jane's death, the magazine was edited for a short while by Ann Williamson and Jenny Anderson, then by Rosemary Woods. I took over in 2006, with the help of my husband Tony. During this past decade, we have benefitted from giant steps forward in technology, which enable us to compile the magazine at home on the computer, email a copy to the printer and receive the finished magazines back within a very few days. This month, for the first time, we have a colour cover. We have also set up a website where people outside Williton can access a copy of the magazine and obtain other information about the village.

I am sure Jane would be proud and happy to know that the Williton Window continues to thrive and is celebrating its 200th edition this month.

Jenny Gibson, Editor

THANK YOU TO ROCKWELL PRINTERS

We would like to say a big thank you to Rockwell Printers, who came to our rescue at extremely short notice in November, when our previous printing company was unable to complete the print run of the Christmas edition.

Rockwell has subsequently printed the January and now the February magazines, with a vastly improved quality of paper and print, as well as a colour printing facility. We look forward to a long working relationship with them.

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Cover photo: View over Williton from the track going up from behind St Peter's Church to Aller Farm.

UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON

S T PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

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

Saints Day Services as announced

For Home Communion or visits of any kind, please contact:
the Vicar: Revd. Clive Gilbert on 631005

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

Church is open daily during daylight hours for personal prayer

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Sun 5th	8.00 am	Holy Communion, BCP
	10.00am	All Age Worship
Sun 12th	8.00 am	Holy Communion, BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Mon 13th	10.00am	Communion at Danesborough view, all welcome
Tues 14th	7.30pm	House group at Marlene's House
Sun 19th	8.00 am	Holy Communion, BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Sun 26th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	3.00pm	Sacred Space: a time to listen, reflect and respond, for those who would like some less- structured Spiritual Space (See page 11)
Tues 28th	7.30pm	House group at Catherine and Lindsay's.

METHODIST CHURCH Tower Hill, Williton

Do come and join us for:

Services: Sundays at 10.30 am
Bible Fellowship Group : Contact Mollie Brooks on 01984 632115
Coffee and chat: Fridays 10.00 am - 11.30 am - all welcome
This month our preachers are:

5th	Rev Jane Sperring - Holy Communion
12th	Mr Clive Wooldridge
19th	Mrs Jean Armin
26th	Rev Andrew Vidamour

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.

FROM REV CLIVE GILBERT

Over the years there have been various campaigns to keep Sundays special in some way or other. Many of us will remember the days when there was little else to do on Sunday other than watch television, go to church, tinker with the car, cut the grass or buy the paper (in the morning only of course). Times have changed and there is much more choice for us.

Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."
Mark.2.27

At one time the church taught that Sunday should be a day of rest. Today many people regard it as a day for recreation and a smaller number as a day for worship. Whatever it is for you I do hope that it is different to the rest of the week - it can still be special and allow us to enjoy ourselves. Those of us who have to work on Sundays need to find another Sabbath Day - for me it is Friday. Whichever day it is, I would suggest that it's important that we take a Sabbath.

Some would say that we should "honour the Sabbath as a day of rest and give glory to God, but we do that in the way we treat one another and respond to human need in whatever context that presents itself."* We can keep the Sabbath holy by making it a day when family and friends become our focus rather than it being like just any other day.

If you are one of those people who would still like to keep some part of the day for spiritual reflection- you will always be welcome at either St. Peter's Church or the Methodist Chapel. But if more formal, structured worship is not for you, perhaps you would like to try "Sacred Space" on 26th February which will be a time to be quiet, listen to music and the written word, and a time to reflect and respond - all in a safe unthreatening atmosphere. [See page 10.]

* REDEMPTORIST PUBLICATIONS, 2016 WEEKDAY LIVING WORD.

BAPTIST CHURCH (WATCHET)

As will be known our minister, Carl Smethurst, moved on from Watchet last summer to be part of the South West Baptist Association Regional Team. Carl was with us for seven years!

We are pleased to report that after due process we have invited Mike Sherburn to become our new minister. He has accepted the invitation and should be with us before the end of the summer. Mike is currently pastor in training at a Baptist Church in Kent while he completes his ministerial training at Spurgeons College, London. He will be coming with his wife Jenny and their three children. We are excited about this appointment and look forward to the next chapter of the life at the Baptist Church.

John Parsons

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 telephone the contacts shown on page 8.

ART CLUB

We have a small Art Club at the Methodist Church on Wednesdays between 9.30 and 11.30am. No tutor - we just meet to paint! There is room for a couple more people. If you would like to join us please ring Mollie on 01984 632115.

COME AND HAVE A GO!!!!

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.

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WILLITON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

We continue to campaign for the return of the six stroke beds.

WILLITON HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers for bed-making are needed. If you might be interested please give me a ring and arrange to have a chat and a look round the hospital.

Shirley Dee, Volunteer Co-ordinator - 01984 635600

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Our January meeting was well attended, with two visitors as well. Birthday wishes were extended to three members with birthdays in December and January. Shirley Dee was the guest speaker, who kept us very entertained with some very amusing poems. The meeting continued with a raffle and table top sale, followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm on 7th February at Danesborough View Common Room and we look forward to meeting any visitors or new members wishing to join us. You will be made very welcome.

Any enquiries to Jenny Berry on 632616.

Joy Elgood

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG IN THE BRENDON HILLS

Volunteers are invited to help in giving the Winding House and Incline of the Mineral Line some TLC. The cappings of the brake duct and a small cistern have failed and Scheduled Monument consent has been obtained for these to be excavated, recorded and made safe. The work will be undertaken from 27 February - 3 March by the National Park and West Somerset Mineral Line Association. Please contact Chris Sampson 999cxs@gmail.com or ring 01984 640996.

TABLE TOP SALE SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

10am - 1 pm

At Williton Methodist Church

This sale is being organised by Matthew Pearson who lives in Williton and is currently studying at Plymouth University. He is doing a project on Action against Hunger, a global charity, which saves the lives of malnourished children, ensures everyone can access clean water, food, training and healthcare and enables entire communities to be free from hunger.

Proceeds from the sale will be shared between the Methodist Church and Action against Hunger.

WEST SOMERSET TALKING NEWSPAPER - URGENT PLEA

We urgently need a 'recording engineer' to record and copy tapes and CDs, while the readers are reading the newspaper in the studio. This would be ideal for someone who can spare about three hours every six weeks, with some knowledge of tape and CD recording. The session takes place in the early evening and full training will be given. **If nobody volunteers, there is a real danger that the West Somerset Talking Newspaper will not be able to continue.** Please contact Martin Spink on 01984 631827.

FRIENDS OF WILLITON LIBRARY

Book of the month: **This Year It Will Be Different** by Maeve Binchy

Here are twenty superb short stories linked by a theme of Christmas and the New Year. They are about people and situations we can recognise: the surly step-daughter coming home from her boarding school, the child given a Polaroid camera who makes crafty use of it, and so on. Binchy has no trouble drawing us in with her first paragraphs, and her twists will make you chuckle.



Book Club meets at 2.30 on the last Monday of each month.

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Monthly events at the library:

Book Club Reading Group - Last Monday of every month 2.30 - 3.30pm

Story Time 5-10 year olds - Last Saturday of every month 10.30-11am. Booking required

Bake Club - Last Friday of every month 3 - 4pm

Pins and Needles - First Thursday of every month 3 - 4pm

Lego Club - First Saturday of month 10.30-11.30. Booking required

Family History - Once every month (alternate Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning). Booking essential.

Weekly:

Story Time 0-5 years - Monday 10.30-11

Craft and Chat - Thursday 10.30-12

UK Online Free courses:

Tablet/IPad - Monday 10.15 - 12.45. Booking essential

Computer/Laptop - Friday 10.15 - 12.45. Booking essential

The library is open every day except Tuesday and Sunday. Phone: 0300 123 2224.

Website: librarieswest.org.uk email: willib@somerset.gov.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

from SD

WASPS - WILLITON AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

Our regular meeting took place on Thursday 5th January 2pm at the Danesborough View Common Room. Our Parkinson's nurse and the WASPS discussed ways that we can work together more effectively. There were some ideas that we will be exploring and it was a very positive meeting.

We are celebrating our **4th anniversary** in February and we are holding this meeting at the Williton Hospital. The meeting will take place on **WEDNESDAY 15th February** at 2pm and our speaker is Dr Simon Cooper. If you are interested in finding out more about Parkinson's and the WASPS, please feel free to come along. You will find us a bright and lively group, who know that being there for each other really is beneficial to all of us. The support and help that we get from knowing each other is invaluable and can make a huge difference in our lives.

Last month in our article we asked for two volunteers to help us with our tea and we are pleased to report that we now have two tea ladies. Isn't it great to know that people read and respond to the articles - thank you everyone. I often get told that people read about our group and what we are up to. Thanks so much for all your support.

If you would like to attend our meetings please do feel free to come along. We are a very friendly group and we do our very best to make new members and guests welcome. If you are new, just come over and introduce yourself to me and I will make sure that you get to meet as many members as possible and answer any questions you may have. We are always thrilled to see new faces and will do our best to make you feel welcome.

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

VILLAGE AGENTS

The Somerset Village Agent project now covers over half the county. The project uses paid, part time, highly trained individuals living in the parish 'clusters' they support. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs.

Village Agents work with all ages dealing with a wide variety of issues, including health and social care, home safety, finding local activities for people to join in with, and signposting and referring people to money and benefit advice. Village Agents also have the role of helping to shape services by feeding back to the appropriate body information about gaps in service, such as transport provision. They can also motivate and support a community to respond to a local need by working together to address issues, like helping to set up a coffee morning for a group of lonely people or starting a volunteer car scheme.

Williton's Village Agent is Izzy Silvester and her contact details are Email: izzy@somersetcc.org.uk Tel: 07931 018045.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Most of the members of Williton W. I. enjoyed getting together at the Wyndham Arms for lunch on January 5th, glad of an opportunity to exchange news following the festive season. We enjoyed the big variety of dishes cooked for us and the friendly service of the staff. It was a very happy occasion and a good start to the new year.

The first monthly meeting of 2017 was held at our usual venue on Thursday January 19th and it was a joy to have our president, Chris Rayner, with us after her absence through illness before Christmas. The meeting began with necessary business and we heard of the trip to Snowdrop Valley on February 13th kindly being arranged by Ann Smith.

Our speaker was Gail Thomas, who talked to us about Bobbin Lace Making. She outlined the history of the lace industry in England before moving on to explain to us the ways such lace was made. She passed round many illustrations and showed us a great variety of equipment that can be used when making beautiful products, ranging from collars to greetings cards. After the social time of the tea break, the meeting concluded with some poetry reading arranged by Irene Draper.

The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday February 16th at 2 pm at Danesborough View Common Room. Emma Duke will talk about "Driftwood" and for the competition please bring a small piece of driftwood!

Jenny Handisyde

WILLITON BROWNIES, RAINBOWS AND CUBS

The Co-op Community Fund is supporting Williton Guide and Brownie Headquarters with your help. The Co-op has launched a new community fund giving 1p in every £1 spent on Co-op products back to the local community, and Williton Guide and Brownie Headquarters is very grateful to have been chosen as one of the first charities to receive the money towards our current project, replacing our external doors. Our HQ continually needs updating and refurbishment to be a safe and comfortable environment for the children and leaders.

Please support Williton Guide & Brownie HQ by going online to www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund. Go to Select Your Cause and click on this charity to receive your donations. You will need your Co-op membership card number.

The Guide & Brownie HQ is used by Brownies, Rainbows and Cubs weekly where they enjoy a range of activities that are fun, active and educational, encouraging children aged 5 to 11 years to become self-confident, happy young people who can work in a team or as individuals.

Linda Sully, Headquarters Treasurer, Lindasully4@aol.com

FROM MRS FRANCES CLATWORTHY

My first Christmas away from home was considerably enhanced by the myriad of greetings cards from friends and friendly acquaintances. I thank you all and wish you a good and kindly 2017.

ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES

The thought that spring is on its way.

from SD

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Thurs 2	Williton Library	3pm Pins and Needles,
Sat 4	Williton Library	10.30am Lego Club
Mon 6	Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm Full Council Meeting
Tues 7	Probus	The Windmill, West Quantoxhead, 10.30am
Tues 7	Good Neighbours	2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
Tues 7	Watchet & District Audio	2.15pm Sampford Brett Village Hall
Tues 7	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Bingo, St Peter's School
Tues 7	Somerset Sight Mobile Unit	1.30-3.30pm Killick Way Car Park
Mon 13	RBL Women's Section	2.30pm Fire Station Lecture Room,
Tues 14	Global Friends	Children's Centre, 2 - 4pm
Tues 14	Probus	Luncheon at The Windmill, West Quantoxhead, 12.15 for 12.45
Wed 15	WASPS Parkinson Support Group	2pm: 4th Anniversary meeting at Brabazon Room, Williton Hospital
Thurs 16	Women's Institute	2.00pm Danesborough View, Talk about driftwood
Fri 17	Market	9 - 11.30 Parish Council Rooms, Killick Way
Sat 18	Williton Pavilion	9.00am Coffee Morning Table Top Sale, Parish Office, Killick Way
Sat 18	Methodist Church	10-1.00pm Matthew's Table Top Sale see page 12
Tues 21	Probus	The Windmill, West Quantoxhead, 10.30am
Tues 21	Village History	7.45pm EMN Hall Monksilver, Laura Badcock: Collector & Exhibitor of Textiles
Tues 21	Watchet & District Audio	2.15pm Sampford Brett Village Hall
Tues 21	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Bingo, St Peter's School
Fri 24	Bake Club	3-4pm Williton Library
Sat 25	Williton Wanderers	10.30am at Winsford Car Park
Sat 25	Williton Library	10-10.30, Story time for 5-10 year olds
Mon 27	Garden Club	7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room, Bees and their Nectar
Mon 27	Book Club	2.30pm Williton Library
Tues 28	Probus	The Windmill, West Quantoxhead, 10.30am

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

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 pm	Shibashi Tai Chi	St Audries Village Hall (634090)
Mon 2 - 3 pm	Age UK - Stay Strong	Danesborough View Common Room
Mon 6.30pm	Pilates (info: Pru Wand 656232 /email: pruwandpilates@hotmail.com)	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Mon 7.30 pm	Badminton	EMN Hall Monksilver (656496)
Tues 9.30 - 10.30am	Mat and floor based yoga	Watchet Community Centre
11 - 12 am	Chair-based yoga	Julie Bolton 01984 633665
Tues 10.30am-1pm	Bead-weaving group	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Fortnightly. For dates and more information ring Jane Sefton on 01984 656652		
Tue 5.45 pm	Brownies	Guide HQ
Wed 11am	Pilates (See Mondays)	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Wed 4-5.30pm	Williton Youth Club	Danesfield School (Paul 01643 703155)
Wed 6-7.30pm	Cubs	Guide HQ
Wed 6.30-8pm	Guides (info from Lisa on 01984 632319)	The Guide HQ, Market Street Car Park in Watchet
Wed 6.45 pm	Shibashi Tai Chi	Children's Centre, Killick Way
Wed 7-10 pm	Railways Modellers	Long Hall, Carhampton Rec
Thur 9.30-11.30 am	St Peter's Church	Drop in for coffee and cake
Thur 10-11am	Free chair based exercise	Williton Hospital (please ring Shirley on 633529 for information)
Thur 10.30 am	KFA Movement	Danesborough View Common Room
Thur 10.30-noon	Williton Library	Craft and Chat drop-in. All welcome.
Thur 5.15-6.30 pm	Rainbows	Guide HQ
Thur Term time only	Bowmen of Danesfield	Danesfield School Gym
5 - 7 pm	Juniors	info: doug.human@bowmenofdanefield.co.uk
7 - 9 pm	Seniors	info: Contact John Eastaugh 01643 821521
Fri 9.30 am	Pilates	Williton Fire Station Community Room
Fri 10am -noon	Coffee and chat	Methodist Church, Tower Hill
Fri 12 noon	Health Walk	Meet Killick Way Car park
Fri	Williton RBL Rifle Club	Bridge St. Range. Info 01984 632650
Fri 7.30 pm	Bingo	Danesborough View Common Room
Fri 7.30pm	Walking football	Danesfield School

NHS HEALTH TRAINER Williton / Watchet / Minehead

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

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

ST PETER'S SCHOOL DIARY

This term Oak class, our reception children, have been learning about different ways to travel. On their topic day the children designed and made a vehicle from junk modelling materials. They have been busy learning their Talk for Writing story 'The Enormous Turnip' and are now in the process of changing the story to make it their own. The children have brought in various vegetables to use for observational drawings and these will be used to change the turnip in the story. In Maths they have worked hard on number recognition and matching numerals to quantities.

Ash class thoroughly enjoyed their topic day, learning all about different types of weather. They completed a class pictogram to find out what the favourite type of weather was. The results showed that most liked sunny and rainy days with a rainbow in the sky. The children painted pictures of their favourite types of weather which will be displayed in school and are looking forward to making wind streamers, rain gauges and sun catchers. Homework will be about making their own kite.

Healthy eating and handwashing was the title of Elm class's Big Day. The children learnt how to make their own healthy lunches. They were given a great choice of fun fresh and fantastically colourful foods to choose from, including red and yellow peppers, tuna, tomatoes and cheese. The class discussed the foods that were not so healthy and agreed they liked the healthy wraps a great deal, particularly because they made them by themselves. Later, they had a great lesson led by our student Holly Robbins, demonstrating how germs were transferred by using oil and different coloured glitters. We then looked at the best method of washing our hands using a comparative scientific investigation. Soap with warm water did seem to be the best method.

Fir class began their new topic of Ancient Egypt. It has already proved to be a fascinating area of learning, with many children researching the Egyptians during their own time. Children have been keen to present their findings and share this with the class. A particular favourite is the idea that many of the pharaohs would have their organs removed and kept in a jar, ready to take with them to the after life!

Yew class are also enjoying their new topics. In science they are learning about habitats and animals, including humans and in topic they too are learning about the Ancient Egyptians, with a focus on how they lived and how it compares to our own experiences of how we live today. The class are also enjoying taking part in lunch time clubs and after school clubs, with a range of activities available including art and craft, Lego and archery.

SG

WILLITON YOUTH CLUB

Williton Youth Club is aimed at 8 - 11 year olds, school years 4, 5 and 6. Based at Danesfield school, it meets on Wednesday evenings and is run by two professionally qualified youth workers. Members do a range of activities, including pool, music, football and computers, and special help is also given to year 4 pupils to prepare their change of school in the summer. It is £1 to attend the club, which runs from 4 to 5.30pm. New members are always welcome, so come and give it a try. For more information, please contact Paul on 01643 703155.

RECIPE FOR THE MONTH by Shirley Dee

PANCAKES

Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) was traditionally a time of fasting. Pancakes are the perfect way of using up eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast. Shrove Tuesday is on 28 February this year.

4 oz (100 g) plain flour

½ pint milk (or part milk / part water)

1 egg

Pinch of salt

For a richer mix, use 2 eggs and add a tablespoon of oil to the smooth batter

For soufflé batter, separate the whites from yolks from two eggs and beat the whites until stiff, folding them into the batter before frying.

Method: Put ½ oz of lard or cooking fat or 1 dessertspoon of oil into a small frying pan and heat until there is a faint haze. Add a very thin layer of batter enough for a paper thin layer in the pan. Cook for about two minutes before tossing or turning for another couple minutes. Add a little more fat / oil to the pan for each pancake. Enjoy with lemon juice or caster sugar.

GLOBAL FRIENDS

At our first meeting of 2017, we were pleased to welcome a new member, who has an interest in supporting those whose first language is not English. There ensued lots of discussion about the intricacies of the English grammar - both the terms used and the difficulties in use where other languages often differ greatly in sentence construction. There was an opportunity of supporting a member from Bangladesh in unpicking questions from a math paper. Everyone joined in with a debate about the provision of education in England, both locally and nationally.

The next meeting of Global Friends is on Tuesday, 14th February, between 2 - 4pm, at the Williton Children's Centre - everyone welcome.

For more information please phone 01984 248392 or 01984 634734.



DOWN AT THE STATION

We are right into the maintenance season now and, weather permitting, are trying to get some outside painting done on the waiting room and shop buildings, both of which are built of wood and therefore need regular upkeep. From time to time we actually burn off the old paint and it's amazing how thick the old coats are. Some work is also being done to the toilets, which I hope will make an improvement.

Trains will be running for the February half-term holiday on both the two Saturdays and Sundays and then Tuesday through Friday during that week. Unfortunately, due to major relaying of track at Minehead, including the renewing of the Seaward Way crossing, the February trains will be diesel rather than steam and will only be running from Bishops Lydeard to Watchet and back, three round trips each day. However we will be open at Williton for refreshments and a warm welcome will be given to anyone who cares to call down and see us. Maybe you are thinking of volunteering? Several positions are available from Booking Office to platform duties and shop. Full training will be given, which would include the general safety side of working on a 'live' railway!

John Parsons, Acting Station Master

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

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

Rubbish in the village: One of my jobs since coming back on to the council is to inspect the Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground each week. I'm pleased to say that there is not too much rubbish for me to pick up at present, I hope this continues. I cannot say the same for our lanes in the village as I walked down the lane from Long Lakes to Aller Mead Way, and then coming back I turned off into Orchard Close/Orchard Way, which took me down Watery Lane/Union Lane coming out on to Long Street. The rubbish in the lanes is unbelievable: bottles, cans, paper and lots of other household rubbish, just thrown around. Not only does it makes our village untidy, it is also not good for our wild life. Please do not dump your rubbish in these lanes - put it out for the refuse collectors. Maybe if you are walking these lanes and have a bag with you, you could pick up some and take it home to put in your bin. Otherwise it will stay there, as there is no one else to clean the lanes.

New Parish Councillors: We have two vacancies for parish councillors. If you would like to become a parish councillor please get in touch with the clerk on the above number. The work can be very interesting and rewarding.

This year's Precept: The parish council has had to think about taking on more of the responsibilities that the District Council previously did. This, of course, is going to cost us more money, so we have had to set the precept this year at a 3.04% increase. This means an increase for a band D property of £3.05 a year for the parish part of your rates.

Flood Wardens: I am pleased to say the Flood Wardens have a new storage shed which will make it easier as a central point if/when we have any inclement weather. Many thanks to Garry Austin-Thompson and his colleagues from the Fire Brigade for their help. Also to CRISP (Community Resilience in Somerset Project) for their kind grant. If you are interested in becoming a Flood Warden, please do contact us.

Street Art Boards: We have to find a new home to store our Street Art Boards –is this something you may be able to help with? If so, please could you contact the Parish Clerk.
Cllr Diane Hooper

WILLITON PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE

The Charity submitted its Stage 3 application to the Big Lottery as required on 7th December. Although completed a week earlier, we had to wait for the letter from West Somerset Council advising of the planning approval for the amended design; this was not received until Monday 5th December. The application contained the Project Plan, which was produced by Mitchell Architects. The plan details the proposed design, including all the features required to make the building fully accessible, along with our approach to procurement and timescales for the build.

We expect a number of questions from the Big Lottery over the coming months and if all goes well, we will be advised of their decision by late April. In the interim we still have much to do. The priority is to consider applications

received for the role of Employers Agent, this will be the company that will project manage the tender and construction phase of the project, their appointment will be linked to the Big Lottery decision in April, if successful, we will be given 5% of the total project cost to commence work.

There are planned meetings during February with our other major funders, EDF and West Somerset Council, to brief them on project progress and the proposed budget and funding plan.

The amount of effort required over the previous six months to achieve the 7th December deadline has prevented the working group from holding regular meetings with the user management group and we intend to structure meetings through the coming months to continue to brief and update them on progress.

Councillor Bill Vaughan

NEWS FROM WILLITON POST OFFICE

We would like to thank you for your wonderful support over the run up to Christmas. We sold in the region of 23,000 second class stamps! The cards and gifts also sold well and we hope that you were happy with all your purchases. In fact, we think that Monday the 19th December was our busiest day in the eleven years we have been at the Post Office!

The year ahead will be a challenging one for us as we find our way forward on a Zero Hours Contract. There are some excellent new products coming up from Post Office Ltd which we will be telling you about. The first of these is the new Multi-Currency Travel Money Card Plus which will be launched on 7th March. This has been well researched to put it at the top of the range with several special features. It is designed to carry as many as thirteen different currencies, is contactless and will enable customers to obtain the best possible exchange rates including flash sales, making it an excellent way to save for holidays. If you are planning a trip, come and speak to us about this card option. We would like to help you get the best foreign currency deal. Speaking of currency, we have now been upgraded to an 'On Demand Branch'! This means that we now carry more currencies in branch at peak travel times; these include Australian, New Zealand and Canadian Dollars, Turkish Lira, Thai Baht, Swiss Francs and Croatian Kuna.

During January we spent a day at the Exeter Trade Fair and picked up some new ideas for the shop. These will be on the shelves shortly, so please come in; we just might have the perfect gift for you.
Caroline Tyner

WILLITON GARDENING CLUB

At our next meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 27 February Diana Redfern will talk about "Bees and their nectar". Non-members and 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

The talk on Tuesday 21 February will be about "Laura Badcock: Collector and Exhibitor of Textiles". The Society meets at the EMN Hall, Monksilver TA4 4JE and meetings start at 7.45. Non-members and visitors are welcome at a charge of £2 each. For more information email: nettlecombe1@talktalk.net or ring 01984 640787.

WILLITON FOOTBALL CLUB

Hi all. Since the Christmas break its been all systems go for our adult and youth teams. The men, Williton Rockets, have had some tricky games but, with a good win under our belt and some newly recruited players, things look on the up as the run-up to Christmas was a bit of a struggle.

Next season, 2017/18, will be Williton Rockets 40th anniversary. We have set up a Facebook page to encourage past players to get in touch with old photos, news clippings etc. We have had a great response but would like more. If you or anyone you know have played or have anything connected to The Rockets we would love to hear from you. We are planning a players reunion and old boys match on August bank holiday weekend. Also we will have a new kit to mark the 40th year, which will be close to the original colours first used. The kit will be sponsored by a local business. More details soon.

Our youth teams are looking healthy, with plenty of players taking part in matches and training. We hope to grow numbers more in the coming months.

A new string to my bow is walking football. We started on January Friday 13th at Danesfield school and luckily 19 people turned up, which was a pleasing turn-out enjoyed by all. Initially it will run for 12 weeks, but it is hoped to carry on long after that. The sessions start at 7.-30pm for an hour at a cost of £3 per person and new players are very welcome.

If you have any queries about being involved with any of the above in any form please contact me.

Ian Whitehead email: williton.rockets@gmail.com

WILLITON WALKS

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

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

* There will be **no Williton walk** in February. Sorry. *Elizabeth Peeks*

* The **Williton Wanderers** will meet at 10.30am on **Saturday 25 February** at Winsford car park (TA24 7JQ) for a 5.5 mile morning walk and back for lunch at the Royal Oak. Hilly, muddy and beautiful. Please let me know if you are coming so I can tell the pub how many to prepare for. *Jenny Gibson 01984 634899*

* **West Somerset Mineral Line** Meet at Chargot Woods car park (SS75355) at 9.45 am on **Monday 13 February** for a one hour stroll to look at Langham Engine House and the history of iron mining in the Brendon Hills. Then a 2 hour walk down the steep miner's track looking at other features connected with iron mining. We may visit Burrow Farm Engine House or Kennisham Hill. Booking essential. Contact: 01398 323841. Charge: Free, but donations are welcome. wsmla.org.uk

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WORDSEARCH FOR FEBRUARY by Phyllis Chidgey

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TWO	TWAIN	DEUCE	TWO HANDER
DUO	BIPED	BICYCLE	TWO SEATER
DUET	BINARY	BRACKET	TETE-A-TETE
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TWIN	DOUBLE	TWOSOME	

WEATHER DECEMBER 2016

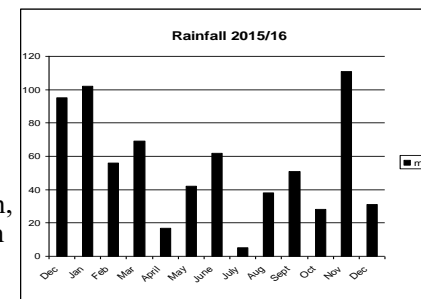
It is official: 2016 was the warmest year since records began (around 1880s). And the last three years have all been above average!

December was again warmer than usual.

Christmas was warm with some sun up to 14°C, though on 13 December it reached 16°C! The coldest night was the 1st, with frost and -3°C and fog, with visibility down to 40m. The total rain was only 31mm (1.2ins). The wettest day was 15th.

Maximum pressure was 30.5 inches on 28th, and the minimum was 29.9 on 15th. The sun was to be seen on 22 days!

PJ



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Contacts and information:

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

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

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

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VALUED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

Tracey Bland on 01984 635980 (Williton)

John Bowcock on 01984 248169 (Watchet)

John Dickinson on 01643 707598 (Minehead)

For further information please contact:
West Somerset Council on 01984 635221



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