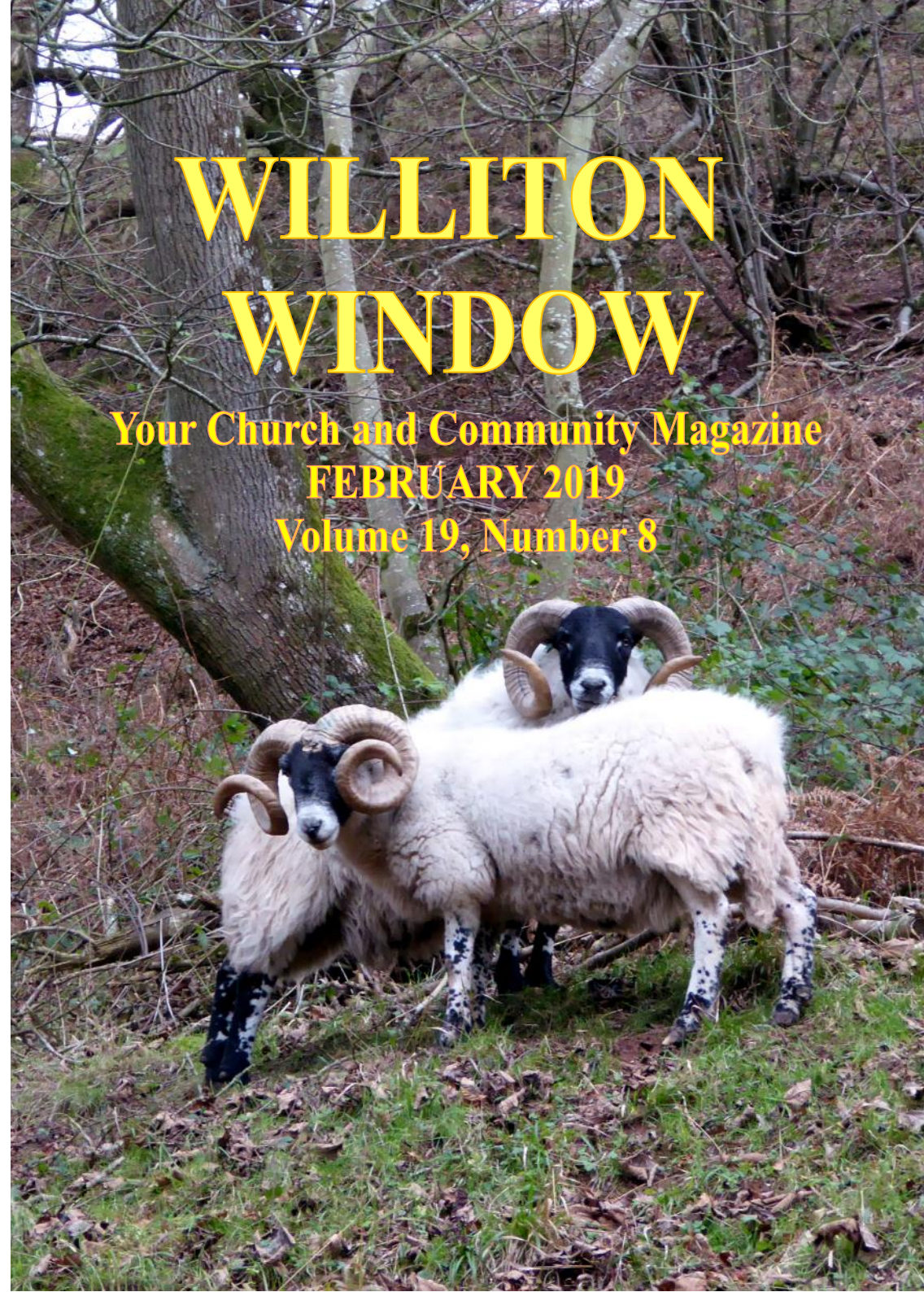


WILLITON WINDOW

Your Church and Community Magazine

FEBRUARY 2019

Volume 19, Number 8



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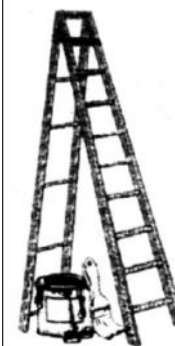
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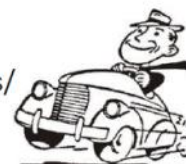
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DEADLINE DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 15 JANUARY

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 18 JANUARY

THE MAGAZINE SHOULD BE READY FOR COLLECTION / DELIVERY
FROM FRIDAY 25 JANUARY

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

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

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CUT OUT AND KEEP - USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Church of England (St Peter's)

Vicar	Rev Clive Gilbert	631005
Associate Vicar	Rev Kathryn Flenley	633568
Readers:	Mrs Bev Machin	568201
	Mrs Donna Marsden	633707
Churchwardens:	Mr G Fenech	633577
	Mrs S Withycombe	632596

Methodist Church

Team Ministry:	Rev Nick Lakin	01643 705175
Stewards:	Mr P Gliddon	632327
	Mrs R Troman	633199
	Mrs J Sefton	656652

Roman Catholic Deacon

Rev Vincent Woods 634681

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Rev Mike Sherburn 633755
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IMPORTANT NOTICE:

PRIVACY POLICY. We do not share or sell names, addresses, phone numbers or email addresses under any circumstances.

Cover photo: Love is... Thursday 14th February is St Valentine's Day.



UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

the Vicar: Rev Clive Gilbert on 631005

Associate Vicar: Rev Kathryn Flenley 633568

Tuesdays	9.00 am	Prayer Time	10-11.am	Coffee and Chat
Tuesdays	11.00 am	Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion		
Thursdays	CAMEO	Will be held at the Vicarage until further notice		

Church is open daily during daylight hours for personal prayer

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

Sun 3rd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00am	All Age Worship
Tues 5th	9.30-11am	"Little Saints" Toddler Group at Croft House and then in the Meeting Room each following Tuesday
	7.30pm	Fundraising Meal at Bengal Spice
Sun 10th	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Mon 11th	10am	Communion at Danesborough View- All welcome
Sun 17th	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	4.30-6pm	TOAST at the Vicarage
Sat 23rd	10-11.30am	Café Church in Meeting Room
Sun 24th	8am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	4.00pm	Evensong at St Peter's Church
Thurs 28th	11.00am	Communion at Croft House

The Benefice of Watchet & Williton invite you to:

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WARMTH IS ON THE HORIZON!

Thanks to a National Lottery Grant, St Peter's Church should be warm by the end of the month, when our new boiler will be fitted!

CHARITY MEAL

We are holding a charity meal at the Bengal Spice Restaurant on Tuesday 5th February. The cost of the meal is £17 per head. These evenings are always great fun so do come and join us and help us keep a roof on St Peter's Church. Please contact Clive Gilbert on 631005 or Tracey on: 07903 543969 to book a place.

METHODIST CHURCH Tower Hill, Williton Worshipping at Danesborough View Common Room TA4 4SH.

Services: Sundays at 10.30 am - Please join us.

This month our preachers are:

3rd	Mrs Monica Sandy
10th	Mrs Margaret Lintern - Holy Communion
17th	Rev Nick Lakin
24th	Miss Mollie Brooks

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.

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.

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

WRITING COMPETITION

Watchet Baptist Church is running a **free writing competition**, open to anyone, of any age, on the theme **‘What has God done for me this year?’** Submissions should be no more than 1,000 words, but can be in either prose or poetic form. The story you are telling must be based on a real event which happened in the 18 months from September 2017 to January 2019.

Submissions will be judged by a panel of four, including a journalist and a published author, with the 30 best entries being compiled into a book, called ‘Where is God Anyway?’, to be published in time to give away at the 2019 Watchet Summertime Week.

First prize, awarded to the story the judges feel best exemplifies the theme, is a £30 gift voucher for Under The Rainbow Christian bookshop, Minehead, and all 30 authors, whose stories are chosen to go into the book, will receive a free advance copy of the completed book, which will be published on KDP and available worldwide via Amazon.

Closing date for entries is 11:59pm on February 28th, 2019 and submissions should be emailed to whereisgodanyway@yahoo.com or handed in at The Sanctuary, Watchet on Friday evenings between 5 and 6.30pm. Please make sure you put your name and address clearly on your entry.

For further information visit the Watchet Baptist Church website at www.watchetbaptist.org.uk or leave a message for Hellen on 07468 436244, and she will get back to you asap.

FROM REV NICK LAKIN

It seems that 2019 has only just begun, and it is already February and the shops are full of Valentine cards and heart-shaped chocolates - alongside the Easter eggs! Why do we spend so much time celebrating St Valentine? Why not any of the other saints, like St George? Maybe it is because the retailers have found a way of encouraging us to spend money on sweets and chocolate in the shape of a heart and card companies on ‘Be my Valentine’ cards.

It is the time of year when we are encouraged to think of love; of passionate and romantic love. But all too often this type of love is portrayed as being about the self. The kind of things we hear in popular love songs are ‘You’re the one that I want’, ‘I want you, babe’ or ‘Be mine tonight’. Although many people enjoy listening to these songs, they speak of a love which is self-centred. They are about the things that ‘I’ want. These songs seem to suggest that people in loving relationships are mainly concerned with what they get from each other. This sometimes leads to disappointment and perhaps even to conflict.

Christians believe that real love comes from God, and it is very special. It does not want to own; it is not dependent upon gifts and presents; it does not make demands; it is not self-centred; it is unconditional; it will never fail. God’s love is shown in care and concern for the other person, not in an individual demanding what they want. God’s love is about living in peace, and it is about offering compassion and care to the other person, for their good.

If within our personal relationships we were able to focus on the needs of the other person there would be much less unhappiness in the world. Real love encourages us to think less about what we want from each other and focus much more on how we might be able to help and support one another.

So, when we open our Valentine cards (if we get any!) and eat our chocolates, we would do well to remember the divine love of God, seen most clearly in the person of Jesus Christ, as the great Methodist hymn-writer put it...

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

THE £10 CHALLENGE

Last October, some brave and ingenious people took up the challenge to accept £10 and, by undertaking a task of their choosing, increase that amount. The time has now come to return the £10 together with any money raised. Half of what is raised will be donated to the Deanery Mission Project of 2019 which this year is supporting a school in Nigeria and the other half will be given to St Peter’s Church funds so that we can continue to welcome those who come to our beautiful building. Thank you!

Kathryn Flenley

FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT, IZZY SILVESTER

By February many of us will have lost motivation for our good intentions of **Dry January** and **New Year diet and fitness plans**, so here is a little bit of information to help you to keep up the good work.

A recent study conducted by University College of London show 48% of Britons will be obese by 2045 if current trends are not halted. 1 in 4 adults and 1 in 5 children aged 10 to 11 years are obese, which leads to Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, bowel, pancreatic, kidney, liver and stomach cancer.

We are often advised about how we can reduce our current serious health problems through diet and exercise. However, drastic changes to diet and lifestyle can often be unsustainable, so remember to manage change gently and try something different if at first you don't succeed. Evening gym and exercise classes may not fit your timetable but you may be able to join a local walking group or go for a lunch time stroll and take the stairs when shopping. Do check first with your GP if you have a health condition.

A quick reminder to check the expiration date on **blue badges and bus passes** as they run out and can't be used. Bus passes are not being replaced unless you request it (to reduce wastage costs). Call 0300 123 2224 to get yours replaced.

We all know that the NHS is under great strain in the winter and it can be hard to get a doctor's appointment. Consider whether you could get advice from your **local Pharmacy**, where you will not need an appointment and there are private rooms to support advice and diagnosis.

Surviving Winter grants are available for older people living in Somerset, who are unable to heat their homes adequately. If you are struggling to afford to heat your home this winter contact your Village Agent for more information.

Remember the Talking Café offering free support and advice takes place in the Pavilion on Williton Memorial Ground every Tuesday morning from 10-12. Please come and have a cuppa and see how local professionals and volunteers you can trust can help you - or just pop in for chat.

Please phone me, Izzy Silvester your village agent, on 07931 018045, leave me your name and number and I will ring you back. Or e mail 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. Thank you.

COMMUNITY MARKET

Do you enjoy meeting with friends for coffee and a chat? If so, why not come to the Community Market on the third Friday of the month at Williton Social Club? There you can enjoy a coffee or tea, for a donation of your choice to local charities, in a warm and relaxing atmosphere. We do not necessarily expect you to buy anything but should you wish to do so you will find home made jams and cakes, free range eggs and various craft items. Do give us a try: you'll be very welcome. Our next market will be on Friday 15th February from 9-11.30am.

We have a need for 1lb jam jars if you have any, which can be dropped off at market, or contact Sarah on 07751361154 and she will collect them.

Barbara Heywood



somerset
village & community
agents

A PAT ON THE BACK FOR THE WILLITON WINDOW

I think it should be passed on to all of the team, that get Williton Window off the blocks and out to parishioners, the comment I heard passed at a recent meeting. There were people at that meeting representing communities such as Watchet, St. Audries and Sampford Brett, as well as Williton. The comment was how well Williton was served by Williton Window and how much Watchet was the poorer for not having a similar publication. Not often Williton is complimented in comparison to Watchet, but this was one such occasion. Well done to all the volunteers that make it happen.

Ian Aldridge

Thank you for passing on the compliment, Ian. A lot of effort from a lot of people goes into making the Williton Window the magazine it is. Jenny and Tony (Editors)

1964 CHURCH MAGAZINE

A Williton couple refurbishing their house recently found a copy of the Williton Parish Church magazine from May 1964 in fragile, but remarkably good condition, which they kindly passed on to us. The original is going into the St Peter's Church archive but we have scanned it and put it on our website as a PDF, so that anyone who wants to read it or print off a copy is able to do so.

Go to: www.willitonwindow.org.uk/1964-williton-parish-church-magazine.

Jenny and Tony (Editors)

WILLITON FILM NIGHT @ THE PAVILION

Tuesday 26 February at 7pm

A Star Is Born

Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga fuse their considerable talents to depict the raw and passionate tale of Jack and Ally; two artistic souls coming together, on stage and in life. Theirs is a complex journey through the beauty and the heartbreak of a relationship struggling to survive.

Seasoned musician Jackson Maine discovers - and falls in love with - struggling artist Ally. She has just about given up on her dream to make it big as a singer until Jackson coaxes her into the spotlight. But even as Ally's career takes off, the personal side of their relationship is breaking down, as Jackson fights an ongoing battle with his own internal demons.

**Tickets available from Parish Council Office and Williton Post Office (from 30 January)
£4 in advance, £5 on the door**



**Tuesday 26th February
6.30 for 7pm
at Williton Pavilion**

RBL WOMEN'S SECTION

In January we enjoyed a late Christmas lunch at the Masons Arms and a good time was had by all. This was followed by our normal meeting when we had fun looking at baby pictures of members to try to guess who they were!

At our meeting on 11th February we will be having a talk by Ross McGee (Williton RBL) on Musgrove Park Hospital during the war, which I am sure will be enjoyable and interesting. In March we are looking forward to an afternoon of poetry and song with Kathryn Flenley.

We meet on the second Monday of each month at the meeting room, Williton Fire Station, from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Visitors are welcome for a small donation of £2.

Sara Hempshall

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At our January meeting, the Resolution voted to go forward to the Annual Meeting in Bournemouth was 'A call against the Decline in Local Bus Services'; this was a clear favourite.

Following our business matters, Peter Hampshire's talk on Oceans and Islands was much enjoyed and the slides, some of them showing blue skies, beaches, boats, wild life and flora, gave us all a taste of Peter and Sue's holiday cruise last year.

At our meeting on Thursday 21st February we have Margaret Cook telling us about the 'Adventures of an Adventurer'. I have heard some of Margaret's adventures before and look forward to hearing more of her stories. We meet at 2pm at Danesborough View Common Room. Visitors and non-members are always welcome at a charge of £3.

The bulbs planted at Bellamy's Corner are showing greenery and two flowers have appeared already!

Pamela Messenger, Secretary

GLOBAL FRIENDS

It was a small session in January. Because of New Year's Day, we found that we had to arrange to meet on the second Tuesday of the month. However, we were able to discuss some problems our members had and agree the way forward. A member who needed to contact another member had left an envelope for me to address.

Our next session will be on Tuesday 5th February at 2pm. For more information on who we are and where we meet, please phone 01984 248392 or 01984 634734.



WATER POLLUTION

All farmers, landowners and businesses should have measures in place to prevent water pollution. Regular monitoring and testing can pick up any changes before the local environment is impacted. It can also avoid costly clean-up processes, and help avoid accusations of negligence. If your business creates contaminants, or you have a consent to discharge from the EA, get your equipment and processes checked and tested on a regular basis. Failure to comply can result in unlimited fines and a risk of up to 5 years in prison.

Contact Somerset Scientific Services, part of SCC, for advice on 01823 355906 or SSSmailbox@somerset.gov.uk

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

WASPS - WILLITON AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

We started off the new year in our new venue which is at the brand new Williton Pavilion. It is terrific to spread out and do our exercises without crowding the person beside you. We had a few small problems but nothing that we cannot work out. It is sad to leave Danesborough View Common Room but it was just too small. Thanks very much to Magna, and Anne in particular, for all your help over the past 5 years.

Wednesday 6th February sees us celebrating our 6th Anniversary and we shall meet at the Williton Pavilion at 2pm. As usual we shall do this meeting in fine style. Dr Simon Cooper will be our guest speaker; he always has a lot to tell us about many aspects of Parkinson's and how the research is progressing. We will follow this up with a cake from Glenmore Bakery and a raffle. This is the only raffle that we do in the year and we try to make it a good one. The doors open at 1pm for exercises, followed by the regular meeting at 2pm. If you would care to come along you will be very welcome.

It is said that laughter is a good healer and I am sure we can all agree that it helps. With that in mind some of the WASPS will be going to Tiverton on Friday 5th April to watch Paul Mayhew-Archer in his one man show. He is a comedy writer and has written for such shows as the Vicar of Dibley and Mrs Brown's Boys. He has had Parkinson for over 5 years and so he will have a lot of experience with the effects of Parkinson's. It should be a good night out for all of us. If you would care to come along just let me know. I am booking a block of tickets for WASPS and friends.

There is also no doubt about exercise being very beneficial in warding off the effects of diseases, not just Parkinson's. We see examples all around us. Recently a man called Robin Butterly, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's, rowed across the Indian Ocean. He said that he noticed a great improvement with his walking and will continue to keep on with his strict exercise routine. I am not suggesting that we all take up rowing, but I am saying exercise helps to ward off the effects of most problems and it makes you happy too. Just 2 ½ hours a week can do you a lot of good.

More people seem to be being diagnosed with Parkinson's and so the need for a support group like ours is growing. This seems to be due to our aging population. A lot of work is being done to find a cure, but in the meantime we live on with hope and determination. 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

WELCOME TO WILLITON - 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 a map of Williton, details of services, clubs and organisations. Please ring Jenny or Tony Gibson on 634899 or go to our website: www.willitonwindow.org.uk/welcome-pack

ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES

The thought of the spring flowers that not far ahead.

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Sat	2	Williton Library	10.30am Lego Club
Sat	2	Macmillan Cancer Support	6.30 for 7pm Murder Mystery Play and supper See page 27
Sat	2	Williton Pavilion*	9am-2pm Table Top Sale & Coffee Morning
Tues	5	Good Neighbours	2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
Tues	5	Global Friends	2.00pm see page 14
Tues	5	Williton Pavilion*	7.00pm Bingo at Williton Pavilion
Wed	6	WASPS Parkinson's Support Group	6th Anniversary 1pm exercises, 2pm main meeting at Williton Pavilion See page 15
Wed	6	Williton Library	10.30am Verse & Worse Light hearted look at poetry and prose
Thurs	7	Williton Library	3pm Pins and Needles
Mon	11	RBL Women's Section	2.30pm Fire Station Lecture Room See p 14
Thurs	14	Loop the Loop	3.30-4.30pm at Williton Library
Fri	15	Community Market	9-11.30am at Williton Social Club See page 12
Sat	16	Williton Walk	2.00pm meet at the Railway Station See p 24
Sun	17	Williton Allotments and Gardening Club *	10.30am Grow your Own and Potato day at Williton Pavilion See page 19
Tues	19	West Somerset Village History Society	7.45pm EMN Hall Monksilver. 'The Story of Green Man Carving'. Talk by Brian Wright
Tues	19	Williton Pavilion*	7.00pm Bingo, Williton Pavilion
Thurs	21	Williton Library	2.30-3.30pm Half-term Fun. Pirate themed Craft Session for children
Thurs	21	Women's Institute	2.00pm Danesborough View Talk on the Adventures of an Adventurer See page 14
Fri	22	Bake Club	3.30-4.30pm Williton Library
Sat	23	Williton Wanderers	10.30am meet at Bossington Car Park See p 24
Sat	23	Story & Craft Time	10.30-11.30am for children 4-10years
Mon	25	Book Club	2.30pm Williton Library
Mon	25	Gardening Club	7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room, Talk on Sweet Peas by Phillip Kerton See p.19
Tues	26	Film Club*	6.30 for 7pm "A star is born" at the Pavilion. See page 13
Wed	27	Family History Group	7pm at the Pavilion. Talk by Martyn Snell on the Social History of the West Somerset Railway

* Disabled parking (limited) only by Pavilion and make sure you have your disabled badge displayed. Parking in main car park on Killick Way (free after 6pm), two minutes walk from the Pavilion.

REGULAR WEEKLY VILLAGE EVENTS

Mon	9.30-10.30 am	Pilates with Ellie Stuart-Steel	Williton Pavilion - Booking essential 07342 238 723
Mon	10.45-11.45am		
Mon	10.30 - 12 noon	UK Online	Williton Library, booking essential
Mon	2 - 3 pm	Age UK - Stay Strong	Danesborough View Common Room
Mon	6-7pm	Pilates with Ellie Stuart-Steel	Williton Pavilion - Booking essential 07342 238 723
Mon	7.15-8.15pm		
Mon	6-7pm	K.t's Zumba	Williton Pavilion - 07738 676832
Tues	9.30-10.30am	Pilates with Nathan Pirt	Watchet Community Centre
	6.15-7.15pm	Pilates with Nathan Pirt	West Quantoxhead Village Hall
			Info: Nathan Pirt 07762 721 271
Tues	9.30 - 10.30am	Mat and floor based yoga	The Salvation Army Hall Watchet (level access and parking)
and	11 - 12 am	Chair-based yoga	Info: Julie Bolton 633665 / julieboltonyoga@gmail.com
Tues	10am-12.30pm	West Somerset Advice Bureau at the Children's Centre	
Tues	10am-12 noon	Talking Café	Williton Pavilion, Memorial Ground
Tue	5.45 pm	Brownies	Guide HQ
Tues	7-11pm	War-games Club	Info: Williton Gamers 01984 639588
Wed	9-10am	Pilates with Nathan Pirt	Bicknoller Village Hall
and	10.30-11.30am		Info: Nathan Pirt 07762 721 271
Wed	6-7.30pm	Cubs	Guide HQ
Wed	7-10 pm	Railway Modellers	Rear of Washford Mill, Washford (info: 07773 892085)
Thur	9-10am	Pilates with Nathan Pirt	West Quantoxhead Village Hall
and	10.15-11.15am		Info: Nathan Pirt 07762 721 271
Thur	10-11am	Free chair based exercise	Williton Hospital (<i>please ring Shirley on 633529 for information</i>)
Thur	10.30-noon	Craft and Chat	Drop-in at Williton Library.
Thur	10.30-12 noon	UK Online	Williton Library, Booking essential
Thur	6-8pm	Williton Youth Club	Williton Pavilion (Contact Andy 01643 703155)
Fri	9.30-10.30 am	Pilates with Ellie Stuart-Steel	Williton Pavilion - Booking essential 07342 238 723
and	10.45-11.45am		
Fri	9.30-10.30am	K.t's Zumba	Williton Pavilion - 07738 676832
Fri	10.30-11am	Rhyme Time 0 - 4 years	Williton Library (term time only)
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 - 8.30 pm	Walking football	Danesfield School

ST PETER'S SCHOOL DIARY

We are now almost halfway through the school year and everyone has settled into school routines looking forward to exciting activities.

Oak class have enjoyed a busy start back to school after the lovely Christmas holidays. Their new topic is travel and transport and they have enjoyed finding out about different types of transport and discussing places they've been to. In maths the children have been focusing on two-digit numbers and using lots of different resources to explore these in their play. They are looking forward to the weather brightening up as the class always loves learning outdoors!

Ash class have been busy learning about their new topics. In science they will be learning about plants and have already grown their own cress and are looking forward to growing beans next. The children have already enjoyed a 'Big Day' to introduce the new weather topic and have created lots of weather art and displays for the classroom.

Elm class have made a fantastic start back after the Christmas break. They are looking forward to learning all about 'Rainforests around the World' in their topic work and animals (including humans) in Science this term. The class had fun starting off the new topic with a Tribal Art Big Day.

The Year 2 and 3 English group had an exciting week with lots of strange things happening. Firstly, a letter arrived for Miss Collyer that had been delivered by a small white mouse under the watchful eye of a lady in a sparkly purple cape. The letter signposted the group to more letters addressed to the children. The letters were hidden under tables, in bags, in the book box and even behind the fish tank! One of the letters they received was full of fairy dust and another was attached to a pumpkin. The group concluded that the letters were all clues to the tale of Cinderella. Within the final letter was the story of Cinderella for us to read! The children couldn't believe that the Fairy Godmother had been to our school to hide the letters. They have been looking out for her and the little white mouse in the playground ever since!



Yew class have settled back into school after the Christmas break and are learning about liquids, solids and gases in science, Ancient Egyptians in topic, and multiplication and division in Mathematics. Year 4 are having weekly swimming lessons at the Quantock Lodge pool for 6 weeks and will be taught key swimming skills to gain confidence in the water. They are looking forward to visiting Croft House and taking part in inter-generational activities with some of the residents. Also, the children will be discussing healthy food options, planning healthy dishes and cooking them.

Happy Stars nurture group are thinking about people who may be feeling a little sad or fed up after Christmas, so are joining the Samaritans and holding a blue Monday brew Monday. The children have asked family and friends to help them support this amazing charity.

SG

WILLITON GARDENING CLUB

What a treat! At our next meeting on Monday 25 February, Phillip Kerton (from the award-winning company Kerton Sweet Peas) will be talking about sweet peas. Meetings start at 7.30pm at Danesborough View Common Room. Visitors are welcome at a charge of £2. For more information, please contact Liz Payne on 01984 633084.

GROW YOUR OWN AND POTATO DAY

Williton Allotments and Williton Gardening Club will be hosting Pennard Plants of East Pennard for Williton's first Grow Your Own and Potato Day on Sunday 17th February at the Memorial Ground Pavilion from 10:30 to 1:30.

Pennard Plants will have up to 60 varieties of seed potatoes which are sold by tuber rather than by weight, which is ideal if you only want a one or two to put into a pot for a few earlies or more for a row but you don't need as many that are in the bags sold at garden centres. It also gives you a chance to try some different varieties rather than the usual old favourites. If you don't know what to plant, the people from Pennard Plants really know their stuff and will be happy to give you good advice.

In addition to the potatoes, they will have a fantastic range of seeds, many of which are heritage varieties, onion and shallot sets, fruit trees and much more, so there's no excuse for not being ready for the start of the new growing season when it arrives in spring.

Entry is free and tea, coffee, soup and light refreshments, including homemade cakes, will be available.

For more information, please contact Peter Payne on 01984 633084.

RECIPE FOR THE MONTH by Shirley Dee

TOAD IN THE HOLE AND GRIDDLE SCONES

Batter mix	4 oz plain flour	Pinch salt
	1 egg	½ pint milk

Mix the flour and salt together, add the egg and beat gradually, adding the milk to make a smooth batter. For two people use this for toad in the hole and griddle scones.

For toad in the hole grease a shallow roasting tin and place ½ lb pork sausages in it. Put into a hot oven until the fat is running from the sausages. Remove from heat and pour in half the batter. Return to the oven until well risen and golden brown.

For griddle scones, use a griddle pan if you have one. If not, use a heavy frying pan, heated with a little lard. Use the rest of the batter, adding one desert spoon of caster sugar and half a teaspoon of baking powder. When there is a slight haze, put tablespoonfuls of batter into the pan. When puffy and bubbly, turn the scones over and cook the other side. Serve warm with a little butter.

WEST SOMERSET VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

At our next meeting on Tuesday 19 February Brian Wright will be telling us 'The Story of Green Man Carvings'. We meet at the EMN Hall, Monksilver, TA4 4JE. Visitors are welcome at a charge of £3. For more information email marilyn@westsomerstvillagehistorysociety-wsvhs.com

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

To contact Williton Parish Council telephone the Clerk (Michelle) or her assistant (Jo) on 01984 633979 or email clerk@willitonpc.org.uk

I have to start on a sad note by marking the unexpected death of Cllr Mike Bennett. Mike was active in many aspects of the Council's work and contributed much to the events sponsored by the Council, which are enjoyed by many of the people of Williton. We will miss Mike both for the work he did and the often sobering viewpoint he put forward. At this time our thoughts are with his wife, Heather.

The new year has got off to a fast start due to the generally mild weather up to mid-January, with snowdrops already out. It is good to look forward to the full spring, but experience tells us to err on the side of caution. It is easy to forget that less than six years ago some areas of Williton were flooded. As a response to that event a former councillor, Robert McDonald, drew up a plan of action which aims to minimise the effects of flooding. Furthermore, the equipment needed was bought and a place for its storage was set up. So far the plan has not been tried out, but if it did need to be actioned it would fail. Why? Because there are not enough wardens to call upon. This lack of preparedness makes a mockery of Robert's efforts and leaves large numbers of Williton parishioners at risk.

To put this situation right, bi-monthly flood group meetings have been arranged. The first meeting is at 7pm on **Wednesday 13th March** at the Pavilion and is **OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS** as there is guest speaker. Carina Gaertner will explain her research and resulting measures being taken to reduce the risk of flooding in Williton. The project, called "Slow the Flow", is funded by DEFRA and uses natural flood management techniques. At that meeting we will also be looking for people to volunteer as flood wardens and to organise a survey of all public highway gullies (curb-side drains). Please come to this meeting if you are prepared to help put the plan into effect in a flood emergency by either being a warden or filling one of the other necessary roles.

This is an ideal time for you to try contributing your skills, knowledge and experience towards making Williton a good place to live in. The Parish Council has an important part to play in this either by directly running things or encouraging others to do likewise. Out of our population of approximately 2600 we currently only have nine people as councillors; we can have up to twelve. There will be elections in May. Why not apply to our Clerk to be a co-opted councillor for the next few months, give it a try and see if you want to put your name forward for election? The role does require a commitment, but it can be very rewarding when something you champion becomes a reality and adds to the quality of life in our community.

Cllr Ian Aldridge

WILLITON PAVILION

It has now been two months since we took ownership of the building and so far, the feedback has been positive. We have produced a user questionnaire so that we can obtain information on the hirer and issues that they encounter while using the building. There are still some user problems to resolve, one being the hearing loop within the main hall. The system is functioning, but we have to set it up each time it's required. We are in the process of resolving this so the hirer can operate it themselves.

WILLITON PAVILION (Continued from page 20)

As we use the building, we are identifying potential improvements that will benefit the user and help reduce our operating cost, and we plan to gather all the comments together and review them later in the year. How they are implemented will be based on any operating profit we receive from the building, or future fund raising.

Unfortunately over the holiday period when the building was not in use, we experienced some damage to the bollard lighting along the path. The area is covered by CCTV and any evidence we collect will be forwarded to the police.

Work continues on the old changing rooms and, weather dependant, the contractor should complete all the work by the end of February. The facilities within the new building, kitchenette, disabled toilet and paved area, will support some of our key events held on the ground and will also be available to hire.

You can keep up to date with events being held within the Pavilion on our website (<https://www.willitonmemorialgroundandpavilion.co.uk/>). We are all looking forward to summer and the Village Fete. Now we have the Pavilion, we want to expand on our efforts of previous years and are looking for local organisations and individuals to join us and help stage the event. If you are interested in helping out, then please contact either Jo or Michelle at the Parish Office.

Cllr Bill Vaughan

FUNDRAISING:

Just to remind you that we collect adults' and children's clothes, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys to sell to raise funds for the pavilion. Please contact Diane Hooper on 01984 632497 to arrange collection or leave them at Diane's house - Roughmoor House on the industrial estate, next to Station Café. *DH*

NEWS FROM WILLITON POST OFFICE

We would like to thank you for your wonderful support over the run up to Christmas; we sold close on 23,000 second class stamps! Thank you also for the cards, chocolates and biscuits that we received. Finally, thank you to the brave souls who joined us for a celebratory mince pie and drink on the 12th December, Santa's Grotto was a fair step away but you still managed to pop in!

We have some interesting Post Office news:

- We are now able to scan and renew adult passports with our digital reader. This service is available to those who have a mobile number and an email address and when there is no change of name. We have had very good reports regarding this service including the reduction in cost and speed of delivery.

- As from the 1st February we will be able to activate International Drivers Permits. This is an exciting venture of which we hope you will make full use!

On the subject of foreign travel we are happy to report that we continue to receive good feedback on the Post Office Multicurrency Travel Money Card. The safety and versatility of this card is what makes the difference to holidaymakers. Before you travel come in and have a chat.

January and February are the months for trade fairs! We have been to these in Exeter and Birmingham recently, so do pop in and see our new stock. We might just have the perfect gift for you.

Caroline Tyner

FRIENDS OF WILLITON LIBRARY

The Library is not just books: our regular activities include: *Computer courses* (Mondays and Fridays 10.15-11.45) Help with your computer and accessing the internet. *Book Club* (last Monday of each month, 2.30-3.30) *Code Club* (for 9- to 11-year-olds, alternate Mondays 4-4.45. Booking essential) Learn computer programming. *Verse and Worse* (first Wednesday of each month, 10.30-11.30) Sit round a table and listen to or read poetry and prose. *Family History* (Wednesdays or Saturdays by appointment) Explore your family roots. *Craft and Chat* (every Thursday, 10.30 to 12) Drop in for friendly conversation. *Pins and Needles* (first Thursday of every month, 3 to 4) Sewing and embroidery help and advice. *Loop the Loop* (second Thursday of every month, 3.30-4) For children of six and over who would like to learn to knit and crochet. *Rhyme Time* (every Friday, 10.30 to 11) Song and boogie time for children 0yrs to 4yrs. *Baked Bites* (last Friday of every month, 3.30-4.30) Bake at home and bring it along to share over a cup of tea. *Lego Club* (first Saturday of every month, 10.30-11.30, for 6 to 12-year-olds, booking essential) *Story and Craft Time* (last Saturday of every month, 10.30-11.30. Booking essential) For four- to ten-year-olds.



**The Library is open every day except Tuesday and Sunday in Killick Way.
Phone 0300 123 2224. Website: librarieswest.org.uk**

DOWNLOAD FREE E-MAGAZINES FROM SOMERSET LIBRARIES

Did you know that you can choose from hundreds of titles (including the Economist, Newsweek and Tech Advisor) and download them on to your tablet, phone or laptop free of charge? Plus you can keep them for as long as you like AND you can get back issues? All you need is your library card. If you don't have one, just pop into your local library with some ID and they will get you started.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Our regular meetings recommenced in January and we shall now be meeting on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the year. We meet at Danesborough View Common Room at 2.30pm and usually have a speaker or some form of entertainment. We include tea and biscuits and welcome both men and ladies.

Rather than spending a dreary winter afternoon alone at home, come and try our friendly club, whether as a visitor or a new member. You will be made very welcome. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th.

All enquiries to our Chairlady, Jenny Berry, on 01984 632616.

SMALL PRAYER

Please help me to keep my new year resolutions.



DOWN AT THE STATION

With no trains running there is little to report other than we have started in to our winter maintenance schedule. It's amazing how many things I have been able to list which would be good to have completed by the end of March! Regular working parties are being held and already I can see what we have achieved. Meanwhile the Company's Permanent Way Gangs are busy around the line replacing track and carrying out essential maintenance.

There is going to be a children's event at Minehead station on 21st, 23rd, 24th and 26th February with Brunel's Birthday Bonanza –I'm not sure what form that will take, but no doubt the children will have fun. Watch the local press for more details.

John Parsons, Station Master

SNOWDROP VALLEY

Snowdrop Valley is open from 2nd February to 3rd March for its annual display of beautiful flowers. Park in Wheddon Cross village and walk or take the bus to see the snowdrops. Afterwards visit Snowdrop Café or one of the other establishments in the village to enjoy tea and cake, and don't forget to take your souvenirs home with you. Busses will operate a Park and Ride service from 9th to 24th February. There are 5 different walks of varying difficulty to access the valley, and Walking Maps are available of each route. More information is available on <http://wheddoncross.org.uk/snowdropvalley.htm>

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The West Somerset branch of the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society has moved its monthly meetings to the Williton Pavilion.

We meet on the last Wednesday of every month between 7 and 9pm and at our next meeting on Wednesday 27th, February Martyn Snell will be speaking about the Social History of the West Somerset Railway. On alternate months we have group sessions where we try to help each other break down our 'brick walls'.

Visitors are always welcome at a charge of £3 and members of the SDFHS at £2. There is time for a coffee, biscuits and a chat too. Do come along.

Lesley Murray

WILLITON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Do you play the piano or guitar, or can you sing? If so, could you spare half an hour or so now and again to entertain our patients? I'd love to meet you if you think you could help.

Please do keep the books coming and we are keen for you to buy some as well, Monday - Friday 2-4pm. No set prices, just donations. A relief helper is also needed for the book stall.

VOLUNTEERS

I have retired and Chris has taken over the job of Volunteer Coordinator, so please get in touch with her if you can help at all.

To contact us, please telephone 01984 635600.

Shirley Dee

Our congratulations to Shirley on all her hard work over very many years at Williton Hospital. We are sure she will be greatly missed there, though we have a funny feeling she won't be able to stay away.

Editors

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.

You do not have to live in Williton to join in these walks.

* **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. You can bring a picnic or more probably we'll eat at a café or pub. For more information, ring Colin Broom on 632721.

* This month's **Williton Walk** will be on **Saturday 16 February** starting at 2pm from the railway station. From here we will walk to Highbridge and then up the 'new path' to Luckes Lane. After walking down Luckes Lane we will cross the A358 to Woolston, from where we will return to Williton via Sampford Brett. If you would like any more information please ring me on 632318. *Elizabeth Peeks*

* **Williton Wanderers** will meet at 10.30am on **Saturday 23 February** at Bossington CP (TA24 8HQ free for NT members) for a circular walk via Allerford, Holnicote House and West Luccombe to Porlock for lunch at the Top Ship at about 1.15pm, then back across Porlock Marsh. About 6 miles in total. Please let me know if you are coming to lunch, so I can give numbers to the pub. For more information, please email willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk or ring Jenny on 01984 634899.

* **West Somerset Mineral Railway** Meet 9.45am at Chagot Wood Car Park (grid ref SS 975 355) on Monday 18 February for a one-hour stroll to look at Langham Engine House, then a two-hour walk down the steep miners' track to see Bearland Flue and other features connected to iron mining. We may also visit Burrow Farm Engine House or Kennisham Hill. Booking and further information on our website www.westsomersetmineralrailway.org.uk or from ENPA on 01398 323841. The walk is free but donations are always welcome. *Tessa Wilson*



22 Williton Wanderers enjoyed the Quantocks on 29th December 2018

WILLITON WALKS BOOK

A book of 9 circular walks around Williton by Jenny Gibson is on sale at Williton Post Office for £2.50. All proceeds from the books go to charity. Since the first edition in 2015 several hundred pounds have been shared between the Williton Window, Macmillan Cancer Support, St Margaret's Hospice and a children's cancer research institute. **The current charity is the WASPS and, so far, £150 has been raised by sales of this Williton Walks Book.**

WORDSEARCH FOR FEBRUARY by Phyllis Chidgey

JOURNALISM, PRINTING & PUBLISHING

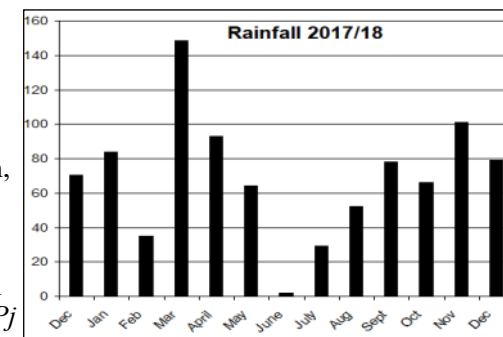
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AD	OPEN	HEADLINE	DESIGNER
EN	INDEX	VERBATIM	EXCLUSIVE
PI	QUIRE	ENDPAPER	BOOKPLATE
PIE	OFFSET	FOOTNOTE	BROADSHEET
ETCH	TYPSET	ASCENDER	JOURNALIST

WEATHER DECEMBER

December 2018 temperatures were up to 16°C on the 1st and +12°C at 4am on the 2nd. The coolest night was -1°C on the 4th with a frost. The maximum pressure was 30.5 inches on the 29th and the minimum was 29.5 on 15th/16th when there was a lot of rain (3/4inch). We had a rain total of 79mm (3.1ins) for the month, but even so we saw the sun on 20 days!

Astronomical note: Did you see the classic 'Super Moon' and Red moon with the eclipse on 21st January? *Pj*



IF YOU NEED HELP:

Williton Surgery Robert Street TA4 4QE Tel: 01984 632701
Out of hours: 111 In an emergency call 999.

NHS Health Trainer Rebecca Pitchers: mobile 07500 064683 or free phone 0800 412 5502

West Somerset Advice Bureau Market House Lane, Minehead TA24 5NW. Tel: 01643 704624 In the Children's Centre, Killick Way, Williton every Tuesday between 10am and 12.30pm.

Christians Against Poverty - Free debt help. Freephone: 0800 3280006
www.capuk.org

Quantock Foodbank 07483 815122 email: quantockfoodbank@gmail.com

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: 07889 655193. In an emergency call 999. Otherwise call 101.

DEMENTIA ALLIANCE - FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ

A second fortnightly 'Forget -Me -Not Café' for people living with dementia or other memory problems and their carers started in Stogursey Church Rooms, Castle Street, Stogursey in January 2019. It runs from 10.30 to noon on alternate Wednesdays to the Café in The Sanctuary, Swain Street, Watchet, thus enabling there to be a Cafe somewhere locally each week. For more information contact Margaret Tatham 07973-638030 or email watchetdementia@gmail.com

At the Sanctuary, Watchet

13 Feb - Fun with paint, brushes and paper

27 Feb - Coffee, cake and chat

At the Church Rooms, Stogursey

6 Feb - Coffee, chat and cake

20 Feb - Coffee, cake and chat

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from SD

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- Help with job searching/applying for work
- CV writing and updating
- Assistance with interview preparation
- **West Somerset Advice Service** are at the hubs

Contacts:

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)

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