

Your Church and Community Magazine

WILLITON WINDOW

March 2021
Volume 21 Number 9

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DEADLINE DATES FOR THE APRIL 2021 ISSUE

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 16th MARCH

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 19th MARCH

The magazine can be collected for delivery from the
PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE 9.30am to 12.30pm weekdays

Commencing **FRIDAY 26TH MARCH** (LOCKDOWN PERMITTING)

Please send articles, news and diary dates to:

Mr Derek Smith, 34 Dovetons Drive, Williton TA4 4ST ☎ 01984 631595

All advertising enquiries to:

Mrs Janet Cook, 14 Dovetons Drive, Williton TA4 4ST ☎ 01984 639359

Magazine distribution:

Mr Neill Ambridge: ☎ 01984 639320

All enquiries by email: williton@willitonwindow.co.uk (New e-mail address)

LOCAL CHURCHES CONTACT NUMBERS

Church of England (St Peter's)

Vicar	Vacant :	*Enquiries to Churchwardens
Associate Vicar	Vacant :	*Enquiries to Churchwardens
Readers:	Mrs Bev Machin	568201
	Mrs Donna Marsden	633707
	Mrs Julie Pelling	07973 961083
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 Baptist Church

Rev Vincent Woods	634681
Rev Mike Sherburn	633755
Mrs M Collinson	632537
Mr J Bowcock	248169

Salvation Army

Miss Sam Searle	07979 575453
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PRIVACY POLICY We do not share or sell names, addresses, phone numbers or email addresses under any circumstances.

Cover Picture: Signs of Spring.
Snowdrops, Daffodils, New Lambs, Primroses

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Vicar: Vacant: Enquires to Churchwardens

Associate Vicar: Vacant



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DailyHOPE

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
CONNECTIONS

Services in March at St. Peter's Church

It is with great regret that in the interests of everyone's health and safety we have taken the decision to close the church until circumstances improve. Please do join us on Sundays for our service via Zoom.

Pass codes will be displayed on the church notice boards.

Funerals can still take place in church subject to government restrictions.

Sunday 7th March 11.00am Service via Zoom
(No Services in Church)

Sunday 14th March 11.00am Service via Zoom
(No Services in Church)

Sunday 21st March 11.00am Service via Zoom
(No Services in Church)

Sunday 28th March 11.00am Service via Zoom
(No Services in Church)



*At The time of going to print church services are still by Zoom only.
If Covid 19 restrictions are eased please contact the churchwardens for details of church services or check the church notice boards.*

Details of Holy Week in the next edition.

Williton Window Has A New E-mail Address

Please update your contact list: -

williton@willitonwindow.co.uk

The old e-mail address will still be in use for a short period of time to allow for the changeover.

Williton Window has also updated its Website

If you have internet access please visit the site and give us your feedback. We are still working on some things over the coming weeks, all will be sorted soon. The website address has not changed.

www.willitonwindow.org.uk

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ST AUDRIES BAY

Holidays - Caravan Sales - Functions

Thank you for all the functions and events you have asked us to host for you over the years. When we are eventually free to enjoy life again we will all be rushed off our feet catching up with lost time.

Remember, St Audries is here to help you celebrate!

Holidays * Caravan sales * Functions



St Audries Bay Holiday Club, West Quantoxhead,
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info@staudriesbay.co.uk, www.staudriesbay.co.uk

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Email: sales@rockwellprinters.co.uk

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census
2021

Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow @Census2021

Office for National Statistics

www.census.gov.uk

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Home Help Services



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Email: ncr27@hotmail.co.uk

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Debbie 07342 237876 and
Clary 07342 237812



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Covid-19 Vaccinations in Somerset



It is known that patients and all health and care staff are eager to find out when they will receive their COVID-19 vaccination. The NHS is prioritising vaccinating those people who, experts have agreed, will benefit from it the most and they are systematically working through all eligible groups according to the national priorities.

**Please do not call or turn up at your GP surgery
or the local hospital to enquire about COVID-19 vaccinations.**

People are asked to support the NHS:

- By not contacting GPs and health services about vaccinations. You will be contacted when it is your turn to be invited for your vaccination. Some phone lines are jammed with people asking about vaccinations and this is preventing people who need help from getting through.
- When contacted, please attend your booked appointments
- Please continue to follow all the guidance to control the spread of the virus and save lives.

Please continue to attend any appointments as planned – if there is a requirement to change any details for your vaccination appointment you will be contacted directly.



SPOTTING A SCAM NHS COVID-19 Jabs are Free



The NHS will never ask for:

- your bank account or card details.
- your pin or banking password.
- copies of personal documents to prove your identity such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.
- If you think you have been a victim of fraud or identity theft, report it to:-
Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Local Hero

While I was out for my daily exercise walking through Doniford at the end of January I came across a lady picking up discarded litter on the road towards Watchet. I said to her “**Well Done**” to which she replied that she often goes along picking up the litter mostly thrown from car windows.

I also take the opportunity when I can to litter pick in the lane behind where I live and often reflect on the fact that we in the UK seem to have little regard for our environment. If only we could encourage everyone to take their litter home and not spoil our countryside and environment!

DRS Editor



Fed-up with doing the same old walks?



Walking in Somerset www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

E-mail: john@walkinginengland.co.uk Website: www.walkinginengland.co.uk
John Harris

Somerset: Dog Theft

28/01/2021 9788



Dear Readers,

There were two incidents where dogs were stolen during the night of Tuesday 26 January. On both occasions pure bred dogs or new-born puppies were taken from secure outside pens. One incident was in Alveston, South Gloucestershire and the other at Queen Charlton in Bath & North East Somerset. Whilst both of these were outside of our area, this does not mean it could not head our way and it is far better to be forewarned.

We want to remind all dog owners to review and increase the security of their pets wherever possible. Ensure that they are microchipped and registered, and make sure your garden is secure.

It is estimated that dog thefts have increased by 250% as the COVID-19 restrictions have caused a huge demand for puppies across the country. Although these offences are classified as "Theft", losing a pet in this way can cause enormous trauma and heartbreak to a family.

You can find advice on protecting your dog on many sites on the internet, one of them being:

<https://www.bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft>

View this magazine online at www.willitonwindow.org.uk



BT TELEPHONE SCAM

01/02/2021 9788 SOMERSET



Dear Readers,

One of our schemes from North Somerset has kindly notified me of an old scam that has reappeared.

Here are the basics of what you need to look out for and be aware of:

A caller will state they are from BT, and you have an unsettled balance on your account of £****, you will be disconnected if immediate payment is not paid and the bill will rise when reconnected at a later date.

When challenged, they provide a false name, last used was 'John Peacock' and a strong foreign accent was detected, the caller states they can prove they are from BT and goes through a process where they pretend to disconnect the line momentarily. The recipient is asked to end the call and try and call someone else which they find is not possible. The reason this is not possible is the caller had initiated the call and only they can terminate, they simply mute the phone to make it appear they are not there, this gives the impression the line is dead. When the Scam caller hears you stop trying to call out, they will clear the line and call you back giving the impression they have reconnected your line.

AT THIS POINT YOU MAY FEEL REASSURED THIS IS GENUINE, IT IS NOT.

If in any doubt call your provider and check with them, never hand over your bank details to someone that calls you out of the blue.

National Insurance Scam

Mobile Number Used:- 07760164081

On 2nd Feb the above number (recorded message) called one of our residents (a retired police officer) on 2nd Feb 2021 claiming to be from the National Crime Agency, stating they had identified him via illegal activity on his phone and although the voice did not specify what these offences were it stated that failure to respond would result in his National Insurance Number being cancelled and him being arrested.

This is an attempt to obtain your National Insurance Number in order to commit identity fraud. It's an old trick using a modern system so just hang up and NEVER engage in any dialogue with these people. No branch of any law enforcement agency would ever contact you in this manner.

PC.

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Williton Parish Council

To contact the Parish Council telephone 01984 633979
Talk to Michelle or email : clerk@willitonpc.org.uk
or Karen at admin@willitonpc.org.uk

Useful links to report faults if you have Internet Connection

To report faults in the following areas, please click on the relevant link: -

Dangerous/overgrown tree alongside the public highway,

Report on:

"<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-problem-with-a-tree-by-the-road/>"

If a tree outside your house needs pruning, please-contact see below*. Maintaining a hedge is the responsibility of the landowner. If a hedge encroaches on a highway and causes a hazard or an obstruction, the landowner is expected to cut the hedge back. If a landowner fails in this duty and this inconveniences highway users, Somerset County Council can serve notice on the owner to ensure the hazard or obstruction is removed.

***Overhanging hedges and overgrown verges**

Report on:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-an-overgrown-verge-or-hedge-on-the-road/> If your problem is urgent, ring **0300 123 2224** (Monday – 8am – 6pm, Tuesday to Friday 8:30am – 5:30pm, Saturday and Sunday closed)

- You will need to give the following information:
- Your name and phone number, in case they need to contact you.
- The name of the road or junction.
- Whether the location is usually cut by Somerset County Council, if you know.

Street light not working

Report on:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-with-a-street-light/> or ring the fault line on **0345 601 0939**, Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. To report emergency problems with a street light, ring **0345 601 0939** (Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm), or outside these hours phone **0345 795 9639**

When you contact Somerset County Council please provide the following Information (if available):

- Your name and phone number, in case they need to contact you.
- The number on the street light column.
- Where the street light is, including the road name and area.
- Whether the street light is outside a specific property.

When you report a faulty street light Somerset County Council will inspect it as soon as possible. Repairs are normally carried out within 5 working days but where lights are not working because of supply cable faults this could take longer.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Blocked surface water drains on the highway.

Report on:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-blocked-drain-on-the-road/>

If the problem is urgent phone **0300 123 2224** (Monday – 8am – 6pm, Tuesday to Friday 8:30am – 5:30pm, Saturday and Sunday closed)

When you contact Somerset County Council to report a blocked drain, please provide the following information:

- Your name and phone number, in case they need to contact you.
- Where the drain is, including the road name and area.
- If it is outside a specific property.

Somerset County Council will, if possible, come to inspect the site by the end of the next working day.

Elizabeth Peeks Parish Council



At the time of printing the Pavilion still remains closed.

If restrictions are eased please check the pavilion website
www.willitonmemorialgroundandpavilion.co.uk/

Alternatively contact the Parish Council Office Telephone **01984 633979** for further information of Williton War Memorial pavilion events etc.

Volunteers

Organising the Christmas Parade involved 15 volunteers, excluding the Carol Singers. What became apparent last year was that the majority of the small team of very willing and able volunteers are in the COVID-19 vulnerable group, either due to health or age. We'd very much like some new volunteers to join the team this year.

Based on the 2011 Census the population in Williton for 18-64 years was 1,341. If every one of us in that age group donated **1 hour a YEAR** that would be 167 days of help – imagine how many more events could be organised.

PLEASE if you could donate 1 hour a year please send your email to clerk@willitonpc.org.uk and we will put you on our mailing list.

Village Events for 2021 – Subject to restrictions

We have moved some events back this year in the hope that we do not need to cancel: **Duck Race & Car Boot – 20th June. Village Fete – 4th September. Christmas Festival – 11th December.**

Trustee Dawn-Lesley Howes

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WILLITON LIBRARY



The Library is Currently Closed

When are my items due back?

All items on loan, but not overdue, have been automatically extended to at least 31st March 2021. If your items were overdue before 25th December 2020, you will need to review these via your library account.

Return dates will be extended again if necessary, to ensure items borrowed are not due back until after Lockdown 3 is lifted.

You do not need to visit a library to return items at present.

Remember, all returned items are quarantined for at least 72 hours and remain on your account until the quarantine period is completed. Items are backdated to the date that you returned them.

To check your return dates, access your library account at www.librarieswest.org.uk or use the Libraries West app. If you need help logging in, or have any queries about your loans, library staff can assist by email librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk or phone 0300 123 2224

What can I access online from home?

Library membership gives you access to a huge **range of free online content**, including 1000's of e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines, e-newspapers, e-comics and e-graphic novels – all free of charge. If you are interested in researching your family history, use your library card to get free access to **Ancestry.com** from home. We also have a range of other online resources available to access from home

For the Latest News

Keep up to date by following our regular posts on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** and visiting our Website: www.somersetlibraries.co.uk. For general support and further information, please email librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk or telephone: 0300 123 2224



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WILLITON WEATHER



FEBRUARY

Really into winter now, very cold 2nd week, especially the 9th, frost all day
- low as - 4°C : frosts and then plenty of rain and gales..

JANUARY

Frosts were seen on 10 + mornings ,very hard frost with a minimum
temperature of - 6.5°C on the 25th.

The maximum temperature of 16°C on the 19th.

The minimum temperature of -6.5°C on the 25th.

The maximum pressure of 30.5 inches on the 17th.

The minimum pressure 29.2 inches on the 20th.

The total rainfall was 96.5 mm.

ASTRONOMICAL NEWS

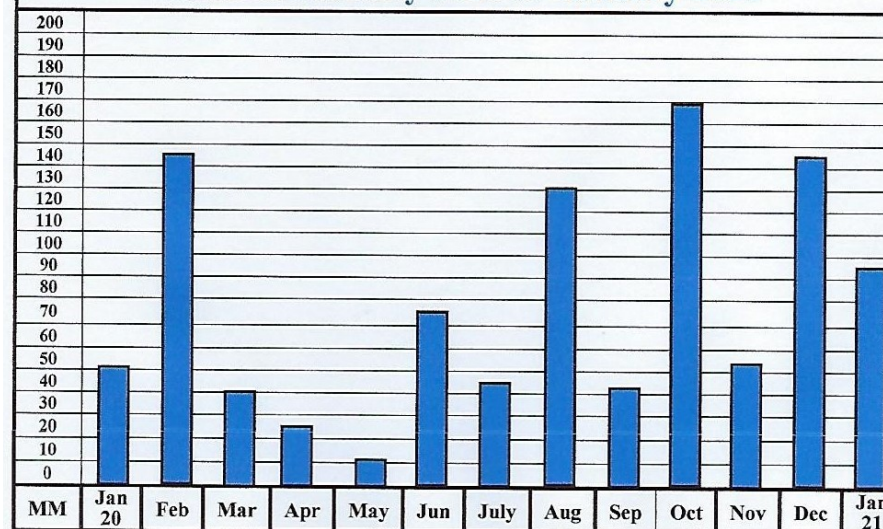
The great landing of the "Perseverance Rover" on Mars! If you see a clear
sky (like the evening of the 19th) you could look for the well known
galaxies and planets, can you see Mars?.

NATURE NOTE

Urghhhhh - Brhhhh...too cold and wet, some snow drops, crocuses,
primroses and daffodils to be seen now.

PJ

Rainfall January 2020 to January 2021



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BAPTIST CHURCH (WATCHET)

The Baptist Church normally meets at Knights Templar School every Sunday. The Baptist Church is currently meeting online at youtube.com/watchetbaptist on Sunday at 6pm. For more information visit the **website:** www.watchetbaptist.org.uk or email mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk or telephone **01984 633755**.

METHODIST CHURCH

Worshipping at Danesborough View Common Room TA4 4SH

All our church services are cancelled until further notice in line with all other denominations. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, keep safe and we look forward to worshipping together in the future.

Services Via Zoom

Members of the Methodist Churches in West Somerset, including Williton Methodist Church regularly meet for Sunday worship. If you would like to join any of our zoom events you can get in touch with the circuit administrator of the local Methodist Church, simply email wsmc2425@gmail.com and someone will be in touch. It would be helpful if you could provide your name and a telephone number.

THE SALVATION ARMY WATCHET CORPS

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

All are welcome.

(Part of Churches Together in Williton and Watchet)

Salvation Army Hall, 1 Brendon Road, Watchet. Tel: 01984 633133

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass is normally celebrated at the Methodist Church, Watchet. In these troubled times, please contact Deacon Vincent Woods on **01984 634681** for information.

THE FORGET ME NOT CAFE

For more information contact Margaret on **07973638030** or

Georgie Lewis on **01984 631738**

watchetdementia@gmail.com

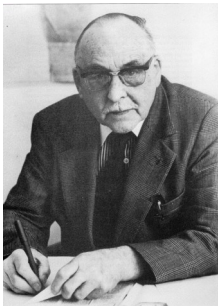


Margaret Tatham.

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, and other useful information. Please ring Janet Cook on **639359**, or email: williton@willitonwindow.co.uk or go to our website: www.willitonwindow.org.uk/welcome-pack





Focus on a Past Community Member

JACK HURLEY, MBE

Editor of the *Free Press* from 1970-80

John Edwin Hurley (always known as Jack) was born in 1913 at Williton, which was always to be his home. He attended the village school and went on to win a scholarship at Huish Grammar School, Taunton, proceeding to become the first ever junior reporter on the West Somerset Free Press in August 1930 at a weekly wage of eight shillings. He then went about his business on a bicycle, staying on the staff for over 50 years to become chief reporter, news editor and finally editor, a remarkable record of service to local journalism for which he deservedly was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June 1981.

Jack was a friendly, understanding man and although extremely busy (like his predecessor Norman Cox) his office door was always open to all, no matter of what standing. I was accepted as a compositor apprentice on the printing staff of the West Somerset Free Press at Williton by the then managing editor, Mr. F. N. Cox, in 1948 and remained on the printing staff at the Free Press until my retirement in 1998. During my employment I saw tremendous changes in production and, among others, had the privilege of learning much from Jack.

During his Army service in the Second World War Jack was involved in what was to be the biggest news story of his life – yet not a word of it was allowed to be printed! He was travelling on a train from Taunton back to his Army billet at Exeter when it was involved in a horrendous crash near Bradford-on-Tone, just outside of Taunton. Luckily for him, Jack survived unscathed, but unfortunately there were numerous terrible casualties, among them many Service personnel, especially sailors and marines returning to their south coast bases. The powers that be decreed that it would be bad for British morale if the incident was made public, so a complete blank-out on it was ordered. Therefore Jack lost his news scoop of a lifetime.

In 1963 Jack succeeded Herbert Kille as the writer of Notes by the Way, the weekly West Somerset Free Press column of chat and miscellaneous information. Jack then had an inspiration, and the Exmoor sage named Will Widden was born, to be found at the foot of his weekly column of Notes. Will had a variety of associated cronies, such as Arnie Bladderwick, Toby Tribble, Garge Gurnet, Taum Trobey, Lizzie Lukins, etc., all of them aired in Jack's deep local knowledge of accents and dialect, vivid abbreviated grammar and variety of expression. A kind of "verbal shorthand" Jack called it, examples being "Cassen go?" and "I know he's inther 'caus I sidden come out!"

Continued on next page

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Jack Edwin Hurley MBE

The *West Somerset Free Press* was first published in July 1860 at Williton by Mr. Samuel Cox, a Watchet-born man. During his editorship of the *Free Press*, Jack Hurley introduced a major change to its style by putting news on its front page on 12 May 1972.

Jack also wrote books, among them being Microstudies for the Exmoor Press. These included Murder and Mystery on Exmoor, Legends of Exmoor, Snow and Storm on Exmoor, Exmoor in Wartime and Rattle His Bones. However, Rattle stood out from the others, because it provided Jack with space for original research into the history of the Poor Law, with particular application to the two local workhouses of Williton and Dulverton.

Fond of amateur dramatics, Jack worked with the blind playwright Phoebe Rees, who wrote The White Dove of Bardon; and he was a member of the Nettlecombe Players when they won the Sybil Thorndike Trophy. He also enjoyed appearing as a rustic "Jan Stewer" at Williton's former annual concert, which was always performed to packed audiences at the village's Church Room (now demolished). Much amusement was aroused by Jack's puns on some of the well-known locals, but his comments were always accepted with good humour.

Jack was always keen on sport, but his major passion was for music. He was an accomplished organist and played the organ at Williton Methodist Church for over 50 years, or on more than 5,000 Sundays. While reckoning up statistics, he once said that, by the time he retired as editor of the Free Press, he had written more than 20 million words! During his journalistic career Jack reported on countless meetings, court hearings and inquests, concerts and plays, soccer matches and many other items, besides contributing his vast local knowledge to many articles.

Jack died on 2 December 1983, aged 70 years. He left the unique legacy, especially to his beloved West Somerset, of being able to transcribe even the dullest subject into fascinating reading.

Maurice Chidgey



Learn to Identify Common Bird Songs



With spring just around the corner, why not get a head start on learning to identify common bird songs you can hear in the UK? Listen for the trills and patterns in their song to help identify birds when you hear them out your windows or on your walks.

Check out this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfFSk4xYujI) from Wildlife Watch or if not reading this on line, the link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfFSk4xYujI>

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West Somerset Bike Appeal



We are still seeking donations of adult-size bikes that are in good condition, meaning nearly ready to ride, with two wheels, pedals and handlebars.

If you have a bike to donate please get in touch with CCS Village Agent Izzy via email izzy@Somersettrcc.org.uk with your name and phone number and a brief description of the bike or call **07931 018 045** to arrange for a free collection.

For anyone in a transport crisis: Izzy also works as the CCS West Somerset Transport Agent ready to help people who are struggling due to a lack of transport in the area.

If you need help it is a really simple process:

1. Person is identified as benefitting from a bike to get to work / training and cannot afford to buy one.
2. We provide them with an appropriate free second-hand bike that has been fully serviced and is safe, plus safety equipment (helmets, locks etc)
3. Where possible we collect a case study about the benefit this has given the individual.
4. The bike is for the individual to keep.

For Further Information :

<https://somersetagents.org/west-somerset-bike-appeal/> or contact Izzy your Village Agent on: **07931 018 045** e-mail: izzy@Somersettrcc.org.uk



Quantock Foodbank

Registered Charity Number 1189991

email: quantockfoodbank@gmail.com Tel: **07483 815122**

TOP SIX ITEMS

**Part Baked Bread - Savoury Crackers
Tinned Meat - Drinking Chocolate
Packets Instant Custard - Fruit Juice**



THANK YOU!



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March Village Agent News

Hopefully by now the weather has started to get warmer! That was a very cold February!

Staying Warm and Well

Being home a lot more over the past couple of months has bound to have bumped up your fuel bills - and March could still surprise us with bitter weather, so please do get in touch if you are struggling with fuel costs. We help distribute the Surviving Winter grants which are available for older people living in Somerset, who are unable to adequately heat their homes <https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/winter> – we want everyone to be warm and well this winter!

Alternatively you can contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy and their Home Energy team who are on hand to deal with fuel debt, help find cheaper fuel, aid in switching suppliers and much more – just watch this Talking Café they co-hosted with our Village Agent Wendy Rudd to see why it is so important to stay warm & how they help: <https://youtu.be/XjmwI0nk9C0>.

You can also complete their online referral form on their website:

<https://www.cse.org.uk/advice>

Don't forget you can also join our Community Oil Scheme and save in bulk orders of oil! www.ccslovesomerset.org/oil. 50% of the small annual fee goes into our Crisis fund to help people in need in Somerset.

Crisis Fund

The Crisis Fund is distributed by our Village and Community Agents to help people in crisis situations and for whom a small grant can make a huge difference in their life – At this time of crisis and hardship for many in our communities this need is greater than ever.

We help when others can't, won't, or don't.

We have never actively fundraised before for the Crisis Fund, but this has been an unprecedented year, and our important 'pot' of funds has almost depleted due to unprecedented demand due to the Coronavirus.

We would love to raise **£5,000 in 2021** for the Crisis Fund in West Somerset, and are asking YOU to get involved anyway you can with sponsored runs, bake sales (after lockdown!) - setting yourself any kind of #CrisisFundChallenge – or by simply and very kindly donating! Follow us on social media @RuralSomerset for updates and how to get involved!

Continued on next page

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Some examples of what these grants have been used for recently:

- To buy new bedding for a carer who was supporting their loved one with night time incontinence.
- To pay for a donated phone to be upcycled and given to a low income carer when their old one stopped working.
- To pay for two donated bikes to be renovated for children's Christmas presents for a family who had recently lost mum to cancer.
- To buy an energy efficient radiator for a lady with a chronic health condition who was struggling to heat her home -this meant she had one warm room.

Please visit www.ccslovesomerset.org/somerset-crisis-fund/ to find out more.

You can donate to the district you live in: **West Somerset:**
<https://localgiving.org/charity/somsetcrisisfund/project/westsomsetcrisisfund/>

Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce

We are proud to be part of the county-wide initiative, and we organise, co-ordinate and deliver the delivery of food boxes and pre-cooked meals to those in need via our Agents, community groups/kitchens – over 20,000 items of food a WEEK are delivered – 200,000 since lockdown began last March – a staggering number!

Would you benefit from a free food box?

No one should go hungry in Somerset, and our boxes are not means tested, simply for people in need whether you're struggling to cook or obtain food. If you are an unpaid Carer and would benefit from respite from cooking, we can provide some meal packs for you and the person you care for. If you need help with any of this, please do contact your local Village Agent on **01823 331 222** or visit <https://somersetagents.org/help-with-food/>

Want to get involved? Our Smart Communities team can help get your community set up with equipment such as fridges & freezers, and food to stock them! Visit <https://ccslovesomerset.org/food-resilience/> for details.

Contact me Izzy Silvester on 07931 014045 E-mail izzy@somsetrcc.org.uk for confidential advice and support.



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Shirley Dee.





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Williton & Surrounds Parkinson's Support



The WASPS are very pleased to finally announce the arrival of our new bright and shiny BLUE WALKING STICKS (*See pictures below*). We have had quite a time in finding the right Stick, getting it designed and then printed and of course getting them delivered. We started this exercise about 18 months ago and we are very pleased to finally announce their arrival to you.

What is the purpose of having this Blue Walking Stick you may ask? Let me give you a bit of the history. One of our member's, Simon Hilditch, was very keen to draw attention to the problems that people with Parkinson's have to cope with. He had purchased a walking stick that had "I HAVE PARKINSON'S, PLEASE BE PATIENT" stamped on it. He found that people asked him questions, and were more patient. He wanted more sticks to be carried by people with Parkinson's to increase awareness of Parkinson's. Sadly, no more sticks were available. Simon died in 2019 but Maureen and I have been working very hard to help realize Simon's dream. We would like to see the Blue Stick as well known as the White Cane is to the Blind. We need to create more awareness, Parkinson's is referred to as the quiet disease, but we must stand up and be counted. Awareness could lead to a cure.

We are hoping to formally start our campaign on Parkinson's Awareness Day, April 11th, but the sticks are available now for anyone with Parkinson's. Maureen Hilditch has some in stock and can be contacted on shilditch@btinternet.com or by calling **01984 632575**. The Blue Walking Stick costs **£17+ postage**. All profits will go to Parkinson's UK - Research. If you need any further information about the WASPS please feel free to contact me on **01984 631472**. Take care and we hope the meetings can start again soon.

Linda Bishop -- Communications Officer

12 Inches long packed.

I have Parkinson's printed on the stick



Adjustable handle of Simon's Stick



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Somerset Sight is a local charity which has been supporting sight impaired people across Somerset for over a hundred years and in 2019 won the Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

One of our services is the Volunteer Visiting Service whereby volunteers are matched locally with a sight impaired person for regular visits for company and support, and also helps alleviate their loneliness and isolation.

Volunteers help with a variety of tasks such as reading, correspondence, or making appointments, going out for a drive or just a cup of tea and a chat. Many volunteers get great satisfaction and enjoyment from their voluntary work, many friendships are formed and the people they support very much look forward to their visits. At the current time as face to face visits are not permissible, the service continues with regular phone calls until such time as a visit is allowed again.

For anyone who is sight impaired and would like to know more about our services or if anyone would like to volunteer for the Visiting Service, please contact us on **01823 333818** for further information.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!



WILLITON CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY GROUP

OPERATION SQUARE

Last year we asked you to donate cotton fabric which was made up into masks for our elderly and vulnerable villagers.

This year we're asking for wool, as well as People to Crochet & Knit and/or to make up 6" squares, which will be sewn together into blankets for Williton Hospital and Croft Court.

If you can knit or crochet some 6" squares we would be very grateful; any colour, any stitch, any design but **must be 6" square**.


We're also asking for wool donations, so if you need wool please do call and we'll pop some round or you can pick up from one of the three donation points:


25 Croft Court, Old Methodist Church Tower Hill, 1, Rose Cottages Half Acre.


Thank you so much.


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Down at the Station

March 2021



As we are still in COVID-19 lockdown it has not been possible for anyone to get down to the station for maintenance work, which is a pity as there is still much to do, and I suspect the long hedge on Platform Two is about to spring into full growth again. It seems not long ago I was concerned with its growth last year! However the spring bulbs are coming through to give some colour to the platforms.

At this stage, like anywhere else, it is impossible to give any indications to when we will be running service trains again, but be sure that as soon as it is safe and allowable you will hear the whistles as the trains come through Williton, and at that time we would be pleased to see you, even if only calling for a coffee and chat.

As soon as the weather improves it is hoped to reopen the Book and Bric-a-Brac stall outside 6 Long Lakes, and in a month or so, if we are still confined to homes, then the Plant Stall should be open at 7 Dovetons Drive. Preparations are well in hand.

John Parsons Station Master



Minehead Literary Festival 2021

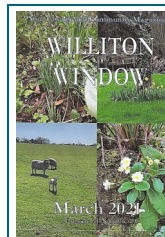
Short Story Writing Competitions

Launched in early February, entries have already been submitted, so don't let too much time pass as all entries must be received by **April 5th 2021**.

The theme for 2021 is *Hope*, which can be interpreted widely. Once short-listed, adult entries will be judged by Teresa Waugh, whose novels include 'Painting Water', 'The House' and 'A Long Hot Unholy Summer'.

Further details, including rules and entry forms for children and adults can be found at www.mineheadliteraryfestival.org/short-story-competition or call Janet at **01643 822097**.

Children's entries contact Helen: helentompson@aol.com



Williton Window

Spare copies of this free magazine are available

at

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View this magazine online at www.willitonwindow.org.uk

Early collections from February

COVID continues to put pressure on recycling and rubbish collections. We and our contractors are doing everything we can to keep disruption to a minimum while keeping staff and public safe.

We continue to take a precautionary approach to limit contact and minimise risk: for example, crews work in tightly-controlled team bubbles and the whole bubble isolates when a member is symptomatic, has a positive test or is in contact with someone who tests positive.

This inevitably means far higher staff absences than expected, as well as unpredictable daily changes as team bubbles isolate or return to work, and crews are reallocated to maintain all services.

In the first three weeks of January, COVID contributed to the loss of nearly 800 operational days – compared to 58 in December.

We are also taking a very precautionary approach to bringing in extra agency staff to cover shortfalls. That adds to the strain on crews, many of whom have been working long hours for a long time.

With current pressures set to continue, we are taking additional steps to protect crews, help them manage the workload and maintain services.

Extra steps from Monday 1 February

6am starts for collections, rather than 7am

This early start will further reduce contact between team bubbles as crews have staggered starts over a longer time. It will also allow them a head start on work that may take longer if staff are absent

Residents have understood and supported early starts in the past, such as the 2019 heatwave and to avoid specific traffic hold-ups.

Householders will need to put recycling and rubbish out by 6am – or the night before. We will start communicating this from today, Wednesday 27 January. Initially this will be for a month and will be reviewed to see if it needs to continue.

We will not immediately return for some missed collections

We will not take such decisions lightly, but staff absences will sometimes make it impractical to return for missed recycling or garden waste collections the following day. In these cases, residents need to take containers in until their next collection.

Rubbish collections will not be affected and any missed recycling collections would be prioritised the following week, with extra recycling taken. We will communicate as widely and as soon as possible with affected areas when decisions are made not to return, through social media and updating key stakeholders.

We ask for your patience and would encourage you to follow the SWP Facebook page @somersetwaste for the most up to date information.

Continued on next page

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We have updated our online system for missed collection reporting so residents will know when we will be returning.

A wide range of safety measures and options are already in place for collection crews and depot staff.

These include working in bubbles, minimising contact with colleagues and customers, use of PPE, and careful hygiene.

SUEZ has a rigorous approach to tracing any contacts and isolating bubbles of staff should there be any suspicion of COVID.

We support staff who choose to wear masks, providing them with reuseable masks and guidance for safe use. All staff have full work PPE, including gloves. Note: Government guidance does not recommend face masks for the operational waste sector. It inevitably leads to frequent touching of the face which carries its own risks when constantly handling waste.

As well as working in closely monitored small team bubbles, collection crews - where possible - meet their driver at an agreed point each day rather than at a depot. There is a rigorous and effective approach to tracing contacts and isolating bubbles when necessary. Note: guidance acknowledges that social distancing may not be possible inside vehicles and we encourage crews to keep their windows open to allow a fresh airflow.

All staff are encouraged and helped to maintain high hygiene standards, with hand sanitisers freely available at all locations and to crews on the move, as well as washing facilities, including those on the new recycling vehicles. At depots, safety steps already include screens, one-way systems, and spaced starts, which will be extended from 1 February. Additionally, crews clean down their vehicles cab and touch points at least three times a day and this is regularly monitored by our supervisory team.

Somerset Waste Partnership



Dementia Group Meetings Online



The lockdown Zoom meetings for the Forget me not Dementia group and for anyone living with memory problems in the area will continue this month, on alternate Saturdays, **March 6th and 20th, at 3.30pm**. Margaret Tatham is now home from her lengthy stay in Northern Cyprus, so the contact details are now - calls to **07973638030** and emails to watchetdementia@gmail.com.

Margaret would like to thank all those who contributed to the Just giving Page she set up for the 10000 steps a day walk she did during her quarantine in the hotel in Kyrenia. She walked over 80000 steps in the 8 days and raised £80 for Alzheimer's research.

Margaret Tatham



Do You have a favourite recipe you would like to share?

If you do please send to me and we will include in the magazine.

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Williton Surgery Robert Street TA4 4QE Tel: **01984 632701**

Out of hours: **111**. In an emergency call **999**.

The surgery has changed its opening times to enable staff to plan for the day ahead. They are telephoning all patients ahead of any face-to-face appointments to avoid non-essential contact.

West Somerset Advice Bureau Advice line: **03444 88 9623**

Christians Against Poverty - Free debt help. Freephone: **0800 3280006**

www.capuk.org

Church Clergy contact details are on **page 4** of this magazine.

Mindline Somerset Emotional support helpline **01823 276892**

Quantock Foodbank **07483 815122** email: quantockfoodbank@gmail.com

Williton Police: In an emergency call **999**. Otherwise call **101**.

Williton Parish Council telephone the Clerk (Michelle Francis) **01984 633979**

or email clerk@willitonpc.org.uk

Williton Coronavirus Community Help Group - ring **01984 573673** or email willitonhelp@yahoo.com

Williton Registration Office - **01823 282251** Pre-booked appointments only

Village Agent - Izzy Silvester email izzy@somersetccc.org.uk or Tel:

07931 018045. Leave a message with your contact details.

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Williton Coronavirus Community Help Group

If you are still isolated and need help with grocery shopping, prescriptions, dog walking, errands or just need a friendly chat, we can put you in touch with someone who can help you.

Helpline Number

01984 573673

willitonhelp@yahoo.com

www.facebook.com/willitonhelp

If you need help, call or message us now

Phone lines are operational every day from 8:00 am until 10:00 pm. You can leave a message at other times and we will get back to you.

There's a list of traders and their opening times on our website as the situation changes frequently. www.willitonhelp.co.uk



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

All our help and information is now available in a single place on the Somerset County Council website:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/>

This page is refreshed through the day so please check in regularly to keep across developments and news.



WEST SOMERSET

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT HUBS

Pop in for free, positive friendly help and support!

- Access to internet/ Universal Credit journal
- Help with job searching/applying for work
- CV writing and updating
- Assistance with interview preparation
- **West Somerset Advice Service** are at the hubs for the whole community to access

Every Tuesday: Williton Children's Centre, Williton, 9.30am-12.30pm Tel: 01984 635980

Fortnightly: Wednesdays, The Greyhound Inn, Lime Street, Stogursey, 9.30am-12pm Tel: 01278 733 615

Every Thursday: The Sanctuary, Watchet 9.30am-12.30pm, Tel: 01984 248169

First Thursday of the month: Dulverton Library, Dulverton, 10.00am – 12:00pm Tel: 0300 123 2224

Every Friday: @ The Hub, Hopcott Rd, Alcombe, Minehead 9.30am-12pm Tel: 01643 707598

VALUED VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

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WORDSEARCH FOR MARCH

by Phyllis Chidgey

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O	P	T	D	L	O	B	M	U	H
Z	E	L	I	B	O	M	E	A	E
A	C	A	M	L	N	O	R	R	N
M	O	S	A	A	E	H	A	A	A
A	S	A	I	C	I	A	W	G	N
L	U	B	M	K	D	W	A	A	D
A	G	I	L	A	A	K	L	I	O
K	A	N	K	A	K	E	E	N	A
G	R	E	E	N	O	S	D	U	H

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SALT	HUDSON	HUMBOLDT	
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PECO S	SABINE	KALAMAZOO	



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 this edition go to the Quantock Foodbank. We are very grateful to the Post Office for stocking this book..

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



The depth of grief is a measure of the depth of love, grief is the price we pay for love.

Shirley Dee.

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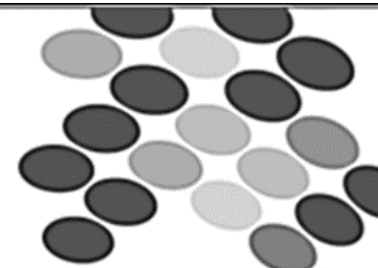
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