



WILLITON WINDOW

Your Church and Community Magazine
MARCH 2019
Volume 19, Number 9

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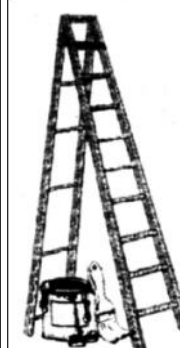
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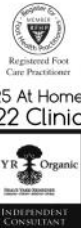




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DEADLINE DATES FOR THE APRIL ISSUE

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 19 MARCH

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 22 MARCH

THE MAGAZINE SHOULD BE READY FOR COLLECTION / DELIVERY
FROM FRIDAY 29 MARCH

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

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Readers:	Mrs Bev Machin	568201
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Cover photo: On Doniford Beach, March 2018

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

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

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 St Peter's Church from now on

Church is open daily during daylight hours for personal prayer

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

Fri 1st	2.00pm	Ecumenical World day of Prayer at St Decuman's
	7.00pm	Ecumenical World day of Prayer at The Sanctuary
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
Wed 6th	9.45am	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday at The Sanctuary , Swain Street, Watchet
	7.00pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday at St Peter's , Williton
Sun 10th	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Mon 11th	10am	Communion at Danesborough View- All welcome
Sun 17th	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
Sun 24th	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion
	4.30-6pm	TOAST at the Vicarage
Thurs 28th	11.00am	Communion at Croft House
Sat 30th	10-11.30am	Café Church in Meeting Room
Sun 31st	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.30am	Parish Communion for Mothering Sunday

The Benefice of Watchet & Williton invite you to:

Café Church

Saturday 30th March
10 - 11.30 am.

FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Food, newspapers, children's activities. A chance to meet with and talk to others.



*In the Meeting Room,
next to the new*



Vicarage, 24 Priest Street, Williton.

WARMTH HAS RETURNED!

Thanks to the National Lottery

Awards for all Fund, St Peter's Church is warm again and it has a new boiler!

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 Rev Ben Flenley - Holy Communion
10th Mrs Lynne Wooldridge
17th Mr Tim Hedgecock
24th Mrs Connie Holmes
31st Mrs Margaret Lintern

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.

FROM REV MIKE SHERBURN, WATCHET BAPTIST CHURCH

Skiddaw was the first mountain I ever climbed. My dad was climbing it on a Lake District family holiday and so I went along – he loved climbing mountains. And discovering vast beaches, too. I remember feeling awestruck by the enormity of Harlech beach, when I went as a teenager with my family to Snowdonia. My dad and I played cricket there. (It's the rules: you have to play cricket if you find a big beach.) Over the years, we found lots of mountains and beaches. We skimmed stones on Scottish loch shores and climbed Brandon Mountain in Ireland. On one occasion, Dad drove us from our Norfolk home to Snowdonia at Easter time, where we stayed in a tent and climbed two mountains in two days before heading home again!

It's more than 15 years since my dad died – so now I take my children up mountains and to discover fantastic beaches.

Just before I got married, Dad and I had a day out. We drove across country to see the abandoned road under the shadow of Mam Tor in Derbyshire. And it struck me that this trip wasn't special because of the destination (although it was amazing), but because of the time spent together on the journey. Travelling together made it special.

Williton is a place of journeys. The ribbons of road that run through it,

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

and its railway station, make it a special place. A place of comings and goings. A place that is a significant landmark for many people of their journeys. If you've travelled from far away to holiday at Minehead, Williton says that you're nearly there. If you travel in to work at Williton Hospital, this is where you come to make a difference.

Journeys are a huge part of what it means to experience humanity. Lots of them are physical, but not all. As we travel, those we travel with often become more important. I've recently been reading a book about the songs that pilgrims sang hundreds of years ago on their way to Jerusalem, a journey often made with friends and family. The songs these pilgrims sang (The Songs of Ascents, Psalms 120-134) include one about how God watches over every coming and going. For Williton, a landmark place that is filled with comings and goings, that's so important. All the journeys of life have God watching over them. That doesn't make them easy – it certainly didn't for the pilgrims – but it did mean the pilgrims had confidence that someone was always walking with them.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Friday March 1st

Come and join us in prayer with people from all over the world. As well as the usual daytime service at St Decuman's Church, this year there is an extra evening celebration at the Sanctuary in Swain Street, Watchet. Please come and join us for the Friday evening meal followed by the service at 7pm. The words this year have been written by the women of Slovenia - a new group of people in a very new country. Come and learn about the joys and challenges of life in this beautiful place. For more information contact Margaret Tatham mtatham0502@gmail.com or phone 07973 638030



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

Spring may feel on the way, but there are many more weeks before we can say that winter is over. The same can be said of those having difficulty with the rising costs of housing, fuel, food and household items; it will be many weeks before working hours revert to normal with the start of the tourist season. The Quantock Foodbank is playing its part alongside other agencies in easing the strain on overstretched household budgets, as well as supporting those who have been overwhelmed by grief, serious illness or disability. The foodbank's capacity to do this is due to our wonderful donors who consistently fill our shelves. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of you who support us by giving so generously, and to our loyal volunteers who quickly and efficiently find a home for it all. We are trying to do our bit for the environment by using compostable bags which recipients can use as caddy liners, but if anyone would like to donate their plastic carrier bags we would be delighted to recycle them for you at the foodbank.

Marlene Mason

SINCERE THANKS

to Mr Geoff Gilham, who has delivered the Williton Window to Brook Road, Alder Close, Willow Close and Kebbys Farm since the magazine began. And thank you in anticipation to the gentleman who is taking over from him. *Editors*

FROM YOUR VILLAGE AGENT, IZZY SILVESTER

We are all aware that there is an increasing strain on our finances individually, for the county and the country as a whole. Universal Credit can cause debt through changing payments from advance to arrears forcing people to find a month's rent and childcare ahead, reduced payments for disabled people and a 6 week wait before your first payment. All this alongside the continued cuts to central government and Somerset County Council services leads more people into reduced circumstances.

If you are struggling with finances, it is important to seek help and not try to ignore it. Advise your utilities and rent providers to let them know your circumstances and to find out if they can support you with this. It is vital that rent and council tax are paid, but repayment plans for other debts may be available. Do look at www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk and www.moneysavingexpert.com for ways to trim your budget with savvy buys and money saving schemes. Also take a look at a benefits calculator such as www.turn2us.org.uk to see if you are eligible for more financial support.

Check what discounts are available if you are on benefits, such as the warmer homes discount on electricity and gas bills, BT basic and reduced water bills. You may still be able to save money on car and home insurance and utilities or by changing from an expensive TV and broadband package to freeview and finding alternative exercise plans such as a jogging group over a gym membership. Remember to check your contract in case there are exit fees. I can assist you with doing this if you need a friendly person to help!

If you have debt problems, do talk to Christians Against Poverty, who will support you in finding a repayment solution tel: 0300 328 0006. You could also try local advice such as Wiser Money in West Somerset. Contact Maria Taylor Wiser Money Mental Health Caseworker Mobile: 07925233462 or email: maria.taylor@mindinsomerset.org.uk or go to the West Somerset Advice. Phone them on 01643 704 624 to get an appointment.

Cheap and safe loans are available through credit unions www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk. There are several across Somerset.

If you need support in regaining skills to get back into work, do ask me about the Positive People Program where you will work alongside a navigator who will help you overcome obstacles to finding work.

Visit one of our Talking Cafés where one of our agents will be available to direct you to support suitable for your circumstances. They run in Minehead at the Beach Hotel every Monday from 10-1.00. I am available on Tuesdays in the Williton Pavilion from 10-12. Remember it is always better to talk and get ideas and support from others, rather than keeping it to yourself.

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

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 work Monday to Thursday.



SAVE THE DATE: FUTURE VILLAGE EVENTS

Easter Monday, 22 April:

Easter Egg Hunt

Spring Bank Holiday, Monday 27 May:

Duck Race

Saturday 6 July: Village Fete

Wednesday 11 December: Christmas Festival



IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE PAVILION

An increasing number of activities are taking place at the Pavilion. Some are new to Williton, others are changing their venue to take advantage of the village's excellent new facilities. Here are examples of what is happening during March:

Zumba, Pilates, circuit training with Minehead Running Club, a bee-keeping course, adult exercise sessions with SASP, youth club, bingo, Talking Café, indoor car boot sale, Aikido, Film Club (see below), WASPS Parkinson's Support, Flood Prevention Group talk, Family History Group, Twinning Association meeting, Halsway Manor Community Musician Dance...

To find out more ask at the Parish Council Office in Killick Way tel: 01984 633979 or visit : www.willitonmemorialgroundandpavilion.co.uk

The Pavilion is available for hire at very reasonable rates. To discuss hiring the venue or to arrange a visit, please contact either Michelle or Jo on 01984 633979, who will be happy to discuss your requirements.

WILLITON FILM NIGHT @ THE PAVILION

Bohemian Rhapsody

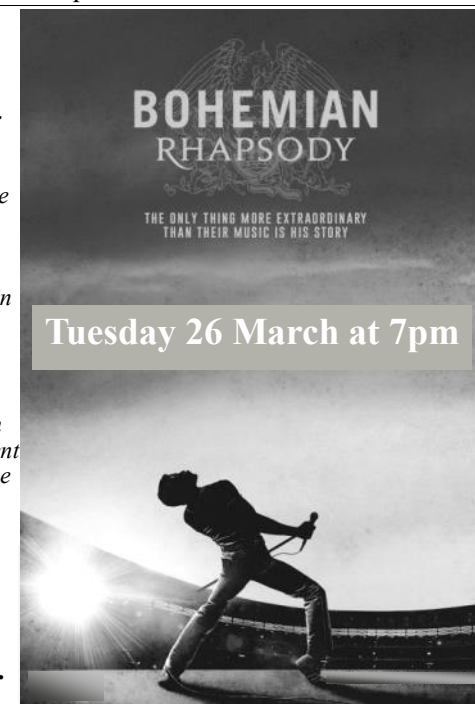
is a foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer Freddie Mercury. Freddie defied stereotypes and shattered convention to become one of the most beloved entertainers on the planet. The film traces the meteoric rise of the band through their iconic songs and revolutionary sound. They reach unparalleled success, but in an unexpected turn Freddie, surrounded by darker influences, shuns Queen in pursuit of his solo career. Having suffered greatly without the collaboration of Queen, Freddie manages to reunite with his bandmates just in time for Live Aid. While bravely facing a recent AIDS diagnosis, Freddie leads the band in one of the greatest performances in the history of rock music.

Tickets available from Parish Council Office and Williton Post Office (from 27 February).

Light refreshments available.

Free parking in car park after 6pm.

£4 in advance, £5 on the door.



RBL WOMEN'S SECTION

At our February meeting we had an interesting and informative talk about the history of Musgrove Park Hospital and its development. In March we are looking forward to an afternoon of poetry and song with Kathryn Flenley.

We are planning a coffee morning at the Parish Rooms on Saturday 13 April and would love to see as many people as possible there, so make a note in your diaries to come and enjoy a coffee and cake all for a good purpose. We are hoping to include a garden on a plate and Easter bonnet competition.

At our recent National Conference, the Williton Branch was awarded a cup which was presented to the secretary by HRH Princess Anne. The cup was for being a small branch with the most new members for the year 2017/2018. Unfortunately, this year has seen a drop in members due to various circumstances. We would love to increase our numbers again and would welcome any new people at our monthly meetings.

Our normal branch meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Fire station, Williton at 2pm. Non-members are welcome for a small donation of £2. Please ring 01984 639648 for more details.

Sara Hemphshall

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

WILLITON WI meets at Danesborough View Common Room on the third Thursday of the month between 2 and 4pm. We hope residents who have not attended a WI meeting before will join us and enjoy one of our many speakers. February members listened to Mrs Margaret Cook sharing her very interesting talk on 'Adventures of an Adventurer'. In March Mrs Pat Brigdon will give us an insight into 'Being a Judge at Crufts' and in April Mr Geoff Rickson will enlighten us on the work done by Taunton Samaritans. Visitors are very welcome and pay on the door £3.50 each. Please contact Pamela Messenger on 01984 248412 for more details about Williton WI and our future programme.

GLOBAL FRIENDS

We welcomed a new member at this month's session. We have had good news from two of our members living in Taunton and also of a young member who is away at university in Kent and is doing very well. We were sad to say goodbye to one of our members who had to go home to Dhaka after fifteen years in England, but we will be keeping in touch.

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



ROAD CLOSURE

The A358 is due to be completely closed at Black Arch Bridge, Sampford Brett for two weeks starting on 18 March 2019 to enable drainage and resurfacing works to take place. At the time of going to print First say that buses will divert from Williton via the B3190 and B3224 to join the A358 near Bishops Lydeard and return by the same route. For more information go to: www.roadworks.org or telephone Somerset County Council Highways Department on 0300 123 2224.

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

WASPS - WILLITON AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

We had a wonderful 6th Anniversary celebration with new members and visitors coming from Taunton to help us celebrate. It was really good to see such a turnout! Dr Simon Cooper told us of all the new ideas and ways that people are trying to cope with Parkinson's. He ended his talk with the statement that exercise is still number 1 when it comes to fighting the effects of any disease and then we adjourned and enjoyed the lovely cake from Glenmore Bakery.

I was given a lovely glass mirror in appreciation of being the coordinator of the WASPS for the past 6 years. I did try to step down as the co-ordinator last year, but no-one came forward. We thought that a committee could run the club, but Parkinson's UK states that there must be a co-ordinator. A few members have pitched in to take on some of the duties and hopefully a few more will this year. We have a lot of new members with good ideas, hopefully some of them will pitch in and help out.

We have been very lucky with speakers and have a gentleman coming from Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue to talk to us about safety in the home. He will be with us on Thursday 7th March at the Williton Pavilion at 2pm (after our exercise class with Jenny Manvell that starts at 1.15pm). It should be an interesting talk and we are looking forward to it. April sees us holding our AGM and enjoying some tasty food to go along with it. This will be the time to step forward and offer to help out, and I am sure that we will see lots of enthusiasm and support.

In May we will have a member of the Red Cross come and give us a hands on talk about First Aid. We WASPS will be ready for anything! It is good to be prepared and we are endeavouring to make sure that we are prepared.

We are growing very quickly and we do our best to make sure that all new members are introduced properly and all information is given to them, and their contact details are recorded. Every once in a while a person slips through the radar and we do not get their contact details right away. Please bear with us; we are trying to make sure that everyone is made to feel part of the group. Hopefully with our new location this problem will be sorted out very quickly. I apologise to anyone who might have been missed, and I will make sure that this does not happen again. If you would care to call me before the next meeting, I will make sure that this small problem is resolved. We pride ourselves on being a friendly group, and we are, so come along and join in.

While it is sad to see more people being diagnosed with Parkinson's it is good to know that no-one has to feel alone. If you would like to find out more about our group, or wish to discuss Parkinson's and how it affects people you can reach me at 01984 631472 or email queenwasp@outlook.com.

Linda Bishop

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Alison from The Paper Shop in Bishops Lydeard says that she has been advised that the current deliveries have stopped in Williton and asks us to mention that The Paper Shop delivers newspapers and magazines in Williton. She can be contacted on 01823 432456.

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

Sat	2	Williton Library	10.30am Lego Club
Sat	2	Williton Walk	2.00pm Railway Station
Sat	2	Williton Pavilion	9am-1pm Indoor car boot sale *
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, Williton Pavilion *
Wed	6	Williton Library	10.30am Verse & Worse Light hearted look at poetry and prose
Thurs	7	Williton Library	3pm Pins and Needles
Thurs	7	WASPS Parkinson's Support Group	1.15 exercises, 2pm main meeting Williton Pavilion. Talk about safety in the home.*
Thurs	7	Williton Library	3-4pm Pins and Needles
Mon	11	RBL Women's Section	2.30pm Fire Station Lecture Room
Wed	13	Flood Group Meeting	7pm Williton Pavilion *
Thurs	14	Loop the Loop	3.30-4.30pm Williton Library
Fri	15	Community Market	9-11.30am Williton Social Club
Tues	19	Village History	7.45pm EMN Hall Monksilver, Talk on Porlock Oysters by Roger Hall
Tues	19	Williton Pavilion	7.00pm Bingo, Williton Pavilion *
Thurs	21	Women's Institute	2.00pm Danesborough View Common Room, Talk about Being a Judge at Crufts
Sat	23	Williton Wanderers	10.30am Bossington CP
Sat	23	Story & Craft Time	10.30-11.30am for children 4-10years
Sun	24	Twinning Assn	6pm AGM at Williton Pavilion *
Mon	25	Gardening Club	7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room, Talk about Creating a Show Garden for the Taunton Flower Show
Mon	25	Book Club	2.30pm Williton Library
Tues	26	Williton Pavilion	6.30 for 7pm Film Night see page 13 *
Wed	27	West Somerset Family History Group	7-9pm at the Pavilion Group meeting to discuss and help smash your 'brick walls' *
Fri	29	Bake Club	3.30-4.30pm Williton Library

* 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.

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

REGULAR WEEKLY VILLAGE EVENTS

Mon	9.30-10.30 am and 10.45-11.45am	Pilates with Ellie Stuart-Steel	Williton Pavilion - Booking essential 07342 238 723
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 and 7.15-8.15pm	Pilates with Ellie Stuart-Steel	Williton Pavilion - Booking essential 07342 238 723
Mon	6-7pm	K.t's Zumba	Williton Pavilion - 07738 676832
Tues	9.30-10.30am 6.15-7.15pm	Pilates with Nathan Pirt Pilates with Nathan Pirt	Watchet Community Centre West Quantoxhead Village Hall Info: Nathan Pirt 07762 721 271
Tues	9.30 - 10.30am and 11 - 12 am	Mat and floor based yoga Chair-based yoga Info: Julie Bolton 633665 / julieboltonyoga@gmail.com	The Salvation Army Hall Watchet (level access and parking)
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
Wed	9-10am and 10.30-11.30am	Pilates with Nathan Pirt	Bicknoller Village Hall Info: Nathan Pirt 07762 721 271
Wed	6-7.30pm	Cubs	Guide HQ
Wed	7-11pm	War-games Club	Info: Williton Gamers 01984 639588
Wed	7-10 pm	Railway Modellers	Rear of Washford Mill, Washford (info: 07773 892085)
Thur	9-10am and 10.15-11.15am	Pilates with Nathan Pirt	West Quantoxhead Village Hall 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 and 10.45-11.45am	Pilates with Ellie Stuart-Steel	Williton Pavilion - Booking essential 07342 238 723
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

It was lovely to have a break, to be able to rest and recharge before continuing the term and the lead up to Easter. We have World Book Day and Science week to look forward to and, as well as enjoying dressing up on World Book Day, we will be launching a sponsored read supported by Usborne Books. Last year this was extremely successful and we received £1000 worth of new books for the school. Hopefully we will be able to match this or maybe exceed it this year! Now back to earlier in the term.

Oak class have been learning all about different types of transport for their topic work. The children have taken part in a variety of activities. They really enjoyed taking part in a traffic survey at the front of our school, they made cars and designed a vehicle and made it from junk modelling. They will be finishing off with a visit to the moon for a picnic inspired by the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy.

Ash class have been having lots of fun with plants over the last few weeks. The children have sketched and labelled parts of plants, planted seeds, beans and bulbs, and created some dance movements to show the life cycle of a flowering plant. In computing they have looked at e-safety and have created some wonderful posters to share safety messages.

Elm class produced some amazing artwork during their Rainforest Art Big Day. The children took their inspiration from the 'Spirit of Rainforest art project' in order to paint colourful interpretations of the jungle. They continue to learn about animals including humans in science. More recently they have been learning all about how our muscles work and have practised using rulers for measuring in maths.

During English, years 2 and 3 have been learning a new poem called 'The Cave of Curiosity'. This poem is a nonsense poem, so it surprised the children with its weird and wonderful combination of words. After learning the poem, they have had lots of fun experimenting with different words and phrases. They have substituted the line 'In the cave of curiosity' for 'In the park of jealousy', 'In the stadium of bravery' and 'In the rainforest of disgrace', amongst lots of other great ideas!

Fir class have had great fun in computing, following instructions to make a Lego drumming monkey. When the model was plugged into a computer, if it had been correctly assembled and programmed, it would start drumming! The children could then investigate what would happen if different components were added to their programme.

Yew class have been learning about Ancient Egyptians and in English are writing about an Egyptian explorer. This term the children have been swimming; everyone has become more confident in the water, had fun and improved their swimming skills. The class also visited Hinkley Point C, because last year they won a competition to name one of the boring tunnel machines. It was a fantastic experience.

Our nurture group, Happy Stars, have been thinking about the celebration of the Chinese New Year. The children have made Chinese dragons, lanterns, and pigs to celebrate the new year, the Year of the Pig. To finish this topic the group made Chinese foods, which everyone enjoyed trying.

SG

WILLITON GARDENING CLUB

At our next meeting on Monday 25 March, Pat and Bill Wilson will be talking on Creating a Show Garden for the Taunton Flower Show. 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.

FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

Now that we have such a wonderful Pavilion, it has been suggested that a Flower and Produce Show is held there to coincide with Williton Fete on Saturday 6 July. Although it doesn't give much time to organise it, a small fun event this year, if successful, could lead to greater things in the future.

Planning is in the early stages but, all being well, schedules should be available from the Parish Office in April. Help to run the event would be greatly appreciated, please contact Peter Payne 633084 or peterstjohnslock@aol.com.

WILLITON OPEN GARDENS ?

Until about ten years ago Williton regularly held an Open Gardens Weekend when several homes within the village opened their gardens and welcomed visitors. A list and suggested route was issued and one or two also provided cream teas etc. A charge was made with the proceeds going to either the Gardening Club or Village Hall Fund, as it was then.

What do YOU think? Williton Gardening Club would be prepared to organise such an event later this year, but would like to hear from anyone who would be prepared to open their garden for others to enjoy. A provisional date is suggested for Saturday 13th July

Interested parties please contact either myself, John Parsons, or Liz Payne our secretary, and depending on the response we will decide if it is viable for this year, and then report back next month. Looking forward to hearing from you.

John Parsons 01984 632334 / Liz Payne 01984 633084

WILLITON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION.

Have you ever asked why it says on the village road signs, "Twinned with Neung sur Beuvron"?

Many of our communities, large and small, have twinned with places abroad with which they share something in common. Neung sur Beuvron is about 120 miles by road south of Paris and, like Williton, is rural and faces similar economic challenges.

The Twinning Association promotes and organises exchange visits. As a result, over the years, many friendships have been made which have stood the test of time. We are looking to increase our membership to make travelling and hosting more practical and would welcome new members of all ages.

Do come to our informal AGM on Sunday 24th March starting at 6pm in the Williton Pavilion. Also find out about the possibility of joining Neung in their twinning with Wulfen am Harz in Germany, to form a three-way partnership. Looking forward to seeing you.

IA

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

from SD

Kindness is a universal language, which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

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 would like to start by welcoming to the Parish Council our two new Councillors Mick White and Phillip Bramell. Mick has been a Councillor previously and Phillip offers us a point of view from the younger generation of the village! We are still looking for additional Councillors – why not contact our Clerk Michelle to find out more.

As we approach Easter, now is a good time to remind everyone that the Parish Office in Killick Way is still a collection point for the Quantock Food Bank. If you have any leftover food items from your Christmas Festivities or can spare any tins of vegetables, fruit or soup, pasta, rice, biscuits or even an Easter Egg, we have some local families who would really appreciate your support.

A reminder about the Flood Group Meeting, being held on Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 7pm, in the Williton Pavilion. Please come and listen to our guest speaker and maybe even volunteer as a Flood Warden to assist in our parish, if the need arises.

You are always welcome to join us at our regular Parish Council Meetings on the first Monday of every month. We have plenty to talk about, planning for the future of our parish.

Let's hope we have some lovely weather this month and can enjoy wandering around our wonderful village and spend time chatting to each other – if only about the weather!!

Cllr Kim Pearson

FARMERS URGED TO BID ONLINE FOR FLOOD WORK

Farmers across Somerset are being invited to bid in the UK's first countywide auction for works to help stop flooding. The auction will be run online from February 26 - March 12 using a new Environment Agency web app, which can be found at www.nfmauction.org.uk.

The website offers Somerset farmers a unique combination of possibilities. First, to select for themselves different natural flood management (NFM) activities. Second, to pick out parts of their land where they believe those activities will produce the best flood prevention results for them and for local communities. Third, to bid for funding for those activities.

As the main purpose of NFM activities in Somerset is to slow the flow of water down through the higher parts of river catchments, the web app will not allow farmers to place bids for land in low-lying Internal Drainage Board areas, but the auction otherwise covers the length and breadth of Somerset.

After the auction closes, bids will be checked by the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group SW (FWAG SW). Grants from Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) will then be given to the best, most competitively-priced ideas.

For further information relating to the auction, the Hills to Levels project, or for photographs, please email Victoria on victoria.munday@fwagsw.org.uk or Ellen ellen.james@fwagsw.org.uk

SMALL PRAYER

Please help me not to waste time on people who aren't worth it.



NEWS FROM WILLITON POST OFFICE

Have you got travel plans this year? Is your passport up to date? Our digital Passport Renewal Service is proving to be a great success: no more hassle of filling in that challenging application form or even making sure that your photo is acceptable. We do it all for you and send off your old passport for cancellation. So, as long as you have a mobile phone, email address and no name changes to report, let us do it all for you in the friendly atmosphere of your local Post Office! If you do need to fill in the form either for yourself or your children, the Check and Send Service is excellent value for money and will give you peace of mind.

Talking of foreign travel, we have also been processing International Drivers Permits since the beginning of February. If you are driving to Europe or will be hiring a car abroad, the chances are that you may need one of these. We would love to help you.

As for your spending money we currently have six currencies in stock. So if you are off to Switzerland skiing or heading 'down under' for some summer surfing, come and buy your travel money from us!

Post Office has a special offer on Homephone at the moment. For £17 per month you will get your phone with broadband and be able to operate all your other devices off that service! Interested? Come in and ask at our counter. We would love to be able to save you money on your phone account.

We also have a wonderful new selection of merchandise following our visits to the trade shows. You might just find the perfect thing for Mother's Day, or that little gift for someone special!

Caroline Tyner

SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP RECYCLING NEWS

Textile and shoe recycling: Wearable items can be sold on-line, swapped at swishing events or donated to charity*. Both wearable and unwearable items can be collected via recycling centres or kerbside collections. For kerbside, we ask that clothing and textiles (i.e. old towels, sheets and curtains, but excluding stuffed items i.e. duvets quilts and pillows) are put in plastic or compostable bags – not black sacks – and marked textiles. The materials need to be kept dry to maintain their value and stop mildew spreading when stored. Shoes should be tied in pairs. Clothing, textiles and shoes are primarily sent to JMP Wilcox & Co in the West Midlands, where items are sorted and graded into those suitable for reuse and those to be recycled into cleaning cloths, fillings for mattress and seats etc, or where possible, processed into clean fibres known as "shoddy" to be rewoven into new materials.

Textiles should **never** be put in a refuse bin to be sent to landfill. Natural fibres will rot potentially releasing gases and man-made fibres will simply remain intact. So, please use the kerbside collection services for damaged, stained or odd items, as well as for unwanted wearable clothing.

REMEMBER that adults' and children's clothes, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys are collected to sell to raise funds for the Williton Pavilion. Please contact Diane Hooper on 632497 to arrange collection or leave them at Diane's house - Roughmoor House on the industrial estate, next to Station Café.

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**

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The meeting on 5 February was well attended and included two visitors who enjoyed themselves so much that they decided to join straightaway. Members with birthdays this month were congratulated and apologies received from members unable to attend the meeting.

The talk this month was entitled "Gypsies, tramps and thieves" and was given by Roger Hurst. It was very entertaining and everyone enjoyed the talk and slides. Roger is an excellent speaker and held the audience with the facts. We are looking forward to his return next year. The talk was followed by coffee, tea and biscuits, as well as a raffle and table top sale.

It was decided to have lunch at the Wyndham Arms later in February for our first outing of the year. Our next meeting will be on 5 March at Danesborough View Common Room at 2.30pm. We are delighted any visitors or anyone wishing to join. Do come along for a coffee and a chat with our very friendly group.

Any enquiries ring our Chairlady, Jenny Berry, on 01984 632616.

Lastly, on a personal note, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who sent me good wishes and cards during my prolonged stay in Musgrove Park Hospital. I was truly overcome by everyone's kindness.

Joy Elgood

It is so good to see Joy out and about again in the village. We have missed you and your lovely smile.

Editors

ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES

The hot crust from an oven baked loaf, smothered with butter.



by SD

DOWN AT THE STATION

We are continuing our winter maintenance programme with several small jobs already completed. The weather is not always too helpful as it seems to have often rained on our 'work days' and not the day after!! As someone said our weather is always predictable in that it's never the same two days running.

It is sad that someone tried to break in to our shop premises during February damaging the lock beyond repair. Fortunately the locksmith was coming through Williton when we contacted him, and he was able to replace the lock with a stronger one within hours of the discovery. There really is nothing of value left in the shop, especially during the closed season, certainly not money. I gather other premises had also been tampered with, so it may be a warning to other people to be on the look-out for unwanted visitors.

Flower bulbs are popping up all over the place and the station will be ablaze with colour by the middle of the month.

So, we are looking forward to the end of March when the new season starts and we can get back into the swing of welcoming passengers and visitors to our station. As always you would be welcome to call by for a cuppa and a chat. Maybe there are new volunteers out there just waiting to come and join the team on the platform or in the shop?

John Parsons, Station Master

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The West Somerset branch of the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society has moved its monthly meetings to the Williton Pavilion. At our next meeting on Wednesday 27th March we will have a group session to discuss and help smash each other's 'brick walls'. There will be time for a coffee, biscuits and a chat too. Visitors are always welcome at a charge of £3 and members of the SDFHS at £2.

Lesley Murray

WEST SOMERSET VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY

At our next meeting on Tuesday 19 March Roger Hall will be telling us about Porlock Oysters. We meet at the EMN Hall, Monksilver, TA4 4JE. Visitors are welcome at a charge of £3. For more information email marilyn@westsomersetvillagehistorysociety-wsvhs.com

WILLITON HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

Do look out for our future fund raising activities. We will be at the Williton Fete and we hope to have a street collection in Williton and Watchet. Our Easter service will be on Wednesday 17 April at 3pm. Many thanks for the books for our book sale; we raised £71 in January. Please keep them coming. I am still looking for entertainers to help brighten the patients' day.

Shirley Dee

Volunteers: If you would like to help in any way, please phone Chris. Our number is 635600.

Some sad news. Charlie our canine care dog visitor has passed away. He came to the hospital with Rona for many years, giving great pleasure to many patients.

Our sympathy to Rona and the hospital over the lovely Charley.

And we got it wrong last month! Shirley has only retired from one of her roles and is still fully involved with other volunteering activities at the hospital.

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** The walk this month will be held on **Saturday 2 March** starting from the railway station at 2pm. We will walk towards Torweston Farm before crossing Teddy Bears crossing. From here we will pass Sampford Mill on our way to Sampford Brett. Once in Sampford Brett our route will take us along part of Aller Lane to Aller Farm. This will involve crossing the 'penny bridge' so remember to bring some pennies with you! We will then return down hill past St Peter's Church to the village. If you would like any more information please ring me on 632318.

Elizabeth Peeks

* **Williton Wanderers** will meet at 10.30am on **Saturday 23 March** 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 Raleghs Cross Inn TA23 0LN on **Sunday 24 March** for a four-hour walk to the Winding House and the iron mines near Beulah Chapel It includes part of the Incline, steep, spectacular but optional. 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

RECIPE FOR THE MONTH *by Shirley Dee*

FLAPJACKS (BY REQUEST)

100g (4 oz) block butter
25 g (1 oz) dark brown sugar
2 tablespoons golden syrup

200 g (8 oz) rolled oats
Pinch salt

Melt the butter, sugar and syrup together in a saucepan or microwave, add the oats and salt and mix well. Put into a greased non-stick pan and cook in oven at 190°F, 375°C or gas mark 5 for about 20 minutes until golden brown. Cut into fingers while still warm. Tip: if you heat your tablespoon in very hot water the syrup will slide off easily.

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

WORDSEARCH FOR MARCH *by Phyllis Chidgey*

CAPES, HEADLANDS AND POINTS

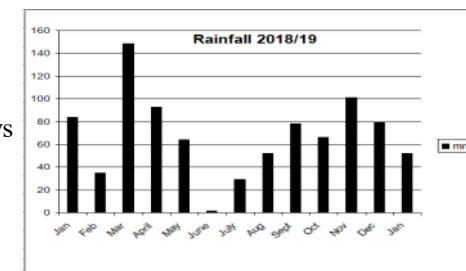
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ANN	BUSA	LIZARD	PATIENCE
COD	CRUZ	SORELL	STRUMBLE
BON	ROXO	TEULADA	SANDY CAPE
EAST	AMBER	RUNAWAY	BREAKHEART
BEACHY HEAD	THE NEEDLES		

WEATHER JANUARY

Temperatures were up to 12°C on 12th (and some warm nights of 9° and 10°C). We had several frosts - the coolest night was -3°C. The maximum pressure was 30.4 inches and the minimum 29.1 inches, which is very low - it was snowing! We had a rain total of 52mm (2.05 inches) for the month, which includes the 4-6 cm of snow at the end of the month.

Nature notes. With the longer sunny days we are seeing the birds pairing ready to nest and plentiful frogspawn in ponds. Have you noticed the number of plants and trees in flower out of season? *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 Mar - Handwriting

27 Mar - Coffee, cake and chat

At the Church Rooms, Stogursey

6 Mar - Coffee, chat and cake

20 Mar - Coffee, cake and chat

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 March 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.

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Opening Dates Summer 2019

Mon 22nd April Easter Monday
Fri 26th April Sat 27th April
Mon 6th May (Bank Holiday)
Tues 7th May Sat 11th May
Tues 14th May Wed 15th May
Sat 18th May
Sat 27th May (Bank Holiday)

Open 2pm

Group Bookings 6-30 people £8.00 each
Individual booking £11.00

SKILL UP – support for businesses seeking to set up apprenticeships and train staff

This new service developed for West Somerset provides information to businesses on apprenticeships, traineeships and skills. The online portal www.skillupws.org.uk is a service that signposts opportunities, vacancies and useful information. It also introduces the Skill Up team, who are there to help, and contact details.

For Businesses: Marie Howard, the Skill Up Apprenticeships and Skills Adviser, provides information and support of all kinds for your business. Email: m.howard@skillupws.org.uk
Telephone: 07395796297

For individuals: Jane Parker, the Skill Up Information Adviser and Employment Coach, can provide information and support to anyone in the area and is regularly available across West Somerset's Employment Hubs. You can get information and support to enter employment or for your next career move. To explore the opportunities available to you, get in touch with Jane on email: j.parker@skillupws.org.uk
Telephone: 07734494755



WEST SOMERSET

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT HUBS

Pop in for free, positive friendly help and support!

- Access to internet/WSAB/ UC preparation
- 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)

VALUED VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at all hubs
please give us a call if you can help!



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