



WILLITON WINDOW

Our Church and Community Magazine

June 2020

Volume 20 Number 12

Coronavirus Helpline Tel: 01984 573673

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www.willitonwindow.org.uk

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**AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRINT, WE DO NOT KNOW
WHETHER THERE WILL BE A JULY MAGAZINE.
WE SHALL PUBLISH IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE.**

DEADLINE DATES FOR THE JULY ISSUE

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 16 JUNE

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 19 JUNE

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

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

☎ 01984 634 899 / 07535 086223 email: willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk

CUT OUT AND KEEP - USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Church of England (St Peter's)

Vicar	Rev Clive Gilbert	631005
Associate Vicar	Rev Kathryn Flenley	633568
Readers:	Mrs Bev Machin	568201
	Mrs Donna Marsden	633707
	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 Corps Leader	Miss Sam Searle	07979 575453
Hall address and telephone:	1 Brendon Road, Watchet	633133
Williton Window distribution	Mrs P Chidgey	632755

DISCLAIMER

We do our best to ensure that all advertisements and articles appear correctly in the Williton Window. Advertisements and articles appearing in this publication are accepted in good faith by the publishers, St Peter's Parochial Church Council, who can, however, not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, nor does their inclusion imply any recommendation.

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

View this magazine online at 8 www.willitonwindow.org.uk

Williton Coronavirus Community Help Group

Helpline Number

01984 573673

willitonhelp@yahoo.com

www.willitonhelp.co.uk

www.facebook.com/willitonhelp

If you are 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.

There's a list of traders and their opening times on the following pages but, if you can, check our website as the situation changes frequently.

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.

View this magazine online at 9 www.willitonwindow.org.uk

Food, Shopping, Eating and Other Services currently available in Williton

Lloyds Pharmacy

Opening hours

Mon - Fri 9am to 6:30pm - Closed for lunch 1 - 2pm

Saturday 9am - 1pm Tel: 01984 632512

Spar Supermarket

Opening hours 7am to 8pm every day. We can take telephone orders and home delivery. We will prepare the order (minus any out of stocks) and then ring the customer back to take payment.

Tel: 01984 632280

Spar Café

Opening hours 8am to 1pm

Full menu for take-away or delivery Tel: 07909 610234

The Somerset Farmhouse

Opening hours

Mon - Fri 7:30 - 5:00 - Saturday 7:30 - 4:00

Taking advance telephone orders for next morning free local delivery.

Tel: 01984 632450

Co-Op Supermarket

Opening hours

Mon - Sat 7am to 8pm - Sunday 10am to 4pm

Special exclusive trading hours for elderly, key-workers and vulnerable:-

Mon - Sat 8am to 9am - Sunday 10am to 11am

Delivery service available for those already registered for home delivery service and subject to a minimum £25 spend.

Tel: 01984 633014

Glenmore Bakery

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 7am - 3pm - Saturday 7am - 2pm

Order by 2pm for free delivery or collection next day for Williton, Watchet and Minehead areas. Cash or card payment in store or by phone.

Tel: 01984 634224

The Bengal Spice

Open for takeaway food only every evening, including Sundays, from 5pm to 10pm

Tel: 01984 632169

The Masons Arms

Take away and free delivery service to Williton area.

Mon - Sat 12am-2.30pm and 11pm-9pm

Sunday Lunch 12am - 2:30pm

Phone in advance to place an order Tel: 01984 639200

John's Fish and Chip Shop

Open Tuesday to Saturday from 5pm to 8pm only.

Telephone ordering for key workers & the vulnerable etc on Thursday, Friday, Saturday ONLY

Tel: 01984 639990

Williton Pet Care

Opening hours

Mon - Fri 9am to 2pm - Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Please contact us in the morning for delivery the following day. Orders will be left at your door to minimise contact or can be collected from the store.

Tel: 01984 631508

Post Office

Opening hours

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 2pm - Saturday 8.30 - 12.30

Collect your pension and benefits and do meter top-ups as well as other services.

Morrisons Supermarket, Minehead

On-line ordering available for Morrisons Food Boxes and telephone ordering for vulnerable and elderly with doorstep delivery service. Pay on delivery - contactless card only.

Tel: 0345 611 6111

Richard Little Family Butcher's, Watchet

We can take card payment over the phone and leave orders on your doorstep. Will deliver to Williton

Tel: 07176 425 055 or 07762 069 450

West Country Foods Limited, Wellington

Wide range of food products offered for home delivery. Call for a product list.

Tel: 01823 653900

Wiltshire Farm Foods, South Molton

A wide range of ready meals delivered in Williton on Wednesdays. Priority ordering and delivery for vulnerable customers. Phone to request a brochure or to place an order.

Tel: 0800 077 3100

Food Box Delivery, Taunton

Food Boxes provide you with everyday essentials, without the need to leave your home. Boxes contain various items such as meat, cheese and a selection of fresh vegetables as well as everyday items such as toilet paper - convenient delivery directly to your door. Williton deliveries on Fridays.

Email: enquiries@foodboxdelivery.co.uk

La Chasse Limited, Zeals, Wiltshire

La Chasse normally supplies chefs in pubs, hotels and restaurants so some of the quantities and sizes are larger than you may normally be used to, but you might be surprised.

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Williton Esso Petrol Station

Reduced opening times. Limited groceries and PayPoint available. Mon - Sat 7am - 6pm - Sunday 8am - 6pm

Edward Martin Computer Services

Online remote support and emergency drop off repair service available. Shop is closed but offering a phone and collect service. Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Tel: 01984 633603

Williton Waste Recycling Centre

Weekdays 9am to 6pm - Weekends 9am to 4pm

ODD number plates on Monday/Wednesday/Saturday

EVEN number plates on Tuesday/Friday/Sunday

To check what types of waste are currently accepted see www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus

Information is offered in good faith and is correct at time of printing. Opening times may vary - you are advised to check before making journeys or other arrangements. Williton Coronavirus Community Help Group cannot accept responsibility for any loss or inconvenience caused by reliance on information published in this leaflet or on our website.

How Can You Help?

We're looking to make fabric face coverings for the elderly or vulnerable in the village. About 1,800 will be needed.

- 1. Can you sew?** Are you able to give some of your time to make these? They will be cut out in packs of 10, with instructions, so just need machine sewing – all straight lines. If you can, please contact the help line and us know your name, address, contact number and how many packs you can do. We'll contact you as soon as the packs are ready.
- 2. Do you have unwanted close weave cotton fabric?** Duvet covers, pillow cases and sheets are ideal - but clothes that are 100% cotton would be great too.

Pick up and drop off point is 25 North Croft doorstep. Let us know if you are isolating and we can drop off and/or collect from you.

Face Coverings for the Elderly or Vulnerable

If you are in the elderly or vulnerable group and would like two face coverings please call the helpline with your name and address and we will put two through your letterbox. If the face cover is for vulnerable children, please let us know their gender as we will have special sized fun ones for children to encourage them to wear. There is no charge for these face coverings.



Once the elderly and vulnerable have theirs, packs of 2 will be available for others in the village for a donation. Donations will go towards purchase of more materials and to the Foodbank.

These home-made face coverings will offer about 70% of the protection of manufactured ones according to information available at this time. They are not designed to be a replacement for manufactured ones nor do we suggest in any way that they will prevent infection. Williton Coronavirus Help Group, its administrators and volunteers, cannot accept responsibility for any person contracting Covid-19 (Coronavirus) whilst wearing one of our face coverings. They are merely a substitute and best option where a face covering is advised to be worn but a manufactured sterile one is not available.

Williton Coronavirus Community Help Group - May 2020



Quantock Foodbank

Tel: 07483 815122 Email: quantockfoodbank@gmail.com

As we begin to emerge from the more stringent Lockdown restrictions, I thought this would be a good time to update you on what's been going on at our foodbank. Marlene and her team of volunteers have managed to keep abreast of a significant increase in demand across our area. Each week about 200-300 bags are filled with essential food items. In addition toiletries are included from time to time and even pets are catered for! Households will receive on average 3 bags each delivery.

We are extremely grateful to our volunteers at the foodbank who work with social distancing as a priority. In addition, deliveries could not take place without volunteer drivers, some taking leave from their jobs in order to help us. We continue to value working with the agencies such as Home Start and our Village Agent who ensure that those who need to access the Quantock Foodbank are given on-going support.

Thank you so much to all of you who contribute food and make donations in order to ensure that the foodbank continues to reach out to the most vulnerable in our communities. We know that when we are all able to make the next tentative steps out of this strange existence, the Quantock foodbank's vital support will be needed more than ever. Our reliance on prayer and Christ's teaching encourages us to embrace the future with confidence, for he says, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'.

Kathryn Flenley, Chair, Quantock Foodbank, Tel: 01984 633568; email Kathryn.Flenley@btinternet.com

Thank you for all your support.

IF YOU NEED HELP:

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

In the light of the escalating situation with Coronavirus, the surgery is changing its opening times to enable staff to plan for the day ahead. They will also be telephoning all patients ahead of any face-to-face appointments to avoid non-essential contact.

West Somerset Advice Bureau Tel: 01643 704624

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

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) or her assistant (Jo Holmes) on 01984 633979 or email clerk@willitonpc.org.uk

Church Clergy contact details are on page 8 of this magazine

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.

UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON

ST PETER'S CHURCH

For spiritual help, please contact:
the Vicar: Rev Clive Gilbert on 631005
Associate Vicar: Rev Kathryn Flenley 633568

We must not allow ourselves to be imprisoned in our own homes.

*Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage:*

thus wrote Richard Lovelace from his prison cell in 1642.

Julian of Norwich was an anchorite - someone who withdraws from society to live alone and follow a life of prayer. She lived in Norwich for all her life and witnessed the devastation of the Black Death 1348 - 1350. She lived in a cell attached to a church and was known for sitting at her window and speaking to passers by and praying for them. She famously wrote "All will be well and all will be well". That surely is a prayer for many of us today.

So how can we from the prisons of our homes today find peace, and, if we choose to, find God? We could do just as Julian did, and sit by our windows if we cannot get out into a garden, and listen to the birds and look closely at nearby flowers. And remember that Jesus said, "Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them... See how the lilies of the field grow..." There is much beauty close to our homes. Sit quietly for a while and listen to all the sounds, and as you listen filter out the man-made sounds and concentrate on the natural ones, and listen and be at peace. Look at the beauty of a flower: look very closely if you can and be amazed at the intricacy and beauty of God's creation, and in doing so find and feel yourself close to God. He is with us in this beauty, he is with us in our anxieties, he is with us in this lockdown.

A Psalmist wrote: "Be still and know that I am God." I pray that
you can be still and know that He is God. *Clive Gilbert*

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DailyHOPE

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reflections and prayers

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CONNECTIONS

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.

THE SALVATION ARMY WATCHET CORPS

Salvation Army Hall, 1 Brendon Road, Watchet. All are welcome.

(Part of Churches Together in Williton and Watchet)

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

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.

FROM OUR VILLAGE AGENT, IZZY SILVESTER



It has been wonderful to be part of the immense community support that has been carried out by local parishes, churches and volunteers to keep our most vulnerable fed and in receipt of their prescriptions. We should remember them in our regular Thursday evening applause. Sadly, there are some unscrupulous people out there who are using the crisis for criminal purposes and many new scams have appeared. There is some comfort in that Avon and Somerset force, so far are not aware of any victims and have not received any complaints or reports of people being duped by fraudsters. They are keen to keep this trend going and want to help safeguard our local communities. Their main advice is:

- Watch out for scam messages – don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to unsolicited messages and telephone calls that ask for your personal or financial details.
 - As village agents we have been made aware of phone calls asking for your bank details for free school meal payments. Do not give them. These payments come as e-vouchers or printed if required.
 - If you think you have been a victim please report the matter to Action Fraud as we need to share knowledge of fraudsters. www.actionfraud.org.uk
- As Village Agents we suggest sharing your experience with your friends and with us so that we can share and allow everyone to be prepared for the next potential scam. If you are feeling upset by a call, contact us on 01823 331 222 for a bit of reassurance and advice.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Shopping online – if you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

We suggest looking for the padlock mark on the web address, not on the actual webpage to show your credit card details are safe. Avoid offers that seem too good to be true and look if you can find them elsewhere on the internet to check if it is advertised elsewhere.

Don't be duped by organisations offering to arrange to collect money from your home to pay for goods and don't buy goods from the doorstep.

During lock down, people should knock on your door and step back to see that you have collected your delivery, volunteer shopping or prescription. They will not ask for a signature. You will have arranged how to pay for shopping from your neighbourhood volunteers by phone previously and will know their names from the letter they sent to your house and the village facebook. We can check who your village volunteers are for you.

Protect your devices from the latest threats – always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats.

More advice is given on the following:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news/2020/03/beware-fraud-and-scams-during-covid-19-pandemic-stay-at-home-stay-safe-on-line/>

A full list of identified scams can be viewed on the National Trading Standards website - www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/

Age UK Somerset have a really clear list potential scams here: <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/our-services/scams-advice/>

If you see or hear anything suspicious contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or via the web form on their website.

Exciting news from CCS Village Agents this month is that Talking Cafes are going to be live on Facebook, the first is 14th May at 11am and then daily at 11am from the 18th May. We have really missed seeing our clients at our Talking Cafés so hopefully in the short term this will help & support you from the comfort of your own home! www.facebook.com/TalkingCafeSomerset/Live - you can ask questions during the Live video in the comments section and have your answer there and then – hope we see you

Please telephone me Izzy Silvester on 07931 018045 for confidential advice and support.

We also have a team of Community Agents and Village Agents across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with. Please visit www.ccslovesomerset.org.uk and www.somersetcarers.org or call me to find out who can advise you.

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

There are two ways to be looking at the current situation, either as a period of unprecedented restrictions and limitations or as a test of our resilience as individuals and a community, which has brought the best out in many people. For me I was made only too aware early on of the impact of travelling abroad and returning just before lockdown and within a few days having tell-tail symptoms that could have been Covid-19. Two weeks of self-isolation followed and was survivable because of the unofficial support network that just happened. That quickly turned into the Williton Coronavirus Support Group, a necessary thing to ensure help offered was organised to prevent infecting the very people most needing to avoid it and to use the help available in a joined-up and efficient way. It is also important that those helping can be relied upon as genuine and not out to use the opportunity for criminal purposes. The Parish Council does not run this organisation, but is very willing to support it in any way possible on behalf of our Parish. Two leaflets with contact details have been delivered to all homes by volunteers from the group which gives contact details. This leaflet has been reproduced on pages 9-12 of this Williton Window. All those who help with this group deserve our thanks for their public spirited actions.

The Parish Council office has remained closed to the public, but our two staff have continued to work from home. That has meant the work of the Council has continued as a clearing house for many organisations and people needing or giving information. What has not been happening is Council meetings. Modern technology, often the bane of our lives, has come to the rescue and the first virtual meeting took place of both the Council and separately of the Trustee of the Memorial Ground and Pavilion. Like the usual meetings, these are open to the public and members. If you wish to “attend” the meetings you can do so online using Zoom software. Contact the Parish Clerk by email on clerk@willitonpc.org.uk for details.

The Annual Parish Assembly has had to be cancelled this year due to Covid 19, it may be possible to hold a Public Meeting when we are allowed to meet once again, but we will keep you updated with any decision regarding this.

This is not the most usual time to welcome a new Councillor. Their application to be co-opted was approved at the first online meeting, so the usual friendly welcome could only be conveyed remotely. However, Robert McDonald knows us well as he has previously served as a Parish Councillor. There are still vacancies for new blood as well as known faces to join us. At this time of heightened awareness of being involved in the community, becoming a parish councillor may be a way you would consider helping, not just for now, but into the future when life returns to something we will recognise as normal. For the form you will need contact the Clerk by email on clerk@willitonpc.org.uk or by writing to The Parish Clerk, Williton Parish Council Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton, Taunton TA4 4PY.

On behalf of all councillors, a big thank you to everyone who has helped in some way to make this difficult time bearable, to the essential workers who have had to keep going at risk to themselves and their families, and to everyone for being patient, understanding and co-operative in the interests of minimising the effects of Covid 19. Keep safe and stay healthy.

Cllr Ian Aldridge

TRUSTEE OF THE MEMORIAL GROUND AND PAVILION

The Trustee of the Memorial Ground and Pavilion held their first 'virtual' meeting last night using the Zoom platform, similarly to the Parish Council, it was a limited agenda, due to time restrictions. It has been decided to now continue with our monthly Trustee meetings, continuing to use Zoom until we hear further from the Government. If you would like to attend a meeting, please send me an email at clerk@willitonpc.org.uk and I will forward an invitation link to join. I am happy to hold a practise session for anyone who would like to attend - but honestly, I have been pleasantly surprised on how easy it is to use.

Williton Fete – unfortunately, the decision has been taken to cancel this years fete due to Covid 19, however, the Trustees will monitor the guidance and may try for a Produce and Dog show in September. Although, this may have to be held virtually – it is all unknown at the moment, but we hope to have something to look forward to in the early autumn. It is hoped that an online Quiz can be held – we will let you know details as soon as possible.

Unfortunately the playground will remain closed until further notice, to try and keep everyone safe. The Long Street gate will be kept closed to aid the safety of children, but please remember to keep washing your hands and stay safe.

Michelle Francis, Parish Clerk

SECOND HAND BIKES NEEDED

Somerset charity CCS is calling on the generosity of people to donate their second-hand bikes, that they no longer need and would rather see being kept in use. Social distancing and scaled-back public transport is making it difficult for people, especially those on low incomes, to travel to work or take up a new job when they have no affordable way of getting there. After being lovingly refurbished by an expert mechanic, the bikes will be supplied to local residents who would struggle financially to purchase a new bike.

CCS is requesting donations of bikes that are in good condition - meaning nearly ready to ride, with two wheels, pedals and handlebars. Bikes which would only be suitable for recycling by scrapping the metal cannot be accepted. Minor rusting, decorative issues and minor mechanical problems are not a barrier.

If you can help please get in touch with Izzy Silvester via email izzy@Somersetcc.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. 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. *Izzy Silvester, Village Agent*



DOWN AT THE STATION

Well not really, as there is nothing happening at all down at the station due to the current shutdown/lockdown.

However, as advertised last month we have opened our Station Plant Stall at the home of volunteers, at 7 Dovetons Drive, and we are most grateful to all who have supported us during this month. Everything has been on a self-service basis and to date we are very close to our annual target for such sales. There are still several plants available with some vegetables still there, and now bedding plants. We plan to keep the stall open until we run out, so hurry!!

You may well have seen in the local press reports of how the West Somerset Railway is currently in dire straits due to not being able to run trains and therefore create income to pay its staff. While there are 1,000 plus volunteers there is a core paid staff who look after the infrastructure and technical work involved. Any donations towards their appeal would be appreciated, either direct to the Station at Minehead or through me.

John Parsons, Station Master

Mindline Somerset Emotional support helpline Coronavirus



01823 276 892

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Mindline is a confidential listening service which provides a safe place to talk if you, or someone you know, is in distress. We can also give basic information about mental health and local support services.

Our listeners treat all callers, regardless of background, in a non-judgmental way with dignity and respect. When our lines are busy, or closed, our switchboard can connect you to our sister service, the Samaritans.

FROM AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE

Trading Standards have told us that some residents have been receiving phone calls from a company that are offering “virus ventilation and sanitation due to lockdown” on behalf of Bath & North East Somerset Council. The Council wishes it be known that the company, Pro Day UK, do not represent them so any calls from them should be considered as a scam.

Although this offence happened in the Bath area, similar attempts have been made in other parts of the country, so they may well start to try other regions of the Avon and Somerset police area including ours.

If you have any information regarding these incidents contact the Police on 101. Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

12/05/20 9788 AW052 THEFT FROM A WORKSHOP

A workshop has been broken into in Half Acre, Williton overnight on 10th May. The Workshop / Shed located close to a field has had the door forced by the offender/s and once inside numerous DeWalt tools have been stolen including a Saw Table, Impact Driver, Drill, Reciprocating Saw and a Vax Power Washer. If you contact the Police about this incident, please call 101 and quote Reference number: 5220101795 or Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

13/05/20 9788 AW052 Attempted Theft from a Garden Shed

An attempt was made to break into a shed on Tower Hill, Williton between 10th and 12th May. The offender has entered the grounds of the property and upon arrival at the shed has used force to try and gain access, this has proven unsuccessful but has resulted in the owner no longer being able to access the shed either due to the extent of the damage to the lock. If you contact the Police about this incident, please call 101 and quote Reference number: 5220102574 or Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

13/05/20 9788 AW052 Residential Garage Burglary

A garage has been broken into in Catwell, Williton sometime between 8th and 11th May. The padlock securing the garage had been cut off and once the offender had gained entry they would have quickly established the garage was empty and promptly departed leaving empty handed. If you contact the Police about this incident, please call 101 & quote Reference number: 5220102895 or Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111. Thank you.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Avon and Somerset Police are helping to keep young people safe online during the Coronavirus pandemic, by promoting a new online safety campaign which supports parents to keep their children safe on their devices.

Click on the link below to access their informative document:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/media/32957798/keeping-children-safe-online-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic.pdf>

FROM SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Free train travel to help those fleeing domestic abuse

Somerset County Council is supporting a scheme which gives free rail travel to people fleeing domestic abuse.

Under the scheme, ‘Rail to Refuge’, train operators will cover the cost of train tickets for anyone travelling to refuge accommodation during the lockdown.

The financial barrier of travel is one of the many things that can make it difficult for someone in an abusive relationship to leave their perpetrator, and whilst using public transport is being discouraged in the fight against coronavirus, for some it can be their only path to a life free from their abuser.

Although the programme is in partnership with domestic violence charity Women's Aid, the help is available for anyone escaping abuse (women and men, as well as their children). Free tickets can be applied for once someone has received an offer of a place at a refuge. The refuge can then direct them to a special train booking system.

Councillor Clare Paul, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: “The cost of travel is often a barrier for someone leaving an abusive relationship. The Rail to refuge scheme removes this barrier and further helps support people wanting to leave an abusive relationship. This is one of many ways that we are able to help people experiencing domestic abuse.

“Despite social-isolating and other restrictions brought in to fight the coronavirus – all our usual ways to help are still available. This includes help and advice if you need to flee an abuser and advice on how to manage an abusive relationship during lockdown if you are unable to leave. It is more important now, than ever before for people to be able to access the help available quickly and know they can travel to a place of refuge.”

Acting Chief Executive of Women's Aid, Nicki Norman, said: “We're delighted that our Rail to Refuge scheme is removing this barrier and is allowing women to travel to the safety of a refuge without the difficulty, and sometimes impossibility, of booking and paying for their own travel.

“When escaping from domestic abuse, taking those first steps can be the most difficult and such a stressful time. We thank train companies for helping to make that first difficult step much more accessible to women, particularly during the crisis when women experiencing domestic abuse are facing unimaginable isolation.”

Despite restrictions imposed to combat Coronavirus, help and advice is - and will continue to be - available including help finding a refuge. Visit the [Somerset Survivors](https://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk) website or telephone 0800 69 49 999.

In an emergency, or if you are being threatened, you should always dial 999. If the situation that you are in means you are unable to speak, dial 999 then 55 to get help when the operator answers.

You can also find other support about domestic abuse at www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk. For example; how to recognise the signs of abuse,

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tips on how to help a friend, family member or work colleague experiencing abuse or how to manage an abusive relationship whilst self-isolating.

Search [#NoClosedDoors2020](#) on [Google Search](#) and [share](#) and [retweet](#) the posts you find to help people experiencing domestic abuse get the help and support they need – together we can make a difference.

Free baby carrier hire during pandemic

Somerset County Council's Public Health team is stepping up support during the coronavirus pandemic and offering free carrier hire to give every baby the best start in life, building an even closer and loving connection with their parents. The Council is working with Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC to provide free hire of carriers for new parents during the coronavirus crisis.

Councillor Clare Paul, Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing at Somerset County Council, said: "Everyone is spending much more time at home at present, this may mean that many new parents have more time together after their baby is born. Sling use can provide benefits to the whole family, supporting baby to be close during daily routines and while taking daily exercise."

Carry Me Kate Parenting Services CIC provides a universal sling library, breastfeeding peer support, a cloth nappy library, parenting and community support - these have all moved to virtual platforms for the time being. Every baby born in Somerset between April and September will be able to benefit from a carrier, hired cost-free, for a month.

A scheduled virtual video session will be scheduled with parents as it's vital that slings are worn correctly and safely. Further support can be provided on a one to one basis as well as the option to participate in group online sessions. Kate Mahoney, who runs the community interest company, said: "During this time we are really pleased to be working with Somerset County Council to be able to offer free hire and advice. Becoming a new parent can be challenging at the best of time, and during this pandemic we wish to offer parents as many tools as possible to enable them to make close and loving connections with their babies and to make their lives as easy as possible.

"Safe sling wearing is essential, and the scheme promotes safety and wellbeing. The TICKS checklist should be implemented every time your baby is in the sling full details can be found here: <http://babyslingsafety.co.uk/>

"Evidence shows that babies carried in a sling form a close bond with their parent or carer. It promotes the release of oxytocin, a hormone linked to feelings of love, wellbeing and connection with others."

After the initial cost-free month, continued sling hire is available and can be discussed with the sling consultants at Carry Me Kate. To get in touch contact Carry me Kate Parenting Service CIC Sling Library on Kate@carrymekate.co.uk

Families are encouraged to visit Somerset County Council's Public Health's website Healthy Happy and Safe at home pages which provide a wealth of practical information, advice and ideas to help you during these exceptional

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times. There is a special families and children section included.

The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline 0300 790 6275, staffed by the county and district councils' contact centres, is open from 8am-6pm seven days a week. It provides a single contact number for those wanting to access any local authority help they may need, including emotional support, in the current crisis.

New app keeps track of spare beds to aid Somerset's coronavirus response

An innovative new app built by Somerset County Council is helping free up vital hospital beds by keeping track of care providers with space to take in patients who are ready for discharge.

During the coronavirus pandemic there has been an increased need for hospital beds and the ability to ensure beds are freed up efficiently.

The idea for a new app, known as Discharge 2 Assess (D2A), was first put forward by Iona Brimson, System Performance Manager, Adults Social Care (ASC), who realised it would be beneficial if there was a quicker, simpler way to track capacity with providers that we work with. This would in turn increase the speed that we can free up the availability of much needed hospital beds.

Discussions took place between the council's ASC and ICT teams to identify what was needed and a capacity tracker using Microsoft Cloud technologies was built in just a few days.

Councillor David Huxtable, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member for ASC, said "I'm delighted to see that this innovative use of technology has replaced the manual process of having to telephone providers. This was a very time-consuming process and we can now efficiently increase bed capacity in hospitals".

The capacity tracker enables providers to show the D2A coordination team their capacity for up to 3 days along with the number of discharge slots they can take. Providers update the tracker daily and this information is used to understand how many discharges can be delivered by area, with a clear understanding of capacity throughout the day.

It is currently used by 5 providers with new providers being brought in as the service develops. Users say "This is a great way of sharing our daily available discharge slots and capacity. It is such a simple tool and only takes a couple of clicks".

Further developments will include the ability to track providers staff absence to help understand capacity escalations.

The Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline **0300 790 6275**, staffed by the county and district councils' contact centres, is open from 8am-6pm seven days a week. It provides a single contact number for those wanting to access any advice they may need, including emotional support, in the current crisis.

Somerset County Council's website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/> also has useful tips and guidance – as well as further information about how Council services are currently affected. The page also offers the chance for people to sign up via email to receive updates on Somerset's response

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to the Coronavirus outbreak.

New bereavement support service available in Somerset

Somerset County Council has commissioned two leading charities to provide bereavement support for people in Somerset in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Somerset Bereavement Support Service will be delivered in partnership by end-of-life charity Marie Curie and mental health charity Mind in Somerset.

Councillor Clare Paul, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Health and Wellbeing said: "During the coronavirus pandemic we are, together, facing loss of life, often under very difficult circumstances and I would like to personally offer my condolences to the families and friends in Somerset and beyond who have lost a loved one.

"This important new bereavement support service aims to reduce the distress and improve the long-term outlook of people bereaved during the coronavirus pandemic, enabling them to improve their resilience, functioning and wellbeing. The service is there to help people feel safe to explore their thoughts and feelings, understand grief and develop coping strategies. I hope it can provide the much-needed support and comfort that people need at such a difficult time."

In the first instance, for those over 18, telephone support calls will be provided by Marie Curie Companions, specially trained volunteers who can offer emotional support to bereaved people or support in some cases pre-bereavement. The service can also provide support to professionals in Somerset dealing with bereavement in their work setting.

Julia Bearne, Marie Curie Community Engagement and Development Manager, said: "When someone close to you dies it is, and has always been, terribly difficult. Sadly, we know that the recent restrictions enforced because of the coronavirus are making it even harder.

"This service is not only for those who have lost someone directly to coronavirus, but for anyone experiencing grief, whatever stage they may be at. We anticipate many callers will have lost someone during or just prior to the lock down period and are either grieving in isolation, were not able to see their loved one before they died or perhaps were not able to attend the funeral.

"Our Companions offer comfort, a friendly voice and a listening ear. Please don't be afraid to reach out for help, so often talking to someone can make a huge difference."

Where further support is needed, the Marie Curie Companion volunteers will carefully link people to specialist Mind in Somerset bereavement support workers who will deliver up to six bereavement counselling sessions. This service is available to adults and children over 12 years.

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Susan Hoyle, Bereavement Lead, Mind in Somerset, said: "We would like people to know, including professionals and young people, that we are here for you to help and support if you have experienced a loss during these very difficult times."

Louise Finnis, Public Health Specialist, Somerset County Council, said: "This is an exciting piece of partnership work which we are seeing so much of during the coronavirus pandemic. I am delighted such experienced charities will be able to support Somerset people at this difficult time."

If you or someone you know, is affected by grief or bereavement, and would like to talk to someone, please call the Somerset Bereavement Support Service on 0800 3047 412 (Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm).

THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

The Centre for Sustainable Energy with their partners the four Somerset district councils, Somerset Independence Plus and Citizens Advice South Somerset have successfully applied for funding and employed two new Fuel Poverty Advisers, Lucy Betts and Deb Geraghty.

Lucy Betts is working in West Somerset and Taunton Deane and Sedgemoor. Her Mobile is 07498575847. Email lucy.betts@cse.org.uk. Lucy will be based at the Somerset Independence Plus office in Wellington.

You can refer directly to Lucy or contact the CSE advice line which is open Monday to Friday 9-6pm 08000 822234 or email: home.energy@cse.org.uk

The project she works for is called The Somerset Safe and Warm Advice Service. She wants to support people to have a better quality of life and live in warmer and healthier homes through improved access to heating measures, good quality energy advice (including home visits) and the community working together to tackle cold homes.

She can:

- Identify how homes can be made more affordable to heat, and give advice on general energy efficiency. She can support people to reduce bills. She can assist with fuel or water debt
- Identify grants that are available to improve people's homes and helps people to apply for them.
- She can help people understand their meters and work out how to use their heating controls
- She can help with help benefits.
- Raise awareness of fuel poverty locally
- Deal with disputes with energy suppliers
- Refer for support from other agencies

Lucy currently provides telephone and online advice, support and casework whilst the Covid 19 social isolation measures are in place. She can also



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use virtual meeting tools such as Zoom. There is a small group of local CSE volunteers who can also provide support topping up meters if clients are self-isolating.

CSE have access to limited funds which can help people who have fuel emergencies such as running out of credit on their prepayment metres or requiring immediate support to pay a fuel bill. They can also refer people for oil filled radiators where there is a heating system break down.

FRIENDLY CALLS PROVIDE A LIFELINE TO ISOLATED OLDER PEOPLE

Age UK Somerset has adapted its services to meet the needs of local older people in these uncertain times. Aiming to reach those who are feeling particularly cut-off during self-isolation, the charity have set up a new service to alleviate the sense of loneliness experienced by many especially those shielding alone.

The Friendly Phone Calls service involves each client receiving a regular friendly phone call from a member of Age UK Somerset staff, to check in on them and help them to feel more connected. The regular calls lessen anxiety and offer clients an opportunity to talk about their concerns, allowing staff to signpost them to any other services which may be of further help to them.

This is a vital service for older people during the lockdown, many of whom do not speak to anyone else for days or even weeks. One lady who is receiving a weekly call said of the service: "It's excellent, a great help. It's one of the things that will help us get through this, knowing there's someone who cares enough to call you and see how you are getting on. It's nice having someone to talk to and complain to!"

As more older people register for the service, or are referred to the service through partner organisations, such as Mind with whom Age UK Somerset works as part of the Somerset Mental Health Alliance, so to meet demand the local charity has now increased the size of the friendly team so anyone over 60 in Somerset or North Somerset can hear a friendly voice on the end of the phone to cheer up their day if they request the free service. To register for these Friendly phone calls you call 01823 345610, email info@ageuksomerset.org.uk or visit the charity's dedicated new website www.ageuksomersetcoronavirus.org.uk



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 Jenny or Tony Gibson on 634899, email willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk or go to our website: www.willitonwindow.org.uk/welcome-pack

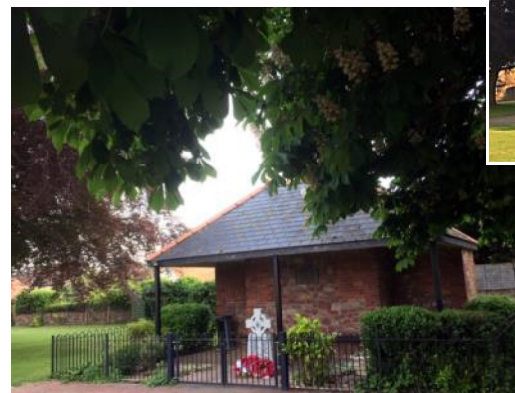
ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES

Having a good neighbour in times of need.



MORE LOCKDOWN PHOTOS FROM ROBIN VENNER

Robin has sent these photographs taken on the early morning of the VE Day anniversary on 8 May.



RECIPE FOR THE MONTH by Shirley Dee MARMALADE CURD TART

4oz short crust pastry
4 tablespoons marmalade (the type that has rind in it)
1 oz butter
1 whole egg and 1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon cornflour
Bake a pastry case blind. mix the marmalade and other ingredients together and put into the pastry case and bake for about 20 minutes at 338°F, gas 3, 170°C.



**Somerset
Sight**
Working with people
who lack sight, not vision



Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare?
Would you like to help someone in your local Community?
Then why not consider Volunteering for Somerset Sight?

We are a long established charity covering the whole of Somerset and have visually impaired service users all over the county just waiting to meet someone like you. Our Volunteer Visiting Service provides an invaluable lifeline to many lonely and isolated people who may otherwise not see anyone from one week's end to another and a friendly face once a week or once a fortnight can make an enormous difference to someone's life

If this is something you would like to do then please contact
Avril on 01823 336143 or email avril@somersetsight.org.uk

Company No: 8432686 : Charity No: 1154472

WORDSEARCH FOR JUNE by Phyllis Chidgey

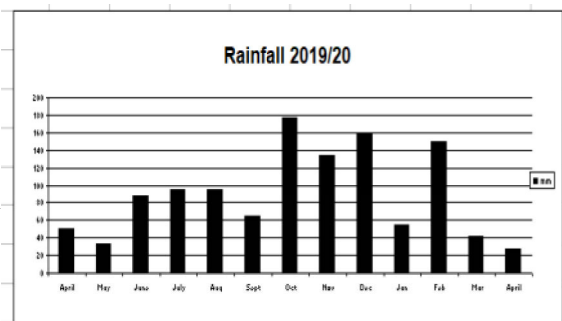
CRICKET LOVELY CRICKET

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MAY	CLOSE	WILLIS	COWDREY
LOCK	WAUGH	EDRICH	COMPTON
ROOT	HOBBS	LILLEE	UNDERWOOD
SNOW	LLOYD	SOBERS	D'OLIVEIRA
ROSE	MARKS	BORDER	FREDERICKS

WEATHER - APRIL

April set two more records: the sunniest and the driest month on record, with only a total rain of 27mm (1.06 inches). Temperatures were over 20°C on 9 days and up to 24°C on the 10th. The coolest nights with frosts were 0°C on the 1s and 7th. There were misty days on the 23rd and 25th. The maximum pressure was 30.4 inches and the minimum was 29.48. We saw the sun on 26 days, plus 2 days when we saw it for just 3 minutes! *Pj*



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It's never too late to learn a new skill.

from SD



Thank you to whoever leaves the lovely flowers at the doorway of St Peter's Church.

HEALTH in MOTION

Are you a Carer?
Stressed, Anxious, Low mood?

Struggling with life?
Need some personal time?
Come and just be yourself in a supportive environment.

Therapy sessions to enable exploration of both physical and emotional well-being.

Enjoy using your own unique personal movement and group interaction with music and other creative resources.

Open to all
Thursday 10.30 - 12noon
Williton Pavilion

Questions and more information
call Mandy MA RDMP PP

01984 633059
07980 696919

Become a Volunteer

At Home-Start West Somerset

Offer support and friendship to a family in your community.

Our committed and caring volunteers offer friendship and informal support to parents with children under the age of seven living in West Somerset.

They visit families at home for 2 - 3 hours each week, and are friendly, approachable people who are relied on and trusted by parents to listen, value and respect the needs of each family.



Do something amazing...

For further details contact us on 01643 707304 or email admin@homestart-westsomerset.org.uk

HOME TUITION

CHEMISTRY BIOLOGY PHYSICS

MATHS

PRIMARY/GCSE/A LEVEL/UNI

OXFORD GRADUATE TUTOR

28 YEARS - DBS CHECKED

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The Dog Behaviourist

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Does your dog bark at others on walks?

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FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



HELPING HANDS DOMESTIC CLEANER

*'I'd rather get down on my hands
and knees for a deep clean than
dust a pristine property'*

All cleaning jobs considered

No job
too messy

No job
too dirty

Weekly or fortnightly home
cleaning • One-off full house
cleans • End of tenancy deep
clean • Washing • Bed changing
• Interior window cleaning •
Ironing service (collect and
deliver)

References available

Ring Sarah 01984 656400



The White House
WILLITON

The White House Hotel & Restaurant

The White House Restaurant is now open to Non-Residents

Evening meals available 6pm-8.30pm Tuesday-Saturday
We also provide for functions, events, meetings, buffets,
private dining, wakes and much much more...

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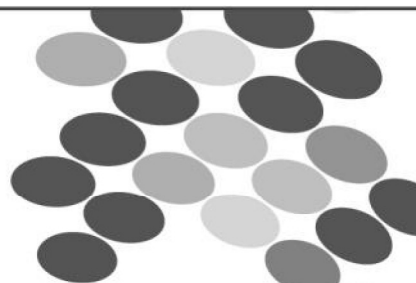
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