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WILLITON WINDOW

April 2024



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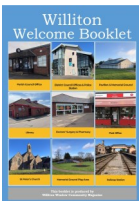
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Have you recently moved to Williton? If so, you may like a free Welcome Booklet, which gives a street map of Williton and Doniford, contact details of services, local clubs and organisations, and other useful information. Please ring Derek Smith on:

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Copies are also available to collect from the Parish Council Office in Killick Way, Monday to Friday 10.00am to 12.30pm, subject to demand.

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Cover Picture: Sunset over Exmoor (July 2022)

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Council Tax 2024/25

By now you will have received your council tax bill for this coming year from Somerset Council and will have seen that the amount that Williton Parish Council is asking you to pay has risen by 41.5%. In percentage terms that is a considerable rise but in monetary terms that equates to a rise this year for a Band D property from £118.44 to £167.58 and for a Band B property from £92.12 to £130.34, that is the equivalent of 95p and 74p a week respectively, far less than the cost of a first-class stamp. The Parish Council is fully aware of the current financial pressures everyone is facing at the moment, so the decision for this increase was not taken lightly.

The Parish Council has done all that it can to keep its expenditure as low as possible and, despite inflation increasing at more than 10% when the budget was being set, a figure of £166,281 was agreed. This is an increase of £3,850 (2.3%) on 2023/24, and we have asked for a Council Tax Precept of £163,000. Whilst we were setting the budget, and the amount we would request as Precept, the income we receive was not taken into account. When we look at our budget later this year for 2025/6 this income will be taken into account and will help to offset any potential increase in Council Tax next year.

Although this is a modest increase in the budget, the reason for the large percentage increase is primarily due to the Parish Council's desire to keep the Parish Council's proportion of the Council Tax as low as possible during the economic crisis. Our budget for this financial year (2023/24) was set at £162,431 and the precept was for £112,000, with the balance being taken from reserves. A similar approach was adopted in the previous year. This policy of using reserves is not sustainable and the difficult decision to ask for a precept that almost fully covers the budget had to be taken.

To give you a brief outline of how the Parish Council spends our share of your Council Tax: we provide and maintain the public toilets in Killick Way, undertake the grass cutting on the Memorial Ground, Bellamy's Corner and some of the verges around the village and keep the roadsides weed-free. We support the young of the village with the children's playground and through the

Cont'd Page 7



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Come and find out about the variety of plants and animals in the Watchet area and what we can do to help and protect them.

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Adults £5.00 Children under 16 free and must be supervised by a paying adult. (Up to 4 children per adult). - booking essential

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Saturday 27th April

The Phoenix Centre

Watchet Esplanade

Sessions include:

Preparing a lunch with locally sourced produce

Coastal Wildlife and Geodiversity

Watchet Biodiversity walk

An environmental Art Project

Plus, stalls and exhibits



For further information please contact

Jan Ayers, Community Coordinator - Watchet Coastal Community team

Telephone - 07775 328625 email communityofficer@watchetct.co.uk

Youth Club, working with Foxes Academy to provide residents with meals. We also support Citizens Advice West Somerset and the Talking Café to help our residents. This is by no means all, but I hope it gives some insight.

As you will be aware, Somerset Council is in a dire financial situation and is talking about devolving assets and services to Town and Parish Councils. At present Williton Parish Council has not agreed to take anything on but, as Somerset Council develop their plans, we may have to take on some to keep our village looking clean and tidy, although we have not set any part of our budget aside to do so.

If you would like to have some input into where your money is spent, there is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council so please consider becoming a councillor and join us in the decision-making process.

Cllr. Peter Payne

Chairman, Finance and Administration Committee, Williton Parish Council

Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground

(Regd Charity # 212112)

It's fantastic to report that the Charity Race Night was a not only a huge success financially but also a fun night, and that it will contribute significantly to repairing the Pavilion projector. With an impressive £584.78 raised, we are one step closer to resuming the Film Nights.

Thank you to everyone involved for their support and participation in making this event a triumph!

Cllr. Dawn-Lesley Howes

PAVILION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday 31st March 2-3pm - *FREE*

Crafty Stash Sale – Sunday 31st March 2-4pm - *FREE to buyers*

Williton Village Gardens – Sunday 2nd June - *£3 per ticket includes free drink at Pavilion – available from May 4*

D-Day – Lighting the Beacon - Thursday 6th June - *FREE*

Williton Village Garage Sale – Sunday 21st July

Williton Village Fete – Saturday 31st August – *50p entry*

RACE NIGHT

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Services in April
St Peter's Church Williton
UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON
 Website: www.watchetandwillitonbenefice.com/
 For details of other local churches see page 40

APRIL 2024

Sunday 7th	10am	Café Church
Sunday 14th	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday 21st	9.15am	Local Scouting and Guiding groups will parade to church to join in an All Age service celebrating St George's Day. Followed by refreshments.
Sunday 28th	9.15am	Parish Communion

The church is usually open every day during daylight hours

St Peter's Church Contact Details

Vicar	Rev Mark Phillips	01984 639669
Churchwardens	Mr George Fenech Mrs Sue Withycombe	01984 633577 01984 632596
Ordinand	Mrs Julie Pelling	07973 961083
Reader	Mrs Donna Marsden Mrs	01984 633707
Reader	Clare Phillips	01984 639669
PCC Secretary	Mrs Elizabeth Payne	01984 633084



CAMEO

(Come and meet each other)



Thursdays at St Peter's Church 10am - 12pm

Everyone welcome to drop in for coffee, cake and chat. Please speak to Sue or George Churchwardens if you have any questions, details above.

This is not a religious event. It is just an opportunity to meet others in our community and enjoy time together.



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St Peter's School News



Spring is finally here, and today our reception children enjoyed a visit to St Peter's Church to learn all about the stories and traditions of Easter. Reverend Mark taught us about the Easter story and explained the importance of the Cross to Christians at Easter. Central to the Christian understanding of Easter is that Jesus rose from the dead: from death came new life. As a symbol of new life and new beginnings, the boys and girls decorated an egg - a tradition at Easter time. These eggs are now on display at the church and will be there throughout Easter for everyone in the community to see.

Year 1 have had a great time celebrating World Book Day and Science Week this half-term. For World Book Day we dressed up as a word and thought of lots of lovely new words to explore, including 'rural', 'sleepy', 'professional' and 'magical'! We then designed our own bookmarks and created new front covers for our favourite stories.

For Science week we learnt all about dinosaurs, as part of the British Science Week 'Time' topic title. We learnt about Mary Anning, created our own dinosaur eggs and dinosaur silhouettes and we made our own volcano explode!

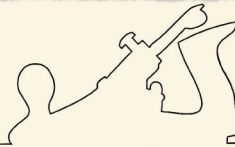
What a fun filled few weeks we have had in **Year 2!** Our highlight, of course, has been World Book Day. We love reading here at St Peter's, so to be able to dedicate a whole day to our love of reading was special. The children wore some fantastic outfits and shared their favourite characters with their friends. We also loved being able to wear something comfy, and we spent most of the day listening to stories and delving into the worlds inside our books, snuggled up with blankets, cushions and friends.

In **Year 3** this half-term we have been learning all about our teeth, thinking about how important they are and how to protect them. We have also recently started our topic on Ancient Greece, learning all about their greatest achievements. This half term we have also begun swimming lessons, giving everyone more confidence in the water which is fantastic!

This half-term, **Year 4** have been learning how to be journalists and have written their own newspaper reports making reference to our class text. We have also enjoyed exploring 'Time' as this year's British Science Week theme. We have investigated tooth decay, the weather over the past year, made air-controlled cars and our own neurons. We now look forward to our activity-packed couple of days at Kilve Court on our two-night residential.

As we wind down to the end of the Spring term, everyone at St Peter's First School would like to wish you all a lovely Easter.

Louise Leworthy



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WILLITON WITH WATCHET WI

At our February meeting we welcomed Lorraine Rye, who gave us some useful information about AgeUK and took us through some relaxing Tai Chi exercises, enjoyed by all.

On the evening of Tuesday, 12 March, we held a Group Social in the Pavilion when we were entertained by the Watchet Community Choir. It was a lovely evening, with visitors from Bicknoller, Alcombe, St Audries and Dunster. A buffet supper was provided by the WI.

Our March speaker, Dawn Lawrence, told us about the Born Free Foundation and the steps being taken to save the various animals which are becoming endangered species. Then, on Thursday 18th April, we look forward to a visit from Phil Gannon with a talk about the Mineral Line. Visitors welcome, as always: 2pm in the Pavilion.

With very best wishes for a very Happy Easter,

Irene Draper

Williton with Watchet W.I.

Buried ore in the Brendon Hills

A 19th-century iron rush! Under the fields and forests are the remains of over 80 mine shafts. Extracting the iron ore and shipping it to South Wales required amazing feats of engineering, including the building of a railway from Gupworthy to Watchet.

The West Somerset Mineral Line Association leads walks to help you explore the mine sites and the remains of the Mineral Line. Visit the website:

www.westsomersetmineralrailway.org.uk or
www.wsmr.org.uk

Tues, 2 April, Ruins in the Woods.

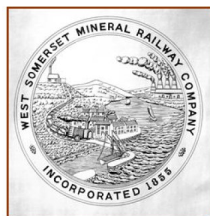
**Meet 9.45am at Chargot Wood Car Park
Grid ref SS975355**

A 1 hour stroll to look at Langham enginehouse, then a two hour walk down the steep miners' track to see Bearland Flue and other features connected with iron mining. We may visit Burrow Farm enginehouse or Kennisham Hill.

WEST SOMERSET MINERAL LINE ASSOCIATION

Look out for each monthly walk to be advertised in your Williton Window.

Future walks will appear in our diary: P19



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Report from Williton Response Group – Flooding

On 27th February a well-attended meeting was held at the Pavilion which gave professional and volunteer organisations the opportunity to tell the public what their roles are. It was made clear that there are no funds for major flood prevention work. The emergency services act when there is a serious threat to life. Flooding is always a possibility and preparing for it and clearing up is largely down to households and businesses, not the authorities.

At that meeting there was an opportunity to join the Williton Response Group. On 14th March The Williton Response Group held a meeting to which eleven people came and three more gave their apologies. In 2014 Robert McDonald drew up a flood plan which has not been continuously operational due to a lack of volunteers. Five people have now kindly offered to be flood wardens: a good start towards the eight needed. Before trying to organise ourselves further, it was decided to invite the Dulverton Flood Group to our next meeting as their experiences of flash flooding will be used to refine our Flood Plan. Communication is also key and that too will be considered in the light of Dulverton's experience.

It was emphasised that a flood warden is not about being a hero rescuing someone trapped by rising water: that is for the emergency services. Typically a flood warden could check road gullies, help draw up a list of vulnerable people who would need evacuating before a flood, distribute leaflets on how residents can be ready, check that people are able to cope with cleaning up, that they have food and can cook it, and raise the alarm if someone is missing.

As a minimum, we need three more flood wardens and there are also other roles that need to be covered. Communications need to be maintained and people evacuated to safety ahead of any possible risk of flooding and registered as in a safe place. Could you fulfil any of these positions or help in some other way? If so **please come to the Group meeting on 17th April at 7pm in the Pavilion Quantock Room** or leave your details with the Parish Office (see Parish Council report) if you can attend. It will be worth hearing what the Dulverton group can tell us and we hope to at least sign up three more Flood Wardens to get us up to the minimum of the eight that are required.

Please come to the meeting if you want to help our community cope with the inevitable.

Cllr. Aldridge



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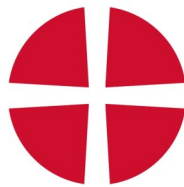
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Methodist Prayer for April



“Hello Williton” from the Methodist group.

We are holding in our prayers everyone in the village, especially those who are troubled for any reason at this time, and hope that you are all enjoying the odd day of sunshine. Spring is on the way and we can all enjoy the flowers that are braving the rain and cold winds, but it won't be long before we are all warm in the sunshine for longer.



Although we cannot meet in Williton on Sundays now, you are all invited to join us at Watchet Methodist Church at 10.30am every Sunday. I can guarantee a very warm welcome.

Here is a **prayer from Mollie**, a Meditation on Psalm 121, and a link to a hymn you may like to listen to or join in with.

Jane Sefton

Almighty God,
I look up to the hills created by You.
Those hills that will inspire strength in me.
God made both the heavens and the earth.
He will surely be my help in troubled times.
God who never sleeps will watch over me day and night,
He watched over His chosen people in days of old
He will never let me down.
He will shelter me with His right hand.
Shaded by Him I will be safe always.
He will keep me from harm all the days of my life.
He will protect me from all evil for the whole of my life
and through all eternity. Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4fh2SqBJYk> Our help is from the Lord
H&P 498

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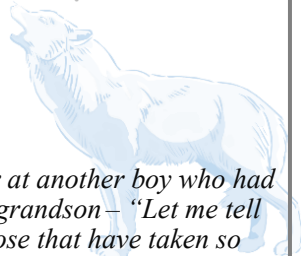
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Faith Reflection

THE TWO WOLVES

A CHEROKEE STORY



A young boy came to his Grandfather, filled with anger at another boy who had done him an injustice. The old Grandfather said to his grandson – “Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and hate is like taking poison. I have struggled with these feelings many times. It is as if there are two wolves inside me:

One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This wolf is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offence when no offence was intended.

Sometimes it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me. It is a terrible fight between two wolves. The same fight is going on inside you and inside every other person, too.”

*The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eyes and asked, ‘Which wolf will win, Grandfather?’ The Grandfather smiled and said, “**The one you feed.**”*

The question we need to ask ourselves is how do we nurture and grow all those qualities of the good wolf and endeavour to refuse to embrace all the evil qualities of the other wolf, qualities that we know can exist within us because we are human and have been given free will?

The first thing we need to realise is that, as human beings, we flourish better living in a community having supportive relationships with others. Furthermore, the best way to nurture and grow all those qualities of goodness is to be also in a deep supportive relationship with God. We need to remember that with the help of God and the Christian community we can succeed in anything. Sometimes when we face adversity or problems it can be easy to feed the evil wolf, but with the help of our community and remembering the Love of God, we can subdue the evil and turn to the good.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1. John 4:16

With every Blessing

Revd Mark

Regular Weekly Meetings / Groups & Events in Williton

<u>Weekday</u>	<u>Event & Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Telephone No</u>
Everyday	1pm -11pm	Williton Social Club	01984 248671
Mon	Pilates 9am - 10am	Pavilion	07342 238723
	Short Mat Bowls 2pm - 4pm	Pavilion	01984 633084
	Beavers 5pm - 6.30pm	Guide Brownies HQ	07806 968961
	Zumba 6pm - 7pm	Pavilion	07738 676832
	Scouts 7pm - 9pm	Guide Brownies HQ	07806 968961
Tues	Foxes Community-Lunch 12pm to 1pm	Pavilion (Term Time Only)	01984 633979
	Talking Café 1pm - 3pm	Pavilion (Brendon Room)	07931 018045
	Chatty Crafters 2pm - 4pm <i>(Except first Tues of the month)</i>	Danesborough Common Room	01984 634686
	Brownies 5.45pm - 7.15pm	Guide & Brownie HQ	07765 842747
Weds	Over 60s Exercise 10am -11am.	Pavilion	07421 762532
	Foxes Soup Club 12.30pm - 1.30pm	Pavilion (Term Time Only)	01984 633979
	Cubs 6.30pm - 8.00pm	Guide & Brownie HQ	07398 717048
	Ballroom Dance Lessons 8pm - 9pm	Pavilion	07535 601217
Thurs	Cameo Coffee Group 10am - 12pm	St Peters Church	01984 639600
	Foxes Teas 2pm to 3.30pm	Pavilion (Term Time Only)	01984 633979
	Rainbows 5.30pm - 6.30pm	Guide & Brownie HQ	07484 601929
Fri	Zumba 9.30am - 10.30am	Pavilion	07738 676832
	Friday Walks 12pm	Meet opposite Library	01984 632459
	Squirrels 5pm - 6pm	Guide & Brownie HQ	07806 968961
	Guides 7.15pm - 9pm	Market St, Watchet	07584 037156

Please note some groups or events only operate during school term time

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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH IN WILLITON & SURROUNDS

Monthly Meetings / Groups & Events for April 2024

Tues	2nd	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm start, Pavilion
Tues	2nd	Mineral Line Walk	See page 11 for details
Tues	2nd	Good Neighbours Group	2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
Thurs	4th	Wasps (AGM)	1.30pm (AGM after exercises) Sampford Brett Village Hall
Weds	3rd	Family History Session	PM. Book with library - One to One Sessions
Tues	16th	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion
Wed	17th	Flood Response Group	7.00pm Pavilion, Quantock Room
Thurs	18th	WI	2.00pm Pavilion
Mon	22nd	Garden Club	7.30pm Parish Council Offices
Wed	24th	Family History Group	7.15pm - 9.15pm Pavilion, Brendon Room
Tues	30th	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion

If you have a regular monthly event and would like it added to the monthly diary page please send to the editor:
 email: williton@willitonwindow.co.uk or Telephone: 07712 825043



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Danesfield's Shrek the Musical



A Review by Tamzin, Year Eight pupil

The show took place over three consecutive nights: 5, 6 and 7 March.

Many students contributed to make the show a huge success, whether part of the extensive cast of performers, helping backstage, or assisting with costume, make-up and hair.

Deep thanks to Mr Pearce, who was our Co-Director, Producer and Choreographer, and Miss Attwood, who was the show's Musical Director and also a Co-Director. They brought to life the fun and upbeat nature of Shrek the Musical and that really helped to make the show enjoyable for everyone watching and performing. We couldn't have done the show without the leads, who were: David as Shrek, Tilly as Princess Fiona and Hudson as Donkey.

My favourite part of the show was when we were all on the stage doing the Finale, bows and singing "I'm A Believer".

Tamzin



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Down at the Station

Yet another month has passed. Spring has sprung (very wet at times) not allowing us to carry out maintenance work during the closed season. We are now beginning to catch up with the outstanding work ready for the beginning of the new season. Our services have now started, please check times etc on the WSR website. Timetables will be available from the station from 23rd March.

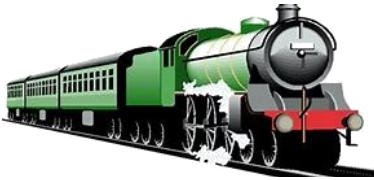
The station did not escape the bad weather, with both the mess room and the signal box suffering from flooding. A lot of the track by the level crossing was under water. Hopefully the better weather is on it's way!

You are always welcome to come and have a cup of tea/coffee/snack - ice cream! (when the climate dictates) and a chat.

Look forward to seeing you.

Phil Chapman and Peter Payne

Assistant Station Masters



Williton Garden Club

Although many of us are now busy in our garden during daylight hours, once a month we like nothing better than to meet our gardening friends and listen to someone knowledgeable talk to us about (probably) gardening!

At the end of March we welcomed James Cross who talked about the Bishop's Palace Garden in Wells. James has been in charge of the gardens for almost as long as Williton Gardening Club has been in existence and has been responsible for the Bishop's Garden now becoming a national attraction.

Our next meeting on April 22nd is our AGM and is a chance to either renew the annual membership (which has been held at £15) or maybe join us for the first time. For the coming year we have a full programme of eight talks by guest speakers, a club outing to a beautiful local garden plus the regular club barbecue in a member's garden, and a Christmas social. Following the AGM there will be tea/coffee and biscuits and an informal Gardener's Question Time. If you've got any plants that need identification or advice on any aspect of gardening in this beautiful corner of the South West, you are welcome to bring your questions and plants along.

Finally, a reminder that the Gardening Club plant sale will be at the Parish Rooms on Saturday 15th June from 10 – 12 noon.



Barb Cook, Vice Chairman

HEDGEROWS: *Rules & Regulations*

Now that former EU farming subsidies have been phased out, there is concern that protections for hedgerows have gone with them. The situation is not quite that simple!

Hedgerows support biodiversity and are home to 80% of our woodland birds and over 2,000 other species, some of which are protected. They also protect against flooding and soil erosion.

In the post-war decades, England lost half of its hedgerows and of those that were left, 60% were in poor condition. Concern mounted and finally, in 1997, protection of hedgerows was written into law. This is still in force.

The **1997 Hedgerow Regulations** define hedgerows broadly (even quite “thin” examples are included) and apply to any hedge over 20m long bordering agricultural, forestry, common, or equestrian land. They do not apply to hedges around residential property.

A landowner wanting to remove all or part of a hedge must apply for permission to the Local Authority. Removal without the required permission is a criminal offence and offenders can be fined and/or required to replace the destroyed hedgerow.

Under the old cross compliance rules, subsidies to landowners could be reduced for bad hedgerow management but in practice such sanctions were seldom applied and hedgerows suffered from over-aggressive, ill-timed flailing and too-close ploughing. It is now the government’s intention to support hedgerow maintenance and planting by financial incentives. Unfortunately, the amounts on offer are not large compared to the subsidies resulting from some crops so time will tell whether this is effective.

The Hedgerow Regulations stemmed the post-war hedgerow destruction and now the tide appears to be turning as we try to meet a target of 40% more hedgerows by 2050. But perhaps this has diverted attention from adequate protection for existing hedgerows which have been benefitting wildlife and building biomass for hundreds of years. Friends of The Quantocks is gathering information about the state of hedgerows, so if you see a hedgerow being damaged or removed, please don’t just assume that this is “normal”.

Take photos and let us know.



Friends of the
QUANTOCKS

Contact info@friendsofquantock.com or write to **Friends of the Quantocks,
Church House, Crowcombe, Somerset TA4 4AA**

WORDSEARCH FOR APRIL IRISH COUNTIES

by *Phyllis Chidgey*



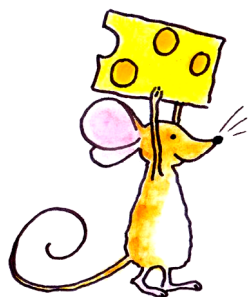
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Williton and Surrounds Parkinson's Support (WASPS)



Several committee members manned the WASP'S table at the 'What's on in Williton' event, which was held recently at the Pavilion. It was interesting to see how many clubs and activities happen in Williton, although the turnout from the public was slightly disappointing. Cakes and tea were very enjoyable.

Our March meeting was held at Sampford Brett Village Hall on 7th March. Unfortunately, due to sickness, several members were absent. This included Cathie from Age UK, who normally leads the exercises! Impromptu exercises were done instead.

It was lovely to see Linda back, with her new hip.

Joe was the speaker about Classic Cars but, as he said, one person's Classic Car is not someone else's.

Joe gave us a fascinating talk about his love of 2CV cars, and the many places he has been with them. They were apparently designed to meet the needs of two Frenchmen in tall hats with baskets of eggs, driving over the cobbled French roads. The suspension is quite unique, and apparently the rear seats can be removed easily, allowing space for camping gear.

Joe has attended many rallies and meetings for 2CV owners in many countries, and had a fascinating display of memorabilia to show us.

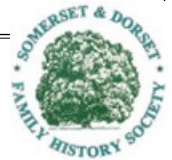
Next Meeting: Thursday 4 April 2024 (AGM)

Exercises from 1.30pm, followed by the AGM, followed by refreshments

Those with Parkinson's, their family and friends will be warmly welcomed.

Further details: queenwasp2013@gmail.com

West Somerset Family History Group



Hello Folks. We are looking forward to welcoming our speaker, Andrew Janes, to our April meeting. Andrew's talk is entitled 'More jottings from a family historian's notebook – Bastardy, Bigamy, Incest and Murder'. It promises to be an interesting evening, so do come along. We meet in the Brendon Room at Williton Pavilion on Wednesday 24th April, 7.15 pm to 9.15pm. The cost will be £3.00 for non-members of the Somerset and Dorset Family Society, and £1.50 for members. This includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you.

If you are new to family history and want to learn how to use Ancestry, you can do this in Williton Library. Lesley Murray offers a one-to-one help service, free for one hour. Lesley is a volunteer and gives her time for free. To take advantage of this please contact the library to book a slot with Lesley. *Jane*

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WATCHET HEDGEHOGS

Hello folks. I hope by now you will be seeing 'your' hedgehogs returning to your gardens. I know that a lot of you are looking forward to seeing your little nocturnal visitors again. This month, I thought I would throw the spotlight on one of our keen members, Lesley Murray. Lesley and her husband Paul have been keeping an eye out for hedgehogs for several years, they have even named the hedgehog boxes in their garden!

Lesley says:

"There is quite an active 'array' (name for a group of hedgehogs) in Williton. My garden houses the Hog estate, which some of you may have seen in videos on the Watchet Hedgehog Facebook page, which has 2 'detached' hedgehog houses (Cyclamen and Fern) and 1 'semi-detached' hedgehog house (Corkscrew and Azalea).

We have seen, and videoed, hedgehogs in our garden for about 5 years now. This winter we had no hibernating hedgehogs and it was very quiet on the Hog estate until Valentines Day. Since then, we have been having hogs regularly visiting each night and some days we have 'guests' staying.

We leave out dishes of water each night around the garden which not only hedgehogs use but other wildlife too. We feed our hedgehogs in a 'feeding station' which over the years has been wooden or plastic boxes, a few years ago we also used an old lawnmower grass box! We now have a dog cage with short pipes around the sides, this is to deter the cats, some of which are very agile.

We put out dried hedgehog or cat food, some of which we get from the pet shop on the Roughmoor Estate in Williton. We also get hedgehog food from the internet although we are now having to search as the sites seem to be selling out of our hedgehogs' favourite foods.

The hogs come into our garden via the gate, which we raised a little so that they can get under. One year there were 8 hogs crowded round 1 dish of food, now we have up to 3 dishes filled with food to try to stop squabbles."

If you have a story about hedgehogs you would like to share, please contact me, details below.

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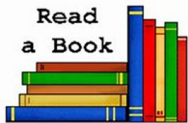
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APRIL OPENING DATES

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Sun 21st Tues 23rd



Williton Public Library

Open Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10am -1pm & 2pm-5pm
Saturday 10am - 1pm. (Closed Tuesdays).



Research your Family Tree We have family history sessions on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month (booking essential). Our experienced volunteer can assist you if you are just starting or stuck on your journey of discovery about your family tree



Book Club

Our resident Book Club meets on the first Thursday afternoon of the month in the library.



Technology & Computer Support

Computer support sessions happen on Thursday afternoons for 1:1 support with any device. Absolute beginners are welcome (booking essential). Our Volunteer will assist with various digital devices.



Lego

On the first Saturday morning of each month the Lego boxes are available from 10am -12.30pm. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult. Come and see what you can build.



Story Sessions

On Thursday afternoons during term time, we are running a story session for our younger readers between 2.30 and 3pm (before school pick ups of older siblings). Please pop in and join in.



Home Library Service

If you are unable to visit the library because of mobility or health issues our home library volunteers will happily deliver books to your home. For details email us at: willib@somerset.gov.uk or just pop in.



Groups

We are more than happy for groups to use our space to meet. Any groups such as games clubs, sewing, knitting, Dad's groups are all most welcome. Please get in touch.

Easter events for children aged 4-10 years are on **Wednesday 3rd April 2.30-3.30pm** and **Monday 8th April 2.30-3.30pm**. Booking is essential for these events:
willib@somerset.gov.uk

It's free to join the library - all you need is some form of ID such as a driving licence, utility bill, passport or bus pass. You can then view online resources such as our magazine/newspapers app or read books on our Borrow Box app. for free, or use the computers, borrow equipment such as thermal cameras, iPads and blood pressure monitors. You can borrow 20 books at a time for a three-week loan period and request books from other libraries to pick up at Williton (£1.20 charge on collection) Children do not currently pay overdue fines or request-fees.

**Please watch our Facebook page for events happening in the library:
Somerset libraries Williton**

**For any information about the library please call in or email
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Looking Ahead with Williton Parish Council



Upcoming events, Speed Indicator Progress, Road Safety Campaign

Spring is on its way. How I love this time of year. Although we have had a lot of wet and sometimes cold days, overall it has been a mild winter. As I write this, the sun is shining and the ground is starting to dry out. Now we can start tidying up the garden and plan our planting for the summer.

This year's **Open Garden Day** will be on 2nd June '24, There will be a Craft Fair and cream teas in the Pavilion, plus refreshments at most of the Open Gardens. For details, contact the Parish Office or see the website. This is our event - so please support it and help to raise some money for charity.

The **Parish Assembly** will be held at the Pavilion on 23rd April at 7 pm. this year. Details will be on our website soon: guest speaker to be announced. This is an important meeting for the village and a good opportunity to meet and speak to your Parish Councillors, for you to have your say and to discuss village matters. It's your village and we need to hear your views and suggestions, so please do come along. We will all look forward to seeing you.

On that note, we need some **new Parish Councillors**. If you have ever considered standing, now is the time to join us and be co-opted onto the council. We have regular meetings and cover all aspects of the village and Memorial Ground as the trustee. It is a very challenging but rewarding role - so come on: join us, be part of the Council and make a difference. Talk to us at the Parish Assembly or contact the Parish Office for details.

You may have noticed that our **Speed Indicator Device (SID)**, is now up and running on the A39 (Priest St.) approaching Williton from Minehead. We have identified several problem sites around the village and the SID will be moved around these sites periodically to remind drivers that the speed limit in Williton is 30mph. Not 40-50mph. The device records and monitors the speed of each passing vehicle and performs a traffic count in both directions. This will give us, for the first time, traffic flow information through the village.

Our very own Speed Watch Team are back in action. So watch out for them and give them a wave as you pass. . . I said *wave!*

Continuing on the subject of road safety, Somerset Council have launched a new Safety initiative for the county called 'The Fatal Five' to fight the increase in

cont'd p37

Withycombe Memorial Hall

Withycombe Memorial Hall is an ideal venue for parties, wedding receptions, exercise classes and much more.

The hall has a well equipped kitchen, good disabled access and facilities and use of the village car park.



Visit our website to see what is on offer: www.withycombememorialhall.co.uk

To book the hall, contact Valerie Barnham:

T: 01984 641233 E: barnham1@icloud.com

Forthcoming Events

Bluebell Walk and Cream Teas – Sunday 14th April 2.00 – 5.00pm

Spring Bingo Night – Saturday 20th April – doors open 6.30pm, first game 7.15pm

For more information see our website: www.withycombememorialhall.co.uk

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Cont'd from p.35

fatal accidents across our county. I would have liked to go into a lot of detail about this very important campaign but, unfortunately, space prevents me. However, here are a few sobering facts from the Council's website:

- *2023 saw 30 people die on Somerset's roads in 2023, almost 43% up on 2022*
- *Highest number of fatalities in 10 years*
- *No easy-to-see reason for the increase, but*
- *76% of the fatal collisions involved **one of 5 Fatal Behaviours** (see bottom of the page). This is what gave the campaign its title.*
- *Almost half of fatal collisions were caused by vehicles crossing into the path of another one.*
- *Of the 30 fatalities, 11 were car drivers, 12 were motorcyclists, 4 were car passengers and 3 were pedestrians.*
- *Fourteen of last year's fatalities happened on the county's 'A' roads, five were on trunk roads, five were on B roads and six were on unclassified roads.*
- *Figures for 2023 are the highest since 2014, when 33 deaths occurred.*

For full details, see Somerset Council's website:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/road-safety-team-launches-campaign-following-disturbing-rise-in-road-deaths/>

I applaud the initiative to slow down vehicles on our roads and take responsibility as a driver towards pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. Remember: the speed limit on a road is the limit and not a target speed. It would be good to follow this campaign up in our village with our own initiatives.

Take care and be safe.

Cllr. Michael White

Somerset Council's Road Safety Team launches new campaign following 'disturbing' rise in road deaths

What are the Fatal 5?

- Speeding
- Not wearing a seatbelt
- Distracted driving e.g. using a mobile phone
- Drink or drug driving
- Careless driving

 Somerset Road Safety

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

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April 2024

Tues 2nd. 7.30pm THE ZONE OF INTEREST (Cert 12A)

Based on the novel by Martin Amis, British director Jonathan Glazer's multiple award-winning drama about the family life of Auschwitz's commandant is an unforgettable masterpiece.

Thurs.11th - Sat 13th: 7.30pm

DR WATSON AND THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF THE PHANTOM OF THE MUSIC HALL

Waterfront Production, by Fred Owen.

Can Doctor Watson and his sidekick Jack Hudson solve the mystery? – Well, they've done it before.

Sun 14th: 2:00pm MACMILLAN CELEBRATED

The Royal Ballet **ENCORE LIVE BROADCAST** from The Royal Opera House. The Royal Ballet celebrates the breadth of Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan's one-act ballets.

Tues. 16th: 7:30pm JOHN SINGER SARGENT

Exhibition on Screen.

Directed by David Bickerstaff.

Filmed at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Tate Britain, London.

Fri. 19th: 7.30pm REGAL COMEDY NIGHT

Join us for a night of fun, laughter and something a little bit different for The Regal Theatre... join us for Comedy Night! The evening will feature a professional line up from the cream of the UK Comedy Circuit.

Fri. 26th: 7.30pm THE UPBEAT BEATLES

'The Upbeat Beatles' have more than earned their reputation as the finest tribute to the music of the Beatles. This is a two-hour spectacular show not to be missed, for Beatles fans new and old!

Sat. 27th: 11.00am AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

Considered one of the most romantic films of all time, starring Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr who have a romance on a cruise from Europe to New York.

All proceeds to go to the Regal Theatre support fund.

Sun. 28th: 2.00pm THE BUBBLE SHOW

The Highland Joker presents The Bubble Show.

Suitable for ages 3-12+

Tickets for all events may be booked in advance:

- online at <https://regaltheatre.co.uk/whatson>
- at the Box Office (Tel 01643 706430) 9.30am - 12.00pm Monday - Saturday
- by telephone only from 1.30pm to 4pm Monday - Saturday



somerset village & community agents
part of CCS

Supporting Somerset's communities with the impact of Fuel Poverty has been a top priority for The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) this winter.

Our Village and Community

Agents hosted 25 energy saving focused events across the County as part of National Energy Saving Week in January, helping many people to keep warm in many different and innovative ways. Help was given by willing volunteers in the way of donations of time and warmth-giving items.

Don't forget, we are always here to support people with staying warm and well. If you are struggling, please pop along to your local Talking Cafe and have a chat with one of our Village Agents. Your nearest Talking Café is: Williton Pavilion 1pm-3pm every Tuesday.

Citizens Advice is with us every other week.

PSCO Zack is with us 2nd April (Home Safety) and 30 April (Fraud)

Our **Knit for Your Neighbour** campaign has been hugely successful with well over 250 hand-knitted, crocheted, sewn and donated blankets donated. Thank you to everyone who continues to put so much time and creativity into producing these blankets for our campaign.

A big thank you to our partners from the Centre for Sustainable Energy, National Energy Action, Burnham and Weston Energy, Morrisons and ASDA, who kindly donated items and attended events.

Your local Village Agent is **Izzy Silvester 07931 018045**

Email: izzy@somersetcc.org

For more free energy advice and information go to: www.ccslovesomerset.org

A service provided by:



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JANUARY WEATHER DATA

The middle weeks had several day temperatures of 14⁰ C, even 15⁰ C on January the 21st.

There were frosts on the nights of 8th to 20th with -4⁰ C on the 16th.

The total rain was 62.5 mm. You would expect more but many days it was light rain or drizzle.

Maximum temperature was 16⁰ C on the 15th.

Minimum day temperature was +2⁰ C on the 10th.

Maximum pressure 30.4 inches

Minimum pressure 29.5 inches.

Pj

WILLITON WEATHER

FEBRUARY

If you watched Cruft's in March, you will have seen that they showed last year's snow by the entrance. You may remember that we also had snow at this time last year.



Weather records for February 2023

The middle of February was much warmer than average: several days at 16⁰ C even 17⁰ C in the very sunny morning of the 15th.

The minimum temperature was -2⁰ C on the 27th.

The maximum temperature of 17⁰ C on the 15th.

The maximum pressure 30.5 inches – 1034 mm on the 1st. (Very sunny)

The minimum pressure 29.15 inches - 089 mm on the 8th. (Lots of rain!)

The total rain was 132mm



NATURE NOTES

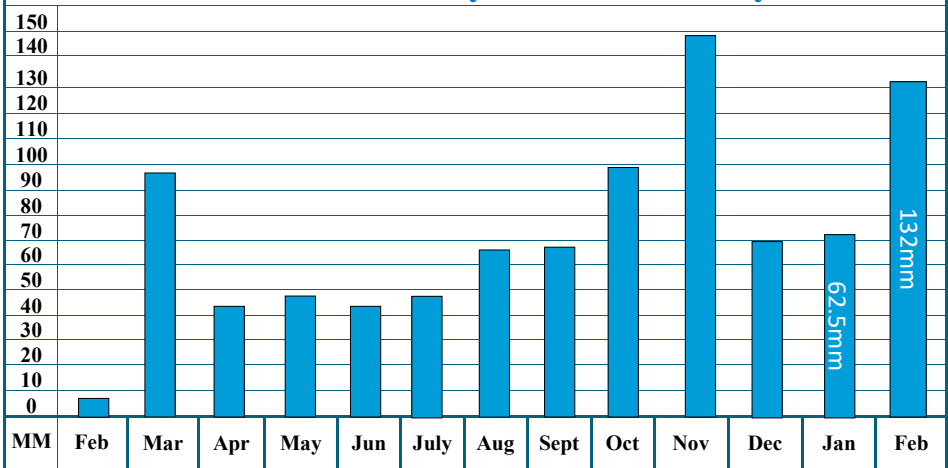
The birds are nesting and so in need of any food you can put out in the bad weather. We have seen birds carrying twigs.

The crows are building/refreshing their nests. Many spring flowers are open - as is a lot of blossom. Our "Christmas Roses" are particularly good this year.

APOLOGY: I missed the print deadline last month, sorry! Those interested can find the data for January at the bottom of the opposite page.

Pj

Rainfall Chart February 2023 to February 2024



Other Local Churches

Baptist Church (Watchet)

The Baptist Church meets 10.30am at Knights Templar School on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. At other times, there are a series of smaller gatherings. For more information contact Rev Mike Sherburn: **01984 633755** or email: mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk or telephone Mrs M Collinson: **01984 632537**
Mrs S Shearer: **01984 568310** or visit the website: www.watchetbaptist.org.uk



Catholic Church (Watchet)

The Roman Catholic Church meets for Mass at Watchet Methodist Church on **FRIDAY evenings at 6.15pm**.
Contact Deacon Vincent Woods Tel. **01984 634681**.



St Decuman's Church (Watchet)

Weekly Sunday Service **10.45 am** Parish Communion.
For further details and enquiries please contact the churchwarden.
Janet Bremner Tel. **01984 632118** email: janetbremner31@btinternet.com



Salvation Army Watchet Corps (Watchet)

Sunday Service 10.30am in Salvation Army Hall.
All enquiries to the Corps leader, Miss Sam Searle on **07979 575453**.
Salvation Army Hall, 1 Brendon Road, Watchet. Tel: **01984 633133**.
Email: Samantha.Searle@salvationarmy.org.uk



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Washford)

We meet in Washford Memorial Hall TA23 0NY.
10am to 12 noon every Sunday. All are welcome.
For more information Contact Don Laight Tel: **07368 527029**



Useful Telephone Numbers



<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Christians Against Poverty	Free debt help	0800 328 0006
Mind line Somerset	Emotional support helpline	01823 276892
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	01984 633979
Pavilion	Bookings / Enquiries	01984 633979
Police	Emergency Non Emergency	999 101
Quantock Foodbank	Local Foodbank	07483 815122
Registry Office	Pre booked Appointments	01823 282251
Surgery	Robert Street TA4 4QE	01984 632701
Village Agent (Izzy Silvester)	Leave a message with contact details	07931 018045
WASPS	Local Parkinson's support	01984 631472
West Somerset Advice Bureau	Advice line:	0800 802 1808
WHEELS	Community Transport Service	07891 821861



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