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WILLITON WINDOW



March 2023

Volume 23 Number 9



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Williton Window Magazine

DEADLINE DATES FOR THE APRIL 2023 ISSUE

ADVERTISING: 5PM - TUESDAY 14TH MARCH

EDITORIAL: 5PM - FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

The April magazine can be collected for delivery from the **PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE**

9.30am to 12.30pm weekdays from FRIDAY 24TH MARCH

Please send articles, news and diary dates to:

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

All advertising enquiries to:

Mrs Janet Cook, 14 Dovetons Drive, Williton TA4 4ST ☎ 07989 466619

Magazine distribution:

Mr Neill Ambridge: ☎ 01984 639320

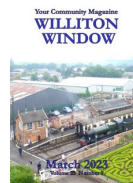
All enquiries by email: williton@willitonwindow.co.uk

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



Spare copies of this free magazine are available at **Williton Post Office, Parish Council Office, & St Peters Church Porch, Subject to demand.** It can also be downloaded as a PDF from the website: www.willitonwindow.org.uk

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WILLITON WELCOME BOOKLET



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 Janet Cook on: **07989 466619**, or email: williton@willitonwindow.co.uk

Copies are also available from the Parish Council Office in Killick Way, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm, subject to demand.

To download a copy go to our website: www.willitonwindow.org.uk

Cover Picture:

Aerial View of Williton Station. (Picture by Edward Martin)

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UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON

Website: www.watchetandwillitonbenefice.com/
For details of other local churches see page 8.



Services in March at St Peter's Church Williton

We invite you all to join any of our services

Friday	3rd	03.00pm	*World Day of Prayer at Watchet Methodist Church
Sunday	5th	10.00 am	All Age Worship
Sunday	12th	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	19th	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	26th	9.15am	Parish Communion

The church is open every day for private prayer during daylight hours.

St Peter's Church Contact Details:

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



*World Day of Prayer Service

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated with a service at Watchet Methodist Church on **Friday 3rd March at 3pm**, involving people from all our local churches. All Welcome.



CAMEO

(Come and meet each other)

A reminder that CAMEO meets on Thursdays in

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.



CLOCKS GO FORWARD START OF BRITISH SUMMERTIME SUNDAY 26TH MARCH

Remember when you go to bed on Saturday the 25th of March to put your clocks on one hour.



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Other Local Churches Information

St Decuman's Church (Watchet)

Weekly Sunday Service **10.45 am** Parish Communion

For further details and enquiries please contact the churchwardens.

Sarah Lander Tel. **07765 881229** email: slarkelander@gmail.com

Janet Bremner Tel. **01984 632118** email: janetbremner31@btinternet.com



Baptist Church (Watchet)

The Baptist Church meets 10.30am at Knights Templar School on the 2nd and 4th Sundays 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 **01984 634681**.

Methodist Church (Williton)

In case you are new to reading the Williton Window, we are the Williton Methodist House Church and we meet at Mollie's house behind the Old Methodist Church building (**2 Higher Croft Tower Hill**). Our services are at 10.30am and last about an hour, with refreshments afterwards. There is a different preacher every week so our services follow a different format each week, and we are a small and happy group who welcome anyone and everyone who would like to join us, whatever your denomination or faith group.

Our aim is to be a presence for good in the village and we love to chat to people around the village, and some of us are members of other groups as well. We visit the hospital, listen to children read at school and hope to get together with St. Peter's and other church and faith groups to work together to bring the Gospel into people's lives. We used to have occasional ecumenical services and hope to do so again soon. We try to make Kindness our default position and would love to see anyone who would like to come and find out more about us. We want to open doors for others.

Our preachers for March are :-

March 5th Penny Williams. **March 12th** Tim Hedgecock.

March 19th Mothering Sunday with Rev. Carole Gill.

March 26th Rev. Nick Lakin

We pray this month for the victims of the Turkish and Syrian earthquakes and give thanks for all who help these people by donating time, money, medicines or clothing. We pray also for all in Williton who worry about paying bills in this time of uncertainty and cost of living rises, and give thanks for everyone who tries to help and we pray for peace in all areas of war across our world.

Team Ministry: Rev Nick Lakin: **01643 705175**.

Stewards: Mrs R Troman: **01984 633199** Mrs J Sefton: **01984 656652**.

Salvation Army Watchet Corps

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

All are welcome. (Part of Churches Together in Williton and Watchet)
Salvation Army Hall, 1 Brendon Road, Watchet. Tel: **01984 633133**.

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FOR YOUR SPACE



NEW HEALTH INITIATIVE? YES, PLEASE!

I was chatting with some friends in Blenheim Gardens, Minehead, last autumn, when I heard about this new health initiative, which is spreading out all over the British Isles and even abroad. I made some enquiries, attended a couple of meetings, and landed up on what might be called a “steering committee” though it is open to new folk at any time.

This is the People’s Health Alliance, or PHA. What with the difficulties the NHS is going through at present, it is hard for us to secure a medical appointment of any kind, and with the GP’s stretched to snapping point, we might only get 8 minutes of their time.

So who is going to listen to our health concerns? This is why the PHA is being set up, in over 70 towns and cities in the UK, each hub tailored to the needs of its area – there is no blueprint, other than a) giving the person TIME to talk about their health concerns, free of charge, and b) to offer a list of practitioners, ideally in time, in conventional medicine, as well as right now, in complementary therapies.

But many of us don’t know what the complementary therapies ARE, or where to find a practitioner, particularly if not that good on the computer. So we at the Taunton Hub are setting up a series of evening presentations at which practitioners will speak about their “modality” – for instance, Naturopathy/ Wholistic Living, which deals with nutrition and lifestyle for health, or Micronutrients for Brain Health.

How will the Taunton Hub work? Well, it’s all run by volunteers, there is a non-profit organization set up, with a conversation room, and trained folk who will listen to your problems, and then explain some suitable modalities, and show you a list from which you may choose a practitioner, and make your own appointment with them. We have an increasing list of practitioners in the area who would like to work with us – our role is to help you find treatment which suits you, and thus empower you to increase your own health.

Most services in the NHS are currently free, though over the decades we have had to pay for more and more (dentistry, optical, prescriptions) and the govt are talking about charging us for more services. Complementary therapists/practitioners charge fees, because they are self-employed and this is their job. Ultimately, I hope we can set up a Hardship Fund, to help those who would find these fees beyond their means. And maybe Membership (at the small cost of £5 per month, which gives you free access to the Seeking Better Health educational evenings) will accrue enough that each Member could get at least one ‘free’ consultation with a practitioner per year. That’s my dream!

This is all very new and we are feeling our way, and hoping, if the Taunton Hub is successful, to set up other hubs for instance in Minehead, which is closer to Williton. If you think this sounds interesting, do visit our website: www.tauntonpha.org, and/or write to us at: info@tauntonpha.org.

April Dunnett.





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Quantock Foodbank
 Latest news February 2023



Living Better, otherwise known as West Somerset Neighbourhood, is the close working between healthcare, social care, education, and voluntary sectors. The Quantock Foodbank is pleased to be a part of this network of organisations across West Somerset working closely together to support the people of our local community with their health and wellbeing.

The online directory is packed with contact information for local support, helping people to find the right solution to keep them living independently.

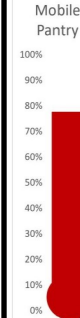
Find out more here. [Home | Living Better](#)



Please spread the word in your neighbourhoods, and for help finding the right support, self-referrals may be made to the Living Better Network via the following link.

<https://www.livingbetter.org.uk/self-referral>

Mobile Pantry News

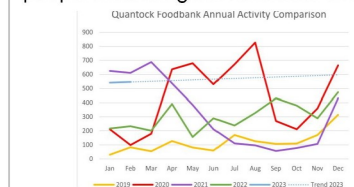


The activities of our supporters have continued to nudge us closer to the target. These have included Carol services, Concerts, Lunches, Raffles, and Flute duets, and to all who took part or supported them we express our gratitude.

It is anticipated that the chassis will be delivered at the end of this month and construction of the box body will begin in March; which means that we now have a lot of work to do before the new vehicle is operational, including finding somewhere to keep it securely.

People using Foodbank and Pantry near Pandemic levels

January and the first weeks of February showed a marked rise in the number of people accessing the foodbank and pantry.



2023 is represented by a blue line and this is not far below levels last seen during the Covid Pandemic.

Warm Space for Pantry Users

During the last two bitterly cold spells many people were feeling colder than normal through unheated homes and going without breakfast. Those visiting the Pantry were very glad to make use of the warm space with soup, hot drinks and biscuits on offer.



Most Needed

Many of our supporters are being thoughtful in donating jumbo packs for large families, however the new mobile pantry is unable to accommodate these without sacrificing the quantity it can carry.

Shelves are emptier than usual because of the high demand but we would be really grateful for standard sizes only please.

Baked beans, Spaghetti, Hot meat, Tuna, Sweetcorn

Coffee, UHT milk, Jam, Microwaveable Rice, Savoury biscuits.

Registered Charity No. 1189991 Tel: 07483 815122
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Thank You all for your loyal support.

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VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES WILLTION HOSPITAL



OPEN DAYS 15TH & 16TH MARCH 10am – 3pm

Could you spare a couple of hours a week to help with tasks such as: bedmaking, craft, shopping for patients, hand massage, library trolley, visiting or gardening?

Why not join our friendly team at Williton Hospital!

You are welcome to our open days on 15th and 16th March 10am – 3pm. Pop in and see what we do, meet the team and have a look around!

Or phone Volunteer co-ordinator Chris to find out more: 01984 635600



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



Williton Community Hospital

Hello again from us at Williton Hospital.



Since our introductory article in the January Edition we have been feeling the stress that “Winter Pressures” adds to all our Health and care colleagues across the trust. Our patient flow of admissions and discharges at Williton has almost doubled in comparison to the same time last year! But we have still been able to go the extra mile for our patients and give them the best Hospital experience and outcomes achievable.

I know Christmas seems an age ago, but we must mention the activities that we were able to hold thanks to local groups:

Minehead Bellingers came to play a variety of tunes and were very entertaining! We especially liked trying out the different sounding bells. Miss Gibbons brought class 4 from St Peter’s School to sing both Christmas Carols and songs from their Nativity show. They all sang beautifully! Finally we had a visit from Pedro the Therapy Donkey who behaved himself impeccably and really made everyone smile!



Our Monthly Coffee Mornings for past stroke patients have been very popular. It is great to see the people who we have looked after return to meet up with others who have shared conditions and experiences. Simply having someone listen and understand what we are going through does wonders for the soul! We would like to Thank Glenmore Bakery who responded to our plea for support with the coffee mornings and have generously donated tasty cakes, biscuits and pastries each month. We still need good quality raffle prizes - please drop in or ring us if you are able to help in any way.

We are still looking for new Volunteers to join our team to do a variety of jobs including bed making, hand massage, craft, gardening and visiting. We are holding **Recruitment Open Days on 15th and 16th March 10am – 3pm** and would welcome anyone interested to pop in, meet the team and have a look around!

Finally – did you know there is a defibrillator outside the main entrance to our Hospital? This is stored outside in a weather-proof box that can be accessed 24 hours with a code from the Ambulance Service. We hope you never need it – but it is always worth knowing it is there!

Sarah Pearse, Ward Clerk, Meadow Ward Stroke Recovery Centre.

LIFE’S LITTLE PLEASURES

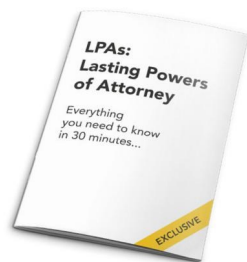
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DRS.



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"LPAs: Lasting Powers of Attorney Everything you need to know in 30 minutes."



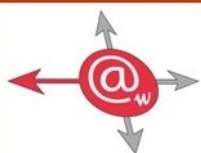
An exclusive guide written by local LPA expert Iestyn Milton-Jenkins - answering all your questions about LPAs including types of LPAs and costs.

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MINEHEAD MUSEUM Forthcoming Events



Minehead and the First World War:

On Thursday, 23rd March local historian Geoff Lloyd will be giving an illustrated talk on Minehead Families in the First World War at Methodist Church Hall, The Avenue, Minehead, 7.30p.m.

Geoff is well known for his involvement, with Ian Davidson, in the publication of several books on Minehead, telling the stories of those who went away to fight and those who served in what later became the Red Cross hospital.

Geoff says, 'We quite rightly celebrate the heroism of the men who went away and the devotion of the women who served in what later became Minehead hospital. But what was the impact on those left behind and on the town of Minehead?'

New research for this illustrated talk gives an insight into the lives of the 230 families of those who served, along with a look at the longer term impact of the war. Tickets at £5 -or £3 for Friends of the Museum and can be reserved by contacting the museum at mineheadmuseum@btconnect.com or calling : **01643 704683**

Melodious Music for Minehead Museum!

On Saturday 1st April the Minehead Male Voice Choir will be putting on their first concert of 2023 in Minehead, especially to support Minehead Museum and its quest to secure new premises. The concert will be in the Methodist Church, The Avenue, Minehead, starting at 7pm.

Tickets are £8, or £6 for Museum Friends, and will be on sale in the Museum from March 25th ; or can be reserved in advance contacting mineheadmuseum@btconnect.com or calling **01643 704683**

Beach Hotel Complex ,The Avenue ,Minehead TA24 5AP.

www.mineheadmuseum.co.uk



Williton Window have been given a couple of complimentary tickets for up to four people to visit

Tropiquaria Zoo at Washford Cross



We are looking for a family, from within the village who deserve a special treat. Please write to us explaining why you think they should be given the tickets and we will choose 2 families from the entries given. Please e-mail us with the details by the end of March. williton@willitonwindow.co.uk

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Churches Together At The Pavilion

Dozens of people from seven different church gatherings got together for a Sunday morning of Christian unity on 22nd January.

Voices were lifted and food was shared as Anglicans and Methodist joined with folks from the Salvation Army, Roman Catholic and Baptist churches across Williton and Watchet.

The gathering is an annual event and is part of the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' – with this being the third time local churches have gathered at Williton Pavilion.

This year's theme was "Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice" and the congregation took time to recognise the injustices facing the world and the ways in which we can recognise how the church has sometimes failed to tackle these.

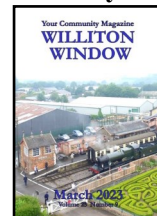
Following times of singing, prayer and bible reading – with contributions from all the churches represented – the congregation shared a buffet-style meal together.

Mike Sherburn Baptist Pastor.



Williton Window

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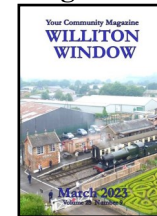


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✝ Faith Reflection

'An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots. Each pot hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her shoulders. Every day, she used this device to carry water to her home.

One of the pots was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. The other had a deep crack in it and leaked. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this situation occurred daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the cracked pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream, saying, "I am ashamed of myself because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled and replied, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walked back home you watered them and made them grow. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table and give to my friends and neighbours. Without you being just the way, you are, there would not have been this special beauty to grace our homes and lives.'

Let us be thankful and celebrate that God uses cracked pots! You do not need to be perfect for God to love you and to use you. Some of us, since the pandemic and now with the cost of living crisis, may feel that we have acquired a few more cracks, but that's okay. We are all finding life a challenge in differing ways at the moment. However, we can still carry on and do what we can, whether a little battered and scarred, if we remember a few things.

Firstly, **God loves you**, this is where it all starts, whoever you are and regardless of our cracks and imperfections.

Secondly, we can all **ask God for help** in whatever troubles and challenges we are facing today.

Thirdly, **listen to God**, as sometimes he answers us when we call in surprising ways, (and then go on and do as he asks – it's no good listening if you then don't act!).

Fourthly, **do all the good you can**. As Barak Obama said *'Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.'*

And lastly remember that **God is always with you**. Jesus has promised that he will be with you until the very end of the age. He will travel with you and bring you strength.

Wherever these times take us, Jesus will accompany you on the road, a guide and friend.

With every Blessing Revd Mark Phillips.

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

Regular Weekly Meetings / Groups & Events in Williton

Everyday	1.00pm - 11.00pm	Williton Social Club	Tel: 01984 248671
Mondays	9.30am - 12 noon & 8.00pm-9pm	Pilates Pavilion	Tel: 07342 238723
	2.00pm - 4.00pm Short Mat Bowls	Pavilion	Tel: 01984 633084
	5.00pm - 6.30pm Beavers	Guide Brownies HQ	Tel: 07806 968961
	6.00pm - 7.00pm Zumba	Pavilion	Tel: 07738 676832
Tuesdays	1.00pm - 3.00pm Talking Cafe	Pavilion (Brendon Room)	Tel: 07931 018045
	2.00pm - 4.00pm Chatty Crafters (Except first Tues of the month)	Danesborough Common Room	Tel: 01984 634686
	5.45pm - 7.15pm Brownies	Guide & Brownie HQ	Tel: 07765 842747
Weds	10 - 11am. Move it or Lose it	Pavilion	Tel: 07421 762532
	6.30pm - 8.00pm Cubs	(Guide & Brownie HQ)	Tel: 07398 717048
	8pm - 9pm Ballroom Dance Lessons	Pavilion	Tel: 07535 601217
Thurs	10am - 12noon Cameo Coffee Group	St Peters Church	Tel: 01984 639600
	2.00pm to 3.30pm Foxes Teas	Pavilion (Term Time Only)	
	5.30pm - 6.30pm Rainbows	(Guide & Brownie HQ)	Tel: 07484 601929
Fridays	9.30 - 10.30am Zumba	Pavilion	Tel: 07738 676832
	10.00am - 12 noon Coffee & Chat	Mollie's 2 Higher Croft Tower Hill, All Welcome	Tel: 01984 656652
	12 Noon Friday Walks	Meet opposite Library	Tel: 01984 632459
	5.00pm - 6.00pm Squirrels	Guide & Brownie HQ	Tel: 07806 968961
	7.15 - 9.00pm Guides	Market St, Watchet	Tel: 07584 037156

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

Williton Hospital League of Friends AGM

Williton Hospital League of Friends will be holding their AGM on Monday 20th March at 2.30pm in the Brendon Room at The Pavilion. The meeting is open to everyone from 2.00pm.

Time to meet us and have a cuppa before the meeting starts. You will be very welcome.



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

What's Happening This Month In Williton

Williton Monthly Meetings / Groups & Events for March 2023

Weds	1st	Family History	2pm & 3pm One to One (Book with Library)
Thurs	2nd	Wasps	1.30pm Sampford Brett Village Hall
Tues	7th	Good Neighbours Grp	2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
Tues	7th	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion
Weds	15th	Volunteer Recruitment	10am to 3pm Williton Hospital Open Day
Thurs	16th	Volunteer Recruitment	10am to 3pm Williton Hospital Open Day
Thurs	16th	Women's Institute	2.00pm Pavilion
Fri	17th	Community Market	9.30am to 12 noon Williton Social Club
Mon	20th	AGM Hospital League of Friends	2.00pm Brendon Room in Pavilion
Tues	21st	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion
Sun	26th	Indoor Car Boot	10.00am - 1.00pm Pavilion
Mon	27th	Garden Club	7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
Weds	29th	Family History Group	7.15pm Pavilion (1000 years of Horseshoes)

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: 01984 631595



ENERGY HEALING

Once again it is time to tell you of the dates for Energy Healing in Watchet. With the lengthening days and the bright heads of the daffodils it is a pleasant reminder



that spring is once again just around the corner when we will be able to enjoy more time outside. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful countryside around us where we can escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Nature itself provides us with a quiet space for both reflection and healing. In our modern world it is important to take time away from the everyday pressures and commitments. Each month, on the third Thursday, Energy Healing takes place in the Phoenix Centre in Watchet on the esplanade next to the library where we provide a welcoming quiet space. You are welcome to come and use this space to quietly reflect, have a chat if you wish or have healing, animals are welcome too. We do not charge for healing but donations are welcome. The following are the next two sessions:

**Thursday March 16th 2023 and Thursday April 20th 2023
between 2pm and 4:30pm.**

For further information please contact Tony on: 07831104896 or Alison on: 07796780498 or email: hadleysecretsquirrels@hotmail.co.uk

Alison Hadley.

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It is mid-February as I sit down to write this, and as I do I wonder whether the hedgehogs which roamed the gardens in our terrace last year will do so again this year. I have three feeding stations in our garden, mainly because our garden is so long, in which I have put food for hedgehogs throughout the winter, and apart from the odd few biscuits disappearing

no one seems to be visiting to feast on the cat biscuits I leave out for them. Habitats change, people change the layout of their gardens and the places hedgehogs used to hide in are no longer there. This means that they will have to seek other places in which to forage for food.

However, recently a member of our group, who lives in Williton, has posted wildlife camera footage on our Facebook page showing that there is a very amorous male hedgehog in her garden, who appears to be pestering a smaller female while she was trying to eat. This could be an indication that in some areas here hedgehogs have come out of hibernation and are raring to go. The worry is that we will be seeing hoglets earlier than normal this year as the weather has been warmer lately. This is fine providing the night time temperatures are warm enough and there is enough natural food about. But if we suddenly have a cold spell then tiny hoglets born early may struggle if their mums cannot find enough food to keep their strength up to feed their tiny charges.

Something we must all bear in mind is taking care when starting to 'tidy up' our gardens after the winter months. Please check areas before you start to trim,



mow, and cut back any undergrowth. You may find that a hedgehog has made a winter nest (hibernaculum) and is still in there. Consider making plans now to 're-wild' a part of your garden for wildlife. Have a look for wild flower seeds in garden centres and make a list of plants to put in your garden which attract bees and other insects. Bee prepared (see what I did there?)

Hedgehogs and other wildlife will love you for it.

Have a look at our website www.watchethedgehogs.org (sponsored by Geckoella Ltd), and our Facebook page Watchet Hedgehogs. If you don't have access to a computer then please phone me **07918 603059** if you need any advice.



Jane Sharp.



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Search for Missing History of Women's Royal Naval Service

The UK Ministry of Defence estimated that 33,000 ladies of the Women's Royal Naval Service were trained between Feb 1946 and July 1981 near Reading, on the site that was known as HMTE Burghfield, later HMS Dauntless.



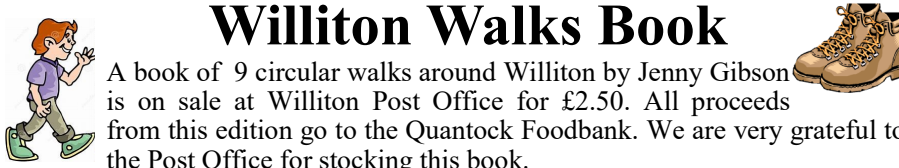
During that period literally hundreds of 'official' photos were taken including training class photos. The negatives of these 'Divisional' photos were sent to the RN Photographic Unit in Yeovil. The WRNS Burghfield-Dauntless Project recently learned that many years ago the photographic units of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force were merged and the Archive went to an RAF base. Sadly space was an issue so any photos that were not considered of historic importance were destroyed. Divisional Photos were probably amongst the first to go.

The Project also discovered that HMS Dauntless kept hand-written ledgers. Massive great books that listed chronologically every Division, date and number, the name of every Wren in that Division and her naval details.

These ledgers were taken to HMS Raleigh in 1981 on the closure of HMS Dauntless as a training establishment. They were placed in storage and last seen in the mid 90s where they were being moved, destined for a Museum. And they then disappeared. Attempts to find these Ledgers both locally and nationally have come to nothing.

In an attempt to recreate this missing piece of Wren history the WRNS Burghfield-Dauntless Project was started in 2020 with the hope of finding as many of the 33,000 ladies, or their descendants, as possible. We know that military families travelled far and wide and settled all over the globe. We are gathering information from personal collections, service documents, memories and anecdotes and between the ladies who served and the families of those who are no longer with us, to put back what has been lost or destroyed over the past 30 years.

I am the coordinator of the Burghfield-Dauntless Project and we would love to hear from anyone who has family connections to the Wrens. Please contact us on **Email: ddpwrens@gmail.com**. **Tel: 07765 435295** By Post The Old Post Office, Rushall, Norfolk IP21 4QE.
Mandy Powell Project Coordinator.



Williton Walks Book

A book of 9 circular walks around Williton by Jenny Gibson is on sale at Williton Post Office for £2.50. All proceeds from this edition go to the Quantock Foodbank. We are very grateful to the Post Office for stocking this book.

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Williton Pavilion & War Memorial Recreation Ground
Tel:01984 633979 E-mail: admin@willitonpc.org.uk



Sitting today in the Memorial Ground, I see the bluebells are now coming up well and there are a few snowdrops glinting in the sunshine; these were all planted a couple of years ago by parishioners. There is room for more so if you are dividing up clumps in your garden, do consider donating some to us – just wrap in damp paper and drop to my doorstep (25 North Croft) or the Parish Office.

Foxes Academy are at The Pavilion on Tuesday's 12 - 2pm serving delicious lunches for £3 – weekly menu is posted in the window of the Parish Office and on social media. This is very popular so consider purchasing a ticket from the Parish Office beforehand, or risk it and go along on the day. On Wednesday they serve soup, roll and dessert for £2 and on Thursdays 2 - 4pm they serve sumptuous Afternoon Teas (sandwiches, scones) from £2 to £8 depending on your selection. The Wednesday Soup Club will stop at the end of March; Tuesdays and Thursdays are ongoing except during school holidays.

Did you know you can support the Memorial Ground when you shop at the Co-Op? Money raised will go towards looking after and maintaining the Memorial Ground for all to enjoy; including the children's play area, picnic area, wildflower meadow as well as the ground itself. So please consider choosing us to support when you shop.

Don't forget to email me if you would like to show off your garden at the Williton Village Gardens on Sunday 21st May cllr.howes@willitonpc.org.uk It does not have to be showstopping perfect, we are looking for all sorts – works in progress, child friendly, pollinator perfects, big or small and anything in-between. We will be "selling" tickets/maps for a donation which will go to WWMRG but you can sell plants, tea/coffee etc. and support your choice of charity in your garden. We've got 7 gardens committed so far, so please do think about opening yours too.

Forthcoming dates for your diary:

- Sunday 9th April:** Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday 21st May:** Williton Village Gardens
- Saturday 2nd September:** Williton Village Fete
- Sunday 26th November:** Christmas Craft Market
- Saturday 23rd December:** Christmas Festival and Grotto.

Dawn-Lesley Howes

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

We tend to find it easier to grumble and complain than to give credit when it is due.

During January my wife and I renewed our passports during separate weeks using the Post Office in Williton. My passport was back in six days and my wife's passport in nine days, there was a civil service strike during my wife's application time. Well done to our Post Office staff for an excellent service. **So remember to give credit when it is due!** DRS.



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Down at the Station March



We have been glad of the improvement in the weather and have been able to get started on some outside repainting, especially to the side of the waiting room on platform two. With the very old timber faced buildings it is essential to keep them covered in paint to protect the wood beneath. Other repairs are being made to the platform edges and these will be repainted before the start of the running season.

So when is this to be? The first trains are scheduled to run on two weekends in March, being the 18th and 19th and then again on the 25th and 26th. Again the following weekend 1st and 2nd April will be followed by the full programme in action with trains running during the week from Tuesday 4th April. We look forward to meeting visitors old and new and the shop/tea rooms will be open on all running days ready to serve you.

The majority of staff met for a post Christmas get together at The Railway Inn at the beginning of February which gave us a good chance to catch up, not having seen much of each other since the end of October. The Railway Inn did us proud with a buffet spread.

At the beginning of the season it is always a time when we look forward to new volunteers coming along and if you have been thinking about doing that feel free to come and speak to any of the staff on duty. If you enjoy meeting people then this is a good opportunity to join the team. Help would always be appreciated in the shop as well, and perhaps you could volunteer for one day a week in there. Necessary training is given where appropriate. *John Parsons, Station Master.*



Williton Garden Club



Not a lot to report this month as unfortunately our booked speaker for the last meeting did not arrive!! However those assembled stayed and had a good chat and possibly spoke to each other more than for some long while. Can you imagine a group of gardeners with nothing to say?

It is hoped that the February speaker will arrive and we are to learn something about No dig Vegetable Gardening.

On March 27th we are looking forward to hearing from Pauline & David Wright and telling us all about making a New Garden from Scratch and anyone wishing to come along will be welcome. Visitors are charged £2 a meeting.



John Parsons, Chairman.

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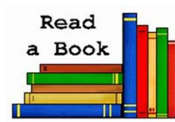
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Rhyme Time



We are currently looking for a new volunteer to run our Rhyme time sessions for our pre school members after Easter. This would be best on a Wednesday or Friday morning or afternoon. If you are interested please call into the library for more information. You would need to complete a DBS to undertake this role.

Technology & Computer Support?



Computer support sessions happen every other Thursday afternoon for 1:1 support with any device. Absolute beginners are welcome. (booking essential) We also have drop in computer support on the second Wednesday of the month from 10am - 12 midday.

At Williton we have I-pads and blood pressure monitors to loan out on your library card for free. Please call into the library for details.

Research your Family Tree



We also offer support with Individual Family history session on the first Wednesday of the month These free sessions are run by our experienced volunteer but it needs to be booked in advance.

Book Club

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

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.

How do I join the Library?

If you are not already a library member joining is easy and FREE. Call into the library with some form of ID such as a bus pass, Passport, driving licence and we will sign you up.

There are now no charges for under 17's for requesting books, DVD hire or overdue charges.

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WILLITON WEATHER



FEBRUARY

Our gardens are confused with a 18.4°C sunny daytime in mid February in contrast some very cold frosts lasting to midday. We have had more sunny days with the frosts. On the whole at the time of writing we have had very little rain compared to last December and January.

JANUARY

A minimum temperature of - 6°C and - 8°C on the hills. Some days it was still - 4°C in the middle of the day. The maximum temperature was 15.5°C. The maximum pressure of 30.5 inches. The minimum pressure of 29.8 inches. The total months rainfall was 147.5mm.



ASTRONOMICAL NEWS

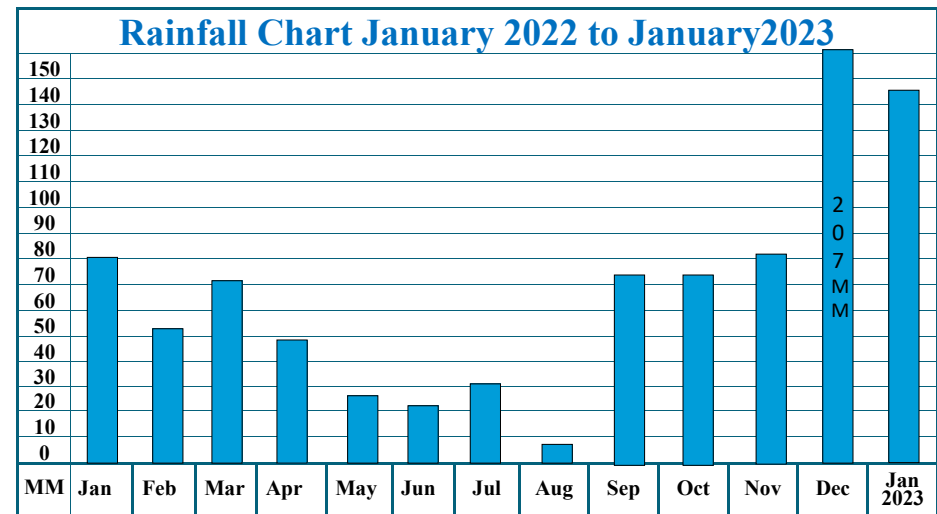
I had to give up with the night skies being very cloudy all the time and so we missed all the interesting things e.g. the 4 planet conjunctions, the comet etc last month!



NATURE NOTES

After Valentine's day and the start of Lent the birds should be well on the way to nesting. Some of you may have gone to Snowdrop Valley always a treat to see. At last frog spawn has been seen. Also, Daffodils are out!

PJ.



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Williton and Surrounds Parkinson's Support WASPS



Williton and Surrounds Parkinson's Support Group (WASP's), held their 10th Birthday Party on Wednesday 1st February. The group was started by Linda Bishop, and welcomes anyone who is affected by Parkinson's, their carers and families. Linda, very kindly made the birthday cake, which was enjoyed by all.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Simon Cooper, who is well known by many of the members, and also our Patron, Mrs Anne Luttrell. Dr Cooper gave us an update about some of the latest research taking place around different medications. We were encouraged to take part in this research.

Although the Parkinson's team have been working throughout Covid, things are still not quite back to how they should be. A new Parkinson's nurse is due to start soon – although more are needed, and there should be a new consultant specialising in Parkinson's being trained to replace Dr Cooper it is hoped that he will not retire too soon !

Next meeting is on **Thursday 2nd March**, at Sampford Brett village hall exercises starting at 1.30 pm, followed by entertainment by 'Fellahin' Middle Eastern dance group.

Jane Cooper.



Patron Anne Luttrell cutting the cake with Dr Simon Cooper and other committee members.

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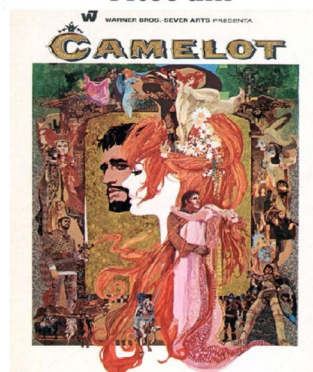
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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March



Friday 3rd: 7.30pm. THE ALTER EAGLE

Returning to the Regal Theatre for the third time, celebrating one of the best-loved bands of all time the Eagles.

Saturday 4th: 2.00pm. MATILDA THE MUSICAL (ROALD DAHL)
(CERT PG) we have an afternoon viewing starring Emma Thompson as the abominable Miss Trunchbull.

Tuesday 7th: 7.30pm. AFTERSUN (Cert 12)

Aftersun' has been nominated for Outstanding British Film at this year's BAFTA awards.

Wednesday 8th: 7.30pm. MARY CASSATT: PAINTING THE MODERN WOMAN
International Women's Day, we bring you Exhibition on screen.

Friday 10th: 7.30pm. CLEVERLEY EVERLY (THE 60s TRIBUTE SHOW)
Recreating the fabulous music of the Everly Brothers. It's a musical trip down memory lane.'

Saturday 11th: 11.00am. CAMELOT (1967 VERSION - CERT U)
A morning showing of the story of the marriage of England's King Arthur to Guinevere. All proceeds to go to the Regal Theatre support fund.

Friday 17th: 7.30pm. THE GONDOLIERS (GILBERT AND SULLIVAN)
Somerset Opera's production bubbles with good humour and joyous melody.

Sunday 19th: 7.30pm. THE FUREYS
Make their eagerly awaited return to the stage of the Regal Theatre. One of Ireland's all-time most acclaimed and influential folk, traditional and middle of the road bands.

Wednesday 22nd: 7.15pm. TURANDOT LIVE
From The Royal Opera House. When life hangs in the balance, can love conquer all? Puccini's score is rich in musical marvels (featuring the famous aria 'Nessun Dorma').

Thursday 30th to Saturday 1st April: 7.30pm. THE MAN IN PLOT 46
Barnstormers present this brand-new play based on the story of operation Mincemeat. A British soldier was laid to rest in a small Spanish cemetery who had died when the plane in which he was travelling crashed into the Mediterranean Sea. Or was he?

Tickets for all events may be booked in advance online at <https://regaltheatre.co.uk/> whats on or from the Box Office (Tel 01643 706430) between 9.30am and 12.00pm Monday - Saturday; or by telephone only from 1.30pm to 4pm.

PS - The Regal Theatre is run entirely by volunteers - why not join us??

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Mind line Somerset	Emotional support helpline	Tel: 01823 276892
Parish Council	Parish Clerk	Tel: 01984 633979
Pavilion	Bookings / Enquiries	Tel: 01984 633979
Police	Emergency Non Emergency	Tel: 999 Tel: 101
Quantock Foodbank	Local Foodbank	Tel: 07483 815122
Registry Office	Pre booked Appointments	Tel: 01823 282251
Surgery	Robert Street TA4 4QE	Tel: 01984 632701
Village Agent (Izzy Silvester)	Leave a message with contact details	Tel: 07931 018045
WASPS	Local Parkinson's support	Tel: 01984 631472
West Somerset Advice Bureau	Advice line:	Tel: 0800 802 1808
Wheels	Community Transport Service	Tel: 0789 182 1861

West Somerset Family History Group



We have our first speaker of the year at our next meeting. Mr Page will be speaking about 1000 years of horseshoes.



Our group help meetings are proving very helpful, especially for new members and our new committee have had their first committee meeting.

Next Meeting 7.15pm at the Pavilion, entrance is £1.50 for SDFHS members and £3 for visitors who are always made welcome.

At the time of writing both one on one sessions are available at the library. You need to book with the library.

Car parking is in Killick Way, free parking after 6pm .Blue Badge holders, limited parking in Pavilion car park. *Lesley Murray Secretary.*



Today, Thursday the 16th of February, the ladies of Williton WI enjoyed a very interesting talk by Lynne Cleaver about Genealogy. Lynne is a genealogist, local history/family researcher and author, and she outlined the best ways to access various records and census to allow you to start building a family tree. Our speaker for 16th March will be Ken Atherton who has visited us before. This time he will be telling us a Brief History of the Lancashire Monologue (including Stanley Holloway). This should be a light-hearted afternoon and visitors are very welcome to join us in the Williton Pavilion at 2.00pm (£3.50). *Irene Draper, Williton WI.*

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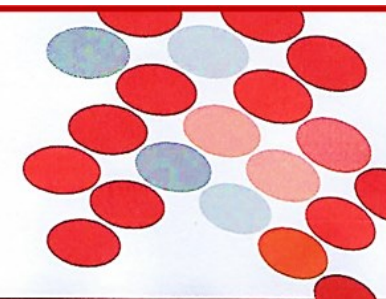
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