

A photograph of a well in a stone-walled enclosure. The well is a dark metal structure with a handle. The ground is paved with bricks, and there is a metal drain cover in the foreground. The walls are made of rough-hewn stone. There are some plants and vines growing on the walls and around the well.

# WILLITON WINDOW

April 2023

Volume 23 Number 10





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**ADVERTISING: 5PM - TUESDAY 18TH APRIL**

**EDITORIAL: 5PM - FRIDAY 21ST APRIL**

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

9.30am to 12.30pm weekdays from **FRIDAY 28TH APRIL**

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](mailto:williton@willitonwindow.co.uk)

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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](http://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](mailto: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.

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**Cover Picture:** Bridge Street Hand Water Pump.

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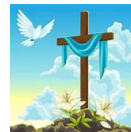
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## Services in April at St Peter's Church Williton



UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON  
Website: [www.watchetandwillitonbenefice.com/](http://www.watchetandwillitonbenefice.com/)  
For details of other local churches see page 8.



**We invite you all to join any of our services**

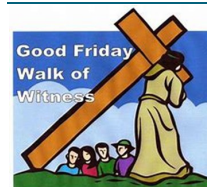
|                      |             |           |         |   |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|---|
| <b>Palm Sunday</b>   | <b>2nd</b>  | Holy Week | 10.00am | Family Worship  |
| <b>Monday</b>        | <b>3rd</b>  | Holy Week | 7.00pm  | Evening Service (St Decumans)   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>       | <b>4th</b>  | Holy Week | 7.00pm  | Taizé Reflective Worship  |
| <b>Weds</b>          | <b>5th</b>  | Holy Week | 7.00pm  | Reflection Service  |
| <b>Maundy Thurs</b>  | <b>6th</b>  | Holy Week | 7.00pm  | <b>Christian Passover Meal with Communion at Watchet Methodist Schoolroom</b> |
| <b>Good Friday</b>   | <b>7th</b>  | Holy Week | 2.00pm  | Good Friday Reflection  |
| <b>Saturday</b>      | <b>8th</b>  | Holy Week | 8.00pm  | Service of Light (St Decumans)  |
| <b>Easter Sunday</b> | <b>9th</b>  |           | 9.15am  | Family Service with Communion   |
| <b>Sunday</b>        | <b>16th</b> |           | 9.15am  | Parish Communion  |
| <b>Sunday</b>        | <b>23rd</b> |           | 9.15pm  | Parish Communion  |
| <b>Sunday</b>        | <b>30th</b> |           | 10.30am | Benefice Communion  |

**Wishing everyone a very happy and blessed Easter**

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

### St Peter's Church Contact Details:

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



## Walk of Witness



At 12pm on Good Friday we will be processing a wooden cross through the village and handing out hot cross buns. We will then walk to St Decuman's church, where we will meet the wooden cross which has been processed through Watchet. All are welcome to join us (starting at St Peter's church) for as much of the walk as they are able. We shall conclude with a short service in St Decuman's church car park.

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## Other Local Churches Information

### Methodist Church (Williton)

For those of you who haven't heard about us yet, we are the Williton Methodist House Church and we meet at Mollie's house **2, Higher Croft Tower Hill** behind the Old Methodist Church building. 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. All of our preachers say that they like coming to us as we have such a warm and welcoming worship space.

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, lead worship in Croft House 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 April are :-

**2nd** Rev. Malcolm Hope. **9th** Easter Sunday with Holy Communion Rev Tim Woods  
**16th** Rev Chloe Jones. **23rd** Rev Linda Barriball. **30th** Jean Armin.

Our great friend, Carole, is poorly and we pray for her and anyone else in need of healing. We pray again 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. RAFT in Taunton is very happy to take your clothing donations and send them on to refugees in need. Contact Jane Sefton for more details, **656652**. 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.

A very Happy Easter to you all.

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

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



### 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](mailto:mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk) or telephone Mrs M Collinson: **01984 632537** Mrs S Shearer: **01984 568310** or visit the website: [www.watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://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**.

### 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: [sclarkelander@gmail.com](mailto:sclarkelander@gmail.com)

Janet Bremner Tel. **01984 632118** email: [janetbremner31@btinternet.com](mailto:janetbremner31@btinternet.com)

### 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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## THE RIDDLE OF THE ALABASTER FONT

Anyone who has walked the beach from Watchet to Blue Anchor will be aware of the distinctive rich veins of pink and white alabaster in the cliffs. Alabaster is a translucent type of gypsum, in some forms, so soft a material that it can be carved with a thumbnail. Due to its fragility, it does not make an ideal exterior building material, although interestingly it was used by the ancient Egyptians as decorative facing on the pyramids near Cairo.

A little closer to home in Swain Street, the shops opposite the gallery and once the Central Hotel have alabaster keystones above the door and windows; a very unusual feature indeed that until recently I had considered an architectural feature unique to Watchet. That was until I was contacted by Michael Statham, the Field Officer of the Welsh Slate Forum, who alerted me to a very similar feature on a house in Newport Road, Cardiff. How this might have come about requires a separate post at another time. Alabaster has been taken from the cliffs between here at Watchet and Blue Anchor for centuries, but information is scant although there are some references. Certainly, it was transported to Bristol for use in the glassworks, and also in the production of plaster of Paris along with seaweed. Alabaster is a flexing agent and ideal in the glass-making process, the seaweed being utilised as a colouring agent. A little closer towards Blue Anchor, it would seem that the mining of alabaster was quite an industry, enough to support a small workforce and there are a number of records suggesting both seaweed and the alabaster were loaded onto waiting ships in the bay.

In Victorian times, with the arrival of the railway, the town almost overnight became a tourist destination. The Victorians were great accumulators of seaside souvenirs, filling their what-nots and cabinets with a vast array of tourist knickknacks emblazoned with the name of the destination. Some enterprising Watchet individuals saw an opportunity to make a few bob as this potential market emerged and it spawned a small cottage industry all too ready to supply alabaster carvings of lighthouses, bowls, etc. Recently I acquired a pair of turned pink alabaster candlesticks which date from about 1910 and rather splendid they are too. There are a number of more ambitious creations that have remained in the town, notably a model of St Decumans Church held in the collection of the Market House Museum and a small font that resides in the Methodist church. It is still possible to easily find fragments of alabaster on the beach so there's no reason to go hacking away at our unstable cliffs. You might like to select a piece from amongst the pebbles, find a comfortable rock to sit on, take your pen-knife and commence whittling.. quite rewarding and relaxing. I remember as a youth spending an afternoon carving a sleeping cat to impress the current girlfriend.

During my wanderings, I have discovered several fine effigies in local churches carved from Watchet alabaster and of particular interest is a doorway at Binham Grange, Old Cleeve. In Medieval times, and to some degree today, alabaster was considered to have magical powers and was ground and mixed as a potion for the creation of all manner of spells and for use in incantations including the winning over of a reticent lover.

*Continued on next page.*

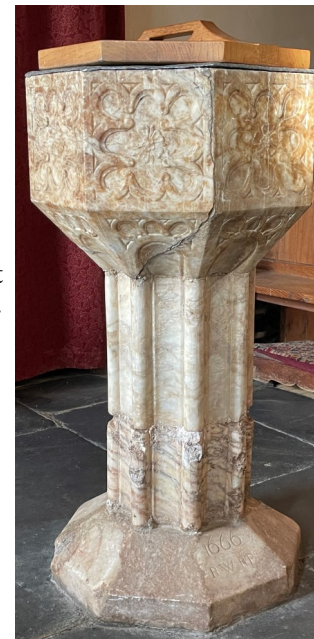
### *The riddle of the Alabaster Font continued from the previous page.*

The most potent of this material would be from an effigy within a church and there are accounts of some of our ancient edifices having small pieces inexplicably removed. You might also find initials carved into the stone for a specific reason, but this is a whole subject in itself. Intriguing as this is, we need to visit Williton for the real purpose of this post the remarkable font at St. Peter's Church in Williton. The font is dated 1666 and has the initials R.W. and R.P. incised into it. As to the significance of these, it is open to conjecture: it had been assumed that they may be the initials of the churchwardens of the time. However, with some certainty, I think this is wrong and their true identity is much more interesting.

Some time ago, I had been in discussion with Ray State, who is involved in the research of alabaster carving. He was made aware of Watchet alabaster from the writings of the late Ronald Firman of Nottingham University, and Nicholas Stone, a London carver. (Although alabaster can be found in other parts of Britain, the alabaster here in Watchet appears to be unique in its specific and very obvious pink hue). Firman reported that a traveller called Gerard wrote, in 1633: "Near Minehead, at this time, a Dutchman hath found out mines of excellent alabaster which they use much for tombs and chimney pieces." (for Minehead, read Watchet/Blue Anchor.) The Dutchman may be William de Keyser, the brother-in-law of Nicholas Stone, who came to London in 1613, having trained in the de Keyser household in Amsterdam and married into the family. Nicholas died in 1647 but his workshop continued, firstly with his son John until 1667, and then with a cousin until about 1672. Significantly, two of the Stone workshop carvers were Richard Pooke (RP), and the foreman, Richard White (RW). It is interesting to note that these are the very initials on the font at St Peters. Pooke was illiterate and made his simple mark, RP, on the orders. Much of the Stone records are held at the John Stone Museum in London, but John was not as meticulous as his father at keeping records: the last entry is in 1658 and unfortunately, because of this, the Williton font is not mentioned. Pooke and White were designated as 'travelling carvers', and if, as seems likely, Stone was quarrying alabaster in Watchet, it is almost certain that the font was carved in the town, by the London carvers, thence transported to Williton.

The value of our churches cannot be underestimated and, as beautiful buildings and the objects they contain, they give us a real and tangible link with the past, none more so than this font, the focal point of baptisms over hundreds of years.

*Nick Cotton.*







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**Williton Parish Council**

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**Local Volunteers Honoured**

On Friday evening the 17th of February Somerset County Council’s Chair, Cllr. Mike Best honoured local volunteers for the services they have done for their community at an Award ceremony held at Taunton Rugby Club.

Williton Parish Council are proud to have nominated Daphne and Graham Stanbridge for an award this year for all they have done for the village and especially with the Friends of Williton Library before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**The citation for the award read:**

“Graham and Daphne really are true assets to our community. Before covid hit the country, they were very active in the village running the Friends of Williton Library.

It is a shame the library has since stopped this group and it is a great loss to our community.

Most days, they could both be found in the library organising so many events for all ages of villagers - from drop in advice, computer courses, book clubs, family history, all types of handicrafts, story time, Lego club, song and boogie time, baked bites and these are just a few of the activities!

They gave up so much of their time to support and help others, this is why the Parish Council are proud to nominate them both.”

**Congratulations Daphne and Graham for this well-deserved award.**

*Cllr. Peter Payne.*



**Parish Assembly**

**7pm Wednesday 19th April**  
**Williton Pavilion**



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**Everyone welcome please come along**

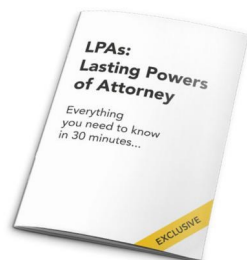
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## Williton Bowling Club

When the gates of Williton Bowling Club open for this year's season, on Saturday, April 16th, at 2 pm, it will be more special than usual as it is the centenary of the club this year. During the season they have teams from Bowls England and from within the county to mark the celebration besides

all the usual men's and ladies matches, so are expecting a busy season. Last season was a very successful one for the club with the men's, ladies and mixed teams all winning their leagues.

This year's season finishes in the middle of September but during the winter months the club holds social evenings so that members can meet up again. New members are always welcome so if anyone is interested, please come down and meet us. We hold roll ups on Monday and Friday evenings at 6pm and also on Wednesdays at 2 pm, where you can be shown how to play bowls by qualified coaches. All we ask you to bring is a pair of flat shoes. If anyone is interested in the club but do not want to play they can join as a social member, giving them access to the clubhouse and bar area, sit and watch the matches being played and join in with the social activities.



Why not come down and see us on the opening day or at the roll ups and meet our friendly members and have a chat. Look forward to seeing you.

*Dave Sully MBE, President.*



## News From Williton Post Office



Just a few things to share with you this month.

Following our two Trade Fair visits we now have some lovely new stock in, as well as cards, crafts and wrapping paper for Easter.

With holiday seasons happening, our Passport Service is busy, as is the sale of Foreign Currency. Post Office Travel Insurance is reliable and well established, we can give you a quote at the counter and even set it up for you on most occasions.

With the closure of all the Banks in Williton you are still able to make cash withdrawals, balance enquiries and cash and cheque deposits to your bank account in the Post Office. Pay your Council Tax, utility bills, also apply for Passports, Car Tax and Drivers Licence 10-year renewals can also all be done with us.

We continue to sell the Williton Walks booklet for charity and now have a collection box for unwanted Lego for Guide Dogs for The Blind charity.

Why not pop in and see us.

*Caroline and Brian Tyner.*

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## Not Another Roundabout in Williton

There are plans for yet another roundabout at the junction of Fore Street, North Street and Long Street currently a T-Junction. This is in addition to the proposed roundabout for two developments in Bank Street / Priest Street on the main Minehead road. This would mean three roundabouts in Williton. Will this really improve traffic flow or will we end up in gridlock?

- Below are some points of concern raised by the Williton & District Business Association (WDBA): -
- Delivery access, lorries reversing on the roundabout in & out of the drives of the Co-op & Somerset Farmhouse.
  - Articulated lorries and buses will have to cross straight over the roundabout as too big.
  - Possibility of losing some of the free parking spaces outside Co-Op
  - Suggested pedestrian crossing on exit / entrance of roundabout lanes, this could be dangerous on such busy roads.
  - If supermarket gets built in Banks Street, then **Three** roundabouts in close proximity.
  - Already narrow pavements, by Somerset Farmhouse, which is dangerous for children walking to school, mums with pushchairs etc, now on edge of roundabout.

No in depth traffic analysis has been carried out locally since approx 2016, and with the traffic from Butlins (6000 twice a week moving) and new housing sites in Doniford road, and planning applications for two more sites locally, is a 16 meter roundabout the right answer?


If you have concerns, please see the planning application link below, and take the opportunity to raise your concerns or objections by letter / email or try using the Link below: -  
<https://www1.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

Sally Payton, Chair WDBA.

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

How can we influence change ?  
 I think I have in the past raised this question so apologies for the similar repeat but it is worth a reminder.

In this modern age of so much communication do we really communicate effectively and in a positive way. Grumbling amongst ourselves will not achieve very much but if we engage with authorities and organisations in a respectful and positive way we can sometimes change things for the better.



DRS.



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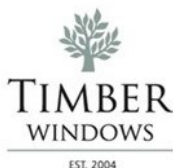


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## Faith Reflection

### Where is the hope?

Today, many people are struggling and suffering. There are wars and conflicts that continue to cause death and destruction; there's sharply increasing prices due to the cost of living increases; and there are natural disasters, like the devastating effects of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria back in February. It's not difficult to conclude that the world is a hopeless place as we struggle to come to an understanding of why all these difficult situations are happening.

At Easter, Christians remember the cross where Jesus was crucified and we think about the pain and the desolation of that tragic event. But Easter does not end on Good Friday, because then we remember the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. This offers us all the promise of a hopeful future in spite of all the seemingly hopeless situations around us. Out of tragedy, God brings us hope and the promise of new life.

At Easter, alongside the Christian events that take place, many of us will enjoy an Easter egg. You may wonder what Easter eggs have to do with the Christian message of hope that Easter brings. An honest answer would be that they have little to do with the Christian celebration of Easter directly, and yet it is possible to find some hopeful significance in our Easter eggs.

Many of our birds and animals lay eggs at this time of year, and eggs have been a springtime symbol of new life for centuries. In some parts of the world decorating eggs has been developed into an art form. Most famously, perhaps, in the Faberge eggs that are so beautiful. Another example is the Ukrainian 'Pysanki' egg. At Easter in the Ukraine it is traditional to take white eggs and draw a pattern with a pen which leaves a thin layer of beeswax. The eggs are then dipped in a coloured dye. Another pattern is drawn with the wax pen and the egg is dipped again into a different coloured dye. The process is repeated until there are several colours and several layers of wax. The wax is then melted away and what is left is an egg with a beautiful pattern in several colours. Many symbols with Christian meanings can be drawn onto these eggs.

As you are eating your Easter eggs this year, let us give thanks to God for the hope and the promise of new life that Easter offers, symbolised for us in our chocolate Easter eggs.

Happy Easter!  
Nick Rev

*Nick Lakin Methodist Minister.*



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## Regular Weekly Meetings / Groups & Events in Williton

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

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



### 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.*



### LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES

Seeing the snow falling and not having to travel anywhere just enjoy the spectacle.

DRS.



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## What's Happening This Month In Williton

### Williton Monthly Meetings / Groups & Events for April 2023

|              |             |                           |   |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Tues</b>  | <b>4th</b>  | Good Neighbours Grp       | 2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room        |
| <b>Tues</b>  | <b>4th</b>  | Easter Bingo              | 7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion            |
| <b>Weds</b>  | <b>5th</b>  | Family History            | 3pm One to One ( <b>Book with Library</b> ) |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>6th</b>  | Wasps AGM                 | 1.30pm Sampford Brett Village Hall          |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>9th</b>  | Craft Stash Jumble        | 2 to 4pm Pavilion & Memorial Ground         |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>9th</b>  | Easter Egg Hunt           | 2 to 3pm War Memorial Recreation Ground     |
| <b>Tues</b>  | <b>18th</b> | Bingo                     | 7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion            |
| <b>Weds</b>  | <b>19th</b> | Annual Parish Assembly    | 7.00pm Pavilion                             |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>20th</b> | Women's Institute         | 2.00pm Pavilion                             |
| <b>Fri</b>   | <b>21st</b> | Community Market          | 9.30am to 12 noon Williton Social Club      |
| <b>Mon</b>   | <b>24th</b> | Garden Club               | 7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room        |
| <b>Tues</b>  | <b>25th</b> | Brain Peaks               | 7.30pm Talk on Genius. Pavilion             |
| <b>Weds</b>  | <b>26th</b> | Family History Group      | 7.15pm Pavilion Group Meeting               |
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>30th</b> | Treats Trinkets Treasures | 10.30am to 12.30pm 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](mailto:williton@willitonwindow.co.uk) or Telephone: 01984 631595

Withycombe Memorial Hall




### FUN GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Saturday 1st April at 7.30pm

Teams of up to six £5.00 per person Prizes for First Place

**Buffet Supper Raffle Bring your own beverage!**





### Coronation Mugs

To celebrate the Kings Coronation in May, Williton Parish and Watchet Town Councils will be giving commemorative mugs to all children at Danesfield, Knights Templar, St Peters & both nursery schools. If you do not have a child at any of these schools and would like to have a mug, please call in or telephone the Parish Office to place your order. We are supporting a local business – Hall of Names Williton, who are designing and supplying these mugs which will cost £3 each. Your order must be placed and paid for by 14th of April. Mugs will then be available to collect from the Parish Office from date to be advised.

DLH.

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At last Spring is upon us and our hedgehogs should now be out of hibernation. The first priority for hedgehogs is to replenish energy levels and once that is done hormonal surges take over and so starts the business of procreation! Both males and females are able to breed from their first spring and then remain fertile throughout their lives. The breeding season lasts from late April to October, and we often see two litters before the Autumn.

I expect you have heard the old joke which asks about how hedgehogs mate. The answer is usually "carefully". Mating is a very prickly affair! Once a male picks up the smell of a female he will search her out and start a very energetic dance circling the female. He will try to position himself behind the female but this isn't as easy as it seems, as many of you have reported seeing. If the female is not ready, or is not sure that her suitor is right for her, she will turn to face him, forehead lowered aggressively and makes loud hissing sounds. I am sure many of you have heard this going on in your garden at night. The male circles the female and she will make sure she faces the male to stop any 'funny business' until she is ready. This noisy dance can go on for over an hour, either until the female decides that this male is 'the one' or the male gets fed up and goes off to find food or another female. If mating is successful the hedgehogs part company and the female is left to bring up her family on her own. The gestation period for a female hedgehog is just under 5 weeks, although she is able to slow things down if there is a sudden cold snap and she has to go into temporary hibernation. If you see a 'fat' hedgehog don't assume that it is a pregnant female. It is very difficult to tell if a female is pregnant, usually only a scan will reveal that she is. She has to be able to curl up tightly for protection and so having a large tummy would hinder her being able to do this.

If you should disturb a nest with a mum and babies in it cover it up again straight away. Do not handle the babies as it may mean that the female abandons them, or even kill them. Leave them where they are, the babies and the mother will eventually leave the nest and then you can continue to clear the area you found the nest in. I had a couple of calls last year where a nest of babies had been disturbed and the finders were happy to leave well alone until the family had moved off.

As always, if you have any questions about hedgehogs please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help you.

Jane Sharp, Watchet Hedgehogs, 07918 603059, [www.watchethedgehogs.org](http://www.watchethedgehogs.org)



### WILLITON WI

On Thursday the 16th of March, the ladies of Williton WI were entertained by Ken Atherton, who told us about the History of the Lancashire Monologue. Ken told us how the writing of monologues began and read various very amusing ones including the popular 'Albert and The Lion'. Next month, on the 20th of April, our speaker will be Nichola Penn with the 'Tales of a Somerset Soap Maker', including a demonstration. Visitors are welcome to join us in the Williton Pavilion at 2.00pm. (£3.50) Irene Draper.






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## WHEELS

### COMMUNITY DRIVING SCHEME FOR WATCHET AND WILLITON

WHEELS gives a very personal service to people who have no access to a car and need to attend a medical appointment or visit a friend. We collect from their front door and are around to pick them up after their appointment. A modest charge is made; for instance, a return trip from Williton to Musgrove, if you have a bus pass, is £12.40.

The number of journeys that we have done since New Year has increased to around 40 per month and sadly on 2 or 3 occasions each month we have not been able to find a driver.

**We do need more drivers.** Can any reader help us even if it is just for one drive per fortnight? Drivers receive expenses of 45p per mile and can choose to undertake the journeys which are convenient to them.

Coordinators provide the vital link between our passengers and drivers. They receive the requests for transport on the WHEELS mobile phone and then find a driver to take them. Usually they do this one week each month. Sadly one of our coordinators has had to give up so we badly need a new volunteer.

If you can help or would like to hear more about volunteering as a WHEELS driver or coordinator, please contact me at [jjcarslake@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jjcarslake@tiscali.co.uk) or ring me on **01984 639083**.

*John Carslake (Chair of Wheels).*

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## WSMLA Guided Walks 2023

**Booking and up-to-date information: Exmoor National Park (ENPA) on 01398 323841 or on our website, [www.wsmr.org.uk](http://www.wsmr.org.uk) Booking is essential:**

*Further walks and/or talks can be arranged for groups.*

**Call 01984 634177 or 01398 323841**



Walks are free, donations are welcome, dogs on leads only with permission, walking boots and rain wear are needed.



**Sat, 22nd April, Ruins in the Woods.**

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

A 1 hr stroll to look at Langham engine house, 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 engine house or Kennisham Hill.



## 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.



View this magazine online at [www.willitonwindow.org.uk](http://www.willitonwindow.org.uk)



# Pavilion & Village Events



HIPPITY HOP  
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For An



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday 9 April  
2—3 PM

*Not just for children—eggs to find for all ages,  
from babies to seniors*

@ Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground

Light refreshments available

Organised by Williton Parish Council



Saturday 6 May

TBC—5pm

The Coronation will be screened LIVE  
at Williton Pavilion  
Light refreshments available

Followed by a Tea Dance led by the  
Ballroom Dancing Group with High Tea  
served by Foxes Academy

## TREATS, TRINKETS & TREASURES

@ Williton Pavilion  
Last Sunday each month

10:30—12:30

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FREE ENTRY

### TABLE TOP SALE



30 April

29 October

### Ducks Race in May

28 May

25 June

30 July

27 August

24 September



Sunday 21 May

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opening their gates to visitors, most in aid of  
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A variety of cottage, courtyard and  
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There is still plenty of room for more, so if  
you want to join them and open your  
garden please contact the Parish Office  
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cllr.howes@willitonpc.org.uk by 11 April  
please.

Tickets and maps (£2) to visit the gardens  
will be available from 1 May.  
Money raised from ticket sales will go to  
WWMRG registered charity # 211212.

FROM OUR VILLAGE AGENT  
IZZY SILVESTER.

April



## CARING FOR CARERS

CAN YOU HELP BY OFFERING A WELL BEING TREATMENT TO A CARER?  
OR OFFER SOMETHING FOR A RAFFLE OR GOODY BAG?

ORGANISATIONS and individuals are being invited by Somerset Carers Service to participate in an event for those members of our community who devote their time to supporting others, during National Carers Week in June.

The event is at Williton Pavilion on Saturday 10th June from 2pm to 4pm.

It aims to provide Carers with goody bags and information on support services available to them, an opportunity to meet with other Carers, and to take part in interactive demonstrations and features.

Local charity, the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) are commissioned to run Somerset Carers Service. This support is delivered by the Somerset Village Agents on a 1:1 basis to Carers at any and every stage of a person's caring journey. Members of the team will be on hand at the event to showcase how they can help unpaid Carers.

West Somerset Village Agents are helping to organise the event alongside West Somerset Healthcare's Patient Participation Group (PPG).

Local CCS Village Agent, Izzy Silvester, said: "Unpaid Carers are unsung heroes of our community who often make sacrifices to look after loved ones whether that's a partner, parent, friend or child, on a daily basis.

"This event aims to give carers in our community an opportunity to take some time out to find out more about the services available to them, including practical and financial support, self-care and therapy, arts and crafts whilst meeting others in similar situations.

"Being a carer can be difficult and lonely at times, and just having time to meet and talk to others can make such a difference."

Foxes Academy will provide tea and cakes during the event and the organisers hope this will be an informal, interactive and enjoyable opportunity for visitors. Entry will be free of charge, and Somerset Carers are very thankful to the many volunteers they already have to help the day run smoothly.

Organisations interested in taking part and anyone who can provide interactive demonstrations are welcome to participate. To book your place please contact PPG chair Dr Elizabeth Grigg on 01278 741645 or 07765 994013 or email [grigg.84@btinternet.com](mailto:grigg.84@btinternet.com), or Dr Jane Armstrong at [jcb773737@outlook.com](mailto:jcb773737@outlook.com).

Takeaway goody bags and a raffle are also planned to treat visitors to the event, and local companies who would like to donate can contact Dr Grigg or Dr Armstrong.

Financial donations can be made to the West Somerset Crisis Fund operated by the Community Council for Somerset, please contact Izzy Silvester or Steve Grice for bank details or donate via Local Giving: <https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/westsomersetcrisisfund>

You can also Text WESTSOMERSET to 70460 to donate £10

For free help and support please contact either Izzy Silvester on 07960029780 [izzy@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:izzy@somersetccc.org.uk) or Steve Grice on 07958415270 [stepheng@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:stepheng@somersetccc.org.uk)

Izzy Silvester.



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## Down at the Station April



By the time this issue is distributed trains should have been running for two weekends over the whole line from Minehead to Bishops Lydeard which is really good news as back at Christmas when it was widely reported about the flooding and mud movements at Coombe Florey there was some doubt. It was realized that we may be in for some serious delays in running the full service this season. However, while there will be a lot of engineering work to be carried out over the next year it is deemed perfectly safe for trains to use that part of the line in the meantime.

Our winter maintenance at Williton suffered some setbacks due to the February weather and every time it rains on a Tuesday then that holds things up further. Several jobs have been completed and there will be some work continued into the summer months. The whole station is like the Forth Bridge in many ways as at no time will there be nothing left to paint! Perhaps there is a retired painter out there who would like to join the team and come along say one day a week to continue the programme?

As expected fares have been slightly increased this season as everyone realizes I am sure that overheads have gone through the roof as they have for all of us, and the costs of running a tourist attraction such as the railway poses the same problem. The Annual Tickets are still available but the Local Residents Discount Cards are being phased out. Those who hold them will have received a letter indicating a revised expiry date following the covid closures. However should anyone like to become members of the West Somerset Railway Association, the charity arm of the railway, then they would be entitled to a 25% discount on their ticket throughout the season. Membership rates from £27 adult, or £24 for seniors. Leaflets about this are available at the station.

As always we invite you to come down to the station to see and smell the trains once they are running, and the shop will always be open for tea/coffee/ice cream etc. Our book stall and gift cards will be available and later in the season there will be the plant and produce stall. Thank you for your past support.

*John Parsons Station Master.*



## Williton Garden Club



Our February meeting was well attended when we had a very interesting talk from Allan Cavill about No Dig Vegetable Gardening. It really sounded simple once he explained the whole system, and I'm sure several members will take his suggestions on board for their own gardens.

If you receive this edition before Monday 27th March (which you may well do) then our meeting that evening is a talk by Pauline & David Wright telling us about a new garden from scratch. Visitors at £2 are always welcome to our meetings at Danesbrough Common Rooms at 7.30 p.m.

The April meeting on the 24th will concentrate on our Annual General Meeting and is likely to be followed by an archived Gardeners World DVD!



*John Parsons, Chairman.*

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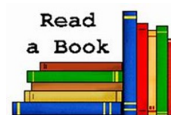
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## Williton Public Library

Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday  
10am -1pm & 2pm -5pm, Saturday 10am -1pm.  
(Closed Tuesdays).



### 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.

### Craft Event

We will be running a children's craft event on the 5th of April with an Easter Theme. Booking is essential at [willib@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:willib@somerset.gov.uk).

### 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 have family history sessions on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month. (booking essential)

### 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.

For any information about the library please call in or email our email address is [willib@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:willib@somerset.gov.uk) if you need to get in touch with us or wish to book for an event.

Williton Library staff.

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**WILLITON WEATHER**



**MARCH**

March has brought some welcome rain after a very dry February, some parts of the south west are still in drought a little worrying if we have a dry summer. The spring flowers are in abundance particularly lovely display of snowdrops this year now going over.

**FEBRUARY**

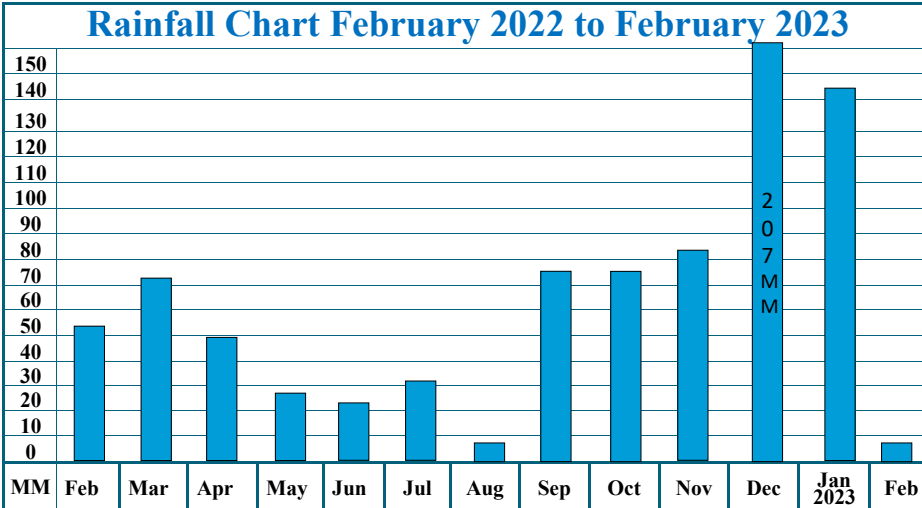
A minimum temperature of -6°C on the 2nd.  
The maximum temperature was 18.4°C on the 7th.  
The maximum pressure of 30.6 inches (very high).  
The minimum pressure of 29.8 inches.  
The total months rainfall was 8mm (hence drought conditions).

**NATURE NOTES**

I found two gardens with bluebells out, unusual for the 3rd week of February. It has been lovely to see crocus and daffodils out at the same time. The blackthorn was out early heralding a cold snap (the country saying is "Blackthorn Winter" meaning 4 weeks with very cold spells). Pussy willow catkins and trees with blossoms are of course usual to see this month.

P.J.

**Rainfall Chart February 2022 to February 2023**



| Month    | Rainfall (mm) |
|----------|---------------|
| Feb      | 50            |
| Mar      | 70            |
| Apr      | 45            |
| May      | 25            |
| Jun      | 20            |
| Jul      | 30            |
| Aug      | 10            |
| Sep      | 75            |
| Oct      | 70            |
| Nov      | 80            |
| Dec      | 150           |
| Jan 2023 | 140           |
| Feb      | 5             |



Withycombe Memorial Hall

**BLUEBELL WALK**

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## Williton and Surrounds Parkinson's Support WASPS



There was a good attendance at the March meeting of the 'Wasp's' at Sampford Brett Village Hall.

The meeting started at 1.30pm with exercises led by Rosemary, who tested us with some tricky balancing exercises.

Entertainment was provided by 'Fellahin', who are a middle eastern dance group. Unfortunately, due to sickness only two of the dancers were able to be there. However they gave a varied programme of dances of different styles. The final dance required audience participation, which was well received. There were handouts explaining some of the history of the dance styles which were very informative.

Arrangements for publicity of Parkinson's Awareness Week, were discussed which coincides with our next meeting the AGM on the 6th of April.

### WASPS Leader

#### Honoured by High Sheriff

Linda Bishop who is a regular contributor to Williton Windows through her WASP articles has been given The High Sheriffs award for her ten years' service supporting Parkinson sufferers in the Williton and Minehead area.

The award was presented to her at The High Sheriff's house in Luxborough on Saturday 11th of March before a group of WASPs members.



Jennifer Duke Presenting The High Sheriffs Award to Linda Bishop

Jane Cooper.



Watchet and District Choral Society present

## SPRING INTO SONG



*A collection of songs and readings - sacred, modern and uplifting!*

Thursday 20th April at 7.30pm at Watchet Methodist Church

**FREE ENTRY**



*Retiring Collection on behalf of the Devon and Somerset Air Ambulance*



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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For full details & Tickets see:  
[www.regaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.regaltheatre.co.uk)

### April



**Tuesday 4th: 7.30pm LUNANA A Yak in the Classroom (Cert PG)**  
Bhutan's first ever Oscar-nominated film is about a young man who is neglectful of his duties as a trainee teacher as he dreams of relocating to Australia and becoming a singer.

**Saturday 8th: 11:00am SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS**  
Staring Howard Keel and Jane Powell as Adam and Milly. The latest title in what is proving our very successful monthly Saturday morning matinee of favourite classic films. All proceeds to go to the Regal Theatre support fund. **Tickets only £3 each.**

**Monday 10th: 7:30pm to Saturday 15th (Except Weds) LEGALLY BLONDE**  
In association with Fusion Young Performers a fabulously fun musical based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde the Musical. With an upbeat score, memorable songs and a stage full of pink, it would be illegal to miss it! Legally Blonde the Musical is an amateur production presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International.

**Wednesday 12th: 7.15pm CINDERELLA (Live Screening)**  
From the Royal Opera House The Royal Ballet presents Royal Ballet Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton's Cinderella celebrates its 75th anniversary this Season.

**Tuesday 18th: 7.30pm VERMEER: BLOCKBUSTER EXHIBITION ON SCREEN.** This new Exhibition on Screen film invites audiences to a private view of the exhibition, accompanied by the director of the Rijksmuseum and the curator of the show. A truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

**Friday 21st & Sat 22nd: 7.30pm REGAL THEATRE VARIETY SHOW**  
This theatrical extravaganza will showcase the abundance of local talent with entertainment encompassing drama, music, dance etc from the Barnstormers, Minehead Dramatic Society, the Panto People and the Waterfront Theatre.

**Thursday 27th: 6.45pm THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (Live Screening)**  
(filmed in June 2022) Broadcast from The Royal Opera House Servants Figaro and Susanna are filled with excitement on their wedding day, but there's a hitch: their employer, the Count Almaviva, has dishonourable intentions of his own towards the bride-to-be.

**Saturday 29th: 7.30pm VICTORIAN STEAMPUNK VARIETY SHOW**  
The Variety Show is the highlight of the MINEHEAD 29th Festival which returns to the town for May Bank Holiday weekend. Expect some very unusual acts along with very talented musicians and of course some comedy. We hope you will join in by dressing for the occasion in Victorian or Steampunk style ... and this year there will be pirates too!

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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**WORDSEARCH FOR APRIL**  
by Phyllis Chidgey  
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| <b>ASH</b>  | <b>MACE</b>  | <b>HATCH</b>  | <b>PARADE</b>      |
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| <b>RITE</b> | <b>BIBLE</b> | <b>BONNET</b> | <b>EASTER DAY</b>  |

### FORGET ME NOT CAFE

In the Sanctuary Swain Street Watchet 10.30 to Noon  
Our Meetings in April are:-  
**April 5th & April 19th**  
For any further details contact:  
Margaret Tatham on **07973 638030** or email [watchetdementia@gmail.com](mailto:watchetdementia@gmail.com)

 **SOMERSET DEMENTIA**  
Wellbeing Service  
Wellbeing Service Roadshow 10am to 4pm  
Friday 14th April Minehead Methodist Hall  
Showcasing support options all welcome.





## Useful Telephone Numbers



|                                       |                                      |                              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Christians Against Poverty</b>     | Free debt help                       | <b>Tel: 0800 328 0006</b>    |
| <b>Mind line Somerset</b>             | Emotional support helpline           | <b>Tel: 01823 276892</b>     |
| <b>Parish Council</b>                 | Parish Clerk                         | <b>Tel: 01984 633979</b>     |
| <b>Pavilion</b>                       | Bookings / Enquiries                 | <b>Tel: 01984 633979</b>     |
| <b>Police</b>                         | Emergency<br>Non Emergency           | <b>Tel: 999<br/>Tel: 101</b> |
| <b>Quantock Foodbank</b>              | Local Foodbank                       | <b>Tel: 07483 815122</b>     |
| <b>Registry Office</b>                | Pre booked Appointments              | <b>Tel: 01823 282251</b>     |
| <b>Surgery</b>                        | Robert Street TA4 4QE                | <b>Tel: 01984 632701</b>     |
| <b>Village Agent (Izzy Silvester)</b> | Leave a message with contact details | <b>Tel: 07931 018045</b>     |
| <b>WASPS</b>                          | Local Parkinson's support            | <b>Tel: 01984 631472</b>     |
| <b>West Somerset Advice Bureau</b>    | Advice line:                         | <b>Tel: 0800 802 1808</b>    |
| <b>WHEELS</b>                         | Community Transport Service          | <b>Tel: 0789 182 1861</b>    |

**SUNDAY  
9 APRIL 2023**

**CRAFT  
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Tea & Coffee

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### West Somerset Family History Group

Our April meeting is a group meeting where we as a group will try to help members move on with their research if they have become stuck. Our group help meetings are proving very helpful especially for new members .

Entrance is £1.50 for SDFHS members and £3 for visitors who are always made welcome.

At the time of writing there is only one session available at the library .You need to book with the library for the 3pm slot. Car parking is in Killick Way.

*Lesley Murray Secretary.*

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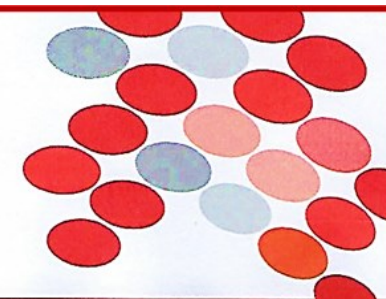
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