

Your Community Magazine

# WILLITON WINDOW

January 2024  
Volume 24 Number 7

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## Williton Window Magazine

**DEADLINE DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE**

**ADVERTISING: 5PM - TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY**

**EDITORIAL: 5PM - FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY**

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

**10.00am to 12 midday weekdays from FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY**

**All enquiries for advertising / articles / news & diary dates to:**

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

**All accounts enquiries to:**

Mr Ian Robson, Doniford Cottage, Watchet TA23 0TR ☎ 07435 977003

**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, Library & 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 Derek Smith on:

**01984 631595, or email: [williton@willitonwindow.co.uk](mailto:williton@willitonwindow.co.uk)**

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

To download a copy go to our website: [www.willitonwindow.org.uk](http://www.willitonwindow.org.uk)

**Cover Picture:** Monksilver stream passing the old mill wheel Bridge Farm Church Street Williton.

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## Williton Parish Council

To contact Williton Parish Council telephone **01984 633979** and talk to Michelle, Charlotte or Nadine.  
Email Michelle: [clerk@willitonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willitonpc.org.uk) or [admin@willitonpc.org.uk](mailto:admin@willitonpc.org.uk)

As you will be aware parts of the children's playground were fenced off over the summer as some of the equipment had become dangerous. I am pleased to say that the large climbing frame was able to be repaired and it is pleasing to see children enjoying themselves on it again. Unfortunately, the smaller climbing frame was beyond repair and has been removed. Some good news though which you may have seen in the West Somerset Free Press, the Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground Charity (WWMRG) was awarded a grant from the Co-op thanks to your very generous support for just over £4000, which is to be spent on children's play equipment. The Parish Council and the WWMRG will be working together to buy and install some new apparatus, but we would like your help to decide what kind of equipment. There will be drop-in sessions at the Parish Office on Wednesday 17th January between 4.00 -7.00pm and on Saturday 20th January between 10.30 – 12.00am where we would like to hear about the types of play equipment you (and more importantly the children) would like.

You may also have heard on the news that Somerset Council has declared a Financial Emergency both for an overspend on their budget for the rest of this financial year of £19 million and as I am writing this a budget deficit of £87 million for the tax year 2024-2025. Somerset Council has said that they are looking at all options to close that gap but there will be some very difficult decisions that need to be taken and are looking to parish councils to pick up some services from them, this in turn will have a big impact on our budget. Somerset Council has statutory obligations to fulfil certain functions, such as adult social services which they will have to fund, but it was explained at a meeting that I attended there will be "damage to some services". Quite what that means isn't clear yet, but non-essential services will be cut.

Although they are saying that parish councils will not have to take on any services that they don't want to, the inference is that if parish councils don't, the service will be lost. Particularly vulnerable to these cuts will be what is described as the "street scene". Somerset Council, through the Highways Department has a legal obligation to maintain the roads but they don't have any such obligation to maintain pavements or footpaths, litter and dog bins, road sweeping etc.

*Continued on Page 8.*

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**FOR FULL DETAILS**

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## Parish Council Continued from Page 6.

As a Parish Council we already look after many community assets either directly or with WWMRG, unlike some parishes, for example, where the children's playground is at threat as Somerset Council currently maintain it. Any cuts that will be made by Somerset Council will have an impact on our community and village. Although as a Parish Council we have a good idea of what is valuable, again we need your input to help us establish what is important to you so that we can spend, what is essentially your money, wisely. We are currently setting our budget for 2024-25 and in turn the amount that we ask for from you in Council Tax. It won't be easy, some hard decisions will have to be taken, but please be assured we are doing what is possible to make sure that our village and community is somewhere to be proud of.

Having said all that, we are approaching Christmas and the season of goodwill, may I end this by saying thank you to everybody who has helped, in whatever way, to make Williton such a wonderful place to live in 2023 and wish you all on behalf of Williton Parish Council a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Peter Payne Chairman.*



**Advertising in the Williton Window**

The magazine is free and delivered every month to **1600** homes throughout the Parish/Village of Williton. It represents good value for money. The magazine is printed with a colour cover, black and white content and is A5 booklet format, it is also published online monthly at: [www.willitonwindow.org.uk](http://www.willitonwindow.org.uk)

**The advertising rates from September 2022 apply:-**

Size	Description	Rate	Copies
Size A	Eighth of a Page = 61mm(w) x 46mm(h)	£ 88 Per Year	12 Copies
Size B	Quarter of a Page = 61mm(w) x 92mm(h)	£135 Per Year	12 Copies
Size B+	Quarter of a Back Page = 61mm(w) x 92mm(h) In colour subject to space availabilities. Other sizes fee by negotiation.	£216 Per Year (Quarter Page Fee)	12 Copies
Size C	Half of a Page = 122mm(w) x 92mm(h)	£236 Per Year	12 Copies
Size D	Full Page = 122mm(w) x 184mm(h)	£405 Per Year	12 Copies

Amendments to advertisements are free of charge at the time of annual renewal.  
**A charge of £10 will be made for any intermediate changes.**

Charges for one off adverts for one issue only is: -	Rate
Eighth of a page	£14
Quarter page	£27
Half a page	£40
Whole Page	£66

All adverts can be submitted in colour and will appear in the magazine in black & white except Size B+ adverts on the back page of the printed magazine, which are in colour. Position of adverts within the magazine are at the editors discretion.  
All adverts are in colour in the website version if submitted in colour format.

**For more information, contact Derek Smith on 01984 631595  
or e-mail: [williton@willitonwindow.co.uk](mailto:williton@willitonwindow.co.uk)**

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Holy Communion

**Services in January**  
**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 39.



Sunday	7th	10.00am	Café Church
Sunday	14th	09.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	21st	No Service at St Peter's	We join CTiWW in The Pavilion at 11am to celebrate Christian Unity Week.
Sunday	28th	09.15am	Parish Communion

The church is normally open every day during daylight hours

**St Peter's Church Contact Details:**

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



**Church Winter Fundraising Quiz**

It's that time again! The winter quiz is available for you to do on the cold winter's nights. We ask for a donation of £1 per quiz booklet for St Peter's Church.

**Pick up your copy with return envelope from :**

Somerset Farmhouse Shop, Parish Office, Post Office, Williton Carpet shop.



Church Fundraising

There is a £20 prize for the winner. However, if you don't manage to complete the quiz it's worth sending your entry in as all entries are entered in a draw for a bottle of wine. Have fun and enjoy working out the answers.

**All entries to be returned by Sunday 7th January 2024**



**CAMEO**

(Come and meet each other)

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

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

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



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## Quantock Hills National Landscape



On Wednesday 22nd of November all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales are becoming National Landscapes, including the Quantock Hills National Landscape. The new name reflects their national importance; the vital contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do.

This is a significant milestone for the UK and the next step in fully realising the National Landscapes' vision to be the leading exemplars of how thriving, diverse communities can work with and for nature in the UK: restoring ecosystems, providing food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, safeguarding against drought and flooding, whilst also nurturing people's health and wellbeing.

National Landscapes teams have been at the forefront of delivering natural solutions to the main challenges facing the nation for many years. The new brand underscores their commitment to redoubling their efforts and engaging with a wider audience. In 2019, teams set themselves the most ambitious targets for nature in the sector and continue to work to meet them.

By 2030, National Landscapes aim that, within their boundaries: at least 200,000 hectares of the most valuable natural areas (Sites of Special Scientific Interest or SSSIs), which equates to 1 ¼ times the size of London, will be in favourable condition; 100,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside of SSSIs will be created or restored, which is roughly nine times the size of Manchester; and 36,000 hectares of woodland, which is a little smaller than the Isle of Wight, will have been planted or allowed to regenerate. National Landscapes Partnerships will also focus on habitat restoration to ensure the protection of some of our most endangered species and increase their work to help more people to enjoy time spent in beautiful places.

Because of their size and scope, National Landscapes are ideally positioned to address the environmental issues the UK is facing. There are 46 National Landscapes in the UK, covering 14% of England, Wales and Northern Ireland including moorland, farmland, coast, forests, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, a Geopark and International Dark Sky Reserves. They are the UK's nearby countryside - 66% of people in England (44 million) live within 30 minutes of a National Landscape and at least 170 million people visit them every year.

If you would like more information please contact Iain Porter, Quantock Hills National Landscape manager email [iain.porter@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:iain.porter@somerset.gov.uk)  
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## Williton Methodist Group Advent and Christmas Greetings!



Dear Williton friends,

Let me introduce myself, my name is Rev Andy Day, and I am the Methodist Superintendent for the West Somerset Circuit, which includes Williton.

One of my favourite stories at this time of year is about a man who was asked on a quiz show to name all of Santa's reindeer, and after humming the song, confidently said Yes! They are Rudolph and Olive! Rudolph and Olive the quiz master asked? Yes, In the song, it goes 'Olive the other reindeer, laughed and called him names...'

I'm sure that some of us have heard that story before, and we know the punch line, and feel the same way about the Nativity story.

And yet, I am as surprised as anyone, that each year, that I discover something new in the story of Joseph and Mary, and their son Jesus, something that brings me joy and peace, even as events around us seem intent on taking it from us all.

Friends, might I encourage you this Christmas to read the story once more - Luke's account is a good start, and ponder it anew, because I think you will be pleasantly surprised. I'm also sure that there will be opportunities in the community and wider area to sing your favourite carols and join others who are also exploring the Christmas story. I hope that you will find a warm welcome and perhaps even a mince pie. **Merry Christmas.**

*Andy.*

## New Year

Mighty God we have a hymn in our old Methodist Hymn Book.

*'Another Year is dawning: Dear Master, let it be  
in working or in waiting another year for Thee.'*

Lord, You have been with us through 2023 and we know You will not desert us in 2024. We pray for the World, a world longing for peace! Please Lord God, where there is hatred send Your Love, where there is fear send Your hope, where there is sadness send Your Joy. Where there is War, send Your peace.

Lord God, our country is going through difficult times. We pray that wisdom and commitment be given to the government and local district councils responsible for decisions that affect the lives of the people.

We want to bring to You all the people who are on strike. Please Lord God, may agreements be made to get our lives back on track. Give patience to those who are affected by the actions of the strikers.

Bless all the people in our country who are being affected and worried by the price rises in food and pray that neighbours will be drawn together and offer help and encouragement to one another.

We bring these prayers in the name of Jesus, who came to help all people in the world.

*A New Year Prayer from Mollie and the Methodist Group.*

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**Down at the Station**



By the time that you receive this the end of the scheduled trains coming to Williton Station will have nearly finished, there will only be a few Santa Expresses due during the week leading up to Christmas, however there will still be the Winterlight Trains running from Bishops Lydeard to Crowcombe and back during the week between Christmas and New Year. At the time of writing this there are still tickets available which must be booked online at: [www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk](http://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk).

2023 has generally been a good year for Williton Station even though we have had a few volunteers having health issues, but we are pleased to say they are all making good, if in some cases slow, recoveries.

We are taking a few weeks off over Christmas before we recommence our work parties to get ready for next year's services. If you would like to help us please drop down to the station on a Tuesday morning when these parties take place (weather permitting).

We wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you down at the station in 2024.

*Phil Chapman and Peter Payne  
 Assistant Station Masters.*



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# Faith Reflection

As we start this New Year of 2024, I wonder how we are feeling?

Are we excited about what lies ahead or are we feeling rather daunted? January can be a difficult time. The days are short and the nights long, with the war in Israel and Gaza and other places in the world, climate change and the extreme weather we keep having, expensive bills, etc, it can all feel a bit much and rather overwhelming.

The outlook is bleak and not much to be happy about. Back in November, I went to spend a weekend with some Franciscan Friars at Hilfield Priory in Dorset. I had a wonderful weekend, I joined in the daily rhythms of prayer in the chapel four times a day, spent some time in silence, enjoyed simple food, helped press some apples ready for cider next summer and just enjoyed some time joining in the community there. The community, made up of both Franciscans and lay people live a simple life, mostly self-sufficient, they farm the land, have a shared electric car and think really carefully about the way they live. I enjoyed being rather than doing.

I am a very busy person, like many of us, and don't often have time to just stop, breathe deeply and simply be. On the Saturday afternoon, the rest of my group went on a long walk, but I decided to stay put, and spent some quality time on my own, thinking, walking and praying. As I started on my walk, I discovered the secret garden and loved exploring it. There was much treasure to be found if I stopped and looked long enough. I found beautiful leaves, in varying shapes and colours, fresh berries growing, beautiful yellow flowers, bamboo growing, a fish sculpture made from diet coke cans (anyone who knows me well, knows how much I love diet coke!), an old wooden bridge and just to the right of that, when I looked up in the trees there was a sculpture of Jesus on the cross. It would have been so easy to miss all of this if I had carried on the path and not taken a detour into the secret garden.

I wonder what treasure we might find as we journey into this New Year? It doesn't have to be treasure of silver or gold, for there is treasure all around us, in the beauty of creation, in the people we meet, in the embrace of a loved one, in the rhythm of slowing down and simply being. As we start this New Year when life can sometimes seem rather gloomy, let's commit to seeking out the treasure in the everyday and enjoying all that God has given us.

*Julie Pelling Ordinand.*



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## West Somerset Family History Society

There will be no meeting in January. We decided that the weather is often not very nice and people may not want to travel so we decided not to hold a meeting. However, we will be meeting on the last Wednesday of each month starting from February. We are in the process of putting together a programme of speakers for 2024 and look forward to seeing you. We will continue to meet at Williton Pavilion, from 7.15 pm to 9.15 pm. Members of the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society pay £1.50 and non members pay £3.00. This includes refreshments.

*Jane Sharp Chairman.*



## A Wellbeing Garden

Created for pupils and staff at Danesfield School  
has been officially opened



The garden was opened by Jane Warmington from [Somerset Gardens Trust](#). Children from the very popular school gardening clubs watched as Jane used a pair of garden shears to cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

A spokesperson for the school said, "The garden has been largely designed and created with enthusiasm and energy by the gardening club members. Funding was provided by Opportunities Area Wellbeing Fund and Somerset Gardens Trust and willing adult hands from the school and wider community."

The aim of the project was to create a sense of wellbeing for pupils by establishing an area of peace and tranquillity within the school grounds which pupils can visit and enjoy. The space created contains: a lavender pathway, a bug hotel, a willow arch, some fruit trees, a garden bench, a bird bath and feeders and a herb garden as well as shrubs and a rockery.

Danesfield School is also celebrating their recent extremely positive SIAMS Report. Headteacher David McGrath, said, "This wonderful report reflects the many real strengths of our school and clearly acknowledges that we are living up to our foundation as a church school, enabling all to flourish." He added that the report is a real boost to the school family. "It was lovely to read the very encouraging comments throughout the report."

*Helen Hatfield Admin.*



**Scouts**

## 1st Williton Scouts

We now have a scout troop for age 10 to 14 year olds on a Monday night 7pm to 9pm at the Guide and Brownies HQ in Long Street.

If you would like further details please contact me on: **07806 968961**.

*Emma Ireland  
Group Scout Leader.*

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## Regular Weekly Meetings / Groups & Events in Williton

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

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



### WILLITON WITH WATCHET WI

There will be updates of our Carol Service and Christmas lunch in the next edition. Our next open meeting will be held in the Pavilion at 2.00pm on Thursday the 18th of January. Meantime the ladies of Williton with Watchet WI wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Happy New Year!**

Irene Draper

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH IN WILLITON & SURROUNDS

### Monthly Meetings / Groups & Events for January 2024

<b>Tues</b>	<b>2nd</b>	Good Neighbours Grp	2.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>4th</b>	Wasps	1.30pm Sampford Brett Village Hall
<b>Tues</b>	<b>9th</b>	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>18th</b>	WI	2.00pm Pavilion
<b>Mon</b>	<b>22nd</b>	Garden Club	7.30pm Danesborough View Common Room
<b>Tues</b>	<b>23rd</b>	Bingo	7.00pm for 7.30pm start Pavilion

No Family History Group Meeting in January.

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

## Williton Indoor Short Mat Bowls



Williton Short Mat Bowls will be returning to Williton Pavilion on 9th Jan 2024 at 2.00pm after a short break for Christmas.

If you would like an afternoon of gentle exercise in a friendly environment even if there is some competitive rivalry please come along. All equipment is provided all that we ask is wearing soft flat soled shoes so that you don't damage the mats and that you pay £3.50 each week to cover the cost of hiring the Pavilion.

For more information please call me, Liz Payne (01984 633084).



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## Remembering to say Thank You

As we start the new year it is time to say thank you to all who work on this magazine.

- The Management Committee.
- Proof readers.
- Those who send us articles for publication.
- All those who deliver this magazine.
- The Parish Council for their support.
- All those who have given us donations during this last year.
- Last but not least all our advertisers whose financial support makes this magazine viable.



Thank you to all of you for making this magazine successful and a valued part of our community.

*DRS Editor.*

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## Williton and Surrounds Parkinson's Support



Unfortunately storm Ciaran blew in, and disrupted our November meeting. We had to consider the safety of our members, so cancelled the meeting.

The ukelele group which was booked for this meeting will be returning to entertain us, sometime in the new year.

WASPS had their Christmas meal on 7th December. With a break from tradition, we decided to have lunch at Sampford Brett village hall, using outside caterers. Despite the very wet weather, we had 29 guests.

The hall had been decorated for the various other Christmas Functions, and looked very festive. David made some warm punch, which went down very well. The meal was excellent, Paradise Catering served everyone very efficiently.

There were a lot of raffle prizes, and almost everyone won a prize !

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 4th January, when Ali, from West Somerset Food Cupboard, will be talking about their work in the community.

A Happy New Year to all our members.

*Jane Cooper.*

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Wednesday 27th December 2023	Friday 29th December 2023
Thursday 28th December 2023	Saturday 30th December 2023
Friday 29th December 2023	Sunday 31st December 2023
Monday 1st January 2024	Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	Wednesday 3rd January 2024
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	Thursday 4th January 2024
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## St Peter's School

### December News

Our Christmas Fair at the end of last month was a great success. Thank you to everyone that joined us and to all those that helped bring it together. We are now fast approaching the end of the Autumn Term, and of course the showing of our whole school

Christmas play – **The Inspectors**. After a month (or more) of singing, dancing, and rehearsing I am sure it will be a show to remember.

This month the boys and girls in Reception have been embracing all the wonderful traditions that this time of year brings. Each morning we have loved watching our advent candle burn and counting the days left until Christmas. Thank you to Reverend Mark for presenting it to us on the 1st of December. We have also had a fantastic time creating decorations for our classroom; from the snowflakes that now hang from our ceiling; to the baubles, paper chains and candy canes that adorn our tree.

Inspired by the story The Jolly Postman and a themed Jolly Christmas Postman workshop we have also written letters to Santa. Thank you to the Post Office team for being so helpful in getting these and our Christmas cards sorted and delivered super speedily. The boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience, even the very chilly walk there.

Year 1 are getting ready for the build up to Christmas by taking part in many different activities! We visited St Peter's Church and learnt all about the different features of a church and the importance of advent. We have also made some lovely Christmas snow globes and are now very busy rehearsing for the whole school Christmas performance.

As part of our learning in RE this term, Year 2 visited St Peter's Church. Rev Mark showed the boys and girls around the church, supporting us in learning lots of answers to our enquiry question 'Why is light an important symbol?'. Rev Mark was very impressed with our knowledge.

We also had a workshop called 'Oral Hygiene'. During this we learnt about the importance of brushing our teeth and keeping them clean. We were all so lucky to be given a new toothbrush and a tube of toothpaste to take home.

This term has been extremely busy. Year 4 have been producing a nativity play, whilst year 3 have been working closely alongside them in preparation for taking the lead next year. We have also been carol singing at Croft House and Williton Hospital and are now looking forward to watching someone else perform at this year's Tacchi Morris Centre Pantomime.

There has been a huge amount of festivity around the school, and we are all very much looking forward to Christmas (and a well-earned break). Everyone here at St Peter's First School would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! We can't wait to see what the new year brings.

*Louise Leworthy.*

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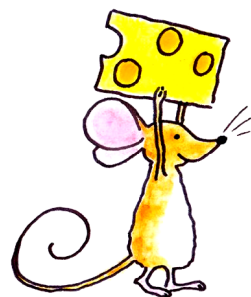
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WATCHET  
HEDGEHOGS

I am sure that by now you will not be seeing as many, if any, hedgehogs in your garden and surrounding areas. The majority of them will be hibernating, reserving energy for when the warmer weather comes along and natural food supplies are in ready supply.

However, not all hedgehogs hibernate constantly, and some may come out for something to eat and drink before returning to their nests. For this reason, you should continue to put out food and water for them all through the winter. If the food doesn't go after 3 or 4 days, then either give it to the birds or dispose of it and put new food out for the hedgehogs.

If you use Facebook and have not yet joined Watchet Hedgehogs Facebook page, then please feel free to join and share your hedgehog photos and stories with us.

*Jane Sharp 07918 603059.*

### New Editor Found!



As reported last month I am pleased to welcome Linda Wilson to our team producing this magazine. Linda will be working with me in January preparing the February edition. If all goes well Linda will produce her first edition during February

which will be the March issue.

Linda comes with experience of producing another small publication and is used to using the Microsoft Publisher software that we use to produce this magazine each month. I will then be stepping down but will remain in the background for a few months to offer any support if required.

*Derek Smith Editor.*



### Williton Garden Club



We are meeting on Monday 22 January 7.30pm in Danesborough View Meeting Room. We are hoping to enjoy highlights from the Chelsea Flower Show.

**Do come and join us, everyone is most welcome.**

*Liz Payne  
Secretary.*



### 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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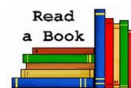
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## Williton Public Library

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### 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.



### Technology & Computer Support?

Computer support sessions happen on Thursday afternoons for 1:1 support with any device. Absolute beginners are welcome (booking essential).

### Lego

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



### Groups

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



### Home Library Service

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



### Story Sessions

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



If you are not already a library user, did you know it's free to join? All you need is some form of ID such as a driving licence, utility bill, passport or bus pass. You can then use the online resources such as our magazine/ newspapers app or download books on our Borrow box app for free, use the computers, borrow equipment such as thermal cameras, iPads and blood pressure monitors as well as using the public computers. You can borrow 20 books at a time for a three-week loan period and request books from other libraries to pick up at Williton (£1.20 charge on collection) Children do not currently pay overdue fines or request fees. For any information about the library please call in or email [willib@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:willib@somerset.gov.uk)

*Williton Library staff.*

**Happy New Year to all our customers**



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**WILLITON WEATHER**



**DECEMBER**

The month started with some frosts, it was good to get a few dry days if somewhat colder. However we are back to lots of rain again, we will see next month just how much.

**NOVEMBER**

A minimum temperature of -2°C frost on the 25th.  
The maximum temperature was 16.5°C on the 18th.  
A minimum pressure of 29.5 inches on the 9th.  
A maximum pressure of 34 inches on the 22nd.  
The total month's rainfall was 149mm.



We all experienced a lot of heavy rain. The most on one day fell on the 2nd, I measured 34 mm (over an inch). And we had the first frosts.

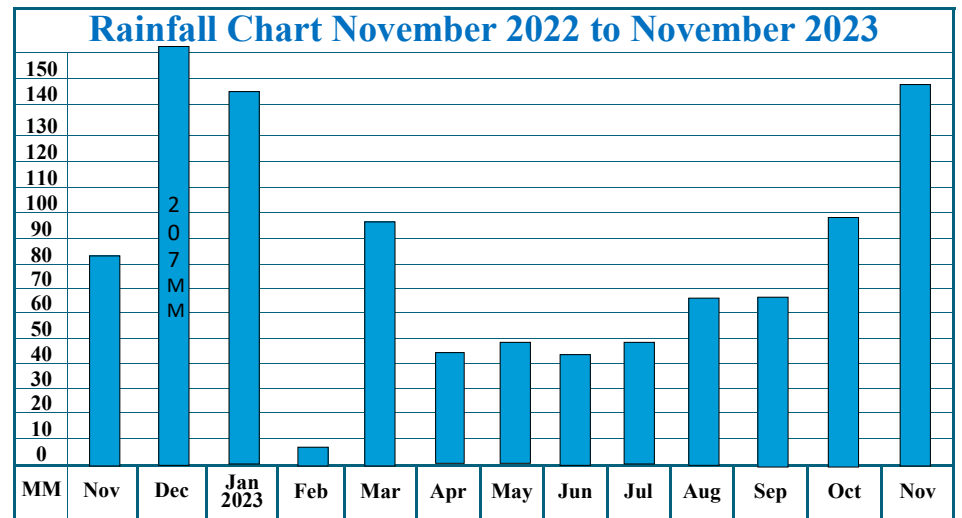
For the first time in years the trains to London were stopped for a while as the re-rout points were also flooded.

**NATURE NOTES**

There are still a few trees with some leaves but as I write this in December it is a very wet and windy morning so they will be all down soon. The birds have been very busy at the feeders particularly on the frosty days. Still some flowers in the garden!

**ASTRONOMICAL NEWS**

If we get a clear sky you may see the planets. Venus is usually the brightest, though it can be confused with a newish very bright satellite. A number of people saw them on clear nights. You may see shooting stars, in the hours before dawn, up to 10 meteors per hour at the peak. *P.J.*



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[www.regaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.regaltheatre.co.uk)  
**January 2024**



**Sunday 7th: 2.30pm THE GREAT ESCAPER (Cert 12A)**  
 Starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson in her last film, based on a true story that made national news about pensioner Bernard Jordan who in 2014 absconded from his care home in Hove.

**Tuesday 9th: 7:30pm. THE OLD OAK (Cert 15)**  
 Veteran British director Ken Loach's compassionate, forthright and hopeful film is about a young Syrian woman who joins forces with a pub landlord to unite two traumatised communities in the North East of England.

**Saturday 27th: 11:00am FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**  
 Set in early Twentieth Century Imperial Russia the story centres upon Tevye, played by Topol, a poor Jewish milkman.  
**All proceeds to go to the Regal Theatre support fund.**

**Saturday 27th: 7:30pm AN EVENING OF HEARTWARMING TALES**  
 Hosted in our Bar area, by Alexandra Simson, of Story-Well, a unique well-being and training service founded in 2011.  
*Join Alex for an evening of Heartwarming Tales this January.*

**Sunday 28th 2:00pm RUSALKA**  
 The Royal Opera **ENCORE LIVE BROADCAST** from The Royal Opera House. Filmed Live at the Royal Opera House in 2022. Sung in Czech with English subtitles

**We wish all our patrons a Happy and Healthy New Year  
 we look forward to seeing you at our events in 2024**

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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 by Phyllis Chidgey  
**Bags**



G	N	I	R	T	S	W	A	R	D
N	O	G	E	C	H	O	E	R	O
I	S	E	I	I	O	R	V	E	V
P	E	P	R	T	E	G	E	D	E
E	W	I	R	S	T	A	N	L	R
E	A	Z	A	A	O	W	I	U	N
L	S	A	C	L	T	S	N	O	I
S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	H	G
Y	A	I	R	U	B	B	I	S	H
R	U	C	K	S	A	C	K	I	T



AIR	TOTE	PLASTIC	OVERNIGHT
PEG	WASH	RUBBISH	DRAWSTRING
ZIP	SHOE	SLEEPING	KIT
GROW	SHOULDER	SWAG	CARRIER
SHOPPING	NOSE	EVENING	RUCKSACK

**FORGET ME NOT CAFE**

The Forget-me-not Cafe for people living with dementia or other memory problems and their carers will be held in:  
**The Sanctuary Swain Street Watchet from 10.30am to Noon**  
**Wednesday 10th January and Wednesday 24th January**

Our sister Cafe, in the Jubilee Rooms, Castle Street, Stogursey meets on the alternate Wednesdays (3rd, 17th and 31st) at the same times.

If you know anyone living with dementia who would benefit from coming along, please contact Margaret Tatham ([watchetdementia@gmail.com](mailto:watchetdementia@gmail.com)).

## Other Local Churches

### Baptist Church (Watchet)

The Baptist Church meets 10.30am at Knights Templar School on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. At other times, there are a series of smaller gatherings. For more information contact Rev Mike Sherburn: **01984 633755** or email: [mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk](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)



WATCHET  
BAPTIST CHURCH

### Catholic Church (Watchet)

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



### St Decuman's Church (Watchet)

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



### Salvation Army Watchet Corps (Watchet)

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



### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Washford)

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



## Useful Telephone Numbers



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

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**07771362486**

References Available

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