



WILLINGHAM NEWS

February 2007

End of an era at Willingham Medical Practice



When Dr Gordon Hewlett retires at the end of March, he will have worked as a GP in Willingham for 40 years. He came in March 1967, after three years in the Lensfield Road practice in Cambridge, and took over from Dr Flower who left Willingham after the death of his wife. Gordon Hewlett never

met Dr Flower – but he still sees his son, Dr John Flower, on regular GP refresher courses.

For a short time the practice was in Station Road, and then, after a brief sojourn in Wilford Furlong, from 1968 until 1995 in Schole Road - in a house bought for £3200.

Dr Hewlett was in partnership with Dr Ford, in Swavesey, who was a great help to him. There was no nurse permanently attached to the practice, and as Gordon Hewlett recalls: 'I depended heavily on Sue Hayden, who worked as both dispenser and receptionist'.

Dr John Beattie, retired from a medical academic post, joined the practice in 1972, and was with it for five years. He became a partner - at the age of 69.

Changing times brought change, and by the mid 1970s the practice had begun to employ its own nurses, the first being Lyn Lingham. By the early 1980s, nurses were taking on increasing responsibilities, and now there are four in the practice.

Two other doctors – Dr Pamela Cressey and Dr Fiona Walters – joined the practice, working also in Swavesey, where Dr Skinner had succeeded Dr Ford. That arrangement was not wholly happy, and in 1987 Drs Cressey and Walters left to form their own practice in Over. Dr Penny De Lacey came to Willingham and then in 1990, when Willingham was asked to take responsibility for Oakington Barracks, Dr Suter joined.

There was always a dispensary attached to the practice, and when Sue Hayden left, Linda Few became the dispenser. Dr Hewlett recalls wryly: 'For 15 years we left medicines out on a ledge to be collected – until the police warned us that this was unwise'. During those years, however, none was ever stolen.

With threats to the dispensary from the possibility that a pharmacy would be established in the village, the decision was taken in the late 1990s to open one linked to the practice.

Meanwhile, the practice had moved to its present specially designed building. Dr Hewlett, who was senior partner until five years ago, when he reduced his working week and handed over to Dr Hunt, pays warm tribute to the role of the Practice Manager, Cynthia Bidwell, in organising the move, and planning the building.

Gordon Hewlett was brought up in Newcastle, and from the Royal Grammar School there came up to Peterhouse. In 1957, after three years at Cambridge, he went to University College Hospital for his clinical studies. He met his wife Beryl who was a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital. They actually met in the train at Calais, on their way to a skiing holiday. They still spend time regularly in France – though now it is to play golf.

Returning to the Cambridge area was always attractive. At Peterhouse, Gordon had been a runner and

continued on page 7

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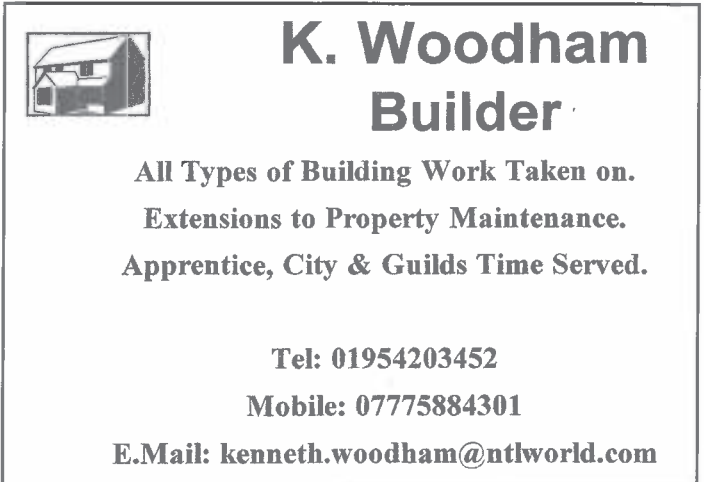
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From the Parish Council

More Parish Council changes

At the Parish Council meeting on 6 December, Messrs Geoff Pake and Chris Stephens were co-opted to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of Mrs Auger and Mr Granger.

Public Art Project

The Parish Council would like to assure the parishioner who wrote to *Willingham News* last month that it has no intention of sanctioning a Phantom of the Fens astride Earith Road. There is an article elsewhere in this edition of the News from the co-ordinator of the Project, Amy Wormald, which it is hoped will provide further reassurance.

Street cleansing

The District Council has provided the following schedule of street cleansing services it provides to the village:-

- Litter and dog waste bins are emptied weekly
- Pavements are swept mechanically once every six months: the next visits are scheduled to begin on 15 May and 14 November
- Kerbside channels of roads with a kerbed edge are swept mechanically every other month. The first sweep this year should have commenced on 15 January; future ones are due to commence on 15 March, 15 May, 16 July, 17 September and 14 November (*NB: sweeping may take more than one day, so if your street is not swept on these dates, it should be done the next day*). Obviously the mechanical sweeper has to go round any parked cars; so wherever possible it would be helpful if cars were not left parked at the roadside for any longer than necessary on the days the sweepers are in the village.

A couple of rubbish pleas

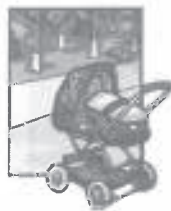
The Parish Council has now replaced all the missing litter and dog waste bins. Where bins were previously on wooden poles, these have been removed, at the request of Eastern Electricity, for safety reasons, because on wooden poles they are a fire hazard. Any such bins have been replaced on the nearest concrete or metal street lighting pillar. **Unfortunately vandals have already removed a few of these bins.** If you are aware of a removed or otherwise vandalised bin, please let the Parish Council know, and it will be replaced as soon as possible.

And one very urgent plea: Please do not use street litter or dog waste bins for household rubbish. This prevents them being used for the purposes for which they have been placed, and contributes to the on-going problems of street litter and dog mess on the pavements.



Blocking of the pavements

A reminder that legally pavements must be kept clear enough for a wheelchair or a child's pram or buggy to be able to be wheeled along them.



The PCSO has recently issued a number of warning notices to people illegally blocking pavements with vehicles, and further action will be taken if the problem continues.

And please would anyone with a hedge adjacent to the pavement remember to cut it back, if it needs it, before the nesting season starts (ie as soon as possible). Again, the criterion applies of a pavement being clear enough for a wheelchair or a pram/buggy to be able to be wheeled along it.

Funding for Youth projects

The Local Network Fund has provided information to the Council that it still has £100,000 to allocate to local and voluntary or community groups working with children and young people (aged 0-19, or up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties), by March 2007. For further information contact Fleur Kerrecoe on 01353-865024; or for an application form ring 0845-113-0161.

February Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 7 February at 7 30 pm, in Willingham School. The agenda will be posted on Friday 2 February on the Village Notice Board outside the Public Hall, and in the Library. As usual; there will be a slot in the meeting for members of the public to address the Council on any matters (whether on the agenda or not) which concern them. A representative of the RSPB/Hanson Wetlands Project has been invited to attend the February Council meeting to describe proposals for reinstatement of some local gravel pits as wetland wildlife areas.

Other Parish Council meeting dates:-

5 February	Litter Working Party
12 February	Finance & General Purposes Committee
19 February	Green & Boundaries Committee
26 February	Public Hall Committee
7 March	Parish Council
13 March	Green & Boundaries Committee
4 April	Parish Council
9 April	Finance & General Purposes Committee

All at 7 30 pm unless otherwise stated. Committee and Working Party meetings all at the Parish Council Office, Ploughman Hall, unless otherwise advertised on the relevant agenda; Council meetings at the Primary School, Thodays Close. Check the Parish noticeboard at the Public Hall, and the Library noticeboard, for

Committee agendas and any alterations to dates. And as usual, minutes of all meetings will be placed in the Library once they have been signed as accurate.

Parish Council Office Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham CB24 5LP.

Tel. 01954-261027

E-mail email@willinghampc.org.uk .

The Office is open on Monday afternoons from 1 30 to 4 30 pm, and Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 00 am to 12 noon. Appointments can be made by calling the Office. There is an answerphone outside office hours, and the Clerk undertakes to return any calls as quickly as possible.

Willingham Gardening Club

Meetings are on the first Monday of each month at the Willingham Social Club, Fen End and start at 7 30 pm. There is usually a speaker on a subject of interest to gardeners and plant lovers. Meetings on average last about one and a half hours. There is a plant raffle and tea and coffee are served.

The Club welcomes new members and you are assured of a warm welcome. We are a group of ordinary folk with an interest in plants and gardening. We are pleased to report that a number of new members have joined the Club in recent weeks. If you are a plant lover/enthusiast or just want to see whether you could become interested, come and join us for our monthly meetings.

Contact Celia on 261394 or just turn up to a meeting to join.

Speaker/Presentations

5 February. Joe Sharman will speak to us about snowdrops - quite topical by then we hope.

A programme of Club coach trips is planned each year. Linda is planning the programme for 2007 at the moment. That programme will be published progressively in each issue of this magazine and paper copies will be circulated to members in advance of the first trip. Non-members will be welcomed.

2007, scientists predict, will be a record year with higher than average temperatures. Get prepared by conserving rain water before the dry spells begin. Water storage systems of all sizes and capacities are freely available from garden centres and hardware stores.



crossword solution

Across: 1 Dorchester, 7 Hansard, 8 Rumba, 10 Rhea, 11 Flamenco, 13 Effort, 15 Closet, 17 Textiles, 18 Hero, 21 Norma, 22 Spinach, 23 Streamline.

Down: 1 Dance, 2 Real, 3 Huddle, 4 Scramble, 5 Edmonds, 6 Charleston, 9 Apostrophe, 12 Irrigate, 14 Foxtrot, 16 Jetsam, 19 Evade, 20 Fiji.

continued from front cover

a keen oarsman, rowing in the boat which went head of the river in 1956, and in the same year rowing at Henley, where the Peterhouse crew won the Ladies Plate. Last April, that winning crew, who have kept in touch for 50 years, had a reunion. Ten out of 12 rowing colleagues came.

Gordon Hewlett's involvement in rowing did not end when he left the University. He coached the Peterhouse boat until 1999. Last year he was delighted to have a college boat named after him.

The medical practice has also been only part of his participation in the life of Willingham and neighbouring villages. For 22 years he has been a member of the Huntingdon Philharmonic, and in Willingham, Rampton and Longstanton he has played a key role (often in partnership with Paul Ingle) in organising concerts. The churches in the three villages have good reason to be grateful for his support.

How does Dr Hewlett, the longest serving GP in the county, assess the way in which things have changed have things changed? 'When I came', he notes, 'there was a more paternal attitude to patients. Now, it is quite different. People are much better informed.' It is a change which he welcomes.

He relished the difference between Willingham and his first practice in Cambridge. 'This was a more "earthy" practice. In Cambridge it was all dons' wives.' The village, of course, has changed. 'The pace of village life when I came was quite slow.'

For the GP, on the other hand the pace of life was probably more hectic. 'We did night work, and I was on call every other night and every other weekend - and babies tended to come at night. In the early days, we had one baby a month on home delivery. For the past two or three years it has been one a year'.

He will miss being the local doctor - which has always been what he enjoyed. 'I will miss the nice family atmosphere'. He may keep his hand in by occasional work as a locum. And his plans for retirement are not plans for idleness. He will play more golf. He will continue to sing - and he is taking up the violin again, and hoping to pass Grade 5.

So we may continue to see, and hear, something of the man who has been an integral part of Willingham life for four decades.

Parish Plan - a Good Response

Many thanks to all of you who responded for help with the Parish Plan. There was a very good response and the first meeting will be held on 23 January. Do keep a look out for further articles on this subject. We shall be publishing regular progress reports. Meanwhile it is not too late if you still want to be involved. Just phone Phil King on 01954 260780 or email philking@aol.com

Willingham Medical Practice

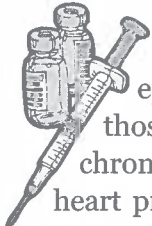
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Flu vaccinations It is not too late to protect yourself from the expected flu epidemic. The vaccination is free to all those aged over 65 and for people who have a chronic disease such as diabetes, asthma or heart problems. Just ring reception to make an appointment with nurse stating that your appointment is for a flu vaccination. If you are unsure if you qualify for a free jab a nurse will be able to advise you.

Thank You to everyone who bought our **Christmas Lucky Squares** or donated prizes. We raised a **grand total of £300 for MAGPAS**. A list of prizewinners is available in Reception. Our 'commode collection' on **Children In Need Day** amounted to **£60.44** and the sale of Christmas Tree Stars raised **£61 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society**. Thank you all for your generosity.

Dr Gordon Hewlett's retirement Many of you will now know that Dr Hewlett is retiring at the end of March after 40 years with the Willingham Medical Practice. We plan to hold two **open mornings** for patients to come along and say their fond farewells to Gordon. The first will be on **Saturday 24 March at Longstanton Branch Surgery** and the second will be on **Saturday 31 March at Willingham Surgery**. The doors will be open from **10 00 am - 12 noon** on those days and there will be photo displays of the history of the practice over the last 40 years. Both surgeries will have a 'Memories Book' at reception over the next two months where you can add your personal messages. We would welcome any photos or anecdotes for these books, and would very much like to receive photos from all the babies that Gordon delivered over the years. If anyone would like to say a few words at either Open Day please do feel free to contact us.

Vandalism We are experiencing continuing problems at the surgery with windows, security lights and the seat around the tree being the



main targets as well as graffiti and litter problems. The ongoing repair costs are considerable and we are currently investigating various options including CCTV and high security fencing. Both these options are extremely expensive and will mean less funding for extra patient care. We liaise regularly with the police but neither they nor we can keep a 24-hour watch. **If you see any incidents either at the surgery premises or elsewhere in the village please report this to the police as they do need our help to tackle the problem.**

Acknowledgements Our thanks to the family and friends of Marcus Askew who donated in his memory to the Equipment Fund.

Cynthia Bidwell
Practice Manager

Willingham Pharmacy Opening hours

Monday	8 30am – 1 00pm	2 30pm – 6 30pm
Tuesday	8 30am – 1 00pm	2 00pm – 6 30pm
Wednesday	8 30am – 1 00pm	2 00pm – 7 30pm
Thursday	8 30am – 1 00pm	CLOSED from 1 00pm
Friday	8 30am – 1 00pm	2 00pm – 6 30pm

CAMREAD

Are you blind or partially sighted – or do you know someone who is? If so, you may like to get in touch with CAMREAD, which produces a popular, free, taped magazine called *Cam-mag*, every six weeks.

CAMREAD is a registered charity (number 291022) based at 167 Green End Road, Cambridge, CB4 1RW. Telephone: 01223 424220.

Arts Project: An opportunity for the village

There have been many queries and questions relating to the exciting new public art scheme that is planned for 2007. The project is very much focused on the community and involving local residents.

The opportunity has been made possible because of the new Home Farm housing development being built off Willingham High Street. The property developers have committed a sum of £20,000 specifically for the purpose of contracting a professional artist; therefore the money is not available to spend on anything else. *(In effect, the money comes out of the price paid to the former owner of the land, John Askew.)*

The fee is to cover the full costs of the artist's time, a series of community workshops, design, fabrication and installation of a piece of artwork.

The idea is that the artist will design a new artwork that is functional or practical – such as a new bus shelter, village notice board or some seating. The artist will run a series of community workshops to explore ideas with residents. It will be local people who decide which of the artist's designs they would like to see in the village.

The steering group for the project is made up of Parish Councillors and the local Arts Development Manager. Consultation with local residents started in December 2005 and we have been working hard to identify the needs and wishes of the community. Particular attention is being paid to issues of maintenance and durability. We do hope that local people will support the project, as it is an exciting and rare opportunity for the village!

For further information or a copy of the artist's brief please contact Amy Wormald, Arts Development Manager, on 07753 836507 or amy@cottenhamvc.org.uk

Fen Edge Twinning Association

Our next visit to our French Twinning partners in Avrille in the Loire Valley will take place during the weekend of 25 to 28 May 2007.

Those members – old or new members – wishing to join us for that weekend please inform us of your preferred method of transport, ie coach, train or private car. We need to know fairly urgently because if the coach is the choice of the majority, we need to place a deposit with the coach company early in the New Year.

This will be our sixth visit to our host town and if the weekend is up to its usual standard, it will be very enjoyable.

Currently, the committee are planning the 2008 visit by Avrille to us. Unlike the French, who get help from their government and their local council, we have to raise money to finance the weekend. To that end, we are planning a quiz night in March on a Friday evening date as yet to be agreed with our excellent quiz master. Food comes with the admission price, drinks will be available and if you would like a fun night out then please provisionally book a table; details below.

Our association welcomes new members, both young and old, families with young children etc. We can match you with French people of similar interests and like us develop strong friendships with lots of lovely memories.

For any further information please email Anna on panda@vining.co.uk or Julia on julia.gwilt@ntlworld.com or by using the steam telephone, Warrie on 01223 441218.

COPE

COPE is a charity (number 1110887) whose mission is 'to promote and activate the interests and well being of people aged 50 and over in Cambridgeshire'. It is a self-help group with over 1300 members. Its executive committee members are involved in other organisations, such as Age Concern, Help the Aged, COPRG (Cambridgeshire Older People's Reference Group) and the national Pensioner Convention. COPE is therefore an umbrella group

A major part of its role is to work with local councils and other service providers to identify the needs and wishes of members, and help members to contact the providers in the most effective way.

For more information, contact Rhona Boorman, COPE Secretary, 40 Stretton Avenue, Cambridge, CB4 3EP. Telephone 01223 364303. Email: cambridgecope@hotmail.co.uk

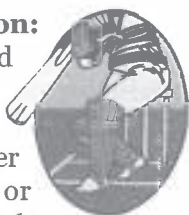
Willingham Cricket Club

The **AGM** will take place on Monday 5 February at 7 30 pm at the Three Tuns pub

Cricket Nets Training Session:

Sunday 4 February at Hills Road Sixth Form Sports Centre between 12 00 and 2 00 pm.

Any queries please contact either Ron Leach, telephone 260144 or Richard Ambrose, telephone 260446.



Profile: Alan and Amy Robinson

We apologise to Alan and Amy Robinson, and to our readers, for a serious error in the preparation of the January issue of the magazine, as a result of which half of this profile was deleted.

Anyone who lived in Willingham between 1951 and 1986 will know Alan Robinson. He came to the village as postmaster on 1 November 1951 – the same day as Dr Flower – and retired 35 years later. When he came, the Post Office was at 31 High Street. Alan and Amy moved it to 3 Church Street, and then, in 1963, back to High Street, to its present location.

Alan grew up in Over. On leaving school he worked for the Great Ouse River Board, and then for the railway, leaving in 1941 to join the RAF, as a wireless mechanic. He served in Egypt, Iraq and Syria, and then returned to the UK in 1946. He was de-mobbed in 1947. Then it was back to the railway, until he followed the career footsteps of his father, postmaster at Over, into the job which brought him to Willingham.

Life was very different then. Alan recalls: 'We didn't have an alarm fitted for many years'. One of his abiding memories is handling every day ten or more telegrams about the price of fruit and vegetables. 'Few people had telephones then', he explains, adding: 'In the 1950s everyone was growing flowers in their spare time – to make ends meet.'

When he retired, in 1986, Willingham still had only three postmen, only one of whom was full-time.

Amy Robinson, from a farming family living in Hinxton, came to know Alan when their paths crossed at Cambridge station – Amy on her way to the Cambridgeshire High School for Girls (now Long Road Sixth Form College), Alan to the Cambridgeshire High School for Boys (now Hills Road Sixth Form College). A Swavesey friend of Amy's was Alan's cousin.

In 1941, as Alan joined the RAF, Amy began training as a teacher (in Doncaster, where her London college was evacuated). Her first teaching job was in Essex. In those wartime days teachers did not choose where to teach; they were allocated according to need. Her memories include teaching in underground air raid shelters; the war was still at its height, and bombing a feature of life in south-east England.

Meanwhile, she and Alan wrote to each other, and in 1948 they were married. They lived for a time in a flat in Cambridge (rent £1.50 a week!).

Moving to Willingham, they quickly became actively involved in village life. The record speaks for itself. Alan



served for many years on the Parish Council. He became a trustee of the Willingham Charities (and still is) and for a time was secretary of the Recreation Ground committee.

Amy was one of four (with Marion Hayman, Mary Sharp and Lyn Curtis) who got the Gardening Club going. She served on Dick Jeeps's committee to raise money for the first Willingham School swimming pool. She is a long-serving member of the Womens' Institute. Both she and Alan were active in the Tennis Club.

As their children, Sally and Lawrence, began to grow up, Amy resumed her teaching career, working for short periods in Waterbeach, Kingston, Fen Drayton, Madingley, and for a year in Willingham, before joining the

staff at Longstanton.

Alan and Amy used to attend evening classes at Willingham school – then an all-through school – Alan in woodwork, Amy in drama. When Swavesey Village College opened, the classes moved there, and Amy was at one time chairman of the Swavesey drama group.

She was the natural choice, therefore, to direct the first production of WAMADS – Cinderella – in 1975. The script was written by Win Goffin, who lived in Willingham, and the music was composed and directed by Martin Yates, then a schoolboy living in the village, now well known as a professional musician.

Amy was the first chairman of WAMADS, and she was the main director of WAMADS productions throughout many of its first 30 years. Her involvement developed particularly when she retired from teaching in 1981 – after 22 years at Longstanton.

Both Alan and Amy have been deeply involved in the life of St Mary & All Saints church. Alan was churchwarden for 19 years, and in the early 1970s began a 30-year stint as organist. Amy, too, served on the parochial church council. She looked after bookings at the old Church Hall – and still undertakes the same responsibility with the Octagon.

In 1951, Amy remembers, 'you knew everyone in the village'. She and Alan have seen Willingham double in size, and change in many ways. However, they carry on one old Willingham tradition; they are still keen gardeners – and still grow fruit and vegetables.

Pastoral Letter

It must be 50 years ago that I tossed my very first pancake, and since then I have developed my own technique and successfully launched over a thousand of these floppy batter portions ... never once hitting the ceiling or dropping them onto the floor.

In case you think I am boasting, then let me confess that some of my pancake creations have turned out a bit on the stodgy side, while others have been over-cooked. Experience doesn't always create experts after all.

In my childhood home, pancakes were reserved for Shrove Tuesday, though none of us children knew what that meant; it was just something we did in February each year. I was later to learn that it had something to do with the Christian Festival of Lent, and involved using up all the surplus eggs and fat in the house before starting a 40-day fast leading up to Easter. Date-wise it seems to be well-positioned from a health point of view, coming so soon after Christmas when we all ate more than was good for us.



Historians tell us that we've been cooking pancakes for at least 568 years and the tradition of tossing or flipping them is almost as old: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne." (Pasquil's Palin, 1619).

If you think you make generous size pancakes, then dream on. The world's biggest pancake was cooked in Rochdale in 1994. It was an amazing 15 metres in diameter, weighed three tonnes and had an estimated two million calories. How did they toss that one?

I've no idea why they went to all that trouble - Surely not just to get into the record books? When this life comes to an end, who really wants to be remembered for the size of their pancake creations, or how many they made, or even how well they tossed them?

As much as we enjoy eating them, there must be more to life than pancakes! So, after I've enjoyed the scrumptious taste this year, I'm going to reflect on their place in history, so that I am better equipped to enjoy the Celebration of Easter. Why don't you join me?

Barry Willson
Major, Salvation Army

Contributions Please

Willingham News is **YOUR** magazine,
and we try to include in it the things which you want and like.

We cannot please all the people all the time - but we hope
we please all the people most of the time!

As you will see, we like to include contributions from our readers: short articles, letters,
photographs. We also welcome your comments on the magazine.

Any communications can go to willinghamnews@yahoo.co.uk
or in a note addressed to Willingham News and left at the Library.

Events at the Churches

Baptist Matters

Open Door. Come for coffee (or tea) and a chat on Thursday mornings in the Baptist Church from 10 00 to 11 30 am. All welcome.

Bumps and Babies meets on Thursday mornings from 10 00 to 11 30 am in the rear hall of the Baptist Church.

This is a chance for new and expectant parents to meet up for a chat and a coffee while the babies play. Do come along and join us.

TOPS meets on Tuesday mornings from 9 45 to 11 15 am in the Baptist Church. This meeting is for children aged 18 months to 3 years, with their parents/carers, for fun activities and refreshments. Please come along and join us.

Parish Church

Bubbles

Bubbles takes place every Friday during school term time. Bubbles is for pre-school children accompanied by parents or carers. It offers time to meet others and be creative. It is held in the Octagon from 10 30 to 11 45 am.

Coffee Stop



Every Tuesday morning from 10 00 to 11 30 am you are welcome to drop in to the Octagon for

coffee or tea and a chat. There is no formality: just walk in.

Church bells. There will be a meeting of the Ely Diocesan bell ringers at Willingham Parish Church on Saturday 3 February. Bells will ring from 3 00 to 4 30 pm.



Mothers' Union



Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday 26 February at 2 30 pm in the Octagon. A talk will be given by the Revd Geoff Turner. All are welcome to come and join us. Please ring me on 260688 if you need a lift.

Subscriptions are due this month. D Hopkin. M U Secretary

Salvation Army

Coffee morning every Monday from 10 30 am until noon. Everyone is welcome.

Thursdays: Lunch is served at 12 30pm, followed by Friendship Club at 2 00pm. For details, telephone 260066.

Restoration News

The 'Old Willingham' calendar



has been a great success. Sales so far have raised over £450 for the Restoration Fund.

'So far', because a few calendars remain, and if you wish you had bought one but forgot, there is still a chance. They are available for a few days from **Bill Kirkman (260393)**, and **Rosemary Mumford (260934)**. To remind you: the calendar has a picture for every month, giving a good reminder of the variety of Willingham life as it was.

Cakes are back on

the menu. The monthly cake stall will resume in February. It is at the Parish Church on the first Saturday of the month – Saturday 3 February, from 10 00 am.



Bric-a-brac Don't forget Rene Gould's bric-a-brac stall at 19 Fen End. Go along and see the huge range of things she has on sale. Buy a bargain – and help the Restoration Appeal.

Police Contacts

The email of our Community Beat Manager Alison Jones is **alison.jones@cambs.pnn.police.uk**

The email of our PCSO John Mason is **john.mason@cambs.pnn.police.uk**
His mobile phone number is **07921 938051**

Churches Together in Willingham and Rampton

Services at the Churches during February

ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH STREET WILLINGHAM

www.willinghamchurch.org

4 Feb
11 00 am Parish Communion
11 Feb
8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
11 00 am Family Praise & Baptism
18 Feb
11 00 am Parish Communion
25 Feb
8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
11 00 am Family Praise

Thursday Praise is a service particularly for those who cannot get to church on Sunday, or who prefer a less traditional service. It usually takes place on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Parish Church at 8 00 pm.

(In February: 8 & 22).

There is a prayer meeting on the first Friday of each month – at 8 00 am **(In February: 2).**

Also on the first and third Thursday of the month: **Prayer and Reflection** at the parish Church at 8 00 pm **(In February: 1 & 15).**

For children we now offer activities at all our 11 00 am services. From pre-school upwards Young Idea gives children a share in our morning services and time for their own activities. Caterpillars crèche is provided for younger children. We also have 'Fidget Bags' for those who would prefer their children to sit with them in church.

If you know of anyone who is ill, or who for some other reason would like a visit, please let the Rector know (01954 261225).

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HIGH STREET RAMPTON

4 Feb
9 30 am Parish Communion
11 Feb
9 30 am Church Lite in the Village Hall
18 Feb
9 30 am Parish Communion
25 Feb
9 30 am Church Lite in the Village Hall



WILLINGHAM TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH GEORGE STREET

www.willinghambaptist.org

A busy Sunday School takes place each week at the same time as the morning service. A crèche is also provided at each of our morning services. Visit our website for more information.

4 Feb
10 00 am Keith Rawlinson
Communion
6 00 pm Bob and June Earl
11 Feb
10 00 am Andrew Wyllie
6 00 pm Keith Rawlinson

18 Feb
9 00 am To be arranged
(Refreshments are available from 10 05 to 10 40 between the services)
10 45 am All-Age Service: Richard Sanders and Team
6 00 pm Elizabeth Herrington
25 Feb
10 00 am Sunday School Celebration Service
6 00 pm Mark Wareham. Communion

THE SALVATION ARMY SILVER STREET

4 Feb
One meeting only, at 3 00 pm, Karen Anker
11 Feb
10 30 am John Field
5 00 pm Majors Aubrey & Irene Draycott
18 Feb
10 30 am Ann Dougherty
5 00 pm Ray Barton
25 Feb
10 30 am Norman Gulliver
5 00 pm Mark & Dawn Anderson



Churches Together praying for the people of Willingham and Rampton

In the second full week in each month the Churches in Willingham and Rampton will be praying for the people who live in a particular area of the village. In February this is Church Street, Church Lane, Lacks Yard, George Street, Ravens Yard, Loves Lane and Pound Lane.

History of the Fen-Edge settlements

3 – Saxon and mediaeval

The Saxons began to settle in Cambridgeshire towards the middle of the fifth century AD. Their most dramatic remains are a series of defensive dykes (banks and ditches) across the Icknield Way (of which the most famous is the Devil's Dyke on Newmarket Heath), and cemeteries, some of which contained rich grave-goods. In recent years archaeologists have found evidence of villages on the fen edge, including early Saxon sites at Cottenham and Waterbeach, and one of middle Saxon age in Willingham (on the site of what is now Saxon Way). Cottenham and Willingham have also produced evidence of late Saxon settlement.

It is not known whether the previous Romano-British (Celtic) inhabitants fled westwards, or were massacred, or whether any remained as slaves or fellow-villagers with the Saxons. There is some evidence that a Celtic population survived on some of the Fenland islands, including the Isle of Ely, into the seventh century and beyond.

The Viking invasions of East Anglia began in 866, the invaders using the Fenland rivers as their highroads into England. In 878 East Anglia became part of the Danelaw, although this did not bring peace, and a later Danish incursion resulted in the sacking of Cambridge around 1010. The settlement pattern along the Fen edge, however, has not shown signs of being disrupted during this tumultuous 150 years.

All the mediaeval settlements on the Fen edge were already in existence by the end of the Saxon period. The major change in the early mediaeval period was the coming of William the Conqueror in 1066. It was in the Fenlands between our Fen-Edge villages and the Isle of Ely that one of the great dramas of the Norman Conquest was played out. The English thane Hereward 'the Wake' defended the Isle of Ely against the Conqueror. William is said to have passed through Willingham on his way to defeating Hereward, possibly using Belsar's Hill as a stopping place (dramatised in the novel *Hereward the Wake* by Charles Kingsley).

In the mid 12th century Stephen and Mathilda, both Plantagenets and related to King Henry II, fought for 18

years over the throne of England – a period known as the Anarchy. Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, who changed sides several times during the conflict, was active in South Cambridgeshire, and Stephen built a ring of small castles along the Fen edge to control him. One of these was Giant's Hill, Rampton, which was never completed because Geoffrey was killed in battle while attacking another of these castles, at Burwell.



Giant's Hill, Rampton

Siting of mediaeval settlements tended to be influenced by access to roads or navigable waterways, to cluster round the manor houses and to develop around village greens and along through roads. Particular influences included the existence of Denny Abbey in the north of Waterbeach (whose remains can still be seen and are open to the public). Crowlands Abbey in Lincolnshire owned Crowlands Manor at Cottenham, from which produce was sent by water to the abbey. In the late 13th century Rampton was granted permission to have a market, and it may be then that most of the village moved from its site between the church and Giant's Hill, to round the village green (however, the market seems to have quickly failed).

In the 16th century a notorious lord of one of the manors of Landbeach evicted tenants from 14 properties on the High Street in order to take over their land rights, and Landbeach High Street still contains many empty areas where these properties once stood. Village populations generally rose in the early mediaeval period, but fell in the 14th century due to famine caused by worsening weather conditions (although Fen edge villages seem to have lost fewer inhabitants, probably because their more varied economic base was less vulnerable), and later by the Black Death.

With grateful acknowledgements for most of this information to:

Alison Taylor, *Archaeology of Cambridgeshire Vol. 2: SE Cambridgeshire & the Fen Edge*, 1998, publ. Cambs. County Council, ISBN 1 870724 84 4



Landbeach High Street

Chris Couchman

The Computer Swallowed Grandma



*The computer swallowed Grandma;
Yes, honestly, it's true.
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.*

*It devoured her completely.
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.*

*I've searched through the Recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.*

*In desperation I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'on-line'.*

*So, if inside your 'Inbox'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'copy', 'scan' and 'paste' her
And send her back to me!*

Anon

Fen Edge Orchestra – Players needed

Violinists, viola players, cellists and trumpeters – we need you!

The Fen Edge Orchestra formed in September 2006 and is already attracting players from across the district. However, we still have a few gaps in the orchestra that you could fill. We're looking for musicians aged 16+ who ideally play at grade 5 or above.



Don't worry if you're a bit rusty, we are a friendly and supportive group. We meet every other Wednesday, 730 – 9 30 pm, at Cottenham Village College. If you are interested in finding out more please visit our website at www.fenedgeorchestra.org.uk

Charity Ball Over Community Centre 2 September 2006

In the report of this event in the December issue, the list of sponsors was omitted. They were: Tylers Estate Agents; Foreman's Garage; A R Aspinall and Sons; Glaxo Smith Kline; Spymasters of Bar Hill; Willingham Auctions; Adams and Newman of Over; Hairbitz.com; Skatz Hair Design, Longstanton; Tony Clews; Shane Carter; Ian Fordham; Bill Bailey (photography); Jenny McConkey. If Anne Clews has forgotten anyone, she apologises.

Thank You

Peter and Glenda Tillyard and family would like to thank everyone who visited the Christmas lights display, at 111 Rampton Road, and donated money for our chosen charity – East Anglian Air Ambulance. The total raised was £528.

.....Thank You

Your *Cambridge Evening News* 'Direct' Delivery boys Josh Blunt, Nathan Flatley and Jonathan Wake would like to say a big thank-you for the generosity of their customers during the Christmas period. It is very much appreciated.



Women's Institute

Our next speaker will be on 12 February at 7 30 pm in the Social Club. Marion Langley will be giving a talk on *Hidden Messages*. Do come along to our monthly meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month. It is also a good way to meet new people particularly if you are new to the village. We are a very friendly group of ladies and would welcome new members. Our meetings are varied and interesting and we have two parties a year plus an outing in the summer. We look forward to seeing you.



Village Diary

we are exchanging some dates with Over, we hope to our mutual benefit

MONTH	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	TICKETS/INFO
February				
3	Quiz Night	Over Scout Group	Over Church Hall	Tickets 230056
5	Presentation "Snowdrops"	Willingham Gardening Club	Social Club	7 30pm
17	Blues Brothers Tribute Band	Over Community Centre		Tickets 206600
24	Baby and children's nearly new sale	Honeypot Pre-School	Ploughman Hall	Liza Brazier 201847
March				
5	'Alpine and Rock Garden Plants' Alan Moores	Willingham Gardening Club	Social Club	7 30 pm
31	Open House Surgery in honour of Dr Hewlett	Willingham Medical Practice		10 00am to 12 noon

Bin collections

7 Feb	Black bin	and picture postcards. They can all be left in the box at the Parish Church.
14 Feb	Green bin and green box	
21 Feb	Black bin	Glossy magazines (including Willingham News) should be placed in the green box.
28 Feb	Green bin and green box	
7 Mar	Black bin	Recycle Plastic bearing the recycling symbol and having the initials PET, HDPE or PVC are recyclable at Willingham Co-op car park, or at Tesco, Bar Hill.
Leprosy Mission. Thank you for all the stamps you have sent. We also collect obsolete and foreign coins,		



A Helping Hand

A FREE easy to use guide to community transport Cambridgeshire County Council has just published their indispensable Community Transport Guide for 2006 / 2007. And it's completely FREE. The guide explains what community transport is and who can use it; how it works alongside conventional public transport; and lists by district details of all community transport schemes operating throughout Cambridgeshire.

The first section describes the various types of community transport schemes throughout Cambridgeshire. It also has useful information on other modes of transport throughout Cambridgeshire. For

example how to get information on bus and rail services and how to obtain a bus pass.

The second section lists schemes by district and the type of scheme available. The third lists details of other agencies involved in community transport. It also provides advice on transport for those with mobility difficulties.

For a **FREE** copy of the guide contact Gavin Moulton on 01223 717755. Or write to him at Cambridgeshire County Council, ET1015, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP. Or email him at gavin.moulton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Village Directory

Council	Parish Council		01954 261027
	Parish Council Chairman	Mrs P Daniels	01954 260505
	Planning Committee Chairman	Mr P King	01954 260780
	County Councillor	Mrs S Johnstone	01954 230565
	District Councillor	Mr R Manning	01954 261235
	District Councillor	Mr B R Burling	01954 230168
	District Councillor	Mrs P S Corney	01954 213221
Services	Police		0845 456 4564
	Surgery		01954 260230
	Dispensary for repeat prescription requests		01954 260073
	Pharmacy		01954 261787
	Over Surgery		01954 231550
	CAMDOC –After hours medical help		01223 464242
Schools	Primary School		01954 283030
	Cottenham Village College		01954 288944
	School Governors Chairman	Dr N A Walton	01954 202185
	School Association	c/o school	01954 283030
	British School Trust	Mrs L Blunt	01954 261309
Children	Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Mrs M Dellar	01954 260045
	Honeypot Pre-School (term-time only)		01954 201567
	Tigger Toddlers	Mrs W Leaney	01954 201089
	Old Buttery Nursery School		01954 260046
	Teeny Babies	Anita	07830 244742
	2nd Brownies	Mrs J Catley	01954 202543
	Willingham Guides and Senior Section	Nat Bignell	01487 843835
	Geoff Bailey Dancers	Mr G Bailey	01954 260233
	Ladybird Borland's School Of Dance	Mrs L Borland	01954 203347
	Bubbles	Mrs J Dean	01223 575698
	Bumps and Babies Group	Mrs L Daniel	01954 261316
Halls	TOPS (Baptist Church Toddlers Group)	Mrs L Daniel	01954 261316
	Ploughman Hall Chairman	Mr J Anderson	01954 203344
	Ploughman Hall Bookings		07941 190849
	Wilford Furlong Centre		01954 261445
	The Octagon	Mrs A Robinson	01954 261076
	Billavincea Lodge 8719	Mr M Scrivener	01480 413533
	Fen Edge Community Association	Mr G Redhead	01954 288944
	Cambridge Evening News Correspondent	VACANCY	
	Workers' Educational Association	Mrs J Hodgkinson	01954 201816
	Willingham Combined Charity	Mrs J Ambrose	01954 260446
Clubs	Gardening Club	Mr T Halsey	01954 201910
	Social Club	Mrs S Hart	01954 204260
	WAMADS Drama Group	Mrs C Deeth (Secretary)	07896 322497
		Mrs J Farrar	01954 200515
	Women's Institute	Mrs R S Slater	01954 203742
	Women's Royal British Legion	Mrs M Few	01954 260124
Sport	Willingham Wolves (Boys & Girls Football)	Claire Few	01954 203001
	Football Club	Mr Alex Howard	01954 260734
	Cricket Club	Mr R Ambrose	01954 260446
	Hockey	Kris Westmore	01954 202082
	Badminton	Mr J Fuggle	01954 260478
	Keep Fit	Mrs M Fowler	01954 260496
	Step Aerobics	Ms E Weatherill	01954 205439
	Bowls Club	Mrs E Halksworth	01954 201830
Churches	Anglican Church	Rector	Rev. Geoffrey Turner
	Mothers Union	Branch Leader	Mrs S Hayden
	Baptist Church	Minister	Position Vacant
	Methodists	Ministerial Contact	Rev. Hilary Cheng
	Roman Catholic	Priest	Monsignor Rogers
	Salvation Army		Major and Mrs B Willson
			01223 350787
			01223 248351

BABY AND CHILDREN'S NEARLY NEW SALE

clothes (0-11yrs), baby equipment,
toys and maternity wear

Saturday 24 February

10 30 am to 12 noon

at

The Ploughman Hall, Willingham

Seller registration fee £2,

20% commission to **the Honeyptot**
on all items sold.

To register as a seller, please contact

Lisa Brazier on 01954 201847

by 16 Feb.



Registered Charity Number 1009789

The Honeyptot Pre-school

Happy New Year and a big thank you from all at the Honeyptot Pre-school to those of you who attended our Christmas Fayre and spent your money having a good time visiting Santa, bouncing on the castle, buying gifts or just relaxing with a cup of tea while the rain poured down outside! Thank you also to all the people and local businesses that helped by donating their time or items for the raffle and other stalls. Despite some spectacular showers we raised a very respectable £384.97 which we will be putting towards a piece of large outdoor play equipment and congratulations to Lesley Howard from Willingham who won the Lucky Squares prize.

It was also busy during December in the lead up to two special events, the Christmas Play and Christmas Party. Both of these were extremely successful due to the hard work and extra time put in by the dedicated staff. The play was great fun with the usual mix of stage fright and star performances from these budding actors who are after all only 3-4 years old! A magician provided entertainment to the children at the party, topped off by another visit from Santa and some lovely food. Thanks to Santa for taking time in his busy schedule to visit us again this year!

Many thanks to all involved from the Honeyptot Committee.

registered charity number 1009789



Willingham Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library
0845 0455225



Library Opening Times

Monday	6 00 pm	-	8 00 pm
Tuesday	3 00 pm	-	5 30 pm
	6 00 pm	-	8 00 pm
Wednesday	Closed		
Thursday	3 00 pm	-	5 30 pm
	6 00 pm	-	8 00 pm
Friday	11 00 am	-	1 00 pm
	3 00 pm	-	5 30 pm
Saturday	10 00 am	-	12 30 pm

Problems with your computer?

Library members can use the terminals in Willingham library for **FREE** emailing and internet access.

For sale: Disabled wheelchair, with seat and shopping basket, price £45. Mrs G Jeeps, 3 Haden Way. Telephone 01954 260150.

Willingham Charity Lunch

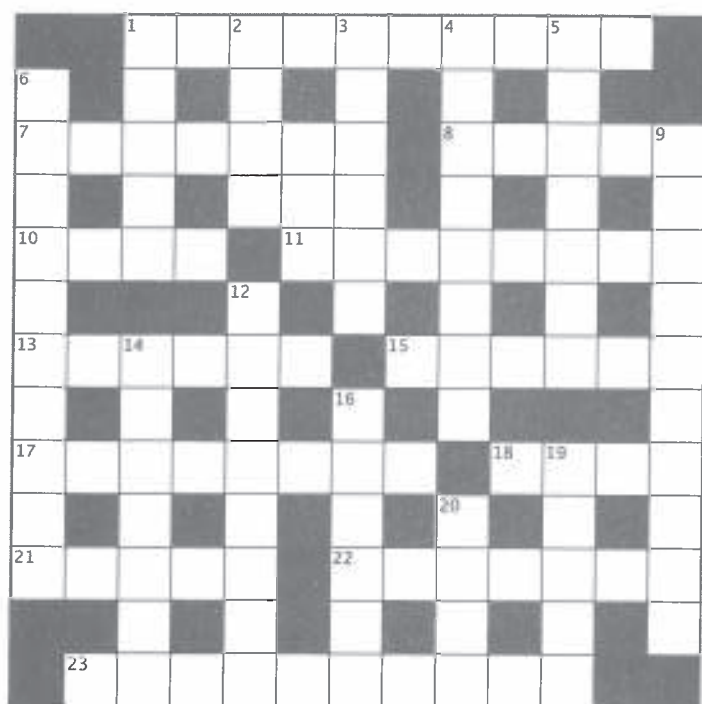
This month's charity lunch will be held on 17 February at the home of Alan and Amy Robinson, 15A High Street, at 1 00 pm. The lunch consists of a choice of soups, bread and cheeses, tea and coffee etc, and costs £3. This year's nominated charity is Hospice at Home which, as you are aware, is in desperate need of funds because of the recent cut backs. This lunch is a social occasion, a good time to meet old and new friends as well as raise money for needy causes, so why not join us?

In January we donated £700 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. In addition a further sum of £587.68 was donated to them, this being the amount collected at the funeral of Keith Hodkinson, one of our supporters.

In the past few years we have also been able to donate to the following charities: Ghurka Welfare Trust £370; Arthur Rank Hospice £390; Willingham Surgery £475 and Kidney Research £475 - etc etc.



Quick Crossword set by Willow



Across

- 1 Town in Southern England; London hotel (10)
- 7 Official report of Parliamentary business (7)
- 8 Latin American 1dn (5)

- 10 Mother of the gods; flightless bird (4)
- 11 Spanish 1dn (8)
- 13 Hard work (6)
- 15 US cupboard; small room (6)
- 17 Fabrics (8)
- 18 For example, Odysseus or Beowulf (4)
- 21 Major wife (5)
- 22 Popeye's greens (7)
- 23 Improve efficiency (10)

Down

- 1 Rhythmic and beautiful movement (5)
- 2 Genuine; old coin (4)
- 3 Team gathering (6)
- 4 Cook eggs; motorcycle off road (8)
- 5 Quizmaster Noel (7)
- 6 20s 1dn (10)
- 9 Punctuation mark (10)
- 12 Water (8)
- 14 American 1dn (7)
- 16 Rubbish thrown into sea by ship's crew (6)
- 19 Escape by trickery or skill (5)
- 20 South Pacific island group, capital Suva (4)

solution on page 7

Ploughman Hall Custodian Needed

The Committee of the Ploughman Hall are looking to employ a Custodian.

The main duties will be to maintain a diary for bookings and associated records, to receive and bank cheques, to open and close the building and to help keep the premises neat and tidy as a first class meeting facility.

It is a part time job with variable hours which will include on occasions some weekend or late evening work. It will be paid at a competitive hourly rate.

The job is open to all but needs a reliable and flexible approach that will probably best suit a local person within easy travelling distance of the hall.

If appropriate the job could also encompass some light cleaning duties entailing additional hours.

Anyone interested should contact John Anderson on 01954 203344 or Phil King on 01954 260780.

CLUB "60" Holidays

2007

4 Day Weekender - Kent FOLKESTONE

30th March to 2nd April **£139**

EASTER SUNDAY 8th April

OAP £19.50 Adult £22 Including entry

Steam & Transport at Chatham Historic Dockyard

6 Days Isle Of Wight

15th to 20th April & 22nd to 27th **£205**

MAY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Saturday 5th May **£13**

Rochester Chimney Sweeps Festival

5 Days BOURNEMOUTH 6th to 10th May **£225**

ROYAL ASCOT 19th June **£37**

Coming soon MARY POPPINS & The LION KING

BOOK 5 Days Tinsel & Turkey 2007 NOW

ISLE of WIGHT 5th to 9th November **£195**

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SCARBOROUGH 19th to 23rd November **£195**

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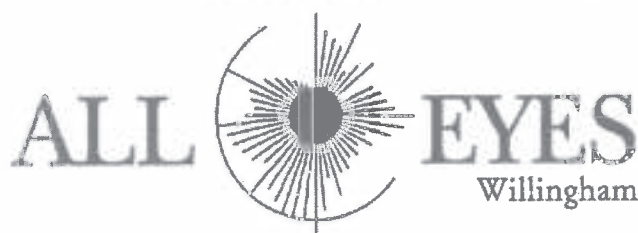
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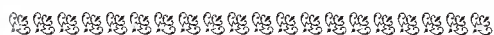
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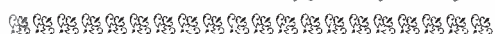
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