



WILLINGHAM NEWS

March 2007

Tony Manning, JP

Those of our readers of a certain vintage might remember the Johnnie Walker whisky slogan: 'Born 1820 and still going strong'. Well, Tony Manning does not go back quite that far but could be described as: 'Born 1920 and still going strong.'

Lawrence Clive Manning (always known as Tony) was born in Cottenham on 16 April 1920, with an abundance of red hair, the son of a Cottenham girl and a black land farmer from Chittering. Like a lot of people in the area at that time, his father had a day job, as a miller, but worked on his land in the evenings and weekends producing summer fruits for Chivers. The pattern was to gradually rent or acquire more land until a living could be earned from working the land full time and the day job given up. In 1927, his family made the right decision and emigrated from Cottenham to Willingham. They purchased and lived in one of a row of cottages now partly occupied by the Salvation Army Citadel. His father bought arable land in Priest Lane and some cottages where the library now stands. After demolishing the cottages fronting The Green, he sold the site to the Gas Board for use as a showroom, and the remaining cottages for use by their resident engineers. As well as working his land, his father converted a Pontiac car into a form of bus that he used to take workers to and from Chivers' factory in Histon, until a public bus service was provided. His mother would take orders for various commodities from local households, drive into Cambridge, purchase what was required, and deliver the goods back in Willingham. In 1930 the row of cottages in Silver Street was burned down. Tony lived with the family of the local doctor Higgins, and his parents lived in the large summerhouse in the doctor's garden throughout the summer and then in George Street whilst a new bungalow was built in Newington. They moved there in 1932. That bungalow has since been demolished and replaced by a large house.

Around 1934, the family then moved to 'The Gables', Station Road, which comprised around 21 acres. Throughout his youth, Tony helped his family work the land, but, on leaving school in Cambridge, decided to go into the rapidly expanding radio business where he was employed by Pye as a radio research engineer. He was amongst the first people to see TV broadcasts, initially only two hours nightly for test purposes, including Logie Baird's original mechanical system. He bought himself a Tiger 90 motorbike, and was the first person in Willingham to take the driving test that, by that time, had become mandatory.

Continued on page 7.



Tony and his wife meeting the Queen at the opening of the then new Magistrates' Court in Peterborough

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From the Parish Council

Yet more litter problems

The Parish Council continues to do its best to deal with the on-going problem of litter in the village. The Litter-Picker has now had her round increased to include Over Road and Berrycroft. Look out elsewhere in this edition of the *Willingham News* for details of the voluntary litter-pick the Council is organising on 24 March for roads not covered by our professional Litter-Picker, and come along and help if you can.

Very regrettably, a number of the bins which the Council has recently replaced have already been vandalised. The Council will try and keep up with replacements, but it sometimes feels like a losing battle. If you see recent vandalism to a bin or find that one has gone missing, please would you report it as soon as possible to the Parish Council Office (including the road name and lamp-post number or other identifying features).

Of course every bin that has to be replaced comes out of the Precept – that is money we have all contributed through the Council Tax. A post-mounted litter bin costs £39 to replace, a dog waste bin costs £74, and a ground-based bin costs nearly £207!! For this reason, bins that have been vandalised or have disappeared should also be reported to the police.

The Council's Litter Working Party continues to meet regularly, and always welcomes new participants. The next one is on 23 April, 7 30 pm, in the Parish Council Office.

And to reiterate the plea we made last month: Please do not use street litter or dog waste bins for household rubbish, even if your own bin is full. 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.

Policing and vandalism

Vandalism and other criminal acts including harassment and threatening behaviour have been on the increase in the village again. The Parish Council has been working closely with the police to try and nip this rise in the bud before it gets out of hand. As a result, the police have undertaken to increase their presence in the village. They are reducing the number of villages the PCSO has to cover from 4 to 2 – so from April at the latest we should be sharing a PCSO just with Over. In addition, you may have noticed a short-term increased police presence around the village especially at times when experience has shown there to be the greatest risk of vandalism and harassment.

Another reminder about those overhanging hedges

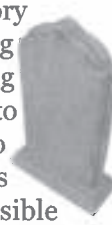
If you have a hedge that runs alongside a public pavement, please don't forget to check from time to time that it is not growing out over the pavement, and if it is, to cut it back. If it would get in the way of a wheelchair or baby buggy, then it is sticking out too far; and in the last resort the County Council would come and cut it, and send you the bill.

Ploughman Hall

The Ploughman Hall car park surface has now been improved. The Council is to install CCTV cameras on the Ploughman Hall, which has had more than its share of vandalism over recent months.

Cemetery gravestones – annual topple-test

The Council has now carried out its statutory annual "topple-test" in the cemetery – checking whether any gravestones are in danger of falling over with the possible risk of injuring visitors to the cemetery – and has laid flat 5 stones. Due to the passage of time, the Council regrets that it is not possible for them to trace the responsible relatives of some of the deceased whose stones have been laid down.



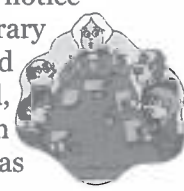
March Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 7 March at 7 30 pm, in Willingham School. The agenda will be posted on Friday 2 March 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.

Other Parish Council meeting dates:

5 March	Cemetery Committee
13 March	Green & Boundaries Committee
27 March	Leisure & Amenities Committee
4 April	Parish Council
10 April	Finance & General Purposes Committee
16 April	Cemetery Committee
23 April	Litter Working Party

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 notice board at the Public Hall, and the Library notice board, 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 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.

continued from front page

Following the Munich crisis, he joined the RAF as a Volunteer Reserve and reported for service at the outbreak of war until finally being invalided out around VE Day after taking part in operations in all three theatres of war. He joined what he would describe as the aircrew family (they were so dependent on each other) and flew Wellingtons, Liberators, Whitleys, Hampdens, Bothas, Stirlings and Dakotas, amongst others. After action over Europe, he moved east to French Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, India and Assam. In one operation over Burma, his squadron lost 14 of 16 planes. He also survived being caught in searchlights over Rangoon and another occasion when flying and then landing with massive damage to one of the aeroplane's wings. Between hostilities, he enjoyed boxing, swimming and rugby. During this time, he continued the family tradition of writing poems and corresponded with his father in verse (more of which later).

After the war, he returned home to the family business, having decided that he could not go back to Pye's because the tremendous improvements in technology brought about by the war had left him so far behind technically. He married Mary Trelease, a WAAF radar operator, on 31 December 1945 and they moved to Denmark House, High Street. He and Mary had two children; Ray and Mandy. He went into partnership with his father, and, throughout the 1950s, the farm gradually concentrated solely on fruit production. Eventually, the farm was to grow to 123 acres. In 1953 he and his family moved to Mill House, before going on to Raylands in 1956, where Tony still lives. As time went by, he gradually assumed more and more responsibility for the farm. He also managed several stalls in Cambridge market, selling fruit and vegetables both wholesale and retail until about 1970. The pattern repeated itself when his son in turn became part of the organisation. Tony officially retired in 1988. Sadly, Mary died in 2004 after a very long illness.

As well as his business and family life, Tony played a very full part in public life, with over 30 years' service to the parish, district and county. He was chairman of the Cottenham Village College Parent Teacher Association and played a large part in having the swimming pool constructed. As a qualified National Instructor, he taught youngsters how to shoot clay pigeons – he is still a first class shot and shoots clay pigeons regularly. He was a JP from 1969 to 1990, a founding member and treasurer of the Willingham Horticultural Society, also Treasurer of the Ploughing Match Society and a very keen and successful competitor. In the 1960s he broadcast on radio and TV about fruit growing. He served as a County Councillor from 1973-1984, and as a District Councillor from 1990-2004.

One of his roles as a County Councillor was as Chairman of the Land and Buildings Committee. The photograph shows him and his wife meeting the Queen at the opening of the then new Magistrates' Court in Peterborough.

As a District Councillor, he always stood as an Independent. Perhaps 'independent' sums up his own

philosophy and coloured his approach to life in general. It is also clear from speaking to him at length that, despite his busy and varied public life, he is at heart a very private person. As a Councillor, he was prepared to help others, forthright in his views and approach, and sought to protect public funds as he saw it. Even if he disagreed, he would always represent the views of the Parish Council but with that caveat. He was instrumental in securing practical funding for the Ploughman Hall in one large contribution rather than in the dribs and drabs envisaged by the District Council, thus greatly facilitating the timely completion of the whole project. He was a very active member of the Land Drainage Working Party and Travellers Working Party. He served on the Planning Committee from 1991-2004 and was Vice-Chairman of Land Drainage Advisory Group from 2002-2004. In 1998, he became the District Council representative on the Old West Internal Drainage Board and continues to be so. He also became something of a vole expert when the question arose of lining the ditch serving Covent Garden. He was able to call on his childhood experience of playing in the ditch some 80 years previously to say that he had never seen a sufficient continuous water level in the ditch to sustain a vole population. He is remembered at the District Council for his sense of humour, gifts of fruit at harvest time, and for his self-styled 'Rhyming Rubbish'. Here is an example where the names have been changed to protect the innocent, and which will strike a chord with anyone who has sat on a committee or attended a long-winded meeting; and is a fitting note on which to end:

XXXX chairs the xxxx xxxx. XXXX is the one in charge.

Not easy to control at times, since it is far too large.

At every meeting XXXX, committee does implore,
Please, members, don't repeat again, the point's been made before.

But some ignore the constant plea and speak for hours on end.

To those of us less talkative, it sends us round the bend.

Ploughman Hall

The next AGM of the Ploughman Hall Committee will be on Tuesday 3 April. There will also be on the same date an Extraordinary Meeting at 7 30 pm in the Ploughman Hall to discuss the future management arrangements. The AGM will follow on immediately after this.

All are welcome and users and anyone interested in this important village facility are urged to attend.

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Dr Gordon Hewlett Article in Willingham News This item may have inadvertently given the wrong impression. Dr Hewlett has reduced the hours he works and handed a great deal of the administration work to Dr Suter. He remains Senior Partner until his retirement on 31 March. Dr Cathie

Suter, who has been with the practice for 16 years, will become Senior Partner from April. Dr Paul Kuruvilla will be joining us in April and we feel sure you will find him an excellent addition to the team and will make him welcome.

Dr Hewlett's retirement Dr Hewlett will be retiring at the end of March after 40 years with the Willingham Medical Practice. Everyone is welcome to come along to our two **open mornings** to say their fond farewells to Gordon. The first is on **Saturday 24 March at Longstanton Branch Surgery** and the second on **Saturday 31 March at Willingham Surgery**. The doors will be open from **10 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 have a "Memories Book" at reception 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 of 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.

Flu vaccinations At the time of going to press we still have a few flu vaccines available. In view of the current news we strongly advise anyone in our high risk groups (elderly or people with chronic disease) to have this protection. Please phone as soon as possible for an appointment.



Pharmacy News At our pharmacy in Willingham we are currently adding a consultation room within the shop. This will enable us to offer patients additional services such as Medicine Use Reviews and Smoking Cessation Advice within a private and confidential area. Details of these services will be circulated in the near future. We apologise for any disruption caused while the building work is completed.

CCTV Due to continuing problems with vandalism at the surgery in Willingham we have now installed a high quality colour surveillance system which covers all areas of our premises and car park extending to the Primary

School fence at the end of the access road to the surgery. Our system has the capacity to electronically transfer chosen images to the police and in this way we hope to be able to identify any culprits who may also have been causing problems elsewhere in the village. We are saddened that we have had to use funds for this purpose but felt it was the sensible course of action. If you see any incidents in the village please report these to the police.

*Cynthia Bidwell
Practice Manager*

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Friday	8 30am – 1 00pm	2 00pm – 6 30pm

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Parish Plan

If you want to influence the development of Willingham, read on.

There is a quiet revolution going on in the way that we are governed. Local communities are being encouraged to take more control of their own lives, to say what they want doing in their own neighbourhoods and engage with the powers that be to get it done. This represents an opportunity for us, the residents of Willingham, to make ourselves heard.

The vehicle for the hopes and aspirations of rural communities is the Parish Plan. This plan should cover the social, economic and environmental issues which affect all those who live, work and play in Willingham. It will set out what we see as important and give everyone a chance to guide future development. So far the top issues emerging from the 3000 or so plans already completed include

- Road traffic
- Housing
- Facilities for young people
- Policing, law and order
- Inadequate public transport
- Local environment concerns

Following the article in the January newsletter a group of volunteers have agreed to provide a catalyst for the production of this wonderful opportunity to influence the future development of our village. However, to make it a success YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.

The first major action in the production of this Parish Plan is to hold a public meeting the objective of which is to introduce the concept of the Parish Plan and to gain your initial views on the issues facing Willingham. Whether you live in Willingham, run a business here, a shop, represent a leisure group or a village service please come to the Willingham Primary school on Wednesday 18 April at 7.30pm. This is YOUR opportunity to have a say in how your local area and services are managed and developed. YOU know what facilities and services are valued, need support and what new services are needed. YOUR voice will be heard and will influence the future of Willingham.

For further information or offers of help please contact:

Geoff Turner (chairman) 01954 261225
Sue Bocking (secretary) 01954 260396

Karate training: what it means to me

Most people think of karate as learning to fight, learning how to kick and punch. But there is much more to it than that. My mum enrolled me at Fudoshin Karate Club (www.fudoshinkarate.co.uk) after seeing a poster for a beginner's course at the Gym she went to. As beginners, we learned how to do very simple punches, just a straight punch, which is called an oi-zuki in Japanese. We also started to learn some of the words used in karate. We learned how to do

the basic blocks: for a punch to the head, a punch to the chest and a front kick. We also learned a pattern of moves, called a kata, which shows you how all the individual moves fit together in a sort of story. I've been training for about four years now, and graded to brown belt at the end of last year. This is what I think karate really means.

The thing I have learned most about doing karate is that it is more than the punches and kicks and fancy board-breaking that you see on TV. It is also a brilliant way to exercise, because each class starts with a careful warm up and ends with warming down exercises. After all, you can't kick to head height if your legs are stiff. I do feel more confident, because each time I succeed at a new move, or a new kata, it is because of my own work. My friend John, who lives in Willingham, said that doing karate has helped him with his balance, and his mum says he is much calmer since starting training. People think that being able to do karate means that if someone attacks you, you are able to defend yourself. Karate taught me something more important. It has taught me that I don't have to let myself get into that sort of situation in the first place. There will

always be idiots who want to pick a fight with you, whether or not you do karate, but you don't have to stick around to let them. Karate is not just about aggression. It teaches you about yourself and what your own strengths are.

The club has both adults and kids, including people from Willingham, Cottenham and Over, although adults do not practice with kids, unless it is one of the teachers. Our teacher is Jeff Rand, who is a 2nd level (Nidan) black belt. The next beginners' course starts at the beginning of March (see posters around the village or phone Sensei Rand on 01954-780328). The beginners' class takes place between 6 pm and 7 pm at Cottenham Village College in the gym. Just turn up 15 minutes before class to enroll and give it a go. You don't have to have any special clothes to start with, just make sure that your hands and feet won't get tangled.

Give it a go. You might surprise yourself.

Dewi Pilsworth (age 13)

1	7	2	3	8	4	9	5	6
3	4	5	9	6	1	7	8	2
8	9	6	7	5	2	1	3	4
4	2	7	8	3	5	6	1	9
6	3	8	4	1	9	5	2	7
9	5	1	6	2	7	8	4	3
7	8	3	1	4	6	2	9	5
2	1	9	5	7	3	4	6	8
5	6	4	2	9	8	3	7	1

solution to puzzle on page 10

Swavesey and Over Tennis Club

Roger Federer, Andy Murray, Maria Sharapova and the Williams sisters aren't members of Swavesey & Over Tennis Club. But they could be - and so can you!

Now firmly established at the great new sports facility at Swavesey Village College, the club is for all ages, and all abilities - tennis is a lot of fun and it keeps you fit, so why not join a friendly, fun club now?

Until 1 April club nights are on Mondays from 7 30 - 9 30 pm, using two hard surfaced courts. After then they will be on Mondays and Fridays, at the same time, using both the hard surface and astroturf surface until the end of September.

There's a spring tournament on Sunday 22 April, the club's main tournament will be on 14 and 15 July, and a third tournament in the autumn; and we will also be in the Cambridge summer league (mixed and men's doubles) for those who like a competitive edge to their tennis.



We plan to run our Saturday Club again, for children aged between five and 11, and also adult coaching for both starters and improvers - probably on Tuesday evenings.

Membership is very reasonably priced, with a special attraction of a family membership to keep the cost down.

For full details contact Gary Peet (chairman) on (01954) 202459 or email garypeet@qleap.co.uk, Sue Kent (treasurer) on (01954) 202002 or email Sue.kent@cambridgehs.org.uk, or Naunton Pugh (secretary) on (01954) 230393 or email naunton.pugh@ntlworld.com.



A near-miss on the Bottisham goal in the under 16 match on 4 February when Willingham won 1 nil.

Letters to the Editor



May I congratulate the team which produces the Magazine. I think it gets better month by month. The content is varied, informative and well written. It is a joy to have it drop through the letter box.

I know how much work lies behind its publication and I congratulate you on your sustained effort.

Personally I am very glad you have resumed varying the colour of masthead monthly. With my limited vision I appreciate this aid to finding the right edition.

Yours sincerely

Sheilah Turner

Praise from Caesar is praise indeed! Sheilah was the original editor of the then Willingham Parish Magazine. Thanks are also due to the post production team who collect, collate and distribute the magazine.

Willingham Bowls Club

We enjoyed another successful year in 2006, winning the County Triples Trophy for the fourth year running. The District team, who won promotion the previous year to the Third Division, were able to hold a central position in that Division. The Ely and District team were runners-up in the First Division in the Afternoon League.

As you can see, we have three teams, all with members of varying ability, enjoying themselves and competing well. However, we do need new members to join us to help keep the momentum going.

Play starts in early May and dates will be publicised in the April edition of *Willingham News*.

Beginners and others are very welcome, and dates for roll-ups in afternoons and evenings will be arranged. Woods will be supplied for anyone who wants to come and try bowling.

Please contact Eunice Halksworth on 01954 201830, or any club member.

Sudoku

		2	3	8				
				6			8	2
	9							
			8	3	5			9
	3	8		1	9			
							4	
7					6		9	
2			5				6	8
		4	2					

solution on page 9

Pastoral Letter

The legacy of the volcano

It was the end of September 1996. For several days the swinging needle of a seismograph in Reykjavík, Iceland, provided the only evidence of the impending crisis, but eventually a light aircraft penetrated bad weather and low cloud to fly over the great icecap in the south-east of the island. The pilot saw clouds of smoke and steam pouring from a huge new canyon in the ice, a clear sign that, far below the surface, Grimsvötn was erupting. After just a fortnight, the eruption ceased, and the world's news media, that had gathered to witness the dramatic geological spectacle, packed up their kit and flew home. Three weeks later, however, on 5 November, the eruption showed its full, fearful power. Four cubic kilometres of meltwater broke out from under the Vatnajökull glacier and roared down towards the sea, sweeping along with it a million tons of ice, in blocks larger than houses and hard as iron from thousands of years of compression. The only road connecting Reykjavík to the east of Iceland was severed, the steel girders of a mighty bridge crumpling like paper in a waste-bin. Mounds of dreary volcanic rubble and ash shifted the coastline seawards for half a mile.

Like the Grimsvötn eruption, violent events in human lives may be hidden from view at the time, but produce injury and devastation that last for years thereafter and may seem irreversible. The events themselves can be physical or psychological - most often both - and include the range of wicked exploitative deeds that mankind is capable of. Our prayers should embrace the people, young and older, who live in the world's war zones. And the millions who are victims of the slave traffic that - 200 years after Wilberforce - is one of the world's fastest growing illegal industries. Even closer to home, it may be that many of the adults we know are still hurting from wounds inflicted long ago.



Amongst Jesus' close companions there were several men and women who had been scarred by traumatic events in their past. To these he had brought healing, freedom from fear, a new and true relationship with God himself, and the reassurance that his promises will always be kept - promises that are just as reliable today. Unlike the volcanic rubbish that Grimsvötn spewed out, the ugly stains in our lives really can be cleared away. But only God can cleanse us from our past, and when He does so, he leaves a new power in its place - the ability (and indeed the desire) to forgive. "Come to me" said Jesus to the weary and the burdened, "and I will give you rest.... learn from me, and you will find rest for your souls".

*Andrew Wyllie
Baptist Church*

Willingham School Association

The WSA will be holding a Spring Crafts afternoon on **Saturday 10 March** from 2-4 pm. All those that attended last year will agree that it was a great success. Should your children wish to attend, the cost will be £3 per child which includes craft materials and refreshments. Application forms can be collected from the school reception.

Future dates for your diary:-

Easter Egg Bingo - always good fun, to be held on **Sunday 25 March**.

The Willingham Fun Run will be held on **Sunday 13 May** - plenty of notice for the training to begin.

Willingham Primary School Fete will be on **30 June**.

As always, we are grateful for your support at these events.



A local and rather splendid resident!

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.

Restoration news

'Old Willingham' calendar

In the last issue of Willingham News we reported on the success of the 'Old Willingham' calendar. We can

now give an update. Sales of the calendar raised over £500 for the Restoration Appeal – after paying the cost of printing. Warm thanks to all those who bought calendars.

Cakes

The March cake stall will be at the church as usual on the first Saturday of the month – Saturday 3 March – from 10 o'clock. The cake stall is popular, and so of course are the cakes. If you have not visited the stall before, do try it. And of course, if you have, come again.

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.

Mothers' Union

Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday 26 March at 2 30 pm in the Octagon. Mrs Quince, a Mothers'



Union member, will give a talk about Lions Club International. Anyone is welcome to come and join us. We shall be having a Bring and Buy Stall. Please ring 260688 if you need transport.

Women's World Day of

Prayer – Friday 2 March at 2 30 pm in St Mary and All Saints Church, Willingham.

Salvation Army

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



Thursdays: Lunch

is served at 12 30 pm, followed by Friendship Club at 2 00 pm.

For details, telephone 260066.

New Venture: Mondays at 2 00 pm. Craft meeting, known as craft workshops. Welcome to anyone interested. For information, ring Daphne on 260568.

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. 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

Monday 5 March

Alan Moores will attend to speak to us about alpine and rock garden plants. A reminder too that annual subscriptions of £7.50 are due at the March meeting.

Please start to give some thought too to how you might make your contribution to the annual plant stall sale to be held in late May by growing some annual (or perennial for that matter) plants for sale for club funds.

A programme of Club coach trips will be published progressively in each issue of this magazine. Non-members will be welcomed



Churches Together in Willingham and Rampton

Services at the Churches during March

ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH STREET WILLINGHAM

www.willinghamchurch.org

4 March

11 00 am Parish Communion

11 March

8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 00 am Family Praise

18 March

11 00 am Parish Communion

25 March

8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 00 am Family Praise & Baptism

Thursdays throughout Lent

8 00 pm Aspects of Prayer.

Each event will contain songs, Bible readings, a short Address and a time of prayer exploring different parts of prayer. At the end there will be a chance over a cup of coffee to comment on what we have learned.

29 February

Approach - Coming into God's presence

1 March

Acknowledge - Awe in the presence of God's Majesty

8 March

Appreciate - Respond to the loving kindness of God

15 March

Admit - Humility and confession in the efface of God's holiness

22 March

Ask - Praying for ourselves, for others, the Church and the World

There is a prayer meeting on the first Friday of each month - at 8 00 am (2 March).

For children we now offer activities at all our 11 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 March

9 30 am Parish Communion

11 March

9 30 am Church Lite in the Village Hall

18 March

9 30 am Parish Communion

25 March

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 web site for more information.

4 March

10 00 am Elizabeth Herrington
(Communion)

6 00 pm Youth-led Service

11 March

10 00 am Bob and June Earl

6 00 pm Richard Sanders

18 March

10 00 am Mothering Sunday Service

6 00 pm Prayer and Praise

25 March

10 00 am Keith Rawlinson

6 00 pm Keith Rawlinson
(Communion)

THE SALVATION ARMY SILVER STREET

4 March

(One meeting only)

3 00 pm Majors Barry & Cindy Willson

11 March

10 30 am John Field

5 00 pm Roy Barton

18 March

10 30 am Ann Dougherty

5 00 pm Mark & Dawn Anderson

25 March

10 30 am Kathleen Comley

5 00 pm Major Barry Willson

'From Slavery to Freedom'

To celebrate Freedom Day a Labyrinth is being installed in the Octagon behind St. Mary and All Saints Church. Labyrinth is an interactive installation that takes you on a symbolic journey. It gives you space to unwind and think.

Designed for young and old alike, it provides a mixture of rituals and visuals, of contemplative words and ambient music, of symbols and media to help guide the spiritual traveller.

This labyrinth is designed to complement the other 'Stop the Traffik' events in the village on this day, and gives you time to make a personal response.

You can spend as long as you wish in the labyrinth. However, to get the most out of your visit it is suggested you allow at least 30 minutes.

For more information about this event please contact Kathryn Wright (tel: 261770)

COME AND WALK THE LABYRINTH...



'FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM'

DATE: SATURDAY 24TH MARCH 2007

OPENING TIMES: 10AM - 12NOON and 2 - 4.30PM

PLACE: THE OCTAGON

(behind St Mary and All Saints Church, Church Street, Willingham)

Labyrinth is an interactive installation for spiritual journeys. It's for anyone who wants a break from surfing the surface of culture to contemplate the deeper things of life.

STOP THE TRAFFIK

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 March this is West Fen Road, Fen End, Lordship Close, Pegler Court, George Street, Earith Road, Pound Lane and Loves Lane.

History of the Fen-Edge settlements

4 – Post-mediaeval and up to date

A huge change came to the Fen-Edge villages in the 17th century, when the controversial decision was taken to drain the whole of the Fens. Dutch engineers, notably Cornelius Vermuyden, were brought in to start the process, which was gradually completed over the following 200 years. Huge drains were dug and rivers were straightened. As the peat dried out it shrank, so that many of the rivers and drains were soon well above the level of the surrounding countryside, which was often flooded. Pumps had to be installed: at first wind-pumps, then steam, later diesel and now electric. The Drainage Museum at Prickwillow near Ely tells the story and has examples of pumps; and a nice example of a small wind-pump can still be seen at Wicken Fen.

Despite many setbacks, more and more of the Fenland was turned into rich farmland owned by the investors who had paid for the drainage. Over the same period the Enclosure Acts caused the loss of the mediaeval open field system, and land became increasingly the property of fewer and larger landowners. A way of life based on hunting, fishing and animal pasture was largely replaced by labouring on intensively-farmed fruit and vegetable crops, so that by the mid-19th century poorly-paid farm labour was the main employment. By the late 19th century the development of the railway network made it possible for villages to send their produce of fresh fruit and vegetables to markets in Cambridge, London and the Midlands. As the population continued to rise, social discontent sometimes led to rioting and arson against individual landowners; and in the mid-19th century Cottenham, Waterbeach and Willingham all lost one-third to a half of their houses as a result of rick fires which got out of control.

In the 20th century villages within easy reach of Cambridge expanded to provide homes for commuters, to Cambridge itself and to other places on the main railway lines including London. Village colleges were built to give village people better educational opportunities, including Cottenham Village College. In the mid-20th century population pressure on Cambridge



The old pumping station on Earith Road

led to planners seeking out large villages with good facilities for expansion; Cottenham was one of these, with Willingham also marked for new estates. By 1996 Cottenham and Waterbeach both had populations of more than 4000. Over the past few years the government has targeted South Cambridgeshire for massive further residential growth. The Fen-Edge villages continue to grow, although partially protected from expansion on to open country by "village envelopes" (boundaries beyond which they may not grow) and designation of countryside between the villages and Cambridge as "Green Belt". One way of meeting the government's targets is the construction of new towns and villages. Bar Hill was an early example; Cambourne is the most recent. As we all know, a new town, Northstowe, is soon to be built on the old airfield at Oakington south of Willingham and Rampton, and there is also a possibility

that the RAF site at Waterbeach could become a further new settlement.

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

Chris Couchman

Local Artists Wanted

Some years ago, a very successful art exhibition was held in the Parish Church and the PCC has said that it would be happy to host a similar event this year if there is a local artist or group of local artists willing to organise it. There would be no charge for the use of the Church and Octagon and some light refreshments would be provided. It would be hoped that the exhibition might have a theme reflecting the nature of the building as a 'Sacred Space'

Would anyone interested in taking this forward please contact Geoff Turner on 01954 261225 or email geoffrey168@btinternet.com.



A Willingham greenhouse

Milton Country Park

Milton Country Park is a country park just to the east of the village of Milton. It was created in 1993 from old gravel workings by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). Around a quarter of a million visitors use the Park each year, for all sorts of reasons including walking, jogging, fishing, bird-watching, photography, cycling, horse-riding, and picnics. There is really nowhere else like it to the north of Cambridge

Since the council tax was capped in 2005, SCDC has been looking at ways of cutting the cost of running the Park. At a cabinet meeting in December 2006, councillors decided that if no one could be found to run the Park, they would close it on 31st August 2007.

A group of Park users have launched a campaign to save it from closure. You can sign their online petition by visiting www.SaveMiltonCountryPark.com. The website contains a history of the Park and the recent threat of closure, as well as answers to many frequently asked questions. If you have friends and neighbours who want to sign the petition but don't have access to the internet, there is a paper form you can download, print off and give to them so they can sign the petition too.



There is a poster to download and display in your window or on your work notice board to help publicise the campaign and if you have a web site of your own then you can support the campaign by displaying their ribbon.

If you think the Park is an asset to the area, then please sign up. And if you've never been to the Park, come now!

For those without internet access, please contact smcp, 4 Church Lane, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6AB.

Theresa Feetenby

On 12 February, Councillor Manning, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, provided the following update:

"The future of Milton Country Park is in the news again because of the deadline given for arranging a plan for its long term future. South Cambridgeshire District Council has been trying to find a solution to the problem for several years, in fact it always comes up as a massive cost when looking for savings. The plain fact is that SCDC just could not go on paying out nearly £300,000 per year for this facility when only half the visitors come from the district and most of those from within 5 miles of it. Because of capping we cannot raise any more money and must try and prioritise the use of what we have. We have asked others to help financially, tried to suggest ways of raising money or arranging for someone else to take it over. This has been going on for as long as I have been on the Council but nothing has worked and the progress has been slow to say the least.

Since Council decided that these desultory and half hearted attempts had to be speeded up by giving a deadline, the progress has been remarkable. Once it was realised that SCDC could not and would not carry on subsidising it at this level and was serious about finding someone else to run it discussions have moved on at a pace. The costs have been brought down drastically, making it a more viable proposition for someone to take on, and the car parking charges are bringing in some revenue. The public support and increasing visitor numbers encourages the belief that people do want it and will contribute towards it.

There are on-going discussions with seven prospective partners and an agreement is likely to be forthcoming in the near future. If there is no other solution in place by the deadline it may be that a Charitable Trust is set up and all the people and Parish Councils that have shown such tremendous support will be able to contribute to it.

The whole point of the exercise has been to find a long term or permanent solution for the viability of the Park otherwise it would always be under threat whenever savings were needed.

I think it is unlikely that the Park will close, I am convinced that when everything is finalised the Park will be far more secure than before".

Willingham Charity Lunch

This month's charity lunch will be held on 24 March, hosted by Val Brown and Jacqueline Hodgkinson, at 33 Pyrethrum Way at 1 pm. The lunch consists of a choice of soups, bread and cheeses, tea and coffee, etc, and costs £3. The lunch is a social occasion; a good time to meet old and new friends, as well as raise money for worthy causes. So, why not join us?



Sheilah Turner and Amy Robinson handing the cheque for £700 to a representative of East Anglian Air Ambulance at the January meeting.

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

Village Diary

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

MONTH	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	TICKETS/INFO
March				
5	'Alpine and Rock Garden Plants' talk by Alan Moores	Willingham Gardening Club	Willingham Social Club	7 30 pm
7	Meeting	Willingham Parish Council	Willingham Primary School	7 30 pm
10	Spring Crafts Afternoon	Willingham School Association	Willingham Primary School	2-4 pm
12	'Moments, Memories, Magic'	WI	Social Club	7 30 am
14	Red Nose Fayre	Willingham Scouts and Beavers	Public Hall	6-8 pm
18	Public Meeting	Parish Plan Committee	Willingham Primary School	7 30 pm
24	Labyrinth Slavery to Freedom	Parish Church	Octagon	10-12 , 2-4 30 pm
24	Freedom Day Events	The Sunday Thing	Stocks Terrace	10 30-3 pm Jon Edney 205739
24	Litter Pick	Willingham Parish Council	Ploughman Hall car park	9 am
24	Lunch	Willingham Charity Lunch	33 Pyrethrum Way	1 pm
31	Open morning - Doctor Hewlett	Willingham Medical Practice	Surgery	10-12 noon
April				
2	AGM and presentation by members of their travels abroad	Willingham Gardening Club	Willingham Social Club	7 30 pm
3	AGM & Extraordinary Meeting	Ploughman Hall Management Committee	Ploughman Hall	7 30 pm
21	Quiz Night and Supper	Willingham Sports Council	Social Club	8 pm Lynda Blunt 261309
May				
9	Talk by local author Midge Gillies	Friends of Willingham Library	Octagon	7 30 pm 260780

Keeping the village clean: Your chance to help

You will know that the Parish Council has been making major efforts to keep the village clean. The Council employs a litter picker who regularly collects rubbish from the central part of the village.

It has made a great difference – but now there is to be a concerted attack on litter in some of the outlying parts of the village – and for this we need VOLUNTEERS.

Are you willing to help? If so, assemble at the Ploughman Hall car park at 9 00 am on Saturday 24 March. Please come if you possibly can.



Women's Institute



'Moments, Memory and Magic' by Vic Botterill,

This is the speaker at our next meeting on 12 March at the Social Club.

At present we have over 40 members with varied interests and ages.

We have a variety of speakers this year including the chef from Wimpole Hall and a gentleman teaching us Line Dancing. Please come and join us.

As a member you would be able to join in the activities of the Cambridgeshire Federation. These include a Nosh and Natter lunch or a trip to see 'Guys and Dolls'. If you would like to come along we meet at 7 30 pm.

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	Kathryn Wright	01954 261770
	Bumps and Babies Group	Mrs L Daniel	01954 261316
	TOPS (Baptist Church Toddlers Group)	Mrs L Daniel	01954 261316
Halls	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 Doreen Young	01954 200561
	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

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RELIEF

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THE BIG ONE

Willingham Beavers and Cubs Red Nose Fayre

Lots of Fun & Games !

Public Hall

Wednesday March 14th
6pm – 8pm

Come along and have some
FUN !

COMIC
RELIEF

COMIC
RELIEF

Comic Relief, registered Charity 328568



Bookstart
Since 1992 by BOOKTRUST

FREE books from Bookstart... A way to give your child a "head start" in life!

The Cambridgeshire Bookstart Scheme is part of a national programme to encourage a love of books from the earliest age possible and comprises of 3 gifts:

- **The Bookstart Bag is for babies up to a year old**
FREE from your Health Visitor at or around the time of the 8/9 month developmental check.
- **The Bookstart Plus Satchel is for 2 year olds**
FREE from any Library across the county.
- **The Bookstart Treasure Chest is for 3 year olds**
FREE from Early Years settings – nurseries and pre-schools.

All gifts can be claimed via the Library to ensure that no child misses out! The only requirement is to take along your child's Health Record Book simply as a way of providing proof of your child's date of birth.

Each gift contains 2 books that are specially selected to suit the age of the child as well as some ideas and top tips for parents and carers on how best to share books with children.



Cambridgeshire Libraries welcomes all babies and pre-school children with many providing regular story and rhyme times for both parents and children to enjoy.

To find out more about activities in your local Library:
Phone 0845 045 5225 or Visit: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

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
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Presents



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AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE PUBLIC HALL, HIGH STREET
ON APRIL 25th AND MAY 2nd
8 00pm START

AUDITIONS WILL BE A MAXIMUM OF 5 MINUTES

SO MAKE YOURS COUNT!

PERFORMANCES TO TAKE PLACE ON JULY 13th AND 14th

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HANNAH ON 07725 573519 BE-
TWEEN 5 00pm AND 9 00pm

Directed, produced and presented by W.A.M.A.D.S. under 25's

STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



March 25th is Freedom Day

Around the world people will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the end of slavery. At the same time we will remember that slavery is going strong today and that human trafficking is the latest way for organized crime to make easy money.

On March 24th from 10 30 - 3 00pm, Willingham teenagers will mark the occasion with events around the village. There will be a 'Freedom Wall' near the Co-Op where you can find out more and put your handprint on the wall. There will be a mock auction of teenagers and a 'chain-gang' will walk around the village. If you see us please support us by taking an interest in this cause. Let's stop this trade again.

www.stopthetraffik.org

www.thesundaything.org

New Community Fire Safety Officer for South Cambs District



Mark Taylor has recently joined the team at South Cambs District of Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service. He is looking forward to getting out and about to try and ensuring safety from fire in our community.

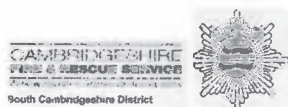
Mark explained,

"I am available to talk to groups concerning any aspect of Community Fire Safety as well as working with schools and other educational organisations. We offer a free Home Fire Safety Check and, if necessary, will fit free smoke detectors and I would urge people to take advantage of this offer".

District Manager Pat Kilby said,

"I am delighted that Mark has joined the team. He comes with a lot of experience in this field and will be a great asset in enhancing Community Fire Safety in South Cambridgeshire".

Mark can be contacted on 01223 376217. Dial 999 for emergencies.



Bin collections

7 Mar	Black bin
14 Mar	Green bin and green box
21 Mar	Black bin
28 Mar	Green bin and green box

Leprosy Mission. Thank you for all the stamps you have sent. We also collect obsolete and foreign coins, and picture postcards. They may all be left in the box at the Parish Church.

Glossy magazines (including *Willingham News*) should be placed in the green box.

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.

Plastic bags may also be recycled at Willingham Co-op car park,



Protect your valuables

Cambridge Constabulary is using a new website to help identify property which has been recovered after car or house break-ins. It is called Immobilise. It is totally secure and FREE and may be used to register your valuables such as mobile phones, satellite navigation systems, in-car music systems and laptops. It can be searched by Police all over the UK so it won't matter where your property turns up; it will still be identified as yours.

To register your property go to www.immobilise.com and follow the simple instructions.

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MAY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

Saturday 5th May £13

Rochester Chimney Sweeps Festival

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ROYAL ASCOT 19th June £37

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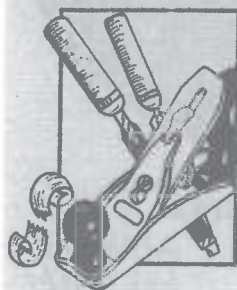
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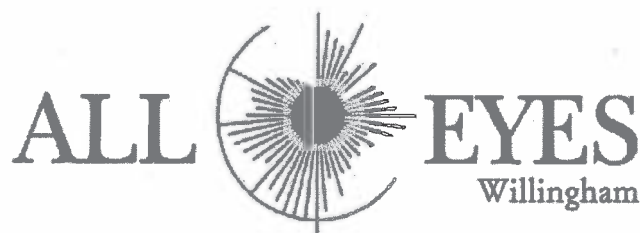
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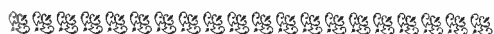
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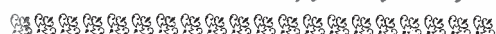
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