



# WILLINGHAM NEWS

June 2007

## Willingham Parish Clock

Yet again, Willingham has demonstrated its innate talent for ploughing a lone furrow. The vast majority of village clocks located in church towers are the property of the respective churches. Not so in Willingham. Our clock belongs to the Parish.

The installation of these clocks was not only a matter of civic pride but also fulfilled an essential function. Few households had clocks, and watches were pretty much a rarity, especially for the working man. Everyone relied on the village clock to tell the time and, by its chimes, to indicate important

events such as lunch breaks and knocking-off times. According to the date on the clock, it was manufactured in 1887 by W Potts & Son of Leeds, who produced over 1600 of these turret clocks. It was paid for by public subscription to celebrate the Golden



Jubilee of Queen Victoria and installed in 1887. Since then, the Parish Council has paid for the maintenance and costs of clock winding. It replaced an earlier clock. It is interesting to note the initials HF and HD and the date 1877 scratched in the stonework to the right of the clock face.

The clock is approached by means of a narrow and claustrophobic spiral stone staircase set in the church tower and leading eventually to the belfry. Nowadays, there is an electric light. It must have been fun navigating the stairs in the dark, especially coming down. The stairs are a tight squeeze for any present day adult; people were much smaller at the time the church was built, but, even then, there could have been little room to spare.



This composite picture shows most of the clock mechanism. The clock used to be driven by three weights; one each for the main drive mechanism, and the hourly and quarterly chimes. Until 1990, these weights had to be wound up manually. At one time, the clock was wound by Bert Huckle; when he was unavailable, Arthur Beaumont took over. Then, in 1959, Harry Beaumont assumed the responsibility. Here is a picture of Harry Beaumont by the clock mechanism. Apparently, Harry Beaumont was pretty fearless. There is a tale of how he



*continued on page 7*

**The next issue:** Please send material to the following email address: [willinghamnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:willinghamnews@yahoo.co.uk), and, if possible, send your copy as an email attachment NOT incorporated into the email. Paper copy can be left at the library. Please note that the deadline is 10 June. **Please contact [advertswillinghamnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:advertswillinghamnews@yahoo.co.uk) with any advertising queries.**

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## From the Parish Council

### New Chairman and Vice-Chairman

At its annual meeting on 2 May, the Council elected Cllr Phil King as its Chairman for 2007-8, and Cllr Pat Daniels as its Vice-Chairman.

### CCTV equipment on the Ploughman Hall

The Ploughman Hall, car park and adjacent areas are now covered by CCTV equipment. This equipment records all activity in the area, and is of good enough quality to be used in police enquiries. The Parish Council hopes that it will act as a deterrent to vandalism, but if it does not, the Council will now have the evidence on which to prosecute anyone damaging Council property.



### New play equipment for the village

The Parish Council is in the final stages of choosing new play equipment to replace the play items for older children currently on the Recreation Ground. The new equipment will be sited on the Jubilee Field near the toddler play area, where it will be covered by the new CCTV equipment on the Ploughman Hall.

### Plans for the Pavilion

Plans for refurbishment and extension of the Pavilion are progressing well. Applications for grants are going forward, and it is hoped that the work will start this autumn. The Parish Council would like to thank Willingham Sports Council for all the hard work they have put into bringing this scheme to this exciting point.

### The search for a new cemetery site

The Parish Council is still searching for a suitable site for a new cemetery, as the present one will soon be full. New regulations mean that the new site will have to be well above the water table, and not within 250 metres of a watercourse. This means that a number of otherwise suitable sites in the village cannot be considered.

If you own 3 – 4 acres of land which you think might be suitable and which you would be willing to consider selling to the Parish Council, please would you get in touch with the Parish Clerk at the Parish Council Office?

### Joan Smail Memorial Seat

The Joan Smail Memorial Seat is now to be sited on the Recreation Ground, where it is hoped that it will give good service to members of the Willingham community without being a focus for any undue disturbance. The Parish Council is sorry that it could not be kept nearer the centre of the village, but has taken on board the concerns of all those who were anxious about its potential for attracting disruptions in residential areas late at night.

### South Cambs housing 'surgery'

Don't forget that there is a monthly 'surgery' on housing matters for all South Cambs tenants, the first Wednesday of the month, 10 00 am to 12 noon, at the Baptist Church in George Street. No appointment needed – just turn up.

### June Parish Council meeting

The June Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 6 June at 7 30 pm, in Willingham School. The agenda will be posted on Friday 1 June 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:-

11 June	Finance & General Purposes Committee
18 June	Leisure & Amenities Committee
26 June	Green & Boundaries Committee
28 June	Public Hall Committee (to be held in the Public Hall)
2 July	Cemetery Committee
9 July	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; 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.

### Your Parish Councillors and their contact details (in alphabetical order) are:-

<b>Mr J Anderson</b> (Cemetery Committee Chair)	01954-203344
<b>Mr J Burnett</b>	01954-270338
<b>Mrs K Cornwell</b>	01954-261530
<b>Mrs P Daniels</b> (Council Vice-Chair)	01954-260505
<b>Mr P King</b> (Council Chair)	01954-260780
<b>Mr B Kirkman</b> (Green & Boundaries Committee Chair)	01954-260393
<b>Mr R Manning</b> (also Leader of the District Council)	01954-261235
<b>Mrs R Mead</b>	01954-202626
<b>Mr S Mellows</b>	01954-270063
<b>Mrs R Mumford</b> (Public Hall Committee Chair)	01954-260934
<b>Mr G Pake</b>	01954-260534
<b>Mr B Papworth</b>	01954-260798
<b>Mr C Stephens</b>	01954-260396
<b>Mr T Walkden</b>	01954-201722
<b>Mr J Watson</b> (Leisure & Amenities Committee Chair)	01954-200245

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*The Office is open on Monday afternoons from 1.30 to 4.30pm, and Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am to 12 noon, except Bank Holidays. 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.*

## SAWSTON MUSIC FESTIVAL 2007

Saturday 16 to Sunday 24 June: A variety of concerts.

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*continued from front page*

was attached to a rope so that he could clean out all the gulleys around the roof of the tower, and lubricate the rod leading from the clock mechanism through the tower wall to the clock hands. What price Health and Safety! Perhaps his confidence rested in a higher power. Geoff Granger became the next clock winder followed by Frank Cook and Andrew Cook in 1988. At that time, the clock was jammed. An engineer came and used an oil can with the longest spout ever seen in Willingham to lubricate the rod driving the hands and thus remedy the situation.

From 1990 until earlier this year, Andrew was in sole command of regulating the clock and changing the times when the clocks went forward and back. Phil King and John Anderson are currently charged with struggling up the staircase to look after the clock.

The clock is regulated by adding or taking away small lead weights on the pendulum. One previous clock winder apparently had no watch. It is said that he would ask the time of a passer-by and then climb the church tower to adjust the clock to that time. Of course, by the time he reached the clock, a couple of minutes at least had elapsed – but he still set the clock to the time that he had just been given, and thus the clock was always slow. The clock mechanism is affected by the weather, and always runs fast just after it has been serviced and lubricated.

In 1990, the decision was taken to install three electric motors to drive the clock mechanism and chimes (at the time of writing, a clock maker has just fixed one of these motors to get the clock running again). The decision making process was quite labyrinthine and involved the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and English Heritage, amongst others. It was a condition that the redundant pulleys and weights be stored at the church, and that the clock could revert to the manual system of winding at any time in the future.

There is a tale of one disgruntled parishioner taking a pot shot at the clock face around the time of the First World War. Jabez Few was a farm labourer with a penchant for unofficial game shooting. He often carried a gun. Apparently, he was also partial to a tippie. On this occasion, he was said to have been 'tired and distressed' when he heard the clock chime. His response was to say 'If you strike once more, I'll shoot you.' It did, and he fired. A man of his word. The magistrate was not impressed. Another time, someone made use of steeplejacks' ladders and ropes to swing across the face of the clock and bend the hands. Despite such treatment, the clock has survived from one Queen's Golden Jubilee to another's, and beyond. It has been going now for 130 years and, it is to be hoped, will continue to serve the people of Willingham for very many years to come.

## Jottings from your County Councillor

The main subject in my postbag continues to be the Longstanton interim bypass. After months of pressure on the developers, they finally put up some signs, but I am sure that I am not the only one who thinks that they are woefully inadequate. Coming from Bar Hill at the junction with Over Road you have to go almost round the roundabout before finding out whether that is the B1050 or not. And would anybody like to hazard a guess as to what the speed limit is – 30, 40 or 60mph? It is completely ridiculous.

I would like to make clear that at present the road has not been adopted by the County Council and therefore remains the responsibility of the developers of the Home Farm development. Officers from the County Council are as frustrated as I am by the way in which this has been handled. I have now asked that they speak to colleagues at South Cambridgeshire District Council requesting that the development be stopped until proper signage is put in

place. It might just concentrate some minds somewhere. I also share the concerns at the way hedgerows have been pulled up, with little or no thought to the wildlife. I have asked that planting on both the interim bypass and the full bypass be carried out as soon as possible.

By the time this article appears in print, I will have been elected leader of Cambridgeshire County Council. It is an honour and a considerable challenge, but I would like to reassure you that I remain, first and foremost, your local representative for all county matters.

I am always available for consultation, either in person or by phone, letter or e-mail. I can be reached at the address or telephone number below.

*Shona Johnstone*

*Highfield, 5 Lowburyholme Road, Over, CB24 5NP*

*Tel: 01954 230565,*

*e-mail: [shona.johnstone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:shona.johnstone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)*



## Swavesey & Over Tennis Club

Clear-cut winners of the first Spring tournament of Swavesey & Over Tennis Club – formerly Over Tennis Club – were Gary Peet and Sue Kent. The 16 participants played five sets each, on a 'mystery partners' basis, as a new draw was made before each set. The set scores were added to individuals' totals. Gary Peet won four out of five of the sets he played, and even took six points from the one he lost as it went to a tie break and he finished with 30 points for and nine against, with Andrew Papworth second on 28 points for and 17 against. Among the ladies, Sue Kent started badly with a 1 – 6 loss but eventually finished with 23 points for and 18 against, with Eileen Lane second on 20 points for and 19 against. Club nights at the Swavesey Village College sports centre are on Mondays and Fridays, from 7 30 pm.

## MAGPAS thanks

A total of £248 was raised for MAGPAS at the refreshments stall at Garners Farm, Green Street during the Yesteryear Road Run.

Special Thanks to North's Bakery and Cambridge Foods for their kind donations.

But it wouldn't have been such a success if it wasn't for the team of ladies who baked many delicious cakes, and cooked the bacon to perfection!

Thank you for your support.



## Bin collections

<b>6 June</b>	Green Bin and Box
<b>13 June</b>	Black Bin
<b>20 June</b>	Green Bin and Box
<b>27 June</b>	Black Bin

**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.

## Willingham Gardening Club

### Monday 4th June 2007 - Meeting

Sandra Barker, a working village basket maker and one of only six Yeoman members of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers will speak to the Club about this ancient craft. Anyone wishing to have a go should bring a large darning type needle and scissors with them. Instruction will be given at a cost of 15p per head to cover the cost of materials. Sandra calls her talk '*Plait in History*.'

### Saturday 16 June 2007 - Outing

Outing to the wonderful Beth Chatto Garden at Elmstead Market. The cost is £19 per person and non members are very welcome. We leave the Green, Willingham at 9.00 am. To top off the day we shall then visit the Carter's Vineyard near Colchester, finishing off the day with some wine tasting.

### Monday 2 July 2007 - Meeting

George Thorpe will talk to us about '*Climate change and associated planting*' a topical subject if ever there was one and essential to enable us to meet the challenges that inevitably we and our gardens will face in future.

### Saturday July 2007 - Outing

We shall be travelling to Norfolk stopping first in the delightful town of Holt for morning coffee and then going on to Pensthorpe gardens to round off the day. We leave the Green Willingham at 9 00 am. The cost is £16 per person and non-members are very welcome.

### Advance Warning (2)

The Annual Willingham Horticultural and Craft Show will be held on Saturday 1 September 2007. Class schedules will be available in July from Willingham Library, Berrycroft Stores, and from Willingham Post Office.



## Willingham Medical Practice

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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



## Women's Institute

We are having some interesting events in the near future. Below is a brief outline of them.

### OPEN MEETING.

On 11 June we are holding 'An Open Meeting'. That means anyone can come along – Yes, even the menfolk. The topic is 'Escape from Burma' with a talk by Stephen Brookes. It starts at 8 00 pm at the Social Club and refreshments will be provided.

### WI OUTING

Each year we arrange an outing and this year we are having a 'Treasure Hunt'. We are not travelling around the countryside in cars, just driving to a couple of villages, having a gentle walk around looking for the clues, and finishing up at a pub for a pleasant meal.

### CHARITY EVENT - HELP THE PAVILION FUND

In August we will be holding a Cake Stall / Coffee Morning to help raise funds for the local Pavilion. There will be some competitions and plenty of pleasant chat in

Amy Robinson's garden (next to the Post Office). We would love to see you there if only for a cuppa and a chat. It is for a very worthy cause.

### SUMMER PARTY

Each July we hold a summer party. This year it will be in the Octagon with plenty of good food and entertainment. Unfortunately this is for WI members only.

### SOME PAST EVENTS

We had an entertaining evening in April at our Cambridgeshire Council Meeting in Comberton. The speaker was Dr Paul Whittaker about 'Music to the Ear' (music for the deaf). Although he is deaf he still manages to teach other deaf people to appreciate and perform music.

In May we had our Group Meeting, consisting of five local WI's. The speaker at that meeting was Andie Harper from Radio Cambridgeshire, another extremely interesting and amusing speaker.

These are just a few of the events past and present that the Willingham WI have organised so if you would like to join us please ring:- Doreen on 01954 200561 or Jacky 01954 261831.



## French afternoon for adults on Saturday 7 July

Willingham Primary School French teachers Liz Harrison and Laurence Millard are offering an afternoon of French for all levels in time for the summer holidays! 2 00-4 00 pm, Saturday 7 July at Willingham Primary School. Bookings are via Cottenham Community Education, tel 01954 288751, cost £8/£6 concessions. Please email [e.l.harrison@btinternet.com](mailto:e.l.harrison@btinternet.com) in advance of the day so that we can plan for your level (this address was misprinted in the Fen Edge summer brochure), or leave us a note at the school office.



## Revd Jonathon Daniel

On 14 January Willingham Tabernacle Baptist Church was packed for a Commissioning Service for Revd Jonathon Daniel. Jonathon had become a well-known figure in the village during the seven years he served as minister of Willingham Baptist Church, and many friends came to join the church family in showing their appreciation and support to Jonathon, Lesley, Coralie, Lydia and Naomi as Jonathon followed God's calling to train as an Army Chaplain.

Jonathon's tireless ministry in service to the church, and also to the school and the wider village community, is something we valued highly, and we will miss all the family very much.

Jonathon started his training with the Army on 22 January, and after an intensive, and at times gruelling period, both at Amport House, the military chaplains' centre, and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, the Commissioning Service and Final Parade for Padre Daniel, RACHD, was held on Saturday 3 March 2007. Several friends from Willingham were able to join the family on this memorable day. Sandhurst Academy and grounds looked magnificent in the spring sunshine, and Jonathon was extremely smart in his uniform. Solemn promises of service and leadership were made before God in the Royal Memorial Chapel, followed by the Final Parade, when the

new Professionally Qualified Officers were put through their paces against the backdrop of the Academy.

Jonathon, Lesley, Lydia and Naomi are now based in Osnabruck, Germany, where Jonathon is serving with the 1st Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. Our prayers and good wishes go with them.

Hilary Wyllie (Baptist Church Secretary)

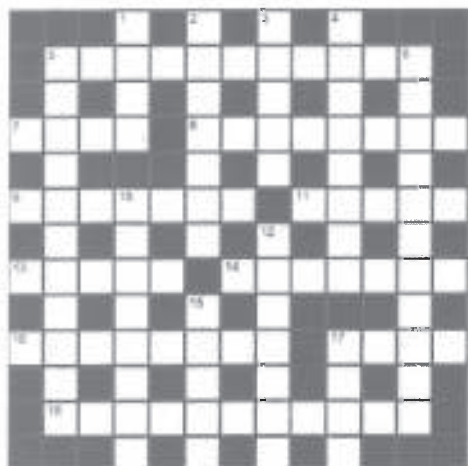


## Willingham Charity Lunch

This month's charity lunch will be held on Saturday 16 June at the home of Cliff and Diane Hopkin, 13 Rockmill End, 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 is in urgent need of funds due to recent PCT cutbacks. This lunch is a social occasion, a good time to meet old and new friends and at the same time raise money for needy causes. Over the past four years we have raised £2710 for charity, so why not join us?



## Crossword set by Willow



### Across

- 5 Fortune teller's medium (7,4)
- 7 & 1d Charlotte' Bronte heroine (4,4)
- 8 Native American axe; cruise missile (8)
- 9 Scottish city; Coma Scale (7)
- 11 Racing driver Jim, twice World Champion (5)
- 13 French love (5)
- 14 Coarse or rude in manner (7)
- 16 Brainy people on TV (8)
- 17 Bird of Stercorariidae family (4)
- 18 Stage songstress (6,5)

*solution on page 18*

### Down

- 1 See 7 Across
- 2 Cowboy's hat (7)
- 3 19th century battle between Texas and Mexico (5)
- 4 Unmarried member of 60s singing group (8)
- 5 First Holy Roman Emperor, died 814 AD (11)
- 6 Weather front bringing clouds and rain (3-8)
- 10 Left handed boxer (8)
- 12 Chews the fat? (7)
- 15 US state, capital Augusta (5)
- 17 Satirical sketch (4)

## Are you interested in shaping the future of Willingham? Oh Yes!

Over 60 Willingham residents crowded into the hall at the Primary School on 18 April to attend the first Parish Plan Public Meeting.

Organised to let everyone know what the Parish Plan is all about and to collect opinions about issues that affect the village, the response showed that many of us do care enough about Willingham to do something about it.

The Parish Plan is being developed to ensure that people in the village have an opportunity to contribute to local decisions and define what they want to see in the village in years to come. It will also act as a guide for those representing us all locally and regionally, enabling them to work towards targets set by us.

One of the main purposes of the Public Meeting was to find out what people think about Willingham – both the good and the bad.

The open session started with a discussion of the positive elements of the village and there was common agreement that the village was self-contained, and well serviced for shops, health and primary education.

Then the focus moved on to areas that needed attention and this included traffic management, policing, the effect of NorthStowe, the Ploughman Hall, employment and a raft of other issues.

The Plan committee will use all of the feedback from the evening to develop a questionnaire that will go into every letterbox in the village later this year and which will form the basis of the final Parish Plan.

If you are interested in becoming involved in any way with the Parish Plan please contact any of the committee members on [willinghamplan@btinternet.com](mailto:willinghamplan@btinternet.com) or in person.

## Litter – your chance to help

Following a successful litter pick on 24 March, the Parish Council litter working party will organise a further pick on Saturday 20 October. It will be advertised nearer the time in *Willingham News*.

Please remember that the authorities are only able to clear paths and gutters, which is why we litter pick the verges. With the vast amount of through traffic in our village, litter is an

unsightly and unwelcome intrusion, generated by unthinking and uncaring people. At the last litter pick, over 20 full black bin bags were collected. The Parish Council would like to thank the parishioners who helped with the last litter pick for giving up a few hours of their time to help clean our village.

John Anderson  
Parish Councillor

**WAMADS**  
Willingham Amateur Music & Drama Society  
will be holding

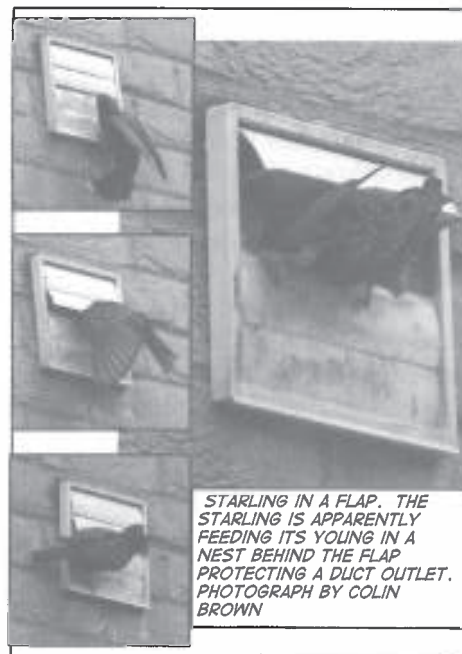
**AUDITIONS**  
for this years **PANTOMIME**

**'THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME'**  
on  
**May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2007**  
**@ 8.00pm**  
at  
**The Public Hall, High Street, Willingham**

**All welcome!** We need **adults** of all ages and **children** (minimum age 10yrs) performing and backstage stars wanted!

For further details, please contact the Director:  
**Kevin Webb Tel: 01487 841458**

(N.B. Production dates Dec 6-8<sup>th</sup>)



STARLING IN A FLAP. THE STARLING IS APPARENTLY FEEDING ITS YOUNG IN A NEST BEHIND THE FLAP PROTECTING A DUCT OUTLET. PHOTOGRAPH BY COLIN BROWN



*In memory*

Ivy Wiles (nee Jakes) was born in Newtown Willingham in 1912, the eldest daughter of 11 children of Edith and Harry Jakes. She moved away but spent the last 18 years living in the Josiah Smith Bungalows on Over Road. She sadly passed away peacefully at home on 14 April 2007 aged 95. This poem was written by her great granddaughter:

**IVY WILES**

Irreplaceable

Vogue

Young

Willing

Incredible

Lovely

Energetic

Special

Nan, we could say goodbye  
We could say we miss you  
We can say we love you  
Then again we could say so much

Nan, we will miss your smile  
We will miss your spirit  
We will miss your twinkle in your eyes  
But most of all we will miss you

Nan, you were one special woman  
You still are one today  
You still will be one tomorrow  
And will be one forever more

Nan, you always had your hair done  
You always had your make-up on  
You always loved your bingo  
And we will always love you

Nan, you will never be forgotten  
You will never not be loved  
You will never not be thought about  
And you'll always be here with us

Nan, we will one day meet again  
Until that day comes you sleep now  
Rest your head  
And be filled with love.  
xxXxx

Staci MacDonald

## Pastoral Letter

Earlier in the year we were on holiday in a narrowboat. I've enjoyed similar excursions over the last 40 years or so, and I appreciate the gentle pace of canal cruising, and the opportunity to creep along the waterway. Despite the chugging of the diesel engine, very often we take wild-life by surprise.

I remember the pleasure I used to get on spotting a heron, but they have become familiar sights, perched on the towpath, ready to pounce on some unsuspecting fish. Less common is the kingfisher, now so rare that it is afforded the highest degree of legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

They have a very short life span, and very few survive for a second breeding season.

I am wondering whether this year is an exception, because one morning I spotted six of them over a three-mile stretch. Two travelled along with us for a few hundred yards, and I was able to point them out to my crew. Their distinctive shape and rich colours add to their beauty, and I was quite excited by the fact that I had seen so many in such a short space of time.

I don't know about you, but when I have a thrilling experience, I want to share it. A few hours later we were moored up next to a brand-new boat, and us skippers got to talking. I hope you don't think I was boasting, but I couldn't help but tell the gentleman what I had seen. I thought he might have been impressed, but not one bit. He told me that he was from New Zealand, where 'Kingfishers are two a penny', so he said, and his comments could have had a negative impact upon me.

But I refuse to be deflated - for when you've seen, heard or experienced something beautiful, you want to savour the experience for as long as possible - and somehow it doesn't matter if someone else thinks they can top your story, for you know what you know, and how you feel about it, and why should you allow anyone to rob you of that.

So I will continue to get thrilled when I think about the Kingfishers, but I don't think that excitement will ever come close to the thrill I get when I recall an earlier experience of a spiritual kind ... and I hope you will have had a similar encounter, not with six or a score, for there is only one of Him, and if you've seen Him once, that should suffice for a lifetime.

Barry Willson  
Major, Salvation Army

## 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 during term time. 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 during term time. 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.

**Mothers' Union** Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday 25 June at 2 30 pm in the Octagon. Beryl Waterson will be giving us a talk. All are welcome to come along.



Transport can be arranged.

**Monthly cakes** The June cake stall will be at the church as usual on the first Saturday of the month - on Saturday 2 June - 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.

### Salvation Army

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

**Craft meeting** on Mondays at 2 00 pm. For information, ring Daphne on 01954 260568

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

### Salvation Army - Cook needed

Majors Barry and Cindy Willson are moving to Lowestoft in July. They are therefore looking to appoint a cook for the Thursday Luncheon Club at Willingham Salvation Army. The Club currently serves a maximum of 33 meals per week.

#### The cook will be required:

to assist with weekly menu planning and shopping, taking into consideration existing menu and customer needs; to prepare and serve the food. Voluntary help is available for waiting on table, clearing away and washing up.

The successful candidate will either hold a food handling certificate or equivalent, or be willing to be trained at the Salvation Army's expense. Hours are 5 per week (to include allowance for shopping).

**Remuneration** is £6 per hour, paid monthly.

**5 weeks paid holiday** per annum after completion of probation period.

The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and a Registered Charity, working towards an equal opportunities policy.

Further information from Majors Barry & Cindy Willson 01223 248351

### Thankyou...

We would like to thank the following businesses for their support in donating prizes for the lucky squares competition at our Trundle Event:

Strikes Bowl Multiplex  
Q103  
Big Sky Adventure Play  
Willingham Motors

Tesco Extra  
Cheeky Monkeys  
Tylers  
North's Bakery  
Mindart Photography

Duxford Imperial War Museum  
Nene Valley Railway  
Maison Condor  
Willingham Co-op  
Thurleigh Farm Park

Wicksteed Park  
Hammerton Zoo Park  
The Works  
Cambridge Building Society



If you run a business and would like to donate a prize for future Honeypot events, please contact the playgroup or one of the committee members. All donations are very much appreciated. Once again, we would like to say a big 'Thank You' for your support.

Registered Charity No: 1009789



## Churches Together in Willingham and Rampton Services at the Churches during June

### ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH STREET WILLINGHAM

[www.willinghamchurch.org](http://www.willinghamchurch.org)

#### 3 June

11 00 am Parish Communion

#### 10 June

8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 00 am Family Praise

#### 17 June

11 00 am Parish Communion

#### 24 June

8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 00 am Family Praise &  
Baptism

There is a prayer meeting on the last Friday of each month at 8 00 am This month: June: 29th.

Children are welcome at all our 11 00 am services. On the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, for children age 5 to 11 we have 'Power Source' in the Octagon. On 2nd and 4th Sundays we have activities in the Church Service. For younger children there is a crèche every Sunday, and 'Fidget Bags' are available for use in the pews.

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

#### 3 June

9 30 am Parish Communion

#### 10 June

9 30 am Church Lite in Village Hall

#### 17 June

9 30 am Parish Communion

#### 24 June

9 30 am Church Lite in Village Hall

### WILLINGHAM TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH GEORGE STREET

[www.willinghambaptist.org](http://www.willinghambaptist.org)

#### 3 June

10 00 am Keith Rawlinson  
(Communion)

6 00 pm Rev Geoffrey Turner

#### 10 June

10 00 am Rev Graham Licence  
(Wisbech)

6 00 pm Nigel Holland (Sutton)

#### 17 June

9 00 am Liz Herrington - refreshments  
are available between the  
two services from 10 05 to  
10 40 am

10 45 am Family Service

6 00 pm Prayer and Praise -  
Liz Herrington

#### 24 June

10 00 am Andrew Wyllie

6 00 pm Mark Wareham  
(Communion)

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.

### THE SALVATION ARMY SILVER STREET

3 June One meeting only

3 00 pm Roy Barton

#### 10 June

10 30 am Norman Foster

5 00 pm Kevin & Penny Gray

#### 17 June

10 30 am Kathleen Comley

5 00 pm Major Barry Willson

#### 24 June

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 June this is Over Road, Haden Way, Rook Grove, West Meadow Close.

### St. Mary & All Saints' Willingham

#### SACRED SPACE EXPLORATION

20<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June : 9.00am - 8.00pm



For 800 years prayer has soaked into the stones of this village church. Come and use it as a station on your spiritual journey. Come and be still. Come and see what centuries of experience can say about prayer and the presence of God. See how God is known now.

- Seeking? -come!
- Curious? -come!
- Sceptical -come!

*"You are here to kneel where prayer has been valid"*

*T.S. Eliot Little Gidding*

## Milford Jeeps – portrait of ‘a village boy’

‘All my life I’ve been a village boy, living a village life’. The description is produced with the wry humour that is Milford Jeeps’s trademark quality. He does not take himself too seriously, and he sees the best in others – and for many years, with his wife Edie, has served others, in Willingham and more widely, in many ways.

When he retired in 1978 from the Milberry Stores, which he had run with his brother Roland, he and Edie saw an advertisement for people to volunteer in holiday homes for disabled people, run by the Winged Fellowship Trust. For the next ten years they went to homes round the country. After that, they continued to raise money for the Trust.

That was just one of the causes Milford has supported. He organised sponsored walks for the parish church. For ten years he provided dramatic Christmas light displays in his garden in Rampton Road – first ‘just for fun’, and then when someone suggested this could be a good fund-raiser, he began to seek donations for charity, and raised several thousand pounds. Milford stopped planning and erecting the lights a couple of years ago, and was delighted when his daughter Glenda and her husband Peter took over the tradition.

Milford was born in Mill Road, Willingham on 31 March 1920. ‘I was just eight hours short of being an April Fool baby’, he comments. In the following year his family moved into Berry Cottage – now part of Berrycroft Stores – because his father wanted bigger premises in which to start a retail business for his work as a painter and decorator. Five years later, the retail business had grown, and Milford’s father gave his painting and decorating business to an apprentice.

Milford remembers those times well. He recalls that his father sold petrol and paraffin. The petrol came in two-gallon cans, and was sold – for ten pence a gallon.

Milford left Willingham School at 14. ‘I hated school’, he declares, adding, with typical humour ‘but I was never bottom, because there were two stupid people in the class’.



*Milford with his great-grandchildren*

He wanted to be a carpenter (and has always been a very practical man). He did not achieve this ambition, however, but went instead to work for his father. The working week was 68 hours (from 8 00 am to 8 00 pm, Saturdays till 1), and the pay, a magnificent 15 shillings a week. If someone rang the bell in the night wanting petrol ‘you got up and served him’.

He remembers cycling round the village with huge loads on his bike – ‘just like Granville in Open All Hours’. On Saturday mornings, one of his jobs was delivering paraffin to the British Legion premises for lighting, and petrol to the church to fuel a generator. In 1936 he was one of the first people to ride a motor cycle with an L plate, made compulsory in that year.

In 1939 Milford joined the Territorial Army and when war began was called to the regular army. On 4 August 1940 he got engaged to Edie, a Cottenham girl (‘a foreigner of course’ he remarks, then adds ‘but if it was not for “foreigners” Willingham would be dead’). Less than two weeks later, Milford was in hospital for an operation on his back, and did not get out until March 1941, when he was invalided from the army.

He took a job reading electric light meters, but cycling thousands of miles a year was a strain, and he became a chauffeur with the Air Ministry. He passed the Institute of Advanced Motorists test in 1960. Driving remains a great pleasure.

In 1944 he started a bicycle repair business from his father’s garage in Long Lane (where he had moved after selling the Berrycroft Stores). The business took off, and by the end of the year Milford had earned £300. He bought a cottage opposite Berrycroft Stores – for £300. He and Edie got married. The cottage, Milford notes, ‘had all mod cons – water but no drainage. We bought a bath for ten shillings and put it in the scullery, I dug a hole in the very small garden to throw out the bath water. The toilet was “bucket and chuck it”’.

Meanwhile, on 11 November 1943 – Armistice Day – brother Roland was seriously wounded in Italy, and when he returned, permanently disabled, the two brothers opened a small retail cycle shop. Roland married Edie’s sister, Queenie. Milford enjoys pointing out that he was his brother’s brother-in-law, and Edie was her sister’s sister-in-law.

In 1946 they moved the business to the corner of Berrycroft and Mill Road, as Milberry Stores (now, of course, closed). It expanded quickly, thanks particularly to gaining the agency for Plant Protection Ltd (part of ICI), on the strong recommendation of Ewart Lucas and his father, George, who had held the agency. Milford still feels great gratitude for that support, and still speaks warmly about the Willingham people who supported him and Roland in their business. ‘We were both disabled, and the village rallied round’, he recalls.

In those years fruit and flower growing in Willingham was on a major scale. Some idea of the scale is given by Milford’s recollection of sales: several thousand gross of fruit baskets in a year; a thousand tons of fertiliser; half a ton of rubber bands; one year, nearly 700 40-gallon barrels of fruit tree spray.

*continued on page 15*



Life was not easy in the years just before and after the war, and many things which people now take for granted simply did not exist.

At a personal level, too, there have been many ups and downs. Milford and Edie had the great sadness of losing their son 15 years ago.

As you talk with Milford, however, you cannot fail to

be aware of the satisfaction he has found, and still finds, and particularly the satisfaction he gets from helping people. He is still, for example, actively involved with the Cambridge-based Monday Club for Visually Handicapped People, with which he has worked for 30 years. And he takes great pleasure from his family 'five lovely grandchildren and four great-grandchildren'.

## Letters to the Editor



### To the people who don't remember the floods...

To get some idea of what it was like: take a trip from Haddenham to Earith. Stop at the bottom of the hill as you are leaving Haddenham. Just ahead of you, on the right, is a bungalow. This is one of the few buildings left. When the water was at its highest, there was just 30 centimetres of the roof showing above the water. When you looked left, right, or straight ahead, there was nothing to be seen but WATER!

*Milford Jeeps*

Having responded in 1947 to the appeal of our local 'Crier' (Arthur Searle, always known as Pont) to fill sandbags to eliminate Willingham being flooded I can add my personal experience to last month's story. Firstly this task was called 'Scragging' and several of us younger ones (now aged 27) were detailed to raise any places where water was coming over the bank of the Old West and main river between Earith locks and Over. This we did reasonably well under freezing conditions and high winds but still the water rose until after several days the bank of the main river between the latter places gave way. Sandbagging now was impossible as the water pressure swept them immediately out of the breach and into the field. The breach widened every minute so we were forced to abandon.

It was now recognised as a national disaster and the Army did come in bringing a WW2 'Duck' amphibious vehicle as used in D-day landings. This was sunk across the breach, but by now it was so wide that the following day the Duck was also in the adjoining field, so Fen farms were evacuated, livestock brought up into the village on to higher ground, the eventual water line being almost up to the Tabernacle gates.

*Tony Manning.*



### Thank you

May I through the letters page say a big thank you to the village community responder who arrived at our house on Saturday 5 May. My husband dialled 999 and the local responder turned up very quickly. She did not

have to do much but was very re-assuring and very professional. As soon as the ambulance arrived she quietly slipped away. I am afraid we cannot remember her name but want to thank her for doing this very important job as a volunteer. We are a lucky village should we need medical care in an emergency setting.

*Pip Amos*

P.S After 24 hours in hospital, all is well.

### Plea to dog owners...

I am a mother of a toddler and often when I take my son for a walk, we come across several dogs being walked by their owners but without leads. Despite this being illegal, I find this very uncomfortable. Only today we went on a two-mile walk around the streets of the village and came across three unleashed dogs, two of which came to the buggy and tried to 'sniff' my son's legs. The owners of these dogs may trust their pets to behave impeccably, but I'm afraid that I do not and I don't like seeing my son unnecessarily upset. I appreciate that these animals are unlikely to harm either of us, but we don't know that for certain and I would rather my son be safe and didn't grow up with a fear of dogs. Could I please ask owners to be more considerate when they take their pets for a walk?

*Mrs J Rayner*



Following the letter published in last month's *Willingham News* I wanted to write to agree with Mrs Lucier.

On 23 April my Mum and I took our 1-year old dog, Archie, for a walk down to the set-aside field. We are really pleased to be able to take him somewhere away from the road as we are still training him to go off the lead – and come back!

However, in order to get to the field we walked down Pound Lane and had to dodge 51 Poos – Yes I counted them! I could not believe how disgusting some other dog owners are to not clear up after their pets. I am 12 and my sister is 6 and we have both been 'trained' to clear up after our pet. It's all part of owning one responsibly isn't it? You know when your dog puts on the brakes and needs to go.

I hope this makes the guilty people feel embarrassed enough to clear up after their dog next time, wherever it is. We are very lucky in Willingham to have so many dog bins, unlike many other villages we walk through. There is no excuse.

*Becki Leaney*

### ...and bonfire burners

I see once again the subject of bonfires during the day has raised itself. I too have a big problem with this, because I have an acre and a half garden at the rear of my property and 13 neighbours around it. I often get a neighbour or two having a bonfire on a beautiful day, knowing that the wind will blow the smoke away from their house straight into my garden. I have spent many hours trying to grow a woodland and meadow for my grandchildren to enjoy, but the smoke always sends us straight back inside. All the windows have to be shut and it is a rush to get the washing in.

I know there are no laws as such on bonfires but the South Cambridgeshire Council have told me that there are 'neighbour friendly' hours of between 7 00 pm and dawn to have them. If a neighbour persists in having regular bonfires (even after a conversation with yourself) and disturbing others by this, then make a note of dates, times, weather conditions and the neighbour who spoils your day. Then the neighbour will be asked to have the bonfires at a reasonable time. I do

always approach my neighbours and they are very polite about it, but often the damage is done for that day. So let's enjoy, with our children, the lovely summer days and evenings ahead outside in the fresh air.

Willingham resident



Quiet reading at Willingham library, photographed by Pam Gooding.

## Village Diary

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

MONTH	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	TICKETS/INFO
<b>June</b>				
1	Cake Break Fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis	Willingham Tabernacle Baptist Church	Baptist Church	10 00am – 12 noon. . 8 00 – 10 pm Hilary Wyllie 01954 260051
4	Meeting (basketry and other ancient crafts)	Willingham Gardening Club	Social club	7 30 pm 261394
16	Charity Lunch		13 Rockmill End	
16	Club Outing Beth Chatto Garden	Willingham Gardening Club		
20-26	Sacred Spaces	Parish Church	at the Church	9 00am - 8 00pm
30	Willingham Primary School Fete	Willingham School Association	Willingham School	
<b>July</b>				
2	Club Meeting 'Climate change and associated planting'	Willingham Gardening Club	Social club	7 30pm
11	Open Meeting	Womens Institute	Social club	Jacky Sparks 261831
7	French afternoon for adults	Cottenham Community Education	Willingham Primary School	£8 - 288751 2 - 4 00pm
21	Club Outing Holt and Pensthorpe, Norfolk.	Willingham Gardening Club		



# Village Directory

<b>Council</b>	Parish Council		01954 261027
	Parish Council Chairman	Mr P King	01954 260780
	Planning Committee Chairman	Vacant	
	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
<b>Services</b>	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
<b>Schools</b>	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
<b>Children</b>	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	Lynn McGoff	01954 261296
	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	Hilda Beauchamp	01954 205487
	TOPS (Baptist Church Toddlers Group)	Hilda Beauchamp	01954 205487
<b>Halls</b>	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
<b>Local Representatives</b>	Billavincea Lodge 8719	Mr M Scrivener	01480 413533
	Fen Edge Community Association	Mr G Redhead	01954 288944
	Cambridge Evening News Correspondent	Anne Kirkman	01954 260393
	Workers' Educational Association	Mrs J Hodgkinson	01954 201816
	Willingham Combined Charity	Mrs J Ambrose	01954 260446
<b>Clubs</b>	Gardening Club	Mr T Halsey	01954 201910
	Social Club	Mrs S Hart	01954 204260
	WAMADS Drama Group	Mrs C Deeth (Secretary)	07896 322497
	Willingham Youth Club	Mrs J Farrar	01954 200515
	Women's Institute	Mrs Jean Langford	01954 201706
	Women's Royal British Legion	Mrs Doreen Young	01954 200561
		Mrs M Few	01954 260124
<b>Sport</b>	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
<b>Churches</b>	Anglican Church (Rector)	Rev. Geoffrey Turner	01954 261225
	Mothers Union (Branch Leader)	Mrs S Hayden	01954 260363
	Baptist Church	Mrs Hilary Wyllie	01954 260051
	Methodists (Ministerial Contact)	Rev. Hilary Cheng	01223 700778
	Roman Catholic Priest	Monsignor Rogers	01223 350787
	Salvation Army	Major and Mrs B Willson	01223 248351

## 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

## Successful author visit

Might the game-keepers and poachers around Willingham have joined forces in 1940 to form a Resistance Movement should the Nazis have invaded? This was one of the intriguing thoughts that arose when a large audience filled the Octagon on 9 May to hear Ely-based author Midge Gillies talk about her latest book *Waiting for Hitler*.



The subject was the summer of 1940 when, after Dunkirk, an invasion seemed imminent and the tension was high. She described obtaining information for the book using contemporary sources, such as the 'Mass Observation' project, some only recently released into the public domain, and interviews with those involved. There were also slides to illustrate some of the more bizarre aspects of those times, such as cows painted with luminous paint so that they could be seen in the blackout.

Afterwards, Midge mingled with the audience and signed books over a glass of wine. This event was the Friends of Willingham Library's first such venture, but given its great success we can be sure that this will not be the last time they invite an author to share their writing experiences.



## 1st Willingham Scout Group

The Scout Group plan to hold an event to replace 'The Duck Race'

They have been unable to organise it for this year, but have booked 17 May 2008 for a Fun Day. It has already attracted great interest with jugglers and pony rides being offered up as potential attractions alongside a climbing wall and 'Extreme Bouncy Castles'.

The event will have all the interesting stalls that this village usually provides and we are open to any ideas to make the event one to remember. If you do have any suggestions or would like to book a stall at this event please contact me.

Stephen Drake  
01954 261426  
chiptncrackt@btinternet.com



### Solution to puzzle on page 10

**Across:** 5 Crystal ball, 7/1 Jane eyre, 8 Tomahawk, 9 Glasgow, 11 Clark, 13 Amour, 14 Boorish, 16 Eggheads, 17 Skua, 18 Elaine Paige.  
**Down:** 2 Stetson, 3 Alamo, 4 Bachelor, 5 Charlemagne, 6 Low-pressure, 10 Southpaw, 12 Gossips, 15 Maine, 17 Skit.

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Wyllie (tel. 01954 260

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When registering an item on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) a user I.D. and password is generated which allows YOU the owner of the site to access the site and add or delete items at any time of the night or day. There is no limit to the number of items that you can register. Registered items can be identified anywhere in the country making it far more likely that your property will be returned. More importantly it may give the police an audit trail to find the thief and bring a successful prosecution.

Any item with a serial number can be registered FREE of charge. For items like jewellery or antiques there is the facility (for a one off payment of £3.99 a year) to upload three digital images of each item, and once again there is no limit to the number of items which you can register on your account within Immobilise.

If you had a mobile phone stolen it is possible to register in retrospect on Immobilise simply by contacting your airtime provider and asking for the IMEI number. The reason for doing this is as follows: Having registered the IMEI number of the phone it is possible to go straight into the account and register the phone as lost/stolen. This means that, if the phone turns up in the hands of the police anywhere in the country, when they run a check on the IMEI number it will not only show that you are the registered owner but also the crime details. This will give police a fighting chance of finding out who committed the theft. It can give good evidence to support a successful prosecution and once blocked the handset will be 'Immobilised' - and even replacing the Sim Card will not make the handset work again.

Go onto the Immobilise website and see how easy it is to register: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

### Police Contacts

The email of our Community Beat Manager Alison Jones is [alison.jones@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:alison.jones@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

Our PCSO is Domenic Pingerna Tel: 07713 997702

Email: [domenic.pingerna@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:domenic.pingerna@cambs.pnn.police.uk)



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<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/LeisureandCulture/MiltonCountryPark/Facilities/Hiringthevisitorcentre.htm>

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**EASTBOURNE** 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December £195

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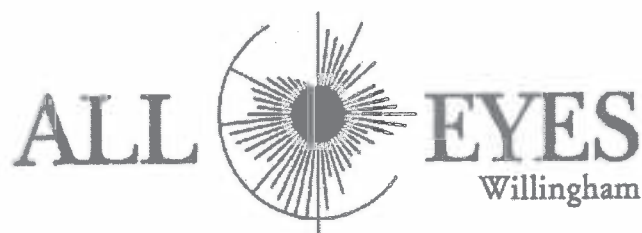
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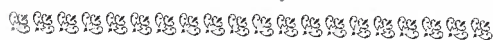
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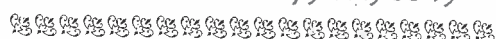
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