

November 2007

Willingham in my Youth



Flower cutting with Jack Few in the centre and Frank Papworth to his right

Moving from Cottenham to Willingham in 1927 the difference between the villages was very noticeable as Cottenham's economy was built on growing cherries and soft fruit; whereas Willingham was the home of plum and flower growing. This I believe was the result of their locations, since all returning soldiers from the 1914-18 war were offered small parcels of land at very low rent as a part of government policy. As a result, Cambridgeshire County Council is still the largest landowner in the county with around 40,000 acres. However, the one or two acres on offer were too small to farm so the ex-soldiers became smallholders looking for an outlet for their produce. Adjoining Histon, "Chivers" was originally making solely strawberry jam, which proved so popular that the range was extended to all soft fruit. Local growers were looking for crops to grow on small parcels of land and jumped at the opportunity, and depots were set up where fruit was weighed and bought at guaranteed prices. This facility did not originally exist in Willingham but was extended later to a large barn in Long Lane, as the demand for jam and preserves exceed the local supply of fruit.

In those early years, Willingham smallholders had instead taken to flower growing. Their flowers were despatched to commission salesmen at wholesale markets all over the country through local agents usually referred to as "Carriers". They delivered wooden returnable boxes in the morning by horse and cart and informed potential senders of that day's market prices quoted by telegram or telephone (a rare commodity in those days). They then picked up the filled boxes later that day and took these to Longstanton Station for delivery to the market selected by their grower customer. Whilst people with larger acreages still carried on arable and dairy farming or plum growing, there were very few who did not devote a piece of land to growing flowers as that was more lucrative than farming which was very depressed. In order to exist, even the dairy farmer sold milk retail from his dairy or delivered to the door in a bucket and measured out to requirement into the buyers' jugs (that was really "green").



Willingham greenhouse

Almost every type of flower was grown as people produced different varieties to attract buyers but the largest of these in the early years was the pyrethrum. Willingham was famous for them, it seemed everyone in the village had a few tucked away on a plot somewhere. The Doctor at that time jokingly said he always took his holiday when "Pyes" were out as no one had time to see him (no National Health). It was staggering that there was a demand for the quantity produced; but there was, and this provided us

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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

Police Contacts

The email of our PCSO Domenic Pingerna is domenic.pingerna@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Bin collections

7 November	Green bin and box
14 November	Black bin
21 November	Green bin and box
28 November	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 - recyclable at Willingham Co-op car park, or at Tesco, Bar Hill.

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

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The next issue: Please send material to the following email address:

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 November.

Please contact

advertswillinghamnews@yahoo.co.uk with any advertising queries.



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From the Parish Council

Vacancy on the Council

As there has been no call for an election to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council, this will now be filled by co-option at the Parish Council meeting on 7 November. I know this is short notice as Willingham News goes out at the beginning of the month, but if anyone reading this has not seen the Notices of Co-option displayed for the past 3 weeks on the Council and Library notice boards, and would like to be considered for co-option on to the Council, please would they ask the Clerk for an application form straight away. This must be returned to the Clerk, together with a short statement on their involvement in village life, and why they would like to be a Councillor by 12 noon on 7 November at the latest.

Pavilion refurbishment

The Football Foundation has now confirmed their grant offer for the Pavilion refurbishment. By the time you read this, it is hoped that the building works will be under way. The Parish Council and Willingham Sports Council are sorry for any temporary inconvenience to users of the Pavilion and the Recreation Ground; it will be well worth it when we have the new improved Pavilion up and running.

National bus passes

As most people know, anyone over 60 is entitled to a free bus pass for use anywhere within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



From next April, free bus passes will be available for public bus services across the whole of England. Applications can be submitted now, and there are forms in the Parish Council Office. (This does not include National Express who are a private company. However, anybody over the age of 60 is already entitled to reduced fares from National Express.)

Public Art Project

A proposal for a new elegant bus shelter on the old bus shelter site, and landscaping of the surrounding area, is moving forward. There will be a public meeting on Wednesday 14 November, 7 pm at the Ploughman Hall, when the artist will be presenting her draft plans for consultation.

Blocking the pavements



Now that the birds' nesting season is over, please would anyone whose hedges, shrubs or trees block any of the pavements please see that they are trimmed back. For a guide as to

whether your hedge etc is blocking any part of the pavement, imagine trying to get a wheelchair past it. If a wheelchairuser could not get past your hedge or shrubs without going in the road, then the pavement is being blocked. Don't forget that if the County Council has to be called out to trim it back, then you would be sent the bill!

There is also an increase, once again, in vehicles being parked across the pavements so as to cause an obstruction to pedestrians. Again, if you could not get a wheelchair through the gap that is left, then this is an obstruction. Vehicles seen to be obstructing the pavements will be reported to the police. If you see or are obstructed by such a vehicle, call our

Your Parish	Councillors	and their	contact	details
(i	n alphabetic	cal order)	are:-	

(III alphabelical order) a	ue
Mr J Anderson	01954 203344
(Planning Committee Chair)	
Mr J Burnett	01954 270338
Mrs K Cornwell	01954 261530
(Cemetery Committee Chair)	
Mrs P Daniels	01954 260505
(Council Vice Chair)	
Mr P King	01954 260780
(Council Chair)	
Ms S King	01954 202045
Mr B Kirkman	01954 260393
(Green & Boundaries Committee Chair)	
Mr R Manning	01954 261235
(also Leader of the District Council)	
Mr S Mellows	01954 270063
Mrs R Mumford	01954 260934
(Public Hall Committee Chair)	
Mr G Pake	01954 260534
Mr B Papworth	01954 260798
Mr C Stephens	01954 260396
Mr T Walkden	01954 201722
Mr J Watson	01954 200245
(Leisure & Amenities Committee Chair)	

PCSO Domenic Pingerna on 07713-997702, or E-mail him on domenic.pingerna@cambs.pnn.police.uk, giving the time, location and registration number of the offending vehicle.

Human trafficking – a special message from the police

Operation Radium is Cambridgeshire's input into a national operation (Pentameter) aimed at tackling human trafficking. Young women from Eastern Europe, Africa and the Far East are lured to the UK with a promise of successful careers and citizenship. In reality they become victims subjected to appalling violence where they are moved around the country and sold into the sex trade. Cambridgeshire Constabulary is committed to identifying and rescuing these women and breaking down the criminal gangs who make lucrative earnings from the trade. There are over 100 brothels working in Cambridgeshire some of which operate under the guise of different businesses whilst others look like normal homes in quiet neighbourhood areas. So far, all known premises have been visited by Cambridgeshire Officers.

Within the 102 Parishes in South Cambridgeshire, do you know or suspect a brothel is operating within your parish? Have you seen any suspicious behaviour in your neighbourhood such as men visiting houses or do you know of any victims of the sex trade? If you have any information, no matter how insignificant, then please call Crimestoppers on 0800-555111 or Cambridgeshire Constabulary on 08454-564564.

Beware of the Thief

The police have notified us of several recent incidents of theft from vehicles parked while their owners are involved in local football matches. They have asked that a message should go out to players/spectators asking them not to leave anything in their vehicles. Items should be placed in the boot of the car out of sight, or belongings taken with players into the changing rooms. Changing rooms should be locked whenever the building is not occupied. There is potentially the same problem for anyone parking by the Recreation Ground or in the Ploughman Hall car park. The car park (though not the Recreation Ground parking) is monitored by CCTV, but even so, it is much less hassle to keep any valuables locked out of sight in the boot, rather than having the cold comfort that the thief of your possessions will probably be tracked down!

November Parish Council meeting

The November Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 7 November at 7 30 pm, in Willingham School. The agenda will be posted on Friday 2 November on the Village Notice Board outside the Public Hall, and in the Library. As usual; there will be a slot in the meeting for

The Honeypot Pre-school

Registered Charity Number 1009789

Santa's coming to Willingham Come and visit him in his grotto at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 24th November At Willingham Primary School 10.30am to 12.30pm

Join the Festive Fun and Shop 'til you drop, then have a break to sample our mouth-watering refreshments. If you've no time to stop then takeaway some delicious homemade cakes.

Stalls include Virgin Vie Jewellery, cosmetics, bath & beauty products; Tup'ny Ha'pny hand-made cards & gifts; Pink Dinosaur childrens' toys & gifts; Phoenix cards, gift wrap, posters & invites; Usbourne books.and many more.....

To keep the children amused there will be a Bouncy Castle, face painting and games.

members of the public to address the Council on any matters (whether on the agenda or not) which concern them.

No Committee meeting dates have yet been set for November. However, all the Committees will be meeting during November to discuss setting their parts of next year's budget, so watch the Council and Library notice boards for details. All meetings apart from full Council meetings are at the Parish Council Office, Ploughman Hall, unless otherwise advertised; Council meetings at the Primary School, Thodays Close. 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 . Clerk: Miss Chris Couchman Deputy Clerk: Mrs Dawn Spouge

The Office is open on Monday afternoons from 1 30 to 4 30 pm, 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.

Job Advertisement Ploughman Hall Custodian

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

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

It is a part time job with variable hours which will include on occasions some weekend or late evening work.

It will be paid at a competitive hourly rate.

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

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

Anyone interested should contact John Anderson on 01954 203344.

Box Office now open for Hunchback Pantomime of Notre Dame

'The Hunchback Pantomime of Notre Dame' is gaining momentum in rehearsals as the WAMADS cast prepare to put their scripts down. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, work is underway on the accumulation of props and the creation of the scenery and costumes that promise to bring the show to life. The performances are at the Ploughman Hall in Willingham at 7 30 pm on 6 and 7 December with a 2 30 pm matinee and 7 30 pm evening performance on Saturday 8 December. The box office is now open for bookings, please call 01954 260139 to ensure your seats.





Flu vaccines If you have not already done so please ring the surgery now to book your flu vaccination. As before, flu vaccination is recommended to all



people of 65 years and over, and to those of any age with a long term medical condition, for example diabetes, heart disease, kidney or liver disease, asthma or any breathing disorder. Carers, and poultry workers, are also eligible. Please enquire if unsure. Due to the large number of people needing this protection we plan to hold some flu vaccine only sessions and ask that people wear short-sleeved clothing for easy access to arms! Many thanks.

> **Contact numbers** Do we have your up-todate telephone numbers if we need to contact you? Please remember to let us know when you change your home telephone and

mobile numbers. **Repeat Prescriptions** for the Christmas

holiday period Once again we will be supplying two months' repeat medication from 19 December to ensure that no-one



Willingham Medical Practice

52 Long Lane, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5LB Reception Tel: 01954 260230 Dispensary Tel: 01954 260073

Longstanton Branch Surgery, Magdalene Close, Longstanton. Tel: 01954 207600

> runs out of medication over the long Christmas and New Year holiday period. This is in line with local PCT policy. The out of hours service CAMDOC will not be able to supply you with repeat medication during that time so we will all need to plan ahead to avoid a last minute panic. We regret we will not be able to help you with your other Christmas shopping!

> **Christmas opening hours** Both Willingham and Longstanton surgeries will be closed all day on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day and the afternoon of Christmas Eve. The surgeries will be open as usual for the remainder of the weekdays between Christmas and New Year.

Still not managed to give up smoking? Talk to Neil our pharmacist who can advise you on the various options available on the

g? ise he ilv

Acknowledgements Our thanks to family and friends of the late Mr Donald "Charlie" Dean for their kind donations to our Surgery Equipment Fund.

Cynthia Bidwell - Practice Manager

NHS or to buy over the counter.



Mothers Union

Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday 26 November at 2 30 pm in the Octagon. Our speaker will be Keith Rawlinson showing slides of a trip to Canada. We welcome anyone who would like to come and join us. Transport can be arranged. Please ring 260688.

Sudoku set by Willow

	_	S	olutio	n on p	oage 1	5			1 molest.
		6		Concession of the local division of the loca		8		7	Induigenc
						6			At our Pestive Chaming
8				9		4	1		At our Festive Shopping and Pamper Evening
				5	4				Avoid the Cambridge rush and come and buy your
	6		9						Christmas presents in a nice relaxed environment
	9	7			6				Why not treat yourself to a mini-manicure, massage or other beauty treatment during the evening (Pre-booking advisable, call Lynda on 01954 261665)
		4		3					All this plus a crèche, refreshments,
		8			5		6	3	demonstrations and a raffle!! Willingham Primary School
		2					7		Wednesday 14 th November 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm

Entrance fee only 50p per adult (Accompanied children cny)



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with a good living. However, the time came when we were producing less flowers per plant, it had dropped from up to 60 stems per plant in late twenties, to around 30 maximum in 1950. Due to this decline growers looked for alternatives to attract buyers. By the late fifties, there were probably more chrysanthemums than pyrethrums grown, plus several acres of peony, scabious and Ester Read. The Ester Read was "dyed" to the buyer's preferred colour - the most popular of which was known as Laddie Pink.

From the thirties on, there was a steady rise in the number of glasshouses constructed (cost approximately $\pounds 1$ per foot run). A 100 foot glasshouse was the most popular size, being used to produce tomatoes followed by the large incurved single bloom chrysanthemum; in those days either yellow or white (colours came later) for the Christmas trade. These were followed by forced daffodils and narcissi in the Spring whilst others grew mint (yes, for Mint Sauce). Once these crops became less profitable the glasshouses were used more and more to produce annuals for planting outside for supplying the cut flower trade like asters, statice, dahlia; the list is endless.

By the mid fifties inflation had taken over, wages had trebled as had flower production costs. As part of the throw-away society the flower trade would no longer accept returnable wooden boxes, it was cardboard at three times the price. Paper, string, and raffia had seen similar price gains whilst the selling price had remained static as flowers were coming from all over the world. These were often from third world countries where wages and production costs were low and the climate even better for flower production, or from Holland where exports were subsidised by their Government.

Several growers had already increased their fruit acreages as improvements in machinery meant less labour was required. Tractor powered sprayers and wide cutters for orchard maintenance came into use, and this was coupled with trees available on dwarfing "stocks" so that picking became quicker with the fruit nearer the ground. The list of improvements is vast, and it was by now 1960 when the government decided that it would support anyone who was prepared to upgrade fruit growing standards to as good or better than those from abroad; so the HIS (Horticultural Improvement Scheme) was born. Grants were available (up to 40%) on any thing to improve production and presentation of apples and pears, and the first grant accepted under the scheme came to Willingham. It was presented by Joe Godber, then Minister of Agriculture, amid much national media attention, and for the next few years more orchards were planted both here and nationally and fruit quality and particularly presentation improved.

As soon as we became members of the Common Market fruit came in from countries with a "peasant economy". Plums still produced locally in large quantities for the "Processor" (Tom Langan had 100 acres of one variety called Czar, yield 10-15 tons per acre) were no longer economic. Plums from eastern Europe were now



Plum orchard

delivered to the factories in plastic barrels preserved in sulphur dioxide for the price local growers currently paid just to pick them, and if I may digress a little, this is why this region has so many Travellers as they were employed in the area for fruit picking - particularly plums. All other fruit was similarly affected and now with the government supporting cheap imports Willingham ceased to produce either flowers or fruit on anything like the previous scale.

Willingham now became something of a dormitory village, many of the inhabitants commuting elsewhere to work. But how I regret the changes since pre-war days. We knew everyone in the village - then less than 1,000 adults - where their land was and what they grew; we never locked our doors, graffiti and vandalism were unheard of and it was safe to walk the streets at night even before we had street lights. Houses changed hands for less than £100, and land sold for as little as 30 shillings (£1.50) per acre. But what is more surprising is that we all seemed to be more contented then, but probably now its just me being a "grumpy old man".

Tony Manning.

Ploughman Hall

To comply with legal requirements the Ploughman Hall Committee (PHC) is calling another Extraordinary Meeting on Tuesday 4 December 2007 at 7 30 pm at the Ploughman Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss future management arrangements.

The PHC will be recommending that the existing committee structure is dissolved, the charity status relinquished and control passed to the Parish Council.

All parishioners aged 18 and over are entitled to attend and urged to do so.

A formal notice and agenda will be posted on the parish notice board, at the library, and in the Ploughman Hall at least fourteen days before the meeting.

Further details can be obtained from the PHC secretary on 01954 260780.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editorial Committee,



I offer a suggestion possibly for future editions of Willingham News:

How about inviting entries for a section called, maybe, Do Try This At Home!? - with a request for especially traditional local cookery recipes, and also unusual ones?

Best wishes, Chris Couchman

What do our readers think? Any entries may be either emailed to 'willinghamnews@yahoo,co.uk' or delivered to the Library by the 10th of the month in question.



I read with interest the letters of Reg Purnell and Richard Butler in the last edition of the News, and was pleased to see Shona Johnstone reply, although it was not

positive about any improvement soon. I was very disappointed to see no response from the Parish Council to comments made by the County Councillor. I assume our Parish Council will respond to the statements of Shona Johnstone which seem to indicate that they have obstructed any traffic calming proposals in the past

While accepting the dangers to villagers and those passing through Willingham due to the high speed of traffic along Earith Road and Rampton Road, it should be recognised that Station Road also suffers as traffic accelerate as it leaves the village. But this is not the sole reason for pursuing the need for action to reduce traffic. The quality of life for those living and using these roads should be of concern to the Parish and County Councillors.

It is recognised that traffic calming in surrounding villages has been a success, if not a total success it has reduced the traffic and risks. So successful have these measures been that the traffic avoiding the calming schemes use Willingham and thereby increasing the amount traffic in the village! This increases the risk of a tragic accident happening and further increases the anguish of residents.

The council should not be waiting for an accident to happen before introducing measures but trying to reduce the risk of an accident now. How many 'near misses' are not reported, I have seen some very close incidents which could have resulted in a serious accident? Is not the speed camera, sorry safety camera, on Station Road placed there because of serious accidents in the past?

I was told that funding for traffic measures was in place but the monies were used to build the cycle lane between Willingham and Longstanton. As Richard Butler, in his earlier letter, pointed out a facility that is rarely used.

In other parts of the country councils have prohibited HGVs from using 'B' class roads, and/or prevented them using roads during certain times, so allowing some respite from the continual noise and dangers. We should not forget that 'B' Roads are intended to be local routes, which have lower traffic densities than the main trunk roads, a four digit 'B' road should be considered a low density route. The B1050 was not build to accommodate the traffic that is currently using it, the surface and condition of the Earith Road is suffering and will lead to additional dangers. The development of Northstowe and the commencement of the Guided Bus will greatly increase the amount of traffic so adding further to the dangers.

Can not the councils, Parish and County, bring forward a plan that would reduce the risks and improve the quality of life in Willingham sooner rather than later?

Yours sincerely

Michael Sheridan, Station Road, Willingham

The Parish Council Chairman has the following to say:

'It is true that the Parish Council (PC) has talked to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) about traffic calming measures in the past and that the outcome has not been conclusive but it was not from want of effort.

The PC is working hard at the traffic issues and has attended numerous special meetings relating to traffic through the village as well as undertaking traffic surveys.

The PC has lobbied long and hard for the solution of a bypass. Whist this may be trying to push water up hill they are minded to keep it on the agenda.

The PC is also open minded on other measures including speed humps despite their unpopularity elsewhere once installed. Other and better solutions are available but cost is always a factor which has been a problem in discussions with CCC.

The PC is very much open to the views of all residents and warmly welcomes them by letter, email or attendance at any of their many open meetings.'

One of our readers made the following suggestion earlier in the year:

This last Christmas most of my friends and acquaintances within the village and locally will have received an email from me wishing them a Happy Christmas and New Year. I took this decision not because I felt too mean to purchase Christmas cards but for some time now I have felt it somewhat unnecessary to scurry around putting Christmas cards through the doors of people we see on a fairly regular basis. I decided I was no longer going to succumb to the annual commercial and peer pressure and would instead make a donation to a local charity.

I received several favourable responses from recipients of my emails, some of whom indicated that they would follow suit this year. It then occurred to me that the Willingham News might like to enter the alternative Christmas spirit and sell squares in the December issue to people who may choose to wish

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friends Christmas Greetings in this way. The price of squares would cover the cost of administration and would also include a donation to a worthy Willingham cause to be decided by the parish magazine.

Do you feel this may be an idea which would appeal to your readers?'

The cost would be $\pounds 5$ for a rectangle taking up one sixteenth of a page. This cost mirrors that for a similar

sized advert for one month and includes the charitable donation. All profits would go to charity in Willingham.

If you would like to take part, please let us have your greetings by emailing willinghamnews@yahoo.co.uk or dropping a note into the library. Any greetings would have to be notified to Willingham News by 12 November to meet the printing deadline for the December issue. Cheques should please be made out to Willingham Parish Magazine.

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Pastoral Letter - Orígíns and Destinations

Have you noticed how some surnames seem to belong to particular parts of the British Isles? There is an interesting website (http://www.nationaltrustnames.org.uk) where you can type in a surname, click on an icon, and immediately see a map that shows the counties where the family name of your choice is most commonly found. Type in Thoday or Ingle or Few and there are no surprises: Cambridgeshire lights up. Contrariwise, Scottish fisher family names like Wiseman locate along the Moray coast and also appear in little patches along the coasts of Yorkshire, East Anglia and the Western Isles: all places where the fleet landed its fish (and its men) as they followed the herring shoals round Britain centuries ago. The distant history of many families is drawn in these maps.

There is a peculiar fascination in the exploration of things in the present day that tell us about our roots in the remote past. DNA analysis can take the story much further, to times long before there were any surnames at all, and it reveals relationships between people all over the world. Quite recent evidence points anthropologists to the conclusion that the entire human population of the earth today has descended from a single, small group of people. Standing in the middle of Athens around AD50, the apostle Paul put it like this: "From one man, God made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth, and He determined the times set for them and the exact places they should live". He went on "God did this, so that we should seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him." This seeking and reaching out has left many traces: countless stone circles, chambered cairns, inscriptions, statues, wall paintings and temples around the world tell of human longing for certainty about a future beyond death, and fear and awe of what or who might await us there.

Christians can look into that future with a sort of expectant excitement. We don't hope to grasp all that the Maker of the Universe is, but we know how He has chosen to connect with the entire human race: amazingly, as a man who worked in a carpenters shop, befriended all sorts of men and women, prioritised children, could become tired, thirsty, hungry, happy, sad, and indignant, and spoke with impressive authority of the inner feelings of God. It is through meeting Jesus that we discover the sort of people we really are, and the will and power of a mighty, loving God to make us members of his own family, all around the globe.

God Bless

Andrew Wyllie

November 2007



Parish Church

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 at the new times from 10 00 to 11 15 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.

Be Still And Know A day of reflection in preparation for Advent in the Octagon Saturday 1 December 10 00 am to 4 00 pm. Presented in conjunction with All

Presented in conjunction with All Saints' Rampton

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.

Christmas Fayre

Saturday December 1st 2007 from 10.00am - 12.00 noon.

Willingham Tabernacle Baptist Church All are Welcome.



Salvation Army

Lunch 12 30 pm Thursdays followed by **Friendship Club** at 2 pm. For information call Gordon on 260066

Christmas Sale 29 November 10 00 am - 12 noon

Many thanks to those who helped and supported the Letchworth Band on Feast Sunday 7 October, all day and at the United Service at the Church. The Band has accepted an invitation to return next Feast Sunday. Many thanks to everyone from CSM Gordon Spackman.

St Mary's Church, Over Advent Fayre Over Church Hall, 1 December, 2-4pm

Celebration Choir to open the fayre Raffle for a Luxury Christmas Hamper!

Refreshments: come along and enjoy home made cakes and mulled wine

3 30 pm - Smith & Dicks Family Singers

Face painting, make a card, tree decoration, angel and more!! Cake stall and other favourites.





November 2007



ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CHURCH STREET WILLINGHAM

www.willinghamchurch.org

4 November
11 00 am Parish Communion
11 November
8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10 45 am Remembrance Service
18 November
11 00 am Family Communion
25 November
8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
11 00 am All Age Worship & Baptism

Thursday Praise is a service for those who prefer a less traditional service. It will take place on the first Thursday of the month at the Parish Church at 8 00 pm. (In November: 1st).

There is a **prayer meeting** on the last Friday of each month at 8 00 am (In November: 30th).

Children are welcome at all our 11am services.

On the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, for children age 5 to 11 we have "Power Source" in the Octagon. For younger children there is a crèche. On 2nd and 4th Sundays we have activities in the Church Service. '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).

THE SALVATION ARMY SILVER STREET

4 November 10 30 am No meeting 5 pm Ray Barton **11 November** 10 30 am No meeting 5 pm Major Lewis **18 November** 10 30 am No meeting 5 pm Major Lewis **25 November** 10 30 am No meeting 5 pm Major Lewis

WILLINGHAM TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH GEORGE STREET www.willinghambaptist.org

4 November

10 00 am Richard Sanders (Communion, Andrew Wyllie)

- 6 00 pm Geoff Pake
- 11 November
- 10 00 am Keith Rawlinson
- 6 00 pm Tim Berry (Colne)
- **18 November**
- 9 00 am Geoff Pake

10 45 am Family Service - to be held at Primary School 6 00 pm Prayer Focus, Keith Rawlinson

25 November

10 00 am Liz Herrington 6 00 pm Liz Herrington (Communion) Any enquiries please contact Hilary Wyllie (Church Secretary) Tel. 01954 260051.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HIGH STREET RAMPTON

4 November

9 30 am Parish Communion
11 November
9 30 am Church Lite in the Village Hall followed by act of remembrance at the village sign
18 November
9 30 am Parish Communion

25 November

9 30 am Church Lite in the Village Hall

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 November this is Rampton village.

Parish Plan Update

All completed questionnaires should now have been collected, and the response has been excellent - in some roads almost every household has completed one. The Plan will truly be a reflection of the views of the residents of Willingham. The Plan committee is very grateful to all the volunteers who made this possible by persevering with collection.

Of course, every silver lining has a cloud, and the large number of responses means that transferring the data into electronic form and analysing it is a huge task. More volunteers are now needed for data entry and offers of help will be gratefully received. Please email via the website www.newwillingham.org or telephone 260780.

Alongside the Questionnaire to households, a short one has also been sent out to businesses in Willingham. If you run a business – however small – and have not received one, please contact us, as above.

A host of ploughing tractors??

So there I was wandering lonely as a cloud up Spong Drove (extending from Rock Mill End), when there I spied, glinting in the autumnal sun, a quite breathtaking scene of men with their machines ancient and modern plying their ploughing prowess in - I learned later - 10 classes of competition.



According to Geoffrey Pake, this year's contingent of competitors vying for prizes from the Willingham District Ploughing Society – for it was their annual event – numbered 58. This was lower than usual due to coincidence this day – 13 October – with the "Nationals" (and a hedge-laying competition in Barton). Cottenham's ploughing match was the week before, incidentally.

The field serving as the venue was Geoff's. However, the policy is to spread the burden in rota with farms owned the Gilbert and Burgess families, plus a "guest farm" that holds the event every fourth year.

The great pity was that I was one of the few "outsiders" to witness the scene. Others may have seen signs around Willingham enigmatically indicating the way to "Ploughing" (just the one word being enough for those in the know), and there was mention of the event in the Parish Magazine, but it deserved more – much more – in the way of exposure. There was a time when no-one in the village would have missed it.

They had a programme for competitors and spectators, informing that rolling, twin tractor wheels, and handling, treading or shaping of scratches or furrows were all NOT allowed (nor indeed were GPS or other navigational aids). Competitors were to plough three rounds on the lower number side of their peg ... three siting poles only ... no boats and floats ... and so it went on, unintelligibly for the likes of this reporter. But there were bacon sandwiches and coffee on sale to ease the embarrassment. And, as every year, a plough and tractor were placed at the disposal of any amateur wanting to have a go – and compete for the Tom Norman Memorial Trophy for the "straightest draw", won this year by Tony Haynes (Willingham) – a professional, it has to be said.

There were many winners and runners-up, with special mention going to those others from Willingham



Janet Pake presenting award to Richard Holland

who did especially well: Charlie Peacock (under 18s), Richard Ingle and, overall champion by some margin, Richard Holland.

Finally, a deserved naming of the sponsors of this traditional and marvellous event:

Grain Framers, Thurlow Nunn Standen, Cheffins, Collings Bros, Gledhill Accessories, Pro Cam Agriculture Limited, Wellgrain Limited, and Fengrain Limited.

Hopefully the furrows ploughed with be less lone next year.

Paul Knighton



Wing Canopy Art Bus Stop

As many residents will know the developers of Manor Farm, David Wilson Homes, have made a contribution of £20,000 towards a public art project for the village. Earlier this year the Parish Council appointed artist Zoe Chamberlain to lead on the project with the support of a steering group of local residents. The idea is to create an art bus stop which will be a focal point on the High Street - something that is distinctive both to residents and passers by, whilst considering the practical need for a shelter.

Zoe tells us more about the project and what is happening:

"I have been busy researching and talking to local people to learn more about the village, and to inform the design for the new bus stop. The history of Willingham as a fruit and flower growing community has been a key starting point. Images have been described to me of an abundance of exotic fruits, trains full of flowers setting off for London and the Midlands, and pink Pyrethrum daisy fields as far as the eye could see!

Willingham was also a hub for willow growing and hive making, and the keeping of bees was clearly crucial to the continued success of the local crops. With this in mind I have designed the bus stop sculpture to take the form of a 'Wing Canopy'. It will be constructed using standard canopy engineering, and the form will give an element of shelter whilst having a grace and dynamic suggestive of a bee's wing.

For the design to work I think it is important to consider how people might use the bus stop by day and by night, and to take on board the concerns of the immediate neighbours. I am keen to create something contemporary that celebrates aspects of Willingham's past, and is appealing to both young and old.

Over the next few months a series of meetings will take place with the steering group, local planning authority and various other parties to work out some of the practicalities. The designs are due to be shared with local residents later this year so please come and have a look."

To find when the designs will be on show please contact Christine Couchman, Parish Clerk on 01954 261027 or email@willinghampc.org.uk

WEA Willingham

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 5 November at approximately 11 45 am (after the morning session) in the rear hall of the Baptist Church. All members are welcome.

Presentation ceremony for the Big Wild Read at Willingham Library

52 children completed this summer's reading game so well done to all! Medals, certificates and recycled pens were presented by Rosemary Mumford and Pat Daniels representing the Parish Council whose financial support for the activities was much appreciated.



WSA Festive Shopping and Pamper Evening

Following the success of last years festive shopping and pamper evening, Willingham School Association are pleased to announce that we will be holding another evening at the school from 7.00 - 9.30 pm on Wednesday 14 November.

You will be able to avoid the Cambridge rush and buy your Christmas presents in a nice relaxed environment. Or you might choose to put your feet up and indulge yourself with a little pampering. All this plus you will be supporting your local school!!!

On another note, if there are any creative people out there who would like to have a stall - hand made gifts are popular as are the more well known cosmetic, card and gift companies - please contact Lynda Maris on 01954 261665 / 07831 482516.

1	5	6	3	4	2	8	9	7
7	4	9	5	1	8	6	13	2
8	2	3	6	9	7	4	1	5
3	8		7	5	4	9	2	6
2	ô	5	9	8	3	7	4	1
4	9	7	1	2	6	3	5	8
6	7	4	2	3	4	5	8	9
9	1	8	4	7	5	2	6	3
5	3	2	8	6	9	1	7	4

solution to puzzle on page 8

Follow the Fireworks Code

When buying fireworks, make sure they comply with BS 7114 and are clearly marked for their intended use "Indoor, Garden or Display"

- Keep fireworks in a sealed box or tin.
- Use them one at a time, replacing the lid immediately.
- NEVER put fireworks in your pocket.

Read the instructions carefully, using a torch or hand lamp NEVER use a naked flame.

Light fireworks at arms length using a taper or a firework lighter. Stand well back and NEVER return to a firework after it has been lit, it could explode in your face.

Ensure that all children with fireworks are well supervised.

NEVER throw fireworks.

- Keep all pets and animals indoors.
- Take care of sparklers, wear gloves to hold them and dispose of

sparklers in a bucket of water as soon as they are finished.

Willingham Women's Institute

If you would like a change on these dark damp nights, join us next month on 12 November at 7 30 pm in the Social Club.

We are having a fun evening of 'Line Dancing'. Whether you want to join in or just watch you will be most welcome. It could prove very entertaining. There will be refreshments afterwards and we always have a raffle.

I would like to tell you all about an event we are holding in January as a fund raiser, it is a Quiz Night with a Fish & Chip supper at the Social Club. This has become a very popular yearly event, the bar is open so drinks can be purchased. The teams can be from 4-6 with a cash prize

for the winners, and if you have been before you will know what an enjoyable evening it is. So keep Friday 25 January free, I will give you more information next month.



Village Diary

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

MONTH	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	TICKETS/INFO
Novembe				
3	Firework Display	Over Recreation Ground	and the second second	7 30 pm
5	Firework Party	WillinghamScout Group	Mannings Farm	6 30 pm
6	Family Firework Party	Parish Church	31 High Street	6-7 pm
7	Parish Council Meeting	Willingham Parish Council	Willingham School	7 30 pm
10	Christmas Shopping	Over Community Centre		11-2 pm
12	Line Dancing	Womens' Institute	Social Club	7 30 pm
14	Shopping Pamper Evening	WSA	Willingham School	7-9 30 pm
14	Public Meeting - bus shelter	Willingham Parish Council	Ploughman Hall	7 00 pm
17	Entertainment Quiz	Over Players	Community Centre	
20	Charity Lunch		37 Rampton End	1 pm
24	Christmas Fayre	Honeypot Pre-school	Willingham School	10 30 am-12 30 pm
29	Christmas Sale	Salvation Army	The Citadel Silver Street	10 00 am-12 noon
30	Cabaret Night	Over Community Centre		
December	8			
1	Christmas Fayre	Willingham Baptist Church	Baptist Church	10 am - 12 noon
1	Cabaret Night	Over Community Centre		
1	Advent Fayre	St Mary's Church	Over Church Hall	2-4 pm
4	Extraordinary General Meeting	Ploughman Hall Committee	Ploughman Hall	7 30 pm
6-8	Hunchback Notre Dame Pantomime	WAMADS	Ploughman Hall	7 30 pm Thu and Fri 2 30 pm & 7 pm Sat
12-15	Dick Whittington Pantomime	Over Players	Community Centre	120.00
17	Riding Lights Theatre Company	St Mary's Church	St Mary's Church	
31	Casino Evening	Duke of Wellington pub	Mart S.C. II.S. planet	01954 261622
January				
25	Quiz Night	Womens' Institute	Social Club	

Village Directory

	vinage Dire	ctory	
Council	Parish Council		01954 261027
	Parish Council Chairman	Mr P King	01954 260780
	Planning Committee Chairman	Mr J Anderson	01954 203344
	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 456 456
	Surgery		01954 260230
	Dispensary for repeat prescription requests		01954 260073
	Pharmacy		01954 261787
	Over Surgery		01954 231550
a 1 1	CAMDOC – After hours medical help		01223 464242
Schools	Primary School		01954 283030
	Willingham Out Of School Club	Mrs R. Tiley	01954 200871
	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
	2nd Brownies	Mrs J Catley	01954 202543
	Willingham Guides and Senior Section	Lynn McGoff	01954 261296
	Geoff Bailey Dancers Ladybird Borland's School Of Dance	Mr G Bailey	01954 260233
	Bubbles	Mrs L Borland	01954 203347
	Bumps and Babies Group	Kathryn Wright Hilda Beauchamp	01954 261770
		1	01954 205487
ry 11	TOPS (Baptist Church Toddlers Group)	Hilda Beauchamp	01954 205487
Halls	Ploughman Hall Chairman	Mr J Anderson	01954 203344
	Ploughman Hall Bookings		07941 190849
	Wilford Furlong Centre The Octagon	Mrs A Robinson	01954 261445
Local			01954 261076
Representatives	Billavincea Lodge 8719 Fen Edge Community Association	Mr M Scrivener	01480 413533
Representatives	Cambridge News Correspondent	Mr G Redhead Anne Kirkman	01954 288944
	Workers' Educational Association	Mrs J Hodkinson	01954 260393
	Willingham Combined Charity	Mrs J Ambrose	01954 201816 01954 260446
Clubs	Gardening Club	Mr T Halsey	
	Social Club	Mrs S Hart	01954 201910
	WAMADS Drama Group	Mrs C Deeth (Secretary)	01954 204260 07896 322497
	oroup	Mrs J Farrar	01954 200515
	Willingham Youth Club	Mrs Jean Langford	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
1	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
hurches	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
	-		01223 700778 01223 350787 01480 386593

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Guided busway road closures

The following information has just been received from the County Council:

Station Road in Oakington has been closed since 16th July 2007 in orderfor a new junction for the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway to be built.

In our original letter to residents we stated the road would be reopened in late October. It can now be confirmed that the work will be completed on Friday 26 October and the road will be reopened and diversion signs removed.

Following the re-opening of Station Road, we now need to close Park Lane, Histon (also known as Gatehouse Road. Again, this is so that work on a new junction for the Guided Busway can be completed. Park Lane will close on Monday 29 October and is likely to be closed until February 2008.

Willingham Charity lunch

This month's charity lunch will be held on Saturday 24 November at the home of Jean and Ken Taylor at 37 Rampton End at 1 pm. The lunch, which costs £3, consists of a choice of soups, bread and cheeses, tea and coffee, etc, and is in aid of the Hospice at Home Charity. This is the last lunch which we will hold this year and is your last chance to donate to this needy cause. At this meeting, we shall decide which charity to support during 2008, so please come along and make your views known. This is a social occasion and a good opportunity to meet new friends.



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