

WILLINGHAM NEWS



March 2009

Profile: Enthusiast at the helm



Mrs Brearley with Jack Pratt, Archie Binney, Emma Leaney and Ellie Hutchins

Mrs Jo Brearley has been Head Teacher of Willingham Primary School since January 2001, and she has not regretted a moment of her time here. As she puts it: 'To touch the lives of so many children is a great privilege. I feel honoured.'

You cannot be with her for more than a few minutes before becoming conscious of her enthusiasm – for teaching, and for the school.

Willingham is a large school, with some 320 pupils. When she came here, some Willingham parents were sending their children to other schools, but now it is a different matter; children are looking to come to

Willingham School from neighbouring villages. It is a compliment to the school, but a problem also, at a time when the number of Willingham children has been growing. Jo Brearley expects the school to have nearly 350 pupils soon, and to meet that demand she and the governors have been working hard to get more classrooms. By 2010, she hopes that will have been achieved.

Jo spent her early years in the North East, but was able to visit Zambia, where her father was working. She was always interested in the idea of teaching, but was also a keen musician. Having passed Grade 8 in piano and in singing while at school, she realised that a musical career could have been a possibility.

Teaching won, however, and after training in Gloucestershire she began her teaching career in Coventry. There followed a period in Northamptonshire, first in a secondary school and then a middle school. This was followed by time out while she brought up her daughter Ruth.

continued on page 7

Thank you to Gordon



Gordon Spackman and Mrs Jean Pepper receive a certificate from Major Marian Lewis, of the Salvation Army. Full story on page 11

Showing the flag at Willingham House



Photograph by Wendy Law

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WILLINGHAM NEWS

March 2009

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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 March.

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The email of our PCSO Domenic Pingerna is
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From the Parish Council

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

There is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Details are posted on the Village Notice Board, outside the Public Hall. Any applications need to be in the Parish Office by noon of **Wednesday 4 March 2009**.

Cemetery Main Gates

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that these were becoming difficult to open. These have now been serviced and will be regularly monitored. A new notice board will also be erected shortly.

Earith Road

It was noted that parts of Earith Road had subsided severely and were in danger of falling into the river. The point had been made at a recent Joint Action Group meeting that, although Stagecoach considered it too dangerous for 12-ton buses to use the road, it was apparently quite safe for 30-ton lorries to do so. The Parish Council have written to the County Council and await a reply. Further information will be published in *Willingham News*.

Youth Matters

The Parish Council are waiting to hear from the youth workers to their proposals for the future for a youth facility in Willingham. Further news in the next edition

Willingham Parish Council Website

Please do look at our Parish Council Website for items such as contact details, agendas and minutes. Any information relevant to the village will be posted on the website. (www.willingham-pc.org.uk)

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

Mr J Anderson (Planning Committee Chair)	01954-203344
Mr M Borland	01954-203347
Mr J Burnett	01954-270338
Mrs K Cornwell	01954-261530
Mrs P Daniels (Council Vice-Chair)	01954-260505
Mr P King (Council Chair)	01954-260780
Mr B Kirkman (Green & Boundaries Committee Chair)	01954-260393
Mr R Manning (also Leader of the District Council)	01954-261235
Mr S Mellows	01954-270063
Mrs R Mumford (Halls Committee Chair)	01954-260934
Mr G Pake (Cemetery Committee Chair)	01954-260534
Mr C Stephens	01954-260396
Mr J Watson (Leisure & Amenities Committee Chair)	01954-200245

If you have any ideas of information you would like to see on our Website, please contact the Clerk.

Committee Meeting dates

Go to the Parish Council Website (www.willingham-pc.org.uk), or look at the Parish notice board next to the Public Hall in the High Street or Library notice board for details of any Committee meetings that may be called.

All Committee meetings are at the Parish Council Office, Ploughman Hall unless otherwise advertised. As usual, minutes of all meetings will be placed in the Library once they have been signed as accurate.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday, 4 March 2009 – 7 30 pm at The Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road and is open to the public.

Tel. 01954-261027 E-mail email@willinghampc.org.uk
Clerk: Colin Brown Deputy Clerk: Mrs Dawn Spouge

The Office is open on Monday Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10 00 am to 1 00 pm, except Bank Holidays. Appointments may 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. In the case of emergencies when the office is closed, please contact any of the councillors listed above. There is parking adjacent to the Parish Council Office. The office also has wheelchair access.

Meeting about by-pass

At its February meeting the Parish Council learnt that the County Council had completed a Willingham by-pass survey without referring it first, as had been agreed, to the Parish Council. Councillors heard, from County Councillor Shona Johnstone, that after so many months and so much expenditure the report's only conclusion was that further work was needed. They strongly endorse her view that the only work now necessary is to decide how to fund the by-pass, not whether one is needed.

The Parish Council has been pressing strongly for a by-pass for several years. The need for it was one of the issues most commonly raised by people who completed the Parish Plan questionnaire.

The increase in the number of heavy lorries entering Willingham along Earith Road has made the need for a by-pass urgent. Parts of Earith Road have subsided yet again.

On 13 February Councillors Philip King and John Anderson, and District Councillors Ray Manning and Brian Burling, attended a meeting with the County Council. The meeting was positive. It was agreed that more work was needed but that the case for a by-pass was looking much stronger. Achieving it, however, is still many years away. Funding will be a major issue and after that planning and building will take some time.

continued from front page

It was primary school teaching that really appealed to her, and she returned, first to a part-time post, and then to Spaldwick as deputy head. Then came a move to Folksworth Primary School, near Norman Cross, as Head Teacher, with the task of turning the school round after a prolonged bad period. She was there for six years, and was then offered the post at Willingham, a much bigger school.

Jo Brearley's approach to education is based on a clear philosophy. It can be summed up as 'instilling a love for learning and providing a beacon for *all* children'. The 'all' is important: she is conscious that some children have difficult lives.

Asked how children can be motivated, Jo has an equally clear answer: 'Children should be confident learners – through praise, making lessons fun, bringing some magic into the classroom, getting them switched on to learning, and trying to 'tap' into what they're interested in'. In this, she admits, 'boys can be more challenging than girls'.

Jo makes an important point about learning when she declares: 'We are all learners and I'm constantly learning with the children'. This is no mere form of words; she points out that children can often know more about computer technology than the adults who are teaching them.

Her long-established enthusiasm for music plays an important part in her approach. She believes it is important for children to have the chance to 'taste' the arts. She has, for instance, introduced free recorder lessons in every class except reception.

Jo believes strongly that schools should be very much a part of the community. When she was doing a master's degree at Loughborough University, her thesis was on community education in primary schools with Cambridgeshire, (which enjoys the legacy of Henry Morris), Leicestershire and Coventry as case studies. She rejoices in the fact that the school building is widely used as a centre for learning in the evenings as well as during the day, and she is trying to get more activities based there. She herself makes a point of getting involved in the wider community. 'You've got to be living it', she declares!

She enjoys a strong partnership with the governors and with parents and makes a point of getting to know parents well – and dealing with little problems quickly.

As always, the enthusiasm constantly comes through. Talking of the partnership with governors and parents, she comments that it shows in the school. 'I would call it a buzzing school.' She devotes much energy to getting done the things that need doing – getting money for the necessary new buildings, for example. 'I'm a fighter', she declares. When she adds: 'My time in teaching has been very rewarding' it is absolutely clear that she means it, and that it remains so.

Letters to the Editor

Plea to anti-social dog owner

It would surely be accurate to have Long Lane officially renamed 'Dog mess alley'. Hardly a day goes by without the addition of another large deposit, either on the pavement or in the middle of the road. Each morning the school run turns into an obstacle course, in order to avoid the previous night's efforts.

Could I appeal on behalf of both the general public, and in particular those with small children; to the better nature of the person who takes their dog for a walk either late at night or early in the morning along the North end of Long Lane and never clears up their mess.



Andrew Cook, Church Street

Dear Parish Council

This is a very belated thank you for our lovely Christmas lights on the village green, and a thank you to Mr Geoff Pake and friends for taking time out to put them up. They were appreciated.

Also another thank you to the people who decorated the Christmas tree.

From a very happy Willingham resident.

Michael Parsons

Val Parsons and her sons give sincere thanks to those in the village for their kindness over the past three years during Michael's illness. We thank the doctors, district nurses and pharmacy for their dedicated care and understanding during his illness. We thank the congregation of Willingham Church for their prayers and thoughts, those who sent cards or letters and our lovely neighbours who have supported us and Michael throughout. I know how much Michael appreciated you all, especially Sue who was a source of great comfort to him during the past few months. We are so grateful to you all.

Cricket Club Quiz Night

Quiz Night on Friday 27 March 7 30 for 8 00 pm start £5 per person (which will include food) maximum of six people per team. If you wish to pre-book your team call Ron on 01954 260144. Hosted by Willingham Cricket Club (it won't all be about sport!)

Willingham Women's Institute



The March meeting of Willingham WI will be on Monday 10 March at 7 30 pm in the Social Club, Fen End. The speaker will be Audrey Pelley, whose subject is 'The World in Miniature'.

Everyone is welcome, particularly visitors who might like to try out the WI for the first time.



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

Child Immunisations The number of measles and mumps cases is increasing. The Department of Health is keen to vaccinate those children who may have missed their MMR vaccinations. **We would like to invite all those children aged 6-14 years to make an appointment for the MMR vaccination.** Two vaccinations are necessary, given three months apart. Some children may have had one vaccination in the past and they should attend for a booster vaccination. Parents may contact the surgery to check the vaccination status of their children or with any other queries they may have.

Willingham Slimming Clinic We offer a healthy eating plan and lots of advice to help you lose weight. Clinic times are between **3 00 and 4 00 pm and 6 00 -6 30 pm** every Wednesday. Why not come along and have a chat individually with our Slimming Consultant Karen who will weigh and support you until you reach your target weight. £2.50 per session.

Pharmacy Patient Satisfaction Survey Each year Willingham Pharmacy is required to carry out a Patient Satisfaction Survey as part of its contract with the National Health Service. If you can spare five minutes we would be grateful for your participation. Each questionnaire is anonymous and is returned to an independent company for analysis. The results of last year's Survey can be seen on the Pharmacy Notice Board in the surgery waiting room.

Repeat medication requests Please remember that the correct number to ring to request your repeat prescriptions is 01954 260073. Make sure to have your repeat order slip handy to refer to and only order those items you actually need this month. If you prefer you can tick the items you need and pop your order slip into the Repeats Order Box at either Longstanton or Willingham surgery.

Acknowledgements Our grateful thanks to the friends and families of Ann Orchard, Phyllis Easy, Joan Bonus and Ewart Lucas who all kindly donated money to the Surgery Equipment Fund in memory of their loved ones.

Cynthia Bidwell – Practice Manager

Willingham Pharmacy Opening hours

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

Willingham Gardening Club

Meetings are on the first Monday of each month at the Willingham Social Club, Fen End and start at 7 30 pm. Contact Celia on 01954 261394 or just turn up to a meeting to view or to join.

Meetings/Presentations and Outings

Monday 2 March - Mark Ekins will speak to us about 'Soft Fruits'. Increasingly, I suspect in the current economic climate, we may all begin to consider what we might do to provide some of our own food. Soft fruits often come at a time of plenty but there is nothing quite like picking your own fruit and vegetables which can be grown on a greater or lesser scale according to the space you have available, which will include containers. So why not come along to listen to Mark for some ideas?

Monday 6 April - Margaret Waddy will speak to us about 'Growing from seeds, cuttings and grafting'. This

item was postponed from the February meeting because of the bad weather. This should be of interest to experienced and novice gardeners alike.

Reminders

The annual Club subscription of £7. 50p is due to be paid at the March meeting.

The Club AGM will be held at the April meeting

The annual Club plant stall sale will be held on Saturday 23 May so members and other contributors who grow bedding plants - please remember this when sowing your seeds. Proceeds go to a charity.

The full programme of outings for 2009 will be published in these pages in due course when the arrangements are finally made.

The first outing is to Penshurst Place and Gardens in Kent on Saturday 9 May. The main pick up point will be the Green, Willingham. The inclusive cost is £19 per person. The start time will be published in these pages in the next issue.

Willingham Magpas Winter Ball, 2009

The second Willingham Winter Ball in aid of the Magpas Community First Responder Scheme took place in the Ploughman Hall on Saturday 31 January. The hall had been transformed during the afternoon into an elegant setting lit by icicle lights and candles, and decorated in white, blue and silver.

Guests were invited to arrive from 7 00 pm, and were welcomed with a drink and easy listening and jazz music played by local wind group Oaktet. Once people had been encouraged to take their seats, we were given a short welcome by Lorna Hayes, the Responder scheme manager, who thanked everyone for coming to support the ball and for helping the Responders to carry on their vital work in the local community; in 2008 alone, they had given over 2000 hours of voluntary service and had assisted over 30 patients.

The meal was provided by Rappaports so was, as ever, excellent, and served most professionally by a number of the responders and other volunteers. Local photographers Mindak Art were also present and took a great many photos of the guests throughout the evening.

During the meal we were entertained by two magicians, Daniel Shears and Dean Maudsley, who performed a variety of card tricks and other close-up magic. Dean also managed to acquire quite a selection of watches, although he did return them all. We also enjoyed listening to Rohan's harp playing which provided a delightful ambience to the evening.

An added highlight was that the CFR team in Willingham and Longstanton first became operational on 1 February, 2006 so was celebrating its third birthday. Dessert was a spectacular cake, advising that it could only be cut in case of emergency – an emergency was duly declared, the cake cut, and merrily eaten by many.

The evening finished with a disco courtesy of JS Discotheques, rather a large raffle and the chance to win a bottle of whiskey for only a pound, all of which gave numerous opportunities for some of the more sedate guests to let down their hair. All of this they did with great glee and much gusto, and resulted in rather amusing photos in some instances!

The ball was greatly enjoyed by everyone who went, and we hope it won't be another three years before we do another one.

The CFR team would like to express our many, many thanks to all those who were a part of the ball, from those who lent us lights to all who came, partied the night away, and supported us to the best of their abilities. So far we have raised £750.00, and may still have more donations to come from the photographers – please remember to look at and order your photos if you've not yet had a chance.

On that morning, we had also received a grant of £375.00 from the Co-op Communities Fund, so with your assistance, our fundraising so far this year has achieved £1125.00, which will help us to continue our work in our local community.

If you have any questions about Magpas, the Community First Responder scheme, or feel you may be able to help us in any way, please contact Rohan on 01954 261055 or 07775 735438, as we cannot do what we do without your support, however much or however little you feel you can give.

Again, many, many thanks for all you have done.

Your Community First Responders: Rohan Platts, Min Sacre, Ross Turner, Liz Simpson & Les Hambly

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Sudoku set by Willow

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

solution on page 14

Parish Plan Progress Report

In last month's issue we outlined how the group formed to assist in implementation of the Parish Plan (which is called the Willingham Action Group) had divided with sub-groups working on social, youth and council matters. One immediate benefit, in response to the last progress report, is that we have had emails from residents interested in starting both a running club and a cycling club. We will give details for anyone interested in joining, either for serious exercise or leisurely socialising, once the weather has improved!

Help on offer

Since that initiative was successful we would like to suggest another. Do you or someone you know, such as a neighbour or friend, either through advanced years or infirmity need some help with clearing up in the garden, decorating or getting to the shops? We have a small group of volunteers who would happily assist with home or garden maintenance on a one-off basis for those who can't manage it themselves. If you or someone you know of would like such help please contact us, details at the end of this piece.

Website plans

The Social Action Group are planning to produce a list of details of existing events and activities in Willingham and helping to start even more. Soon they will be contacting the various people and organisations who deliver the current activities to see if the Action Group can help in any way and to listen to new ideas. This raises the issue of how best to improve communication and to that end we shall convert the website (www.newwillingham.org), which was set up to hold the Parish Plan and the results of the questionnaire, into one where events can be advertised. Our aim is that the site will also hold a youth section, one dedicated to business with a Willingham business directory, and much more. Do you have any other suggestions? Setting up the site will take a few months as we rely on volunteer help but we will advertise the launch as soon as it is ready.

Young volunteers needed

The Youth Action Group has met several times and the members have drawn up a list of ideas to help provide more activities and resources for the young people of Willingham. They will need some of the young web designers out there to create a youth forum when the existing Willingham website is redeveloped and, more importantly, we would also like some young people to join the Youth Action Group. If you volunteer to join the Youth Action Group you will be able to represent other young people in the village and put forward ideas and discuss them with the appropriate people. We need your participation so if you have a few hours to spare every now and then please phone JEAN LANGFORD on 01954 201706 and let her know.

The Willingham Action Group is a group of volunteers whose aim is to implement the Parish Plan, either by direct action or by supporting the local councils. We have no formal recognition or authority but we do operate to strict terms of reference. These may be seen on the newwillingham.org website.

Please contact us about any of the matters raised in this progress report, through the Action Group chairperson, Mike Tidball, on 01954 260647 or email m.tidball@btinternet.com

New planning advice service launched

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has introduced a new general planning advice service, aiming to help local people and businesses navigate and understand the planning process.

Expert advice and answers to general planning queries are now available from SCDC's planning duty officer from 9 00 am to 5 00 pm, Monday to Friday. Just call (01954) 713155 or visit the Council's Cambourne office.

Announcing the service, the Council states: 'Each day, an officer from our friendly and experienced planning service will provide:

- general planning advice;
- general advice on householder development proposals for applicants or neighbours;
- answers to technical planning questions;
- help to complete application forms;
- information on fees and other charges;
- guidance on interpreting plans and drawings, and confirmation of the validity of applications delivered to the Council's office.'

Calls should be kept to general planning queries and take up no more than 15 minutes. Specific enquiries about registered applications will continue to be dealt with by the relevant planning officer. Key information about registered applications - including status, timescales, consultations and decisions - can already be found online at www.scambs.gov.uk/planning

Bin collections

4 March	Black Bin
11 March	Green bin and box. Plastic bottles.
18 March	Black Bin.
25 March	Green bin and box. Plastic bottles.

Pastoral Letter

As I write this letter, with snow all around, and temperatures down to -6 degrees Centigrade, and schools having to close, I can hardly believe that spring is just around the corner.

With spring comes Lent, but what does Lent mean to us? The word Lent comes from Anglo-Saxon, and actually means spring, and is the period of 40 days (not including Sundays) between Ash Wednesday (25 February this year) and Easter.

When we think of Lent the two things we think of are Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) the day before the start of Lent, and giving something up which we enjoy, for six weeks, like chocolates or alcohol.

Early Christians felt that Easter was so important that they needed to spend time preparing for it, often spending time fasting. By observing the 40 days of Lent, the individual Christian imitated Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days, where he was tempted by the devil before the start of his ministry.

Later, Christians used the time to rededicate themselves and new converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism on Easter Eve.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. At this time of year many companies take stock, and analyse their strengths and weaknesses of the past year, to plan their strategy for the new financial year to come.

It is an opportunity for us to take stock of our spiritual lives, spending time studying the bible together and in prayer. and then seeking God's plan for us, and how we should serve our church and our community.

Are we following God's will and commands day by day, or maybe we are just marking time waiting for a day when we are not so busy.

If you haven't yet joined one of the Lent courses in the village, why not join one this week. The leaders at each of the churches will have details of the available venues. Do contact them if you are interested.

Steve Mellows

Churchwarden, St Mary & All Saints

Thanks to Gordon for 70 years of service

A special presentation was made to Mr Gordon Spackman during the Salvation Army's Songs of Praise Service at Willingham on 8 February 2009.

After selling *War Cry* and *Kids Alive* papers in the public houses for 70 years, Corps Sergeant Major Gordon has found it necessary to retire from this ministry which he loved and delighted in. He started this ministry in his teens in Cambridge with a friend, following the Saturday evening meeting at the Citadel, a little after he continued in Willingham and the local villages. He continued (in Doncaster) while serving as a Bevin Boy in the mines from 1943 to 1945. Then he had a short break during his time in the RAF from January 1946 to July 1947.

On returning to Willingham he continued to sell these publications each week and by 1960 covered St Ives and surrounding villages as well, for almost 50 years.

The picture on the front page shows him with Mrs Jean Pepper of the Free Church in St Ives who first met Gordon as he sold the papers in the public house which she ran with her husband for many years. Jean proudly wore her Salvation Army Volunteer Badge as she went along with Gordon on his weekly round, during a four-year period.

They are pictured with Major Marian Lewis, Cambridgeshire Development Project, as she presents them with their Certificates of Appreciation for their valued service. This ministry will be missed by many throughout the area.



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 morning 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 three 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 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.

Mothers' Union No meeting this month. Lady Day Service in Ely Cathedral on Saturday 28 March at 2 30 pm. The speaker will be our World Wide President Rosemary Kempshall. We will arrange a coach if we have enough people who would like to go. Anyone is welcome to come and join us. Contact Mrs S Hayden 01954 260363

Cakes The cake stall will be on Saturday 7 March – the first Saturday in the month. It begins at 10 00 am, and the cakes sell pretty quickly.

Bric-a-brac Rene Gould's bric-a-brac stall continues at 19 Fen End and is well worth a visit – as a buyer or a seller.

Proceeds from the Cake Stall and the Bric-a-brac stall go to the Restoration Fund, which is particularly important now, as urgent repairs are needed to the North Aisle Roof of the church.

Salvation Army

Coffee and Fellowship Morning every



Monday 10 30 – 12 noon.

Come along and enjoy a time of friendship and fellowship over a cup of coffee. All welcome.

Craft Club Monday every Monday 2 – 4 pm. Come and share your craft interest with others and enjoy a cup of tea and friendship

Luncheon Club meets every week on Thursday at 12 30 pm.

We now have vacancies. To book a place: Ring Daphne on 01954 260568

Over 60s Friendship Club every Thursday 2 – 3 pm. Each week we share items of topical interest and have a cup of tea. All welcome.

For further information please contact Major Marian Lewis on 01480 386593, email Marian.Lewis@salvationarmy.org.uk or Gordon on 01954 260066

Fairtrade Fortnight

23 February – 8 March 2009

Churches Together in Willingham will be running a **Fairtrade** stall alongside the Parish Church cake stall at

St Mary & All Saints Church

Saturday 7 March in the Church from 10 - 11 30 am and also Sunday 8 March in the Octagon from 12 15 pm

(after the 11 00 am Service)

Tea and Coffee available at both

Please support fair trade

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.



**ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS
CHURCH STREET
WILLINGHAM**

www.willinghamchurch.org

1 March

11 00 am Parish Communion

8 March

8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 00 am All Age Service

6 00 pm Evensong

15 March

11 00 am Parish Communion

22 March

8 00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11 00 am Mothering Sunday Service

29 March

11 00 am Parish Communion

There is a prayer meeting on the last Friday of each month at 8 00 am (In March: 27th). During the interregnum there is a special time for prayer in the sacristy on the first Saturday morning of each month. (In March: 7th). Children are welcome at all our 11 00 am services. On the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays, there are activities for primary school age children, and 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 Gillian Macnaghten know (01954 261817).

**WILLINGHAM TABERNACLE
BAPTIST CHURCH
GEORGE STREET**

www.willinghambaptist.org

1 March

10 00 am Rev Trevor Rowe
(Communion)

6 00 pm Rev Trevor Rowe

8 March

10 00 am Rev Trevor Rowe

6 00 pm Richard Sanders

15 March

9 00 am Geoff Pake

10 45 am All - Age Service at Primary
School

6 00 pm Rev Trevor Rowe

22 March (Mother's Day)

10 00 am Rev Trevor Rowe (Parade
Service for the Uniformed
Brigades)

6 00 pm Youth Service (Communion)

29 March

10 00 am Richard Sanders

6 00 pm Liz Herrington

Any enquiries please contact: Rev
Trevor Rowe (Minister) (01954 261193),
Hilary Wyllie (Church Secretary)
(01954 260051),
or Emma Launchbury (Administrator)
(01954 263108)
(Please note that we now have an
administrator - Emma
Launchbury. Her e-mail address is
emmalaunchbury@hotmail.co.uk ,
phone no 01954 263108.)

**THE SALVATION ARMY
SILVER STREET**

1 March

5 00 pm Sunday Worship

8 March

5 00 pm Songs of Praise

15 March

5 00 pm Sunday Worship

22 March

5 00 pm Sunday Worship for Mother's
Day

29 March

5 00 pm Sunday Worship

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED
HEART**

19 Needingworth Road, St Ives

www.sacredheart-stives.org

Saturday

5 00 pm (Anticipatory)

Sunday

8 00 am and 11 00 am

**Churches Together praying
for the people of Willingham
and Rampton**

In the second full week in each month the Churches in Willingham and Rampton will be praying for the people who live in a particular area of the village. In March this is Earith Road, Elm Way, Fen End, George Street, The Green

**Friendship Club
Charity Morning**

7 MARCH 10 00 am - 12

In the Over Community Centre

Donation to Cancer Research

CAKES, LARGE RAFFLE, BOOKS,
TOYS/JIGSAWS UNWANTED GIFT
ITEMS, GAMES, BRIC-A-BRAC, TEAS

**ENTRANCE: £1 to include coffee/tea
and biscuit**

Contributions of small items gratefully
received:

Contact Gill Sutton 01954 200516

Willingham Charity Lunch

This month's charity lunch will be held at 1 00 pm on Saturday 21 March at the home of Jean and Ken Taylor, at 37 Rampton End. The lunch consists of a choice of soups, bread and cheeses, tea or coffee, etc, and costs £3 or a donation.

The charity we are supporting is Mercy Ships, who send hospital ships to some of the world's poorest people without access to health care in their own country. Every day, doctors, specialists and nurses give their time and expertise without charge to provide free medical care to those in desperate need.

The lunch is a social occasion; a good time to meet both old and new friends.

Jottings from your County Councillor

February is the month when the County Council sets its budget for the forthcoming year. Since the announcement of the government grant for the authority in December officers have been working hard to try to get the figures to balance. It is always a difficult job. Yet again, and for the 15th year in a row, Cambridgeshire has received a grant which is well below the national average. I wish somebody in Whitehall would explain to me why Lincolnshire merits an increase of 8%, while Cambridgeshire gets just 2%. Last year I recall that we got a 2.2% increase, while Dorset got nearly 11%. This means that trying to provide a decent level of service becomes more and more difficult.

The County Council has the same inflation costs when it comes to energy as the tax payer and other specialist services have inflation costs well above the basket of goods that the government uses to determine the Retail Price Index. On top of that, as the fastest growing county in the country more and more people are using our services. So year on year it has been the case that the only way to balance the budget has been to cut services and at the same time increase the council tax by above the rate of inflation. This is not a decision that we take lightly – we are tax payers too. This year has been as difficult as ever, but the cabinet will be recommending an increase of 3.9% for the next tax year.

This is still high, but less than the 5% initially proposed. As a gesture of solidarity councillors will also be foregoing the proposed 2.7% increase in allowances for next year.

Whilst I hope that by the time this is published the winter weather is over, this year has been particularly hard for the gritting teams. The gritter for this area goes by the name of the BFG (Big Friendly Gritter) and I would like to thank him – and his driver – for the many long hours they have put in to keep our roads clear. People often complain that they never see the gritter – but that's often because they are out in the early hours before anyone is up. Our particular driver has been doing this route for many years and knows just where the most treacherous bits are and where to drop extra salt. This year he has done double the number of runs that might be expected in a normal year, but then this winter has been far from normal.

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

*e-mail: shona.johnstone@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
http://shonajohnstone.blogspot.com/*

Funding for community and voluntary sector groups

Did you know that some funding is available to community and voluntary sector groups and organisations? It comes from the Community Chest, run by South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership.

Applicants must:

- Be a non-profit group or organisation based in South Cambridgeshire or benefiting South Cambridgeshire residents;
- Have a written constitution or mission statement;
- Have an elected committee or representative steering group;
- Be able to provide an up to date copy of their accounts and any relevant protection policies.

Funding is available for the following Partnership priorities (all referring to your community):

- Providing opportunities for disengaged young people;
- Promoting independence for older people;
- Preventing obesity;
- Promoting community cohesion;
- Supporting development and learning;
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Enhancing the cleanliness of your community;
- Promoting low-carbon lifestyles;

- Preserving and enhancing the countryside;
- Improving access to services.

The maximum grant is £1000.

Information is available from the Parish Office, and from Gemma Barron, Strategic Partnerships Officer, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA. Telephone 01954 713340. Email gemma.barron@scambs.gov.uk

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

solution to puzzle on page 9

The Fen Edge Orchestra Needs You!

16 or over?

Play an instrument at around grade 5 level or over?

Looking for a friendly local Orchestra?

Perhaps you haven't played your instrument for years and fancy picking it up again?

Then come and give us a try.

We are looking for players of most instruments.

The Fen Edge Orchestra rehearses at the Cottenham Village College on alternate Wednesdays during school terms, 7.30pm to 9:30pm.

We play a wide range of music, aiming to include all our players, with nothing too difficult!

See our website at:

<http://www.fenedgeorchestra.org.uk/>

Or Contact Vanessa on: 01954 252634

Tigger Toddlers

We come out to play every Wednesday (term-time)
10 - 11:30 am at Salvation Army Hall

Calling all under 5's, come and play and your parent/carer even gets to enjoy a cuppa!

Our Tigger playgroup was completely transformed thanks to Ragged Rascals - a mobile soft play service.



This is Bel's experience of the session...

I couldn't believe it when I first toddled into Tiggers on Wednesday 28th January. It was a sea of multi-coloured soft play equipment and I couldn't wait for mum to get off my shoes. I had already spotted where I wanted to start! I began by climbing a huge pile of rainbow coloured soft bricks, it was as high as a mountain! From the peak of the mountain, I caught a glimpse of a caterpillar tunnel. Do I go over it, or shall I go through it? I decided to crawl through it and after much giggling, I emerged a winner!! I rewarded myself by jumping straight into the ball pool. I loved squirming around in all the colourful balls and seeing all my friends trying to chase them.

I took my turn picking my outfit from the dressing up box. I was the princess for the session and all my friends really loved wearing the different outfits. Dressing up over, I made my way to the playhouse. It was so much fun hiding in there and I am sure mum couldn't see me. It made me and my friends laugh. The floor was littered with letters and number foam shapes, I could even see the letters that are in my name!

I couldn't choose what was my favourite part! The ball pit, caterpillar tunnel, playhouse, the letter shapes plus many more, but the one thing I do know is I would love to do it again!

Bel Ridley, aged 2 years old

Thank you to all the Tigger helpers whose hard work made this event happen and to Cheryl France for the lovely photo. We thrive on the support of the playgroup members and hope to repeat this event some time soon.

Willingham Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

0845 0455225



Monday	5 00 - 7 00 pm
Tuesday	2.30 - 7 00 pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10 00 am - 12 30 pm 2 30 pm - 7 00 pm
Friday	10 00 am - 12 30 pm
Saturday	10 00 am - 12 30 pm

Engage in the Afternoon - first Wednesday of each month, 2 00-3 30 pm

These free social occasions for adults include a speaker, tea/coffee/biscuits and an opportunity to change books, use the computers and have a chat during a library closed time.

In February's session Chris Lacey, our Willingham poet, talked about how she came to write poetry, starting at the early age of nine when she won her first poetry competition. She described her sources of inspiration and read a wide selection of her work, ranging from the joys of online shopping to a poem of loss following the Soham tragedy.

Forthcoming sessions:

4 March: Julie Petrie-Symes, Rural Link Co-ordinator with Cam Sight will speak about this excellent local charity which works with blind and partially sighted people.

1 April: Reminiscence Session on Childhood. This follows up the successful session in December based on Christmas memories. There will be a memory box with objects and pictures but please bring along an object or memory on this theme to share.

Display of books by children

We have a display of beautiful information books researched, written and illustrated by year 2 and 3 children at Willingham Primary School. Come down and have a look at them and learn something new.

Birthday Celebrations

In October Willingham Library will be 40 years old and various events are planned. Watch this space for details!

Reading Group

Is anyone interested in joining a small informal reading group in Willingham? If so, please tell a member of the library staff or ring Linda on 260780.

And finally.... Congratulations to the Friends of Willingham Library team who won the very popular W1 quiz a few weeks ago.

Village Diary

MONTH	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	TICKETS/INFO
March				
2	Meeting - talk Mark Ekins 'Soft fruit'	Willingham Gardening Club	Social Club	7 30 pm 261394
4	Talk - Julie Petrie-Symes	Engage in the afternoon	Willingham Library	Tickets/info 2 00-3 30 pm
10	Talk by Audrey Pelleyon 'The World in Miniature'	WI	Social Club	7 30 pm
11	Red Nose Fair	Beavers and Cubs	Public Hall	6 - 8 00 pm
21	Charity Lunch		37 Rampton End	1 00 pm
27	Quiz Night	Willingham Cricket Club		7 30 for 8 00 pm
27	Willingham Jam Night		Social Club	7 00 for 7 30 pm
April				
1	Reminiscence Session on Childhood	Engage in the afternoon	Willingham Library	Tickets/info 2 00-3 30 pm
6	Meeting - Margaret Waddy on 'Growing from seeds, cuttings and grafting'	Willingham Gardening Club	Social Club	7 30 pm
May				
16	Fun Day for all the family	Willingham Scout Group	Willingham Recreation Ground	12 - 4 00 pm Jacqueline Forbes 202988

Willingham Cricket Club Fixtures 2009 Season

Date	1st XI - Division 2	2nd XI - Division 5
02 May	Wimblington (away)	
09 May	Sutton (home)	Burwell IV (away)
16 May		Little Thetford (home) being played at Little Thetford
17 May (Sunday)		Needingworth II (home)
23 May	Pymoor (away)	Isleham II (home)
30 May		St Ives IV (away)
06 June	Fordham II (away)	Chatteris III (home)
13 June	Doddington II (home)	Over III (away)
20 June	St Ives II (home)	Little Thetford (away)
27 June	Wilburton (away)	Over III (home)
04 July	Pymoor (home)	Chatteris III (away)
11 July	Sutton (away)	Burwell IV (home)
18 July	St Ives II (away)	St Ives IV (home)
25 July	Fordham II (home)	Isleham II (away)
01 August	Doddington II (away)	Haddenham (home)
08 August	Newmarket (away)	
15 August	Wimblington (home)	
22 August	Newmarket (home)	
29 August	Wilburton (home)	Haddenham (away)

There might be some more friendly fixtures which are added to the list. Club e-mail is willinghamcc@gmail.com and Website <http://willingham.play-cricket.com>

Swavesey & Over Tennis Club

Swavesey & Over Tennis Club has appointed a professional coach for the 2009 season, to run coaching for both children who attend the Saturday Club and for adult beginners and improvers. Sebastien Scaux has coached extensively in the Cambridge area and also in his home country, France.

The club will run ten coaching sessions for adults on Tuesday evenings starting on 5 May, and for children in two age groups (5 - 8, 9 - 11) on Saturday mornings starting on 9 May.

Club secretary Naunton Pugh said: 'In the past we have run coaching sessions with part-time coaches helped by club members but this is the first time in the 11 years the club has been running that we have appointed a professional. Sebastien has very wide experience coaching adults and also children, having worked with them at schools in Papworth Everard, Eltisley, Fen Drayton, Barton, Girton and at the Leys School in Cambridge. He is fully CRB checked, has a first aid qualification and is fully insured, so he is an all round good choice to be our first professional coach.'

Places on each course will be limited so if anyone is interested they should contact me as soon as convenient on (01954) 230393, email naunton.pugh@ntlworld.com. Club membership is open to anyone living in Swavesey and Over, any of the nearby villages and into Cambridge.

Village Directory

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 4564
	Surgery		01954 260230
	Dispensary for repeat prescription requests		01954 260073
	Pharmacy		01954 261787
	Over Surgery		01954 231550
	CAMDOC –After hours medical help		01223 464242
Schools	Primary School		01954 283030
	Willingham Out Of School Club (3-6 pm only)	Mrs R Tiley	01954 201567
	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 G Balaam	01954 260126
	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
	Little Notes Music group	Naomi Lockwood	01954-261248
Halls	Ploughman Hall Bookings	through Parish Council	01954 261027
	Wilford Furlong Centre		01954 261445
	The Octagon	Mrs A Robinson	01954 261076
Local Representatives	Billavincea Lodge 8719	Mr M Scrivener	01480 413533
	Fen Edge Community Association	Mr G Redhead	01954 288944
	Cambridge News Correspondent	Anne Kirkman	01954 260393
	Workers' Educational Association	Mrs J Hodgkinson	01954 201816
	Willingham Combined Charity	Mrs J Ambrose	01954 260446
Clubs	Gardening Club	Mr T Halsey	01954 201910
	Social Club	Mr J Sibley	01954 260436
	WAMADS Drama Group	Mrs C Atkins (Secretary)	01954 261354
	Willingham Youth Club	Mrs Jean Langford	01954 201706
	Women's Institute	Mrs Doreen Young	01954 200561
	Women's Royal British Legion	Mrs M Few	01954 260124
Sport	Willingham Wolves (Boys & Girls Football)	Claire Few	01954 203001
	Football Club	Mr Alex Howard	01954 260734
	Cricket Club	Mr R Ambrose	01954 260446
	Hockey	Kris Westmore	01954 202082
	Badminton	Mr J Fuggle	01954 260478
	Step Aerobics	Ms E Weatherill	01954 205439
	Bowls Club	Mrs Linda Aspinall	01954 261526
Churches	Mother's Union (Branch Leader)	Mrs S Hayden	01954 260363
	Baptist Church	Rev Trevor Rowe	01954 261193
	Administrator	Emma Launchbury	01954 263108
	Methodists (Ministerial Contact)	Rev Hilary Cheng	01223 700778
	Roman Catholic Priest	Rev Paul Maddison	01480-462192
	Salvation Army	Major M Lewis	01480 386593
	Parish Church	Mrs Gillian Macnaghten	01954 261817

Fen Edge Twinning Association – plans, and invitation to join

The Fen Edge Twinning Association (FETA) is a thriving group of around 50 or so families. There are also links between the primary schools in Willingham and Cottenham with two schools in Avrillé. Students of these schools correspond and Willingham is linked with a website where the children can communicate. This facility will follow in Cottenham soon.

We are always happy to welcome new members and now that the schools are linked as well we would like to encourage some of these families to get involved. Below is some information about the twinning group and a sample of some of the activities we have arranged in the past.

The Fen Edge Villages of Cottenham, Landbeach, Rampton, Waterbeach and Willingham, are twinned with the town of Avrillé in France. Avrillé is a small town next to the city of Angers close to the Loire valley, just south of Le Mans (famous for the 24 hour car race). We have a real mixture of members so whether you are single, a couple, a family, young, old, new to the villages or born and bred here you will find this an interesting group.

The twinning association arranges annual visits with members of the Avrillé group. Once every two years we go to visit them and then in the alternate year members from France come to visit us here.

These exchanges take place over a weekend, usually one of the May bank holidays. Various group activities are planned for the visits giving you a good chance to meet others in the group, both from France and the other Fen Edge villages.

Our last visit to Avrillé was in May 2007. We were given an enthusiastic welcome on our arrival and spent the weekend immersed in French hospitality - a concert by local French schoolchildren from the primary school which is linked with Willingham primary school, a stroll around the local market, a tour of a beautiful cathedral featuring a thought provoking photographic exhibition. We all met up in the evening and were entertained by local musicians and dined on traditional local cuisine.

In May last year (2008), French families arrived in England and spent a fabulous weekend with their English host families, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the twinning between our two communities.

The next visit to France is this May over the weekend of 23 and 24 May. The weekend will start when we arrive in Avrillé on the evening of Friday 22 May. There will be a number of activities arranged during the weekend and we will all return on Monday 25 May which is the bank holiday. If any families with children at the primary schools wish to join us we will make sure that we arrange to visit the schools in Avrillé and meet with some of the children. So if you are interested in joining us and taking part in this weekend please contact me at the details below.

We also regularly organise popular fund raising quiz nights at Cottenham Village College. Our next quiz will be on **Friday 6 March**. If you would like to get a team together to take part in this quiz and reserve a table

please contact me at the details below and watch out for posters giving the full details.

We would love to welcome new members to our association, please contact Anna Vining on 01954 252432 or panda@vining.co.uk for more information.

Willingham Wolves U16s –

Steve Moffat tells how they began

In the days before wispy white snowflakes drifted down to cloak the fields and lanes of Willingham, a team was born. The year was 2000, the team Willingham Wolves U8s football team. The seasons rolled over, one by one, and those sweet little lads magically transformed into thumping great lads. And the team became Willingham Wolves U16s. And what a team they are!

After ten matches this season, Willingham Wolves remain unbeaten. They are top of the Cambridge & District Colts 'A' League; have reached the semi-final of the Pye Cup, when they are scheduled to meet Histon Academy U16s; and have reached the same stage of the League Cup, when they are due to face Hundon Hawks U16s.

These young men are superb athletes who devote their Sunday mornings to playing passing football of the highest quality, and giving great pleasure to many. Thrilling times lie ahead!

Steve Moffat

Photo Mystery from www.oldwillingham.com



Can you identify where this shop was in Willingham and tell us about it?

Although no longer a shop, this building still stands in the village and doesn't look much different.

Send answers to Jon Edney, 31 High St, Willingham or email to: oldwill@oldwillingham.com

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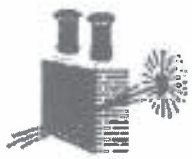

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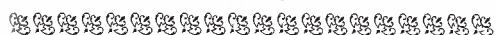
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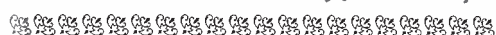
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