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February 2021



Sunset on Christmas Day in Meadow Road Photo by Emma Maris

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Willingham News is a subsidiary of Willingham News Ltd and is edited by volunteers. We do our best to ensure the accuracy of the content of the submissions, but this cannot be guaranteed. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles at our discretion. The views expressed in readers' letters are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Send your contributions to **willinghamnews@gmail.com** as an email attachment of up to 250 words (no pdfs) to arrive before the monthly deadline. The Editorial Team comprises Liz Cosford, Jane Dowle, Wendy Law, Frances Watts, James Watts and Trevor Weston.

The **deadline for your contributions is the 8th of each month**. As the library still has restricted opening, hard copy can be dropped off at 15 Balland Field.

Bin Collections – Fridays

Friday 5 February	Blue and Green
Friday 12 February	Black
Friday 19 February	Blue
Friday 26 February	Black

To contact local police, phone 101 or email:
SCambsCops@cambs.pnn.police.uk

PLEASE NOTE:

Back issues of *Willingham News* from October 2005 to the present (with the exception of March 2006) are now available on the Willingham Life website run by WAG:
www.willinghamlife.org/page/willingham-magazine-back-issues

Advertising

We would like to thank all our advertisers for their continued support during these difficult times. It's due to them that *Willingham News* is able to serve the village. Please continue to support our local businesses now and in the future when restrictions are lifted.

Advertising is sold on an annual basis for an insert into 12 issues beginning in January. Send any advertising queries or copy to: **advertising.wnews@yahoo.co.uk**, marking your e-mails Adverts. The *Willingham News* team wishes to thank all the advertisers for their support and interest. They play a vital role in maintaining this publication and also in our community as local businesses supplying goods and services. If you contact an advertiser, please mention that you saw their advertisement in *Willingham News*. Thank you all very much.

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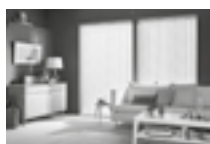
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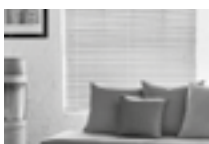
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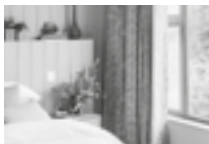
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Old Willingham



This is a very early photo – probably about 1890. It is before the restoration done by Reverend Watkins during his time as Rector between 1890 and 1906. The picture shows the back of the church where the Octagon is now. You can see how dilapidated the building had become – it was on the edge of collapse. Amazingly, Watkins spent £20,000 of his own money to restore the church – a fortune in those days. The south wall of the Chancel was rebuilt from the foundations up with each stone being numbered and replaced in the original position. It is thanks to him that we have the church as it is today.

See more photos at www.oldwillingham.com.

If you have stories or memories about this picture, please contact Jon Edney, 31 High Street or oldwill@oldwillingham.com.

Willingham Photography Club

Under current conditions, we are not meeting in person, but we continue to aim to learn more about photography and to enjoy ourselves.

There is a monthly assignment and photographs can be submitted online for consideration and feedback from our resident professional photographer.

The theme for February is *At an Angle* (to what it should look like) and photographs may be submitted via www.willinghamphotoclub.org.uk and following the link to the Virtual Assignments Google Drive.

All photographs should be submitted by **15 February**. We cordially invite anyone who enjoys photography to get in touch and see what is on offer.

Your expertise level does not matter; nor does the nature of your camera.

The membership cost is £20 for 6 months with the first month free of charge, however, subscriptions have been deferred at the current time.

If you have any further questions, please contact:
Steve Harding 07595 668161.

In the meantime, do have a look at our website on www.willinghamphotoclub.org.uk

Message from the Editors

Once again we find ourselves in Lockdown but we will endeavour to continue providing a paper issue of *Willingham News* to all households in the village. In order to do so we rely on a small army of volunteers to deliver the magazine to your doors so it seems appropriate at this time to say a massive thank you to everyone who works behind the scenes to make this possible. In addition to the editors there is a proof reader, Jane Dowle, an advertising coordinator, Nigel Ayling and a distribution coordinator, Dave Clarke as well as the aforementioned army of deliverers. Each month Dave collects 1,950 magazines from the printers and then he weighs, counts, labels and packs them into 12 boxes and 29 plastic bags. Malcolm Sergeant and Nigel Ayling then deliver these out to the 36 deliverers. Everyone is a volunteer and we are very grateful for the time they give up to ensure the magazine is available each month. The magazine is funded by the revenue from our advertisers and any deficit is met by the Parish Council.

If it becomes necessary to revert to an online only magazine, as happened earlier last year, we will do our best to give you advance warning but should this be after our copy deadline of the 8th of each month, this may have to happen via the village website, www.willinghamlife.org. Don't forget the magazine is also there each month and sometimes there are some extra items or photos in the 'Extras' section of *Willingham News* on this website.

Thank you also to all our regular and occasional contributors. We love to hear from you otherwise there would be nothing for us to do! Whilst many of the normal, regular activities and clubs cannot meet and therefore have nothing to report, we would welcome news of any informal activities to include in the magazine in order to keep everyone's spirits up. Perhaps you would like to share your lockdown experiences with us?

If you feel like getting involved in the magazine in any way we would also like to hear from you. Drop us an email to willinghamnews@gmail.com.

Willingham 125 Years Ago

This account of an incident near Earith Bridge appeared in the *Cambridge Independent Press* on 1 February 1895.

'On Wednesday afternoon a young man named Edgar Harradine was skating along the Old West River alone near the road to Willingham when the ice broke and let him in. The water was very deep and he went in up to his neck, and holding up by the edge of the ice, called out for help. Fortunately a number of people from Willingham were skating on a piece of ice near and hearing the call, came to the rescue. A rope was obtained from a neighbouring farm by Mr Kemp and by its means succeeded in rescuing Harradine from his perilous position. Had not help been near it seems as if he must have been drowned. He received a severe shock to the system.'

*In spite of the severe shock to his system Edgar survived until 1939, dying at the age of 63.

Anne Kirkman

Walking in Willingham

There are very few Rights of Way registered in Willingham but there is a circular walk I would highly recommend where the paths are marked.

Start near the cricket pavilion which is on West Fen Road. Turn right and walk down Pound Lane, this soon leads onto a dirt track with Lord's Ground Ditch on your left and the playing fields to your right, it is a lovely wooded path. You will come to a gate into a field which sometimes contains cattle or sheep, continue across the field to another gate on the opposite side. An interesting field which undulates and has a pond, I have been told it used to contain fish ponds but I'm not sure how true this is.

The stream to your left is now called Dockerel Brook. Walk alongside a field then you will enter a lovely wooded path next to the water. This area can become very muddy when wet. At the end of this path you come out to a quiet road interestingly called Furtherford. Do not take the first right onto Further Way but continue on the road until you reach the imaginatively named Middle Way, a dirt road again which has fields on both sides, it is signposted. Follow this path through all the fields, it takes a few right turns but just follow the path and eventually you will come out at the very top of West Fen Road. Turn right onto West Fen Road and walk along this road until you get right back where you started.

A lovely walk which has several side tracks which will take you into Over – but that is for another day. It takes me over an hour at a good pace. As I walk I muse over the names of the roads and paths and keep a lookout for birds of prey and deer. During the past year I have met many people taking advantage of the good weather to do this walk on foot or by bike (although you have to carry your bike through the gates). Currently very muddy in parts so I would recommend wellies.

Let me know about your favourite walks and if you have enjoyed walking in Willingham for 20 years or more I would like to ask for your help in making more walks registered as Rights of Way. If you are enthusiastic but haven't been here that long maybe you would like to help with research? I am delighted to hear from everyone and to hear the stories of old Willingham.

Please contact me, Steph, at steph@paulandsteph.co.uk or 07747 613256.

February Poem

A little card is upon my shelf
with roses, roses adorning.
It softly slipped through my door
as I woke up this morning.

It has no name this Valentine
but all the words ring true.
My secret card upon the shelf
can only be from you.

Christine Lacey

OWLS Community Car Scheme

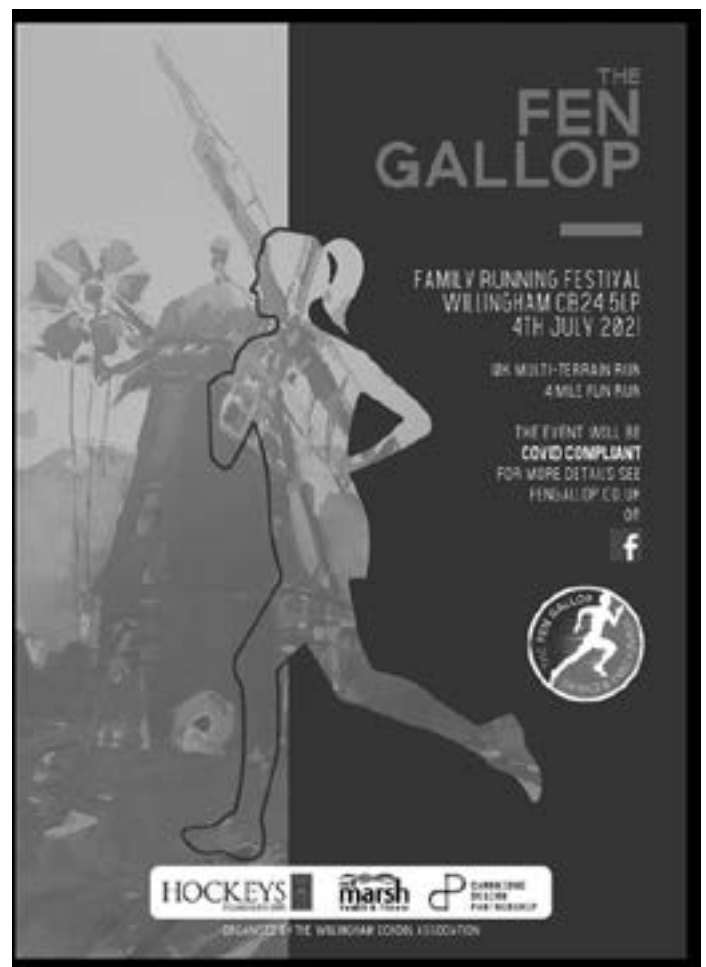
In December, OWLS Community Car Scheme resumed a full service to eligible residents of Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey. However, under Lockdown 3 regulations, non-essential journeys such as trips to the hairdresser had to stop from January.

OWLS continues to offer wait and return journeys for all medical appointments including those for COVID-19 vaccinations and hospital outpatient appointments and essential trips to the bank or local shopping.

With limited face to face GP and hospital appointments being offered there has been a reduction in the demand for OWLS journeys. Do you know someone elderly or vulnerable who does not have access to a car, is unable to use public transport or does not have someone who can take them to appointments or on necessary journeys? Customers pay 30p a mile for a return trip, to and from the driver's home, with a minimum charge of £3.

All our drivers and coordinators are volunteers and live in Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey. Drivers have all been DBS checked and there are strict COVID PPE procedures in place to protect drivers and customers.

For further details or to book a journey please ring the scheme's mobile number: 07505 254363 between 9 am and 4 pm Monday – Friday. If you reach the answer phone please leave a clear message including your telephone number and the coordinator will ring you back.



Readers' Letters

Dear Editors

We would like to respond to Sue West's letter in the January edition of the *Willingham News*, regarding public rights of way in the village. Sue provided a map in her letter which outlined a circular route from Willingham village, along the riverbank and back through Queenholme Farm yard. This was published within a 1996 edition of the *Willingham News*, but it was subsequently retracted once they realised that it was incorrect, and an apology was made.

The correct and registered public footpath runs along the top of the riverbank, from Flat Road to Aldreth High Bridge, however there has never been public access through Queenholme Farm yard.

We did, for many years, welcome the village Fun Run, but it was understood by those taking part that access would only be granted for the duration of the race. The route then changed when the Fun Run became the Fen Gallop 10k event.

Hopefully this explains why the misunderstanding occurred in 1996 and clarifies the routes that the public are free to enjoy.

We have been pleased to see so many local people enjoying the views and wildlife along the river route this year, which gives access to Aldreth and Haddenham via Aldreth Highbridge and the Causeway. We are so fortunate in Willingham to have such a variety of routes, which can be used by dog walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders alike! Lockdown has certainly helped us all to discover the wonders of nature on our doorsteps!

For up to date public rights of way available in the village search Cambridgeshire County Council Public Rights of Way and view the maps provided.

*The Gilbert family
Queenholme Farm*

I am an NHS responder and a member of the local neighbourhood watch, among other activities.

I have recently been elected as a Governor of CPFT (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust), a role which involves working with, supporting and challenging the board and management of the CPFT, who are a division of the NHS, responsible for the health of around one million patients. This could potentially be a very rewarding role.

I have myself been treated, successfully so far, for prostate cancer and related ailments, and had two full hip replacements, in the past three years. The latter of which, I was forced to have done in Denmark under a reciprocal agreement, due to a backlog in the NHS. I would like to make a difference by passing on the benefits of my experience to others. I have substantial experience abroad and in achieving complex projects, am now retired, but have energy I would like to use effectively.

The NHS is so huge, it's difficult to have an impact, so it's important to focus on parts where one feels one can achieve something. One of my intended projects, as a CPFT governor, will be to try to help NHS reduce backlogs, particularly for elective orthopaedic surgery, such as hip and knee replacements. This will reduce pressure in other departments, for more complex treatments such as cancer, specialist treatment, mental health and care. My role is to communicate and represent interests of patients. We're also looking for members of the public to sign up as members of CPFT, to give feedback and input towards continued

improvements.

Contact me on crthornhill@gmail.com if you have an interest in supporting us in this.

For more information see links below.

www.cpft.nhs.uk/about-us/become-a-member.htm

www.cpft.nhs.uk/about-us/governors_area/governor-statutory-duties.htm.

Dear Editors,

It is a fact that cars are more likely to be bumped, scraped or have damaged wing-mirrors if they are parked half on-off a pavement as it gives road users a belief they can fit through the gap easily.

In these times when we are having to walk locally while keeping our distance from each other, the pavements are even more vital. So, it would be really helpful if cars were parked only on the roads and leave any pavements for people, buggies, wheel-chairs... well, as described in the Highway Code Rule 244 really.

Congratulations to those residents who regularly park thoughtfully – such as the lower-numbered houses on the very narrow parts of Church Street!

Valerie McKee

Dear Friends,

The Parish Council warned us in the last magazine that the number of PCSOs is to be cut. Forgive me if I am mistaken but wasn't the last time a policeman (of any type) was seen in the village during the coronation celebrations?

On a different subject there seems to be an epidemic of parking on the pavement going on in the village. This is not only unnecessary but antisocial and illegal. The Highway Code states 'you must not drive on or over a pavement/footpath except to gain lawful access to property. (Laws HA 1835 section 72 and RTA section 34)'. You cannot park on the pavement without driving on it, hence it is an offence. Given my first remarks the chances of prosecution are slim.

Bruce Robjant

The Parish Council response to the point about PCSOs is,

'The Council wrote to the Chief Constable and the Commissioner about this to explain how much we value our PCSO. We have been informed that a great many supporting letters have been written and the strength of feeling has been acknowledged – but the reduction will go ahead for financial reasons. However, some PCSOs are applying to become warranted officers; if they are successful and if they wish, they can then be assigned to the same neighbourhoods as full Constables. Whether that applies to our PCSO remains to be seen.'

Dear People of Willingham (also so many more)

I wish to thank you for your generous love, kindness and faith you have bestowed on me during this great personal loss. Trust Susan's journey will have a heavenly passage.

My love goes to the many who are distressed; in many ways every day is special.

With great respect and love,

Peter Dennis



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A&E is not an alternative to a GP appointment.

If we are closed, please call 111.



COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

At the time of writing, the practice is currently working in collaboration with other practices in the local area to plan and roll out the COVID-19 vaccination programme as quickly and effectively as possible. Priority groups are currently being contacted by local hospitals and vaccinations are underway for those over 80 and living in care homes. As time progresses, we expect larger hubs to open in the local area hence increasing the capacity of vaccination appointments available.

We understand our patients are anxious, but ask you to be patient and wait to be contacted. We will make information available to you via the website and social media as soon as we know more. We are working as quickly as we possibly can and kindly request you do not contact the surgery about the vaccine.

Access to Coronavirus Testing

There is very high demand for coronavirus tests and it is vital tests are prioritised for people with symptoms to help stop the spread of the virus.

- If you have coronavirus symptoms, you must get a test.
- If you don't have symptoms, don't get a test.

If you have symptoms and need to book a test, you can do this **online** or by ringing 119.

Please be aware that GP practices or A&E are **unable** to provide Coronavirus tests.

We all need to play our part to protect the NHS Test and Trace service for those who really need it.

What to Expect When You Visit our Practice

To ensure the safety of our staff and patients we have measures in place to minimise the risk from coronavirus.

All patients attending an appointment at the practice are asked to follow our safety guidelines:

WILLINGHAM SURGERY

NORMAL OPENING HOURS

Monday	8 30 – 1 00	2 30 – 6 00
Appointments	8 30 – 11 00	3 00 – 6 00
Tuesday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 7 00
Appointments	8 30 – 11 00	4 30 – 7 00
Ante Natal/Baby Clinic		2 00 – 4 00
Wednesday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 00
Appointments	8 30 – 11 00	3 00 – 5 30
Thursday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 00
Appointments	8 30 – 11 00	3 00 – 5 00
Friday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 00
Appointments	8 30 – 11 00	3 00 – 5 30
Emergencies		4 00 – 6 00

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NORMAL OPENING HOURS

Monday	8 30 – 1 00	2 30 – 6 00
Tuesday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 7 00
Wednesday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 00
Thursday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 00
Friday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 00

- Please be on time for your appointment, if you are early please wait in your car or outside until your allocated appointment time.
- If you are waiting outside, please ensure social distancing at all times (please wear suitable clothing for weather/bring an umbrella).
- Please wear a mask when inside the practice.
- Once inside the practice, please follow signage and the one-way system in place.
- Please use hand sanitiser stations and respect the social distancing at all times.

If you have any questions or concerns about attending your appointment, please contact the practice.

Carers' Meetings

Due to the pandemic, the carers' meetings are still currently postponed until further notice. They will be reinstated as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we would like to continue to support carers in our local community in any way possible. If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please contact Sue Lawson at susan.lawson7@nhs.net or 01954 260230.

Lisa Smith – Assistant Practice Manager

Sudoku

Answers on page 18

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

Book Quiz

Answers on page 18

As Valentine's Day is in February the word 'love' seems appropriate. No excuses for the two poems included. See if you can guess the authors.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 <i>PS I Love You</i> | 7 <i>Love Story</i> |
| 2 <i>Enduring Love</i> | 8 <i>To Sir, with Love</i> |
| 3 <i>From Russia with Love</i> | 9 <i>How do I Love Thee?</i> |
| 4 <i>Love in a Cold Climate</i> | 10 <i>Valentine</i> |
| 5 <i>Women in Love</i> | |
| 6 <i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i> | |

Chris Lacey



Young Readers' Corner

All the answers to this quiz begin with the letter F.
Answers on page 18

- 1 The noun given to a young horse.
- 2 The name of the leader of the children's gang of pickpockets in *Oliver Twist*.
- 3 The name given to some man – made lakes not far from Willingham. See page 21 if you need to find out more.
- 4 An adjective to describe a fox in the title of a children's book by Roald Dahl.
- 5 A famous nurse from many years ago whose Christian name begins with F.
- 6 A British long distance runner and Olympic Gold Medal holder whose surname begins with F.
- 7 The longest bone in the body.
- 8 The name of a pink wading bird.
- 9 The name of Japan's highest mountain.
- 10 This stone-age cartoon character's christian and surname begin with the letter F.

Five Fun Facts for February

The odds of being born on 29 February are about 1 in 1,461.

February, March and November always start on the same day of the week unless it is a leap year.

February ends on the same day of the week as October every year.

February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language.

February is the only month where it is possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

The Environmental Cost of our Food

The causes of atmospheric pollution are in the news a lot but there's little mention of the contribution our food makes. Amazingly one third of all greenhouse gas emissions are due to food production! Now we can't stop eating, but the figures are stark. Producing the food that the average person consumes each day generates the equivalent of nine kilograms of carbon dioxide,* or for one person three tonnes or 1.7 million litres of greenhouse gas each year. To become carbon neutral our daily figure needs to be around 3.5kg per day! So, there is no doubt that to save the planet we must try to change what we eat.

Try this Quiz

Answers on page 18

For the same amount of each of these pairs of foodstuffs pick out which you think has the higher carbon footprint ie which causes more harm than the other to the planet? The actual carbon footprints for all can be found at the web address. You may get some surprises.

- Brie or cheddar • Farmed salmon or cod • Prawns or mussels
- Australian wine or French beer
- Free-range chicken or battery chicken
- Parmesan cheese or pork • Chicken or turkey • Beef or lamb

A longer article continuing from the above and full of interesting and sometimes astounding facts about the carbon footprint of different foods can be found at willinghamlife.org/the-environmental-cost-of-our-food/ along with explanations to the quiz answers and the values for each of the foods.

**The figures given are 'carbon dioxide equivalents' as used by the World Health Organisation and they relate to all the costs of producing a food – for a field crop it would involve costs of fertiliser, transport, packaging and running farm machinery and machinery for processing.*

From the WAG Sustainability Group

You can contact us at willinghamsustainability@gmail.com.

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.WillinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk

December 2020 Flooding

The Parish Council was concerned about the situation which arose, following a considerable amount of rainfall, in the days preceding Christmas. Flooding of a property is disheartening, and it can take months to resolve the consequent damage. Some residents contacted the Council, and we were able to help with the supply of sandbags, which was much appreciated. Our thanks go to all those Councillors and volunteers who took the time to help fill the sandbags and distribute them.

As a Council we have written to the County Council many times to request regular drain clearance and we have written again stressing the urgency needed for this vital maintenance to take place. We have also been liaising with Tim Wotherspoon our County Councillor, regarding issues with standing water. As stated in the December magazine, Tim is gathering evidence so that he can endeavour to get action taken to address this. We would ask residents, as in last month's magazine, to contact Tim with issues which have arisen or arise in the future, remembering to include photos, location, date and time.

His contact is; timothy.wotherspoon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

We have also written to SCDC with concerns over the lack of maintenance of local ditches and the Old West River, asking them to address these issues urgently and to liaise with The Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Board over these matters.

Community Warden Scheme

The January edition of *Willingham News* featured an article about the Community Warden Scheme. This scheme is now up and running. It is being run on behalf of the Parish Council by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Age UK. Joanne Twinn is the appointed warden and can give support on both a short or long term basis.

If you are interested, you can find out more by ringing her on 07812 496002 or email her wardens@ageukcap.org.uk.

Fly-Tipping

Unfortunately fly-tipping is on the increase again, both in and around the village. A few days before Christmas a large quantity of tyres and furniture was dumped in the entrance to the Meadow Road site. Over the past year a considerable amount of time, money and effort has been put into making the site an area which can be used as a recreational facility by the village. We are working closely with SCDC (who are responsible for the removal of fly-tipping) in order to get the rubbish removed as quickly as possible. We are also liaising with our District Councillor over this matter, and our member of Parliament concerning current legislation with respect to fly-tipping.

Should you find evidence of fly-tipping anywhere in or outside the village then please contact SCDC to report it, at scams.gov.uk/environment/envirocrime/fly-tipping/. It will help if you can give the date, time and location along with a photo if available.

Rights of Way

The National Lockdowns have made us more aware of our local footpaths, droves, bridleways and lanes, which we can use in our daily quest for exercise, or indeed find that they no longer exist.

Steph is undertaking a project to try and identify as many footpaths in the village as possible. To this end, Steph is looking for residents (20 years and over) to tell her of the walks which they have always done and complete a simple form which she will collate as evidence. She would also like any enthusiastic residents who might be newer to the village, but who would like to help, to get in touch.

If you would like to be involved, then do contact her on 07747 613256 or email at steph@paulandsteph.co.uk.

Community Plan

Volunteers are still needed for this, which will look at what will be of benefit for the village as a whole, in the coming years. If you are interested in taking part in this project, then please email the Parish Clerk at the address below.

Contact Details:

Councillors details can be found on the website but below are details for the Chair/Vice Chair and Lead Councillors.

Council meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month and are currently being held remotely. Log in details can be found on the agendas which are published on the website and the notice board outside the Public Hall on the High Street. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak briefly or ask questions (see agendas for further details).

Council office details:

Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham

Tel: 01954 261027

Email clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Opening hours: Monday – Thursday 10 am – 1 pm (closed bank holidays).

Clerk: Mrs Mandy Powell

D Law	Parish Council Chairman	cllr.law@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 202188
N Harris	Planning Committee Chairman	cllr.harris@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07792 611226
P King	Parish Council Vice Chair	cllr.pking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 260780
L King	Leisure & Amenities – Lead Cllr	cllr.lking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 260780
R Manning	Greens & Boundaries – Lead Cllr	cllr.manning@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 261235
B Mansfield	Cemetery – Lead Cllr	cllr.mansfield@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 261540
R Tassell	Halls – Lead Cllr	cllr.tassell@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07974 673836

Part 22 – A Rector of Some Notoriety

Reign of King George III 1760 – 1820

Many of the Rectors at Willingham during the 1700s and 1800s were absentee Rectors, who lived and studied in one of the Colleges of Cambridge University and many of them published widely. However, there were some notable exceptions, none more so than Sir Henry Bate-Dudley. He was Rector of Willingham from 1812 to 1824. A flavour of what was to come is in his entry in the Dictionary of National Biography, which designates him as 'Henry Bate, Journalist. Educated Queen's College Oxford, but despite the letters MA and LLD sometimes shown under his name, there is no record that he obtained a degree from the University.'

In 1772 he was appointed curate to the vicar of Hendon who had just published a celebrated farce, *High Life Below Stairs*. Henry Bate spent most of his time in London society, where he became well known as a man-about-town and an associate of the wits of the day.

His journalistic career started in 1772 with his appointment as editor of the newly established *Morning Post*, where 'the smartness of his articles and the excitability of his temperament' frequently involved him in personal quarrels, ending in a fight or duel, earning him the nickname of 'The Fighting Parson'. The following year his involvement in an affray in Vauxhall Gardens brought him national notoriety.



Portrait of Sir Henry Bate-Dudley by Thomas Gainsborough

In 1780 he left the *Morning Post* and started the *Morning Herald* in opposition. That same year he married Mary White, the sister of a celebrated actress. In 1781 he was committed to the King's Bench Prison for 12 months for a libel on the Duke of Richmond, after which he assumed the name Dudley. In 1810 the *Gentleman's Magazine* reported that he had won an alleged duel with a Mr Stoney-Bowes in defence of the character of the Countess of Strathmore. He then composed a series of comic operas, and took up hunting, becoming master of a pack of hounds in Essex, where he is described in *The English Country Parson* as having chased a fox with three hounds up the ivy-covered buttress of Cricksea Church on to the chancel roof.

Suddenly everything changed at the age of 67 and he became 'respectable'. Perhaps he had a health scare as 40 years of high living caught up with him. Or he ran out of money. Whatever the cause, he went to Ireland to take up two Church appointments, before being appointed Rector of Willingham in 1812 by the Prince Regent. Things then happened in quick succession as a second career took off. He was created a baronet the following year, a Canon of Ely in 1815, and then appointed a magistrate. He was now Canon Sir Henry Bate-Dudley – a far cry from his previous London society lifestyle.

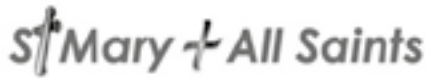
Any hopes of a quiet retirement in Willingham were shattered by the Littleport Riots in 1816. There was a great deal of social misery at the end of the Napoleonic wars, caused by high unemployment and high grain prices and labourers rioted at Littleport and Ely. Troops of the Royal Dragoon guards from Bury St Edmunds were sent in response, led on horseback by Canon Sir Henry Bate-Dudley, the magistrate, from Ely to Littleport. The rioters were arrested and a service held in Ely Cathedral immediately before the trial. The Bishop of Ely led a procession with his sword of state, and Canon Bate-Dudley preached the sermon on the text of 'The law is not made for the righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient'. The outcome was 23 men and one woman were condemned, of whom five were hanged, seven sentenced to penal transportation to Australia on the convict ship 'Sir William Bensley' and 11 sent to local jails. The Canon was later presented with a piece of plate for his 'very spirited and firm conduct during the riots.'

There is no record of the opinion of the people of Willingham of their Rector. He died in 1824.

Alan Fawcitt

Next time: Victorian Willingham.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN WILLINGHAM



CHURCH STREET, WILLINGHAM

www.5folds.org.uk

Early in January we reviewed our policy of opening the Church for services and private prayer in view of the rapid growth in the numbers of people afflicted by the COVID-19 crisis. We understood the need to protect our congregation and visitors and to play our part in supporting the national lockdown message to 'stay at home' whenever possible.

As the pandemic was worsening, both locally and nationally, we decided with heavy hearts to cease Sunday services at St Mary and All Saints, for at least the rest of January, with a further review towards the end of this period and any change in the approach will be shown on the Church Noticeboards, on the 5folds Churches' website (see address below) or Social Media.

In the meantime, we continue to offer our regular online worship provision with some seasonal extras via: www.5folds.org.uk/page/online-services-and-resources. Now that we have internet access in the church, we are looking at ways to use this to stream worship from the Church and, once we are able to be open again, for all sorts of activities and styles for presentations, music and worship in the Church.

Please do get in touch with the Reverends Dr Simon Gill or Lucy Cleland if we can support or pray for you or anyone that you know during this lockdown.

Christmas 2020

In many ways it was a very quiet Christmas for us all as the pandemic restrictions in place restricted the number and variety of services that we could hold. Meeting for Communion on Christmas Day for a quiet Communion Service (still no singing of carols allowed!) was a blessing.

However, we were able to offer a Christingle in a new and different way during the days before Christmas itself! Our 'Muddy Christingle' was a colourful and engaging outdoor sensory prayer trail for all ages - set up in the churchyard. It was developed as an outdoor resource by the Muddy Church National Team in conjunction with The Children's Society and well suited to COVID-19 times. The prayer trail was accompanied by a local Christingle and Christmas Story video link to guide people on making a Christingle Orange at home. Hopefully, a number of people in the village were able to access and enjoy this prayer trail safely as part of their Christmas celebrations.

Contact Details

Administration:

Gillian Beal 01954 203459 or admin@5folds.org.uk

Clergy:

Simon Gill 01954 230434 or simon@5folds.org.uk

Lucy Cleland 01954 277758 or lucy@5folds.org.uk

Jenny Hill 07970 949331 or revdjennyhill@5folds.org.uk

Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

www.sacredheart-stives.org

Mass and other acts of worship continue at St Ives. Numbers are limited but you may join any Mass live – streamed. Details at www.sacredheart-stives.org. For information about the Diocese of East Anglia please see www.rcdea.org.uk.



Willingham
BAPTIST CHURCH

George Street, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5LJ

www.willinghambaptist.org and



I am writing this as we come to the end of the first week of yet another lockdown! We do still however have the hope in Jesus that Kathryn wrote about in January's *Willingham News* and was the message in the first advent window on 1 December.

We are still gathering virtually as a fellowship on Sundays and also in our mid-week Wednesday Reflection. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for updates on our gatherings over the next few weeks. We have recently introduced a Cafe Church at Home, which is a much more informal style of meeting together and we warmly welcome families to join us for these.

If you would like to join us at a gathering, Cafe Church or mid-week reflection, please get in touch secretary@willinghambaptist.org or phone 01954 263108 and we can send you the information you need.

We are aware that people may be struggling or lonely in isolation, so if you want to chat, or pray with someone, or have any other needs, please also get in touch.

Emma Launchbury

Church Secretary

Thought for the Month

I had hoped that when I last wrote for *Willingham News* in October that November would have been our darkest month regarding COVID-19, with the lockdown allowing a Christmas relaxation and vaccines offering a way out. Sadly I was over-optimistic then and it looks like we are in for a bumpy ride in the next few weeks.

What has been brilliant in these last months is how people have helped each other, been supportive and understanding. That's been a real ray of light in our difficulties. One thing that concerns me slightly though is that I hear odd stories of people who were in need of some form, yet were reluctant to ask for help.

Can I encourage us all to not be ashamed and ask for help when we need it. I've been there myself in the past, especially when my wife had a major operation and was in bed at home recovering. I was aware there were others in an even more difficult situation than me, so was hesitant to ask for help. Please never be embarrassed to ask.

I especially think of emotional and mental support as well. So often it's easier to ask for practical help, yet often this less physical support can be the most vital. It can also be done with complete COVID-19 safety – over a phone or Zoom call. So please, don't be afraid to ask – either from your friends and relatives, our national support institutions or from us in the local churches.

May God bless us all as we continue to face tricky times.

Simon Gill

Team Rector, Parish Church.



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Willingham Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library
0345 0455225

Willingham Library is open
Our current opening hours are:

Tuesday 2 – 6 pm
Friday 10 am – 2 pm

The library will be open in accordance with the national lockdown restrictions and we are still offering:

- **Select and Collect Service**

This allows you to request a selection of books from a particular genre, which library staff will choose for you. If you want specific books, please use the normal reservations system.

- **Reservations**

There will be a charge of 50p for each reserved item.

- **Public Access to Computers on an Appointment Basis**
Bookings will be limited to those accessing public services only.

- **Digital Services**

We have a wide range of eBooks, eAudio books, eComics and eMagazines which you can access online without visiting a library. Please see: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/library-online.

Overdue Charges

There will be no reintroduction of overdue charges at this time.

This information is constantly subject to change. The most up-to-date information will be displayed in the library window and at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library.

Friends of Willingham Library

The Christmas Family Book Trail

Thank you to all those of you who participated in our Book Trail in December. We hope you enjoyed searching for the books that had escaped from the library and were hiding at different places around the village. If possible we will organise another one later in the year.

As soon as we can start running our other library based activities we will let you know. Spring is on the way so we can be hopeful for the future.

Extra Photographs

Thank you to Emma Maris for the stunning front cover photo. Unfortunately there wasn't the space to include some other flood photos but you will find more great flood photos on the village website in 'Extras' under *Willingham News*.

Willingham Women's Institute



For Christmas, all WI members received a card and small gift from our branch, just to let everyone know we are still there and to thank everyone for bearing with us through these difficult times. We received some lovely messages of thanks and support in return.

In January, we tried out a new way of holding a meeting via Zoom – news of how this went in the next issue of *Willingham News*. All face to face meetings and events remain cancelled until the COVID-19 crisis has passed, but normally we meet on the second Monday of the month at 7 30 pm in the Social Club. If you would like to join us, please email willinghamwi28@gmail.com and we will keep you up to date. Our WI is a large and friendly group. It's a great way for women in the village to socialise and get to know new people. Why not give it a try?

History of Willingham WI

Here some entries from February minutes, 80, 70, 60 and 50 years ago:

- 1941

'Mrs Clark gave an amusing monologue entitled The Basement Bell which was very much enjoyed. Several members of the folk dancing class gave us splendid displays of dancing conducted by Miss Piggot with Miss H Crane at the piano.'

- 1951

'The Office Letter was read and a letter from the Clerk to the Parish Council asking for two representatives in each case to serve on the Committees for Civil Defence and The Festival of Britain.'

- 1961

'Mrs Few reported that the members who attended Rampton WI Open Night enjoyed the meeting and the films on BeRo flour and also a colour film of the Coronation.'

- 1971

'The coming Group Conference was booked for 29 April...The speaker booked for the evening was Madame Rauvz who would talk on The Belgian Resistance Movement in the last war. Willingham to provide 1½ loaves of sandwiches and a Pyrex for a prize. Competitions arranged are:

- One article crocheted or knitted in 2oz wool.
- A floral decoration to represent a song title.
- 1lb lemon curd with recipe.'

First Aid for Mental Health

There's always an expectation that if we hurt ourselves, particularly in the workplace, someone with first aid skills will be on hand to support. What about if we have mental health problems? Who do we turn to then?

During lockdown I've been studying to become a Mental Health First Aid Instructor with MHFA England. Through their programme of courses MHFA plans to train one in ten of the adult population in England in MHFA skills via a variety of communities, businesses and the public sector. Their mission is to put mental health first aid on a par with physical first aid – a valid approach when you consider 70 million working days are lost each year in the UK due to mental health problems.

Earlier in the year I trained to become a mental health first aider and now I'm qualified as an instructor, training others to become first aiders to start to meet MHFA's target. MHFA very quickly adapted the way they deliver their courses so that they can all be achieved through a mix of online and distance learning.

Now seems to be a particularly good time to start raising the profile of mental health and recognising its importance in all walks of life. As we pick our way through this difficult time of being locked down, everyone will have their own strategies for coping with the disruption to our lives. For some people I've spoken to, the periods of life at a slower pace have been welcomed; I love hearing about people's experiences of trying new activities and taking online classes, but for others the stresses are massive. The loss of employment, financial hardship, isolation, trying to hold down a job through home-working while trying to support children's home learning, on top of anxiety about the health of family and friends, can become overwhelming.

What sorts of things can we do if life is feeling difficult during the current lockdown? There are some recommended coping strategies that can help, but it's important to find the ones that work for you. Here are some key ones that you could try or recommend to others:

Exercise: The link between exercise and mental health is well-known. Find an activity that works for you. Not

everyone is up to a long run or an online exercise class but any level of exercise will help. A walk is a great way to get some fresh air and start upping your heart rate. Try to build it into your day if you possibly can.

Trying New Activities: There are lots of free tutorials online that allow you to dabble in new things, from drawing to story writing, dance classes to film studies. There are lots of free short courses available from the Open University, for example. Learning something new can be stimulating and helps to lift your mood. If you like to read but find it hard to focus, then audio books are great and readily available.

Journaling: Keeping a daily journal and writing down your thoughts and feelings or writing about things you have done or would like to do can work well in helping you understand your emotions and help you identify what may be causing you stress or anxiety.

Routine: Having a routine to give some structure to your day can be helpful. Getting up at the same time most days and getting a good night's sleep will be particularly beneficial. If you find the darker mornings difficult a daylight lamp might work for you.

There are lots of useful apps (many of them free) that support mental health. The NHS has a list of those that they have tested. You can see the list here: www.nhs.uk/apps-library/category/mental-health/. They include apps that support young people as well as adults.

Hopefully by the time you're reading this many in our village community will have had their first shot of the vaccine and that light at the end of the tunnel we keep hearing about will be moving a bit closer. In the meantime, let's keep talking and looking out for one another.

If you're interested in knowing more about supporting people and becoming a Mental Health First Aider yourself I'd be happy to be contacted for more information.

Teresa Weston

tweston.consultancy@gmail.com

Swavesey Camera Club

Annual Photographic Exhibition

Our Annual Exhibition has been an established event for many years. It is an important opportunity for club members to demonstrate our photographic vision and skills to the public. Unfortunately we could not hold the 2020 exhibition last April because of the COVID-19 lockdown. Given the continuing uncertainty over public gatherings as we move towards spring, we have decided that we will be holding our 2021 Photographic Exhibition online. Participation by all club members is encouraged and we will have a diverse and fascinating display of digital photographs, AV presentations and images that

have scored highly in competition in club and external competitions. The exhibition will commence on **Saturday 10 April** and will run for two weeks.

Each year we host an Open Photographic Competition within our Annual Exhibition. Our aim is to encourage photography amongst everyone in the local community. The competition is open to all amateur photographers. Prizes will be awarded in three categories; junior school age, senior school age and adults (see website below for further details).

www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk

South Cambridgeshire (SCDC) District Councillors' Report

COVID-19 Update

It is difficult to write reports about COVID-19 because it is such a fast-moving situation, but it is impossible to ignore. At the time of writing, the trajectory of the pandemic is causing great alarm, with the new variant of the virus, which is 50 – 70% more transmissible, widespread in our region. SCDC is working to make sure that the business support money that comes from Central Government is distributed to where it is needed as quickly as possible and officers are again being redeployed to try to cope with the increase in demand. The Council is also making plans to react quickly if it is asked to become involved in the local administration of the vaccination campaign.

SCDC has a wide range of support available and details of how to seek help, especially for those in the vulnerable, elderly or clinically extremely vulnerable categories. It is supporting community organisations, parish councils and voluntary groups which are helping local residents to get through the pandemic by assisting with food and emergency supplies, priority shopping deliveries or accessing self-isolation payments, and there is also financial help available to local businesses with Government grants which can be claimed via the Council. Information can be found on the Council's website www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Meanwhile, across the district, community volunteers continue to offer help and support and the one operating in Willingham continues to do a fantastic job for the village. Our thanks, once again, go to Willingham Hub team.

Winter Support Grant

SCDC is also distributing the Government's Winter Support Grant scheme, using its £30,000 share of the grant pot to support local charities and community organisations. This includes Cambridge Online which provides data packages or devices to children in families in the District who currently have no internet access, enabling them to get online to learn and keep up-to-date with school work; and Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) to which parishes and community groups can apply for sums of up to £500 for local projects to provide food, fuel and essential supplies.

Flooding

Following the significant rain over the Christmas period (described by one expert as being close to a very serious incident) flood warnings were in place in the village and those residents who were likely to be affected notified. Fortunately, most properties were spared, although regrettably a property in Millfield and a number of gardens in the road were flooded. It appears that the reason for the Millfield flooding was not a single point of failure but the inundation of the whole system by an extraordinary rainfall event. It has reminded everyone of the need to keep our defences under constant review and, having examined the Station Road ditch, SCDC has decided to use a small tracked machine to undertake seasonal maintenance on the watercourse and this will be taking place during February.

Food Schemes

One item of good news was the Christmas meal campaign, in which C3 Churches and Over Day Centre produced almost 1,000 Christmas meals for isolated and vulnerable residents across the district. This was a major logistical exercise involving a number of local businesses, community volunteers and council officers and despite a few problems with the C3 kitchen which led to some delays, the project was a resounding success. The C3 kitchen, which, until last autumn provided a weekly food service to vulnerable residents in the south of the district (with Over Day Centre serving the north) is soon to relaunch, offering an expanded scheme to help more households.

Bill Handley and Dawn Percival,
cllr.handley@scambs.gov.uk 01954 200287
cllr.percival@scambs.gov.uk 07948 683599

County Councillor's Message

First of all, let me say how sorry I was to learn about the flooding incidents. Willingham was not alone in suffering heavy rainfall the night before Christmas Eve. It had already been a difficult year for all of us and we were looking forward to Christmas for a bit of a respite. But then to have Christmas spoiled by dirty water inside the house must have been unbearable.

There are something like 78 flood risk management authorities (RMAs) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These include the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Internal Drainage Boards, district councils and the county council. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, the county council coordinates flood risk management work through what is now called the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water Partnership, which I chair and it currently meets three times a year. It brings together the county, Peterborough, the districts, police, fire and rescue, Highways England, our own highways department, Anglian Water, the engineers of the groups of Internal Drainage Boards, and our Flood and Water team.

We will be investigating, as usual, every incident that resulted in water getting into someone's house, and seeking to identify the cause or causes. (There is rarely a simple answer.)

As a society we have chosen not to attempt eliminating flood risk completely – even if that were conceivably possible. We accept a certain level of risk in the understanding that from time to time property and farmland will be damaged. The priority is on avoiding loss of life. In cleaning up after a flood event it is often advisable (and this may be the case with individual property protection grants occasionally made available for example) not to replace fitted carpets on a ground floor living room, but have rugs that can be rolled up. Or to fix power sockets higher up the wall so that they will not get wet. These sort of adaptations are part of raising resilience to the increasing likelihood of warmer wetter winters arising from climate change.

Very local action is often the most effective in minimizing inconvenience and disruption. Many villages (such as Oakington and Cottenham) have flood groups with local people always ready to respond rapidly to a callout. Training and equipment can be made available.

I have been agitating for a long time now to get the county's gullies and road drains flowing freely; I seem to be getting somewhere at last. Thank you very much to all those who have sent photographs of persistent puddles and other road defects. I have been passing these on for attention, as well as compiling a dossier to back my argument for more money for road maintenance.

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Gardening Club

Over the Garden Fence

This year the start of the Spring Equinox is **20 March**. If the weather is kind to us, among your jobs for February and March are: prepare vegetable seed beds, sow some early vegetables under cover, chit potato tubers, protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches, net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off, prune winter flowering shrubs that have finished flowering, cut down deciduous ornamental grasses before fresh shoots appear, divide large clumps of snowdrop and winter aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies and prune late summering flowering clematis, cutting stems back to healthy buds about 30 centimetres from the base.

Nutrients to Feed Your Soil

Most plants need three major nutrients to thrive - nitrogen to promote vigorous growth; phosphorous (phosphates) to assist strong root growth and potassium (potash) to improve flowering and fruiting. Some fertilisers are higher in particular nutrients, for example tomato fertiliser, will be high in potassium. Give beds and borders a kick start in Spring with a slow release fertiliser (top dressing).

Check the 'Sow by' Dates on Seed Packets

As a very rough guide, you should expect germination rates to deteriorate by 30 per cent per year. So only use elderly seeds to take 'pot luck' under glass rather than risk getting gappy germination in the ground outdoors.

Safety in the Garden

Gardening is a great way to get physical activity and beautify your neighbourhood. However, you should protect yourself and take proper precautions with tools, chemicals and insects, when you are outside. Hospitals treat 87,000 people for garden related accidents each year. With proper safety techniques, you can stay away from the hospital and avoid becoming a statistic. You should follow these precautions to avoid injuries, pain and discomfort:

Wear Gloves When Working Outside

Wearing the proper gloves will not only reduce blistering but will also protect your skin from fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria and fungus that live in the soil. When exposed to soil, even the smallest cut runs the risk of developing into a major hand infection. Leather gloves offer protection from thorny objects and poison ivy, animal and insect bites

and other skin irritants in the garden. Gloves also prevent sun damage and fingernail damage.

Avoid Prolonged Repetitive Motions

Unless you are used to the activity, repetitive motions such as digging, raking, trimming hedges, pruning bushes or planting bulbs may cause skin, tendon or nerve irritation. Make sure your gardening activities are varied and tasks are rotated every 15 minutes with a brief rest in between so that the same muscles are not used over and over again.

Use Tools, not Your Hands

Use a hand shovel or rake rather than your hand for digging. If possible, remove objects from the work area before beginning the task to avoid causing damage to you or your tools.

Use the Right Tool for the Right Job

Avoid accidents by using tools for their intended purpose. Other important tool tips include:

- When purchasing pruners, loppers or shears, look for brands featuring a safety lock.
- Avoid products with form-fitting handles. These tools only fit one size of hand perfectly. If your hand is too large or too small, it will put more stress on your hand.
- Always follow the manufacturers' instructions for the tool.
- Keep sharp tools away from children at all times.
- Always unplug electrical tools and disconnect spark plug wires on petrol fuelled tools when not in use.

What to do in Case of Injury

If you cut your finger or hand, bleeding from minor cuts will often stop by applying direct pressure to the cut with a clean cloth. Seek emergency medical treatment if continuous pressure does not stop the bleeding after 15 minutes; you notice persistent numbness or tingling in the fingertip; have trouble moving the finger; you are unsure of your tetanus immunization status; you are unable to thoroughly clean the wound by rinsing with a mild soap and plenty of clean water, or if you are on blood thinning medication. Remember to safely enjoy the health benefits of gardening by using your hands and tools wisely.

Carol Bailey

Answers to Food Carbon Footprints Quiz

Those worst for the planet are; Cheddar, farmed salmon, prawns, French beer, free-range chicken, Parmesan, turkey, lamb. Explanations at <https://willinghamlife.org/the-environmental-cost-of-our-food/>

Answers to Book Quiz

1 Cecelia Ahern 2 Ian McEwan 3 Ian Fleming 4 Nancy Mitford
5 DH Lawrence 6 Gabriel Garcia Marquez 7 Erich Segal
8 E R Braithwaite 9 Elizabeth Barrett Browning 10 Carol Ann Duffy

Answers to February Quiz

1 Foal 2 Fagin 3 Fen Drayton Lakes, 4 Fantastic 5 Florence 6 Farar
7 Femur 8 Flamingo 9 Fugi 10 Fred Flintstone

Sudoku Solution

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

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CELEBRATION DAYS IN FEBRUARY

1 - 7 Feb	TINNITUS AWARENESS WEEK – Tinnitus is the perception of noise or ringing in the ear. This year's focus is <i>Accessing Treatment and Support from GPs</i> . tinnitus.org.uk
4 Feb	HARRY POTTER BOOK NIGHT's theme is <i>Diagon Alley</i> . This global event is now seven years old. The event kit is available to download at harrypotter.bloomsbury.com . The activities can easily be adapted to any group size and as many as possible will be suitable for virtual online events.
5 Feb	WEAR RED DAY - The Children's Heart Surgery Fund has never been more RED-dy! Sign up at chsf.org.uk for a free fundraising pack to support and raise awareness of congenital heart disease.
6 Feb	WAITANGI DAY is New Zealand's national day to commemorate the signing of the founding document in 1840. This treaty made New Zealand part of the British Empire and guaranteed Maori rights to their land and made them British citizens.
7 Feb	SUPER BOWL – The NFL championship game and its famed halftime show should/may take place in Tampa, Florida today. Grammy-winning singer, The Weeknd, is the halftime performer, following in the footsteps of Shakira and Jennifer Lopez whose performance last February was watched by 104 million people.
8 – 14 Feb	SIGN2SING WEEK is organised by the deaf health charity SignHealth. Learn a song in sign language and help to fundraise at sign2sing.org.uk .
10 Feb	PLIMSOLL DAY – Ships not shoes! Samuel Plimsoll, an English politician and social reformer, was born today in 1824. He campaigned to save and improve seafarers' lives. His most significant achievement was the Plimsoll Line; a line painted on the side of a ship to show how low in the water she should sit safely when loaded. This innovation is still used today.
12 Feb	CHINESE NEW YEAR – This is the Year of the Ox. The Chinese Zodiac is based on a 12 year cycle determined by the Chinese lunar calendar with each year related to an animal sign. Those born in the Year of the Ox are said to be strong, determined and conservative.
14 – 21 Feb	NATIONAL NEST BOX WEEK is an established part of the ornithological calendar. nestboxweek.com
14 Feb	VALENTINE'S DAY is celebrated across many countries with flowers, chocolates and cards exchanged. It's estimated that women buy 80% of these cards which mean a large proportion of men either forget or aren't very romantic!
15 Feb	DECIMAL DAY – For centuries, Britain relied on a monetary system of pounds, shillings and pence: 12 pennies made a shilling, 20 shillings a pound. Our decimal currency was introduced today, 50 years ago, in 1971.
16 Feb	SHROVE TUESDAY – <i>Shrove</i> is the past tense of the old verb to <i>shrive</i> , meaning to confess. It's supposed to have some religious significance, but really it was an excuse to use up fatty, rich food before Lent begins tomorrow.
17 Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY – During the Lenten period, Christians give up luxuries and try and resist temptation to remind them of the time that Jesus spent in the desert.
19 Feb	KISSING FRIDAY - This strange custom has now died out, but in the mid-20 th century a school boy could kiss a girl without being told off.
22 Feb	WORLD THINKING DAY is a celebration of 10 million Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide. This year's theme is <i>Peacebuilding</i> . By completing the steps in the <i>Stand Together for Peace</i> activity pack, Guides and Girl Scouts will stand strong, stand up and stand together for Peacebuilding. waggs.org
27 Feb	INTERNATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY – Every year this global event draws attention to the challenges polar bears face in a warming Arctic. polarbearsinternational.org
28 Feb	SCOUSE DAY is an annual celebration of the city of Liverpool. It's primarily based around <i>scouse</i> – a meat stew. globalscouseday.com



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Fen Drayton Lakes Reed Management

Elney Lake is our largest area of reed and an important area for target breeding species including marsh harrier and bittern. Keeping it in the best possible condition for these species to successfully nest requires a lot of work and we have recently been going out to the islands to remove willow trees that take root amongst the reed. The majority of the islands on the western side of the lake are dominated by large trees with very little reed and larger expanses of water between them. The eastern side is very different with reed dominating the islands and filling the channels between. If left, willow trees would gradually spread to the eastern side, drying out the channels and shading out the reed so that, in time, it would develop into a wet woodland and look very different, forcing the reed-bed specialist species to move off the reserve.

To keep the willow in check and maintain the reed, each winter we head out in the boat to get onto target islands with our team of volunteers. Hand tools are used to cut new willow growth while chainsaws are used for anything larger that has been left too long. Willow grows remarkably fast so trees just two or three years old can already be large enough to require mechanical felling. After being cut, we treat each stump with a herbicide to prevent the tree from regenerating and sending up any new shoots. Willow cutting work on Elney Lake is done in rotation and this winter we have cleared four of the islands and part of the northern peninsula. Reed will quickly recolonise these areas, providing more habitat for some fantastic species and we will be back next winter to target islands and other areas that we did not get to this time.

Events

Under current circumstances, we are not running any events at present.

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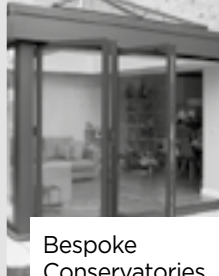
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	Cricket Club	Mr R Ambrose	01954 610113
	Cycling Club – www.willinghamwheels.com	Paul Knighton	07787 530394
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	Tennis Club	John Graham	01954 231968
	Willingham Diamonds Netball Club	Emma Byrom	01954 202481
	Willingham Running Club	Gerry Mears	07511 131645
	Willingham Sports Pavilion	through Parish Council	01954 261027
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