

Willingham News

FREE TO EVERY HOME

village website: www.willinghamlife.org

willinghamnews@gmail.com

December 2023



See Readers'
Christmas Greetings
on page 13

*Paddleboarding on the Rec
Photo by Simon Morgan*

Highgate Country Stores Ltd

Over Road, Willingham, Cambridge, CB24 5EU

- * High Quality Pet Food and Accessories
- * Poultry and Farm Animal Feed and Equipment
- * Horse Feed, Equipment and Bedding
- * Riding Accessories
- * Fuel - Flo Gas, Logs, Kindling and Coal



Open 7 Days a week

www.highgatecountrystore.co.uk Telephone: 01954 260798
info@highgatecountrystore.co.uk

Highgate Butchers

We sell locally sourced quality meat and poultry enhanced by a wealth of butchery experience from our friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Come and see for yourself our great range of beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry and Game products, not forgetting our 28 day aged beef.

Opening times:- Mon: Closed / Tue-Sat: 8-5.30 / Sun: 9-2
Tel: 01954 260444 highgatebutchers@gmail.com



Cambs Property Bureau

LETTINGS & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Tel: 01954 260200 e-mail: enquiries@cpbm.co.uk

Website : www.cambspropertybureau.co.uk

Cottenham Computers

01954 593025

Call the experts for good honest advice

We will come to your home or business to fix your computer

Got any of these issues?

- ✓ Computer crashing
- ✓ Network Wi-Fi connection Issues
- ✓ Computer infected with viruses
- ✓ Windows won't boot
- ✓ Can't access your email
- ✓ Can't access the Internet
- ✓ Computer running very slow

With over 16 years experience it is likely we have seen your problem before. We are happy to advise you free over the phone..

We don't charge a fortune

So give us a call TODAY! We won't bite!

Working all day? Then we can collect and deliver FREE to and from your work place*

* Within 10Miles of Willingham

We cover Willingham & surrounding towns & villages

For all computer related problems give us a ring!

www.cottenhamcomputers.co.uk



Waxing Specialist

Face & Body Waxing available for Male & Female clients

Lash Lifting and Brow Lamination also available



Based in Willingham

www.cambridgebrowsandwaxing.com 01887 547659 [instagram.com/cambridgebrowswaxing](https://www.instagram.com/cambridgebrowswaxing)



The Complete Gas Heating and Plumbing Company

**Plumbing • Heating • Gas • Bathrooms
Water Softeners • Property Maintenance**

Tel: 01954 204044 • Web: www.entiregroup.co.uk
Email: service@entiregroup.co.uk

Universal Fencing Co Ltd

Established 30 Years

Tel: 01954 230860

mob: 07786012990

www.universalfencing.co.uk

**SUPPLY ONLY OR SUPPLY AND ERECT
FREE ESTIMATE**



Palisade



Featheredge



Field Gates



Security Fencing

8 Arthur Court Norman Way, Over, Cambridge, CB24 5AL

Open: MON-FRI 7.30-5pm

Commercial, agricultural, industrial & domestic fencing contractors

HOME HELP for SENIOR CITIZENS

Do you know someone in need of some Help at Home?

- * Cleaning * Meal preparation * Company * Errands
- * Ironing * Bed Changing * Laundry

Same Home Help – Same Time – Same Day

All Staff are DBS checked, trained and reference checked

Call for more information on **01480 383340**

The Home Help Company



Willingham Mini-Skips Mini Digger Hire (with driver)

We provide a quality service at competitive prices to meet your personal requirements

For further information telephone
01954 261119 or 07774 197960

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, John Lawrence, Frances Watts, James Watts and Trevor Weston.

The deadline for your contributions is 8th of each month. Hard copy can be dropped off at the library.

Bin Collections

Friday 1 December	Blue and Green
Friday 8 December	Black
Friday 15 December	Blue and Green
Friday 22 December	Black
Saturday 30 December	Blue only

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 are now available on the Willingham Life website run by WAG:
www.willinghamlife.org/page/willingham-magazine-back-issues

If you have any changes to the Village Directory please send them to us at: willinghamnews@gmail.com

Advertising

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 emails 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.

Volunteer Deliverer Urgently Needed

For Westfield
Small round of 20 copies
Ideal for someone living in or near the area
Once a month commitment
Please contact Dean Cullum if you can help:
Deancullum@hotmail.co.uk.

CONTENTS

December News

Advent Adventure	12
Allotment Award Winners	7
Autumn Colours at the Orchard	12
Barton Family Reunion at Barton Field	5
Christmas Greetings from Readers	13
Church Gift Day	14
Church Christmas Sale	14
Community Orchard Bulb Planting	5
County Councillor's Report	17
District Councillors' Reports	17
Fen Edge Twinning Association	7
Memory Box Café	10
Men's Breakfast	5
Nature's Names	7
Octagon Community Hub	6
Old Willingham	6
Over Players' Pantomime	5
Poetry Corner	8
Reader's Letter	10
Volunteer Deliverer	3

Clubs and Groups

Bowls Club	6
Friends of Willingham Church	14
Gardening Club	19
Jazz Club	7
Photography Club	19
Swavesey Choir	17
Women's Institute	6

Quizzes

Book Quiz	9
Cryptic Crossword	9
Answers	19

Monthly Items

Bin Collections	3
Christians Together	14
Directory	23
Library	8
Medical Practice	11
Parish Council	15
Thought for the Month	19
What's On	21
Young Readers' Corner	9

THE PLOUGHMAN HALL WEST FEN ROAD, WILLINGHAM

Book Willingham's village hall for your

Wedding Reception

Birthday Party

Private Function

Play or Musical Event

Club or Society Meeting

The Ploughman Hall

Offers:

A large hall

Bar facilities (subject to licence)

A fully equipped kitchen

Disabled friendly facilities

Ample off-road parking

Check out our competitive hire charges and make your
booking at the Parish Office (01954 261027)

The Ploughman Hall – Willingham's village hall

SME funding — UK —

Helping you to find the
right funding, right now.

Do you need business finance?

We're based in Willingham, your local, independent specialist.

We find the best deals for your business.

- Asset finance • Aviation • Card Processing savings
- Cashflow • Commercial mortgages • Invoice finance
- Marine • Property finance • Unsecured loans

Trusted in the industry for over 30 years. Our clients tell us
that we save them both time and money.

For a free, no-obligation chat, contact us today on

01223 848 844 or visit our website

www.smefunding.uk



Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority - FRN 772970. Member of the National Association of Commercial Finance Brokers and registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ZA209808). SME funding UK Ltd is a broker, not a lender and can introduce you to a number of finance providers based on your requirements and credit rating, we may receive a commission for such introductions.

SME funding UK Ltd company number 10410655 registered in England.

Registered office: 14 Austin Friars, London, EC2N 2HE.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



R. A. Miller Plumbing and Domestic Heating

Fenside, 71 Willingham Road, Over

Cambridge CB24 5PE

Tel: 01954 203277 Fax: 07831 853885

Email: robert.miller@ntlworld.com

All plumbing work undertaken

- New boiler replacement and installation with free quotation
- GAS boiler and GAS fire servicing - Landlord Certificates.
- Heating problems - Diagnosis and rectification.
- General plumbing - taps, washers, pipe work, showers, etc.
- Full and partial Bathroom installation work

For a reliable and professional local service

Robert Miller

Office 01954 203277

Mobile 07831 853885



Andy Tibbett & Sons Painting & Decorating



* All internal & external work carried out to a high standard

* Trade references can be supplied

* Very competitive pricing

* A prompt & polite service from a name you can trust

Telephone: 01954 230010

Mobile: 07717 493723

Email: andrewtibbett@hotmail.co.uk



CHIMNEY SWEEP

J. L. Wight

Guild of Master Sweeps, Certificates issued
Advice given/problems solved

01954 253315

www.camsweep.co.uk

9 Cow Lane, Rampton



WILLINGHAM MOTORS LTD

YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT GARAGE FOR ALL SERVICING/REPAIR
REQUIREMENTS, MOT TESTING, AIR CONDITIONING, DIAGNOSTIC SOFTWARE,
EXHAUSTS, TYRES

CAR SALES - P/X WELCOME CAR/VAN STOCK LOCATOR

QUALITY VEHICLES BOUGHT FOR CASH FREE COURTESY CARS

Tel: 01954 260467/206566 E-mail: willinghammotors@aol.com www.willinghammotors.co.uk

ARTISAN LANDSCAPES

Est. 1988

www.artisanlandscape.co.uk

Paving, Fencing, Pergolas, Ponds, Pruning,
Structures etc

jonathan_ashman@hotmail.com

07768 821354



Jonathan Ashman Artisan Landscapes

Community Orchard Bulb Planting

We hope that this year's orchard fruit was widely enjoyed, as well as the striking autumn colouring of the woodland trees. Something additional to look forward to in the coming years will be the result of the planting of some 10,000 bulbs, 5,000 of which are bluebells. This represents a running total with the majority being planted last spring and this



autumn funded through a £500 grant and the Adopt-a-Tree scheme. So, many thanks to those people who were involved in the bulb planting and to those who adopted a tree. As always WAG wishes to thank the Parish Council for its continued support of the Community Orchard.

Graham Mumby

Willingham Action Group

See page 12 for some lovely autumn pictures taken in the Orchard.

Barton Family Reunion at Barton Field

The Barton family recently visited Barton Field, recalling the happy times we had spent there as children. Our Uncle Douglas was the last member of three generations of Bartons to own the land before he sold it to John Ferguson in 1986, who generously wanted his gift of land to the village to be named Barton Field.

Members of the family in the photograph are children of Florence, Heather and Peter who were Douglas's sisters and brother.

We look forward to future visits to see how the flora and fauna progress and it is good to know that the Barton name lives on in Willingham.



Over Players' Pantomime

There are some tickets available for the Over Players' Panto of *Treasure Island* and we don't want you to miss out. Come and watch the WI do battle with the pirates over the gold, enjoy some great music and laughter – fun for all the family. We have an early show on Tuesday at 6 30 pm, ideal for anyone needing an earlier bedtime.

For all tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/overplayers.

We should also like to say that it was 24 years ago that the Over Players performed *Treasure Island* – the first panto in the newly completed Community Centre – and there are some performing now who were in that show!



Willingham Men's Breakfast

Now in our 17th year, we meet on the third Saturday of every month at the Baptist Church (Main Hall) for an 8 am start.

Doors open at 7 30 am. We finish by 9 15 am.

We are a group of about 20 men age range 20s to 90s, enjoying good company, meeting and welcoming new friends, and relaxed good-humoured chat over a hearty, home-cooked breakfast (or lighter options).

A short topical or themed talk follows breakfast. Past talks have included: *Men as Husbands; Men as Fathers; Men at Work; Men in the Armed Forces; Why Easter?* and *Why Christmas?* From both Christian and secular perspectives. We have challenged mental and physical health from qualified individuals and believe laughter is the best medicine!

We have listened to jaw-dropping experiences abroad eg Ministry Aviation Fellowship (MAF) flying mercy missions into remote areas of the world.

This year we 'travelled' around our own Islands of Britain with locals' personal visits and fascinating stories. The penultimate island? Anglesey (Ynys Mon), North Wales in November.

December's Men's Breakfast will be a Christmas special, a little later – from 8 to 9 30 am on **16 December**.

In 2024 we will have another full programme, not to mention an outing or two, so open to ideas. Merry Christmas from us all.

www.willinghambaptist.org and follow to Men's Breakfast.

To contact individually: whammensbrek@gmail.com (Pete Sacré).

To contact or join the group: wbc-willingham-mens-brbreakfast@googlegroups.com.

Address: Baptist Church, George Street, Willingham, CB24 5LJ.

Old Willingham



Here is a photo taken on Berrycroft, almost opposite Berrycroft Stores. The men (and child) are passing the time of day outside R Smith's Tobacco Shop – a small wooden building fronting onto the road. That shop and the attached cottage are now long gone. One person of note is the man in the middle who looks very like 'Harry Williamson' aka 'Wulf Schmidt', the infamous German spy (see inset picture). Schmidt parachuted into Willingham in 1940, was captured by the local Home Guard and then turned into a double agent. He was never discovered by the Germans and spent the rest of his life living in England under the name 'Williamson'. We're not sure whether the man in the picture is him but there is a strong resemblance. For more information see: oldwillingham.com/spy.

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.

The Octagon Community Hub

The Octagon Community Hub welcomes you on Monday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm (excluding 25 December and 1 January).

Come and join us for company and free tea, coffee, biscuits and soup.

The Octagon is behind the Parish Church (just follow the path to the left of the Church entrance) and there is wheelchair access and no steps.

There are books and magazines to read and borrow, jigsaw puzzles to do, board games and card games to play, colouring sheets to colour, wool to knit with or you can just chat to others in a comfortable environment.

This is an activity supported with funding from South Cambridgeshire District Council via Cambridgeshire ACRE. With generous support from the Parish Council and the Co-operative Community Fund, we are now able to further develop the work of the Community Hub.

On **Monday 18 December** we will have mince pies and Christmas music with an opportunity to 'sing-along' with Jan at the keyboard.

Everyone is welcome so please come and join us on Monday mornings.

Willingham Women's Institute



Our next meeting is on **Monday 11 December** at 7 30 pm in the Social Club. This will be our Christmas Party for members only.

At the October meeting our speaker was Wendy Fletcher with *Born in a Railway Carriage*. We heard how her love of writing led to her beginning an autobiography, *The Railway Carriage Child*, after her mother died. With the support of family and mentoring from Edward Storey, the book was published in 2019 by her book club, the Whittlesey Wordsmiths. Wendy read us an excerpt about life in the Fens and how her family came to live in the two Great Eastern Railway carriages, built in 1887 and converted in the 1920s. We found out about life in the wooden carriages with 46 windows, a large garden, cold water only and very limited facilities. Wendy continues to live there most of the time but admits it is very cold in the winter and her daughters will not be continuing the family tradition! After the talk we were able to look at a selection of artefacts, including the one and only huge key to the carriages! It was a really enjoyable and interesting evening.

The pots we made with local potter, Linda Duclaud-Williams, at our September meeting have now been fired and we are very pleased with the results.

Why not join us? Our friendly group is open to all women. As well as our meetings, all members receive a copy of the monthly *WI News*, the national magazine, and can also join outings and activities organised by the Cambridgeshire Federation. You will be warmly welcomed for a taster session free of charge. To find out more, please contact willinghamwi28@gmail.com.

Willingham Bowls Club est 1937

I don't know if we are a Bowls Club or a lido at the moment, the heavy rains having flooded the Recreation Ground and the Bowls Club green seems to get the brunt of the flooding. The green will come back and even though we expect further flooding we should still be playing bowls next summer, albeit a late start.

Speaking to locals who have lived in Willingham all their lives, they say that the floods appear to be more often these days, where in the past villages used to have ditchmen who kept the ditches clear but the problem with the Recreation Ground is the lode which really needs dredging, according to locals, but the Environment Agency won't do this as they say the Recreation Ground is a flood plain and they don't want to disturb the wildlife.

We should still be playing in the summer, although it will take a lot of work to get it ready after the floods but we have a team playing at Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club during the winter so bowls keeps going.

Allotments Awards Willingham Combined Charity

Here are this year's allotment winners:

Michael Few – Overall Winner

Tony Marrone – Best Newcomer

Brian Jarvis received a tankard from the Trustees thanking him for all his help and hard work over the last few years.

The allotments are owned by Willingham Combined Charity and if you would like more information please contact Sue Ayling, email: sue.ayling1@ntlworld.com.



Michael Few

Tony Marrone

Brian Jarvis

Fen Edge Twinning Association

The Fen Edge Twinning Association held its first Quiz night since COVID on 29 September. The event was a great success in that it raised over £500 and a lot of people enjoyed a fun evening out.

Enormous thanks are due to:

- The anonymous benefactor who paid the cost of hiring the lovely new Cottenham Village Hall.
- Nathalie Morgan, who brought all of the refreshments back from France and organised their preparation and service.
- Andrew Snelson, who provided the questions.
- Kit Kilgour, who compered the evening.
- All of the volunteers who helped to set up the hall, prepare and serve refreshments, meet and greet our guests and run the raffle.
- And last but not least, all of the local businesses who donated prizes – Cottenham Reflexology by Georgiana, Les Ward Greengrocers, Cottenham Co-op, The Bushel Box, Lot 25 Café, Rumbles Fish Bar (Willingham) and Foxhay English Cider.

The money raised will go a long way towards the cost of entertaining our French visitors when they next come to the Fen Edge in May 2024. Our visitors are hosted by members of the Association, who provide food, accommodation and informal entertainment, entirely at their own expense, but the Association likes to arrange formal group events (a formal reception, a visit to a local place of interest, some form of group entertainment) and it's nice to be able to give our guests a small gift as a souvenir of their visit. It's these formal activities that our funds raised, together with any grants received, will help to pay for.

The Association is always happy to welcome new members. To qualify, you must live in one of the Fen Edge villages (Waterbeach, Landbeach, Cottenham or Willingham) and you must want to join us. Contact Tony or Pauline at: tony.and.pauline.woodward@gmail.com.

Nature's Names

Mention the word *mistletoe* and we might think of romance. This thought might not be so romantic if we know the commonly referenced origin of the word. We are told that *mistel* (or a close variant) was an Old Saxon word for bird poo, and *tan* (which morphed into *-toe*) meant *twig*. Yet this theory, that mistletoe grows out of bird droppings, is probably not as it seems. *Mistel* would be better translated as *birdlime*. The white berries, which are toxic, contain one seed surrounded by an extremely sticky substance which has been used by hunters over the centuries to smear onto branches and twigs to trap small birds. That gluey birdlime substance is called *viscin*, and the Latin name for mistletoe is *viscum album* (*album* is Latin for *white*).

Back to the romantic side of mistletoe. In Britain, probably the first published mention of kissing

under the mistletoe is in 1784 in a comic opera called *Two to One*, and in Mary Robinson's poem *The Mistletoe – a Christmas Tale* (1800), in which she calls it *A magic bough, and well design'd / To prove the coyest Maiden kind*.

In Charles Dickens' first published book, *The Pickwick Papers* (1837), he writes: *From the centre of the ceiling of this kitchen, old Wardle had just suspended, with his own hands, a huge branch of mistletoe, and this same branch of mistletoe instantaneously gave rise to a scene of general and most delightful struggling and confusion; in the midst of which, Mr Pickwick, with a gallantry that would have done honour to a descendant of Lady Tollinglower herself, took the old lady by the hand, led her beneath the mystic branch, and saluted her in all courtesy and decorum*.

Whether it's courtesy and decorum or struggling and confusion under your mistletoe, we wish you a very happy Christmas!

John Lawrence



Willingham Jazz Club

3 December Tailgate Ramblers Christmas Jazzband

At the Social Club. Admission £10. Fully licensed bar. Large dance floor. Tea/coffee and fresh rolls available. For further information call Rosie-Val 01954 789670.

Willingham Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

0345 0455225

Opening hours:

Tuesday: 10 am – 1 pm and 2 – 5 pm

Thursday: 4 – 7 pm

Friday: 10 am – 1 pm

Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm

Your Online Account

Log in to your account at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library, using your library card number and PIN to see your loans, renew items, search the catalogue and reserve items. You can also access our online services with a wide range of eBooks, eAudio books, eComics and eMagazines – all free of charge. If you're not a library member yet, it's easy to join online or in person at any library.

Summer Reading Challenge

Thanks to all children who took part this year. You made it a particularly successful year for our library as we had the highest percentage of finishers in the area. Well done!

Engage in the Afternoon

Wednesday 6 December, 2 – 3 30 pm, *Furoshiki: The Japanese Art of Wrapping*

Bring along a square scarf or a nice piece of fabric from home and join us as we have fun trying our hand at wrapping various shaped items using Furoshiki. There will be a few cotton squares available at a nominal fee if you would like to join in the fun but don't have anything suitable at home. Festive refreshments included.

Family Lego Club

Wednesday 6 December, 3 30 – 4 45 pm

Do you love Lego? Then we have the club for you! Come to the library and enjoy some time building with Lego or Duplo, term time only. The activity is suitable for ages four and over. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Digital Buddy Drop-in Sessions

Tuesday 12 December, 10 30 am – 12 30 pm

Struggling to access the web? Need help with an online application? Drop into our library on the second Tuesday of the month to get help from our digital buddy, for free!

Friends of Willingham Library

Games Afternoon, Friday 1 December, 2 – 4 pm

Please come and join us for an enjoyable game of Scrabble or one of the other games we have at the library. You could also bring a favourite game of your own from home to share. Refreshments available.

Second-Hand Book Sale, Saturday 2 December, 10 30 am – 12 noon

We have an excellent selection of second-hand books for all the family on sale at the bargain price of 50p each or three for £1. Please pop along and stock up for the chilly, dark nights ahead.

Knit and Natter Afternoon, Wednesday 20 December, 2 – 4 pm

Join us for an informal and friendly get together at the library bringing your knitting or any other type of needlework or handicraft. We'll be sitting and chatting while working on our pieces and perhaps giving help and advice to others. Refreshments will be available.

Family History Session, Friday, 1 December, 10 30 am – 12 noon (please note new day)

The library computers will be available for research on Ancestry, Find My Past (access to these are free of charge in the library) as well as other genealogy sites and someone will be on hand to offer assistance or advice if needed. If you are interested in attending or would like to know more, please contact us at: willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

Poetry and Prose Evening, Tuesday 5 December, 7 30 pm

Join us for an enjoyable and entertaining evening of Poetry and Prose. The theme this time is *Christmas Bits and Bobs*. We invite you to wear festive colours, a Christmas jumper, an amusing hat, some tinsel or jingle bells – or all of the above! You are welcome to read a piece you have chosen or even written yourself but if you would prefer to just listen and soak up the atmosphere, that's fine too. Christmas refreshments will be available.

Cambridgeshire Libraries News

Sign up for the Library Service's monthly email newsletter to find out the latest about what's going on in your local libraries. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/news-and-events/library-news.

The website also has Recommended Reading Lists and up-to-date news.

Poetry Corner

Nature's Philosophy

Nocturnal birds in sibilant causerie
Forest creatures in distant revelry
While nature's blanket dims their rivalry
And stills the air to peaceful reverie.

How brief is this tranquillity
As hostile meetings in darkened shrubbery
Remind, if only momentarily
That man alone enjoys in camaraderie.

Victor Timmons

December Poem

Will snow fall this year on Christmas Day
soft as it used to be in years gone by?
Wet snow melting and slippery paths,
Crystal leaves and berries bright red.

The excitement of Christmas morning still,
breakfast forgotten, church bells ringing.
Who will fetch grandma, find the Monopoly?
And love one another more than ever before.

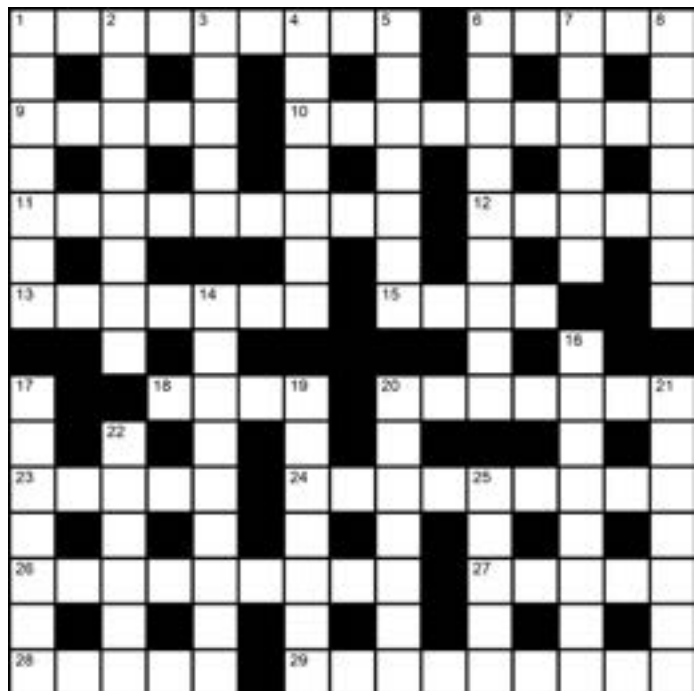
Christine Lacey

Cryptic Crossword by Naxos

Solution on page 19

Missing Twelfth

A seasonal offering. You will find nine answers here relating musically to the missing twelfth (4)



Across

- 1 Dull backs with Italian team set for bleak period (9)
- 6 Doctor both sides of spiral (5)
- 9 Gripping present, say (5)
- 10 Loom, for example, product of necessity (9)
- 11 Lay down again when pie stored badly (9)
- 12 Languor contained by godforsaken nuisance (5)
- 13 Half of 2, Count Dracula, is a puzzle (7)
- 15 Herb or no herb, we hear (4)
- 18 Swelling does not justify the ends (4)
- 20 Can't hope to clear round part of church from the east (7)
- 23 One of the Everlys keeps a flask (5)
- 24 Newspaper Lothario holds it together (5, 4)
- 26 Do they make pies while observing late congregation? (9)
- 27 What goes into haggis? Sounds terrible (5)
- 28 Cruise around the empty pole (5)
- 29 Share in animal feed goes up to follow American religious leader (9)

Down

- 1 Dreamt fitfully about you, old cheese (7)
- 2 Argument presented with good humour at summit? (4, 4)
- 3 You could say I drink to freeze the workings (3, 2)
- 4 Going with pearls, what Fred and George consumed for the audience (7)
- 5 Fascinated by the way jeans are made? (7)
- 6 Good ruler, wary and square (9)
- 7 Nothing I get in payment as source of royalty (6)
- 8 Touching down between flights? (7)
- 14 The French turn up after girl in little town (9)
- 16 Haul fifty endlessly around to join the happy and victorious (8)
- 17 Petty criminal outside home counties, getting into print (7)
- 19 Retrospective broadcast after poem about grand old shops (7)
- 20 Where divers frequent, hurry back with half each (4, 3)
- 21 Dancer's companion Ben keeps PC in mirror (7)
- 22 Listen out if not heard, like the 'k' in 'knight' (6)
- 25 Cinematic effect of brief period given after second look (3-2)

Book Quiz

Answers on page 19

This is the time to be all Christmassy so who wrote these seasonal books please, including a Christmas poem? Have a good one!

1. *A Christmas Carol*
2. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
3. *The Snowman*

4. *The Christmas Day Kitten*
 5. *Christmas at Cold Comfort Farm*
 6. *The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding*
 7. *Mog's Christmas*
 8. *The Jolly Christmas Postman*
 9. *A Christmas Gift from Bob*
 10. *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*
- Christine Lacey



Young Readers' Corner

Christmas Wordsearch

Solution on page 19

Created by Eileen, aged 9

There are 21 Christmas-related words to find. If you need help use the list of words below.



- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| angel | lights | robin | tree |
| candy cane | mince pie | santa | turkey |
| carols | party | sleigh | yule log |
| crackers | presents | star | |
| decorations | pudding | stocking | |
| elves | reindeer | tinsel | |

Christmas Recipe – Coconut Ice

Ingredients

- 175 g condensed milk
- 275 g sieved icing sugar
- 175 g desiccated coconut
- Red colouring

Utensils

- Shallow, square dish
- Butter paper
- Sieve
- Wooden spoon
- Large mixing bowl
- Knife

Method

- 1 Lightly grease the dish all round with the paper from a block of butter.
- 2 Mix the condensed milk and sieved sugar together in a large bowl.
- 3 Stir in the coconut making a very stiff mixture.
- 4 Put half the mixture into the greased dish and press it down firmly with a spoon.
- 5 Add a few (about three) drops of red colouring to the remainder of the mixture in the bowl and mix thoroughly together making a pink mixture.
- 6 Put the pink mixture on top of the white mixture in the dish and press down until both halves are firmly pressed together.
- 7 Leave the coconut ice to set until it is firm. Then cut it into small squares as a delicious Christmas treat.

READER'S LETTER

Dear Editor

I just wanted to say how amazing the front cover picture on the November issue is. It is well worth producing as a wall picture because the intriguing shapes lure the viewer into the picture and then you realise the immense power of the planes in the air and the pilots' absolute precision in their aerobatic display. For me it has depth upon depth, and I am not even a plane enthusiast!

So, great front cover and if Joseph is thinking of producing it as a wall picture do let me know.

Anne Hayward



CAFE HIGHGATE

10% OFF

NEW CAFE OPENING
1ST NOVEMBER 2023

We are offering all Willingham Residents a 10% discount on their first order on presentation of this leaflet

UNIT 1D, Highgate, Over Rd, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5EU

Scan for directions



Unit 11, Highgate Farm, Over Road
Willingham, Cambridge, CB24 5EU

01954 620555
info@highgatevet.com

Highgate Veterinary Clinic
www.highgatevet.com

NEW!

Willingham Memory Box Café

wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas and invites people living with memory loss (from any cause) and their carers to join us for

Music, Refreshments, Company and Fun
on Saturday 9 December
from 10 am to 12 noon

In

The Octagon

(behind the Parish Church,
with wheelchair access and no steps)

All Welcome No Charge

Sponsored by St Mary & All Saints Church

For further details please contact

Frances Watts 01954 200542



The Mortgage Experts

First time buyer?
Find out how much you can borrow to get onto the property ladder, and what deposit you need to get the keys to your first home

Current mortgage due for renewal?
If your fixed rate has come to an end, and you're worried about how much your mortgage payments will be, we have access to thousands of deals to help us find the right solution for you

Want to ensure your family are protected?
Ensure you, your income and your family have the right cover in place to keep you in your home should the worst happen

Contact James, your local mortgage expert with 17 years' industry experience
James.Taylor@TheMortgageExperts.co.uk
07535 666624
01223 624140
Based in Northstowe.
Evening, weekend and virtual appointments available.

There may be a fee for mortgage advice, the exact amount of the fee will depend on your circumstances. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up the repayments of your mortgage.



T.N. WALSH
(ENG Tech, MCIPHE)
PLUMBING & HEATING

5 ACORN AVENUE
BAR HILL
CAMBS. CB23 8DT

TELEPHONE: 01954 780252
MOBILE: 07887 561525



WILLINGHAM SURGERY & LONGSTANTON BRANCH SURGERY

Reception Tel: Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 207600 Dispensary 207602

District Nurse Team: 01223 726469 Option 2 Health Visitors: 0300 029 50 50

Out of hours cover: Ring 111 Website: www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

A&E is not an alternative to a GP appointment. If we are closed, please call 111.

Christmas Opening Hours

Please note the surgery will be CLOSED on the weekends and all the bank holidays including **Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December and Monday 1 January**. Normal opening hours apply on all the other days during the holiday period.

Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication. The last date for ordering repeat prescriptions in time for the Christmas holidays is **Tuesday 19 December**. The last date for collection before Christmas is **Friday 22 December** by 4 pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6 pm at Willingham.

The last date for ordering repeat medication before New Year will be **Friday 22 December** and collection is no later than **Friday 29 December** by 4 pm at Longstanton Surgery and 6 pm at Willingham.

When the surgery is closed please call 111 for medical assistance, or 999 for a life-threatening emergency.

For urgent mental health support, please call 111 and select option 2.

Details of local pharmacies that will be open over the bank holidays will be posted on the surgery doors, and also on social media and our website.

Congratulations to Nurse Karen

Karen Prince, Practice Nurse at Willingham Medical Practice, has been given the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse (QN) by community nursing charity The Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI). The title is not an award for past service but indicates a commitment to high standards of patient care, learning and leadership. Nurses who hold the title benefit from developmental workshops, bursaries, networking opportunities and a shared professional identity. Dr Crystal Oldman CBE, Chief Executive of the QNI said: 'On behalf of the QNI I would like to congratulate Karen and welcome her as a Queen's Nurse. Queen's Nurses serve as leaders and role models in community nursing, delivering high-quality health care across the country. The application and assessment process to become a Queen's Nurse is rigorous and requires clear commitment to improving care for patients, their families and carers. We look forward to working with Karen and all other new Queen's Nurses who have received the title this year.'

COVID Test Kits

Patients in high-risk groups who used to order free online kits can now collect these kits free of charge from Willingham Pharmacy. Please either bring in your NHS letter or provide proof of your medication. If you are not in a high-risk group you can purchase the COVID Test Kits from the Pharmacy.

Willingham Pharmacy also offers other services such as a travel clinic and a weight loss clinic – please speak directly with the Pharmacy about these services.

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 – 6 00
Appointments	8 30 – 11 00	3 00 – 6 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 – 6 00
Friday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 00
Appointments	8 30 – 11 00	3 00 – 5 30
Emergencies		4 00 – 6 00

WILLINGHAM PHARMACY Tel: 01954 261787 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

Dispensary Update

To help us keep our line free for our patients who have questions/queries, we respectfully ask that you do not telephone the dispensary to order your repeat medications. Instead, please use System Online as much as possible. You are also able to order repeats via the NHS App or deliver your paper copies into the surgeries at Willingham or Longstanton as well as handing in your repeat slips at the Willingham Pharmacy.

Our current turnaround for regular repeat prescriptions is THREE working days (this does not include weekends) so please be aware of this when ordering and give yourself plenty of time to ensure you don't run out of medication. We help where we can with urgent order; however this is always subject to stock availability so we cannot guarantee we can fulfil your prescription. In these circumstances we will advise on how to obtain your medication.

Carers' Meeting

If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please come along to our carers' support meeting on **Wednesday 6 December** at Willingham Surgery, where we will be holding a drop-in meeting between 2 and 4 pm. Please come along and get some support from other people in the local community. Refreshments provided, no need to pre-book and completely FREE! Please contact [susan.lawson7@nhs.net](mailto:lawson7@nhs.net) for more information.

All the staff at the Willingham and Longstanton surgeries would like to wish our patients a happy and healthy Christmas.

Willingham Medical Practice

The Advent Adventure 2023

24 windows, 24 days

Theme: Celebrating 10 Years

2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Advent Adventure. This year we have some celebrities popping up in the windows to help us celebrate.

Big Light Switch On and Parade

This year on **Friday 1 December** at 4 45 pm we will gather at 41 High Street for the Big Light Switch On. We will then parade to the Primary School. You can make your own lantern or bring along LED candles/lights or torches. Please bring drums, bells and whistles to make a loud noise!

At the Primary School Fayre

At around 5 pm we will gather at the Primary School to unveil the first Advent window. We will then join the school for their Fayre.

Carol Singing

We will sing some carols as chosen by you during the Fayre. Here is a QR code to take you to the voting page. Voting will close at noon on **1 December**.



The Adventure Begins

You will be able to pick up a list and map of all the Advent Windows from the usual places: The Post Office, The Library, Boswells Bakers. However, here is a list of the first few windows to get you started:

2 December 88 Balland Field

3 December 10B Green Street

4 December 68 High Street

5 December 60 Church Street

This is a Willingham Action Group Event.



Photo by Francis Pullen

Autumn Colours at the Orchard

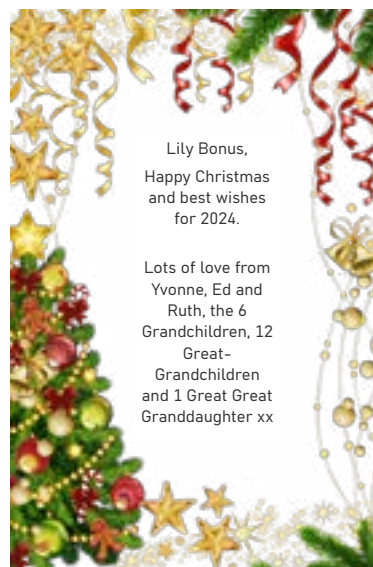
Taken by Julian Eales



Christmas Greetings from Readers of *Willingham News*



*A Very Merry Christmas and All the Best for 2024
from Wendy & Derek Law*



CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN WILLINGHAM

St Mary & All Saints

CHURCH STREET, WILLINGHAM

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13834

Services in Church

3 December	11 00 am	Holy Communion
10 December	11 00 am	Christingle
16 December	17 00 pm	Carol Service
17 December	11 00 am	Holy Communion
24 December	11 00 am	Crib Service
25 December	11 00 am	Christmas Day – All Age Worship
31 December	11 00 am	Group Covenant Service at St Mary's Church, Over (No service at St Mary & All Saints Church)

Bell Ringers

Our bell ringing team will be ringing a Christmas Peal on **Saturday 16 December** from 10 am.

Prayers for Ukraine and World Peace

We continue to keep an area set aside in Church for those who wish to spend some quiet reflective time to pray for Peace for Ukraine and its people. Also, every Thursday afternoon we gather at 4 pm to pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East and for an end to conflict throughout the world. Everyone is welcome.

Gift Day

Our Gift Day will be on **Saturday 2 December**, between 10 am and 12 noon in the Church – all proceeds will go towards the upkeep of our historic Grade 1 Listed Village Church – see notice from the Friends of Willingham Church below.

Christmas Sale – there will be a sale of Christmas goodies and other stalls in the Church on **Saturday 2 December** to raise funds towards the planned refurbishment of the Octagon Hall and Kitchen. See Thought for the Month on page 19 for further details.

Memory Box Café

Our next Memory Box Café will be on **Saturday 9 December** from 10 am in The Octagon with music, refreshments, laughter & fun for everyone living with memory loss (or similar conditions) and their carers or family – see further details on page 10.

Octagon Hall

The Octagon Hall is available for group and private bookings at a cost of £15 per hour. For further information and bookings, please contact Colin Smith at the administration office, Tuesday to Friday 9 30 am to 12 noon, using the contact details shown below.

Contact Details

Rev Simon Gill is currently on sick leave; in his absence please contact one of those listed below:

Clergy:

Rev Jenny Hill 07970 949331 or jenny@5folds.org.uk


Licensed Lay Minister:

Canon Jan Payne 07780 674563 or jan.payne@northstowe.church

5folds Administration Office:

Colin Smith 01954 203459 or admin@5folds.org.uk



George Street, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5LJ
www.willinghambaptist.org and 

Activities for December

Sunday Morning Service – 10 am

Relaxed and informal service with songs, prayers and teaching. All welcome at any stage of faith.

Christmas Day – 10 am

Family-friendly service and celebration

Wednesday Fellowship – Every Week

10 am Open Door for Coffee and Chat

EVENTS

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 16 December 7 45 – 9 am

Hearty cooked breakfast with chat and an interesting talk.

Open Door for Coffee: A friendly get-together at the church for chat and refreshments. All welcome.

Community Lunch Club: Thursday 14 December.

Book through Daphne on 01954 260568.

TOPS Baby and Toddler Group: Tuesdays at 9 45 am (term

time only). Meet other families while the children play. For children up to the age of five. Contact Debbie Allen on 01954 261581.

Nimble Fingers Craft Club: Mondays 2 - 4 pm. Bring your

crafts and join with others, learn a new skill or just chat. Contact Daphne on 01954 260568.

For all events contact: secretary@willinghambaptist.org.

Catholic Parish of the Sacred Heart, St Ives

Details of services at St Ives at www.sacredheart-stives.org. Mass is also held at 6 pm on Saturdays in the Octagon at Bar Hill, next to the church at Hanover Close, CB23 8EH

For more information about the Diocese of East Anglia, see www.rcdea.org.uk.

Friends of Willingham Church

Thank you to everyone who visited our stand at the Gardening Fayre in September and expressed interest in supporting the Friends group. We are currently setting up the Friends group as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in advance of fundraising. We will be trying to raise £50,000 for restoration work on the Church building. Please watch out for our first events in early 2024.

If you would like to find out more about the Friends, come and talk to us at the church event on **Saturday 2 December**, 10 am – 12 noon or email: Friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com.

We are also on Facebook: Friends of Willingham Church.

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.WillinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk

Flooding

The recent persistent rainfall brought back flooding which we last witnessed over Christmas in 2020. After those events the Council met with Anglian Water along with District and County Council representatives. Anglian Water confirmed that they planned to complete an Infiltration Reduction Plan in Willingham before 31 January 2022 to help them determine what work was required in the village to mitigate the impact of flooding from sewers. Sadly, it seems this has yet to take place. During October, both the Parish Clerk and our Cambridgeshire County Councillor, Neil Gough, were already chasing Anglian Water but have yet to receive a satisfactory response.

Octagon Community Hub

A representative from the Hub spoke to the Council to request funding for supplies so that a warm meal could be provided for those in need, which was granted. The Hub is run by volunteers and is open to everyone on Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm, in the Octagon, providing company and free refreshments. We are thankful to have such dedicated people in the village.

Multi-Use Games Area

After what has seemed to be an endless series of bureaucratic obstacles, the application for the MUGA on the Recreation Ground has finally reached the planning authority. Our thanks go to Councillor Linda King for steering this project which now appears to be edging closer to fruition.

Cemetery Topple-Testing

The Council has a duty to ensure that the cemetery and the memorials within it are kept in good order and to ensure the safety of visitors. Recent testing revealed that several headstones are in a dangerous condition and need maintenance, ideally by the burial right owners. Unfortunately, past recording of the burial rights is incomplete, and the office has been unable to contact

many of the owners. Notices will be placed on the affected memorials and if nobody comes forward then the headstones will be laid flat within the grave space.

Christmas

A tree and new lights have been purchased and should be installed on the Green by the time you receive this *Willingham News*.

Councillor Resignation

We would like to thank Maedee Rogers for her participation and contribution to the Parish Council. Sadly she has resigned and we are waiting to hear from South Cambridgeshire District Council whether we can co-opt a new Councillor.

Contact Details

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

Council meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month. Agendas are published on the website and the notice board outside the Public Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak briefly or ask questions (see agendas for further details).

Next meeting date: **6 December**.

The meetings are held in the Octagon and they start at 7 30 pm.

Council Office Details

Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham, CB24 5LP

Tel: 01954 261027

Email clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Clerk: Mrs Mandy Powell

D Law	Parish Council Chairman	cllr.law@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 202188
P King	Parish Council Vice Chair	cllr.pking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 260780
B Todd	Planning Chair	cllr.todd@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07956 993603
L King	Leisure & Amenities- Lead Cllr	cllr.lking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 260780
B Mansfield	Cemetery – Lead Cllr	cllr.mansfield@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 261540
J Watson	Green & Boundary – Lead Cllr	cllr.watson@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 200245
M Gibbs	Halls – Lead Cllr	cllr.gibbs@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07407 025070




Renovations and Extensions Loft Conversions Kitchens and Bathrooms Design and Installation

01223 737900

enquiries@phoenixdesignandrenovations.co.uk

If you are looking to undertake any building work from general home renovations to kitchen installations or even looking to build a new home, we offer a complete service. Comprehensive quotations, clear project management and timelines, clear communication, design help and implementation, delivered by an experienced team. Call or email for a quote or general advice.



L.C Electrical Contractors Ltd





Our dedicated, friendly team offer a comprehensive range of electrical services from domestic repairs, installs and rewires to Commercial installations, maintenance and upgrades.

Our services include, but are not limited to:

- Solar PV & Battery Installers
- Specialists in wiring Heating Systems and fault finding
- Domestic and Commercial Work
- CCTV
- New Installations
- Periodic Inspections / EICR
- Re-wiring
- Fire Alarm Servicing and Installation
- Electric Car Chargers – OLEV approved installer
- Emergency Lighting, Data and Network
- 24/7 Emergency Call out
- Fault finding and repairs
- Portable Appliance Testing

Please call for honest advice and free quotes from trusted, experienced electricians.

Tel: 01954 261501 | Mob: 07833 133990
lc.electrical@btinternet.com | www.lcelectricaltd.co.uk



Willingham Post Office

15 High Street, Willingham CB24 5ES



01954 260331

Mon – Fri 08:30 – 17:30 Sat 08:30 – 13:00

- All mail services, including special delivery
- Travel Currency – US Dollar and Euro plus others in branch. Fast Travel Currency order service available!
- Travel Money Cards, Travel Insurance and MoneyGram
- Digital Passport Photographs, Passport Check and Send Service
- International Driving Permits and Vehicle Tax
- Phone Top-Ups, Bill payments and Gift Cards for most occasions
- CRB/CQC DBS validation/certification service
- Document Certification Service
- Free Cash withdrawals for most major Banks as well as Cash & Cheque Deposits
- Great range of Greeting Cards, Stationery and Pack & Post Items



WAKEBRO CONSTRUCTION

Carpentry Specialist - New Builds – Extensions – Loft Conversions – Expert Kitchen Fitters – Bespoke Joinery

Your local family run business providing high quality home improvements for over 40 years!

For quotes and enquiries contact Jonathan Wake

07984380221 - wakebroconstruction@hotmail.com

Polly Beaugrand MBACP Integrative Counsellor

I WILL HEAR YOU

Tel: 07737 257453

Email: polly.beaugrand@hotmail.com



PROJECTS BAYA

- ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN ■ TOWN PLANNING ADVICE
- DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY ■ PROJECT MANAGEMENT

 www.baya-group.co.uk  info@baya-group.co.uk  01223 803852

District Councillor Bill Handley's Report

Community Hubs

Last winter, 25 'Warm Hubs' were in operation across South Cambridgeshire in collaboration with Cambridgeshire ACRE. The benefits of these hubs quickly became clear; not only did they allow a warm space for individuals to go to keep warm but also to socialise with a hot drink and a snack. This winter these new facilities have been renamed 'Community Hubs' and 13 are either already operating or will become operational very soon. Grant funding from the ICS has again made this possible and there is sufficient funding for up to 20 hubs.

Flooding Advice

The recent storm, Babet, was a reminder of how vulnerable we are to flooding in the Fen Edge villages, with parts of both Over and Willingham being affected.

SCDC has useful advice on the flooding page of its website ([tinyurl.com/y6pav5c2](https://www.tinyurl.com/y6pav5c2)). There is a useful list of things residents can do in advance under the 'Be prepared for flooding' section.

The number of authorities and companies involved in flood management can be confusing, so the SCDC website has a list which residents can refer to for help. Here is a summary:

- Flooding from a sewer: Anglian Water. 0345 791 9155
- Blocked drain on the road or pavement: Cambridgeshire County Council. [tinyurl.com/8b3wfkca](https://www.tinyurl.com/8b3wfkca)
- Flooding damage at an SCDC property: Housing Services 0800 085 1313

SCDC will help vulnerable residents, such as the elderly, to protect their properties from flooding.

Northstowe Western Park Sports Pavilion

The Western Park Sports Pavilion at Northstowe has been completed and will open very soon. In consultation with the Town Council, SCDC has appointed a management company (Elite Sports) to run the pavilion and the associated sports facilities. As well as changing rooms etc, there is a large clubroom suitable for social functions; more information here: [tinyurl.com/6psyxhdx](https://www.tinyurl.com/6psyxhdx). SCDC staff are in communication with the leadership of Willingham Wolves to ensure that they are made aware in a timely way of the opportunities that will soon be available.

Bill Handley

01954 200287 (please leave a message) or email cllr.handley@scamb.gov.uk

District Councillor Dan Lentell's Report

Last month *The Cambridge Independent* revealed that almost £5 million was spent on the now abandoned CONgestion Charge proposals. How many rural bus routes could that money have subsidised? The Greater Cambridge Partnership costs residents hundreds of thousands of pounds

a year in salaries for its top staff as well as external consultants and the GCP is not alone in the rakes' club of spendthrifts. Cambridgeshire has 7+ councils (not including dozens of Parish Councils). This crazy-paving landscape of disjointed local authority comes at a real-world cost paid by residents and our services.

This picture is being played out across the UK with dozens of top-tier councils teetering on the edge of the

bankruptcy precipice over which Birmingham City Council has already plunged. If only our political leaders were as determined to be radical about their overspending as they are in pursuing ideological agendas for personal glory.

South Cambridgeshire District Council's botched four-day week 'trial' is rightly receiving national condemnation as a grotesque waste of money about which there has been no debate and no vote by The People's Representatives. 'If council staff can do the job in four days,' residents are rightly asking, 'why were we paying them for five?'

I am 100% in favour of our society transitioning (where possible) to 4in7 models of working. Life is for living, and what's the point of all this tech if we work longer than medieval serfs? But what is being allowed to happen at South Cambs is nuttier than a squirrel's brunch. Jobs designed, advertised and filled on the basis of traditional 5in7 working are being crazily retrofitted to 4in7 working.

The result is that those staff who were already under the greatest stress are much worse off than before with the added insult that no one at the top is listening. Even the council's leaders can't hide the damage being done. But who cares? It's only other people's money that they are wasting.

Dan Lentell

www.facebook.com/CLlrDan 01954 713000

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Neil Gough's Report

Dear residents,

Here is my update of County Council matters.

Budget Challenges 2024/25

Cambridgeshire County Council's estimated budget gap for 2024/25 has increased from £16 m to more than £23 m — largely due to increases in demand for services and inflationary pressure. Proposals to set the Council's 2024/25 budget will be discussed by councillors in December before a period of scrutiny during January, including an opportunity for residents to comment on the plans.

Cambridgeshire is not alone. The Local Government Association currently predicts that councils across the country face a £4 bn funding gap over the next two years.

Storm Babet

Storm Babet hit Cambridgeshire on Friday 20 October, with flooding affecting roads and residents' homes. County Council highways officers have been working through the various incidents logged, and the Flood & Water team is pulling together an overall picture of events.

We have contacted Anglian Water in connection with a number of incidents in Willingham and Cottenham where the storm water drains have been overwhelmed resulting in foul water backing up into properties. It will be of little comfort to those residents but it is important that contact is made with Anglian Water who will clean up and disinfect the areas.

Supermarket Voucher Scheme

Cambridgeshire County Council will run the supermarket voucher scheme until the February 2024 half term using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions and additional funding provided by the Council. The voucher can be used by those eligible at a choice of ten supermarkets.

Highways

Cambridgeshire's gritting crews have been preparing ahead of the colder months — the salt domes and barns have already been filled with 10,000 tonnes of rock salt.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help the Council grit Cambridgeshire during the winter months is invited to visit the Council's website to find out how they and the local community can get involved: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/help-with-gritting.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your thoughts, views and issues. My mobile is 07919 990299 and email is neilgoughcrw@gmail.com.

Neil Gough

Fuller versions of the reports from Neil Gough and Bill Handley can be found in the Willingham News Extras section of the village website: www.willinghamlife.org.



DJI

DENISE JACKSON INTERIORS

CURTAINS • BLINDS • SOFT FURNISHINGS



I hand sew beautiful bespoke CURTAINS, BLINDS AND SOFT FURNISHINGS that are tailored to your individual needs.

I have a LOVELY RANGE OF FABRICS from leading companies or can make use of fabric you may already have. I also have a range of quality TRACKS AND POLES to supply and fit.

FOR FRIENDLY, HELPFUL ADVICE PLEASE CALL:
01954 200070 • 07910 507514

denise@denisejacksoninteriors.co.uk
3 Long Furlong, Over, Cambridgeshire, CB24 5PG
www.denisejacksoninteriors.co.uk

A.R.Aspinal & Sons Ltd

Tel: 01954 234966 Fax: 01954 234967
Unit 11 Norman Way Ind Est, Over, Cambs, CB24 5QE.
www.araspinal.co.uk

WE STOCK A FANTASTIC RANGE OF NATURAL PAVING PRODUCTS COME AND VISIT OUR NEW DISPLAY AREA.

Bricks Concrete Blocks Lintels Cement Sand
Gravel Hardcore Timber Fixings Footwear
Decorating Supplies Industrial clothing Paving Slabs

Opening times: Mon to Fri 7.30am – 5pm



WE OFFER A FREE LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICE!



STEFAN'S BUILDING
07575 724942

BECAUSE YOUR HOME MATTERS!!

EXTENSIONS PLASTERING
GARAGES BRICKLAYING
CONSERVATORIES GARDEN FENCING
PAINTING DECORATING



@StefanBuilding



STEFANBUILDING1977@GMAIL.COM

WWW.STEFANBUILDINGS.CO.UK



Keep Your House Happy!

PAINTING, DECORATING
TILING, PLUMBING

All General Maintenance

Kitchen & bathroom supply and installation
Company Maintenance Work

No Job Too Small,

Very Competitive Rates

Fully Insured

DBS checked

CALL FOR A FREE PROMPT QUOTATION

MKH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Phone 07808056881 or

Email enq@mkhpropertymaintenance.co.uk

Website

www.mkhpropertymaintenance.co.uk



Posy and Stem

... your friendly independent florist in Willingham

For beautiful flowers, seasonal and locally sourced wherever possible.

Tel: 01954 261519 / 07792 184644 Email: helen@posyandstem.co.uk
www.posyandstem.co.uk



www.bushelboxfarmshop.co.uk

01954 206015

Local Fruit, Vegetables, Eggs, Preserves & more
Open Tues - Fri 10 - 6 and Sat until 4
130 Station Rd Willingham CB24 5HG



ALAN'S CARPETS

Carpets and Vinyl Supplied and Fitted

We have been in the carpet trade for over 471 years

Samples to your home, Measure, Quote
Express delivery and fitting included

Phone 07790 681317

or

07790 544250

SUTTON TREE SERVICES

- HEDGE MAINTENANCE
- TREE REMOVAL, FELLING & REDUCTIONS
- GENERAL PRUNING
- STUMP REMOVAL
- FULLY INSURED
- NPTC QUALIFIED

Please call to discuss your requirements or to arrange a free quote.
Paul Young 07765 223 692 or 01353 775 076



Thought for the Month

St Mary & All Saints Church in Willingham has stood at the heart and as a focal point of our community for many centuries. Generations of ministers and people have come and gone through its doors and the residents of the village have helped to keep the building standing and supported in its role in the community and further afield. There have even been times when villagers would have been fined if they didn't attend church each week – certainly not something we do in 2023!

It costs a great deal of money to keep an historic building like St Mary & All Saints Church working – both in terms of physical building but also for what we offer to the community as a resource – a space to meet, for social activities and for the children in our local schools. We are there for the community in the good and happy times of life such as Christenings and weddings, and also in the sadder times when we celebrate and say a final goodbye to our loved ones at funerals. Our regular services on Sunday and during the week are open to all especially at special occasions such as at Christmas time when there are services for all ages – all are welcome to come along to enjoy this special time of year!

On **Saturday, 2 December** we will be holding one of our regular cake and plant stalls from 10 am to 12 noon. Money raised at this event will go to refurbishing the Octagon Hall – happily increasingly being used by the community – and also as a specific donation to UNICEF for its work in Ukraine and Middle East.

On this occasion, there will also be a chance to give money to support the general running of the church. This will, of course, be entirely voluntary but even a £1 donation means a lot to us.

Do come and join us if you can – if you simply want to purchase some of our highly acclaimed 'goodies', you'll be most welcome. If you are able to donate a little extra to help us keep the church open and functioning, that would be very much appreciated.

Rev Jenny Hill
Interim Team Leader

Photography Club

willinghamphotoclub.org.uk

We are a friendly group of local amateur photographers at all levels of skill, experience and equipment. We meet at the **Baptist Church** every month where we share our photos taken on a given subject, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, and sometimes have talks on various aspects of photography.

The next meeting on **Monday 18 December** at **8 pm** is our

Annual Christmas Quiz

Teams of members' friends and families are welcome!

Membership is £20 for six months. The first month is free for new members. For details, please contact:

derek@ballandia.co.uk

Willingham Gardening Club

At the meeting on 6 November, the Gardening Club was delighted to welcome Judith Large, a volunteer from Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital. Judith educated the club on the dangers facing hedgehogs and the amazing care the hospital provides seven days a week. Judith also shared knowledge on how we can help support hedgehogs in our local area. If you would like to learn more about the hospital and what you can do for hedgehogs and hoglets please visit their website: www.swccharity.org/hedgehog-hospital.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 4 December** when Doreen will demonstrate how to make a decorative Christmas swag from foliage and natural materials. There will also be the opportunity for 20 attendees to make their own swag to display in their home over the festive period (if you wish to make a swag and haven't already signed up, please get in contact with us). We will also have a raffle and festive sweet treats to enjoy at the meeting.

The meeting will take place at the Social Club, with refreshments from 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7 30 pm. New members are always welcome and can sign up for membership now. If you are interested in joining or learning about the benefits of membership, please email: willinghamgardeningclub@gmail.com. Information can also be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WillinghamGardeningClub.

There is an entrance fee of £3 for non-members.

The Willingham Gardening Club committee would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

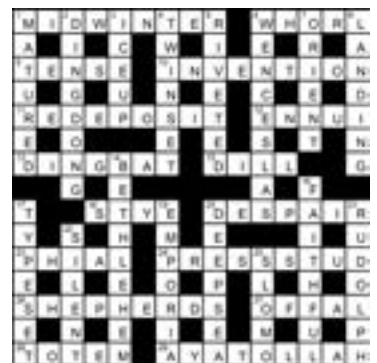
Puzzle Answers

Cryptic Crossword

The missing twelfth was of course Noël.

Book Quiz

1. Charles Dickens
2. Dr Seuss
3. Raymond Briggs
4. James Herriot
5. Stella Gibbons
6. Agatha Christie
7. Judith Kerr
8. Janet and Allan Ahlberg
9. James Bowen
10. Clement Clarke Moore



Wordsearch



Cambs Oven Cleaning

Revive Your Oven,

Contact Adam Morley on 07584 684853

Facebook@cambsovencleaning

WILLFLOWER FLORISTS

134 Rampton Road

WILLINGHAM

Tel: 01954 260 831

Fresh Cut Flowers, Bouquets, Wreaths,
Wedding Flowers and Arrangements



EDGAR FARRELL

— CONSTRUCTION —

WWW.EDGARFARRELL.CO.UK

NEW BUILDS/ EXTENSIONS/ CONVERSIONS
BATHROOM & KITCHEN FITTING

EDGARFARRELL2@YAHOO.CO.UK 07919800895

Ward Solutions Ltd

We specialise in the installation of flue lining systems, wood burners and fireplaces. 15 years experience.

We can supply you with a stove or install one supplied by you.

Other services include- chimney re pointing, smoke tests, And fitting pots and cowl.

HETAS registered

Call or email for a free survey

01954 200 021

info@wardsolutions.co.uk



ACA Heating & Plumbing

46 Church St
Willingham
Cambridge
CB24 5HT

Gas and oil boiler servicing, breakdowns
Boiler upgrades and heating installations
Bathroom and Wetroom installations
Un-vented cylinder installations/servicing
All types of plumbing and heating
works undertaken
Local friendly services with over
14 years experience



Andrew Leahy mobile: 07833 204499
Email: andy@acaplumbing.co.uk
www.acaplumbing.co.uk



Is indigestion making
you miserable?

Are you living with
chronic illness or pain?

Too anxious to do the
things you love?

Discover how the support and expertise of a fully-qualified Five Element acupuncturist can transform your outlook. Acupuncture is relaxing and gentle, helping you cope better with a wide range of health challenges, including emotional and mental wellbeing, digestion, menopause, reproductive health, skin conditions and musculoskeletal pain.

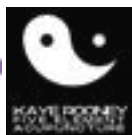
Phone or email today
for your FREE 20-
minute consultation
with Willingham
acupuncturist
Kaye Rooney
Lic. Ac., B.A Hons.
MBAcC

Five Element Acupuncture
diagnoses the root cause
calms your nervous system
relaxes tense muscles
rebalances your body
nourishes body, mind & soul

07593 058748

kayeekr-acupuncture.com

kr-acupuncture.com



AJ DESIGN & BUILD

AJ Carpentry

Domestic & Commercial Carpentry & Building Services



Your local, family run business specialising in
transforming project dreams into reality!

Extensions – Refurbishments – Conversions –
Kitchens – Flooring – Electrical work – Bespoke
furniture - AND SO MUCH MORE!

07989 341724



01954 202267

www.ajcarpentry.co.uk

WHAT'S ON

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	EXTRA INFO
Fri 1 Dec	Family History Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p8
Fri 1 Dec	Games Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p8
Fri 1 Dec	Big Light Switch On & Parade	Baptist Church	From 41 High Street	4 45 pm, see p12
Sat 2 Dec	Cake & Plant Stalls	Parish Church	Parish Church	10 am – 12 noon, see p19
Sat 2 Dec	Gift Day & Christmas Sale	Friends of Willingham Church	Parish Church	10 am - 12 noon, see p14
Sat 2 Dec	Second-hand Book Sale	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am - 12 noon, see p8
Sun 3 Dec	Tailgate Ramblers Christmas Jazzband	Jazz Club	Social Club	12 30 – 3 30 pm, see p7
Mon 4 Dec	<i>Making a Decorative Christmas Swag</i> with Doreen	Gardening Club	Social Club	Doors open from 7 pm, see p19
Tue 5 Dec	Poetry and Prose: <i>Christmas Bits & Bobs</i>	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	7 30 pm, see p8
Wed 6 Dec	<i>Furoshiki: The Japanese Art of Wrapping</i>	Engage in the Afternoon	Library	2 – 3 30 pm, see p8
Wed 6 Dec	Carers' Support Meeting	Surgery	Surgery	2 – 4 pm, see p11
Wed 6 Dec	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	3 30 – 4 45 pm, see p8
Wed 6 Dec	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p15
Fri 8 Dec	<i>Willingham News</i> Deadline	<i>Willingham News</i>		See p3, articles to be sent to: willinghamnews@gmail.com
Sat 9 Dec	Memory Box Café	Parish Church	Octagon	10 am – 12 noon, see p10
Mon 11 Dec	Christmas Party	Women's Institute	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p6
Tue 12 Dec	Digital Buddy Drop-in Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 30 pm, see p8
Tue/Sat 12/16 Dec	Panto – Treasure Island	Over Players	Over Community Centre	See p5
Thu 14 Dec	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	Booking essential, see p14
Sat 16 Dec	Christmas Special Breakfast	Men's Breakfast	Baptist Church	8 am, see p5
Sat 16 Dec	Christmas Peal Bell Ringing	Parish Church	Parish Church	10 am, see p14
Sat 16 Dec	Come and Carol	Swavesey Community Choir	St Andrew's Church, Swavesey	7 30 pm, see p17
Sun 17 Dec	Stall	Rosie in Stitches	Waterbeach Community Market	11 am – 3 pm
Mon 18 Dec	Annual Christmas Quiz	Photography Club	Baptist Church	8 – 10 pm, see p19
Wed 20 Dec	Knit & Natter Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p8
Sun 31 Dec	New Year's Eve Party	Social Club	Social Club	www.willinghamsocialclub.com

JASON KIRBY

Professional Painting
& Decorating Ltd

A Professional Service
from Start to Finish

Tel: 01954 211775

www.jasonkirbyltd.co.uk



MA
Hair Studio
Hairdressers

Our salon offers all aspects of
hairdressing including wedding hair
with a personal touch. We can come
to you on your special day.

Tel: 01954 260224

38 Church Street, Willingham, CB24 5HT.



Home & Garden Handyman Services

- ❖ QUALITY, insured workmanship at very competitive pricing.
- ❖ Internal and external works undertaken. No job is too small.
- ❖ Experience with vulnerable people.
- ❖ ENHANCED DBS security checked.
- ❖ Discount schemes offered.

Reliable.

Honest.

Local.

Friendly

M: 07562 212056 T: 01487 842968

E: hello@epshomeworks.co.uk

W: epshomeworks.co.uk

English Rose
BEAUTY HOUSE

BEAUTY • SPA TREATMENTS • RELAXATION

Specialists in Shellac Nails, Bio Sculpture Nails, Manicures & Pedicures, Spray Tanning, Hair Removal, Eyelash Extensions, Facials, HD Brows, Waxing, Tinting, Make-up and Massage.

16 Berrycroft, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5JX
Tel: 01954 261176 Email: info@englishrosebeautyhouse.co.uk
www.englishrosebeautyhouse.co.uk



DOWN TO EARTH
ELECTRICAL LTD

info@down2electrics.co.uk
07709 084618



DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

A Willingham based company offering full electrical services.

- Electrical Installation & Design Services.
- Periodic Testing & Inspection EICR/Landlord/PAT
- Fault Investigation & Diagnosis
- Maintenance & Rectification Services

www.down2electrics.co.uk

[f](https://www.facebook.com/Down2Electrics) [i](https://www.instagram.com/Down2Electrics) @Down2Electrics

O'MALLEY SOLICITORS

Family Law Specialists

Divorce • Matrimonial Property & Finances • Co-habitation
Disputes Children Matters • Prenuptial Agreements.

With over 16 years' experience, we take a sympathetic and
sensitive approach to Marriage and Family breakdowns.

Contact us on 01954 202075.

O'MALLEY SOLICITORS

84 Rampton Road, Willingham, Cambridge, CB24 5JQ
Tel: 01954 202075 E-mail: omalley solicitors@googlemail.com
Authorised and Regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority
SRA No: 318339

Kirsty Cornwell Coaching
NLP Practitioner, Ollie Coach and Hypnotherapist

Helping children and adults to manage their emotions
Contact for services and appointments available

www.kirstycornwellcoaching.co.uk

The Coaching Cabin, 59 Church Street, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5HT

Mobile: 07990610517

Email: kirstycornwell5@gmail.com



VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Council and Community	Parish Council		01954 261027
	County Councillor	Neil Gough	07919 990299 / neilgoughcrw@gmail.com
	District Councillor	Bill Handley	01954 200287 / cllr.handley@scambs.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Dan Lentell	01954 713000 / cllr.lentell@scambs.gov.uk
	Willingham Community Planning Group		07529 221954 / communityplanning@willinghamlife.org
Services	Surgery		01954 260230
	Dispensary for repeat prescription requests		01954 207602
	Library		0345 045 5225
	Pharmacy		01954 261787
	Over Surgery		01954 231550
	Urgent Care Cambridgeshire		111
	Community Warden	Joanne Twinn	wardens@ageukcap.org.uk 07812 496002
Schools	Patient Participation Group	Chris Thornhill	07529 221954 / crthornhill@gmail.com
	Primary School	Mr Dave Morel	01954 283030
	Willingham Out Of School Club (3–6 pm only)	Mrs M Lenk	01954 283033
	School Governors Chairperson	Chris Shaw	chair@willingham.cambs.sch.uk
	School Association	c/o school	01954 283030
Children	British School Trust	Ray Croucher	01954 261113
	Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Matt Haigh	adventure@1stwillinghamscoutgroup.org.uk
	Honeypot Pre-School (term-time only)	Mrs Kate Van Dort	01954 201567
	Koala Kidz, Children's Day Nursery	Mrs Edith Jeffrey	01954 260046
	Brownies, Guides and Rangers	Lynn McGoff	willinghamguides@hotmail.co.uk
	First Steps	Vicky Page	vickypage85@gmail.com
	TOPS (Baptist Church Toddlers Group)	Debbie Allen	01954 261581
Halls	Little Rainbows Baby & Toddler Group	Tiko Pending	tmwale31@gmail.com
	Ploughman Hall Bookings	through Parish Council	01954 261027
	Wilford Furlong Centre		01954 261445
	The Octagon		admin@5folds.org.uk
	Baptist Bookings and Rentals	Jenny Ambrose	secretary@willinghambaptist.org
	Willingham Social Club Bookings	Lynne Sadler	01954 260557 / willinghamsocialclub@gmail.com
	Willingham Youth Centre bookings		enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org
Local Representatives	Allotments	Sue Ayling	01954 260718
	Billavincea Lodge 8719	Mr M Scrivener	01480 413533
	Fen Edge Community Association	Eileen Wilson	chair@fenedge.co.uk
	Over & District Royal British Legion	Jane Matthews	07983 630265 / overanddistrictrbl@yahoo.com
	OWLS Community Car Scheme	Lorraine Hunt	07505 254363
	Willingham Action Group (WAG)	Paul Knighton	07787 530394
	Willingham Combined Charities	Lynn McGoff	clerk@willinghamcombinedcharity.org.uk
	Willingham RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser	Graham Atherton	01954 260331
	Willingham Bee Group Chairman	Steve Smith	07795 215071
Clubs	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)		willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com
	Willingham Carpet Bowls Club	David Young	01954 200561 / orchardist44@ntlworld.com
	Willingham Gardening Club		willinghamgardeningclub@gmail.com
	Willingham Men's Breakfast	Pete Sacré	01954 261655/whammensbrek@gmail.com
	Willingham Social Club	Lynne Sadler	01954 260557 / willinghamsocialclub@gmail.com
	Willingham Jam Club	Julian Eales	01954 201818
	Willingham Photography Club		derek@ballandia.co.uk
	Willingham Running Club	Monica Garcia	gcompass.monica@gmail.com
	Willingham Youth Club	Jack Stinton	enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org
	Women's Institute	Wendy Law	01954 202188
Sport	Angling	Colin Dodd	07773 719330
	Badminton	Emma Byrom	01954 202481
	Bowls Club	Mark Chapman (Sec)	mark.chapmanwbc@gmail.com
			Willinghambowlsclubsec@gmail.com
	Cricket Club	Mr R Ambrose	01954 610113
	Cycling Club – www.willinghamwheels.com	Nigel Leaney	nigel.leaney@outlook.com, 07979 518200
	Table Tennis Club	Pauline Hart	paulinetabletennis@gmail.com 01954770576
	Tennis Club	John Graham	01954 231968
	Willingham Diamonds Netball Club	Emma Byrom	01954 202481
	Willingham Sports Pavilion	through Parish Council	01954 261027
	Willingham Wolves (Boys & Girls Football)	Jamie Smith (Sec)	01954 261141
Churches	Mothers' Union	Mrs Sue Hayden	01954 260363
	Baptist Church	Jenny Ambrose	secretary@willinghambaptist.org
	Methodists (Ministerial Contact)	Rev Simon Oliver	07554 202929
	Roman Catholic Priest	Rev Thomas J Walton	01480 462192
	Parish Church	Rev Jenny Hill	07970 949331 jenny@5folds.org.uk

TYLERS
A PASSION FOR HOMES

Tylers Willingham ~ 1989 Tylers Willingham ~ 2023:



A lot has changed since 1989, but Tylers commitment to selling and letting Willingham homes has stayed constant

For an instant online valuation of your property scan this QR code



Alternatively call, email or pop in for a chat

01954 260952 **hello@tylers.net**

Vintage travel

ESTABLISHED 1990

Your Local Travel Company



HANDPICKED VILLAS WITH POOLS

A selection of beautiful individual villas & houses with pools in tranquil settings & areas of traditional local culture.

Call for a brochure or to speak to one of our specialists **01954 261431** or visit our website **vintagettravel.co.uk**

GREECE • SPAIN • LANZAROTE • BALEARICS • PORTUGAL
TURKEY • FRANCE • ITALY • CROATIA • CYPRUS

 **ABTA**
ABTA No V5643

Paying too much tax?
Paperwork a burden?
Accounts fee expensive?
Like a business review?

At Thompson Taraz Rand we understand your business and tax needs and provide a range of services to meet your requirements, including:

- Accounts Preparation
- Self Assessment
- Taxation Advice
- Business Start-ups
- Business Planning
- Payroll Services
- Online Accounting




Thompson Taraz Rand
Chartered Accountants | Business Advisers

36a Church St, Willingham
Cambridge CB24 5HT



01954 263000
info@thompsontarazrand.co.uk
www.thompsontarazrand.co.uk



SPECIALISING IN THE SALE OF HOMES IN WILLINGHAM AND THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES

HOCKEYS
ESTABLISHED 1885