

Willingham News



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February 2024

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

Bin Collections – Fridays

Friday 2 February	Black
Friday 9 February	Blue and Green
Friday 16 February	Black
Friday 23 February	Blue

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.

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Old Willingham



A short way down Station Road from the traffic lights we find a general store on the east side. It is the 1970s and Heinz Baked Beans are 7p per can and a jar of marmalade 12 ½ p. This shop was popular judging from the number of bikes but it was, even then, being demolished. The shop was owned by a Mr Budd who, brick by brick, dismantled the house and built a new house on the land behind using the materials. You can see a stack of slates on the right. The new house is still there today but you would never know this story!

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 every Monday morning from 10 am to 1 pm.

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

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 offer more at the Community Hub, including homemade soup and warm snacks like beans on toast!

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.

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

Willingham Memory Box Café

Invites people living with memory loss (from any cause) and their carers to

Come and join us for

Music, Company, Chat, Refreshments, and Fun

On

Saturday February 10

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

Nature's Names

There are fewer theories, it seems, about the origin of the name of Britain's favourite bird, the robin, than many of nature's names. That's because *robin* is just a nickname that has stuck. For centuries it was more likely to be formally known as a *redbreast* or a *ruddock*, words which refer to its plumage. There's consensus that *Robin*, as a diminutive of the French name *Robert*, previously the Germanic *Hrodebert*, was introduced to Britain by Norman invaders and then used, when referring to the bird, as a familiar, poetic name.

The official name *redbreast* first appeared in print around the 15th century and was commonly used for the next 400 years and more; ornithological texts as recently as 1952 listed the species as that name. Which raises the question — the bird's breast is more orange, so why is it called red? The answer is that the word *orange* as a colour didn't exist until 1557, originally from the Sanskrit *nāranga*.

It was traditionally believed that St Valentine's Day was the time that resident wild birds begin to pair up. Of course, it's more complex than that, and the robin is a bird that is likely to melodically and mercilessly stake its territory and find a mate weeks before then — the likelihood of a robin dying in the first year is high, so they have no time to waste!

Many species of bird around the world are called robins but aren't related — some, like the American robin, are actually in the thrush family. They were only called robins by British explorers over the centuries because of their colourful bellies. Michael Jackson's 1972 hit *Rockin' Robin* might not have had the same success if it had been called *Rockin' Thrush*!

John Lawrence

Advertising Coordinator Vacancy

We are looking for a new Advertising Coordinator for *Willingham News*. Our current coordinator, Nigel Ayling, is stepping down after eight years in the post but is very happy to provide initial help and support to a new volunteer and to transfer the database, forms and artwork files. Renewals are due in October of each year so most of the work is already set up now for this year. The bulk of the work is from mid-October to mid-December with the odd enquiry and requests for single issue adverts throughout the year.

The work entails:

- Making contact with the advertisers at the start of a new financial year (most of our advertisers pay in advance for a year's advertising) and sending out payment reminders.
- Dealing with enquiries from new potential advertisers. An information sheet and application form is available to send out.
- Maintain a database of advertisers.
- Liaising with the typesetter regarding any new advertising/one off advertisements and artwork.
- Update prices as agreed with the management committee.
- Send out renewal notices around the middle of October and liaise with the treasurer to check for payments and chase up if necessary.
- Send out invoices when required.
- Attend two management meetings per year to report back on the advertising situation.

The post is a voluntary one as are all the editorial posts. We like to think of ourselves as a friendly, welcoming, encouraging group and really hope that among our readers there is someone who would be interested in taking on the role. It would need to be someone who has computer skills. We would love to hear from you, email willinghamnews@gmail.com.

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 to a given subject, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, and sometimes give talks on various aspects of photography.

The next meeting is **Monday 19 February at 8 pm** and the assignment is:

Locks

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

Willingham Women's Institute



Our next meeting is on **Monday 12 February** and our speaker will be Kate Osborne from Beach Bonkers speaking about *Suffolk Shingle: Tales of Treasure and Trash*. There will be jewellery for sale after the talk.

At our Christmas party we were entertained by Lindsey Barrett, a 'Burlesque Bombshell'. After a grand entrance in her gorgeous red and black sexy burlesque costume, Lindsey introduced herself as Miss Cherry Bombe from Essex. With her wonderful sense of humour and cheeky references, she had us laughing throughout the show. In her other life she is a WI President and Denman sign language tutor and started burlesque classes ten years ago to make friends. On joining a big newly formed WI in Chelmsford she was soon organising two burlesque subgroups of ladies with ages ranging from 33 to 85! The shows that they have put on, including one in the cathedral, have raised considerable amounts of money for charity. Lindsey told us some of the history of burlesque, the Italian word for parody, from Shakespearean times to the present and the links it has with vaudeville. Her programme included *Patricia the Stripper* by Chris de Burgh (but only her gloves and jacket came off), a Santa costume dance and a Hawaiian



themed dance to *Mele Kalikimaka* by Bette Midler. After a bit of practice and a lot of encouragement, but no suspenders or corsets on show, most of us had a go. It was hilarious and helped make the evening 'the best Christmas Party we have ever had'.

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 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.

Engage in the Afternoon, Wednesday 7 February, 2 – 3 30 pm, *History of the Eco Movement*

Mary Burgess, our Local Studies Librarian, will be talking about the history of the Eco Movement, from the impact of draining the fens through to allotments and the wholefood movement. Hear about the various ways people have had an impact on the environment. Refreshments available, donations welcome.

Family Lego Club, Wednesday 7 February, 3 45 – 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. Suitable for ages four and over. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Digital Buddy Drop-in Session, Tuesday 13 February, 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!

Half Term Fun with The Dogs Trust, Wednesday 21 February, 10 - 11 30 am

For children aged seven to 11 (plus an adult). A free, fun family workshop with Darcy from the Dogs Trust to learn about safe behaviour around dogs and being responsible around our four-pawed friends! To book a place please email BarHill.Referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. Please note that there will be no real dogs in attendance.

Author Visit with Jo Browning Wroe, Wednesday 21 February, 2 – 3 30 pm

Jo Browning Wroe discusses how she came to write her bestseller, *A Terrible Kindness*, the emotional story of a young volunteer at the 1966 disaster at Aberfan. Tickets £2 available from the library or email BarHillreferral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to book a place.

Friends of Willingham Library

Contact willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com for further information or queries.

Games Afternoon, Friday 2 February, 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, donations welcomed.

Second-hand Book Sale, Saturday 3 February, 10 30 am – 12 noon

Come and see our excellent selection of second-hand books on sale for all the family at the bargain price of 50p each or three for £1.

Knit and Natter Afternoon

Sorry but there will be no session this month as there is an author visit with Jo Browning Wroe in the library on that day (**Wednesday 21 February**, see author visit).

Family History Session, Friday 2 February, 10 30 am – 12 noon

The library computers will be available for research on Ancestry, Find My Past (access to these are free of charge in the library) and other ancestry sites with someone on hand to offer assistance or advice if needed. To attend or find out more, please contact us at willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

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.

Swavesey Camera Club Annual Photographic Exhibition

Saturday 23 March

From 10 am to 4 pm at Swavesey Memorial Hall

Swavesey Camera Club is back on **23 March** for our Annual Photographic Exhibition. This event is one of our major opportunities to demonstrate our photographic skills to the public. Visit us and vote for your favourite image. In addition to the beautiful prints on display, there will be a continuous display of projected images and AV presentations. Some of the images will be available as greetings cards with all the proceeds from the card sales going to Over Day Centre. Coffee, excellent cake and other refreshments will be available all day.

Visit our website www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk where you can find further details about our club and the exhibition. On the website you will also be able to see an online version of the exhibition.

(Our exhibition is kindly sponsored by Ash Croft Veterinary Surgery and Tait Financial Services Ltd.)



WILLINGHAM SURGERY & LONGSTANTON BRANCH SURGERY

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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.

Online Consultations Using Patient Triage

This is a great way for you to contact our Practice for non-urgent medical or administration requests. You can request results, sick notes, medical advice and order repeat prescriptions. It is a very simple form to fill in online and submit straight to the GP. You can access the new patient form via the NHS app or from our website, where the link is available on our home page. If you do not have access to the internet or find it difficult to use a computer or smartphone you can call reception instead and they will complete the triage form on your behalf.

Although the character count is limited on the form, please try to give as much specific and concise information as possible. Also, please bear in mind that, so as not to overwhelm the GP, there is a daily cap so we would ask that you only send one request per patient per day.

Please note – The Practice will respond to your enquiry within two working days. If you need urgent assistance for an acute problem, please continue to call our reception team for an on the day appointment. Continue to use 111 for medical help when we are closed, or 999 for a life-threatening condition.

Thank You

The Partners and Staff would like to send a huge thank you to the family of the late John Bevan for the very kind donation that was made for the Practice Equipment fund. It is very kind of patients and their families to think of the Practice and we are sincerely grateful. This money allows us to update equipment for the Surgery for the benefit of all patients, so once again we send our thanks for supporting us.

Car Parking at the Medical Practice

May we politely remind the wider community that the car park at the Medical Practice is privately owned and is for the use of our patients and staff only. We respectfully ask that it is not used for the school drop-off/collection as this means that our patients, some of whom are feeling very unwell or have serious health issues, are unable to park. It also causes issues with everyone's safety when the car park is unnecessarily busy.

Private Work

The Practice is not able to provide fit to race statements for sporting events as the GPs are not qualified sports medicine doctors and not indemnified to provide these. If you need this, please contact a private GP with expertise in this area or a sports medicine doctor.

GPs will complete insurance documents, however they

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

are not covered under the NHS contract. As a result, the GP needs to prioritise their clinical work and therefore these types of requests may take a while so please allow a minimum of 28 days and be aware that charges may apply.

Carers' Meeting

If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, come along to our carers' support meeting on **Wednesday 7 February** at the 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! Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month and for more information please contact susan.lawson7@nhs.net.

Willingham Medical Practice

READER'S LETTER

Dear Neighbours,

A huge THANK YOU to all the people who donated to camRARE for the advent windows and our Christmas lights. We have just been told that the charity has received over £600 from our generous villagers. We were especially touched by the small piles of coins that would have been a child's pocket money. The anonymous cards and the Pocket Hug are all very much appreciated and makes our efforts worthwhile. We would like to wish you all a happy new year (despite it being February) and hope that all your wishes will be fulfilled.

Howard and Sue Berry

Sudoku

Solution on page 15.

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

Book Quiz

For the month of February these are books beginning with F. See if you know the authors. Answers on page 15.

1. *Frankenstein*
2. *The Famous Five*
3. *The Fault in our Stars*
4. *A Farewell to Arms*
5. *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*
6. *Fahrenheit 451*
7. *Fifty Shades of Grey*
8. *Five Children and It*
9. *Far from the Madding Crowd*
10. *Fleshmarket Close* (Inspector Rebus)

Christine Lacey

WHiGs Inquire

The History group, WHiGS meet on the last Monday of the month at the Social Club

This month our subject is *What did the Romans do for Willingham?*

There have been plenty of Roman finds in and around Willingham.

Willingham was a major salt production centre. Belsars Hill could have been important during the Boudican rebellion.

To find out more, please join us at the Social Club on **Monday 26 February at 7 30 pm.**

£4 on the door to cover the cost the room.

For more information please email Steve Moore at whigsinquire@gmail.com.



Young Readers' Corner

This Year is a Leap Year

Every four years an extra day is added to February to keep the calendar aligned with the earth's revolutions around the sun. It takes 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds for the earth to travel around the sun so every fourth year an extra day is added to February. This means that people born on **29 February** only get to celebrate their actual birthday every four years!

Years which can be divided by four but not by 100 are called leap years. Leap day babies are called leapers or leaplings and there is a one in 1,461 chance of being a leap day baby! These people usually have to decide whether to celebrate their birthday on either **28 February**, a day early or a day later on **1 March**.

I wonder how many of our readers, young or not so young were born on **29 February**? If you are a 'leaper' please let us know. The fictional character *Superman* is one!

We associate frogs with leaping. Here is one to colour in.

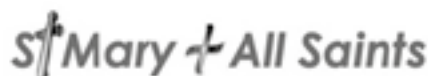


Leap Frog used to be a popular playground activity when your grandparents were at school. I wonder if it still is? You will be at school on **29 February**. Why not revive the activity and ask the teachers or parents to send in some photos?

Leap Day Joke

What do athletes wear on Leap Day?
Jumpsuits!

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN WILLINGHAM



CHURCH STREET, WILLINGHAM
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13834

Services in Church

4 February	11 00 am	Holy Communion
11 February	11 00 am	Morning Prayer
14 February	7 30 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
18 February	11 00 am	Morning Prayer
25 February	11 00 am	Holy Communion

Team Clergy

Rev Jenny Hill has been Licenced as Interim Team Leader following on from the resignation of Rev Simon Gill on health grounds in December.

Prayers for Ukraine and Peace in the World

We continue to keep an area set aside in Church for those who wish to spend some quiet reflective time to pray for Ukraine and its people during daytime Church opening hours. 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.

Memory Box Café

Our next Memory Box Café will be on **Saturday 10 February** from 10 am in The Octagon with music, refreshments, laughter and fun. Everyone living with memory loss (or similar conditions) and their carers and family are welcome.

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

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.

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.



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

Minister: Rev. Kwaku Efah

Activities for February

Sunday Morning Services – 10 am

4, 11, 18 and 25 February

Relaxed and contemporary service with songs, prayers and teaching.

All welcome at any stage of faith.

In February we will be studying the gospel of Luke.

EVENTS

Coffee Morning and Warm Hub

Open Door for coffee and chat 10 – 11 30 am

Warm Hub – company, games and snacks – 11 30 am – 2 pm

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 17 February, 7 45 – 9 am

Hearty cooked breakfast with chat and talk – People from biblical times – *Money Lender* with Josh Monteiro.

Men's Breakfast Club Talks for 2024 We have a fully booked line-up of local Cambridgeshire speakers this year on skills/jobs/professions linking the ancient biblical with 21st Century. See opposite page for full diary of events for this year. To obtain a free online booklet see details below or contact the Baptist Church on Warm Hub, Coffee Morning or community Lunch or Sunday Services. Breakfast Club is on the third Saturday of the month and usually start at 7 45 am at the Baptist Church. Breakfast is 45 minutes followed by the talk, questions, discussion, notices and a prayer.

Community Lunch Club: Thursday 8 and 22 February.

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.

Thought for the Month

This year is a leap year, so February has 29 days. Consequently we have an extra 24 hours at our disposal this February in comparison with the previous three years. Just think how many of those tasks waiting to be ticked off on your 'to do' list might be accomplished over a 24-hour period, taking a bit of pressure off you perhaps. Many of us never seem to have enough time in our busy lives.

Of course, the pattern of months, weeks, days, hours, minutes adopted around the world is simply a way to measure time as accurately as necessary for daily human life. 29 February isn't an additional chunk of time, just the adjustment needed every four years to preserve the calendar and balance our sense of the seasons.

Time cannot be increased or decreased. It is constantly available to every one of us, to be filled by work, rest or play. Problems arise if we try to fit too many tasks into the time available and then fail to complete them. Then again, we speak about 'wasting time', when we procrastinate, or use our time in fruitless or negative ways; but that's very different from spending time in rest and relaxation, which we all need to keep healthy.

Readers as old as me may remember a song by Pete Seeger, made popular by The Byrds in the 1960s, *Turn, Turn, Turn, to Everything There is a Season*. The lyrics are almost identical to words from the Bible (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) which remind us that God gives sufficient time for everything that needs to be done; that everything has a time and a place in life.

The question facing each of us is how to use our time wisely, for our own and others' benefit. How will you spend 29 February, or today, for that matter?

The Revd Dr Janet E Tollington

A retired United Reformed Church Minister

Gardening Club

Our first meeting this year will be held on **Monday 5 February** at the Social Club. We look forward to welcoming guest speaker, Sharka Baxter whose talk, *Forward Looking Gardening*, will cover gardening with nature, changing old habits, sustainable gardening, dig or no dig and wildlife in gardens. The meeting begins at 7 30 pm, with refreshments from 7 pm. Non-members are always welcome and can pay £3 on the door.

We will be having a car sharing trip to Thriplow Daffodil Weekend on **Sunday 17 March**. Tickets are £10. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting or those interested can email willinghamgardeningclub@gmail.com.

A reminder that our meeting on **Monday 4 March** will be our Annual General Meeting. We encourage all members and those interested in joining to attend.

If you are interested in joining or learning about the benefits of membership, please email us. Information can also be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/WillinghamGardeningClub.

Willingham Men's Breakfast 2024 Programme

Talks' Theme – 'Skills'

'Do you see a person skilled in his work? He will stand in the presence of Kings' – Proverbs 22:29 – *The Bible*

'I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go!'

'Live to work or Work to Live'

SKILLS: Ancient and 21st Century

Saturday	Title	Speaker	From
17 February	Accountant	Josh Monteiro	Longstanton
16 March	Tentmaker	Glenn Myers	Cambridge
20 April	Physician	Dr Matthew Hunt	Cottenham
18 May	Apothecary	Jon Edney	Willingham
15 June*	Nobody's Prefect	Dan Lentell	Willingham
*Men and Women's Breakfast Special			
Note 8 30 am start			
20 July	Grower	Richard Blackhurst	Wistow
17 August	Soldier	Peter Sacre	Willingham
21 September	Fisherman	Stephen Leeke	Ely
19 October	Scribe	David Scott	Willingham
16 November	Evangelist	Kwaku Efah	Willingham
14 December	Teacher	Nigel Graham	Warboys

Additional Dates for your Diary

Thursday 22 February 7 pm *Winter Curry Night Warmer*
Royal Bengal, Church Street.

Saturday 20 April Straight after Breakfast Day Trip
to Cophill Roundhouse Railway Centre, Staveley,
Chesterfield.

Saturday 14 September Day Trip to Snape/Orford Ness
including boat trip, seals & wildlife, Cold War nuclear test
sites, and other fun stuff as we join St Martin's Men's
Breakfast group.

Thursday (date to be confirmed) also in **September**
Fish and Chip Supper and Film Night at Baptist Church.

October (date to be decided) *Fish and Chip Supper* and
Film Night – at the Baptist Church.

Additional suggestions always welcome.

Pete Sacré WhatsApp 07758 098150
www.willinghambaptist.org/community
Email: whammensbreakfast@gmail.com
Group email: available on application.

District Councillor Bill Handley's Report

Local Plan Update and 'Cambridge 2040'

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service continues to work on the new Local Plan, an incredibly important planning framework, which is intended to supersede the one delivered belatedly by the previous administration in 2018. Progress has been hampered by matters outside of the councils' control, such as uncertainties relating to water availability.

The government's so-called Cambridge 2040 policy has further complicated matters. Although details of the plans are still very vague, it proposes supercharged development in Greater Cambridge including potentially more than 150,000 new dwellings. Responsibility for the delivery of this growth will be taken from our local planners and transferred to a development corporation which will operate remotely, answering directly to the Secretary of State.

Corporate Peer Challenge

SCDC recently published the conclusions of a Peer Review conducted by the LGA at the council's request. The review panel was made up of elected members and senior officers from other councils. These reviews are voluntary, politically neutral and act as a critical friend, highlighting strengths and suggesting areas for development. The report praised the Council's high levels of engagement with communities, especially related to the Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan and praised its 'Statement of Community involvement'. The review noted the positive working culture within the Council and recognised the improvements made in this respect since the administration took control in 2018. The leadership team and CEO were singled out for special praise.

Most importantly, the report recognised the Council's strong financial position with a balanced budget predicted through to 2024/25 and with reserves of £61M recorded at the end of the last financial year. They identified minimal investment risk and a well-structured and robust investment governance strategy. SCDC is one of very few councils in the country able to show such a positive financial position and, as a result, the council has been able to devote significant resources to deliver cost of living support, green initiatives and positive community outcomes.

Western Park Sports Pavilion, Northstowe

The Western Park Sports Pavilion in Northstowe opens for business soon. The pavilion is impressive, with six Rugby XV changing rooms and a large event/clubroom serving drinks and food. Willingham Wolves FC are keen to use the facilities there.

Bill Handley

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

A fuller version of this report can be found in the Willingham News Extras section of the village website: www.willinghamlife.org.

District Councillor Dan Lentell's Report

Between 31 October and 3 November, the Local Government Association carried out a Corporate Peer Review of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The LGA is the apolitical national membership body for local authorities and works on behalf of its member councils to support, promote, and improve local government. Their report makes for depressing reading.

This was an external review carried out by inspectors (including the Lib Dem leader of Cotswold District Council) who really know what to look for and what they are talking about. The auditors make no fewer than 12 recommendations including: a total overhaul of the council's internal scrutiny and overview processes; a review of the 'robustness' of the data/information provided to us elected representatives to support effective decision-making; a revised business plan which 'sets the context place narrative'.

These findings could not be clearer: South Cambridgeshire's internal democracy is failing to hold senior leaders (elected and unelected) to account. The inspectors say that senior leaders are avoiding proper scrutiny and external engagement with the public and other key stakeholders. They also raised concerns that South Cambridgeshire's administrative structure is too centred on the CEO rather than a broader team of well-supported senior leaders who properly understand the local context in South Cambridgeshire.

In short, the auditors say that South Cambs is adrift and in no way anchored to the council's purpose of tailoring local services to local needs. Although the botched four-day week 'trial' was not examined in their study, it cannot have helped that the council was placed into special measures via a best-value notice from HM Government on the final inspection day. The four-day week ethical omnishambles is the symptom, rather than the cause.

The deafening silence from the senior leaders' spin machine about the report also tells us something. They invited the LGA in, this wasn't a scheduled or mandatory audit. They truly believe their own press releases. They honestly think they are doing a good job. The publication of this report proves what your, not especially humble, correspondent has been saying for months, South Cambs is a mess and things cannot start to get better until my fellow elected councillor types stop pretending otherwise for the sake of their party-political games.

Cllr Dan Lentell, Over & Willingham

01954 713000

Cllr.Lentell@scambs.gov.uk

facebook.com/CllrDan

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Neil Gough's Report

Dear Residents,

The issues of speeding traffic and illegal parking are two of the issues most frequently raised with me by Willingham residents. It is good to see that this year will see the implementation of measures to address both.

Tackling Speeding Traffic

Willingham's 20 mph scheme, proposed by the Parish Council, was selected by the County Council for funding and the detailed design work is progressing well. The details of the scheme will be consulted upon and it should be implemented this year.

The project to introduce physical speed reduction measures along Rampton Road is also progressing following detailed design work. These measures should also be installed this year and should reduce speeding along that road considerably.

Parking Enforcement

New Civil Parking Enforcement powers have now been granted in South Cambridgeshire for the local authority to take over enforcement posts for parking from the police. This follows a long administrative process that culminated in a decision by central Government. Drivers will now be far more likely to receive a fine for parking incorrectly where there are restrictions, such as on single or double yellow lines. A process of ensuring that all restrictions have correct signage and line markings has been undertaken and completed by the County Council. This year will see more effective enforcement of these restrictions.

Winter Vaccinations

Don't forget that flu, COVID-19, and shingles vaccines are now available for eligible groups. Flu and COVID-19 vaccination information at www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations and information about shingles vaccinations at www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/shingles-vaccination/.

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

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.WillinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk

We Are Often Asked – ‘What Does the Parish Council Do for Us?’

Below is a short resume of some of the things which the Council have provided/facilitated over the past 12 months.

Green Spaces

In addition to the Recreation Ground and Play Park, Willingham has three ‘green spaces’ that the Parish Council maintain to provide village recreational facilities, the Orchard, Meadow Road, and Barton Field. We have recently been working with ‘Cambridge Acre’ to develop a wildlife pond at the Meadow Road site. This should mature during this year. A hedgerow was also planted and the site continues to be improved.

Zero Carbon Communities Video

South Cambridgeshire have put together a video championing the work that has been done in the region with regards to biodiversity and reduction of community carbon footprints.

Willingham is included in the video and it can be watched via the link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxR9YIKUp0U.

Sports/Classes

South Cambridgeshire Council has recently finally approved the planning application for a multi-use games area (Tennis and Netball). Persistent work was required to comply with all the necessary criteria for this to be granted. The Council look forward to moving this project forward.

The Ploughman Hall continues to attract regular users for fitness, dance, and many other groups including badminton and table tennis.

Highways Issues.

The Council continued to tackle concerns regarding Highways issues during the past year. We have regular quarterly meetings with ‘Highways’ to liaise and chase up actions. There has been a recent re-organisation of the Highways Team and they have asked that residents report any concerns directly on their ‘portal’, Report a highways fault – Cambridgeshire County Council. It is helpful to include a photo if possible.

We applied for, (but unfortunately were unsuccessful), a Minor Highways bid to have ‘priority chicanes’ on Over Road and Rampton Road.

As part of Northstowe’s 106 monies the County Council are looking to add speed bumps to Rampton Road.

Road marking and signage were added to Station Road to highlight the 30 mph speed limit.

Signage to highlight 30 mph and remind drivers of the school, have also been added.

The Council has helped to facilitate a ‘speed watch’ group in the village.

An application has been made to the County Council for a 20 mph scheme in the village. This is ongoing and the agreed scheme will be published in the press.

The Council continues to deploy speed monitoring signs at key locations around the village to remind drivers to slow down.

Buses

The Council fought hard, along with our County Councillor for a 5A Bus to be provided so that villagers had a link to the Busway. This is only

likely to continue if the service is well used. We would urge parishioners to make use of this service when they can.

Grant Support

Throughout the year the Council have supported a number of groups. These include the Youth Trust, Over Day Care Centre and Willingham Wolves Youth teams with the free use of the Recreation Ground.

The Community Warden scheme in the village is supported by the Council and regular meetings are held with the team.

For residents who require a *Community Lifeline*, the Council provide 14 of these. There is always a waiting list for these.

Defibrillators

The Council now have three defibrillators located at the pavilion, library, and telephone box on the High Street. They have also provided cabinets for the school and Social Club so that theirs can be housed outside for the public to use as well.

Flooding

The Council have an emergency plan to help manage this and other emergencies, along with some emergency equipment. We also have an ongoing commitment to keep challenging Anglian Water and other relevant authorities as appropriate.

Village Parking

Complaints are often received by the Council over instances of bad parking, and parking on double yellow lines. The Parish Council discussed this with their County Council and District Council colleagues and the Greater Cambridge Partnership have taken a civil enforcement route. This has now gone through Parliament and will be implemented during the coming months following the necessary notifications ahead of the scheme. More information can be found here:

[Government approve parking enforcement changes across South Cambridgeshire \(greatercambridge.org.uk\)](http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk).

Contact Details

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

Meetings

Meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 7 30 pm in the Octagon. Agendas are published on the website and the noticeboard outside the Public Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can speak briefly or ask questions. (See agendas for further details.)

Council Office Details

Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham CB24 5LP

Tel 01954 261027

email clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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

Clerk: 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
S Clark	Halls – Lead Cllr	cllr.clark@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07948 830406
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

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Could you Fill This Space?

You may have noticed that this month's magazine has fewer pages than normal! We often find this with the period after Christmas. But if you have an interesting story you wish to share, don't be shy.

Send it in. We would love to hear from you.

Email your article as an attachment to
willinghamnews@gmail.com.

Copy deadline is the 8th of each month.

We are always looking for fresh ideas for the magazine so if you want to get involved, just email us at the above address.

Please note, the editorial team are not roving reporters. We're dependent on you telling us what's going on in our village.

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willinghamlife.org

A contact section is included at the bottom of the page

WHAT'S ON

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	EXTRA INFO
Fri 2 Feb	Family History Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p7
Fri 2 Feb	Games Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p7
Sat 3 Feb	Second-hand Book Sale	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p7
Sun 4 Feb	The Dynamics	Jazz Club	Social Club	12 30 – 3 30 pm Rosie-Val 01954 789670
Mon 5 Feb	<i>Forward Looking Gardening</i> with Sharka Baxter	Gardening Club	Social Club	Doors open from 7 pm See p11
Wed 7 Feb	<i>The History of the Eco Movement</i> with Mary Burgess	Engage in the Afternoon	Library	2 – 3 30 pm, see p7
Wed 7 Feb	Carers' Support Meeting	Surgery	Surgery	2 – 4 pm, see p8
Wed 7 Feb	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	3 45 – 4 45 pm, see p7
Wed 7 Feb	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p13
Thu 8 Feb	<i>Willingham News</i> Deadline	<i>Willingham News</i>		See p3, articles to be sent to: willinghamnews@gmail.com
Thu 8 Feb	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	Booking essential, see p10
Sat 10 Feb	Memory Box Café	Parish Church	Octagon	10 am – 12 noon, see p5
Mon 12 Feb	<i>Suffolk Shingle: Tales of Treasure & Trash</i> with Kate Osborne	Women's Institute	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p6
Tue 13 Feb	Digital Buddy Drop-in Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 30 pm, see p7
Sat 17 Feb	Talk: <i>Money Lender</i> with Josh Monteiro from Longstanton	Men's Breakfast	Baptist Church	7 45 am, see p10 & p11
Mon 19 Feb	Assignment: <i>Locks</i>	Photography Club	Baptist Church	8 – 10 pm, see p6
Wed 21 Feb	Half Term Fun with Darcy from The Dogs Trust	Library	Library	10 – 11 30 am, see p7
Wed 21 Feb	Author Visit with Jo Browning Wroe	Library	Library	2 – 3 30 pm, see p7
Thu 22 Feb	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	Booking essential, see p10
Thu 22 Feb	Winter Curry Night Warmer	Men's Breakfast	Royal Bengal	7 pm, see p11
Mon 26 Feb	<i>What Did the Romans Do For Willingham?</i>	WHiGS	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p9

Sudoku Answer

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

Answers to Book Quiz

1. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
2. Enid Blyton
3. John Green
4. Ernest Hemingway
5. J K Rowling
6. Ray Bradbury
7. E L James
8. E Nesbit
9. Thomas Hardy
10. Ian Rankin

A Reflection

Christmas has quietly slipped away for myself and many others; times past and present, with somewhat confused memories. Challenges to mind, body and spirit all too relevant. I have found an avalanche of these that have been met by an outpouring of kindness, compassion and love. In all our depths, there is love.

Peter Dennis

A Poem for February

Pancakes and Valentine's Day what a perfect two.
Valentine cards and pancakes for me and for you.
February looks towards Spring just a month away.
Whatever you do in February may the sun shine every day.

Christine Lacey

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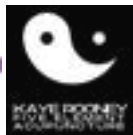
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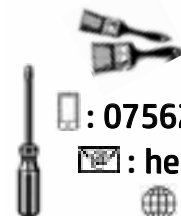


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VILLAGE DIRECTORY

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



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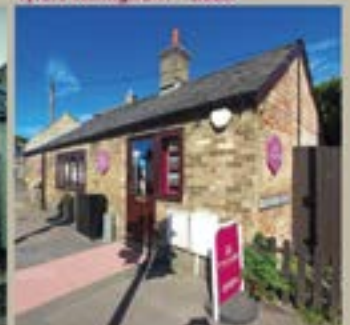
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