

# Willingham News

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[willinghamnews@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamnews@gmail.com)  
January 2025



*Town Crier visits our village! See page 14*

*Saving Willingham News, see page 7'*

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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

<b>Friday 3 January</b>	<b>Black</b>
<b>Friday 10 January</b>	<b>Blue and Green</b>
<b>Friday 17 January</b>	<b>Black</b>
<b>Friday 24 January</b>	<b>Blue</b>
<b>Friday 31 January</b>	<b>Black</b>

*(Dates correct at time of going to press)*

#### Councillors' Contact Details

Councillor reports can be found on their websites

County Councillor

Neil Gough [www.facebook.com/neilmgough](http://www.facebook.com/neilmgough)

District Councillor

Bill Handley [www.facebook.com/billhandleylibdem](http://www.facebook.com/billhandleylibdem)

District Councillor

Dan Lentell [www.facebook.com/CLlrDan](http://www.facebook.com/CLlrDan)

**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](http://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](mailto: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.

#### Cover Photo

Mike Wabe, a visiting Town Crier, making a noise in the Octagon! See page 14.

Photo taken by John Lawrence

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SATURDAY	10:00 - 16:00
SUNDAY	CLOSED

  
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## Willingham Women's Institute



Our next meeting will be on **Monday 13 January** at 7 30 pm in the Social Club. We will be having a discussion evening, about the future of the club after our President stands down in March. If any members would be interested in taking over the role, please contact us at the email below.

In November, Helen Green came to talk to us about *The History of Salt, from Cheshire to the A14*. Salt (sodium chloride) is now found in brine springs, underground lakes, oceans and compressed deposits. Historically, extraction of salt from brine evolved over time, from the small shallow, lead pans used by the Romans, to the huge iron pans used in the 18th century. The principle was the same, to use fire to heat the pans of brine to evaporate the water and then rake up the salt crystals into containers. It was originally used for the preservation of fish and meat, as people couldn't afford to feed their animals through the winter. Later on, salt was used in making soap, tanning leather, glassmaking, bleaching fabric and glazing pottery.

Salt extraction was taken over by bigger firms, working in huge salt houses. It was a very valuable commodity, bringing work and wealth but, unfortunately, pollution to towns such as Nantwich, Droitwich and Northwich.

Salt is a very important constituent of many industrial manufacturing processes such as bleach, paper, rubber, textiles, dyes, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, food processing and road services.

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 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](mailto:willinghamwi28@gmail.com).

### Willingham Memory Box Café wishes everyone a happy and peaceful new year!

We invite people living with memory loss (from any cause) and their carers to join us for  
Music, Refreshments, Company and Fun  
on **Saturday 11 January**  
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

## Old Willingham



Here is a picture sent by Suzanne Michard of her and other children on the dreaded 'Buckaroo' at the play area in 1953. This set of equipment was located on the Recreation Ground between the bowling pavilion and West Fen Road. The play area was every Health and Safety Officer's nightmare. It was on a patch of tarmac, with swings and various dangerous contraptions like this one, and an 'umbrella roundabout' — an inverted cone of metal bars which rotated and swung about wildly while the kids tried to get on without having their teeth knocked out. The 'Buckaroo' swung gently back and forth while Granny was in charge, but it could be worked up to the point where it swung so fast and far that it hit the end-stop and the child in the back seat was likely to be thrown off. In those days all children had scabby knees! The equipment lasted until the late 1990s before removal, but the tarmac square is still there.

If you have stories or memories about this photograph, please contact Jon Edney, 31 High Street, or [oldwill@oldwillingham.com](mailto:oldwill@oldwillingham.com).

See more photos at [www.oldwillingham.com](http://www.oldwillingham.com).

## Willingham Gardening Club

Willingham Gardening Club wishes you joy, happiness and good health for the new year.

A reminder that there will be no meeting in January. Our next meeting will be on **Monday 3 February** when we look forward to welcoming speaker Dr Ian Bedford with his talk *Companion Planting*.

The Gardening Club meets on the first Monday of the month 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](mailto:willinghamgardeningclub@gmail.com). Information can also be found on our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/WillinghamGardeningClub](https://www.facebook.com/WillinghamGardeningClub).

There is an entrance fee of £4 for non-members.

## Community Orchard and the Wassail

**Hedge-Laying** — The Orchard has had a makeover under the guidance of hedge-laying expert Simon Damant. Volunteers paid £20 per session to learn the art and, at the same time, reveal the Orchard to dog walkers on Bumpy Drove. The project was kindly sponsored by Willingham Parish Council to the tune of £400 and funded with generous



*Learning the craft of hedge-laying*  
*Photo courtesy of Nicola Evans*

grants from Fen Edge Community Association and Community Chest (SCDC). The beautifully laid hedge will stand the ravages of time with no more than minimal maintenance required each year. Willingham Action Group / Enviro is using the balance of the monies to

purchase the tools required in order to equip the newly trained volunteers for more of the same, and other maintenance work at the Orchard and QE2 Field. If you are interested in joining the volunteers who help maintain the Orchard, plantation, QE2 Field and other areas of Willingham, please contact [jeremysweet303@aol.com](mailto:jeremysweet303@aol.com).



*The Wassail King and Queen.*  
*Photo courtesy of Julian Eales*

**Wassail** — The next event at the Orchard will be the Wassail on **19 January**. Wassailing is an ancient ceremony that involves singing and drinking a traditional cider punch (called wassail) to the health of trees on twelfth night, in the hopes that they thrive. The purpose of wassailing is to

awaken the cider apple trees and to scare away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in the autumn. The ceremonies of each Wassail vary from village to village, but they generally all have the same core elements: a Wassail King and Queen lead the procession from one tree to the next. This is accompanied by loud banging and raucous singing to awaken the trees. Bread is placed on the boughs of the trees by children as a gift to the tree spirits.

All are welcome at this event on **Sunday 19 January at 11 30 am**. The orchard entrance is on Earith Road by the 30 mph sign. Please bring bread, and instruments for loud noise (eg pots and pans), and provide cups for the freely available cider punch.

## Nimble Fingers Craft Club

Are you interested in knitting, embroidery, patchwork, cross-stitch — or any sort of craftwork? If you have a couple of hours to spare on a Monday afternoon, why not pop along to join our friendly group, to share crafting skills, or to learn a new skill and enjoy the company of fellow crafters. Refreshments are provided. £3 to cover the cost of the hall hire and refreshments.

**Mondays, 2 — 4 pm, Baptist Church**

Contact Daphne on 07919 024857, or just pop along with your craft work and introduce yourself!

## The Name of January

How did January get its name? It's named after Janus, the Roman god, who had two faces, one which looked back at the past, one looking into the future — quite fitting for the first month of the new year.

He was the God of Doors and Gates, so the two faces were probably quite handy when he was on sentry duty. January (and February) were not originally on the ancient Roman calendar, as these wintry weeks were considered as dormant, when nothing much happened. So, until 450 BCE, their calendar year was ten months, and began in March.

## The Octagon Community Hub

The Octagon Community Hub will be closed on **Monday 30 December** but will re-open on **Monday 6 January from 10 am to 12 30 pm** (please note new closing time).

**Hub Hospitality:** Come and join us on Monday mornings in the Octagon, where you will find someone to chat to if you would like some company. We offer free tea, coffee, hot chocolate, cold squash, biscuits; we also serve fresh soup and buttered toast at all sessions.

The Hub is supported with funding from South Cambridgeshire District Council through Cambridgeshire ACRE. The Parish Council and the Co-operative Community Fund have also provided financial help.

We gratefully receive donations of bread from Boswell and Son Bakers in Church Street, and have also received kind gifts of tea, coffee and biscuits from other people in the village. Donations are always appreciated as we make no charge for refreshments.

You will find the Octagon at the rear of the Parish Church. Please follow the footpath to the left of the Church door. We are wheelchair accessible and have a disabled toilet. There are magazines, books, puzzles, games, knitting and colouring to enjoy too. We hope to see you in January!

## Saving Willingham News



Dear Readers

As you may have noticed in this month's magazine, we are running rather light on advertising, as some of our advertisers have decided not to renew for 2025. Many of our regular advertisers have renewed and their continued support is much appreciated, not to say vital, for the future of *Willingham News*. The magazine is run entirely by volunteers but there are still some costs, notably the typesetting and printing, that have to be met in order to produce a copy of *Willingham News* for every household in the village. These costs are covered in the main by advertising but also include a top-up grant from the Parish Council.

In light of the current shortage of advertising for the 2025 editions, the magazine's survival is now in some jeopardy. We will have to begin looking at new ways of raising money or cutting costs. Our preference would be to raise enough money for the magazine to continue in its current form, as that seems to be welcomed by the majority of our readers.

As a first step, therefore, we would like to issue a plea to local businesses to consider advertising for the rest of the year. We believe your business would benefit from exposure in the magazine, but your contribution would also help guarantee the continued appearance of a well-

respected asset to the community. Please take a look at the advertising rates listed below this article and contact our Advertising Coordinator at the address given if you are willing to advertise here.

Secondly, we would welcome donations, no matter how small, from any public-spirited members of the village who would like to see *Willingham News* survive for another year. You may not have any product or service to advertise but you might just feel that receiving 12 issues of the local magazine is worth a small investment. If you wish to contribute, please email us at [willinghamnews@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamnews@gmail.com) heading your email 'Donating to the magazine', and our Finance Coordinator will give you full details of how to donate.

We will take stock of what next steps we should consider as a result of this appeal for help and, if you have some constructive ideas on how we can raise funds or cut costs, we would be delighted to hear from you and will take your suggestions into account. Email us at: [willinghamnews@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamnews@gmail.com) heading your email 'Ideas to save our magazine'. Alternatively, please feel free to drop a letter into the Library with your suggestions. A member of our team will pick these up each week.

All good wishes for the new year.

*The Willingham News team*

### Advertising Rates

Size	Price for 12 issues
1/16 page	£143
1/8 page	£232
1/4 page	£425
1/2 page	£850

To book space contact: [advertising.wnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:advertising.wnews@yahoo.co.uk).

## Willingham British School Trust

The Trustees wish everyone in Willingham, especially its young people and the teachers of our children, a very successful 2025!

At its meeting in October, the Trustees were delighted to fund applications for support from seven young people. Six applicants were starting at university and one was starting an apprenticeship. The funding was described by a successful applicant as 'a big help in funding my time at University'.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be on **24 January**. The Trustees welcome applications for funding from either young people who have recently started a university or further education course and have encountered

unexpected costs associated with their course such as equipment, field trips and reading lists, or representatives of Willingham community groups seeking funds to support activities.

The Trustees are also pleased to consider applications for funding from local schools attended by Willingham's children. For an insight into how the Trust can support local schools, check our Primary School's Newsletter or search online for the Willingham British School Trust.

Applying is easy! For help and advice contact the Trust Secretary (telephone: 07881 521041 / e-mail: [willinghambritishschooltrust@gmail.com](mailto:willinghambritishschooltrust@gmail.com)).

# Willingham Library

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://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](http://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

Sorry, no Engage session this month. We'll be back in February.

## Family Lego Club

**Saturday 11 January, 10 15 – 11 15 am**

Do you love Lego? Then come to the library and enjoy some time building with Lego or Duplo. This activity is suitable for children aged four and over, who must be accompanied by an adult.

These sessions take place on the second Saturday of the month.

## Digital Buddy Drop-in Session

**Tuesday 14 January, 10 30 am – 12 30 pm**

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

## Friends of Willingham Library Events

Contact: [willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com) for further information.

To celebrate the 55th birthday of our Library we will be

holding an event in March. This will be based on 1960s Willingham and, of course, the opening of our library in October 1969. We will have a local history speaker, photographic displays and some birthday cake to share. More details next month.

## Family History Session

**Friday 3 January, 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 at the library) as well as other genealogy sites. A volunteer will be available to offer advice if needed. If you would like to know more, contact us on the above email address.

## Second-hand Book Sale

Sorry, there's no book sale this month, but we will return on **1 February**.

## Games and Social Afternoon

**Wednesday 8 January, 2 – 4 pm**

Come and join us for a relaxed game of Scrabble or one of the other games we have at the library, or bring a favourite game of your own from home to share. Or you're welcome to just sit, chat and enjoy some company and refreshments.

## Knit and Natter

**Wednesday 15 January, 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 available, donations welcome.

## Cambridgeshire Libraries

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](http://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.

# Year-Long Marathon Challenge

David Missen, a resident of Over, along with his running companion Sandie Jardine, have undertaken a formidable challenge — completing a marathon each month for a year. This extraordinary feat, which was completed last month, is aimed at raising £5,000 for MOVE, a charity dedicated to inspiring people to Move Against Cancer.

MOVE works tirelessly to promote the benefits of exercise during and after cancer treatment. Increasing evidence supports the idea that physical activity can have a profound impact on the well-being of cancer patients. Exercise is known to reduce cancer-related fatigue, alleviate stress, depression, anxiety, and help build confidence and self-esteem. David's mission is to raise awareness of these benefits while also contributing vital funds to support MOVE's ongoing work.

David, who has been inspired by MOVE's mission, said,

'The challenge has been tough, but knowing that our efforts are helping people affected by cancer keeps us going. MOVE's work is incredibly important, and we're proud to support them.'

The community rallied behind David and Sandie on their remarkable journey. Supporters can still make a donation via David's JustGiving page, with proceeds going directly to MOVE to help them continue their invaluable work.

Support David by visiting his JustGiving page: [www.justgiving.com/page/david-missen-262](http://www.justgiving.com/page/david-missen-262). Also visit [www.moveagaincancer.org](http://www.moveagaincancer.org).





## Sudoku

Solution on page 19

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

### Quiz — What Comes Fourth?

by Herewill

Answers on page 19

Identify, in each of the sequences, what comes fourth. For example, Wye / Trent / Thames / ? — the answer is Severn, as these are the four longest rivers in the UK, in order of increasing length.

- 1 Help / Rubber Soul / Revolver / ?
- 2 Earth / Venus / Mars / ?
- 3 The Cuckoo's Calling / The Silkworm / Career of Evil / ?
- 4 Casino Royale / Live and Let Die / Moonraker / ?
- 5 Tennant / Smith / Capaldi / ?
- 6 Bassenthwaite / Derwentwater / Ullswater / ?
- 7 Churchill = 5 / Austen = 10 / Turner = 20 / ?
- 8 Norwich / Liverpool Anglican / St Paul's / ?
- 9 Seymour / Cleves / Howard / ?
- 10 2001 Diary / 2004 Edge of Reason / 2016 Baby / ?

## Mystery Photo

There wasn't a *Mystery Photo* for December, but did you spot where the November photograph was taken? It was one of the insets in the pavement by the 'wing' bus stop on the High Street.



Here is this month's mystery photograph of somewhere in the village. As usual, some sneaky editing of the image has taken place. There aren't any prizes, just the satisfaction of a good guess!



## Young Readers' Corner

### Board Games Wordsearch

Answer on page 19

Try and find the names of these 12 board and tabletop games. The words can go forwards, backwards, or diagonally in the grid.

BUCKAROO	CHESS	CLUEDO	KERPLUNK
LIFE	MONOPOLY	MOUSETRAP	OPERATION
PANDEMIC	RISK	SCRABBLE	UNO



### Hummingbird Picture to Colour!

We'll probably never see hummingbirds flying around Willingham, as they are only found wild in the Americas. It's a tiny bird, the smallest variety weighs less than a five pence coin and not much more than a paperclip! They can flap their wings at speed — often around 70 times every second! Their wings are a blur as you watch them. They are the only birds that can fly backwards, and they can hover or a long time as they search out the nectar from plants.

Here is a drawing of a hummingbird for you to colour but first, if you can, find some pictures of them, to see how colourful they are! Then try and copy the colours, or make up your own colour scheme!



# CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN WILLINGHAM

**St Mary & All Saints**

CHURCH STREET, WILLINGHAM  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13834](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13834)

## Services – in Church (except where shown)

<b>5 January</b>	11 00 am	Traditional Service of Morning Prayer, using Book of Common Prayer
	4 00 pm	Family@4 – in the Octagon (see below)
<b>12 January</b>	11 00 am	Morning Praise
<b>19 January</b>	11 00 am	Café Church – in the Octagon
<b>26 January</b>	11 00 am	Holy Communion

## Family@4

'Have You Heard About The Wise Men?' will be our theme at this special service for families. We continue the Christmas story and find out what happened when wise men came to see Jesus. With activities, music, videos and refreshments there is something for all the family in this Service, which lasts about 45 minutes.

## Memory Box Café

Our next Memory Box Café will be on **Saturday 11 January from 10 am** in the Octagon, with music, refreshments, laughter and fun. Everyone living with memory loss or similar conditions, together with their carers and family, is welcome. See page 5 for further details.

## Octagon Community Hub

The Octagon Community Hub is open **every Monday morning from 10 am to 12 30 pm**. Come and join us for great company and free tea, coffee, and biscuits. There are always 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, friendly environment. See page 6 for further details.

## 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 during daytime Church opening hours to pray for Ukraine and its people and for all areas of the world where there is conflict. Also, from **9 January, then every Thursday from 4 to 4 30 pm**, we offer a time to gather to pray for peace in Ukraine, the Middle East and across the world and for an end to conflict. Everyone is 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](mailto:jenny@5folds.org.uk)


### Licensed Lay Minister:

Canon Jan Payne 07780 674563 or  
[jan.payne@northstowe.church](mailto:jan.payne@northstowe.church)

### 5folds Administration Office:

Colin Smith 01954 203459 or [admin@5folds.org.uk](mailto:admin@5folds.org.uk).



George Street, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5LJ  
[www.willinghambaptist.org](http://www.willinghambaptist.org) and 

**Minister: Rev Kwaku Efah**

## ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY

### Sunday Morning Services – 10 am

Friendly contemporary services with songs, prayers, teaching and activities for children. All welcome at any stage of faith.

<b>5 Jan</b>	Luke 7: 18 — 35, John the Baptist. Service with Communion
<b>12 Jan</b>	Family Service
<b>19 Jan</b>	Luke 7: 36 – 8 : 3, <i>Jesus and the Faithful Woman</i>
<b>26 Jan</b>	Visiting Preacher

## EVENTS

### Wednesday Fellowship – Coffee Morning, 10 – 11 30 am

Every Wednesday, Open Door for coffee and chat.

### Men's Breakfast – Saturday 18 January, 7 45 – 9 am

Breakfast and chat. Talk by John Gallagher MBE: *When God Made Peace (Police) Officers*.

### Community Lunch Club: Thursdays 16 and 30 January

Book through Daphne on 07919 024857.

### 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](mailto:secretary@willinghambaptist.org).**

## Catholic Parish of the Sacred Heart, St Ives

Details of services at St Ives at [www.sacredheart-stives.org](http://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](http://www.rcdea.org.uk).



## WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 01954 207600 Dispensary 01954 207602

District Nurse Team: 0330 726 0077 Health Visitors: 0300 029 5050

Out of hours cover: Ring 111 Website: [www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.net](http://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.net)

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

### New Year — Surgery Opening Hours

Please note that we will be CLOSED at the weekends, in addition to the bank holiday on **Wednesday 1 January**. Normal opening hours on all other days during the holiday period. Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication. The last date for ordering repeat medication before New Year will be **Tuesday 24 December**.

The last date for collection before the New Year is **Tuesday 31 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.

### NHS Health Check

If you're in the 40 to 74 age group without a pre-existing condition, you should receive a letter from us or the local council inviting you for a free NHS Health Check every five years. You can also call us to book a Health Check. The NHS Health Check is a health check-up for adults in England aged 40 to 74, and it's designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia. As we get older, we have a higher risk of developing one of these conditions. An NHS Health Check helps find ways to lower this risk. Find out if you are eligible by visiting [www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check).

### Surgery Closure

Please note the surgery will be **CLOSED from 1 pm on Thursday 23 January** for whole staff training. Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication to last, remembering to order your repeats at least **THREE** working days before collection.

### Contacting the Surgery

Emails to the surgery are not the appropriate route for our patients to make clinical contact with the GP, and we ask that you do not convey any clinical information this way. This includes, for example, asking clinical questions, letting the GP know that you are changing doses of your medication or wanting to update the GP before attending an appointment with them. On receipt of such emails, our only response will be to ask you to make a GP appointment.

Please also note that we are unable to book appointments via email or our AccuRx Patient Triage system. You are able to make your appointment via SystemOnline, by using the NHS App or telephoning the surgery and speaking to our reception team.

#### WILLINGHAM SURGERY NEW OPENING HOURS

Monday	8 30 – 1 00	2 30 – 6 00
Tuesday	8 30 – 1 00	2 00 – 6 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

Closed on Bank Holidays

#### 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

### Introducing David Byrne and Gillian Hurst, our Community Matrons

The Community Matron is an experienced, senior nurse who works closely with patients, primarily those with a serious long-term condition or complex range of conditions, in a community setting. The matron will plan and organise patient care. Community matrons also act as a case manager, providing a single point of contact for care, support or advice. Please contact the surgery if you feel that our Community Matrons can offer you or a family member any support.

### Pension Credits — Are You Claiming?

1,053 households in the South Cambridgeshire District Council area are entitled to Pension Credit due to their household income and are NOT claiming it – ARE YOU ONE OF THESE? If you are eligible, not only can Pension Credit payments be backdated three months, you can also claim Winter Fuel Allowance.

For further information about how to claim visit [apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/apply-citizen-ui/start](http://apply-for-pension-credit.service.gov.uk/apply-citizen-ui/start) or telephone 0800 99 1234.

### Carers' Meetings

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 8 January** at the Wilford Furlong Centre, where we will be holding a drop-in session **between 2 and 4 pm**. Please come along and get some support from other people in the local community. Refreshments are provided, there's no need to pre-book and it's completely FREE! Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month and for more information please contact [susan.lawson7@nhs.net](mailto:susan.lawson7@nhs.net).

All staff at the Willingham and Longstanton Surgeries wish our patients a VERY happy and healthy 2025.

Willingham Medical Practice

## Poetry Corner

### Exactly When Did I Become Old?

Tell me, when did I become old? Was it ...

... when I spoke words like my mom used to say,  
such as 'Dear me, you'll catch your death!'  
Or when I grunt as I ease into a chair,  
exhaling a noisy breath.

Was it when I found myself chatting  
in the Co-op's aisle with OAPs,  
moaning about my liver or spleen,  
or the state of my dodgy knees.

... or when I squinted at my growing wrinkles  
as I looked in the mirror and sighed,  
(they're 'age-related beauty contours'  
if anyone enquired).

And at what age did I just fall over  
but some called it 'having a fall'.  
Or was it when they called me Spiderman  
now I can't climb out of the bath at all.

How did these crazy Horlicks-fuelled evenings  
end up with bedtime at nine,  
And why did garden centre cafés  
become the in-place to dine.

At what point in life did my Christmas list  
include a Lakeland mop?  
And when did hair sprout from places unwanted  
instead of growing up-top?

I don't recall when my back  
started to go out more than I do.  
Now... what have I come upstairs for?  
I really don't have a clue.

*John Lawrence*

### January Poem

A new start in January,  
A whole month to embrace,  
With time to greet friends  
And to make a space  
For kindness and love,  
And all we hold dear —  
Messages of hope  
For the start of New Year.

*Christine Lacey*

## Christingle in the Octagon

On Sunday 1 December, our Parish Church held a Christingle service in the Octagon. It was a delight to welcome 75 people through the door of the Octagon, which became packed with excited children and their families. The children (and many eager adults) assembled their oranges with the candles, ribbons and sweets, and Canon Jan Payne explained all about Christingle and how the object signifies a message of hope. Everyone then moved to the Church itself, and candles were lit during a short service.

For families who attended and enjoyed the event, the Family@4 Service is held once a month in the Octagon; see the Churches page for more information!



## Over Players

The Over Players are pleased to announce that their Spring Show this year is *Calendar Girls*.

Following the death of a much-loved husband, a group of ordinary women in a small Yorkshire Women's Institute are prompted to do an extraordinary thing and set about creating a nude calendar to raise money for charity. The story of the Calendar Girls launched a global phenomenon: a million copycat calendars, a record-breaking movie, a stage play and now a musical written by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth.



### Performance Dates:

**Wednesday 28 May to Saturday 31 May**

**Venue: Over Community Centre**

Read-throughs of the show will take place on **Wednesday 15 and 22 January at 8 pm** in Over Church Hall.

Auditions — only for principal parts: **Wednesday 29 January** at Over Community Centre at 7 30 pm, and the first rehearsal will be on **Wednesday 5 February** in the Church Hall at 8 pm.

If you would like any further information please contact Olive Swain via email on: olive123swain@gmail.com or Christine Turner: c.turner1@hotmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you.

[www.overplayers.uk](http://www.overplayers.uk) [www.facebook.com/theoverplayers](http://www.facebook.com/theoverplayers)



## Obituary — Reg Purnell OBE

Reg died in November. His contributions to life in Willingham are outlined below.

Reg volunteered, along with about 20 others, following an appeal in 2006 from Willingham Parish Council, for a group to produce a Parish Plan. The plan was delivered in October 2008 and well-received by the Parish and District Councils. Having devoted much time to the plan, Reg then joined Willingham Action Group (WAG) when it was formed shortly after the publication of the Plan. He joined the newly formed WAG along with some other members of the Plan Committee, who formed that group to address those wishes of the residents that were not within the remit of Willingham Parish Council. Reg was voted in as chairperson of WAG.

Reg had worked for the Department of the Environment as Chief Engineer, which gained him an OBE in 2006, and his experience and abilities were welcomed in the work that WAG did.

The major initiatives in working with the Parish Council were the development of the children's play area on the QE2 Field behind the Ploughman Hall, and the planting of bulbs and trees in the Community Orchard and at various sites around the village. WAG was also responsible for the resurgence of the many Feast activities and the formation of other groups, including walking and cycling clubs. Reg was a keen member of the Willingham Photo Club.

Reg was also an active member of the Parish Council for a number of years. During his time with the Council he was on the Planning Committee, and was involved in



a wide range of other initiatives, always keen to move things forward. As part of his drive to improve life in the village, Reg involved himself in many projects close to his heart, in particular highways issues. Reg regularly represented the Council with outside agencies, played a key role in several working parties, and tirelessly campaigned to make the roads safer for the village. The Council was very sorry to see Reg leave them in 2012, but was pleased to see him continue his passions in supporting the village through the excellent work carried out by WAG. He was the instigator of the Willingham Speedwatch Group, with volunteers logging the vehicle speeds and submitting results to the police. He also spent several years organising the distribution of *Willingham News* to all homes.

Reg's dedication over the years across the many platforms on which he had an influence will be remembered fondly by many. He

devoted so much time to improving village life, he was thoughtful, dedicated and insightful, and had a great sense of humour. He was quite rightly proud of his achievements and, all in all, he was just a lovely person to know.

*Mike Tidball*

**Editors' Note:** The *Willingham News* editorial team extend their condolences to Reg's wife Jenny, his son Richard and his daughter Helen, and the extended family. Reg was a member of our management team for a number of years and we valued his contribution and his wisdom.

## Readers' Letters

Dear *Willingham News*,

Thank you very much for all the hard work you and the team carry out, putting together the *Willingham News*! Please know that it's always very appreciated. I wanted to say a particular thanks for the December issue, because it's wonderful to see the links to our School (the children's Christmas cards and the Governor vacancy role) as well as the map of the advent windows, which I know the families throughout the village will enjoy!

Kind regards,  
*Lara.*

Dear *Willingham News* and residents,

A huge thank you to everyone at *Willingham News*, and the residents who partake in each year's Christmas messages,

for raising £120 this year for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. It's truly special that you choose to support us each year in this way, and to date you've raised £1,134 for EACH. Your support helps provide short-break care that gives families like Pat's some much-needed respite, allowing them the chance to rest and recharge for a few hours, knowing their child is being well cared for.

Pat, Callum's mum, told us: 'Callum enjoys going to the hospice for an overnight stay. We think of them as a fun sleepover – something he doesn't get the chance to do with family and friends.'

If there is any other way in which we can show our thanks to the residents of Willingham, please let me know.

With best wishes,

*Tina Burdett, Community Fundraising Manager.*

## Friends of Willingham Church

Friends of Willingham Church held an event on Friday 22 November:

### *That Rings a Bell – the History of the Town Crier*

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us by attending this event. It was a very entertaining and amusing talk by Mike Wabe, the Town Crier of Watton. Mike visited us in his full Town Crier regalia, including two hand bells which were rather loud (as, of course, was he!). Who knew that Town Criers have such a fascinating and ancient history? The audience, served with wine, soft drinks and savoury snacks, settled down for an hour or so to listen to historic facts and tales, together with his experiences as an official Town Crier.

Altogether we made £208 (after expenses) so, once again, thank you for your support. We would also like to thank Willingham Co-op for the donation of the snacks.

We will be holding our next event in March, so look out for those details soon.



### About Friends of Willingham Church

St Mary & All Saints Church mainly originated in the 13th century but has Saxon and Norman heritage. It is a Grade 1 Listed building that contains nationally important medieval wall paintings.

The Friends of Willingham Church is a community group, established in summer 2023, to raise money for the maintenance of the fabric of the church. Most of the group are not members of the congregation. What links us is a desire to preserve the church building for future generations. We are always looking for more members, fundraising ideas and practical support — by joining the Friends, you will receive updates on our restoration projects and invitations to events. We ask you to support the Friends with a donation of £10 every six months (per household). This can be a standing order or a payment via BACS — for our bank details please contact the email address below. If you would like to become a member, or find out more about us, our email is: [friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page.

## Willingham's Journey into Horticulture

Looking at Willingham today it is difficult to see the Willingham of yesterday. Up until the 1830s Willingham was little different from other purely agriculture parishes in Cambridgeshire. By the year 1894 the old crops were disappearing. Agriculture was being driven out of the fields; fruit gardens, orchards and glasshouses were taking their place.

An article by a Mr D T Fish, published in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, describes the success of Willingham's horticulture as 'amazing'. On his visit to the village, he was surprised that the bulk of the fruit trees were no more than 20 to 30 years old, and estimated there were 500 acres of trees, bush fruit, asparagus and other vegetables.

The most significant pioneer and great leader of the change to horticulture was Mr I F Thoday and his sons. *The Vineries*, as it was called, was in Long Lane, hence the naming of Thodays Close. It was a major nursery. There was a block of six 250-foot span-roofed greenhouses, each 14 feet high and ranging from 18 to 22 feet wide, with yet another large greenhouse across one end. There was a water tower, and packing, boiler and store rooms.

The biggest and broadest of these fine greenhouses was devoted to vines. Another had peaches and nectarines trained up one side. Roof shelves held ripening strawberries. Other houses were used for cut flowers — an enormous amount of these flowers were produced throughout the winter, spring and early summer. During the winter as many as 300 dozen carnations a week were sold. All the plants were raised at the nursery, including 30,000 tomatoes, 20,000 chrysanthemums, all for growing at home and for sale.

While The Vineries was the largest, there were many smaller nurseries. Allotments were also used for produce, supplementing the wages of other tradesmen. Mr Fish found that, on passing through the village, there were ladies stripping osiers (willow) for the basket makers. One was making baskets for the local fruit, flowers and vegetables, but also baskets for a cucumber grower in Worthing.

Most people at the time were living and working in the village, supporting the local horticulture industries: carpentry, paper making, harness making and many other trades. Carters used to take the produce to the station to put on the trains heading for the large northern cities, as well as to the famous Covent Garden in London.

This article has been written by a lifelong Willingham resident, using information from the 1894 booklet *Fruit and Flowers Industries of Cambridgeshire Willingham*, which can be found reproduced on the excellent [oldwillingham.com](http://oldwillingham.com) website under the section *Willingham History / Fruit & Flowers*.

# A Willingham News Retirement

Our village magazine goes through various stages of production, and one of the most important is the proofreading stage. Jane Dowle has been our volunteer proofreader for most of the last 20 years and has now stepped back from that responsibility, Mike Bird taking this over from 2025. There is no doubt that Jane will be a hard act to follow, her thoroughness and her ability to guide editors as they try to follow editorial guidelines and style has been exemplary.

To find out more about her decision to give up the role, we sent our not-very-intrepid reporter to interview Jane and ask questions about her years of commitment to the magazine.

## How did you start the proofreading role?

I moved to Willingham in 2001 and enjoyed reading the village magazine. I'd moved up here from London and it helped me to get to know my new way of life. In 2005, I spotted an ad for a volunteer proofreader. I'd already done a proofreading course whilst working for a travel company and thought this would be another way of contributing to the community. The original *Willingham Parish Magazine* was launched in 2004 by Sheilah Turner and Bill Kirkman, when Bill put together a team. He created style and procedure guidelines which, in general, still apply. In 2007, it was renamed *Willingham News*, with a rota of four editors who relied on me to proofread their copy. I loved doing the proofreading role alongside my job as school secretary at Waterbeach Primary School. The role was then expanded to volunteer Editorial Coordinator; the purpose was to ensure that each issue has a consistent look and that style guidelines were being followed, even though it's edited by different people. I've always loved seeing the end result, it's always been very satisfying. The magazine won Community Magazine awards, the first one in 2010, with four more in subsequent years. We wanted the content to be as good as it could. That was satisfying. But it was never about just one person, it's a team effort. As proofreader I was part of the editorial team, never on my own.

## You're obliged every month to set days aside to proof-read. How did you manage that in the early days?

Back then, I don't know how I did it. I had decreased my working hours and had moved on to Impington Village College. But I then had various medical procedures and my mobility was compromised, so I had to give up paid employment. But the *Willingham News* team were always there to help me through and feel valued. The monthly commitment has been restrictive and now I don't want our holidays having to be arranged around the magazine's schedule. Incidentally, looking back, the Covid pandemic was an interesting time for the team, when the magazine was only online, but the local clubs and groups were amazing with their support and their contributions. I enjoyed producing *Celebration Days* and *This Happened*

*Today*, often to fill the empty What's On page!

## How much concentration did it take you to proofread?

In short, a lot! And it takes organisation. I did two proofreads with a night's sleep between each one. Each of those reads is done in one sitting, from hard copy. It's so much easier to spot mistakes on paper rather than on a screen. Sometimes it wasn't easy to avoid skip-reading regular items, and often I was almost glad when I spotted a mistake! If I'd done a few pages and I hadn't used my red pen, it felt as though I hadn't been concentrating. The task also involved going onto websites to make sure a published link worked, and I'd have to check that people's names, place names and road names were spelt correctly.

## Will you miss it?

In a way. But I can go back to being a normal resident and read *Willingham News* when it comes through the door... which I generally don't do now, as I know every word! To be honest, when I made the decision to hand over my red pen, (while on holiday one morning in the sea!) it went through my mind that after 20 years I no longer have new ideas to contribute to the team. I thought then that it would be neat and tidy to finish at the end of 2024. So, over to Mike, good luck!



*Jane in serious proofreading mode!*

## Willingham Photo Club

[willinghamphotoclub.org.uk](http://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 give talks on various aspects of photography.

The next meeting is **Monday 20 January at 8 pm** and the assignment is:

*Shooting Through Objects*

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

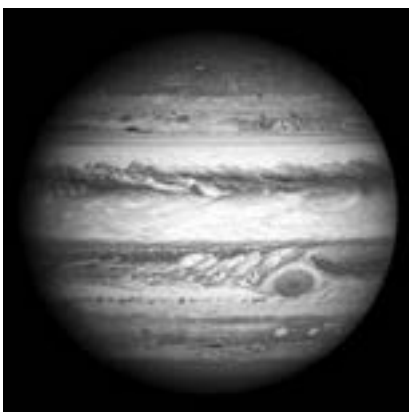
## The Night Sky in January

Continuing our winter-month series on the night sky over our village, these are some basic features, concentrating mostly on planets and our Moon, all of which will be visible with the naked eye, conditions allowing, in January. Early in the month, an amazing six planets will be visible, strung across the evening sky — of these, Neptune and Uranus will need a telescope or binoculars!

On 8 January, the Moon will reach its closest point to Earth, so will appear slightly larger than at other times. Because the perigee, as it's called, will occur when the moon is around first quarter phase, it will appear in the evening sky. Often we might think that the Moon appears larger when it's close to the horizon — this is called the Moon Illusion, and has been the subject of debate for centuries, even going back to the Greeks. It is indeed an illusion, and a comparison of photographs will show that the Moon is, visually, exactly the same size regardless of whether it appears on the horizon or directly overhead.

On 12 January, Mars' orbit around the Sun will carry it to its closest point to the Earth, passing within 96 million kilometres. The size and brightness of Mars in the night sky both increase when it's closer to us, of course, and the days around 12 January represent the best time to observe it.

If we look at the south-western sky in the second week of January, around 5 pm, we'll see Saturn and a very bright Venus close together, while in the east our Moon (just over half phase) and Jupiter (almost as bright as Venus) will be cosying up together, with Mars following from the north east.



*The huge planet Jupiter*

On the 13th and 14th of the month, the Moon and Mars will appear very close, travelling high together, with Mars appearing quite bright and redder than other planets. Mars will actually be in retrograde motion, appearing to turn and go backwards! This is due to the relative positions of the planets, and how we move around the sun compared to Mars. In reality, we're overtaking the red planet. This retrograde motion of Mars will last until 23 February.

In terms of meteors visible from Willingham, a notable one is the Quadrantid meteor shower, which will be active until 12 January, producing its peak display at dusk on 3 January. The radiant point is highest in the sky around 8 am in early January. This is soon after a New Moon, so the skies will be darker, and hopefully clear!

If you're keen to learn more about astronomy, these two websites are useful:

[in-the-sky.org](http://in-the-sky.org) and

[www.cambridgeastronomicalassociation.com](http://www.cambridgeastronomicalassociation.com).

*Luke Skywatcher*

## Willingham Council School

On the Old Willingham website, there is a delightful record of a magazine from Willingham Council School, dated 1939, containing contributions from the young students. Many of the articles and poems are of a high standard and speak of a simpler time, about to be thrown into the turmoil of World War II. It is not known if this first magazine was also the last, at least until after the war.

Here is an entertaining example of one young pupil's letter to a potential American penpal, and the equally entertaining reply!

Rosemary Lodge, Willingham, Cambs.

Age: 11. Sex: Male. Hobby: Drawing

24/3/39.

Dear Unknown Friend,

I am a boy, and to-day is my birthday and I am eleven.

My weight, which is rather a lot, is six stones, seven pounds, eight ounces. My height is rather a lot also, for it is four feet, eleven inches. I have brown hair and grey eyes. My favourite hobby is drawing.

I play for the Junior eleven football team, the position I play in being goalkeeper. There is another goalkeeper who plays sometimes, but I usually play. The week before last we played a team from a nearby town. The score was delightful, it was seven to one. We won.

Our village is rather a big one. I should think it is the second biggest in our county (Cambridgeshire). The people who live in it are mostly farmers, fruit-growers, or flower-growers. Our village is in the Fenland and early this year there were floods in the really low parts of it, especially in the fields and gardens on the outskirts of the village.

I hope you will like the idea of corresponding with me regularly and I hope you will write soon.

Yours sincerely, Roger Few.

And the first reply was —

John Luettick,

Oswego, Illinois, United States of America.

Age: 10. Sex: Boy. Hobby: Collecting match-boxes.

15/4/39.

Dear Roger,

I am a boy and my name is John. I am from the United States. My height is four feet, seven inches. My weight is seventy five pounds. I have brown hair and eyes. My hobby is collecting match-boxes.

I have a brother and sister, a father and mother. My brother is in third grade and my sister is in second grade. I am a member of Uncle Sam's Caravan. The senior of our caravan is Miss Campbell.

I live in a small village in the State of Illinois. The name is Oswego. It is a very, very small village. It has about 1,000 people in it. I am sending a picture of myself and will you please send me your picture.

Yours truly, John Luettick.

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# FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

[www.WillinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk](http://www.WillinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk)

The December Parish Council had a short agenda, but one or two issues raised some strong feelings. The consent from SCDC for more traveller sites near Haden Way raised considerable concerns. Members of the Parish Council Planning Committee felt that their comments had been totally ignored and that SCDC had acted in an unreasonable way, contrary to their own policies. It was agreed that the clerk would write to them to put on record the Parish Council's concerns, and District Councillor Bill Handley agreed to follow this up. Bill also suggested that he should get one of the SCDC planners along to the January meeting to explain their decision. Look out for the agenda and if you have strong feelings on the subject, please do come along.

Another item raising some strong feelings was the timetable for the new 5A bus route, which is now a return trip between St Ives and Bar Hill via Fenstanton, Swavesey, Over, Willingham and Longstanton. The earliest bus towards Longstanton is 7 10 am instead of 6 30 am. It will not affect a lot of our parishioners but, for the few who do not drive and relied on the early service to get them to work on time, it is devastating news. We will see if our County Councillor can help.

Brief details were given regarding the best way of continuing to support the needs of the Scouts. Options are under review and more information will be given on this difficult issue in the New Year.

There was also some debate on the next Local Highways Initiative bid. This year's successful bid for money from the County Council towards a footpath to Highgate Farm had wide approval and rightly so. The 2025 proposal is for a series of double yellow lines at various locations in Willingham. These may prove rather less popular with some residents and, of course, there is the question about whether they will be enforced. Again, please have your say by email or telephone, or best-of-all by coming along to a Parish Council meeting and speaking out. Personal

comments carry weight and the meetings are not nearly as boring as you might expect. I know because I have attended more than 200 of them.

Sadly, I will not be attending many more. I have been diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis which leaves my mobility increasingly restricted. It has been a pleasure (mainly) and certainly a privilege to be a Willingham Parish Councillor for over twenty years. I was lucky enough to be given the option of early retirement from my employer in 2003. Too young not to work, I did a few consultancy and non-exec roles but mainly volunteer stuff in and around Willingham. I worked my way up from stage hand with WAMADS to star as the dame in their last panto. I am not sure how much I contributed to it being their last panto. I also did, and still do, some work for the Church but most of all I served WPC under Pat Daniels when I joined. Since then, I have chaired the Council on at least three occasions over many years, and acted as Vice Chair on many others. I am not fit enough to carry on doing that and will not seek re-election in May. Meanwhile I will end by wishing all success to Derek Law and his team who work hard, often for little credit and certainly no money.

*Phil King, Vice Chairman*

## Meetings:

The next full Council meeting will be in the Octagon at **7 30 pm on Wednesday 8 January**. Councillors' details can be found on the website and below are details for the Chair/Vice Chair and Lead Councillors.

## Council office contact details:

Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham

Tel: 01954 261027

Email [clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Clerk: Mrs Mandy Powell

D Law	Parish Council Chairman	<a href="mailto:cllr.law@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.law@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	01954 202188
P King	Parish Council Vice Chair	<a href="mailto:cllr.pking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.pking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	01954 260780
B Todd	Planning Chair	<a href="mailto:cllr.todd@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.todd@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07956 993603
S Clark	Halls – Lead Cllr	<a href="mailto:cllr.clark@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.clark@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07948 830406
L King	Leisure & Amenities – Lead Cllr	<a href="mailto:cllr.lking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.lking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	01954 260780
B Mansfield	Cemetery – Lead Cllr	<a href="mailto:cllr.mansfield@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.mansfield@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	01954 261540
J Watson	Green & Boundary – Lead Cllr	<a href="mailto:cllr.watson@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.watson@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	01954 200245
J Hutchcraft	Police & Crime Coordinator	<a href="mailto:cllr.hutchcraft@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk">cllr.hutchcraft@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07305 435771



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## Thought for the Month

### The Leaven of the Kingdom

In the Bible, in Luke 13, Jesus says 'How can I picture God's Kingdom? It's like yeast that a woman works into enough dough for three loaves of bread — and waits while the dough rises'. What does he mean by this?

In those days bread was baked at home. Leaven was a little piece of dough containing yeast, which had been kept over from the last baking. Jesus had seen his mother Mary put a little leaven in the dough and watched the whole character of the dough changed because of it. 'That', he said, 'is how my kingdom comes.' There are two points here:

- 1) The Kingdom of God starts from the smallest beginnings. The leaven was very small but it changed the character of the dough.
- 2) The Kingdom of Heaven works unseen. We do not see the leaven working but all the time it is fulfilling its function.

In ancient times, society was very brutal. Look at the Romans who enjoyed watching people killed in the arena. The same was true for many cultures where human sacrifice was practised. But, starting from Jesus' time and gradually over the centuries, things changed until societies grew to respect individuals and value everyone. Our society today is transformed. That is the leaven of God's Kingdom working behind the scenes. Love and justice are ever-growing and continue to do so.

The Kingdom of God is also the leaven which fills each of us and gives us the peace of God, and the deep concern for justice which will not rest until the evils of earth are swept away by the changing, revolutionary power of God.

Therefore, let us not despise the beginning of small things, the small beginnings of God's work in us, whether in personal spiritual growth or the spread of the Gospel, knowing that God's grace works in our lives and in the world, and is ultimately effective.

*Rev Kwaku Efah, minister of Willingham Baptist Church*

## The Friends of the Rosie Hospital

Happy New Year from The Friends of the Rosie Hospital. With your help we are raising money to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. In 2024 we raised nearly £3,000 by selling all sorts of wonderful gifts.

We are sharing our extensive catalogue on our Facebook page, so you can grab yourself locally sourced, unique, beautifully crafted gifts and warm clothing and accessories for special friends and family. You can shop for new items on our website or donated items in our [rosieinstitches2010](https://www.rosieinstitches2010.co.uk) eBay charity store, and vintage knitting patterns on our Facebook page.

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Friends of the Rosie Hospital with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 5,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping, at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us, so please sign up and share [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) today.

New members are always welcome, whether to contribute financially, to join our team of crafters, join our committee, provide transport for our volunteers or display a small selection of our wares. If you would like to donate some of your spare time check out our website's volunteering page for some ideas.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the very best for 2025.

*Avril Williams 01954 782431 [avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk](mailto:avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk) and Jo Hall 01954 780304.*

### Puzzle Answers

#### Sudoku Answer

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

#### Wordsearch Answer

R	P	S	M	O	N	O	P	O	L	Y
M	O	A	C	K	D	R	O	A	N	O
O	E	Z	N	R	L	R	I	H	G	P
U	H	Y	X	D	A	Z	D	S	R	E
S	H	P	O	K	E	B	R	Y	K	R
E	K	F	C	Y	S	M	B	F	O	A
T	U	I	S	Z	W	I	L	L	T	
R	B	V	E	L	I	F	E	C	E	I
A	E	H	L	W	P	K	J	X	Z	O
P	C	L	U	E	D	O	F	A	N	N
K	E	R	P	L	U	N	K	U	T	H

#### Answers to What Comes Fourth Quiz

- 1 *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1965 to 1967 Beatles albums)
- 2 Mercury (inner planets in decreasing size)
- 3 *Lethal White* (first four Cormorant Strike books in order)
- 4 *Diamonds are Forever* (James Bond books in order of publication)
- 5 (Jodie) Whittaker (10th to 13th Dr Who actors)
- 6 Windermere (bodies of water in the Lake District, up to the largest)
- 7 (Alan) Turing = 50 (historical characters on the reverse of current Bank of England notes)
- 8 Salisbury (four tallest cathedrals in England, according to most sources!)
- 9 Parr (the last four of Henry VIII's wives)
- 10 2025 *Mad About the Boy* (Bridget Jones films, with UK release year)

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# WHAT'S ON

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	EXTRA INFO
Fri 3 Jan	Family History Session	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p8
Sun 5 Jan	Jazz Club	Jazz Club	Social Club	12 30 – 3 30 pm Rosie-Val 01954 789670
Sun 5 Jan	Family@4	Parish Church	Octagon	4 pm, see p10
Wed 8 Jan	<i>Willingham News</i> Deadline	<i>Willingham News</i>		See p3, articles to be sent to: willinghamnews@gmail.com
Wed 8 Jan	Games & Social Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p8
Wed 8 Jan	Carers' Support Meeting	Surgery	Wilford Furlong Centre	2 – 4 pm, see p11
Wed 8 Jan	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p17
Sat 11 Jan	Memory Box Café	Parish Church	Octagon	10 am – 12 noon, see p5
Sat 11 Jan	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 15 am, see p8
Mon 13 Jan	Discussion Evening	Women's Institute	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p5
Tue 14 Jan	Digital Buddy Drop-in Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 30 pm, see p8
Wed 15 Jan	Knit & Natter Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p8
Thu 16 Jan	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	Booking essential, see p10
Sat 18 Jan	Talk: <i>When God Made 'Peace'</i> (Police) Officers with John Gallagher	Men's Breakfast	Baptist Church	7 45 am, see p10
Sun 19 Jan	Wassail	Willingham Action Group	The Orchard	11.30 am, see p6
Mon 20 Jan	<i>Assignment: Shooting Through Objects</i>	Photo Club	Baptist Church	8 – 10 pm, see p15
Fri 24 Jan	Meeting of Trustees	Willingham British School Trust		See p7
Sat 25 Jan	Over Memory Cafe	Over Day Centre	Over Day Centre	10 am – 12 noon, see p16
Sat 25 Jan	Over Saturday Lunch Club	Over Day Centre	Over Day Centre	12 30 pm, see p19
Mon 27 Jan	Jam Club	Jam Club	Social Club	7 30 pm
Thu 30 Jan	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	Booking essential, see p10



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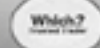
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# VILLAGE DIRECTORY

<b>Council and Community</b>	Parish Council		01954 261027
	County Councillor	Neil Gough	07919 990299 / neilgoughcrw@gmail.com
	District Councillor	Bill Handley	01954 200287 / cllr.handley@scamb.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Dan Lentell	01954 713000 / cllr.lentell@scamb.gov.uk
	Willingham Community Planning Group		07506 385554 / communityplanning@willinghamlife.org
<b>Services</b>	Surgery		01954 260230
	Dispensary for repeat prescription requests	Weekdays 10 am – 12 noon and 3 – 4 pm	01954 207602
	Library		0345 045 5225
	Pharmacy		01954 261787
	Community Warden	Joanne Twinn	joanne.twinn@ageukcap.org.uk / 07812 496002
	Patient Participation Group	Chris Thornhill	07721 029494 / crthornhill@gmail.com
<b>Schools</b>	Primary School	Mona Paalanen	01954 283030
	Willingham Out Of School Club (3–6 pm only)	M Lenk	01954 283033
	School Governors Chairperson	Chris Shaw	chair@willingham.cambs.sch.uk
	School Association	c/o school	01954 283030
	British School Trust	Ray Croucher	willinghambritishschooltrust@gmail.com / 07881 521041
<b>Children</b>	Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Mead	tim.mead@1stwillinghamscoutgroup.org.uk
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	Little Rainbows Baby & Toddler Group	Tiko Pending	tmwale31@gmail.com
<b>Halls</b>	Ploughman Hall Bookings	Through Parish Council	01954 261027
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	OWLS Community Car Scheme	Lorraine Hunt	07505 254363
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	Willingham Combined Charities	Lynn McGoff	clerk@willinghamcombinedcharity.org.uk
	Willingham Bee Group Chairman	Steve Smith	07795 215071
<b>Clubs</b>	Friends of Willingham Church	Rosemary Tiley	friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com
	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 Photo Club	Derek Law	derek@ballandia.co.uk
	Willingham Running Club	Monica Garcia	gcompass.monica@gmail.com
	Willingham Writers	Keira Garner, Jo Pilsworth	07539 292540 (Jo)
	Willingham Youth Club	Jack Stinton	enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org
	Women's Institute	Vicky Baggaley	01954 201405
<b>Sport</b>	Angling	Colin Dodd	07773 719330
	Badminton	Emma Byrom	01954 202481
	Bowls Club	To be appointed	
	Cricket Club	R Ambrose	01954 610113
	Cycling Club	Nigel Leaney	nigel.leaney@outlook.com / 07979 518200
	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
<b>Churches</b>	Mothers' Union	Sue Hayden	01954 260363
	Baptist Church	Jenny Ambrose	secretary@willinghambaptist.org
	Roman Catholic Priest	To be appointed	01480 462192
	Parish Church	Rev Jenny Hill	07970 949331 / jenny@5folds.org.uk

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