

# Willingham News

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March 2025





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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

**Friday 7 March Blue and Green**

**Friday 14 March Black**

**Friday 21 March Blue and Green**

**Saturday 28 March Black**

*(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](http://www.willinghamlife.org/page)

**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.

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## Willingham Wassail

Willingham Action Group (WAG) organised the first open-invitation Wassail for the village on 19 January. Held in the Community Orchard in freezing weather, it was attended by a good number of villagers, together with a few brave guests from Rampton, Histon and Cambridge. Ali Widdows, MC for the proceedings, did a wonderful job explaining the purpose of the event (to awaken the trees and ensure a good harvest) and the Wassail King and Queen – Liz Cosford and Graham Mumby – were duly crowned.

The revellers were then invited to bang their pots and pans, blow their whistles, swing their football rattles and generally make a racket to all four corners of the orchard. WAG provided the mulled cider – from Graham Mumby's own stock – with sausages and burgers cooked on the fire pit. Jo Davis and Howard Berry kindly supplied further cider and apple juice, which meant some of those involved simply had to stay behind huddled around the fire just to make sure there was not too much left over. Looking forward to more of the same next year!

Thank you to Julian Eales and Steve Moore for their photographs of the event.

WAG



## Old Willingham



If you look at the top of the spire on the Parish Church, you will see a cockerel weathervane (reputedly covered in gold) indicating the direction of the wind. How did it get there? Well, the answer, in the 1960s, was with a good head for heights and a very long ladder. The previous weathervane (probably Victorian) blew down in a storm. Here we see the steeplejack starting to install the ladder which would eventually go right to the top. Each section of ladder was held to the wall by small pins driven into the stone. I'm not sure how this would be accomplished these days – a very long cherry picker or fire-engine ladder perhaps? The vane is now 60 years old.

See more photos at [www.oldwillingham.com](http://www.oldwillingham.com). If you have stories or memories about this picture, please contact Jon Edney, 31 High Street or [oldwill@oldwillingham.com](mailto:oldwill@oldwillingham.com).

### Willingham Memory Box Café

We invite people living with memory loss  
(from any cause)

and their carers to join us for  
Music, Refreshments, Company, and Fun

on **Saturday 8 March**  
from 10 am to 12 noon

in **The Octagon**  
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For further details please contact  
Frances Watts 01954 200542



## Stephen Smith – Beekeeper

4 April 1954 – 25 December 2024



*Jarring Willingham honey*

Steve completed his training with the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association and became a qualified beekeeper in January 2017. Then, in July 2018, he formed the Willingham Beekeepers Group and also set up the apiary in the Community Orchard.

From the beginning of his interest in bees, Steve supported the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association beginners' courses, assisting with the practical sessions held in Impington. He would often invite beginners to the Community

Orchard to gain valuable experience and could rightly claim to have enthused them to continue learning.

Steve was also a regular steward at the annual British Beekeepers Association Spring Convention, where he met fellow beekeepers from all over the UK and always came back with lots of tales and new ideas.

He was a registered bee swarm collector, spending many hours tracking down and 'rescuing' swarms from neighbouring gardens. Steve would often be seen around the village in his bee suit.

Steve was passionate about beekeeping and sharing his knowledge and will be sadly missed by all the beekeepers who knew him.

*Tom Miller*



*Steve at the Community Orchard*

## Nimble Fingers Craft Club

**Mondays, 2 – 4 pm, Baptist Church**

How do you fancy a Monday afternoon chat and cuppa while you knit, embroider or work on your latest craft creation of any sort? If you have a couple of hours to spare, why not come 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. Contact Daphne on 07919 024857, or just pop along with your craft work and introduce yourself!

## Willingham Youth Trust

The Willingham Youth Trust has been working hard running the Willingham Youth Club at the Youth Centre adjacent to the Ploughman Hall over the winter period. As the dark nights draw to a close and as we begin to look towards the spring and summer, we need to make plans for the coming year.

In addition to this, we have recently had the news that our Treasurer and Trustee, Frances Watts, has decided to hand in her resignation and allow herself more time to enjoy her retirement. The Trust is incredibly grateful to Frances for all her support in overseeing our finances for several years and we wish her well for the future.

For the Trust to continue we urgently need to find a new Treasurer to support the valuable work we do in providing a weekly Youth Club and organising events such as the Willingham Feast Family Halloween Disco. If you are interested in the role of Treasurer or know of someone who might be, please make contact.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the team, in any capacity, we would love to hear from you. The support the Trust receives from the local community enables us to continue to provide this service for the young people of the village.

You can contact us at:

[enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org](mailto:enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org).

## The Octagon Community Hub

**Monday mornings 10 am – 12 30 pm**

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 and cold squash and biscuits; we also serve fresh soup and buttered toast at all sessions.

There are magazines, books, puzzles, games, knitting and colouring to enjoy too.

You will find the Octagon at the rear of the Parish Church. Please follow the footpath to the left of the Church gate. We are wheelchair accessible and have a disabled toilet.

The Hub is supported with funding from South Cambridgeshire District Council through Cambridgeshire ACRE. The Parish Council, St Mary and All Saints Church and the Co-operative Community Fund also support us.

We gratefully receive donations of bread from Boswell and Son Bakers in Church Street, of milk from the Willingham Co-op and of other refreshments from individuals in the village. Donations are always appreciated as we make no charge for refreshments.

We hope to see you in March!

## Fantastic Response to the 'Save Willingham News' Appeal

We're delighted to say 'Thank you' for the generous reaction to our appeal to save *Willingham News*. Donations have come in from all corners of the village, from individuals and several clubs and groups, who themselves put in great efforts to raise funds for good causes. We are also grateful that further advertisers have come forward recently, which will generate additional income over the course of the year.

Thank you so much for seeing *Willingham News* as a good cause. We have been very touched by the kind comments and encouragement from donors.

Now that we're in a position to press ahead with this year's production of magazines we must put plans in place to ensure a sustainable future for the magazine into next year and beyond. As part of this, we will be casting the net more widely for advertisers. Here is where you may be able to help. If you have contact with any businesses in the Cambridge area, please explain the benefits of advertising in a magazine that is delivered to all 2,000+ households in the village. Encourage them to contact our Advertising Coordinator at: [advertising.wnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:advertising.wnews@yahoo.co.uk) for full details. See rates below.

Size		Advert Dimensions Height x Width	Fee per issue
Half page	B&W	132 x 190 mm	£70
Quarter page	B&W	132 x 91 mm	£36
Eighth page	B&W	65 x 91 mm	£20

Thanks again to all our readers and, if you haven't donated yet but still wish to, please use the usual address, [willinghamnews@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamnews@gmail.com), heading your email 'Donating to *Willingham News*'. Please continue to send in any ideas you have for raising funds or cutting costs that we may not have thought of, heading your email: 'Ideas to save *Willingham News*'.

*The Willingham News Team*

## Births, Marriages and Deaths

One of our readers suggested that we offer a space in *Willingham News* for important announcements, such as births, marriages and deaths, as she felt that would be of interest to many people in the village. We are happy to comply, so if you have an important announcement, please contact us in the usual way at: [willinghamnews@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamnews@gmail.com) and we will do our best to include your notice. Please be aware that we would need your announcement by the 8th of the month to be included in the following month's magazine.

## Willingham Photo Club Open Photo Competition

Congratulations to all who entered the Photo Competition. The photographers produced excellent images of 'Willingham Life', making the judging difficult. However, the winner is Jack Larner. His photograph is shown below: *Evening Walk: Cold Streets, Warm Windows*. Congratulations Jack!



The Photo Club meets at the Baptist Church at 8pm on the third Monday of every month.

The next meeting is on **18 March** and the assignment is *Composites*.

New members are always welcome whatever your skill level or your photographic equipment.

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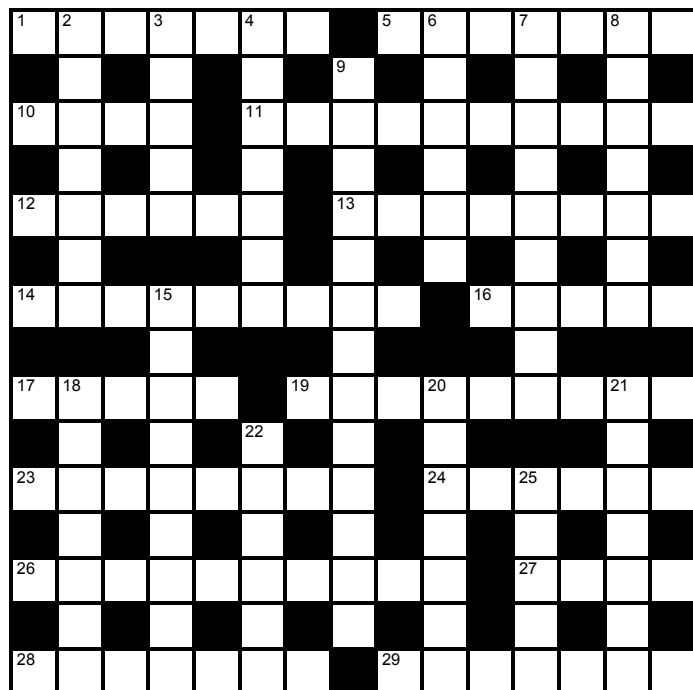
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# General Knowledge Crossword

By Willow

Answer on page 15



## Across

- 1 City in the Northwest, setting for *Hollyoaks* (7)
- 5 Protected 24 made in the Midlands (7)
- 10 Sad colour? (4)
- 11 Band formed in 1980 by Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart (10)
- 12 Ideal place (6)
- 13 Mediterranean herb (8)
- 14 Fortified wine such as Fino (3,6)
- 16 Negative terminal of a battery (5)
- 17 Small light canoe (5)
- 19 Going up (9)
- 23 Interminably (2,6)
- 24 Food made from the pressed curds of milk (6)
- 26 10 Italian 24 (10)
- 27 London Underground (4)
- 28 Gorge 24 (7)
- 29 Official ban (7)

## Down

- 2 Gun case (7)
- 3 Ovine domesticated animal (5)
- 4 Lift (7)
- 6 Private teachers (6)
- 7 Sent up (9)
- 8 Collection of fruit trees (7)
- 9 Learning centre for young children (7,6)
- 15 Searched in waste for usable items (9)
- 18 Ancient Greek city (7)
- 20 Cry out in surprise (7)
- 21 Horse's food container (7)
- 22 Land-locked country in East Africa (6)
- 25 Nonspeaking film actor (5)

## Trivia Corner

Some creatures have been named after musicians. The *Scaptia Beyonceae*, an Australian species of horse fly, was named after Beyoncé in 2011, reportedly after their shared characteristic of dense golden hair. It is considered to be a pest (the fly, not Beyoncé.) Frank Zappa had a spider named after him, the *Pachygnatha Zappa* (which was inspired by his trademark moustache) and the tiny Columbian frog, *Dendropsophus Stingi*, was, for some obscure reason, named after Sting. Which all goes to prove that scientists who sit in their labs thinking up names sometimes have far too much time on their hands.

John Lawrence

# Film Quiz

By Herewill

Answers on page 15

- 1 For which biopic film did Rami Malek win the Academy Awards Best Actor in 2019?
- 2 Who did Will Smith slap at the 94th Academy Awards ceremony in 2022?
- 3 For which three James Bond films did Shirley Bassey sing the theme songs?
- 4 How old was Star Wars' character Yoda at the time of his death: 19, 90, 900 or 1900?
- 5 What was the name of the eldest Von Trapp child in *The Sound of Music* film?
- 6 Which Beatle had a cameo role in *Monty Python's Life of Brian*?
- 7 Pixar's film *The Incredibles* is set in which fictional city?
- 8 In *La La Land*, who played the part of Mia Dolan?
- 9 Which was the first movie in the Austin Powers franchise?
- 10 Who played the attorney Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

## NORTHSTOWE CHESS CLUB

please email: [chessnorthstowe@outlook.com](mailto:chessnorthstowe@outlook.com)  
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# Young Readers' Corner

## The Hare and the Tortoise

There's a lot about March hares in this edition of *Willingham News*. So here's a story about when a Hare was not so clever but at the end you can show how smart you are!

### How could a Tortoise possibly win a race against a Hare?

Hare boasted to the other animals in the Fenland about how fast he could run. He challenged them to a race but none of them responded. So, he made fun of them saying that they were too scared even to try. Eventually Tortoise offered to race, but Hare just laughed and said that he wouldn't waste his time racing the slowest creature in the world. Brave Tortoise replied, saying that Hare must be scared of being beaten. Some of the animals laughed at this so Hare agreed to a race, to take place a week later.

Tortoise spent the week in training but moved very slowly so that the other animals wondered if the race was a good idea. Even so a large crowd of animals gathered on the day of the race eager to see what would happen.

The race started, Hare roared off and when he stopped to look back, Tortoise had barely crossed the starting line. Hare then boasted that he could stop for a rest and still beat the Tortoise. So, arrogant Hare did take a rest, went to sleep in the sun and slept snoring for so long that the Tortoise quietly went past him.

The animals cheered as Tortoise neared the finishing tree. The noise woke Hare up and he ran as fast as he could to catch up but the Tortoise made it to the finish in time!

Sometimes slow and steady wins the race.

So how many words can you find using the letters in TORTOISE and in HARE together (aim for at least 10)? Let us know how you get on and we will publish the winning score in a later edition of *Willingham News*!

## Poem for March

The March hares jump around and play  
So high they leap to greet the day.  
I love them for their sense of fun.  
They should be seen by everyone.  
With their long ears they listen out  
For sounds afar and near about.  
They bring to me a sense of fun  
And should be seen by everyone.

*Christine Lacey*

## Mystery Photo

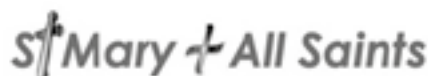
Last month's Mystery Photo (shown right) was part of the sign outside our Primary School. Well done if you spotted it.



This month's picture, mischievously edited, was taken somewhere in the village. Any ideas?



# CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN WILLINGHAM



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

## Services – in Church (except where shown)

- 2 March** 11 00 am Morning Prayer – based on the Book of Common Prayer
- 9 March** 11 00 am Morning Praise
- 16 March** 11 00 am Café Church – in The Octagon (*tea, coffee and toast from 10 50 am*)
- 23 March** 11 00 am Holy Communion
- 30 March** 11 00 am Mothering Sunday – All Age Service – see below

## Mothering Sunday

We look forward to welcoming all ages to our special service for Mothering Sunday, whether you come as a family or on your own. The service will include activities for the children, some quiet time for those for whom it is a difficult day and flowers to be taken home at the end. Do join us if you can.

## Memory Box Café

Our next Memory Box Café will be on **Saturday 8 March** from 10 am in the Octagon with all the usual fun of music, refreshments and plenty of laughter. Open to anyone with memory loss, accompanied by a carer, friend or family member – free of charge. 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 with free tea, coffee, biscuits and freshly made soup. 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. Everyone is welcome. 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, on **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).



Willingham  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Minister: Rev Kwaku Efah

## ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

### Sunday Morning Services – 10 am

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

**2 March** Luke 8: 4 – 21, *Parable of the Sower*

**9 March** Family Service

**16 March** Luke 8: 22 – 39, *Jesus Calms the Storm*

**23 March** Visiting Preacher

**30 March** Luke 8: 40 – 56, *Jesus Heals the Sick Woman*

## EVENTS

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

Every Wednesday, Open Door for coffee and chat.

### Men's Breakfast – Saturday 15 March, 7 45 – 9 am

Breakfast and chat. Talk by Geoff Pake – *Facing Obstacles*. For details of the monthly talks or any of the many other activities being organised throughout 2025 contact Pete Sacre on 01954 261655 or 07758 098150.

### Community Lunch Club: Thursday 13 and 27 March

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 07919 024857.

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).

## Nature's Names

It's the month of March and the hare, apparently, is mad.

Hares have been around in Britain, according to archaeologists, since the Iron Age, if not before. The brown hare is our most common, and the name probably originated from the Old English *hara*, and Old Norse *hari*, meaning 'grey'. Most word-origin explanations involve the word 'probably', and in this case it's natural to question why the brown hare is named after the word 'grey'. The defence may be that the mountain hare, now not so common (and definitely not to be found anywhere near our village) is grey in summer, and that there are many species of hare around the world, in varying colours, many of a grey hue.



Our brown hare, Britain's fastest land mammal, is often seen in the orchards and fields around our village. It is normally timid and very wary but, come spring, there's no holding it back. Having recently observed a speedy kiss-chase of two normally shy hares breaking the speed limit along a short stretch of Haden Way, it was obvious that some madness was going on. The males are embarrassingly frisky, challenging other frenzied males to boxing matches. Females also get all 'Tyson Fury', donning their boxing gloves and facing up to any male that is too persistent or, maybe, isn't good-looking enough.

The idiom 'as mad as a March hare' was notably published during Henry VIII's reign by Sir Thomas More... 'as mad not as a March hare but as a madde dogge'. And, of course, who can forget *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) – 'In that direction... lives a Hatter, and in that direction... lives a March Hare... they're both mad.'

Our fairly local poet, John Clare, in a gentler mood, wrote in his poem *Hares at Play*:

*The timid hares throw daylight fears away  
On the lane's road to dust and dance and play,  
Then dabble in the grain by naught deterred  
To lick the dew-fall from the barley's beard...*

The hare has long been associated with devilry and witchcraft. Sailors dare not even mention the animal's name when at sea, and if one was seen 'haring' down your street, that was a sign that a fire was imminent. But be reassured – if you see a hare around the village, it just means that... er, you've just seen a hare.

John Lawrence

## News from RSPB Ouse Fen Nature Reserve

### Restoration Business as Usual

At Ouse Fen the RSPB is now working in partnership with Brice Aggregates to transform their minerals quarry at Needingworth into the largest reedbed in the UK, and a wetland that will support threatened bird species like bittern along with a host of other wetland wildlife. It's a great place to visit too – so get your boots on this spring and take a look!

### Recent Wildlife News

During the autumn migration and lingering into winter we saw a procession of wading birds pass through Berry Fen and one of the partly restored reedbeds including greenshank, spotted redshank, green, wood and common sandpipers, ringed and little ringed plovers, ruff, golden plover, dunlin, curlew, knot, turnstone and, most unusually, a black-winged stilt.

Like any good wetland they were joined by an equally varied range of rarer wildfowl over winter including a lesser scaup, a ferruginous duck, white-fronted geese and occasional whooper swans dropping by. Along with cranes, spoonbills and a sighting of a purple heron, it has all added to the attraction for a flurry of birdwatchers over the past few months too!

However, our most unusual recent record was of a very rare penduline tit in December on Lockspit's Mere. This winter visitor from Europe is a resident of fenland habitats on the Continent but was seen by just a very few lucky local observers.

### Reserve and Project Update

Out on the reserve our warden team has been directing management work including slubbing silt from ditches to allow water through, deepening scrapes with an excavator and cutting some of the wetland edges with our sit-in reed harvester to vary the habitat for wildlife and create views for visitors.

In the quarry restoration area, the partnership continues to deliver the same high quality wetland habitat as before. Most recently Brice's earthmoving contractors have completed another length of perimeter canal and the bones of what will eventually be transformed into the twelfth wetland mere delivered so far.

### Springtime – Just Around the Corner

The coming months are undoubtedly one of the best times to visit the reserve – with April, May and June among the very best. The reserve is open during daylight hours via our visitor entrance between Willingham and Earith. It's a great starting point from which to enjoy the trails that weave through the reedbeds or to take a longer walk connecting up with the public rights of way running through the valley.

To plan your visit, go to [www.rspb.org.uk/daysout/reserves/ouse-fen](http://www.rspb.org.uk/daysout/reserves/ouse-fen) where you'll find everything you need to know.

See you on the Fen!

The Ouse Valley Reserves

Team email: [ousefen@rspb.org.uk](mailto:ousefen@rspb.org.uk)



## Friends of Willingham Church

After the great success of our last quiz, we are holding another on **28 March** at the Octagon Hall. So, make sure you contact us soon as we have just 48 tickets available for this event! See the notice below for further information.

Saint 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, fund raising ideas and practical support. By joining the Friends, you will receive updates on our restoration projects and invitations to church events. We ask you to please support the Friends with a donation of £10 every six months (per household). We'd be very grateful if you would set up a standing order or make payments by BACS. For our bank details or if you would like to find out more about us then please contact us via email at [friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com).

## Friends of the Rosie Hospital

With your help we are raising money to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies.

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. By using our online store, you will be avoiding the crowded shops and keeping yourself safe. You can shop for new items on our website or donated items in our [rosieinstitches2010](#) 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. 8,000 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](http://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.

Please join us at our next AGM on **10 March** at 1 pm at the Rosie.

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

*Avril Williams*

07493 692010 [avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk](mailto:avril@rosieinstitches.org.uk)

## Willingham Gardening Club

On Monday 3 February, we welcomed Dr Ian Bedford, former Head of the Entomology Department at the John Innes Centre, who gave a fascinating talk on companion planting for a balanced garden. Dr Bedford described the many plants that, while being strategic pairings for pollination and yield increase, are also a natural solution for pest control, repelling pests, while indirectly attracting natural enemies. Other key takeaways:

- Plan for companion planting during the winter months.
- Solitary bee tubes, water, nest boxes and beetle habitats are great ways to encourage biodiversity in your garden.
- Your best friends are garlic, French marigolds and nasturtiums.
- Who knew that there are more than 40 species of slug in Britain?! (However, only six slug species eat our plants, the rest are beneficial recyclers.)

Our next meeting will be our AGM on **Monday 3 March**. This will be followed by Bingo with prizes!

The Gardening Club meets on the first Monday of the month at the Social Club, with refreshments from 7 pm. The meetings begin at 7 30 pm. There is an entrance fee of £4 for non-members.

New members are always welcome, you can sign up for a membership now. If you are interested in joining or learning about the benefits of membership, please email us at: [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).

### Friends of Willingham Church

## QUIZ NIGHT – 28 March

**7 pm for 7 30 pm start**

At the Octagon (behind the church)

Teams of up to 6 people

£10 per person

Supper and soft drinks included but bring your own alcohol.

Victors win a refund!

Raffle to be run on the night – £1 a ticket.

All profits go to FOWC to be used for repairs to the Church building.

Please enter your team in advance and pre-pay for your tickets by contacting:

[friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwillinghamchurch@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.

## Meet Roxy, a 'Pets as Therapy' Dog

**3rd Tuesday of the month (term time only),**

**18 March, 2 – 3 pm**

Come along and enjoy some time in the company of the gorgeous Roxy, a 'Pets as Therapy' dog and her owner. This is a drop-in session.

## Engage in the Afternoon

**Wednesday 5 March, 2 – 3 30 pm**

### 'Wild and Well' with Earth and Mind

Learn about Earth and Mind's 'Foraging for Wellbeing' sessions at Milton Country Park and join in with their microgreens activity. There will be time for questions, as well as a hot drink and a chat.

## Family Lego Club

**Saturday 8 and 22 March, 10 15 – 11 45 am**

These now take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

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.

## NEW Duplo Session for 18 months + with their adult

**Friday 7 March, 10 15 – 11 15 am**

Duplo fun in the library for your little ones.

## Digital Buddy Drop-in Session

Sorry – our Digital Buddy can't be at the library during March.

## 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.

## Friends of Willingham Library Events

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

## Upcoming Events

To celebrate the 55th birthday of Willingham Library we will be holding an event in May. More details available soon.

## Family History Session

**Friday 7 March, 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

**Saturday 1 March, 10 30 am – 12 noon**

We have a good variety of second-hand books for sale for the whole family. Excellent value at 50p each or three for £1. Come along to the library and stock up for all your reading needs while we wait for spring to arrive.

## Games and Social Afternoon

**Wednesday 12 March, 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 19 March, 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.

## Poetry and Prose Evening

**Tuesday 1 April, 7 30 pm**

The theme this time as it's April Fool's Day is *These Foolish Things*. Join us for an enjoyable and entertaining evening of poetry and prose. Bring along your funny/foolish or amusing poems, prose or limericks, old or new. The sillier the better! So, dust off your jester hats, polish its bells and bring them too, we'd love to see them! You're welcome to just come and listen, to read a piece you have chosen or have written yourself. Refreshments available.



# 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.

## Surgery Closure

Please note the surgery will be CLOSED from 1 pm on **Wednesday 19 March** 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.

## Cancelling Appointments

We understand that sometimes plans change and you may find you are unable to attend the surgery for a pre-booked appointment. We respectfully ask that you contact the surgery by telephone to let us know if you can no longer make it. You will not have to hold for any period of time, just press option 3 which will allow you to leave a message. Please do not cancel appointments last minute via email as, when we are very busy, we are unable to monitor the email inbox.

## Your Local Pharmacist

If it's not an emergency, you might be able to head to your local pharmacy rather than attending a GP appointment.

Your local pharmacist can help you with range of services, advice and treatment this winter. From blood pressure checks to vaccinations, and from advice on minor illnesses and injuries to over-the-counter medication. Just walk in and speak to the team.

## Hospital Medication

We would like to remind our patients that the best place to collect any medication prescribed by clinical staff while visiting the hospital is from the pharmacy located in the hospital itself. We understand that queues and waiting times are often long and frustrating, but not waiting to collect will only cause further delays. To clarify, the dispensary is unable to dispense any hospital requested medication without a clinic letter and these letters are often not received in the surgery for a few days after a clinic appointment/hospital attendance. In addition, the dispensary does not stock hospital medication so it has to be ordered in, which can sometimes take days, again causing further delays. So, please collect your medication from the hospital pharmacy to ensure that there is no interruption to your care.

## Patient Participation Group (PPG) Meetings

The PPG brings together patients, GPs and staff from a GP practice. They meet to discuss issues relating to their surgery and the services provided to patients. This allows GPs and staff to work with patients to plan services which best meet the needs of the people who use those services. All of our patients are welcome.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12 March**, 7 – 9 pm at the Willingham Medical Practice.

## First Contact Physiotherapist

The role of the First Contact Physiotherapist (FCP) is to assess patients with soft tissue, muscle and joint pain and to decide on the most appropriate management pathway. This could include onward referrals to other services without the need for a further GP appointment. FCPs are physiotherapists with expertise in the assessment and management of musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions. We have FCP appointments available at both the Willingham and Longstanton surgeries. Please telephone our reception team to book your appointment.

## 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

## Vaccinations

- The Flu vaccine is available until **31 March** for all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the influenza season), individuals aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March) and individuals aged 18 years to under 65 years in a clinical risk group category
- The Nasal Flu vaccine is available until **31 March** for all those aged two or three years on 31 August 2024 (with a date of birth on or after 1 September 2020 and on or before 31 August 2022)
- The Pneumococcal vaccine is available year-round for everyone who is aged 65 years and over.
- The RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccine is available year-round for everyone who is aged between 75 and 79 years of age and for all pregnant women who are over 28 weeks.
- The Shingles vaccine is available year-round for everyone who is aged between 70 and 79 years of age and have never received a shingles vaccine, for individuals who reach the age of 65 or 70 years of age during the period 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2028 (these individuals should be vaccinated on or after (but not before) their 65th or 70th birthday), individuals who are aged 50 years and above and meet the definition of severe immunosuppression and for those who are aged between 18 and 49 years and receiving a stem cell transplant.

## 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 5 March**, 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).

*Willingham Medical Practice*



## Thought for the Month

According to research, an average person spends several hundred hours per year waiting, which can add up to several years of their life when accumulated over their lifetime. Where do we do all this waiting? Perhaps in traffic, out shopping, at the school gate or for something to download from the internet. Or perhaps we are waiting for an appointment with a GP or at hospital, or for the birth of a new baby, or sitting at the bedside of someone, waiting for them to die.

Waiting is such a natural part of human life but, all too often, we are very bad at it. In a world which increasingly wants instant rewards and solutions to problems, having to wait a day or two, or longer, for answers just doesn't seem to sit comfortably and we can quickly become impatient. Around 3,000 years ago, the writer of the Bible's Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, had much to say about the right time for things to happen. Sometimes, it can seem to us that there's never a right time for anything and sometimes we long for something, wait patiently for it to happen and it never does.

How patient are you when you're waiting? How productively do you use your time when answers don't come swiftly? Here, at St Mary & All Saints Church in Willingham, we have been waiting 18 months for the arrival of new, full-time priests to lead our church and others in the 5folds Benefice/group. As I write, it's early February 2025 and we had hoped by now to be able to announce new appointments, but all is not yet quite in place for this to happen. For now, we need to use this waiting time wisely, to make ourselves ready by prayer and preparation. I hope you are able to do so too with things in your life that challenge you to wait.

*Jan Payne*

*Licensed Lay Minister, St Mary & All Saints Church*

## Puzzle Answers

### General Knowledge Crossword

Across: 1 Chester, 5 Stilton, 10 Blue, 11 Eurythmics, 12 Utopia, 13 Marjoram, 14 Dry sherry, 16 Anode, 17 Kayak, 19 Ascending, 23 At length, 24 Cheese, 26 Gorgonzola, 27 Tube, 28 Cheddar, 29 Embargo.

Down: 2 Holster, 3 Sheep, 4 Elevate, 6 Tutors, 7 Lampooned, 8 Orchard, 9 Primary School, 15 Scavenged, 18 Antioch, 20 Exclaim, 21 Nosebag, 22 Uganda, 25 Extra.

### Film Quiz

1 *Bohemian Rhapsody* 2 Chris Rock 3 *Goldfinger*, *Diamonds Are Forever* and *Moonraker*. 4 900 5 Liesl 6 George Harrison 7 Metroville 8 Emma Stone 9 *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* 10 Gregory Peck

## Swavesey Camera Club Annual Photographic Exhibition

Swavesey Camera Club is back for its Annual Photographic Exhibition on **Saturday 22 March**, held at the Swavesey Memorial Hall from 10 am to 4 pm.

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 a nominated charity. Tea, coffee, excellent cakes and other refreshments will be available all day.



Visit our website [www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk](http://www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk) where you can find further details of 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.

*Maggie O'Moore*

*Swavesey Camera Club Committee Member*

# FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Over Day Centre

This fantastic facility situated in Drings Close, Over, offers professional adult care, friendship and recreation for residents in Over and surrounding villages. Our parish contributes a large amount towards the Over Day Centre, so it makes sense we use it – in fact, Willingham residents make up a very large proportion of those who enjoy using the designated bus! Currently there are spaces available so do get in touch and any offers from volunteers would be welcome too.

## Tech4YoungCarers Programme

Calling all young carers (14 – 25 year-olds) to look at the Digital Poverty Alliance website, where they can find out about support offered for their educational journey and personal development. The Digital Poverty Alliance (DPA) recently extended their initiative to provide digital skills training as well as internet connectivity and laptops to support young carers.

## Our Roads and Parking

Willingham is classified as a 'minor rural settlement' and acts as a crossroads between Earith and Longstanton via the north/south B1050, together with Over in the east and Cottenham in the west. As a result, the traffic in peak periods can be quite heavy. There are many occasions when parking creates problems, and some drivers do not consider the road situation where they park. Road markings and the Highway Code are on occasion ignored altogether while others sometimes consider pavements as their parking spot! The Council is proposing further road markings to improve safety and ensure less danger and inconvenience or congestion to all road users. Meanwhile, where there are no markings, please could drivers give a thought to the direction in which they park as well as to the pedestrians trying to pass by safely. Pavements are for people! In a rural village such as ours many roads do not have pavements on both sides, so it is even more important the ones we do have are easily accessible for pedestrians, without overgrown bushes or parked cars. We do not want any more accidents or deaths on our roads so please can drivers be more mindful of their speed and parking.

## COVID-19 Day of Reflection

2025 marks the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and there is to be a UK-wide 'Day of Reflection' on **Sunday 9 March**. More information and resources can be found on: [www.gov.uk/day-of-reflection](http://www.gov.uk/day-of-reflection).

## The Four Day Week and County Offices

South Cambridgeshire District Council is gathering data and opinions to help them decide on their next steps for the 'Four Day Week' programme which has been operating at the Council. The closing date for collecting data is **23 March** at 11 59 pm so, if you would like to respond, visit the website: [www.scambs.gov.uk/4dw](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/4dw).

## Road Closure

As Over Road from the traffic lights needs a lot of repairs and it is such a key route, all the utilities companies, including those upgrading the sewerage and drainage along there, are coordinating their works so that they all dig it up in one go. Unfortunately, that will mean full closure at times and early March has been tabled as a likely start date.

## Meetings

Meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month, starting at 7 30 pm in the Octagon. Next meeting is on **5 March**. 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.

## Contact Details

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

## Council Office Details

Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham CB24 5LP. Tel 01954 261027

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

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

*Clerk: 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

# The Night (and Day) Sky in March

## Why the Night and Day Sky this month?

Because, on 29 March, there's a partial solar eclipse. From our location, a maximum of 31% of the Sun will be covered by the Moon passing between the Earth and the Sun. It will start with the Sun being 'nibbled away' by about 2% at 10 16 am, and the maximum will be at 11 06 am. It will last until just before midday. Nowhere on Earth will there be a total eclipse in this instance, as it's not a perfect alignment of the Sun and Moon.

**It's important to note that you should never look directly at the Sun. Solar eclipse glasses or special solar filters should be used, or search online for other ways to view the event safely.**

A solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse always happen in pairs, somewhere on Earth, within two weeks of each other. So, two weeks beforehand, on 14 March, there's a lunar eclipse, this time it's total. Unfortunately, from our village's location, the Moon will be setting at dawn, about 6 20 am, just as the eclipse starts. Even at the western point of the British Isles, you'd have to be quick to spot the eclipse of this Worm Moon, so called because, traditionally, it signifies the time of year when earthworms begin to appear above ground.



*From our location, the Sun will be eclipsed by a maximum of nearly one-third.*

What about the visibility of planets? Jupiter and Mars will still liven up the March skies. Mars will stay as bright for a few weeks more but won't be as bright again until February 2027. In the first week of March, Mars can be seen cosying up to the Moon in the evening sky, the closest being on 9 March. Beautiful and bright Venus will be bowing out in the west as the 'evening star' in March, with fainter Mercury close by, as the Sun sets. This will probably be the best time of the year to see Mercury, our solar system's innermost planet, and it will be at its closest to Venus on 12 March. You can observe the elusive Mercury at this time with the naked eye but binoculars and a steady hand will help – **make sure the sun has totally set before scanning the sky with binoculars.**

Venus is swinging between the Sun and the Earth for a short time (on 23 March, Venus is in a straight line between us and the Sun, called an inferior conjunction), but we'll welcome the planet back as the 'morning star' in the last few days of March, this time very low in the eastern sky over Rampton before dawn.

If you want to know more about astronomy and the interesting objects in the night skies over our village, there are several good astronomical websites such as [in-the-sky.org](http://in-the-sky.org) to help you.

Luke Skywatcher

## READERS' LETTERS

Dear Editor

In light of my recent experiences of the healthcare I receive from the Willingham Surgery, I felt compelled to write a public thank you. I feel that we can often take for granted the dedicated team who provide for us in the village. Over the last 12 months I've seen four different doctors in the team as well as the nurses. On the few occasions I've needed an urgent appointment, I have always been seen promptly. Each doctor I've seen has been patient, kind and thorough, often overrunning the time allocated for an appointment to ensure they've done their best for me. Knowing that I'm going to get that level of care when it's my turn to be seen makes the frustration of appointments running late easier to bear.

Of course, there are frustrations in making contact, for example, waiting in the queue on the phone early in the morning (when it's my preference not to use the 'callback' service) and delays when appointments run late. When we feel things are going wrong it's so easy to voice our frustrations inappropriately. The reception team who are always on the 'front line', do their utmost, in my experience, to be patient and helpful in sorting out the issues which can feel upsetting, particularly when you feel unwell. I urge those of us who need the surgery's services to remember that, whatever the problem, it's likely not to be the fault of the person you're speaking to.

On my last visit to the surgery, while waiting for an appointment, I witnessed a patient speaking very loudly and aggressively to the receptionist. It was clear the patient was under stress but I feel that's no excuse. I was upset by the person's manner and I wasn't even a party to the conversation! The receptionist was calm and polite but it brought home to me that those staff members have to deal professionally with situations which must make an already stressful job even more stressful.

So, I give my heartfelt thanks to the surgery team for coping so well with what is becoming an increasingly large practice. I'm sure the vast majority of your patients are grateful for you and appreciate your efforts in supporting our community's health and wellbeing.

Teresa Weston

Dear Editor

Thanks so much for your article on 'Shoeboxes' in the February magazine. I have now heard that our boxes were sent to Eastern Europe and the Balkans. I think that it would be great if the generous people of Willingham could know where the boxes went!

Hilary Wyllie





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# Willingham Council School Magazine, 1939

Our readers seem to like the excerpts from the 1939 *Willingham Council School Magazine*, so here are a few more items from that publication, which you can also view online at the excellent [www.oldwillingham.com](http://www.oldwillingham.com) website.

We can only imagine the uncertainty and anxiety that the pupils felt, as the country faced war. But they obviously liked (or were persuaded!) to write poems. The magazine contains some delightful ones, such as these. There is also a lovely lino-cut of one of our village's orchards.

## BONFIRES

Come and help us make a fire,  
See the flames leap ever higher,  
All the air is full of smoke,  
Which comes off and makes us choke.

Pile on rubbish, hold it down,  
Watch the leaves go dry and brown,  
See them burst into bright flames,  
As they play such merry games.

On these gloomy autumn days,  
How we love our merry blaze,  
For it warms our hands and toes  
Till our body really glows.

*Ethel Read. Std. 5.*

## LIMERICK

There was once a young man of Doon  
Who thought he could beat Eric Boon.  
He said, with a shout,  
'I will knock him clean out',  
Then woke up on the next afternoon.

*Michael Hopkins. Std. 6.*

## MEMORIES

Row upon row of flowers,  
Majestic after showers.  
The fields triumphant show,  
All colours of rainbow.

Then apple, pear and plum,  
After Iris and pyrethrum,  
A view of strawberries red  
In their golden, warm, straw bed.

All working like bees there,  
May it be dull or fair.

Carters hast'ning with their load,  
Lumping grandly along the road.

Blackbirds stealing the golden fruit,  
Like active thieves after their loot.  
But though there's here no rest,  
Summer in Willingham is the best.

*Howard King. Std. 5*



## Map of Old Willingham

For Christmas, a friend had a jigsaw made for me in the form of a really interesting old map of Willingham and here is the central part depicting our village.

The easiest piece to find was the one in the shape of my house but the rest was tricky as the colours were all dull creams and greys.

It has taken me a while to figure out the likely date of this map. I can only suggest a date somewhere between the building of the school on Fen End (the date over the door is 1856) and the rest of the Lordship Terraces on Fen End, which is not shown but I know was built in 1888. On the outlying part, this jigsaw does note: 'Roman coins found AD1881' to the north of Willingham and more of the same found to the west in 1862.

It is fascinating to see the detail: footpaths and orchards, plus changes to the village, such as the Black Horse pub on the crossroads, now The Porterhouse, Middle Fen Road now Earith Road and Iram Drove has today become Priest Lane.

*Val McKee*



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# WHAT'S ON

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	EXTRA INFO
Sat 1 March	Second-hand Book Sale	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p13
Sun 2 March	Jazz Club	Jazz Club	Social Club	12 30 – 3 30 pm Rosie-Val 01954 789670
Mon 3 March	AGM	Gardening Club	Social Club	Doors open from 7 pm, see p12
Wed 5 March	'Wild and Well' with Earth and Mind	Engage in the Afternoon	Library	2 – 3 30 pm, see p13
Wed 5 March	Carers' Support Meeting	Surgery	Wilford Furlong Centre	2 – 4 pm, see p14
Wed 5 March	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p16
Fri 7 March	Duplo Session	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 15 am, see p13
Fri 7 March	Family History Session	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p13
Fri 7 March	Jam Club	Jam Club	Social Club	7 30 – 10 30 pm
Sat 8 March	<i>Willingham News</i> Deadline	<i>Willingham News</i>		See p3, articles to be sent to: willinghamnews@gmail.com
Sat 8 March	Memory Box Café	Parish Church	Octagon	10 am – 12 noon, see p5
Sat 8 March	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 45 am, see p13
Sun 9 March	COVID-19 Day of Reflection	UK Government	UK-wide	All day, see p16
Mon 10 March	AGM	Friends of the Rosie	Rosie Hospital	1 pm, see p12
Mon 10 March	Bingo Night	Women's Institute	Social Club	7 30 pm
Wed 12 March	Games & Social Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p13
Wed 12 March	Patient Participation Group Meeting	PPG	Surgery	7 – 9 pm, see p14
Thu 13 March	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p10
Sat 15 March	Talk: <i>Facing Obstacles</i> With Geoff Pake	Men's Breakfast	Baptist Church	7 45 am, see p10
Mon 17 March	Assignment: 'Creative'	Photo Club	Baptist Church	8 - 10 pm, see p7
Tue 18 March	Pets as Therapy	Library	Library	2 – 3 pm, see p13
Wed 19 March	Surgery Closure	Surgery	Surgery	From 1 pm, see p14
Wed 19 March	Knit & Natter Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p14
Sat 22 March	Annual Photographic Exhibition	Swavesey Camera Club	Swavesey Memorial Hall	10 am – 4 pm, see p15
Sat 22 March	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 45 am, see p13
Thu 27 March	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p10
Fri 28 March	FOWC Quiz Night	Friends of Willingham Church	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p12

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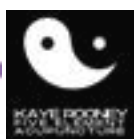
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# VILLAGE DIRECTORY

<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@scambs.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Dan Lentell	01954 713000 / cllr.lentell@scambs.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
	Honeypot Pre-School (term-time only)	Kate Van Dort	01954 201567
	Koala Kidz, Children's Day Nursery	Edith Jeffrey	01954 260046
	Brownies, Guides and Rangers	Lynn McGoff	willinghamguides@hotmail.co.uk
	TOPS (Baptist Church Toddlers Group)	Debbie Allen	01954 261581
	Little Rainbows Baby & Toddler Group	Tiko Pending	tmwale31@gmail.com
<b>Halls</b>	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	Through Parish Council	01954 261027
<b>Local Representatives</b>	Allotments		Clerk@willinghamcombinedcharity.org.uk
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	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 Bee Group	Corrin Hoyes	07903 937718
<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
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	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>	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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