

Willingham News

FREE TO EVERY HOME
village website: www.willinghamlife.org

willinghamnews@gmail.com
November 2025



Photo and Scarecrow by Ladybird Borland

*Let the Feast Begin! See More Scarecrows Inside.
Feast Pictures on page 5.*

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Please note the deadline for your contributions is now the 4th of each month.

Bin Collections

Friday 7 November	Black
Friday 14 November	Blue and Green
Friday 21 November	Black
Friday 28 November	Blue and Green

(Dates correct at time of going to press)

Councillors' Contact Details

Councillor reports can be found on their websites

County Councillor Yasmin Deter	www.facebook.com/share/16a1voz7GB/?mibextid=wwXIfr
District Councillor Bill Handley	www.facebook.com/billhandleylibdem
District Councillor Dan Lentell	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

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

Advertising

Advertising is sold on an annual basis for an insert into 12 issues beginning in January. Send any advertising queries or copy to: advertising.wnews@yahoo.co.uk, marking your emails Adverts.

The *Willingham News* team wishes to thank all the advertisers for their support and interest. They play a vital role in maintaining this publication and also in our community as local businesses supplying goods and services. If you contact an advertiser, please mention that you saw their advertisement in *Willingham News*. Thank you all very much.

CONTENTS

November News

Digital Switchover.....	7
Editorial Vacancy	13
Feast Events.....	5
Firework Night.....	6
Jeanne Barbara Ackermann.....	15
Mystery Photo	9
Nature's Names	11
Night Sky.....	11
Old Willingham.....	6
Photo Club Assignments.....	7
Readers' Noticeboard.....	17
Reception School Tour.....	6
Willingham Sustainability	19

Clubs and Groups

Fen Edge Twinning Association	19
Friends of Willingham Church	11
Gardening Club.....	19
History Group	11
Memory Box Café.....	6
Octagon Community Hub.....	15
Over Players	15
Photo Club.....	9
Singers and Drummers	13
Social Club	19
Willingham Combined Charities.....	7
Women's Institute	15

Quizzes

Sudoku.....	9
Answers	19

Monthly Items

Bin Collections	3
Christians Together.....	12
Directory.....	23
Library	17
Medical Practice	10
Parish Council.....	16
Thought for the Month.....	13
What's On.....	21
Young Readers' Corner	9

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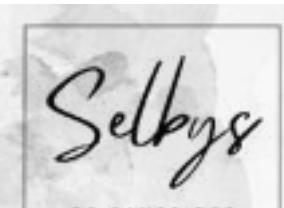
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WEDNESDAY	10:00 - 16:00
THURSDAY	10:00 - 16:00
FRIDAY	10:00 - 16:00
SATURDAY	10:00 - 16:00
SUNDAY	CLOSED

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Feast Events

Here are a few images from the Feast events that took place over the first weekend.



Art Exhibition in the Library



Harvest Festival Flowers in the Church



Harvest Lunch Helpers



Harvest Festival contributions to go to Cambridge Food Bank



Photo Exhibition in the Public Hall

You will spot, scattered throughout the magazine, some of the scarecrows that have appeared around the village.



Repair Café in the Ploughman Hall

Old Willingham



Here is a picture of one of Willingham's petrol stations in about 1960. It was on Berrycroft roughly opposite where the Pizza shop is today. Petrol was also available from what is now Willingham Motors and, until about 15 years ago, from Foreman's on George St. The car is a 1951 Sunbeam Talbot 90 owned by Dr Flowers, the village doctor at that time who, according to Norman Ingle, was known as 'Jim' by friends. The number plate is 'JYM 835'.

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



Willingham Memory Box Café

If you're living with any form of memory loss or other illness and would like a morning of

Songs, Refreshments, Company and Fun
please do come with a friend, family or carer
on **Saturday 8 November**

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 us by email:
memoryboxcafe@yahoo.com

Scouts
1st Willingham Scout Group
FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

Join us for our annual fireworks display at the Willingham Rec*.
Come and enjoy some Burgers, Hot Dogs and Mulled wine
Family tickets cost £8 individual £4 are available online from: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/willingham-scouts/t-ganmxdv>
Or by using the QR code.
Family tickets cost £10 individual £5 at the gate

Saturday 8th November
Gates open 5:00PM

*If the Willingham recreation ground is flooded, the site will be unsuitable for the fireworks display. If this is the case, rather than cancelling or postponing the event we will be relocating to an alternative location.

**RECEPTION 2026
INTAKE SCHOOL
TOURS 2025**

Willingham Primary School

Mon 6th Oct
Fri 10th Oct
Mon 13th Oct

Mon 10th Nov
Fri 14th Nov
Fri 21st Nov

School Tours at 1.30pm or 2.30pm

Please contact the school office to book a place on a tour

Thodays Close, Willingham, CB9 5LE
office@willingham.cambs.sch.uk
01950 263030

Digital Switchover

Have you heard about the digital switchover? Willingham Community Hub is discussing this on **Monday 24 November**. So come along for information and bring your questions!

We'll have Will Plant, Digital Inclusion Lead for Connecting Cambridgeshire, to guide us through the switch, which is all about upgrading phone lines.

The UK's traditional phone network is being switched off by January 2027, meaning all such landlines will move to a digital system. The switchover will mainly affect people who:

- don't have an internet connection at home
- rely on a traditional landline (not already using a digital phone service)
- use telecare and personal alarm systems (such as fall monitors or lifelines).

But don't worry, Will has information and top tips on what you need to do.

Come along on the 24th. Our hub runs from 10 am to 12 30 pm at the Octagon, St Mary & All Saints Church, Church Street, CB24 5HS.

Can't make the date but need some advice?

- Read more on the [Connecting Cambridgeshire website](#)
- Or contact Cambridgeshire ACRE Village Agent, Kari Payne, on 01353 865027/07484 053086 or email kari.payne@cambsacre.org.uk.

Willingham Combined Charities – Allotments



- Are you looking for a new way to keep fit?
- Would you like to grow fruit or vegetables to feed yourself or your family?
- Is your garden just too small to have a vegetable crop?
- Would a small (or even a big!!) allotment plot be the answer to your needs?

If the answer to the above is 'yes' then look no further! A small number of allotment plots have now become available at the start of this new allotment year. There are some ideal 'starter plots' in which to grow garden produce for a rent of just £15 per year or larger plots between £20 and £30. If you are interested and would like more details, please email:

sueandpaulontour@hotmail.com.

Photo Club Assignments

Each month, members of our Photo Club are set an assignment, the results of which are viewed and discussed at the next meeting. The subject can be varied – in recent times, we've had *Knobs*, *Musical Instruments*, *Geometric* and many more to stretch the imagination of members. It's huge fun, and there's little pressure to provide an award-winning shot, but invariably there's a great deal of quality, creativity and a few surprises! You can view all the results on photo.ballandia.co.uk, where you can search for *Assignments*.



A recent assignment was *Street Headwear* – one of the results accompanies this item. The picture was taken at Norfolk's Weybourne Station (of *Dad's Army* fame) where the volunteers for the heritage railway line obligingly wore hats!





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Sudoku

By Willow

Answer on page 19

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

Mystery Photo

How did you do with October's Mystery Photo? Responses ranged from 'No idea' to 'Oh yes! It's the top of the Porterhouse Tipi!' And it was indeed a warped picture of the top of the tipi. This month's mystery photo might be easier, and it's appropriate for November. Good luck!



Willingham Photo Club
willinghamphotoclub.org.uk

Interested in photography, come and join us at our friendly club

Our next meeting is on Monday, 17th November at 8:00pm in the Baptist Church

For further details please contact denise@willington.demon.co.uk



Young Readers' Corner

This month we're taking an autumnal theme. The Word Search contains the names of 15 trees you can find in Britain. If you want to make it a little harder for yourself, cover over the list below.

Answer on page 19



acacia	cedar	laburnum	spruce
ash	chestnut	larch	sycamore
beech	elm	oak	willow
birch	hornbeam	poplar	

Here are some leaves to identify and colour. Can you find examples of these when you go out to match them to the pictures? Answer on page 19.



1



2



3



4



5



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Winter Fuel Allowance – 2025 Update

Following a review by central government for 2025, most pensioners in England and Wales will receive the Winter Fuel Payment. The payment will be reinstated for all pensioners with a taxable income below £35,000 per year. If your income is above that threshold, you will still receive the payment and it will be recovered through the tax system.

If you're eligible, you'll get a letter in October or November and most eligible people will be paid automatically in November or December.

If you haven't received a payment before, and believe you are eligible, you can contact the Winter Fuel Payment by telephone, post or online to make a claim.

Be aware of potential scams related to winter fuel payment claims.

For further information please visit www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment or telephone 0800 731 0160.

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.

Blood Tests

If you have a pre-arranged blood test booked in the surgery, it is important to ensure you are well hydrated when you attend for your appointment. This also includes when attending for a fasting blood test – although you must not eat, please ensure that you drink plenty of water. This will help to make your test less uncomfortable.

Referrals

If during your consultation the GP or nurse has arranged a referral to the hospital or a community service, and you have not heard anything after two weeks from either the surgery confirming your referral has been sent or from the hospital/service, please make contact with our secretaries to chase.

Hospital Medication

We would like to remind our patients that the best place to collect any medication prescribed by clinical staff whilst 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 by 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.

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 Pneumococcal Vaccine is available all 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 01/09/23 and 31/08/2028 (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. Please note, when booking your second (booster) shingles vaccination, that this cannot be administered any sooner (even by one day) than six calendar months after the first vaccination was given.

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 November, 7 – 9 pm** at the Willingham Medical Practice.

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 November**, at the Wilford Furlong Centre in Willingham, 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

Willingham Medical Practice

Nature's Names

You'd be forgiven for thinking nettles were a bit of a nuisance, seemingly growing everywhere you don't want them, and threatening you with their potential to sting. But there's more to our irritating little friends than meets the eye.

The name *nettle* comes from the Indo-European language (3000 years ago and more), derived from the root word *ned*, meaning to tie or bind together – hemp is part of the nettle family. In Old Saxon (8th to 12th century) the word was *netila*. It has inspired several English place names – Nettlebed in Oxfordshire, Nettleton in Lincolnshire, and Nettlestead near Ipswich, to name but three.

Nettles thrive in most places, notably in soil which is rich in phosphates – near refuse dumps, churchyards, cattle pens, river valleys – in fact, anywhere where human activity exists, or near where animals casually deposit their poo, they will most likely flourish.

Nettles are sometimes classed as a superfood as they contain numerous vitamins and minerals. They have been part of medicinal folklore for centuries. They are, apparently, a cure for most ills. In medieval times – and this sparks a personal interest for this follically-challenged author – it was commonly believed that nettles improved hair growth. Just squeeze juice from some nettle leaves then dip your comb's teeth into it each morning. You should then 'juice comb' your hair the wrong way. This relies wholly, of course, on having enough hair to comb the wrong way. Moving on...

In literature, nettles have a rich history. They can be used in textile work, as in Hans Christian Andersen's *The Wild Swans*. In it, our hero princess gathers nettles in order to knit shirts to help her eleven cursed brothers regain their human shape after being turned into swans. But, alas, if she utters any sounds or words as she knits, she and her brothers will be slaughtered. Heartwarming stuff.

But it does raise the question... should the many crafters of Willingham try knitting with nettles? There's plenty of it about. Knitting with nettles – what can possibly go wrong?

John Lawrence

Willingham History Group (WHIG)

The Origin of Bury St Edmunds

King Edmund of East Anglia refused to renounce his Christian faith and was killed by the invading Danish horde in November 869. He is the former patron saint of England and even today some want to reinstate him rather than St George!

The date of our meeting will be almost 1156 years to the day from the date of Edmund's death.

How did he die and what did the paranormal wolf do about it?

Find out at the WHIG meeting on **Monday 24 November** at 7.30 pm in the Social Club. £4 on the door to cover the cost of the room.

Night Sky

This month we're going to be treated to the brightest and biggest Full Moon of the year! On **5 November**, for example, the Moon will be at its perigee, which means it is at its closest to Earth, and will appear about 14% larger. It's not called a supermoon for nothing – it will be at its brightest since 2019. And, what do you know, there's another one due on **4 December**... just like buses.

The Pleiades star cluster, which we covered last month, will appear very close to the Moon on **6 November** during the evening, visible with the naked eye once your eyes take time to get used to the dark sky, even with the bright Moon close by.

With Venus bowing out of our early morning sky for a few weeks, as its orbit takes it behind the Sun, two other planets are the 'naked eye' planetary performers this month – Saturn and Jupiter. The ringed planet Saturn will be shining brightly in the south-west during the evenings, and the giant Jupiter, near the half-Moon on **9/10 November**, will be even brighter as they rise together in the east about 9 pm.

Happy planet-gazing!

Luke Skywatcher

Friends of Willingham Church

St Mary and All Saints, Church St, Willingham
friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com

Please support us at our next fundraising event:

Saturday 8 November, 2.30 pm in the church,
£5 per person

We will be hosting a speaker from English Heritage who will present a talk about the wall paintings and other aspects of decoration within the church.

Tea, coffee and home-made cakes will then be available to buy in the Octagon.

To book please contact the above email address.
Pay by BACS, cash or card at the door on the day.

It's an expensive business looking after a church that's 100s of years old. The building needs urgent and expensive repairs. Keeping the church open depends on being able to maintain the church as well as pay the bills. The church does not receive any funding from the Church of England; it is up to local people to pay for the upkeep of the church. English Heritage cannot support ongoing maintenance – they barely have enough funds to help those churches that are in danger of collapse. You can help by supporting the Friends of Willingham Church.

Why not join us and help raise much-needed funds?

We are a community group, established in summer 2023, to raise money for the maintenance of the outside of the church building. Our desire is to preserve the church so future generations can enjoy it as much as we do.

We would love to welcome some more members. By joining the Friends, you will receive updates on our restoration projects when they get underway and invitations to church events. We ask you to please support the Friends with a donation of £10 every six months (per household) or whatever you can afford. You can set up a standing order or make payments by BACS. If you would like to become a member or just find out more, please email us on the above address.



St Mary + All Saints

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

Services – in Church (except where shown)

2 November	11 00 am	Morning Prayer – Book of Common Prayer
2 November	3 00 pm	All Souls' Service – All Saints Longstanton, see below for details
5 November	9 30 am	Morning Prayer
9 November	10 45 am	Remembrance Service – see below for details
16 November	11 00 am	Café Church – in the Octagon
23 November	11 00 am	No service in Willingham – see below for details of Benefice Service in Swavesey
30 November	11 00 am	Holy Communion

All Souls' Day

On **Sunday 2 November**, 3pm, a Benefice Service for All Souls' Day will take place at All Saints Longstanton. This is an opportunity to reflect and remember loved ones who have died, whether recently or long ago. All are welcome.

Remembrance Sunday

On **Sunday 9 November** we gather at the War Memorial at 10 45 am for the Act of Remembrance. Following this, we will move into the Church for the Service of Remembrance.

Benefice Service on 23 November

11 am at St Andrew's Church in Swavesey

This is an opportunity to meet with our fellow Churches in the Benefice, from Longstanton, Over and Swavesey.

Memory Box Café

Our next Memory Box Café will be on **Saturday 8 November** from 10 am in the Octagon with the usual mix of music, refreshments, laughter and fun. Everyone living with memory loss or other illness, accompanied by a carer, friend or family, 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 to pray for Ukraine and its people during daytime Church opening hours. Also, **every Thursday** from 4 30 to 5 pm, we offer a time to gather to pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East and for an end to conflicts worldwide. Everyone is welcome.

Octagon Hall

The Octagon is available for group and private bookings at a cost of £16 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 Stephen Dove 07944 014521 or stephen@5folds.org.uk
Rev Ed Green 01954 716894 or Ed@5folds.uk.com

Licensed Lay Minister:

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

5folds Administration Office:

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



George Street, Willingham, Cambridge CB24 5LJ
www.willinghambaptist.org and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/willinghambaptist)

Minister: Rev Kwaku Efah

ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER

Sunday Morning Services – 10 am

Friendly contemporary services with songs, prayers and fellowship.

2 November Service with communion

9 November Family service

16 November Service of the word

23 November Service of praise

30 November Visiting preacher

EVENTS

Wednesday Fellowship – Coffee Morning, 10 – 11 30 am
Every Wednesday, Open Door for coffee and chat.

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

Breakfast and chat. Talk by Dan Lentell – *Macho Man*.

Community Lunch Club – Thursday 6 and 20 November

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.

Women's Bible Study group – Monday 24 November, 7 30 pm

For all events contact: secretary@willinghambaptist.org.

Catholic Parish of the Sacred Heart, St Ives

Details of services at St Ives at www.sacredheart-stives.org.

Mass is also held at **6 pm on Saturdays** in the Church 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.

Thought for the Month

I wonder how much you like to look back at things that have happened in your life, remembering the good times and, perhaps sometimes, the sad? We can often find real comfort from revisiting happy memories, those which make us feel good and loved, or perhaps cheer us up – and there is nothing wrong in that.

How often though do we look back and try to learn from the mistakes we or others have made, in the hopes that they won't happen again? VE and VJ Day 80 this year transported some people back to the days of the war in which they were alive. Those rather younger perhaps tried to understand how a generation allowed itself to get into such a serious, worldwide conflict.

Now in 2025, we are seeing again a very turbulent world around us at present, one that can make us feel ill at ease and worried. We may be trying to look forward in the optimistic hope of a better and more peaceful life but not seeing it. Many are praying regularly for world peace including, on a weekly basis, in our church.

November is traditionally the month in which we remember all those who gave their lives in world wars and other conflicts and continue to do so today. It is good to take time to remember, to honour our dead but not, in any sense, to glorify war. It is, perhaps, necessary for us all to reflect on the lessons we should have learned but sometimes struggle to.

In the Christian tradition we name Jesus as the Prince of Peace. It is to Him and to God that we pray in times of need for ourselves, for our nation and for our world. On **Sunday 9 November** we will hold our annual Remembrance Day service, 10.45 am at the War Memorial and 11 am in St Mary & All Saints Church. Please do join us as we focus our thoughts on those who gave their lives in the quest for peace and, especially, offer our prayers for the cessation of conflicts in our time and the longed for coming of world peace.

Jan Payne – Licensed Lay Minister, St Mary & All Saints Church

Willingham Gardening Club

At the time of writing this article we are looking forward to the October meeting where we will host a Gardeners' Question Time, with lots of questions for our panel of local experts!

The following meeting will be on **3 November** at the regular time of 7.30 pm. At this meeting Jim Paine will give a very interesting and topical talk entitled: *Climate Change – the long-range gardener's forecast*.

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

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

Editor for Willingham News

Would you be interested in joining the editorial team at *Willingham News*? We would like to expand the pool of people who take on this voluntary role.

What does it involve?

Each editor is in charge of two or three issues a year. The editor for the month is responsible for seeing through the production of the magazine from selecting material sent in by contributors, editing it to the house style, supplying it in a given format to our designer, checking and correcting page proofs and ensuring accurate, final artwork is delivered to the printer.

Who would it suit?

The person we're looking for is:

- well organised
- reliable and available for intensive periods with strict deadlines when it's their turn to edit
- accurate, with a very good command of English and an eye for detail
- able to apply and adhere to the *WN* house style
- a good communicator
- interested in village life
- good at working as part of a team.

Could this be you? If so, please email willinghamnews@gmail.com with a little detail of your relevant experience and head your email: Editorial role.



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Willingham Women's Institute



Our next meeting will be on **Monday 10 November** 7 pm at the Social Club. We will be having refreshments on arrival and time to chat. At 7.30 pm we will start the meeting with notices and then try our hand at making Christmas tree decorations, with pine cones, bells, berries, ribbon and anything else you would like to add.

At our October meeting, Bryan Saddington came to talk to us about his *Life and Times in the Fire Service*. Bryan retired 25 years ago but still remembers blagging his way through the interview. The training was hard, strict and repetitive but he always enjoyed the camaraderie. Initially based in London for a year, he was relieved to move back to Cambridge. Non-service days at the Fire Station were taken up with training, drills, exercise, equipment/engine maintenance, tests on street locations (no satnav then), chores, self-catering and a lot of fun. All the preparation enabled the crew to deal with a diverse range of jobs, from serious fatality fires, arson, domestic fires and traffic accidents, to rescuing animals and many more.

Bryan really enjoyed his job and worked his way through the ranks, eventually heading up a Fire Safety Department, followed by Fire Investigations – a very fulfilling career that he still enjoys talking about today.

Our friendly, informal group is open to all women – just a few of us make jam and we only sing *Jerusalem*, as a tradition, at the Annual Meeting! We usually have an interesting speaker at our monthly meetings or an activity. All members receive an online copy of the monthly *CFWI News*, the national magazine, and can also join outings and activities organised by the Cambridgeshire Federation.

You would be warmly welcomed, for a taster session to check us out, free of charge.

To find out more, please contact willinghamwi28@gmail.com or phone Vicky 01954 201405. Hope to see you soon.

The WI Quiz is back! Save the date!

Friday 23 January 2026

Open at 7 pm for a 7.30 pm start at the Social Club.

Ticket price £6 per person, teams 4 to 6 (contact willinghamwi28@gmail.com for a team entry form).

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Over Players

Sound the trumpets! Tickets are now on sale for the Over Players' 2025 pantomime: *Once Upon A Time*.

Pantoland is celebrating the upcoming royal wedding between Cinderella's daughter, Princess Lottie, and Snow White's son, Prince Marvellous. Their union is foretold to break the last hold of darkness forever. Evelyn, a wicked witch in charge of Panto Land, vows to stop the marriage, fearing the prophecy banishes evil from Pantoland forever. But Prince Marvellous embarks on a quest to rescue the princess. Along the way he is helped by many folk from fairy land, all ready to battle against Evelyn's schemes and ensure a happy ending.

Expect magical chaos, theatrical flair, and at least one villain who's possibly a bit misunderstood (and probably just needs a hug).

www.overplayers.uk

Jeanne Barbara Ackermann

This is Jeanne Barbara Ackermann, who visited St Mary & All Saints Church on the day of the Harvest Festival. She now lives in Nottingham and was visiting with a friend for the day.

Jeanne was married at our church in 1951 and celebrates her 100th birthday this month. She remembers many Willingham folks of old and sends good wishes. Her family name was Few and her relatives had farmed in this area.



The Octagon Community Hub

Monday mornings 10 am – 12.30 pm

Come and join us on Monday mornings in the Octagon, behind St Mary & All Saints Church, where you will find someone to chat to if you would like some company. We offer free tea, coffee and biscuits at all sessions. We also serve a light lunch which is often fresh home-made soup and buttered toast or beans on toast or jacket potatoes. There are magazines, books, puzzles, games, knitting and colouring to enjoy too.

We will also be hosting an autumn vaccination clinic on **Monday 3 November**. The immunisation team attending plans to offer Covid vaccinations to adults aged 75+ and to anyone aged 18 – 74 if they are severely immunosuppressed.

Please follow the footpath to the left of the church gate and you will find the Octagon behind the church. We are wheelchair accessible and have a disabled toilet.

We make no charges for our refreshments, but donations are always appreciated.

We hope to see you soon!

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.WillinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Vacancy

At the last Parish Council meeting there were three applicants for the vacant position. Following two rounds of voting, Robert Phillips was co-opted to the Council.

Traffic

The 20 mph zone for Willingham has been implemented. Several complaints have been made that the traffic speeds appear to have increased since the introduction of the new limits, especially as the 30 mph safety camera on Station Road was found to be unsuitable to be recalibrated. We are also looking into other mechanisms that may allow the reinstatement of this device which may make a difference. We have conducted discrete data logging on the High Street near Covent Garden and on Station Road near the covered safety camera although there is, unfortunately, no previous data for a comparison. This information is available on the PC website. These show disconcertingly high average speeds and maximum speeds which will be reported to highways and the police. Hopefully, this will result in a response for the apparent disregard of the speed limits.

Regarding the comments in the last magazine about the B1050 Shelfords Road (Earith Road end), the Parish Council has requested a 7.5 tonne weight limit together with a 30 mph limit along the stretch beside the river for safety reasons. We have also pursued the CCC Highways Department regarding the £6.9m scheme promised four years ago which was stopped due to cost increases. This unacceptable cancellation needs to be reinstated to ensure the safety of all along that road.

There had generally been a positive response to implementation of traffic control measures along Earith Road in the vicinity of the Community Orchard. The suggested 'priority give way' scheme was less favourable so alternatives such as a raised table, gates and a central island are being considered. Funding for this would come from S106 Northstowe resources.

The footpath to Highgate Farm is in the final design stages and paperwork should be completed in the near future. It was hoped this work could start soon. Due to the amount of recent road closures along Over Road, a full road closure cannot be carried out during the day. However, it is hoped that a night-time (8 pm – 6 am) closure would work and be an acceptable alternative.

Willingham Post Office

The Post Office has applied for a licence to retail alcohol, and the enlarged premises are now open seven days a week, although the post office services are available only during the Monday to Saturday business hours as previously.

Remembrance Day

There will be a ceremony at 10 45 am on **9 November** at the war memorial in the cemetery at St Mary & All Saints Church. Councillor Law will present the wreath at the event on behalf of the parish.

Hedges

The bird-nesting season has now finished, so can residents please cut back trees, hedges and shrubs that overhang the back of the pavement line? Many pavements are still too narrow to be safely negotiated, particularly where people are using prams and pushchairs and, in particular, mobility scooters.

Pavements

There seems to be an increase in dog owners not clearing up behind their dogs on the pavements in the village. This anti-social behaviour becomes worse with darker evenings where more and younger people are around and cannot see the dangerous remains.

Contact Details

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

Meetings

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

Council Office Details

Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham CB24 5LP
Tel 01954 261027
email clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Opening hours: Monday – Thursday, 10 am – 1 pm (closed bank holidays)

Clerk: Mandy Powell

D Law	Parish Council Chair	cllr.law@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 202188
J Hutchcraft	Parish Council Vice Chair & Police Liaison Lead Cllr	cllr.hutchcraft@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07305 435771
B Todd	Planning Chair	cllr.todd@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07956 993603
L King	Leisure and Amenities – Lead Cllr	cllr.lking@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 260780
J Watson	Green & Boundary – Lead Cllr	cllr.watson@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 200245
B Mansfield	Cemetery – Lead Cllr	cllr.mansfield@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 261540
S Clark	Halls – Lead Cllr	cllr.clark@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07948 830406
N Harris	Highways – Lead Cllr	cllr.harris@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07792 611226

Willingham Library

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library

0345 0455225

Opening hours:

Tuesday: 10 am – 1 pm and 2 – 5 pm

Thursday: 4 – 7 pm

Friday: 10 am – 1 pm

Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm

Your Online Account

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

NOTE – The Library Service has a NEW and UPDATED SPYDUS APP. It has new features to help you manage multiple library accounts and search the catalogue. The existing app ceased to work in August 2025. Please see poster in the library window for the new app or ask inside.

Green Libraries Week

A half-term drop-in event, Tuesday 28 October, 10 30 am – 12 30 pm

Climate Strategy staff from SCDC will be visiting the library. There will be a pop-up stall where the staff will chat to the public about the proposed South Cambs Climate and Nature Strategy. There will be an activity to engage children and a survey that can be completed online or on paper.

Engage in the Afternoon

Wednesday 5 November, 2 – 3 30 pm

Autism and ADHD Today: Pathology or Personality? Are autism and ADHD disorders? Or are they part of natural human variation? In this presentation, Dr Kevin Bryant takes a critical look at some of the evidence in an attempt to shed some light on this controversial area. Refreshments available. Donations welcome.

Digital Buddy Drop-in Session

Tuesday 11 November, 10 30 – 12 noon

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

After-School Lego Session

Thursday 13 November, 4 – 5 pm

2nd Thursday of the month, term time only. Children four and over with an accompanying adult.

Family Lego Club

Saturday 8 and 22 November, 10 15 – 11 45 am

2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, term time only. If you love Lego, then come to the library and enjoy some time building with Duplo or Lego.

Meet Roxy, a Pets as Therapy Dog

Tuesday 18 November, 2 – 3pm

3rd Tuesday of the month, term time only. Come along and enjoy some time in the company of the gorgeous Roxy, a Pets as Therapy dog and her friendly owner. This is a drop-in session. A big thank you to all who have visited and supported these sessions. Roxy looks forward to seeing you again!

Friends of Willingham Library Events

Contact willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com for further information.

Second-Hand Book Sale

Saturday 1 November, 10 30am – 12 noon

We have a good variety of second-hand books for sale. Fantastic value at 50p each or three for £1. Start stocking up for the autumn or even get a few early Christmas gifts!

Family History Session

Friday 7 November, 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.

Games and Social Afternoon

Wednesday 12 November, 2 – 4 pm

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

Knit and Natter

Wednesday 19 November, 2 – 4 pm

Join us for an informal and friendly get together at the library. Bring along 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 2 December, 7 30 pm

The theme this time will be *Christmas is Coming*. Join us for an enjoyable and entertaining evening of poetry and prose. Bring along a poem or some prose to share. Choose whatever you like that's festive. Anything goes this time! Christmas jumpers, silly hats, tinsel, bells, wear something fun or even outrageous! Let's cheer ourselves up in this rather dismal world we find ourselves in now! You are welcome to just come and listen and enjoy the light-hearted evening. Refreshments available.

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

Readers' Noticeboard

Your Christmas Greetings in Willingham News

Last call for your Christmas greetings to go into the December issue of the magazine. Send your greeting as an attachment to: willinghamnews@gmail.com or drop it off as a note at the library. Leave a cheque for £10 payable to East Anglian Children's Hospice at the library with your greeting or post through 54 High Street. Deadline is **4 November**.

Postage Stamp Recycling

While I ran the Post Office, I had a stamp recycling box in aid of MAGPAS. Unfortunately, due to the refurb, there is no longer floor space for the collection box. However, the Library has agreed to find space for the collection box, so it has been relocated there. Any money raised from the stamp donations will go to MAGPAS as before and I will continue to be the local contact. Graham Atherton, 07738 354546



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Fen Edge Twinning Association

Second 'Annual' Quiz Night of the Year

The Fen Edge Twinning Association normally runs one quiz night each year to raise funds to support our activities, but this year, for the first time, a second quiz has been held.

This happened because we were lucky enough to be one of the local organisations to be offered free use of Cottenham Village Hall for one evening, and we did not know what else we could use it for.

The event was a great success. Several local businesses (including the Bushel Box) donated prizes, Steve Unwin provided an excellent set of questions and acted as our question master and Nathalie Morgan did an amazing job of procuring refreshments from France. Some of these were served at the interval and some were offered for sale at the bar. Our thanks are offered not just to those mentioned but to all those who helped with promoting and organising the event.

With so much goodwill and hard work being offered, it is not surprising that our finances are now in good order. All we need now is more members to share in the rewards. Twinning can be (and generally is) very rewarding. Our friends in Avrille (France) are really very nice. They offer lots of new experiences and great hospitality when we visit them and we try to do the same when they come to England. To find out more, contact fenedgetwinning@gmail.com.



Main prize



Sudoku Answer

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

Word Search Answer

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

Leaves Answer

1 Sycamore, 2 Oak, 3 Willow, 4 Acacia, 5 Horse chestnut

Willingham Sustainability

Community Energy

Willingham Sustainability has developed a survey for the residents of Willingham on 'Community Energy'. This is to understand what people's understanding of community energy is and whether residents would be in support of a community energy project (if the opportunity arose).

What is Community Energy?

Community energy refers to the delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through a partnership with commercial or public sector partners. The focus is on energy resilience and the move away from central energy supply which often relies on fossil fuels from other countries, leading to volatility in prices. More information can be found here: www.communityenergyengland.org/pages/what-is-community-energy.



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WHAT'S ON

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	EXTRA INFO
Sat 1 Nov	Second-hand Book Sale	Friends of Willingham Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p17
Sat 1 Nov	Motown Magic with Mark Brundell. Members Bar	Social Club	Social Club	7 30 pm
Sun 2 Nov	Rosie Val and Cambridge Jazz Co	Jazz Club	Social Club	12 30 – 3 30 pm Rosie-Val 01954 789670
Mon 3 Nov	Talk: <i>Climate Change – the long-range gardener's forecast</i>	Gardening Club	Social Club	From 7 pm, see p13
Mon 3 Nov	Covid Vaccination Clinic	Octagon Community Hub	Octagon	10 am – 12 30 pm, see p15
Tue 4 Nov	<i>Willingham News</i> and Christmas Greetings Deadline	<i>Willingham News</i>		See p3, articles to be sent to: willinghamnews@gmail.com
Wed 5 Nov	Talk: <i>Autism and ADHD Today</i> with Dr Kevin Bryant	Library	Library	2 – 3 30 pm, see p17
Wed 5 Nov	Carers' Support Meeting	Surgery	Wilford Furlong Centre	2 – 4 pm, see p10
Wed 5 Nov	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p16
Thu 6 Nov	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p12
Fri 7 Nov	Custard Comedy	Social Club	Social Club	7 30 pm
Fri 7 Nov	Family History Session	Friends of Willingham Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p17
Sat 8 Nov	Fireworks Spectacular	1st Willingham Scouts Group	Recreation Ground	5 00 pm, see p6
Sat 8 Nov	<i>Willingham Church Paintings & Decorations</i>	Friends of Willingham Church	Octagon	2 30 pm, see p11
Sat 8 Nov	Memory Box Café	Parish Church	Octagon	10 am – 12 noon, see p6
Sat 8 Nov	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 45 am, see p17
Sun 9 Nov	Act of Remembrance	Parish Church & British Legion	War Memorial	10 45 am, see p12
Mon 10 Nov	Christmas Tree Decorations	Women's Institute	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p15
Tue 11 Nov	Digital Buddy Drop-in Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 30 pm, see p17
Wed 12 Nov	(PPG) Meeting	Surgery	Medical Practice	7 – 9 pm, see p10
Wed 12 Nov	Games & Social Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p17
Thu 13 Nov	After-School Lego Session	Library	Library	4 – 5 pm, see p 17
Fri 14 Nov	Jam Club	Social Club	Social Club	7 pm
Sat 15 Nov	Dan Lentell talk: <i>Macho Man</i>	Men's Breakfast	Baptist Church	7 45 – 9 am, see p12
Mon 17 Nov	Assignment: <i>Water in Motion</i>	Photo Club	Baptist Church	8 – 10 pm, see p9
Wed 19 Nov	Knit & Natter Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p17
Tue 18 Nov	Roxy, Pets as Therapy Dog	Library	Library	2 – 3 pm, see p17
Thu 20 Nov	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p12
Sat 22 Nov	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 45 am, see p17
Mon 24 Nov	Talk: <i>The Digital Switchover</i>	Willingham Community Hub	Octagon	10 am – 12 30 pm, see p7
Mon 24 Nov	The Origin of Bury St Edmunds	Willingham History Group	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p11
Mon 24 Nov	Women's Bible Study Group	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	7 30 pm, see p12
Sat 29 Nov	Elton John Tribute	Social Club	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p19



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VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Council and Community	Parish Council		01954 261027
	County Councillor	Yasmin Deter	yasmin.deter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Bill Handley	01954 200287 / clrr.handley@scambs.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Dan Lentell	01954 713000 / clrr.lentell@scambs.gov.uk
	Willingham Community Planning Group		07506 385554 / communityplanning@willinghamlife.org
Services	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
Schools	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
Children	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
Halls	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
Local Representatives	Allotments		Clerk@willinghamcombinedcharity.org.uk
	Billavincea Lodge 8719	David Plummer	01480 492912
	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
	For information about swarm collection please see the information here: Swarm Collection – Cambridgeshire Beekeepers' Association		
Clubs	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/whammadnbrek@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
Sport	Angling	Colin Dodd	07773 719330
	Badminton	Emma Byrom	01954 202481
	Bowls Club	Mark Chapman	mark.chapmanwbc@gmail.com
	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
Churches	Baptist Church	Jenny Ambrose	secretary@willinghambaptist.org
	Roman Catholic Priest	Rev. Trindade Monteiro	Trindade.Monteiro@rcdea.org.uk / 01480 462192
	Parish Church	Rev Stephen Dove	07944 014521/stephen@5folds.org.uk

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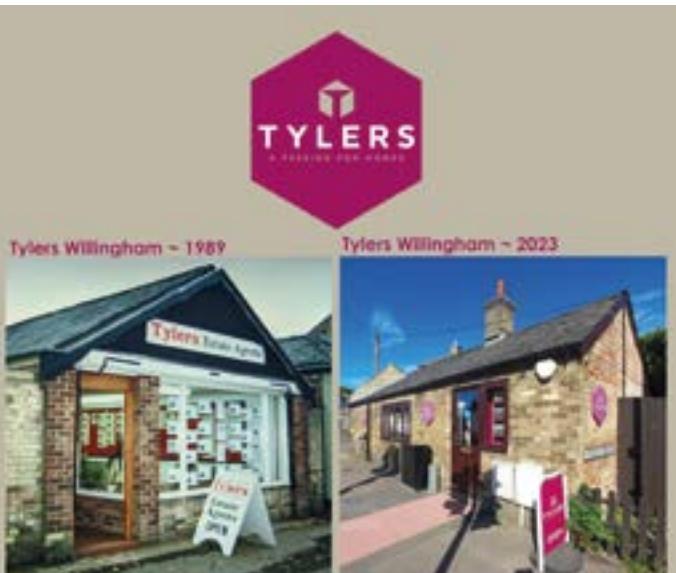
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