

# Willingham News

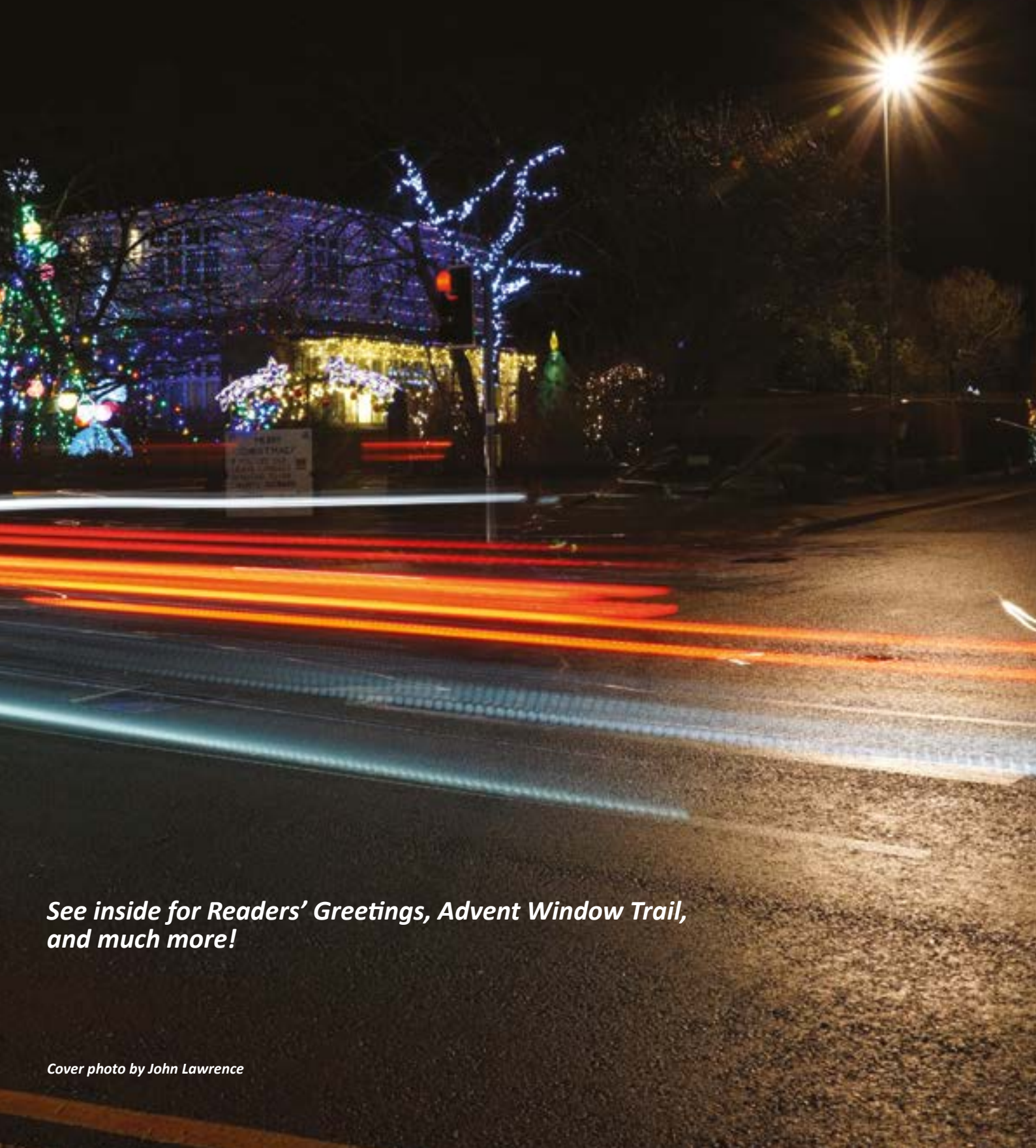
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village website: [www.willinghamlife.org](http://www.willinghamlife.org)

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

December 2025

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS!**



*See inside for Readers' Greetings, Advent Window Trail,  
and much more!*

*Cover photo by John Lawrence*

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SATURDAY	10:00 - 16:00
SUNDAY	CLOSED

   
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## Old Willingham



Only long-time village residents will recognise this. It is Short Lane as seen from Green Street. On the left was a rather odd farm house – long and with windows placed asymmetrically. Behind it was a large farmyard stretching down the lane. On the right was a single story industrial building that was, at one time, a petrol station and workshop but, in more recent years, a furniture maker. The farmhouse lasted until the early 2000s but is now attractive new houses – part of the gradual transition of Willingham from a working farm village to a desirable residential one.

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

## In the School Nativity

He didn't want to be up on stage,  
he'd been cajoled for days.  
He finally gave in but was inclined to ask,  
why is a parrot in a Nativity play?

It was okay for an ox, sheep or goat,  
maybe a turkey, chicken or hen...  
perhaps a parrot was perched on a shoulder  
of one of the three wise men?

His mum had made his costume,  
with feathers and beak, then after,  
she scoffed at him for making a fuss  
and told him he'd win a BAFTA.

The only line that he'd had to learn  
was *Who's a pretty boy?*  
which on the night was mumbled  
with a patent lack of joy.

His place was to stand at the back  
by a flock of giggling 'sheep'.  
He sweated and itched in his feathers  
and desperately wanted a leak.

Yet it all went as well as it could,  
he wasn't made to look like a fool –  
after all, they all said later,  
he is the best teacher in school.

*John Lawrence*

## Willingham Women's Institute



Our Christmas Party on **Monday 8 December** at 7 pm will be for members only, at the Social Club. We will be having a buffet, raffle and will be entertained by Mike Wabe with his rendering of the Christmas Carol. If you saw him perform the *History of the Town Crier* for the FOWC, you know we are in for a treat.

At our November meeting, Peter Hains came to give us the second part of his *Virtual, Literary Tour of Cambridge*. He started with a quick recap of his previous talk and then proceeded to take us on a tour of the other colleges. Part Two was just as interesting as Part One. Peter's anecdotes about the famous alumni – authors, actors, poets and playwrights – were informative and amusing. We enjoyed the talk so much that we hope to organise an actual tour of Cambridge with him next year. Peter donated his fee to the Red2Green Charity.

### Looking for friendship, laughter and something new?

Our warm and welcoming group is open to all women – whether you love listening to interesting speakers, activities or simply enjoy a chat over a cuppa. No need to make jam (unless you want to) and we only sing Jerusalem once a year, as a tradition at our Annual Meeting. We meet on the second Monday of every month (except August). **January 12** will be our next open meeting at the Social Club. Arrive from 7 pm for refreshments and a natter. At 7 30 pm Steven Marsh from Pinkster Gin will be our guest speaker.

**Come and meet us for a taster session.** No charge for your first visit, just a warm welcome. All members receive an online copy of the monthly *CFWI News*, the national magazine, and can join the many outings and activities organised by the Cambridgeshire Federation. Hope to see you soon.

Find out more: [willinghamwi28@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamwi28@gmail.com) or call Vicky on 01954 201405.

### WI Quiz on Friday 23 January 2026

**Open at 7 pm for a 7 30 pm start at the Social Club.**

Do come and join us for a fun evening. The bar will be open for drinks. You are welcome to bring your own nibbles, but no hot food thank you. There will be a raffle! Ticket price £6 per person, teams of four to six. Contact [willinghamwi28@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamwi28@gmail.com) for an entry form.

### Snippets of Christmas Quotes from Literature

- I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. *Maya Angelou*.
- Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home. *Stella Gibbons, Christmas at Cold Comfort Farm*.
- It being Christmas Eve, there was, as I had foreseen, a great deal of revelry and what not. *P G Wodehouse, Jeeves and the Yule-Tide Spirit*.
- I'm dreaming of a white Christmas. But if the white runs out, I'll drink the red. *Unknown*.

# 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.

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 old app ceased to work in August. Please ask in the library for more information.

Postage Stamps – the library now has a used stamp collection box. Save up your used stamps and pop them into the box near to the entrance door. They will be collected by Graham who recently retired from the Post Office where the box used to be situated and will be donated to MAGPAS Air Ambulance. This charity is based in Cambridgeshire and founded in 1971 by two local GPs, so please support this excellent cause.

## Engage in the Afternoon, Paper Christmas Bauble Craft £5 per person

**Wednesday 3 December, 2 – 3 30 pm**

Hand craft your very own Christmas baubles and impress your friends and family! Make as many as you like with paper, ribbon, threads and beads all provided. Refreshments available.

## Digital Buddy Drop-in Session

**Tuesday 9 December, 10 30 am – 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 11 December, 4 – 5 pm**

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

## Family Lego Club

**Saturday 13 December, 10 15 – 11 45 am**

Second and fourth 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. Children four and over with an accompanying adult.

## Meet Roxy, a Pets as Therapy Dog

**Tuesday 16 December, 2 – 3 pm** Please note: this event is to be confirmed.

Third 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!

## 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

We would like to thank everyone who supported us by attending the *My Life in Crime (Fiction)* talk at the Social Club in October.

## Poetry and Prose Evening

**Tuesday 2 December, 7 30 pm – The theme 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. Wear something fun or even outrageous – Christmas jumpers, silly hats, tinsel, bells – let's cheer ourselves up in this rather dismal world! You are welcome to just come and listen and enjoy a light-hearted evening. Refreshments available.

## Second-Hand Book Sale

**Saturday 6 December, 10 30 am – 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 5 December, 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 10 December, 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 17 December, 2 – 4 pm**

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

## Mystery Photo

There's no mystery photo this month, it will be back next year, but did you get the one in November's issue? It was the backrest of the Great War memorial bench in the Parish Church cemetery.

## Nature's Names

What would Christmas be without holly? A bit less prickly, maybe, but its folklore and traditions go back many centuries, even before Christianity used it as a symbol of belief and eternal life. Back in Roman days, holly was closely associated with the god Saturn, and the mid-December Saturnalia festival was traditionally celebrated with boughs of holly. Symbolically, the smooth, shapely leaves of some varieties represented the female gender, whilst the spiky ones were the masculine. (Discuss!)

How about the actual origin of the word? *Holly* is a reduced form of the Old English *holeġn* (5th to 12th century) and later, in Middle English (12th to 15th century) it was *holin* or *hollen*. The Proto-Germanic *hulin* is likely to be the ultimate origin. The word *hollin* is still used as a dialectal name for a group of holly trees.

There are many songs and poems which mention holly. King Henry VIII, probably not your dream date but well known as a lyricist in his early days, wrote the love song *Green Groweth the Holly*, years before he became a bit of a tinker and (spoiler alert) started his collection of wives. It went like this...

*Green groweth the holly, So doth the ivy.*

*Though winter blasts blow never so high, Green groweth the holly...*

It goes on and, to be brutally honest, doesn't get any better. It's not banging, as they say. Maybe it sounded okay when belted out by a couple of fair Tudor maidens backed by lute and harpsichord with a few random key changes.

Let's end on an 'ah, nice!' note, with fairly local poet John Clare. His poem *Winter Walk* talks about the beauty and resilience of nature in winter...

*The holly bush, a sober lump of green,  
Shines through the leafless shrubs all brown and grey,  
And smiles at winter be it e'er so keen  
With all the leafy luxury of May...*

If you're so minded, look up the rest of the poem and, while you're at it, try and find John Clare's poem *Christmas*. It has holly, ivy, 'mizzletoe', 'Morrice dances', spicy ale, shepherds kissing giggling maids, plus bucketloads of other festive jollity which will certainly help create an image of an 18th century family Christmas. In the words of Tiny Tim: *God bless us, every one!*

John Lawrence

### **Follow the Star with the New Cambridge Singers Carols for Choir and Audience**

**St Mary & All Saints Church, Willingham  
Saturday 13 December at 7 30 pm**

Well-loved Christmas music and modern classics plus the opportunity for the audience to join in singing some favourite Carols.

Tickets £16 (£12 for under-12s) to include a glass of mulled wine or a non-alcoholic alternative via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-mary-and-all-saints-church-willingham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-mary-and-all-saints-church-willingham) or pay at the door.

## Friends of Willingham Church

**Fundraising event date for your 2026 diary!**

**27 March, 7 30 pm Quiz Night at The Octagon**

**Look out for more information next month!**

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 that future generations can enjoy it as much as we do.

We would love to welcome some more members. By joining the Friends, you'll 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 [friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.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 13 December** from 10 am to 12 noon in the Octagon (behind the Parish Church, with wheelchair access and no steps).

All welcome No charge  
Sponsored by St Mary & All Saints Church  
For further details please contact us by email: [memoryboxcafe@yahoo.com](mailto:memoryboxcafe@yahoo.com)  
**Happy Christmas to all our guests!**

## The Night Sky in December

Jupiter is the brightest planet visible in December, rising in the east, for example, about 6 pm on Christmas Eve. Our closest neighbours Venus and Mars aren't readily detectable due to being lost in the Sun's glare. (Venus will reappear in Spring's evening sky.) However, tiny Mercury, only slightly larger than our Moon and the Solar System's innermost world, is easily visible this month in a clear morning sky just before the Sun 'gets up'. It's a planet that, from our perspective, is never very far from the Sun and will be low in the east. For example, on 17 December at around 7 am, it will be seen rising very close to a slim crescent moon before dropping back below our horizon. Such naked-eye sightings of Mercury aren't common!

Luke Skywalker



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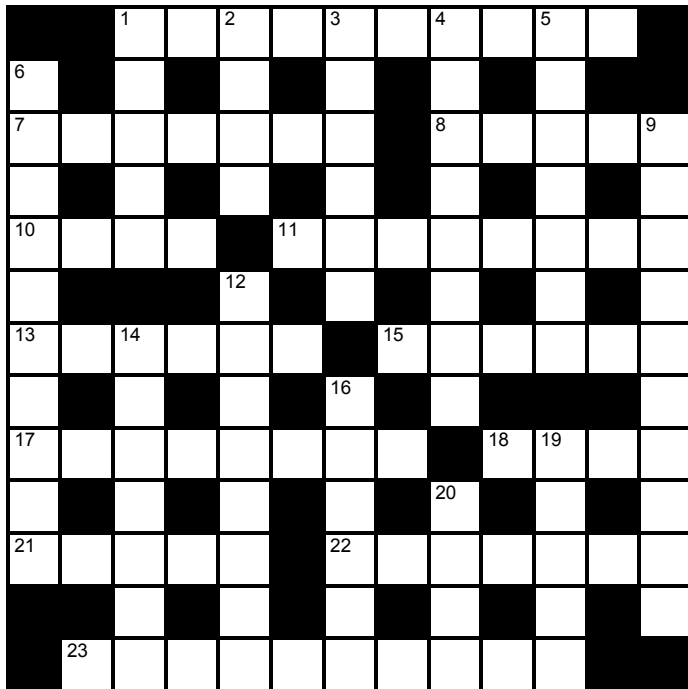
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# Entertainment Crossword

by Willow  
Answers on page 17.



## Across

- 1 1964 musical based on Pygmalion (2,4,4)
- 7 Third film in the Twilight series (7)
- 8 *The - - - -*, 1978 Michael Caine film about killer bees (5)
- 10 *The - - - - Good Friday*, 1981 film with Bob Hoskins and Helen Mirren (4)
- 11 Mafia men as in *Goodfellas* (4,4)
- 13 Zhivago's profession (6)
- 15 French port (6)
- 17 1997 Jim Carrey film (4,4)
- 18 1958 musical set in France (4)
- 21 *Seven - - - - in Tibet*, 1997 Brad Pitt film (5)
- 22 *Star Wars* captain of the Millennium Falcon (3,4)
- 23 Stage musical about The Four Seasons (6,4)

## Down

- 1 1998 Disney animated musical (5)
- 2 Dandies (4)
- 3 Peninsular south of the Pyrenees (6)
- 4 US city, haven for gamblers and entertainment (3,5)
- 5 Supernatural character, first played by Bela Lugosi in 1931 (7)
- 6 1969 musical with Barbra Streisand (5,5)
- 9 Stage musical based on *Madame Butterfly* (4,6)
- 12 Soft bodied animals often with a shell (8)
- 14 1963 romantic comedy with Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant (7)
- 16 Old name for China (6)
- 19 British stage and screen actor Jeremy (5)
- 20 Founder of the Ferrari motor racing team (4)

## Twelve Quiz Questions for Christmas

by Herewill

- 1 How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song? 186, 252 or 364?
- 2 In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play six of the characters?
- 3 How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with D?
- 4 If you're born on Christmas Day, what's your star sign?
- 5 *Miracle On 34th Street* centres on which real-life department store?
- 6 What gift did Harry Potter receive from the Dursleys during his first Christmas at Hogwarts?
- 7 In the 2008 *Gavin & Stacey* Christmas special, what gifts does Nessa give to everyone?
- 8 What was the first Christmas song broadcast from space?
- 9 Which Christmas decoration does the Royal Family traditionally not have on their trees?
- 10 What do children in Sweden leave out for Santa?
- 11 In *Love Actually*, which boy band is Billy Mack up against for Christmas number one?
- 12 Which famous poet and author wrote the first Christmas message for George V?



# Young Readers' Corner

Here's a picture for you to colour. It's of a Father Christmas scarecrow on our village green, with two baby reindeer behind him. See if you can spot another Father Christmas in the picture. Colour that in, too!



## Christmas Cracker Jokes

Why did no-one bid for Rudolph and Donner on eBay?  
*They were two deer.*

What was the snowman doing in the greengrocers?  
*Picking his nose.*

What do you sing at Santa's birthday party?  
*Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow.*

How does the Pope buy his online Christmas gifts?  
*He uses his Papal account.*

How did Joseph and Mary know how heavy Jesus was when he was born?  
*They had a weigh in a manger.*

How should Christmas Day always end?  
*With the letter Y.*

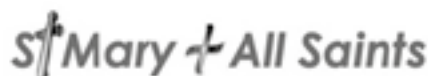
What make of car does Santa drive?  
*A Toy-ota.*

Who is Santa's favourite singer?  
*Beyon-sleigh.*

What kind of music do Santa's elves listen to while working?  
*Rap.*

What do you call a man who claps a lot at Christmas?  
*Santapplause.*

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## Services – in Church (except where shown)

<b>7 December</b>	11 am	Morning Prayer – Book of Common Prayer
	4 pm	Christingle Service
<b>14 December</b>	11 am	Holy Communion
<b>20 December</b>	5 pm	Carol Service
<b>21 December</b>	11 am	Café Church (in the Octagon)
<b>24 December</b>	4 pm	Crib Service
<b>25 December</b>	11 am	Christmas Day Service
<b>28 December</b>		No service at St Mary & All Saints Church today. Joint Service for all the 5Folds Churches at All Saints Church, Longstanton at 11 am.

## Memory Box Café

Our next Memory Box Café will be on **Saturday 13 December** 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 7 for further details.

## Christmas Concert

We are delighted to be hosting a Christmas Carol Concert with the **New Cambridge Singers** on **Saturday 13 December at 7 30 pm**. Please see separate notice on page 7..

## Octagon Community Hub

The Octagon Community Hub is open **every Monday morning from 10 am to 12 30 pm**. Come and join us for great company and free tea, coffee, and biscuits. There are always magazines to read and borrow, jigsaw puzzles to do, board games and card games to play, colouring sheets to colour, wool to knit with or you can just chat to others in a comfortable, friendly environment. Everyone is welcome.

**Please note that the Hub will be CLOSED on Monday 29 December.**

## 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** at 4 30 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](mailto:stephen@5folds.org.uk)  
Rev Ed Green 01954 716894 or [Ed@5folds.uk.com](mailto:Ed@5folds.uk.com)

### 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).



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

**Minister: Rev Kwaku Efah**

## ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

### Sunday Morning Services – 10 am

Friendly contemporary services with songs, prayers and fellowship.

<b>7 December</b>	Service with communion.
<b>14 December</b>	Service of the word
<b>21 December</b>	Family Nativity service
<b>25 December</b>	Christmas Day celebration (10 am)
<b>28 December</b>	Service of praise and reflection

## EVENTS

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

**Men's Breakfast – Saturday 20 December, 7 45 – 9 am**  
Breakfast and chat. Christmas theme.

**Community Lunch Club – Thursday 4 and 18 December**  
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 29 December, 7 30 pm**

**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 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](http://www.rcdea.org.uk).

As part of the Feast, our Photo Club held an exhibition in the Public Hall, which was well-attended with many complimentary comments. Here are some of the photos taken by the club's talented members!



This is the winner of the village's Open Photo Competition 'Colourful', by Paul and Joo Ee Brittain. Congratulations!



# Christmas Greetings Page

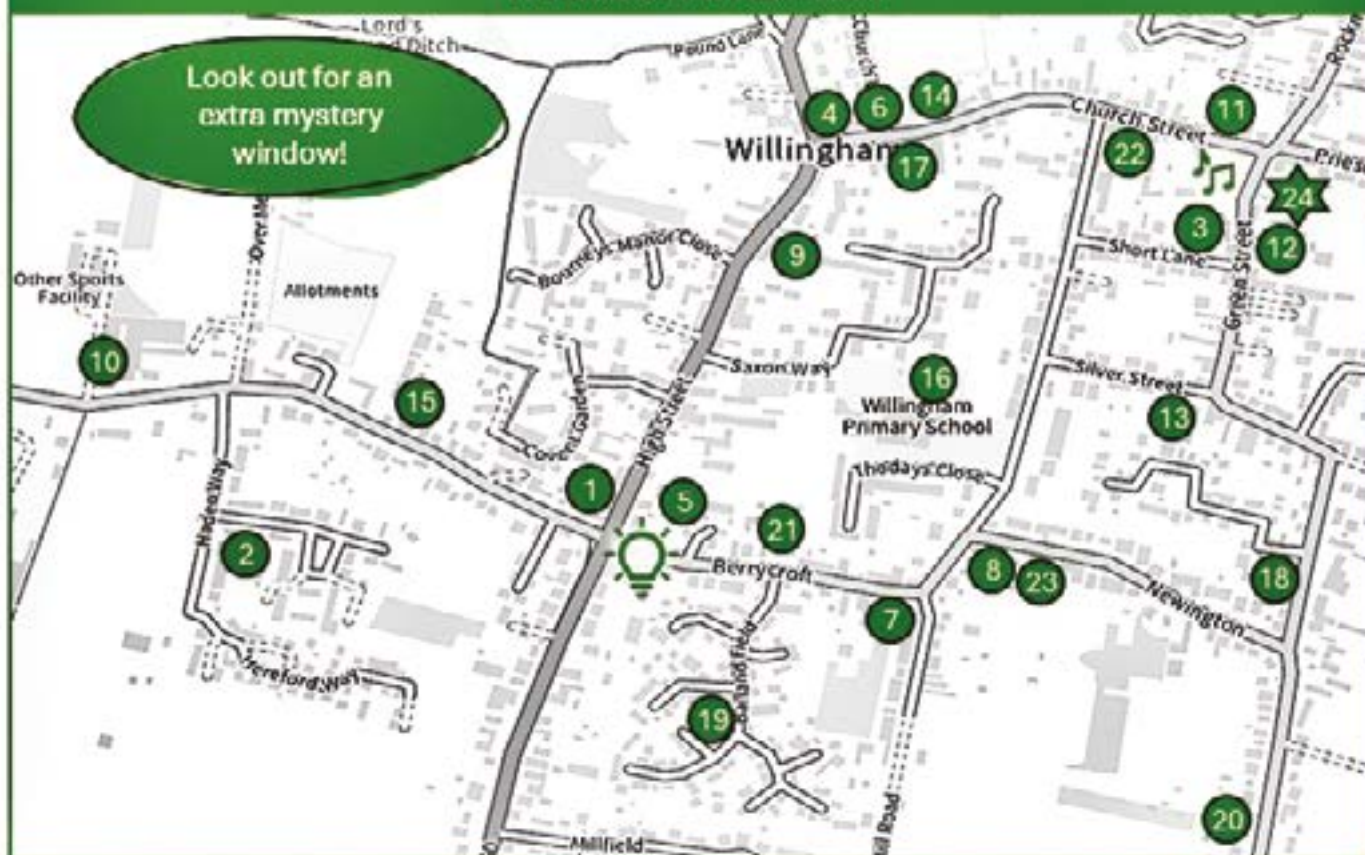
Supporting East Anglian Children's Hospice





# Advent Calendar 2025

Follow this map to see the locations of the daily revealed Advent Windows in December!



🌟 BIG LIGHTS SWITCH ON - 1st December - 6.30 pm – 41 High St. 🌟

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 68 High Street                        | 9 The Old Forge, 3 High Street             | 17 Creative Grounds Café, Church Street |
| 2 8 Haden Way                           | 10 Meraki Hair Salon Highgate Farm         | 18 Vintage Travel, 8 Rampton Road       |
| 3 10B Green Street                      | 11 Willingham Library                      | 19 88 Balland Field                     |
| 4 5 Church Street                       | 12 Ely House Green Street                  | 20 74 Rampton Road                      |
| 5 2 Elm Way                             | 13 38 Silver Street                        | 21 The Church Experiment, 3 Berrycroft  |
| 6 Boswells Bakers Church Street         | 14 St. Mary's & All Saints Church          | 22 60 Church Street                     |
| 7 English Rose Beauty House, Berrycroft | 15 26 Over Road                            | 23 4 Newington                          |
| 8 71 Long Lane                          | 16 Willingham Primary School, Thoday's Cl. | 24 5 Green Street                       |

🎵 24<sup>th</sup> December 5.30 – 6.00 pm  
Carol Singing, Mulled Wine and Mince pies on The Green! 🎵



## Advent Window Trail

December will see the start of this year's advent window trail, a wonderful village event in which, over the course of the month, 24 windows will be revealed across the village. (See map on page 13.) This event brings some real festive spirit to the village and it is lovely to see the creativity of the hosts.

This year's theme is simply *Christmas* so we are excited to see the many wonderful interpretations of the theme. Already we have The Nutcracker, Christmas Hearts and Peanuts and Snoopy! We have been delighted at the enthusiasm of this year's participants. This year has the addition of a mystery window, with no date or location. Who will be the first to spot it?

The windows, once revealed, will remain until the end of the month, providing the perfect opportunity to walk off some of the Christmas over-indulgence! We hope you enjoy this year's trail!

If you haven't created a window before and would like to participate next year, contact [wag@willinghamlife.co.uk](mailto:wag@willinghamlife.co.uk).

The accompanying pictures show a sample of last year's fantastic advent windows, and of the carols on the Green! Don't forget this year's *Carols on the Green*, **24 December** at 5 30pm!



## Willingham Gardening Club

On Monday 3 November, we welcomed guest speaker Jim Paine with his talk *Climate Change: the long-range gardener's forecast*. This wide-ranging talk asked how, as gardeners, we can respond and adapt to climate change, offering practical solutions to enjoy continued success in our gardens and ways in which we can conserve and nurture biodiversity. Here are some approaches:

1. Grow from seed to reduce carbon footprint.
2. Plant resilient perennials, such as sedum, echinacea purpurea, helianthemum and eryngium, that can withstand the challenges posed by extreme weather conditions.
3. Use raised beds – with warmer, wetter winters, raised beds offer better drainage and easier maintenance.
4. Harvest water – add water butts to your garden to capture rainwater that you can use for watering. Any overflow can be used to create a pond.
5. Soil management – nurture the soil ecosystem: healthy soils are much less prone to flooding.
6. Plant trees – they reduce carbon dioxide and have a cooling effect.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas party, a members-only event. There is no meeting in January.

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

New members are always welcome and can sign up for a membership now. If you are interested in joining or learning about the benefits, please email: [willinghamgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:willinghamgardeningclub@gmail.com). Information can also be found on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/WillinghamGardeningClub](https://www.facebook.com/WillinghamGardeningClub).

**Willingham Gardening Club would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026.**

## The Octagon Community Hub

**Monday mornings 10 am – 12 30 pm**

The Octagon has just undergone the first stage of many improvements. We invite you to come and experience these first hand – the new heating system with radiators which efficiently heat, plus quiet fan heaters which don't restrict conversation! And come and see our new replacement kitchen with all mod cons! Experience these wonderful improvements, made possible through several generous grants which we will tell you more about next month.

Come and join us on Monday mornings, 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. There are magazines, books, puzzles, games, knitting and mindful colouring to enjoy too. 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 charge for our refreshments, but donations are always welcome.

We hope to see you soon! **Please note that the Community Hub will be closed for one week only on Monday 29 December.** We will open again on 5 January.



## WILLINGHAM & LONGSTANTON SURGERIES

Willingham 01954 260230 Longstanton 01954 207600 Dispensary 01954 207602

Website: [www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.net](http://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.net)

Community (District) Nurses: 0330 726 0077 Health Visitors: 0300 029 5050

**A&E IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO A GP APPOINTMENT**

**WHEN THE SURGERY IS CLOSED PLEASE CALL 111 FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, OR 999 FOR A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY**

**FOR URGENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, PLEASE CALL 111 AND SELECT OPTION 2**

### Christmas Opening Hours

Please note that we will be CLOSED at the weekends in addition to the bank holidays on **Thursday 25 December, Friday 26 December** and **Thursday 1 January**. Normal opening hours on all other days during the holiday period.

Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication. The last date for ordering repeat prescriptions in time for the Christmas holidays is **Thursday 18 December**. The last date for collection before Christmas is **Wednesday 24 December by 4 pm at Longstanton and 6 pm at Willingham**.

The last date for ordering repeat medication before New Year will be **Wednesday 24 December**. The last date for collection before the New Year is **Wednesday 31 December by 4 pm at Longstanton and 6 pm at Willingham**.

### Important Patient Update

As from 1 October, all GP practices in the UK must follow new requirements set out in the GP contract. We are required to make changes to the way our booking system currently operates. This means there are changes to how you will access appointments at the Willingham Medical Practice and the Longstanton Branch Surgery. Please visit our website for further information:

[www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/](http://www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/)

### Zero Tolerance

Sadly, we have noticed an increase in rude and abusive behaviour from our patients and, in some instances, this has been directly targeted towards individual members of our staff. We all aim to be polite, helpful and sensitive to our patients' individual needs and circumstances and we respectfully remind patients that very often our staff are working under immense pressure.

The Practice takes it very seriously if any member of staff is treated in an abusive or violent way. Aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in you being removed from the Practice list and, in extreme cases, the police being contacted.

We ask you to treat your GPs and our staff courteously at all times.

### Vaccinations

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

### NEW SURGERY OPENING HOURS

Willingham Medical Practice		Longstanton Branch Surgery	
Monday	8 00 – 6 30	Monday	8 00 – 6 00
Tuesday	8 00 – 6 30	Tuesday	8 00 – 6 00
Wednesday	8 00 – 6 30	Wednesday	8 00 – 6 00
Thursday	8 00 – 6 30	Thursday	8 00 – 6 00
Friday	8 00 – 6 30	Friday	8 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

received a shingles vaccine, for individuals who reach the age of 65 or 70 years of age during the period 01/09/23 and 31/08/28 (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.

### 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 3 December**, 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 [alaine.bunce@nhs.net](mailto:alaine.bunce@nhs.net)

**ALL STAFF AT THE WILLINGHAM AND LONGSTANTON SURGERIES WISH OUR PATIENTS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2026.**

*Willingham Medical Practice*



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# FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Village Green Bench

Villagers will be aware that the popular and well-used bench on the Green was set alight and destroyed in a senseless act of arson. The council office quickly arranged to clear the debris and we are currently seeking quotes for a replacement bench, probably of all metal construction to deter further vandalism, to be installed as soon as possible.

## Earith Road Traffic Calming

As can be seen on the council website, the survey results show a majority in favour of some kind of physical obstacle to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village on Earith Road. Unsurprisingly, support was strongest from those who live nearest to the road. The next stage is consultation with the County Council Highways Department to establish what designs are possible and affordable with the funds available.

## Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree for the Green has been ordered and will be delivered and installed in time for the turning on of the Christmas lights in the first week of December.

## Cemetery News

A neighbour of the cemetery noticed that the old and unused custodian shed in the cemetery appeared to have an asbestos roof. We hired consultants who confirmed that it was asbestos but was considered stable and of very low risk if left undisturbed. Nevertheless, we thought it best to have the building removed as it serves no purpose and once gone the space will provide some further much needed burial plots. A specialist company will soon demolish the shed and return the area to grass.

## Christmas Carols on the Green

The popular carol singing event on the Village Green will take place again this year, at 5 30 pm on **24 December**. Please join us to sing along to your favourite carols followed by mulled wine and a mince pie with profits from

donations going to charity. Our thanks to Councillor Clark and WAG for organising this.

## Parish Council Grants

The Council will shortly be discussing the budget for next year. We face increasing demand for grants to support various groups and organisations in the village and as a consequence may have a smaller budget available for ad hoc demand during the year. It is therefore important that grant requests are, if possible, made early.

## Dog Fouling

We have received several complaints about dog fouling in the village, particularly on Church Street and Long Lane. Please be considerate when walking your dogs and remember it is illegal for a dog owner to not clean up after their dog in public areas.

## 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](mailto:clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk).

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

*Clerk: Mandy Powell*

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

## Crossword Answers:

**Across:** 1 My Fair Lady, 7 Eclipse, 8 Swarm, 10 Long, 11 Wise guys, 13 Doctor, 15 Calais, 17 Liar Liar, 18 Gigi, 21 Years, 22 Han Solo, 23 Jersey Boys.

**Down:** 1 Mulan, 2 Fops, 3 Iberia, 4 Las Vegas, 5 Dracula, 6 Hello Dolly, 9 Miss Saigon, 12 Molluscs, 14 Charade, 16 Cathay, 19 Irons, 20 Enzo.

## Answers to Twelve Quiz Questions for Christmas

1 364 2 The Polar Express; he plays Hero Boy, Father, Hobo, Conductor, Scrooge, Santa Claus.

3 Three: Dancer, Dasher, Donner 4 Capricorn 5 Macy's

6 A 50p coin 7 One chocolate each from a box of Celebrations

8 Jingle Bells (in 1965, from Gemini 6)

9 Tinsel 10 A cup of coffee or some rice pudding

11 Blue 12 Rudyard Kipling



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## Thought for the Month

As December begins, people from all walks of life experience a sense of joy and happiness – Christmas is coming! It's the reason for the season. The birth of Jesus is the greatest gift God the Father has given us. On Christmas Day we commemorate the event: God became flesh (John 1:14). God becoming man, becoming one of us so that we may become children of God, is the motive behind our joy at Christmas.

Naturally the memory of this feast is celebrated by an exchange of gifts. Children long to receive their Christmas gifts. Friends long for the company of their friends – when someone who is known to us promises, we do have the certainty that it will come through, based on our experience of their reliability.

The prophets announced a Saviour who would free us from sin and be our light, our joy and our peace. In quiet yet powerful ways, God fulfilled the promise given through the prophets. He fulfilled it when Jesus was born at Bethlehem. At his birth Jesus started work with the poorest of his time – with the shepherds. His birth, for them, was the beginning of their salvation. And so it is for us. This Christmas ought to be a new beginning in our work to be saved.

From the shepherds Jesus demanded faith. He demands it from us too, and we must express it by giving up everything that does not lead to God, by making it our only ambition to do good at all times. A day will come when our salvation will be complete. Then we shall realise how much power Jesus displays in saving a single person.

So let's rejoice and, in joy, wish everyone 'A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS'. God Bless us all!

*Fr Trindade J Monteiro, Priest-in-Charge, Sacred Heart RC Church, St Ives.*

## Over Players – Once Upon a Time

9 – 13 December

Start your Christmas with a great night out of family entertainment. With free parking, a licensed bar and no booking fees, it's an affordable treat for all the family. Tickets are now on sale. Book online to secure the best seats. There's a 6 30 pm start on **Tuesday 9 December** for those who might need an earlier bedtime, all other performances start at 7 30 pm. Matinee on **Saturday 13 December** at 2 30 pm. For more details see our website [www.overplayers.uk](http://www.overplayers.uk).

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## Photo Competition – Win a Prize!

The Photo Club are holding another open competition for residents to submit their own photos. The subject is *People & Places* and the closing date is **31 December**. Christmas activities and winter walks should present fine opportunities for snapping! Entry form on [photo.ballandia.co.uk/compo/](http://photo.ballandia.co.uk/compo/).

**Willingham Photo Club**  
willinghamphotoclub.org.uk

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

Our next meeting is on Monday, 15th December at 8:00pm in the Baptist Church

For further details please contact derek@ballandia.co.uk

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# WHAT'S ON

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	EXTRA INFO
Tue 2 Dec	Poetry and Prose evening – <i>Christmas is Coming</i>	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	7 30 pm, see p6
Wed 3 Dec	Paper Christmas Bauble Craft	Engage in the afternoon	Library	2 – 3 30pm, see p6
Wed 3 Dec	Carers' Support Meeting	Surgery	Wilford Furlong Centre	2 – 4 pm, see p15
Wed 3 Dec	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p17
Thu 4 Dec	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p10
Thu 4 Dec	<i>Willingham News</i> Deadline	<i>Willingham News</i>		See p3, articles to be sent to: willinghamnews@gmail.com
Fri 5 Dec	Family History Session	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p6
Fri 5 Dec	Jam Club	Jam Club	Social Club	7 30 – 10 30 pm
Sat 6 Dec	Second-hand Book Sale	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p6
Sun 7 Dec	Tailgate Ramblers Xmas Jazzband	Jazz Club	Social Club	12 30 – 3 30 pm Rosie-Val 01954 789670
Mon 8 Dec	<i>The Christmas Carol</i> with Mike Wabe (members only)	Women's Institute	Social Club	7 pm, see p5
Tue 9 Dec	Digital Buddy Drop-in Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p6
Tue 9 Dec to Sat 13 Dec	<i>Once Upon a Time</i> Panto	Over Players	Over Community Centre	Various times, see p19
Wed 10 Dec	Games & Social Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p6
Thu 11 Dec	After School Lego Club	Library	Library	4 pm – 5 pm, see p6
Sat 13 Dec	Memory Box Café	Parish Church	Octagon	10 am – 12 noon, see p7
Sat 13 Dec	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 45 am, see p6
Sat 13 Dec	<i>Follow the Star</i> Carol Concert with New Cambridge Singers	Parish Church	St Mary & All Saints Church	7 30 pm, see p7
Mon 15 Dec	Quiz Night	Photo Club	Baptist Church	8 – 10 pm, see p19
Tue 16 Dec	Roxy, Pets as Therapy Dog	Library	Library	2 – 3 pm TBC, see p6
Wed 17 Dec	Knit & Natter Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p6
Thu 18 Dec	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p10
Sat 20 Dec	Christmas Peal of Bells	Bell Ringers	Parish Church	10 am – 1 pm
Sat 20 Dec	Christmas Themed Breakfast and Chat	Men's Breakfast	Baptist Church	7 45 – 9 15 am, see p10
Wed 24 Dec	Carols on the Green	Willingham Action Group (WAG)	The Green	5 30 pm, see p17
Mon 29 Dec	Women's Bible Study Group	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	7 30 pm, see p10



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# VILLAGE DIRECTORY

<b>Council and Community</b>	Parish Council		01954 261027
	County Councillor	Yasmin Deter	yasmin.deter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
	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
	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		
<b>Clubs</b>	Friends of Willingham Church	Rosemary Tiley	friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com
	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)		willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com
	Willingham Carpet Bowls Club	David Young	01954 200561 / orchardist44@ntlworld.com
	Willingham Gardening Club		willinghamgardeningclub@gmail.com
	Willingham Men's Breakfast	Pete Sacré	01954 261655/whammensbrek@gmail.com
	Willingham Social Club	Lynne Sadler	01954 260557 / willinghamsocialclub@gmail.com
	Willingham Jam Club	Julian Eales	01954 201818
	Willingham Photo Club	Derek Law	derek@ballandia.co.uk
	Willingham Running Club	Monica Garcia	gcompass.monica@gmail.com
	Willingham Writers	Keira Garner, Jo Pilsworth	07539 292540 (Jo)
	Willingham Youth Club	Jack Stinton	enquiries@willinghamyouthtrust.org
	Women's Institute	Vicky Baggaley	01954 201405
<b>Sport</b>	Angling	Colin Dodd	07773 719330
	Badminton	Emma Byrom	01954 202481
	Bowls Club	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
<b>Churches</b>	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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