

Willingham News

FREE TO EVERY HOME

village website: www.willinghamlife.org

willinghamnews@gmail.com

October 2026





Safely watching the eclipse

Photo by Millie Wadkin

**WILLINGHAM
ACTION GROUP**

WILLINGHAM FEAST

OCTOBER PROGRAMME

9TH OCT	SILENT DISCOS FOR TWEENS & TEENS
10TH OCT	SILENT DISCO FOR ADULTS
11TH OCT	HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE
12TH OCT	ALE TRAIL (RUNNING TO 19TH)
16TH OCT	DECOUPAGE & WINE EVENING
17TH OCT	CARRADINE'S COCKNEY SINGALONG
18TH OCT	THE BANK'S SUNDAY SOCIAL
21ST OCT	ART SOCIAL
24TH OCT	TREASURE HUNT
	FEAST AT THE DUKE
25TH OCT	REPAIR CAFE
VARIOUS	HEDGE LAYING WORKSHOP

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See page 5

Friends of Willingham Church

Annual General Meeting October 27th 7.30pm at the Octagon

All welcome to attend

Refreshments available

The Friends of Willingham church is a community group set up to raise money to support the ongoing maintenance of the fabric of our parish church building.

For more information please contact:
friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com

See page 6

Friends of Willingham Library



A free talk with refreshments

The History of a Willingham Fruit Farm

Presented by Wendy Jones
of the Bushell Box Farm Shop

Wednesday 4 November at 7 30pm

Please book a place by emailing us or
sign-up at the library

Email: willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com

See page 10

Willingham News is a subsidiary of Willingham News Ltd and is edited by volunteers. We do our best to ensure the accuracy of the content of the submissions, but this cannot be guaranteed. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles at our discretion. The views expressed in readers' letters are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Send your contributions to **willinghamnews@gmail.com** as an email attachment of up to 250 words (no pdfs) to arrive before the monthly deadline. The Editorial Team comprises Mike Bird, Liz Cosford, John Lawrence, Sukey Miller, Frances Watts, James Watts and Trevor Weston. The Distribution Co-ordinator is David Young at orchardist44@gmail.com.

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

Bin Collections

Friday 2 October **Blue and Green**

Friday 9 October **Black**

Friday 16 October **Blue and Green**

Friday 23 October **Black**

Friday 30 October **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

Cllr.Deter@scambs.gov.uk

District Councillor

Aisha Rashid

Cllr.Rashid@scambs.gov.uk

District Councillor

James Hutchcraft

Cllr.Hutchcraft@scambs.gov.uk

**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.co.uk.

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

Advertising

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

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

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Willingham Action Group

Willingham Feast

The Feast is upon us and we started early, with some wonderful events in September, including the Orchard Walk. You will see from our programme there are a number of events for the whole family in October, and you still have a chance to get your Scarecrow out and join in the fun! Remember the spider from last year, now featuring on this month's front cover?

Still to come during our Feast in October:

Creative and Cultural

Be mindful, exploring creativity and art with the Art Social, and Decoupage and Wine Evenings.

Music, Dancing and Entertainment

Enjoy an autumn of live entertainment with Carradine's Cockney Singalong, our Silent Discos for tweens, teens and over 18s, as well as Feast at the Duke.

Family Fun and Outdoor Adventures

Try and spot our latest new additions to the village with the Scarecrow Trail, join in the Treasure Hunt and get involved in the village litter pick – offering fun and fresh air for all ages.

Sustainability and Conservation

Take your sad, broken things for a makeover at the village's next Repair Café and discover traditional skills at the Hedge Laying workshop.

Social and Community

Meet friends old and new at the Harvest Festival Service at St Mary & All Saints Church, the Bank's Sunday Social, and



Photo by: Hanna Bowran-Pavey

thank our wonderful local bars by joining in the Ale Trail (no alcohol required!).

Let's also take a moment to consider those who may need our help, in true Harvest Festival style. Please donate non-perishable items to the village Community Larder, in the foyer of St Mary & All Saints Church.

For more information and tickets for these events, as well as to see the full Feast programme, scan the QR code:



Keep in touch: www.willinghamlife.co.uk.

Get in touch: events@willinghamlife.co.uk.



Photo by: Prakash Nayee

Bulb planting on the village green at FEAST 2025

Friends of Willingham Church

friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com

**Annual General Meeting of
Friends of Willingham Church**

Tuesday 27 October – 7 30 pm in the Octagon.

Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome to attend.

Please come along to support us, and find out more about us and what we've achieved in the last year.

As we write this, we have not yet held our Medieval Music afternoon so we will report back next month.

Good news – the report from the architect has been passed to us and we will be holding meetings with the Parish Council soon to discuss with them how we can best assist in the funding of the various repairs and renovations that are needed.

Would you like to help us raise much-needed funds for the maintenance and restoration of our beautiful church building? We want to preserve the church so future generations can enjoy it as much as we do.

As well as supporting our events, you can help us by becoming a Friend of the group. We would ask you to please support us with a donation of £10 (or more) every six months. Please set up a standing order or make payments by BACS.

If you would like to find out more, please email us on the above address.

Willingham Memory Box Café

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A Clock Goes Back

Time is merely a sequence of events
which memory may shuffle and reorder.

Yet there is the event called Putting-The-Clocks-Back.
And when I do so, I expect to hear a sucking-air sound;
to see the swirl of mist-vortex, to be buffeted
by the seconds as time seeks a past event to latch onto;
torrents of souls with bulging eyes,
clawed hands reach out,
gates flung open as history runs amok.
I feel the fear and love for Time the Tyrant,
Time the Mother, Time the Liar, Time the Stealthy Robber.

I step away from the clock, hands at my side,
listen to the shortening days, to the wren chattering
by the fuchsia bud that will never get to open.
A slow intake of breath... another event...
a slower exhale. This is now,
and that's all.

John Lawrence

Night Sky

Saturn, as a ringed planet, has always captured our imagination. It will take centre stage in October when it will be clearly visible, appearing to track quite close to the Moon later in the month. If you have access to a telescope, it's an unusually good opportunity to see Saturn's impressive rings. Through most telescopes those rings will be visible and, with luck, you'll see a few of the planet's moons. Titan is the most likely, being the largest of the 274 confirmed moons – if Titan looks orange, it's not your imagination, as it's swathed in dense orange clouds.

You could fit nearly 800 Earths inside Saturn. Earth is the densest planet in the Solar System, and Saturn is the least dense – if you could find an ocean big enough to drop it into, Saturn would float!

The huge planet spins around in less than 11 hours, thereby whipping up over 1,000 mph winds. So, if you're lucky enough to see the wonderful ring world through your telescope in October, don't wish you were there, just enjoy the sight from afar!

Luke Skywalker



Sons of Cambridgeshire and the Somme

Monday 26 October, 7 30 pm
Willingham Social Club, Fen End
£5 on the door – cash or card

One hundred and ten years ago, Cambridgeshire men of the 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, left their trenches and advanced into Sausage Valley on the first morning of the Battle of the Somme.

Many had enlisted together from the same villages, streets and families. Some were not even old enough to serve. Of approximately 850 men who attacked, 527 were killed, wounded or missing; 188 died, and 148 have no known grave.

Among those caught up in the story were Willingham men Ernest Cox and Ernest Pridham, who had enlisted at only 16.

Using photographs, battlefield maps, letters and the men's own words, this Old Willingham talk follows the Cambridgeshire Suffolks from their Fenland homes to the Somme – and remembers the families who waited, sometimes never knowing exactly how or where their loved ones died.

Everyone is welcome.

Trivia Corner: Catch-22

The phrase Catch-22 is commonly used to describe an impossible problem where a solution is unlikely, often due to the problem itself. It originated in Joseph Heller's 1961 book of the same name, but started life as the first chapter in a literary magazine in 1955, titled *Catch-18*. Heller's publisher suggested the name change because another book with 18 in the title had recently been published. Catch-18 doesn't have quite the same ring to it!

Willingham Photo Club

Many people will know that the Photo Club has run an exhibition during October for the past few years, as part of the Feast. Visitors to the exhibition were always very complimentary regarding the standard of photos on display. This year, due to the Public Hall being unavailable, the exhibition will be online only.

The online exhibition will be up and running during the autumn and beyond; details on how to access it will be published in the November *Willingham News*.

Meanwhile, if you're interested in joining the Photo Club, the meetings are at 8 pm on the **third Monday** of each month at the Baptist Church. New members are always welcome, whatever your skill level or photographic equipment. It's never too serious and it's always fun!

(Membership is £20 for six months, first month free).

Then and Now: Willingham's Wartime Hospital

This red-brick building in Church Street is the former Church Hall. During the First World War, it served as an auxiliary hospital. The Parish Room received wounded and convalescing servicemen, while additional patients were cared for at the Rectory.

The photograph shows patients gathered outside with local Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses, beneath the Union Jack and Red Cross flags. Such hospitals offered a quieter place to recover after treatment elsewhere. More than a century later, the steep roof and stone-framed windows remain unmistakable.



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Willingham Women's Institute



Our next meeting will be on **Monday, 12 October** from 7 pm at the Social Club, with refreshments available and time to catch up.

At 7 30 pm Mike Wabe will be with us again, this time to get us in the mood for Halloween with his talk about Paranormal Cambridge.

In August we didn't have a meeting, but 11 members went on a very interesting guided tour of Ely.

Looking for friendship, laughter and something new?

Our informal, warm and welcoming group is open to all women – whether you like listening to interesting speakers, taking part in activities or simply enjoying a chat over a cuppa.

When? The second Monday of every month (except August).

Where? The Social Club.

Arrive from 7 pm for refreshments and a natter, 7 30 pm for a speaker or activity.

Come and meet us for a free taster session.

Hope to see you soon.

Find out more: willinghamwi28@gmail.com or call Vicky on 01954 201405.

The Octagon Community Hub

Monday mornings, 10 am – 12 30 pm

The Octagon Community Hub will be open, as usual, every **Monday morning** in October. Tea and coffee, with toast and jam or marmalade, are served from 10 until 10 30 am, and a light lunch like jacket potatoes, soup or pasta is available at 11 45 am. In between, tea, coffee and squash are on offer.

We make no charges for our refreshments, but donations towards the second phase of the Octagon Improvement Project are always appreciated. The toilet facilities have now been updated, so all there is left to do is replace the hall curtains. This will benefit all those who use the Octagon, especially as we move into the autumn.

There is always someone to chat to if you would like some company. We also have regular visits from our Village Agent, who is supported by Cambridgeshire ACRE. She can offer confidential and free-of-charge independent advice and support covering different issues, as well as help you access a range of services etc.

There are magazines, books, puzzles, games, knitting and mindful colouring to enjoy as well.

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 hope to see you in October.

Trivia Corner: Hush Puppies

Jim Muir, a manager of an American shoe company in the Fifties, was on holiday in the south of the USA when he came across a food shop selling fried corn dough balls called Hush Puppies. He was informed that the farmers used the food to quieten their barking dogs.

The slang term for 'hurting feet' was 'barking dogs' – which gave Jim an idea for a new range of comfortable shoes...Hush Puppies. Before long, Hush Puppies was the leader in the casual footwear market and was introduced into UK shops in the early Sixties.

Hush Puppies as a food product is still a thing, so beware if you're online shopping for shoes!

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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.

2026 is a National Year of Reading – supported by all libraries. The aim is to encourage people of all ages to read for pleasure.

Endangered Alphabets

A talk on **Wednesday 7 October, 7 30 pm**

Come and hear the fascinating and important story of the Endangered Alphabets group and their mission to play an active role in preserving endangered cultures by using their writing systems to create artwork and educational materials.

£3 per ticket. Please book in the Library or email BarHill.Library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Half Term Activities in the Library

Crochet Workshop

29 October, 10 am. Ages six and over.

Join a small group for a beginner's crochet workshop. Enjoy 2.5 hours of dedicated tuition with all materials, equipment and refreshments provided.

£3 per family – places are limited.

Book in the Library or email: BarHill.Library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Supported by the Friends of Willingham Library.

Teddy Bears' Picnic

30 October, 11 am

Join us to celebrate Winnie-the-Pooh's 100th birthday. Bring along your own cuddly toy, take part in a craft activity and then enjoy Storytime with a biscuit and juice.

£3 per family, no need to book.

Parent or guardian supervision is required for all activities.

Under 5s 'Stay and Play'

Friday mornings, 10 15 – 11 15 am

This is for 0–4 year-olds with parents/carers. Come and enjoy playing with some traditional toys.

Digital Buddy Drop-in Session

13 October, 10 30 am – 12 noon

Struggling to access the web? Need help with an online application? Drop into the Library on the second Tuesday of the month to get free assistance from our Digital Buddy.

After School Lego Session

Second Thursday of the month, 8 October, 4 – 5 pm

Children aged four and over with accompanying adult.

Family Lego Club

**Second and fourth Saturday of the month,
10 and 24 October, 10 15 – 11 45 am**

If you love Lego, then come to the Library and enjoy some time building with Lego or Duplo.

Children four and over, accompanied by an adult.

Meet Roxy, a Pets as Therapy Dog

20 October, 2 – 3 pm

Roxy returns! 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.

Postage Stamps

The Library now has a used stamp collection box.

Friends of Willingham Library Events

**Contact willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com
for further information**

Family History Session

2 October, 10 30 am – 12 noon

The Library computers will be available for research on Ancestry (access to this is free of charge at the Library) and other genealogy sites if you have login details. Liz, our friendly volunteer, will be available to offer advice if needed. If you'd like to know more, contact us at the above email address.

Second-Hand Book Sale

3 October, 10 30 am – 12 noon

We have a good selection of quality second-hand books for adults and children for sale. All at the bargain price of 50p each or three for £1.

Games and Social Afternoon

14 October, 2 – 4 pm

Come and join us for a relaxing afternoon of Scrabble or bring a game from home to share. You are also welcome to just sit, chat and enjoy some company and refreshments.

Knit and Natter

21 October, 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.

Note For Your Diary:

The History of a Willingham Fruit Farm

4 November, 7 30 pm

A free talk with wine and snacks. Presented by Wendy Jones of The Bushel Box Farm Shop. Please book a place by emailing us or sign up at the Library.

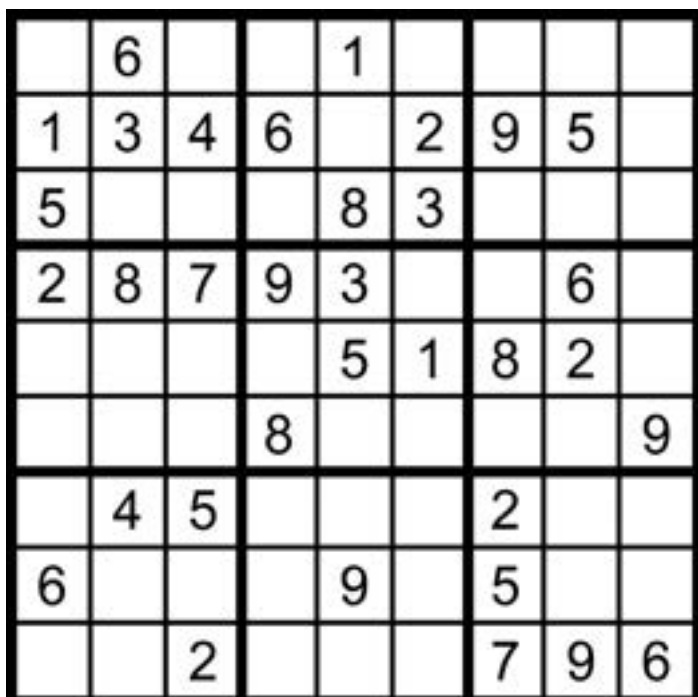
Cambridgeshire Libraries

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.

Sudoku

Put your logic skills to the test with this month's Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every row, column and box contains each number only once. Good luck – and no peeking at the solution!



The Natural World Quiz

1. On which southern hemisphere continent is Lake Vostok situated?
2. What colour is a polar bear's skin?
3. Is the 'screaming piha' a bird, a fish, or a rodent?
4. Which is the seventh planet from the Sun?
5. Beefsteak, coral spot and orange-peel are types of what?
6. Two birds often share the title of the smallest bird in Britain. What are they?
7. Which is the UK's largest species of deer?
8. A nephophile is someone who loves what?
9. Woodbine is another name for which common climbing plant?
10. Which has the most neck bones, a chicken or a giraffe?

October Did You Know

1. October was originally the eighth month of the Roman calendar. What does its name mean?
2. Which two zodiac signs fall in October?
3. What is October's traditional birthstone?
4. Which famous battle took place on 21 October 1805?
5. What is the traditional flower associated with October?



Young Readers' Corner

Halloween Hunt

Look around the haunted village image on the right. How many pumpkins, bats and ghosts can you find? Write your answers in the boxes below the image.

Halloween Jokes

Ready for some frightfully funny Halloween humour? Sink your fangs into these spooky jokes – they're guaranteed to raise a few spirits!

1. Why didn't the skeleton go to the party?
2. Why are graveyards so noisy?
3. What room does a ghost avoid?
4. What do you call a witch at the beach?
5. What kind of music do mummies like?

All answers on page 19.





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

Surgery Closure

Please note the surgery will be CLOSED from 1 to 4 pm on **Tuesday 17 November** for whole staff training.

Please plan ahead and make sure you have enough medication to last, remembering to order your repeats at least three working days before collection.

Flu Clinics – National Flu Immunisation Programme 2026/2027

Over 65s Clinics

(eligible if you are turning 65 on or before 31 March 2027)

Saturday 10 October at the Willingham Medical Practice

Saturday 17 October at the Longstanton Surgery

Under 65s

(if you are aged between 18 and 64 and are eligible*)

Saturday 3 October at the Willingham Medical Practice

Thursday 8 October at the Willingham Medical Practice

*aged between 18 and 64 and have certain health conditions, are pregnant, live in a care home, are a main carer, live with someone who has a weakened immune system or are experiencing homelessness.

Missed Appointments

During June and July, there were 160 missed GP appointments and 115 missed nurse appointments across the Willingham and Longstanton surgeries. It is extremely disappointing when appointments go unused, as they could have been offered to other patients and helped reduce the lengthy waiting times we are currently experiencing.

If you are no longer able to attend your appointment, please remember to cancel it by telephoning the surgery. You do not need to wait on hold – simply select Option 3 to leave a cancellation message.

Please avoid cancelling appointments at the last minute by email. During busy periods, we are unable to monitor the inbox continuously, which can result in appointments going unused when they could have been offered to another patient.

Please Help Us Keep Our Car Park Safe

We would like to remind parents and children that the surgery car park is not a suitable place for playing. Groups of children playing football or riding scooters in the car park can put themselves at risk and may also accidentally damage patients' or staff members' cars.

It can also cause disruption to patients, some of whom may be feeling unwell, in pain or have limited mobility and need a quiet and safe route into the surgery.

We kindly ask that children do not play in the car park and that parents and carers help us to keep the area safe for everyone. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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 11 November**, 7 – 9 pm at the Unity Centre, Northstowe.

Vaccinations

The Pneumococcal Vaccine is available year-round for everyone aged 65 years and over.

The RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Vaccine is available year-

NEW SURGERY OPENING HOURS

Willingham Medical Practice		Longstanton Branch Surgery	
Monday	8 am – 6 30 pm	Monday	8 30 am – 1 pm & 2 30 pm – 6 pm
Tuesday	8 am – 6 30 pm	Tuesday	8 30 am – 1 pm
Wednesday	8 am – 6 30 pm	Wednesday	8 30 am – 1 pm
Thursday	8 am – 6 30 pm	Thursday	8 30 am – 1 pm
Friday	8 am – 6 30 pm	Friday	8 30 am – 1 pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

WILLINGHAM PHARMACY Tel: 01954 261787

NORMAL OPENING HOURS

Monday	8 30 am – 1 pm	2 30 pm – 6 pm
Tuesday	8 30 am – 1 pm	2 pm – 7 pm
Wednesday	8 30 am – 1 pm	2 pm – 6 pm
Thursday	8 30 am – 1 pm	2 pm – 6 pm
Friday	8 30 am – 1 pm	2 pm – 6 pm

LONGSTANTON DISPENSARY OPENING TIMES

For Collection of Prescriptions		Telephone Line	
Monday	8 30 am – 1 pm & 2 30 – 4 pm	Monday	10 am – 12 & 3 – 4 pm
Tuesday	8 30 am – 1 pm & 2 30 – 4 pm	Tuesday	10 am – 12 & 3 – 4 pm
Wednesday	8 30 am – 1 pm & 2 30 – 4 pm	Wednesday	10 am – 12 & 3 – 4 pm
Thursday	8 30 am – 1 pm	Thursday	10 am – 12
Friday	8 30 am – 1 pm & 2 30 – 4 pm	Friday	10 am – 12 & 3 – 4 pm

Please note that when the GP surgery is closed our patients are unable to collect letters from or drop off samples with the dispensary team.

Please telephone 01954 207602 for any medication queries or hospital discharge concerns but NOT requests for repeat medications

round for everyone aged 75 and over, as well as all pregnant women from the 28th week of their pregnancy.

The Shingles Vaccine is available year-round for people who turned 65 on or after 1 September 2023, people aged between 70 and 79 and people aged 18 and over with a severely weakened immune system. To check your eligibility, please visit www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/shingles-vaccine or contact the GP surgery.

The Flu Vaccine is available until **31 March 2027** for all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the influenza season), individuals aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2027) and individuals aged 18 years to under 65 years in a clinical risk group category.

The Nasal Flu Vaccine is available until **31 March 2027** for all those aged two or three years on 31 August 2026 (with a date of birth on or after 1 September 2022 and on or before 31 August 2024).

Carers' Meetings

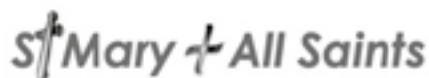
If you are a carer for someone and need advice and financial or emotional support, please come along to our carers' support meeting on **Wednesday 7 October**, at the Wilford Furlong Centre in Willingham, where we will be holding a drop-in session between 2 and 4 pm.

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. For more information, please contact alaine.bunce@nhs.net.

Willingham Medical Practice

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN WILLINGHAM



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Services – in Church (except where shown)

4 October	11 am	Holy Communion
11 October	11 am	Harvest Festival Service – see further note below
14 October	9 30 am	Morning Prayer – see further note below
18 October	11 am	Holy Communion
25 October	11 am	Morning Prayer

Harvest Service – 11 October

Our Harvest Festival will be based on a Service of Morning Prayer. During our Service, we will be pleased to receive non-perishable Harvest Gifts. After the Service these will be incorporated into the Community Larder, housed in the Church Porch – see page 5 for further details. After the Service, there will be a free Harvest Soup Lunch in the Octagon Hall behind the Church.

Wednesday Services of Morning Prayer

On **each Wednesday** a short Morning Prayer service is held at 9 30 am in one of the four 5folds Churches. Services in October are: **7 October**, Over; **14 October**, Willingham; **21 October**, Swavesey; **28 October**, Longstanton. Everyone is welcome.

Memory Box Café

Our next Memory Box Café will be on **Saturday 10 October**, from 10 am in The Octagon with the usual mix of music, refreshments, laughter and fun. Everyone living with memory loss or other illnesses accompanied by a companion is welcome. See page 6 for further details.

Willingham Community Hub

The Willingham Community Hub meets in The Octagon **every Monday** morning from 10 am to 12 30 pm. Come and join us for hot drinks and toast. Stay for a hot lunch at 11 45 am. All free of charge (donations are welcome).

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 conflict worldwide. Everyone is welcome.

Octagon Hall

The Octagon Hall 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 Ed Green (Team Vicar)	01954 716894 or ed@5folds.org.uk
Rev Stephen Dove (Team Rector)	07944 014521 or stephen@5folds.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister:

Canon Jan Payne	07780 674563 or jan.payne@5folds.org.uk
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5folds Administration Office:

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

Minister: Rev Kwaku Efah

Sunday Morning Services – 10 am

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4 October:	Service with Communion
11 October:	Service
18 October:	Family Service
25 October:	Service

Events

Wednesday Fellowship – Coffee Morning, 10 – 11 30 am

Every Wednesday, Open Door for coffee and chat.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday 17 October, 7 45 – 9 15 am

Breakfast and chat. Speaker David Scott – *My Hero*. To book contact Pete on: whammensbrek@gmail.com.

Community Lunch Club – Thursdays, 8 and 22 October

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 – 26 October, 7 30 pm

For all events contact: secretary@willinghambaptist.org.

Catholic Parish of the Sacred Heart, St Ives

Mass at **5 pm Saturdays**, and at **9 and 11 am Sundays**.

Mass is also celebrated at **6 pm on Saturday** in the church at Hanover Close, Bar Hill, CB23 8EH. www.olem.org.uk.

For more information about the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, See www.rcdea.org.uk.

Nature's Names

This is the time of year that we're up to our knees in pumpkins when we go into some supermarkets and, before you know it, you or your offspring will be carving one to replicate the face of a favourite character. (Last year they chose Genghis Khan, but who am I to question their judgement?).

Looking at a pumpkin, you might think it was blown up with a pump and that this spawned the name. But alas, there's no connection. It's actually descended from the Greek adjective for ripe, *pépōn*, which also became the noun for a variety of melon which could only be eaten ripe. Latin borrowed the word as *pepō*, then Old French took it on as *pepon*, early modern French as *pompon*. English then took it on as *pompion* and, in the 17th century, the diminutive suffix -kin was added.

Pumpkins are native to the Americas: along with beans and maize, they were the main dietary ingredient for indigenous peoples. Before pumpkins became common in Britain in the 17th century, it was customary to carve lanterns out of root vegetables. Going back many hundreds of years, the Celts used to place carved swedes or turnips on their doorsteps to ward off evil spirits.

So, if you do see a turnip head of Genghis Khan on our doorstep, you'll know why.

By popular demand, let's again end on a literary note. Good old Spike Milligan mentions pumpkins in his poem *In The Land Of The Bumble Boo* ...

...In the land of the Bumble Boo
You never see a Gnu,
But thousands of cats
Wearing trousers and hats
Made of Pumpkins and Pelican Glue!

Happy pumpkin carving!

John Lawrence



Halloween and Bonfire Night Safety

A few simple reminders to keep everyone safe this spooky season.

Trick-or-Treating

- ✓ Young children should always be accompanied by an adult.
- ✓ Stick to well-lit routes and take extra care crossing roads.
- ✓ Carry a torch or add something reflective to costumes so you're easy to spot.
- ✓ Make sure costumes don't trail on the ground or obscure vision.
- ✓ Check treats before eating them, particularly if you have allergies.
- ✓ Only visit houses that appear to be welcoming trick-or-treaters and remember that not everyone celebrates Halloween.

At Home

- ✓ Keep paths and doorsteps clear and well lit.
- ✓ Keep costumes away from candles and naked flames. Battery-operated candles are a safer choice for pumpkins.
- ✓ Keep pets safely indoors and away from frequently opening doors.

Remember, Remember... the Hedgehogs this November

Bonfires can make tempting shelters for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

- ✓ Build your bonfire as late as possible.
- ✓ If it's been built in advance, move and rebuild it before lighting rather than simply checking around the edges.
- ✓ Light the bonfire from one side to give wildlife an escape route.
- ✓ Keep children and pets well away and never leave a bonfire unattended.

Have fun, stay safe and enjoy the spooky season!

Christmas Greetings in Willingham News

It might only be October but it is time for us to begin thinking about Christmas! Each year we devote a colour page of our December issue to your Christmas greetings. For a donation of £10, all of which will go to our chosen charity, you can include a box with your own personal greetings to friends and neighbours. This year we have decided to support the Arthur Rank Hospice. You will need to send in your greetings to willinghamnews@gmail.com by **4 November** and can post cash in an envelope with your name, through the letterbox of 54 High Street.

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

www.WillinghamParishCouncil.gov.uk

Wildlife Meadow

We are pleased to report that we have had a bench installed at the Wildlife Meadow. The seating is a great addition to the developing Wildlife Meadow and will hopefully provide an area of relaxation for many of the site's visitors.



Ploughman Hall

During October, some of the very dedicated volunteers of Willingham Action Group will be carrying out a hedge-laying project at the Ploughman Hall for the hedge between the Ploughman Hall and the QEII playing field. The Council is very grateful to the Willingham Action Group volunteers for all of their help, knowledge and skills.

Community Lifeline

The Parish Council funds 14 lifeline emergency response buttons for the residents of Willingham. Lifelines provide an added layer of safety, reassurance and independence for members of the community. These tools can quickly alert family members, carers or emergency services when help is required. Lifeline equipment can give both users and their loved ones a greater peace of mind. Currently

the Parish Council has two lifeline vacancies on its list, with no waiting list. Anyone who could benefit from this service is encouraged to contact the Parish Council office. Lifelines will be provided on a first come first served basis.

Summer Holidays

Over the summer holidays, the office staff were pleased to see the QEII and the recreation ground being used so much by the community. The new zipline was installed and operational in time for when the children broke up in July and we hope this new equipment has been well received.

As always, if anyone notices anything with any of the play equipment or any issues on Parish Council land, please do contact the office immediately.

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: Amy Rudderham

Derek Law	Parish Council Chair	cllr.law@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07866 726910
James Hutchcraft	Parish Council Vice Chair & Police Liaison Lead Cllr	cllr.hutchcraft@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07305 435771
Neil Harris	Planning Chair and Highways – Lead Cllr	cllr.harris@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07792 611226
Robert Phillips	Leisure & Amenities – Lead Cllr	cllr.rphillips@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07785 804149
Jim Watson	Green & Boundary – Lead Cllr	cllr.watson@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	01954 270299
Simon Hales	Cemetery – Lead Cllr	cllr.hales@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07938 924020
Simon Clark	Halls – Lead Cllr	cllr.clark@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk	07948 830406



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Thought for the Month

I wonder what songs you remember from Primary School? At this time of year, I would be extra excited to sing a favourite: Cauliflowers Fluffy. Although I remember the backing track had been long lost, we persevered, a cappella, singing about sweet strawberries, purple beetroots and broad beans sleeping in their 'blankety bed'. This song often comes to mind as I am tasked with preparing harvest services.

This has been a tough year for many working in agriculture, something some of you will know first-hand, and therefore it is good to remind ourselves that Harvest Festivals are an opportunity to give thanks for all those who grow and prepare food and to be thankful for the food we do have. For Christians, Harvest is a time to thank God for what has been provided, and to remember the many encouragements in the Bible to share what we have with others.

A favourite amongst these for me is the story of a child, who brings his packed lunch with him to listen to Jesus speak. As stomachs rumbled around him, he offers it to be shared with others and at the hands of Jesus, miraculously, thousands are fed with many baskets of leftovers. This small act of sharing has a big impact. I wonder how we might be inspired to act likewise.

Stephen Dove

St Mary & All Saints Church

Clocks Go Back – An Extra Hour in Bed?

On **Sunday 25 October**, the clocks go back one hour as British Summer Time comes to an end.

For most of us, the change will happen automatically on our phones and other devices, but don't forget the clocks on ovens, microwaves and in the car.

The change also means an extra hour in bed on Sunday morning – although anyone with young children or pets may find they haven't got the message!

With the evenings getting darker, it is also a useful time to check a few things around the house. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and check that outside lights are working.

If you are out walking, running or cycling around the village, remember that you may be less visible to drivers as the light fades. Bright or reflective clothing and cycle lights can make a big difference.

And if you can never remember which way the clocks change, the old saying is still useful: spring forward, fall back.

So, before going to bed on Saturday 24 October, turn any manual clocks back an hour and enjoy the extra hour on Sunday morning.

Willingham Gardening Club

Autumn is the time to enjoy the (literal and figurative) fruits of your labour from the growing season, whether that be in a garden or allotment. One idea for your produce could be to try Katja's sweet potato salad, which was a hit at the club's summer party!

Katja's Sweet Potato Salad Recipe

Ingredients: sweet potatoes (peeled and cut into small cubes), onions (chopped), cooked chickpeas, dried cranberries, two tablespoons olive oil, one teaspoon ground cumin, ½ teaspoon smoked paprika, salt and pepper, one tablespoon honey, one tablespoon Dijon mustard, one tablespoon wholegrain mustard, nigella seeds, block of feta cheese.

Instructions:

1. Mix the onions and sweet potatoes in a roasting tin. Mix the oil with the cumin and paprika, add to the sweet potatoes, mix well and place in a hot oven (200°C) for 20 minutes until softened.
2. Remove from the oven and add the chickpeas and dried cranberries.
3. Mix the honey and mustard and pour on the sweet potato mix. Mix well, season to taste with salt and pepper. Add the nigella seeds and leave to cool.
4. Crumble the feta cheese on top.

Meetings

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 5 October**. In a change to our scheduled programme, we will be joined by Kerry French, who will speak to us about plants that provide winter interest in the garden.

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.

Willingham Gardening Club

Readers' Noticeboard



Wikipedia Editor Wanted

A local resident of Over who has written a book on post-war British politics wants somebody with good computer skills and proofreading ability to submit items to Wikipedia.

It would be ideal for an A level student or an undergraduate reading for a degree in modern British history. £20 per hour.

Email John at jodoveton@gmail.com.

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Have You Ever Wondered...?

Why Does Time Seem to Go Faster as You Get Older?

Remember how long the summer holidays seemed when you were a child? Six weeks could feel like an entire lifetime. Yet somehow, as adults, Christmas seems to arrive approximately three weeks after the last one!

The clocks haven't changed, of course. A year still contains the same number of days. What changes is how our brains experience and remember time.

One popular explanation is simply proportion. When you're five, one year represents a whopping fifth of your entire life. At 50, it's just one-fiftieth. Each new year therefore feels smaller compared with everything you've already experienced.

But there's another interesting factor: novelty.

Childhood is packed with firsts – your first day at school, first holiday somewhere new, first time riding a bike. When something is unfamiliar, our brains pay more attention and create richer memories. Looking back, a period containing lots of distinct memories can seem longer.

Adult life can be rather different. We develop routines. We travel the same roads, shop in the same places and follow familiar weekly patterns. Because the brain doesn't need to process every familiar experience as something new, months can appear to disappear remarkably quickly.

That might also explain why a holiday somewhere unfamiliar can seem wonderfully long for the first few days. Suddenly your brain is noticing everything again.

So can we slow time down?

Sadly, not the clock. But we may be able to make life feel less fleeting by introducing more novelty: visit somewhere new, learn something, take a different route, meet new people or simply pay closer attention to ordinary moments.

Perhaps the secret isn't finding more time.

It's giving our brains more reasons to remember it.

Miller Moose

Over & District Flower Club

**We meet on the second Thursday of the month
at 2 – 4 pm**

in

**Over Methodist Hall, The Lanes, Over, Cambridge,
CB24 5NQ**

Our next practical is in October, the topic being a '*Pot et Fleur*' with foliage plants and fresh flowers.

We are a small friendly 'hands on' group, meeting monthly to enjoy flower arranging and grow our skills. No experience required, with friendly advice always available.

For more information, please contact,
ldreece@yahoo.co.uk

Answers to Puzzles

Sudoku

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

Answers to the Natural World Quiz

1 Antarctica (2 miles below the icy surface); 2 Black; 3 Bird (in the Amazon); 4 Uranus; 5 Fungi; 6 Goldcrest and firecrest; 7 Red deer; 8 Clouds; 9 Honeysuckle; 10 Chicken (14 compared to a giraffe's 7).

Halloween Hunt Answer

13 pumpkins,
nine bats and six
ghosts.



Halloween Jokes Punchlines

- 1 Because he had no body to go with
- 2 Because of all the coffin
- 3 The living room
- 4 A sand-witch
- 5 (W)rap music!

October Did You Know Answers:

- 1 Eight, from the Latin octo;
- 2 Libra and Scorpio;
- 3 Opal. (Tourmaline is also recognised as an October birthstone.);
- 4 The Battle of Trafalgar;
- 5 The marigold (calendula).



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WHAT'S ON

DATE	EVENT	ORGANISATION	VENUE	EXTRA INFO
October	Feast Events	Willingham Action Group		See p2 & 5
Fri 2 Oct	Family History Session	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p10
Sat 3 Oct	Second-hand Book Sale	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p10
Sun 4 Oct	Jazz Club	Jazz Club	Social Club	12 30 – 3 30 pm Rosie-Val 01954789670
Sun 4 Oct	<i>Willingham News</i> Deadline	<i>Willingham News</i>		See p3, articles to be sent to: willinghamnews@gmail.com
Mon 5 Oct	Talk: <i>Plants that provide winter interest in the garden</i> with Kerry French	Gardening Club	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p17
Wed 7 Oct	Carers' Support Meeting	Surgey	Wilford Furlong Centre	2 – 4 pm, see p12
Wed 7 Oct	Talk: <i>Endangered Alphabets</i>	Library	Library	7 30 pm, see p10
Wed 7 Oct	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Council	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p15
Thu 8 Oct	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p13
Thu 8 Oct	After School Lego Session	Library	Library	4 – 5pm, see p10
Thu 8 Oct	Practical session: <i>Pot et Fleur</i>	Over & District Flower Club	Over Methodist Hall	2 – 4 pm, see p19
Sat 10 Oct	Peal of Bells with visiting bellringers	Parish Church	Parish Church	1 – 4 pm
Sat 10 Oct	Memory Box Café	Parish Church	Octagon	10 am – 12 noon, see p6 & 13
Sat 10 Oct	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 45 am, see p10
Mon 12 Oct	Talk: <i>Paranormal Cambridge</i> with Mike Wabe	Women's Institute	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p9
Tue 13 Oct	Digital Buddy Drop-in Session	Library	Library	10 30 am – 12 noon, see p10
Wed 14 Oct	Games & Social Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p10
Sat 17 Oct	Talk: <i>My Hero</i> with David Scott	Men's Breakfast	Baptist Church	7 45 am, see p13
Mon 19 Oct	Meeting	Photo Club	Baptist Church	8 – 10 pm, see p7
Tue 20 Oct	Roxy, Pets as Therapy Dog	Library	Library	2 – 3 pm, see p10
Wed 21 Oct	Knit & Natter Afternoon	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)	Library	2 – 4 pm, see p10
Thu 22 Oct	Community Lunch Club	Baptist Church	Baptist Church	See p13
Sat 24 Oct	Family Lego Club	Library	Library	10 15 – 11 45 am, see p10
Mon 26 Oct	Talk: <i>Sons of Cambridgeshire and the Somme</i>	Old Willingham	Social Club	7 30 pm, see p7
Tue 27 Oct	Annual General Meeting	Friends of Willingham Church	Octagon	7 30 pm, see p2 & 6
Thu 29 Oct	Crochet Workshop	Library	Library	10 am, see p10
Fri 30 Oct	Teddy Bears' Picnic	Library	Library	11 am, see p 10

VILLAGE DIRECTORY

Council and Community	Parish Council		01954 261027
	County Councillor	Yasmin Deter	Cllr.Deter@scambs.gov.uk
	District Councillor	Aisha Rashid	Cllr.Rashid@scambs.gov.uk
	District Councillor	James Hutchcraft	Cllr.Hutchcraft@scambs.gov.uk
	Willingham Community Planning Group		07506 385554 / communityplanning@willinghamlife.co.uk
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	Mark Hurworth	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	Tom Miller	07982 825402
Clubs	Friends of Willingham Church	Rosemary Tiley	friendsofwillinghamchurch@gmail.com
	Friends of Willingham Library (FOWL)		willinghamlibraryfriends@gmail.com
	Open Circle Singers/Drummers	Marion Barber	07905 894422
	Willingham Carpet Bowls Club	David Young	01954 200561 / orchadist44@gmail.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 Music Night	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	Prakash Nayee	07722 489850 / pnayee@btinternet.com
	Women's Institute	Vicky Baggaley	01954 201405
Sport	Angling	Colin Dodd	07773 719330
	Badminton	Emma Byrom	Emma.byromcb24@gmail.com
	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	Emma.byromcb24@gmail.com
	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 Ed Green	01954 716894 / ed@5folds.org.uk



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