

# SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

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## Special points of interest:

- Commercial activity in old South Willingham
- Dog breeding and grooming in South Willingham - the Westies
- Save a vanishing species
- A walk back in time
- On line in South Willingham

## Post Box on the move

Following concerns which had been expressed about the ease of access to the Post Box in the centre of the village, particularly for those less nimble on their feet, the Parish Council approached Royal Mail to ask if the position of the box could be moved to between the village seat and the telephone box.

It was felt that this proposed position provided level and open

## Have your say

The Parish Council is to make time available for public participation prior to the start of every council meeting. This will allow anybody within the parish to raise issues which concern them or make suggestions for items they might



The present post box in the wall of the old Post Office

access and was centrally located next to the bus shelter and telephone box. Those

wish the council to follow up. The Parish Council can therefore directly hear their views and ideas and if decisions are required place the item on the agenda for the next council meeting.

The time for public partici-

posting particularly weighty letters could even rest awhile on the village seat! The Royal Mail have agreed with the Parish Council and are going to order a new box and apply for the necessary planning approval.

The Editor hears that the Old Post Office wishes to retain the original box as part of the character of the building and we hope they will be allowed to do so by Royal Mail.

pation will be at 7.50 pm on the evening of the meetings, dates of which are posted on the village notice board at the bus stop and on the board within the Village Hall as well as available from the Clerk or any Parish Councillor

## Louth to Bardney Branch Line, part 2

**Kelly's Directory of 1905 gives some indication of the goods carried by the railway**

**Wragby** - William Mawer and Son, miller and corn and cattle cake merchant.  
**East Barkwith** - Alf Duckering, nursery man, seedsman, bonecrusher and chemical manure manufacturer.

**South Willingham** - miller.

**Donington-on-Bain** - John Brocklebank, brick and tile maker, coal merchant and white sand pits. Local coal merchants were also to be found at most stations.

**Kelly's Directory of 1926 - South Willingham**

Post Office - Miss Edith Mary Johnson, sub-postmistress. Letters through Lincoln. Hainton 1 mile distant, is the nearest money order office; telegrams can be sent from the railway station and messages received there if called for. Railway Station, John Edward Paul, station master. Carriers through to Market Rasen, Tuesday.

**Commercial Businesses in South Willingham**

Miss Mary Babbington, dress-maker.  
 Dennis Bartholomew, farmer.  
 John William Bett, overseer.

William Bett, farmer  
 Mrs Jas Brumpton, cottage farmer  
 John Fotherby Brumpton, cottage farmer and parish clerk  
 John W Cordey, cottage farmer.

George Firth, cottage farmer.  
 Richard Gourley, farmer.  
 William Greenwood, blacksmith.  
 John Harrison, miller (windmill)  
 Edward Harrison, farmer.

John William Hunt, wheelwright.  
 Thomas Copping Johnson and Miss Edith Mary Johnson, grocers.  
 George Kent, cottage farmer.  
 Henry Pickering, bricklayer.  
 Mrs Mary Pickering, smallholder.  
 John Pickwell, cottage farmer.  
 Mark Pickwell, cottage farmer,  
 Rushby and Pickering, smallholders.  
 Levi Taylor, cottage farmer.  
 William Tharratt, farmer.  
 Thomas Wallis, coal merchant.  
 William Webster, farmer.



Slow pace down Station Road

*The final part of the history will ap-*



The same cart earlier on its journey?

pear

"telegrams can be sent from the railway station and messages received there if called for."

## It's a Dog's Life

*This is the first of an occasional series highlighting the various businesses in the village*

I trace my love of dogs to the first dog I owned. She was a lively, mischievous intelligent liver and white Spaniel called Meg. I thought no dog could take her place. Indeed not dog replaces another but every dog has its special place in my life. After various jobs I finally opted to work with dogs. I gained my City and Guilds qualification in Dog Grooming and Canine Studies at Brackenhurst college and for a time taught at Grimsby College.

Two years ago I was offered the opportunity of developing dog grooming at Heathbridge Westies owned by Alan and Sally Bray.. We offer a high quality grooming service; each dog is bathed, nails trimmed and styled according to the Kennel Club breed standard. We specialise in the technique of hand-stripping terrier coats. The dogs are checked for parasites and bathing helps remove unwanted dead hair follicles, promoting healthy new growth. It is my aim to develop a good rapport with my customers (and their owners!). During regular visits to the salon a good dog groomer will notice small changes in the dog's condition, lumps and bumps etc., which may have gone undetected, advising the owners accordingly. I have great job satisfaction when a dog leaves the salon

looking and feeling 'wonderful'.

Alan and Sally have established select breeding lines of the highest quality Westies and Miniature Schnauzers.



Bonnie Stella, 6 months old

The puppies are lovingly reared and well socialised. We have recently become Accredited Breeders with the Kennel Club. After eight weeks of loving care the puppies are ready to move to their new homes. Many of the puppies become regular clients as their owners happily bring them for grooming. These are companion dogs.

Some breeds, however, do important work for the military and police. Dogs naturally follow scent and can be trained to apprehend criminals and sniff out illegal drugs. They were invaluable during the World Wars carrying messages across enemy lines and finding wounded soldiers. At the end of WW1

the German Government were the first to train dogs to guide war blinded soldiers. By 1930 a similar training scheme was developed in Britain. More recently dogs have been trained to act as ears for deaf people and other dogs to assist wheelchair users. My cousin's working Collies are an important part of his job as a shepherd in Yorkshire, fetching the sheep down from the hills for shearing and dipping.

The use of dogs in advertising pulls our emotional strings. Think of the Hush Puppy dog and the Andrex puppy. In films Rin Tin Tin's career lasted fourteen years and his death in 1932 made front page news. The novel 'Lassie come Home' was bought by Hollywood in 1940. Three hundred auditioned for the part of Lassie and a Rough Collie called Pal got the part. His luxuriously long coat successfully disguised his masculinity and he played 'Lassie'.

But it is your dog and mine who are the real stars. In all their various shapes, sizes and colours 'the dogs' will continue to enhance the lives of dog lovers. We at Heathbridge Westies will endeavour to give them our very best attention and care.



McRobbie and Master Charles

**“his luxuriously long coat successfully disguised his masculinity”**

## Tree Sparrows in South Willingham – Richard Taylor

Feeding the garden birds has always given us a great deal of pleasure when we have visited Paul & Gill at South Willingham. By putting table seed on the lawn as well as hanging up both seed and nut feeders the Fullers have attracted the regular garden and woodland species plus a few surprises.

A welcome surprise has been the arrival of a declining species. Over the last 18 months the seed feeders have been used by a small flock of Tree Sparrows.

### What do they look like?

The Tree Sparrow is smaller, less stocky, than the familiar House Sparrow. Males and females are alike and have a chocolate brown crown and white neck band or collar. Their white cheeks have a black smudge, and they have a small neat black bib. The back and wings are a mixture of warm shades of brown, and the underparts are pale grey-brown. The bill is small with a yellow base. Juvenile Tree Sparrows are similar to adults but duller.

In the last 25 years the Tree Sparrow population of the UK has suffered a severe decline of over 80 percent. Tree Sparrow abundance crashed between the late 1970s and the early 1990s. National Breeding bird Survey data indicate increase since 1994, in England and in the UK as a whole, but it should be re-

membered that the current population level is still only about 3% of that of the 1970s. The Lincolnshire breeding population was estimated at around 7,000 pairs in 1989 so any help we can do will benefit them.

### Have you seen them in your garden?

Does this rare bird visit your garden during the year and do any stay and breed in your



A tree sparrow

garden?

Since their arrival in the garden I have often wondered how many Tree Sparrows South Willingham supports and would welcome reports of them visiting other gardens in the village.

Please let me know if they are feeding in your garden and how many are visiting. (A message through Paul will get to me)

It would be great to find out the overall picture of these birds in the village and sur-

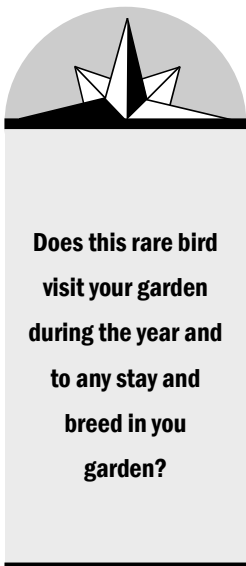
rounding countryside. By putting out mixed seed, sunflower hearts and fat balls Tree Sparrow and other birds can be attracted to feed all through the year. Tree Sparrow feed their young on insects so leaving a wild corner or long grass would also help them too.

Another great way to help is by putting up nest boxes for Sparrows. Tree Sparrows will nest in standard Tit boxes with a 28mm or 32 mm entrance hole but they will also use communal terrace boxes. Unlike most birds, both the House and Tree sparrow are a communal nesting variety and are perfectly happy to live side by side. If you do decide to put some up then fasten them securely below the eaves of your house or out buildings (they should be at least 3 metres above ground level). The box should face in an easterly direction avoiding direct heat from the sun and the prevailing wind and rain. You can put them up in trees as well.

A useful plan can be found at <http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/factsheets/nestbox/housesparrow.php>

So why not give it a go and see what turns up? It will all help add to the Biodiversity of the village and give you pleasure at the same time.

**Richard Taylor.**



**Does this rare bird visit your garden during the year and to any stay and breed in your garden?**

## Snippets

Has Christmas gone? Yes, and New Year and Twelfth Night and Burns Night and Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year... Time almost with the speed of light, it seems. But they were good while they were here and South Willingham enjoyed them too.

The Carol Singing attracted about fifteen carollers who sang their way round the village, stopping five times for some warming hospitality, for which many thanks. The last stop was a party at John and Fran's which went on into the early hours. The Renal Unit at the County Hospital gained £385. Again, thanks to all.

The third Christmas Fayre was as successful as the others with the children enjoying themselves and welcoming Father Christmas. The stalls were very busy and £293 was raised.



Christmas Fayre

Alison Gough and Roy

Sylvester held a

New Year's Eve Party of

'family fun and entertainment' which did very well and is a welcome addition for those not celebrating elsewhere. At the end of January a Curry Evening went down well with a variety of curries and that made £250.

This year we are celebrating the Chinese New Year with a supper on Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. A special feature will be the presentation of a cheque to the Community Hall by Alison and Roy with all the money they have made so far by one means or another!

A little news of people : Sheila Lacey is walking again. Paul Fuller could no longer look after Gill and she is now in a Care Home in

## A meander through Ostlers Plantation

RAF Woodhall Spa was opened in February 1942, with 97 Squadron flying Lancasters from March 1942 to April 1943, followed by 619 Squadron from April 1943 to January 1944. It was in January 1944 that the famous 617 Squadron arrived and they stayed until June 1945, except for a short spell at RAF Scampton under the command of Wing Commander Guy Gibson when they undertook the raid on the German Dams, which gave rise to the squadron name of The Dambusters. From April 1944 to October 1945 Mosquito fighter bombers flew from the airfield. It closed in October 1945, re-opened in 1959 with 112 Squadron Bloodhound surface to air missiles and again closed in

1965. After this time most of the airfield disappeared through gravel extraction, although a little remains at Thorpe Camp which is now a museum. Fragments of the airfield can be seen within the woodland of Ostlers plantation.

Our village walk this time will explore the woodland looking for evidence of its previous use. There is much to find in the right areas!

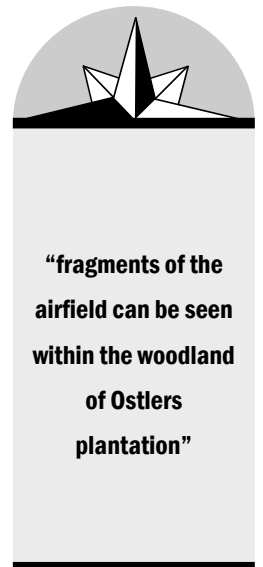
After the walk you might like to go to The Petwood Hotel which was taken over by several squadrons including 617 during the Second World War. Much memorabilia can be found within the rooms. Also

there is a War Memorial to 617 Squadron in the centre of Woodhall Spa appropriately shaped like a dam.

**Date Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**The walk will start from the car park at Ostlers Plantation. Please be there for 5.30 for a 5.45 start.**

**Directions and map for this walk will be available from Martin or from the porch of Carpenters Cottage, Pam and Ken Webb. Those visiting the Petwood Hotel may find it sensible to take a change of shoes Please phone Martin Doughty to book a place. 01507 313686.**



**"fragments of the airfield can be seen within the woodland of Ostlers plantation"**

**South Willingham Parish Council and  
Community Hall**

Management Committee  
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Ken Webb  
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## Community Hall

AGM ON  
THURSDAY 12TH  
MAY AT 7 P.M.

**Chinese New Year  
Supper 25th February**

**Parish Councillors:**

Martin Doughty [Chairman] 313686  
Marcus Edmundson 313623  
Nikki Harris 313  
Tina Speck 313793  
John Sturgeon 313718  
Roy Sylvester 313341  
Ken Webb 313711

**Parish Clerk:**

Pam Webb [Tel: 313711]

**Community Hall :**

Roy Sylvester (Chairman) 313341  
Fran Kingsley (Secretary) 313718  
Paul Fuller (Treasurer) 313601

The Parish Council and the Community Hall are jointly producing this paper and through the Management Committee are publishing it quarterly. As well as official news and information about the Hall, they would like stories from around the village. As they are also reporters, sub-editors, publishers and first copy printers, they hope village people will come forward with ideas and stories themselves. Their thanks to Skills Centre (UK) Ltd for the printing.

## South Willingham Website



Charlotte and Katie wonder about Father Christmas

The Parish Council in conjunction with The Local Channel is to establish a village website. It is intended that the site will have sections covering Parish Council items, Village Hall activities and news, Neighbourhood Watch updates, and other sections that can be allocated, for example, to the Village Newsletter, education, local business etc.

It is intended for use both by residents within the parish as well as those living outside who might be interested in moving to

the area or following local activities. A working group has been set up to take the project forward and more information will follow.

**In case you have missed it, the Burgh-on Bain telephone exchange will be capable of carrying broadband from the 18th May.**

### Cover Picture

Four more talks and discussions

Led by  
Paul Fuller

Starting on  
Wednesday  
23rd February  
At