



# SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

## Surfing South Willingham

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The Parish Council has established a website for South Willingham in conjunction with The Local Channel. It is aimed at providing information both to residents, visitors, and those possibly interested in moving into the village.

Currently there is background information on the village, details of services available within the village, transport and travel details as well as other news items. There are also de-



The successful runners (see page 4 for details)

tails of the Parish Council, agendas and minutes of meetings, financial information, and news items.

Soon to be added hopefully are pages on Neighbourhood Watch, education & childcare, tourist facilities [B&B], and details of village activities. If anybody or organisation wishes to place information on the website, please contact either of the administrators, Martin Doughty [313686] or Ken Web [313711]

The website address is [www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/southwillingham](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/southwillingham)

## The Grass is Growing

With winter now hopefully in the past, and spring beginning to show, the lawnmowers are once again in use. The churchyard, which is a centrepiece to the village is no exception and we have already started to mow it.

Our thanks to all who again last year generously gave money for

it's upkeep and thanks also to the voluntary help strimming around the gravestones and to Jeremy Hodgson for arranging and paying for the cutting of the hedges. We expect that the costs this year for keeping it looking nice will again be about £500 and thanks to Mr.Lee for once more not increasing the cost of cutting it. It

costs £40 per cut and we would be most grateful for anybody wishing to sponsor 1 or ½ or ¼ of a mowing. Please send any donations to Pam Webb at Old Carpenters Cottage with cheques made payable to "St.Martins Churchyard Maintenance Fund"

### Special points of interest:

- 10km in 70 minutes
- Golden Wedding and Nonagenarian in South Willingham
- End of the line for the village
- Surfing the net - now it can be official and it can be fast.
- A walk in the wild side

## Louth to Bardney Branch Line, part 3

The only increase in activity on the line came in the Second World War when a Maintenance Unit, No233, was formed in January 1943. It was named Market Stainton, but in fact comprised mainly of sixty miles of roadside verges where the bombs and munitions brought by the railway were stored. This Unit was used to store and supply bombs to RAF Kelstern and RAF Ludford Magna. 267 airmen manned it, and in December 1943 1,632 loaded rail trucks arrived plus 218 lorries delivering bombs to the area. At the same time 543 trucks and 481 lorries went out to the eastern airfields. The first Tallboys arrived in April 1944. This Unit was closed in 1948, when peace and tranquility returned to the railway along with financial hardship.

A dramatic episode occurred in October 1946 when a goods train to Louth of eleven wagons was approaching Donington-on Bain Station. A spark from the engine ignited the straw packing of a truck laden with propane gas cylinders. The straw was burning

fiercely but the guard and fireman successfully uncoupled the rear wagons. The train moved on, the burning wagon was detached, and the remainder of the



Woodbine Cottage, South Willingham not long after the line had closed

train moved on again. Once isolated, the gas cylinders began exploding, causing the wagon to run back and set fire to coal wagons behind it. The guard and fireman were injured, and subsequently received bravery awards.

### South Willingham incident

Disaster was narrowly averted on another occasion. The guard of a goods train carrying out shunting movements at South Willingham omitted to put on his van brake. As the van ran away towards Bardney, the guard

had time to warn East Barkwith and Wragby Stations, and the gates there were hurriedly closed to road traffic. The van eventually came to rest a few yards short of Wragby.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1951 the line lost its passenger service, the last train running on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The very last train was hauled by C12, 4-4-2 Tank, No 67379 of Louth Shed. On its smokebox it bore a wreath inscribed "Louth Bardney Passenger Service, In Memoriam, Born 1876, Died 1951". Goods traffic continued, ceasing in stages as the line had opened: from 17<sup>th</sup> September 1956 Donington-on Bain became the terminus of the line from Bardney; from 1<sup>st</sup> December 1958 Wragby became the rail-head, with one train a day from Lincoln; and the final stretch closed on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1960. By October 1961 the track bed had completely gone.

DMD



The village hall, about the same time.

**"the gas cylinders began exploding, causing the wagon to run back"**

## Walking into the past

The spring walk took place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. A large group met at Ostler's Plantation near Woodhall Spa and set off to explore parts of the old airfield. Ably led by Martin Doughty we skirted round the plantation and in the middle of woodland full of wild life came across the old areas where aircraft had been parked, the anchor points still in the ground.

There were the remains of earth walls surrounding the old bomb dumps and crumbling buildings with the blast walls still intact and although the airfield itself is being dug up for gravel we could see where the runways were.

It was, of course, the home of 617 Squadron, the Dambusters. Martin had provided a map and pictures of the Lan-

casters involved so the older ones amongst us at least could imagine the rush and bustle of preparation and later the anxious silence as ears strained for returning aircraft.

There was no official meal to end but most of us drove to the Petwood Hotel and had a drink together on the terrace, enjoying good company and a glorious evening.

## No Dallas this time

We understand that Roc Oil, who had planning permission to carry out exploratory drilling on land the Donington side of the Caistor high street, will not be proceeding with drilling operations.

It is of course still possible for someone else to take advantage of the planning consent during its lifetime.

## South Willingham Athletes

After weeks of training on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Roy Sylvester, Alison and Pollyanna Gough completed the Lincoln 10 km Road Race, crossing the finishing line together in 70 minutes. Exhilarated to have completed the race (see photo on front page) they had raised approximately £500 sponsorship money which goes to the Community Hall.

## Ready for the Off

After so many false starts, it really looks as if we are now applying for grants to develop the Community Hall with a good chance of getting somewhere. We have decided to scale down our wants, concentrating on the south end of the Hall, leaving the north end for the time being.

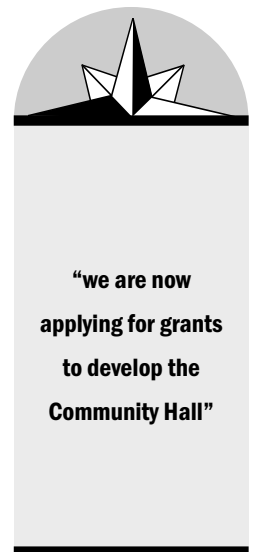
Quite apart from fees for professional advice, we will have to supply some of the money ourselves, so over the last few years we have raised over £10,500 with a large proportion of it coming from Alison Gough and Roy Sylvester – running, singing, stripping etc. They have raised £2,000 and our pictures show them presenting a cheque for £1,500 (right)

and the pair of them with Pollyanna (front page).

The AGM heard the reports of progress and re-elected the committee en bloc. The subsequent meeting re-elected Roy Sylvester as Chairman and Fran Kingsley as Secretary, and other officers were also re-elected. No-one was elected as Treasurer – Paul Fuller had resigned.



Roy Sylvester and Alison Gough presenting the cheque to the



South Willingham Parish Council and  
Community Hall

Management Committee  
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## Community Hall

**BROADBAND  
HAS NOW  
ARRIVED**

**Coffee Mornings 1st  
& 3rd Wednesdays**

**Parish Councillors:**

Martin Doughty [Chairman]	313686
Marcus Edmundson	313623
Nikki Harris	313618
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

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.

### New Arrival

Former resident Suzie Franklin, daughter of Ken & Pam Webb, gave birth to Ashley Stuart weighing in at 7 lbs 14 ozs on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Suzie and her husband Stuart now live in Branston.



Suzie with Ashley Stuart

### Persons of Note

We congratulate Ernie and Doris Cosgrove on their Golden Wedding on 19th May.

We also congratulate Frank Lacey who will be 90 years old in June

### Community Hall Notices

There will be a Barbecue on 17th June at 7.p.m.

On Sunday 3rd July there will be a Strawberry Tea at 3.p.m.

It will include a Photo Competition Entrance 50p.