



SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

Open Gardens – wet and dry

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Special points of interest:

- Open Gardens draw in spite of the weather
- Our oldest resident's story
- Four weddings in the village this July – photos of three of them
- Dragonflies of interest in our village
- Womens' Institute does well in competitions.

At last the weekend arrived, all gardens looking immaculate, not a weed in sight, grass cut and flowers gently swaying in the light summer breeze. Well that was the idea anyway. The reality was: WET, WET, WET! But fortunately not too windy.



Denis and Chris' garden – photo Denis Washer

Saturday saw thirty plus intrepid visitors brave the elements, however, Sunday's weather was a bit better and we got sixty plus looking round the gardens and enjoying teas at the parish hall, some travelled from as far as Worksop, Cleethorpes and

Nottingham, to name but three. I spoke to one couple from Lincoln whose garden was under water! I think the cancellation of the second day of the Waddington Air Show might have had an effect on visitor numbers as I received several "phone

calls asking if we had been flooded out. All together the gardens, teas and plant stall raised £400.00, which was split equally between parish hall and church funds. I would like to thank all the people who

helped, especially village hall committee members, past and present, and especially all those who opened their gardens, without who's efforts nothing would have happened. Everyone seems to think we should do it again, so watch this space!

Frank Lacey – 92 years young – by Eric Payne

Mr Frank Lacey has lived in South Willingham for almost thirty years. He was born into a farming family at Grange Farm, Tealby, a property owned by a Captain Wright, on the

26th June 1915, the third son of Mr and Mrs E Lacey, his two older brothers being Alfred and Hubert. Frank's only sister, Mary, was born four and half years after him.

Frank's formal education began at Tealby School at the age of five, and he remembers two teachers, a Miss Scupham who taught the infants

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and a Miss Clark who took charge of the older pupils. The headmaster, Mr Priest, also taught. Frank says he enjoyed his school years and did well at all three 'R's, 'riting, reading and 'rithametic.

In 1928 when Frank was thirteen, the Lacey family moved to Saxby All Saints, near Barton on Humber, It was at Saxby School that his final year of education took place. Two class mates whose names he recalls are Frank Dales and Jack Howsham. Five years later the family moved on to South Walk Farm, in the Parish of South Willingham, a farm at that time of some 450 acres and owned by the Henegage family of Hainton Hall. Frank remembers that the rent was just ten shillings (50p) an acre but also recalls that farming at that time was going through a bad patch.

As soon as Frank left school he was helping out on the farm along with his two brothers, while his sister helped her mother with the household chores. There were no dairy herds at South

Walk, but plenty of beef cattle, sheep and pigs. Cattle, usually aged between two and three years old were sent off to auction at Louth. He says



Andrew Noblet and Liz Heathcote who were married in July

that in the early days sheep were sometimes taken to market using a



John and Sarah Burn also married in July

horse-drawn float on which six or seven sheep could be carried. Each Spring Frank's father

would move some of his stock down to another part of South Walk situated along the Barkwith Road and then take them off come the Autumn. But after a while this land was sold at auction to the Chamberlain family.

Frank recalled that before the advent of electric driers the old-time method of drying the corn was to collect the sheaves from the fields, after the binder had cut and bundled the corn. Then ten or so sheaves were stood together into stooks. These were left for a week or two to be dried out and then collected by the wagons and stacked into ricks.

On occasions when the weather turned wet he remembers seeing green corn growing out from the tops of the stooks, which then made it fit only for the pigs.

This meant the pigs had additional feed and could provide a bigger profit when sold. Frank told me that in 1967 the farm acquired a combine harvester,

which eventually superseded the binder although both machines were for a time used.

At Christmas time, there

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"he remembers seeing green corn growing out from the tops of the stooks"

Snippets

The Strawberry Tea and Photo Competition on Sunday 24th June was well attended and John Edwards came to judge the photos. The food was delicious as usual and the Competition was won by James Miller, Paul Ferguson and Eric Payne

This has turned out to be a wedding edition, with four weddings in the village over the last couple of months. Sarah Common was married to John Burn, Liz Heathcote to Andrew Noblet, Emily Clark to Leon Andrews. And Tina Wilson to Steve Taylor.

The Editor wants to apologise to Liz Heathcote (now Noblet), who interviewed Dulcy Layer and wrote it up for last May's edition of South Willingham News, for omitting her name from the article.

We have not omitted Eric Payne's name from his interview with Frank Lacey. This is the second contribution Eric has made and we hope it is not his last. Other items dealing with the village from other people will be very welcome. Elsewhere in this edition

there is a short report on the Open Gardens weekend but as with all the events in or out of the Parish Hall, there was a lot of work behind the scenes. Chris thanked all who helped but she and Denis did all the organising.



Members of Hainton and district W.I. from South Willingham, Burgh on Bain, Donington-on-Bain and Benningworth receiving cups at the Ludford Show which was held on Saturday 21st July. They won four of the six!

Ten gardens open in a small village such as ours and in a season such as this one was a very good effort and there is bound to be enthusiasm



Leon and Emily Andrews, married in July too.

for another time. Not to be forgotten either is the party thrown afterwards by Row-

land and Jan for all who had been involved – on an amazingly fine and balmy evening!

From time to time in South Willingham news we will include photos of parts of the village – small corners or features – and readers have to identify them and where they are. We start with two of them in this issue.

We also intend to run a series on wild life in the village and Richard Taylor starts it off with one on dragonflies.

If anyone in the village would like to help arrange flowers in church, please contact Jane Scruby on 313784 or call at Oakfield, Barkwith Road.

About twenty people helped to clean up the churchyard on Sunday ready for the Big Brunch on Sunday 26th August. As well as tidying up around the graves, the main approach was cleared.

STOP PRESS

Welcome to Dave and Chris Nutten who have come to The Cockerels.

**“Chris and Denis
did all the
organising”**



Community Hall

HARVEST SUPPER
ON FRIDAY 5
OCTOBER AT 7 P.M.

Coffee Mornings 1st
& 3rd Wednesdays

Parish Councillors:	Marcus Edmundson	313623
	[Chairman]	
	Martin Doughty	313686
	(Vice-Chairman)	
	Lesley Adam	313464
	Rowland Crouch	313428
	Paul Cutts	313486
	Nikki Harris	313618
	Claire Harrison	313406

Parish Clerk: John Burn 313410

Parish Hall : Mel Montgomery (Chairman) 313341
Fran Kingsley (Secretary) 313718
James Miller (Treasurer) 05601 457000

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 Courseware4Trainers Ltd for the printing. Thanks also to Andrew and Liz Noblet for the colour pages.

Here be Dragons?

(Continued from page 3)

considered as mysterious or evil. The first Japanese emperor named his country Aki-tsu shima (islands of dragonflies) The insects became symbols of strength and courage, their silhouette synonymous with success and victory. During the seven-

teenth century warriors incorporated the dragonfly symbol in the family crests on their armour.

So do
Dragons



Southern Hawker Dragonfly – photo Liz Noblet

visit the village? Recently Liz Noblet (ex-Heathcote) came across a female Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* which created a stir.

The Southern Hawker is a large species, appearing in a striking array of greens, yellows and blues in the male, but with no blue present in the apple green females, make it relatively easy to identify. In Lincolnshire it is very much on the north eastern limit of its national geographical range. It is a very confiding insect and frequently 'investigates' people who walk into its territory, allowing excellent close-up views.

It is unusual that it often flies when conditions seem unsuitable, early morning, dusk and cool, cloudy, sometimes rainy days. It often moves well away from water and will create a territory along a suit-

able hedgerow for example. It readily breeds in garden ponds and can be seen flying around the village in June, July and August. Another species the smaller reddish orange Dragonflies to be seen around the village and footpaths are Common Darters, which can be seen flying into the autumn.

For further information on our county's dragons try http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/species/dragonfly_damselfly/index.php

And why not let us know what you come across.