



SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

I think I thanked everyone but one

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Special points of interest:

- Build your own Romany caravan!
- Hedge your grandchildren and discover nature
- Dry rot in the church
- A Christmas party for the children of the village
- Obvious questions with unexpected answers

For the last twenty or more years I have taken poppies round the last village that we lived in – something that I enjoyed doing although the reason I did it was that I lost my Uncle as sea during the last war, so it was for him that I was doing my bit.



Just like Flanders fields
(photo Steve Taylor)

However, when we came to South Willingham I did not want to be really committed to committees etc, as I knew that we would help out wherever required. But last year I was asked if I would deliver the poppies round the village as Jane had decided after many years that she did not want to do it any longer. So without thought I said I would – but still felt that really I did not want to. Anyway, the poppies came in the usual box and collecting tin and I set off on my walks round the village, this lovely village of ours. I might add though, its really nice meeting people and having a quiet chat.

Mind you, you never know what people's feel-

ings are towards what you are collecting for, but for South Willingham the response that I got was really great. Of course, you never know until the door opens and a poor chap comes with soap bubbles all over his hands from doing the washing-up while his wife has gone off to a WI meeting.

That's if you get to the door. One address I went to I got about five yards inside the gate when out of the dark I was met by two 14.2 hand Alsatian dogs bounding and growling towards me. I was just about to see if I could run a hundred yards in ten seconds and clear a five-barred gate, when they nearly licked me to bits.

And then there was the house that I was asked into where the general after-tea jobs were being done and the children getting ready for bed when I suddenly found myself sat on a chair with a lovely three month old baby on my knee, who just made me think as he chuckled and gurgled, as he smiled and tried to stand up on my knee as they do. I know when I left that house the people that I was collecting on behalf of would and did give more that a few hours going round our lovely village!

I have no idea how much I collected in money – it's the Royal British Legion that publishes that, but what I do know is the response in cash was brilliant, so once again thanks to all the people of South Willingham.

As for me, the ten minutes I had with baby Isaac left me with no doubt that I was doing the right thing and one day, little chap, I will thank you.

Terry Ringrose.

Romany Restoration

Terry Ringrose lives on Hainton Road. You have probably admired the beautifully restored gypsy caravan on his driveway.

Terry's interest in Romany life began when he was a teenager. He was an apprentice carpenter and spent a lot of his time working on old buildings and churches, which he loved as he had always had a passion for working with wood. On his travels he often came across gypsies. He loved to stop and talk to them and became fascinated by their way of life. He greatly admired the craftsmanship of their caravans and began to think that one day he would build one himself.

In 1999 Terry heard of a man who had some gypsy caravans in Ross-on-Wye. He went to have a look and decided to rescue an old Burton Wagon that had lain in a shed up to its axels in mud for twenty eight years! The caravan was transported across the country to Lincolnshire and Terry began the long and painstaking task of restoring it. Many people thought he was completely mad! It took approximately one year to dismantle

the caravan, cataloguing all of the pieces. Terry wanted to keep as much of the original structure as he possibly

ing reached the gypsy community, some of them were very helpful and gave advice and help with the restoration.



The Burton caravan in front of Terry and Ann's house

This caravan is called a Burton Wagon, it was built in approx. 1896-1898 in Burton-on-Trent and cost £370 new! It belonged to a family with seven children who used to travel around the shows where they found work. There are only

three caravans of this type in existence, making it extremely rare. Gypsy caravans were often burned on the funeral day of the owner.

Terry has made a wonderful job of restoring the caravan, it makes an interesting feature in our village. He started to build a new caravan from scratch last year, so maybe one day there will be two on his drive!

Liz Noblet

could, this meant making intricate repairs to damaged parts of the caravan. Even the paintwork is as authentic as can be. Terry sent samples of wood with the original paint on to a very well known paint manufacturer. There it was analysed, and paint as close to the original as possible was produced, minus the lead of course!

News of what Terry was do-

Sharing a joke at the Harvest Supper.



“There are only three caravans of this type in existence..”

Snippets

St Martin's Church Meeting in October was told that the renovations to the tower had been delayed because of an unfortunate accident to the foreman of works who has broken his foot. The delay was to have been many weeks but we hear that it has been shortened to just two or three.

Muriel Winning died at the end of September and the funeral took place at St Martin's Church. She and Harry had lived in the village for many years, first at The Forge and later at Meadow Rise. We send our sympathy to Harry and also our best wishes as he begins to plan his life ahead.

When the scaffolding goes up on the church, we are asked to watch out for thieves. The lead on the roof will be vulnerable as it would fetch a good price. We hear that the most likely time for theft is early morning (6 or 7 a.m.) when a lorry turning up will not attract attention. Please be ready to alert others if you see men on the roof and to take registration numbers.

The whole village lost power for a day in mid-October as tree fellers worked around a number of gardens clearing trees

away from power lines. There were four or five young lads filling the air with the noise of chainsaws

most of the job was done in a few hours. However, they have had to return during November to finish the job.



Steve Taylor married Tina Wilson in July at St Martin's Church with their daughters Maggie and Isla in attendance

and chipping machine and

Doughty. The amount raised was £294.



Wine harvest, South Willingham Community Hall!

Some high-powered and very learned groups assembled in the Hall early in November to pit their wits against the Chairman. This was an all-or-nothing contest (you either know the answer or you haven't a clue). As it is a well-known food for the brain, fish was taken at half-time (with chips and sauces). The Dovetales won – unfairly, as they had more than their share of knowledge! A very good evening finished with a raffle and the Willingham Winner who was Diana

“As it is a well-known food for the brain, fish was taken at half-time”

South Willingham Parish Council and
Community Hall

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Community Hall

CHRISTMAS FAYRE
FRIDAY 7TH
DECEMBER 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

Community Hall :

Mel Montgomery (Chairman)	313590
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 **Terry and Ann Ringrose** for the colour pages.

Notices

Village Lottery

Come and join us if you are not already a member and have a chance to win.

Cost £1 per month – half the proceeds to the winner, half to the Village Hall.

Last few winners were:

Celia Payne, Marion Pask, Gill Fuller, Pat Reid

Ann Ringrose, Diana Doughty.

Contact John Tel 313718

Christina Taylor suggests a Christmas Party for children in the village at the village hall. Would interested parents please phone her on 313603 (evenings only)



Will it happen this year?

Barkwith Parish is holding its Christmas Fayre on Friday 7 December and South Willingham is responsible for the cake stall. Gifts of cakes, jams, eggs and home produce would be thankfully received. Deliver to Kay Donocik or Paul Fuller 313737 or 313601

Answers to Quiz:

1. 116 years.
2. Ecuador.
3. Sheep and Horses.
4. November.
5. Squirrel fur.
6. Dogs.
7. Albert.
8. Crimson.
9. New Zealand.
10. Orange.

Get them all right?