

SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

Repairs to St Martin's

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Special points of interest:

- All change at Church and Hall
- Singers at the door
- Surviving action at sea
- Paws in plaster
- Fouling of grass and foot-paths
- Two lives we shall miss
- A generous village

That the process had started was quite obvious to us all as the scaffolding went up before Christmas. There seemed so much of it that we could no longer see the tower but, of course, it was all necessary because of the extent of the repairs. There are seven levels of staging giving full access to the four sides of the tower. It has been inspected in detail and the repairs are well under weigh with Stonemason Mick Stockdale and his son Daniel undertaking them. Most of the pointing



Frank Lacey's grave with, appropriately, the scaffolding in the background paid for by Jill

has been done – all the middle levels of the staging with top and bottom left till later.

At the moment of writing they are removing the four pinnacles, taking advantage of the short period of sunny, windless weather. They are in a bad state and could not be repaired – evidently they date from the last renovation in the middle of last century which used poor stone – so new ones have to be made in Mick's workshop. Through the centre of each pinnacle is a

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Parish Hall Update

As everyone will have seen the new windows and external doors are installed, and painted. The double glazing immediately began making a noticeable difference to temperatures at out events on winter evenings. We man-

aged to get the windows done so soon thanks to the legacy of £10,000 left to the Gall by Jill Lacey. The cost has been close to £20,000, and we have been able to pay the other 50% from the results of our own fundraising ef-

forts over the past few years, and this in turn from the regular loyal support of residents and visitors alike.

It was rewarding that Frank Lacey saw the re-
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A chat from the churchyard seat

Sitting here gazing across the wolds, just thinking how lovely it really is, actually I am just taking a break from planting the last six stone of daffodil bulbs around the churchyard. Then I got to thinking that we have been here in South Willingham almost seven years now and once again it's come round to carol singing time again.

We did wonder when we came here if what we called normal village activities would take place, as we had been involved in them before, for example carol singing.

Anyway, come Friday evening and it was off to the bus shelter once again for six o'clock and a practice of the vocal chords with a new carol that Martin introduced.

It was not long before we had the chance to sing the new carol when we set off with a lovely warm drink at Orchard Glasshouse. It was a great turnout and lovely to see the young ones join us.

Then it was off down the other end of the village, this was a lovely start to the evening with torches and carols all the way down to Mel's, where we had another chance to sing the new carol. Then it was off again

down the other side of Barkwith Road, down to Hainton Road where we sang especially for Frank who has not

“, and the singers wishing us a happy Christmas and New Year. It's one of those memories that you never forget.



Centre of the village from the church tower (including large white van).

been too well lately. I suppose by then it was about halfway and a stop at No 7 for a bite and a drink, which is great for us as it brings back memories of our first Christmas here. We had only been here a few weeks when the carol singers came and rang our doorbell. We opened the door to the village singers singing The First Nowell, ending with one lady saying to us, “Welcome to South Willingham.

Anyway, back to the trail, we missed the Manor as Marcus was away, a rare occasion I have to say. Then it was on to The Sycamores, we then carried on along the other side of Hainton Road, by this time we all had a nice warm glow coming from within, but outside it was quite cold. I have to say though that it's brilliant to see people come to the door just to hear you sing a carol to them.

So, by about nine forty five we had got down to Church Lane and finished up singing to Rae Butler, which again was really nice.


Afterwards we were invited back to Yew Trees where John and Fran made us more than welcome as usual, and the takings were counted. The total reached a terrific £325.00 to be donated to the MacMillan Nurses.

Anyway, I am sat here thinking about how much we enjoyed it when I moved my arm from the back of the seat that I am sitting on, revealing the plaque on the



Father Christmas talking to a pensive (calculating?) Matthew Cutts at the Christmas Fayre

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“it was a great turnout and lovely to see the young ones join us”

H.M.S PHOEBE HARRY WINNING'S ACCOUNT OF LIFE ON H.M.S PHOEBE DURING WORLD WAR 2

Harry was born in Gateshead, Tyneside in 1916 and then lived a few miles north, near Morpeth in Northumberland.

In September 1939 the Second World War broke out and Harry was quick to volunteer for the Royal Navy. He still has his original papers, which said "Hostilities only - volunteer".

He was sent first to a disposal base in Skegness where the conditions were extremely grim. It was bitterly cold, and word went round that, if at all possible keep out of the sick bay, because if you went in you were unlikely to come out again because of the unsanitary conditions. While Harry was there seventeen men died.

Harry was then sent to Chatham Barracks where the conditions were much better. It was a large base with approximately ten thousand men. After a few weeks he was sent up to the Clyde in Scotland where his ship the H.M.S Phoebe was docked. It was a brand new ship and not completely finished when the men arrived. Originally the H.M.S Phoebe had five six inch guns (although they were really five and a quarter inch!), three at the bow and two aft, but it was soon realised that the bow was too heavy and they had to lose one gun. She also had multiple pom-poms that made a dreadful clatter and were nicknamed the Chicago Pianos.

The Phoebe was sent on trials to test her capabilities. They would reach a speed of forty knots with huge waves



The young Harry Winning

crashing over the bow, and then suddenly it would be put into reverse. Luckily Harry was only seasick for the first two days, although some of his fellow sailors were not nearly as lucky. Harry's berth was deep down in the bow of the ship, in stormy weather his hammock would swing and crash against the side, and then the other way crashing into his neighbour!

After the trials in 1940 the Phoebe was based with the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow and sent on convoy escort duties in the North Atlantic. During this time The Royal Oak was sunk in the harbour by a U Boat that managed to get through the harbour defences, with a loss of four hundred men.

In February 1941 they were assigned

to a military convoy that sailed to Freetown, West Africa, the Phoebe then continued on around the Cape of Good Hope where it escorted a merchant convoy to Durban. From Durban they sailed to Alexandria in Egypt through the Suez Canal to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

In April 1941 she was involved in the evacuation of troops from Greece. These were mainly New Zealanders and Harry can remember that there was standing room only on board as there were so many men. Approximately 33,000 men were evacuated by the ships involved.

During July and August she was assigned to the support of the Tobruk Garrison in North Africa. Harry recalls the dreadful scene at Tobruk harbour where so many ships had sunk and the masts could be seen rising above the water. On July 27th she was damaged by an aerial torpedo during an Italian air raid. H.M.S Phoebe then made her way to New York for repair, and Harry was sent to a Naval base at Dekheila where there were about a thousand sailors. He remembers there being dreadful sandstorms that could last for days.



HIM..... Where is it? (Easy!)

Harry was then sent home to the British Isles, to Macrihanish, off the west coast of Scotland, to recuperate, and has

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"Phoebe was damaged by an aerial torpedo during an Italian air raid"

Recording Nature

Recording signs of birds and mammals

The footprints of birds and mammals can often be found in the mud along river banks, streams, fields, woodland rides, marshes, estuaries or the sea shore. Provided the soil or sand is not too wet, plaster casts can be made of the footprint. If a careful examination of the surrounding area is made you may also be able to find beak marks of the feeding bird.

Making a plaster cast.

When a suitable footprint or set of footprints has been found, choose the ones that are most clearly marked with the most detail.

Clean the area of stones, twigs, leaves etc

Bend a strip of card in a circle to fit round the print, fasten with a paper clip and press down over the print. There should be about 4cms or more of card above the

print. It is important not to mis-shape the print at this stage.

Mix some plaster of Paris,



Mick and Ben with part of a pinnacle already in pieces and badly eroded

you have to estimate how much ! until it has the texture of cream. (an old margarine pot is useful for this.) Make sure that there are no lumps or air bubbles in the mixture.

Pour the mixture over the print, and then smooth to a level surface with more card.

Leave the plaster to set, This does not take long but if more casts are to be made mark the cast with a stick or a garden cane to ensure it is not lost, then go on to make more casts of different footprints.

When dry lift the cast and peel away the card from the edges. Turn over. The print should be clearly seen but will improve when washed at home.

Identification can be rewarding and the knowledge gained long lasting and useful. There are identification Field Guides on tracks and footprints available from bookshops.

A ready supply of card and Plaster etc and a bag to put casts in will add to the fun, a few wipes to clean hands would also be useful.

Martin Doughty

(Continued from page 1)

copper core around which lead is poured to hold the outer stone rigid and this has all to be drilled out before they can be taken down. Very heavy they are too. A photo of their poor condition with pieces dropping off can be seen on page 5 and one of Mick drilling out a core on page 5 also .

The window frames are being overhauled too, with pieces of them beyond repair having to be renewed. There

is a lot to be done so we will see the scaffolding there for some time to come. It looks just like a pagoda but there are no signs of Shinto worship.

As with the village hall, we are all



The 'pagoda' of South Willingham

glad that Frank saw the beginnings of the work before he died. It has all been made possible by the generous contributions from himself and his wife Jill.

“the footprints of birds and mammals can often be found”

Parish Council Matters

At the Council meeting on 8th January among the matters discussed were a Postal scam warning regarding false delivery notices and the Concessionary Travel National Scheme – a notice about this has been placed in the village bus stop.

A letter had previously been sent to East Lindsey District Council about the state of the local roads and footpaths and also about the volume and speed of traffic through the village. There had been no reply so it was decided to contact them again.

“Also brought to the Council’s notice were concerns about the amount of dog fouling in the local area. It was decided to appeal politely and informally to owners and

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 sults of Jill’s bequest before he died last month. Now he in turn has left us an even more generous bequest of £50,000 “for the maintenance and upkeep of the Parish Hall”, so we shall be in a position to continue with our programme of improvements sooner than we thought. Next on the agenda is complete insulation of the roof and external walls, followed by the rebuilding of the toilets. You may remember that we obtained grants last year for new kitchen equipment,



Mick drilling out the core from a pinnacle in order to remove it.

walkers of pets to be mindful of their charges’ “deposits”. It is therefore requested that any such mess should be cleaned and removed, leaving our lovely village foot-paths, walkways, grass



Mick holding a piece of broken off pinnacle

verges, etc. clean and clear of fouling litter, allowing everyone to enjoy their walking.”

The next meeting will be on 19th March with a ten minute public forum at 7.50 p.m. before the start of the meeting proper.

Rowland Crouch

(Continued from page 3)

fond memories of the area. The H.M.S Phoebe had numerous lucky escapes, and Harry saw his fair share of the action.

After the war Harry worked for the Inland Revenue in Grimsby. In 1974 he moved to South Willingham and lived at The Forge until 1994 when he moved to his house in Barkwith Road.

Liz Noblet

and the essential underpinning of the south wall.

In the meantime we are on the point of replacing the curtains at all the large windows. Final decision have not been taken yet, but it would be wonderful if the new curtains could be made locally. Any experienced seamstress(es) who would like to undertake the work should let me or anyone on the Committee know as soon as possible.

Mel Montgomery

“concerns about the amount of dog fouling in the local area.”

Frank Lacey

Frank died at Waterloo House, Market Rasen, not long after leaving the home in which he had lived with Jill for many years. He came to South Willingham Parish in 1933, working at South Walk Farm and then moved to the village when he married Jill Vickers in 1978.

Eric Payne's article in the August 2007 South Willingham News gives a full account of his life. Frank looked after Jill for some years as she became more confused and was not the same person when she died.



Probably the last photo of Frank at the Christmas Fayre in December 07.

However he kept on going and often joined in village activities.

He added to Jill's generous legacies of £10,000 each to Church and Hall by giving large sums himself and the monies have enabled both Church and Hall to undertake much needed repairs described in other parts of this News.

But it is Frank himself who will be missed as a friendly and chatty member of our community, 92 but much younger in spirit.

"It is Frank himself who will be missed as a friendly and chatty member of our community"

Pat Cosgrove

The village was very sad to hear of Pat's death following a long fight against cancer. She had lived with David at Saffron on Barkwith Road for a number of years while Ernie and Doris continued to live at North Walk Farm. Then as David gradually began to do more and Ernie less, they swapped houses, with Ernie and Doris coming to Saffron and David and Pat moving to the farm.

Pat ran a hair-dressing business before marrying David but took to being a farmer's wife immediately. Her kitchen was a 'farmhouse' kitchen, always open, with tea and coffee – and cakes that became legendary in the village. Although the family naturally leaned towards Hainton, she came to love South Willingham.

Pat was a warm and caring person for whom family

meant everything. She was ready to help anyone in need and will be greatly missed. We offer our deepest sympathy to David, Martin, Kelly and Jonathan and also to Doris and the family. Pat's funeral will be at St. Mary's, Hainton on Thursday 21st February with interment at South Willingham.

Ken Webb

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back which is in memory of the lady who welcomed us to the village that first year with the carol singers. We never got the chance to know her properly, but we will never forget her.

Once again the spirit of or village overflowed, and it's great to be part of it.

I have to say also a special thanks from all the carol singers to Maureen and Paul, Mel, John and Sarah, Dave and Chris, Christina and Stephen and Fran and John for the warm welcome and



drinks and snacks that we all enjoyed so much.

Terry Ringrose

.... and HER. Where is it?

Snippets

St Martin's Church tower is getting the full treatment, but if you remember, we decided to clean up the church yard a couple of times a year. There was a great turnout in the autumn and another date has been fixed for the spring. So will all the willing helpers reserve the date of April 13th for the churchyard spring-clean.

Two events in the village hall have taken place in the last few months. The Christmas Fayre was well attended with Father Christmas' visit delighting the children. We raised £198. Then in January we toasted Scotland and the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns. The food was great and included a haggis course and a glass of whisky. The evening finished with dancing including, as it must, the Gay Gordons. That raised £147. The turn of the Chinese and the Irish come in February and March. The Editor would like to apologise to John and Fran for omitting their thanks to people who came to their party in September for the magnificent effort in raising £500 for St Barnabas Hospice. (He had put it in the wrong folder!) He also did not thank John for sponsoring the colour pages in the November issue.

John reinforces Terry's account of the Carol Singing,

asking if this is the most generous village in Lincs.

Rowland's account of the



The Catering Officers, Glynis and Anne
(Photo Fran Kingsley)

"A wonderful response again this year to the village carol singers! A total of £325 was raised for Macmillan Cancer support – a really fabulous effort for a very worthy cause. (The receipt is on the notice board in the village hall.)"

And another appeal added to

Parish Council:
"Please, pick up after your dog has finished! The grass outside the village hall appears to be a particular target.

The grass-cutter has stopped cutting the grass in protest. Please stop this anti-social behaviour – this is a super village – let's keep it that way."



Carol Singers (not singing but drinking) at Steve and Christina's
(Photo Christina Taylor)

"asking if this is the most generous village in Lincs"

South Willingham Parish Council and
Community Hall

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Parish Hall

ST PATRICK'S
EVENING
FRIDAY 14 MARCH
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 Anne Crookes for the colour pages.

Notices



Renovations to the Parish Hall by Jim Fairburn underway
(Photo Eric Payne)

Churchyard Cleanup

Volunteers asked to report for duty on
Sunday 13th April
complete with tools
Time to be announced

The Bishop of Lincoln

The Rt Revd John Saxby
Will dedicate the restoration of the tower at
All Saints Church, Sixhills
On Sunday 2nd March
At 1030
All are welcome