

SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

Fireworks and Horses

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In this village different interests live happily together but just occasionally they clash. A few weeks ago such a clash occurred when there was a firework display in the village. No trouble about that – some of us enjoyed watching. But it was not near November 5th and folk were not prepared for it. Especially horse owners.



Forest Fern, terrified by fireworks

Evidently if the horses are out in the fields and are startled they gallop around and no harm is done. But if they are in the stable there is nowhere to gallop and owners can be in dan-

been very seriously injured by my terrified horse, which had just been frightened by a sudden and unexpected burst of fireworks.”

If Denise has known about the fireworks, the horse could have been out in the field. So, a polite request. If you are going to have fireworks as part of a celebration, would you please make sure that horse owners know. In practice that means phoning either Denise Hart 313601 or Claire Harrison 313406 some days in advance.

Paul Fuller

ger. Denise Hart of Old Carpenters Cottage said “While working in my stables (the other) Saturday I was knocked to the ground and could have

Special points of interest:

- Courses for horses
- Countryside 700 years ago
- Countryside twenty years ago
- Singing helps lifeboats
- Bridge for the mind
- Vitality for the body

Who’s got a pound, well, fifty pence then? Memories of Pete Hyland

I don’t know how many people have heard these words at Brigg, Melton or Market Rasen General Auctions. I am sure that it was many thousands and all, like me, went for a bargain of some sort, though really they came for more than that. It was a meeting place, where for a couple or three hours

people met for a chat, week after week.

You never knew who or what would be there. But at the centre of it all would be Pete Hyland and his wife, Janet, selling a roll of barbed wire, a box of knitting wool needles, a pig trough, an old caravan, a bundle of timber, some

sheep netting, boxes of plants or half a dozen live chickens – you name it and it would be there.

Sadly, Pete died on Boxing Day after a short illness at his home, Grange Farm, South Willingham, where he had lived since he came with his Mum

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Allan and Chris Chesney had a narrow escape when their car skidded on mud on the way through Sixhills.



Salsa dancing at the hall (top and left) while below Andrew, Jo, Helen and John take a rest.



Compiler and Presenter (John and Mel) sort out the questions while (below) fish, chips and mushy peas feed the brains ready for the quiz



Four ladies who make a good evening much easier for the rest of us. L to R: Doreen and Gill who clear up for us and Glynis and Ann who prepare the food.

Andrew Morgan

Andrew Morgan was born in Aberystwyth, Wales, in 1924 and is of Welsh and Irish parentage, the doctor delivering Andrew said he was 'of the devil's brood'! At the age of four he moved with his family to Kent 'The Garden of England', and remembers having, as he says, a front row seat watching the daylight raids on London during the Battle of Britain, whilst he was plum and hop picking!

In 1943 Andrew joined the Royal Navy, and served as a member of a guns crew aboard a cruiser called H.M.S Scylla, part of the Home Fleet. After he was commissioned he served on a Canadian corvette on Atlantic convoys for a couple months, travelling to St John's, Newfoundland. They were not allowed to stay in harbour for very long and were soon making the long journey back across the Atlantic to pick up another convoy.

Andrew spent the rest of the war in submarines, firstly as a junior officer on H.M.S

Shakespeare in the Indian Ocean where the crew experienced a lot of hefty action.

The Shakespeare was



Andrew Morgan When he retired as Headmaster

holed in the pressure hull by the Japanese, but managed to get back to base at Trincomalee despite some forty attacks by Japanese aircraft and losing power in one engine. She had to go back to England for repair and Andrew joined another boat, H.M.S Sea Nymph, which went on to the South China Sea and The Philippines where they served under the Americans.



Chris and Dennis at the Hall

Andrew was demobbed early as he gained a place at Oxford University to study Modern History, and there he made a great many lifelong friends. He fondly remembers the cricket matches with his university friends taking on local village teams, and says that they were tremendous fun, though not taken very seriously!

After graduating from Oxford Andrew was very fortunate and landed a 'plum job' as sixth form history master at Sedbergh, a private school for boys in the Yorkshire, Cumbria area. The sixth form at Sedbergh specialised in history and English, so Andrew was in his element. His job there was to get the pupils scholarships and places at Oxford and Cambridge universities. Many of the boys have become lifelong friends of Andrew's and some of them went on to have very distinguished careers. These include a former Lord Chief Justice, who is just

"The Shakespeare was holed in the pressure hull by the Japanese but managed to get back to base.."

Andrew Morgan (continued)

about now retiring from being a senior Law Lord, a couple of Oxford and Cambridge professors, three M.Ps and several who went on to be authors of history and other books. It was during this time, in 1950, that Andrew married Jilyan and they went on to produce four children. He describes his time at Sedbergh as magical.

In 1964 Andrew and his young family moved to Market Rasen and took up residence in the Headmaster's house at De Aston School. In those days it was a boy's grammar school that also took boarders. During his time there he saw many changes including going co-educational, and later comprehensive. When the school started to allow girls in it was a fairly drawn out process, with only one year at a time making the change. Before the school was completely co-ed it was decided that the De Aston School and the local secondary modern school were to amalgamate to form a Comprehensive school on the

De Aston site. With both of these major changes Andrew had to re-apply for his position as Headmaster and was successful, although he accepted the position of Headmaster when the school changed to the comprehensive system on the condition that Dick Powell, who was the Headmaster of the Secondary Modern, was appointed as his second in command and was given the title of Associate Headmaster. They went on to have several years of unbelievably creative and harmonious partnership.

In 1984 Andrew left the De Aston School and took an advisory position at the County Education Services until he retired in 1986.

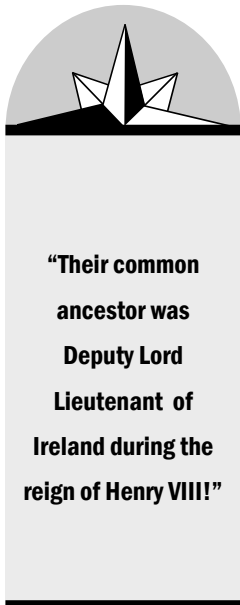
Ten years previously Andrew and Jilyan had bought the house in South Willingham where they still live. They spent those years having great fun making alterations to the house so that it was just how they wanted it for when the time came for them to move in.

Since retiring Andrew has been pursuing his many interests, including studying the history of Wales before the English Conquest, and Geology. He has been on several geological tours with Nottingham University including a trip to the American west, the desert states and the Rockies.

Andrew has also been tracing his family tree and has gone back as far as the middle ages. It has transpired that he and Jilyan are actually related and are cousins fifteen times removed! Their common ancestor was Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ireland during the reign of Henry VIII!

Andrew has had many interesting and varied experiences and has many stories to tell, from his time in the Royal Navy during the war, his days as a schoolmaster, and more recently, tales of rogue ancestors!

Liz Noblet



"Their common ancestor was Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ireland during the reign of Henry VIII!"

Luttrell Psalter: Winter into Spring

Irnham in South Lincolnshire would have seen very similar annual activities on the land as those experienced in South Willingham and the people would have lived in the same way. The only difference being that Sir Geoffrey Luttrell had all the village activities recorded in his Psalter.

An entire family lived, ate and slept in the room in the middle of the house and smoke from the fire would mostly curl out of the holes at the ends of the thatched roof. The villager's two oxen were stabled beyond the passage, and beneath the hay loft. If the weather was good enough in January the villager would yolk them together ready for the plough. It would take teams of eight oxen to drag the ploughs up and down the narrow strips allotted to the villagers. Within the village of Irnham were sixty-four oxen; twenty-eight belonged to Sir Geoffrey, while the rest of the village, including the priest, had thirty-six between them. These were used by all the villagers

to plough their strips of land. It took a team of oxen one day to plough one complete strip of land and each villager



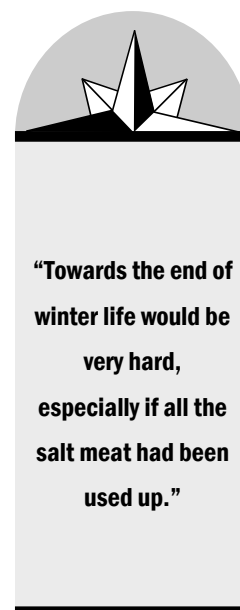
June and Steve look hungry at the salsa evening

had about thirty-six strips. These strips varied to fit the shape and contour of the field, but on average they were 220 paces long and 22 paces wide. Because the ploughs travelled up and down turning the soil towards the centre of the strips the soil was gradually pushed into ridges. Rainwater drained down the ridges and flowed towards and into the stream at the bottom of the field. There are still ridge and furrow fields within our Parish particularly on the left and right as you travel towards East Barkwith. The length of a strip was called a furrow-long (furrow-long), and the strips were arranged side by side in blocks, divided by tracks, banks

or waste land. This method of farming was called the 'open field system'.

Other jobs to be done by the villagers during winter would have been the repairing of hedges and fences; hedge layering was an important task to ensure that the villagers' animals did not escape. When the weather was very severe the villagers would mend and sharpen their tools since ploughing would be brought to a temporary halt. Towards the end of winter life would be very hard, especially if all the salt meat had been used up. As soon as the frost had gone and the land dried up then the villagers would begin ploughing again. Then in March if the weather was warm enough and spring was thought to be on the way, the villager would sow barley and oats, and a little later a few strips would be sown with beans and peas. One man would scatter the seed while another followed behind with a horse-drawn harrow to cover the seed as soon as possible. In this newsletter are three illustrations taken from the Luttrell Psalter (Circa 1340)

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"Towards the end of winter life would be very hard, especially if all the salt meat had been used up."

Snippets

The by now regular events at the Parish Hall continued to be well-supported. The Christmas Fayre had a number of stalls and Father Christmas plus the usual number of round-eyed children enjoying food and presents. The Fayre made £150 for the Hall. Then on 16th January there was a "Fishy Quiz", that is, a fish and chip supper interspersed with teasing questions provided by John Sturgeon and fielded by Mel Montgomery. All the scores were close but the winning team was 'Give Us A Clue'. That evening made £279 for the Hall.

Carol Singing in December has also become a looked-forward-to event. Martin Doughty arranged a rehearsal for new carols to give us confidence. It takes us four hours to get round, but that includes lubrication

provided by Mel, Dave and Chris, Terry and Ann, Marcus and Virginia and ending up at John and Fran's. We counted thirty eight singers at one time including the

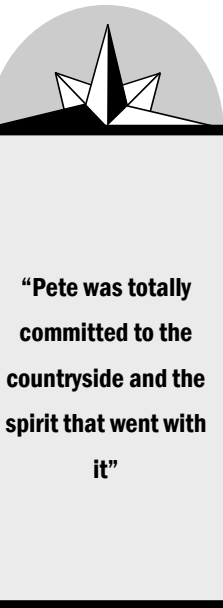


Pet Hyland who died on Boxing Day

children. The collection for RNLI came to £300 and their letter of thanks can be seen on the notice board in the Hall.

The Film Discussion Group started for reel (sorry about that) in November. We have had 'Chocolat', 'Delicatessen' and 'The Matrix', with 'Fried Green Tomatoes' and '2001: A Space Odyssey' still to come in February and March. The discussions following on Thursdays have been good too, with all levels and aspects of the films being covered. We have called the Group 'Reel Events' and it has made for films come alive for several of us. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month.

Welcome to Nigel Spencer as he takes over as Parish Clerk. It is an important job servicing the Parish Council in liaison with the District and County Councils. Thanks also to John Burn who has served the Parish Council since Ken Webb left.



"Pete was totally committed to the countryside and the spirit that went with it"

(Continued from page 1)

and Dad to take over the farm when Pete was three. He started to run the farm in his early twenties – 23 in fact. He was a real countryman and everything that went with it.

The hundreds of people who packed St Mary's Church, East Barkwith for a celebration of Pete's life heard that he was totally committed to the countryside and the spirit that went with it. He loved hunting, shooting and ferreting and was known throughout the countryside for his terriers - in fact, he was one of the best terrier men in the county.

I always found him a quiet man who loved to talk about topical rural subjects. Possibly most of you will have seen all the geese at Pete's farm before Christmas; well, it shows the courage of the man that, together with his wife Janet, he sold them all himself at his Christmas Poultry Auction, a few days before he died, when, for the last time we heard him say "Come on then, who's got a pound, well then, start with fifty pence."

Thanks Pete for all the memories – they will live on.

Terry Ringrose.

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showing winter into spring farming activities so important for the villagers' survival.

1 Ploughing with oxen
2 Broadcasting the seed
3 Harrowing to cover the seed, the crows are already coming in!
For more information try -
: www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/sacredtexts/ttpbooks.html

Go to Luttrell Psalter section and turn the pages.

Martin Doughty



A snowy morning for coffee



Weeping willow, autumn and winter, in a South Willingham garden



Ploughing, sowing and harrowing as shown in the Luttrell Psalter



South Willingham Parish Council and
Parish Hall

Management Committee

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Parish Hall

ST PATRICK'S
NIGHT FRIDAY
20 MARCH
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:

Nigel Spencer	313614
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Parish Hall :

Mel Montgomery (Chairman)	313590
Maureen Ferguson (Secretary)	313584
Fran Kingsley (Treasurer)	313718

The Parish Council and the Parish 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 Pete and Ann Crookes for the colour pages.

SOUTH WILLINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB

If anyone is interested in setting up a Bridge Club in South Willingham, would you please phone Dave or Chris Nutten on 313500.

Bridge is a great game for socialising while at the same time being fun and a little competitive.

If there is enough interest, we would hope to arrange for a skilled player to come and talk to us (probably at the Village Hall) to give us the basics and rules of the game. After that 'Club' members can arrange to play with whoever and whenever they wish although it may be fun to arrange a competition every few months (again at the Village Hall).



"I know the answer." - "I wish I did!"

Please give it a go and see if we can get it off the ground.

VITAL CLASSES FOR THE OVER SIXTIES

Vitality is a Lincolnshire based programme of exercise and movement to music for the over 60s.

The classes focus on having fun with gentle exercises set to music that aim to increase flexibility and strength while also improving posture, coordination and independence.

Louise Thompson heads up the Vitality Project in Lincolnshire and told us: "Vitality is more than that. The weekly classes are a great way to meet new people, build confidence, have fun and laugh!"

A local Vitality class will be taking place at:
South Willingham Village Hall
Mondays 2-3pm, starting 2nd March 2009