

SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

Footpaths and Telephone Boxes

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It's one of those organisations which, if it's working effectively, you don't know it's there. The work goes on behind the scenes and the village ticks over. So, our thanks to the Councillors who meet regularly to oversee our interests and who had their AGM in May.

Those who wanted to keep the telephone box will be pleased to know the deed is done. There were only thirty three calls last year but one of them was an emergency so that argument was justified. On



In a country churchyard...

footpaths the outcome is not so clear. Objections have been raised to two of them and there may have to be a Public Enquiry. Two others are also being

sought. Another item raised concerned dead trees in the Pinfold or Pound which need to be cut down once ownership of the land has been confirmed.

Sometime in June the road between Benniworth and Hainton coming through South Willingham will be closed for essential repairs. 'Local diversion routes and access arrangements will be signposted.'

Marcus Edmundson was re-elected as Chairperson of the Council and Paul Cutts was elected Vice-Chairman. Nigel Spencer is Parish Clerk.

Special points of interest:

- Footpaths on the agenda
- Telephone box saved
- Village hall updated
- Next year's film shows

Curtains and Toilets

Thanks to Frank Lacey's generous legacy of £50,000, the renovations to the Parish Hall have begun.

The Chairman, Mel Montgomery, in his Report at the AGM, said that the toilets had been completed and both they and the two lobbies had been painted. The new curtains were on show and some

items had been bought for the kitchen. Next on the list are the rewiring of the hall and insulation of the walls. It was Frank's wish that his money should be used for the improvement and maintenance of the Hall.

Mel also reported on the good use to which the Hall was being put. It was used for the coffee mornings,

the WI, Over 60s, Parish Council and several private parties and events. Then there had been various social occasions: a Pie Feast; Strawberry Tea; Harvest Supper; Spanish Buffet and Salsa Demonstrations; Fish and Chips and Quiz Night; Pancake Supper and Sing-along; St Patrick's Night Dinner and St Georges Day Banquet. (Photos on other pages – Ed.)

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Pancake evening at the Hall - could you guess!? - Photos Fran Kingsley



Discussions at the AGM, Parish Hall



(above) Virginia (right) and Kay who ran the Mother's Day Tea at St Martin's with (below) the whole team including Paul and Miranda



Luttrell Psalter – Cutting the corn with bill hooks –the women doing the hard work?



Stacking the sheaves –Luttrell Psalter

I live in South Willingham

Jan Crouch moved to Apple-tree Cottage with husband Rowland in 2003. In her previous life Jan spent many years working as a telephonist/receptionist and she has two grown up children.

Jan has been actively involved in village life and is currently on the village hall committee. She is also a neighbourhood watch coordinator.

I asked Jan some quite revealing questions, here are her answers.

What is your favourite colour?
Black.

What is your favourite book?
The Magic Faraway Tree, by Enid Blyton

What is your favourite food?
Chinese.

What is your favourite music, artist or group?
E.L.O

Nail varnish, sun tan lotion and a duvet.

What are your hobbies?
Gardening, cooking, reading, embroidery and dog walking.



Jan in her garden

What is your favourite place in the United Kingdom?
Cornwall.

What do you like best about living in South Willingham?
It's a lovely village with lovely people and a good community spirit.

Where haven't you been in the world that you would love to visit?
Northern Italy.

If you were stranded on a desert island what three items would you like to have with you?

Have you any ideas about what could be done to improve life in the village?
It would be great to have some footpaths open.

What is your favourite cartoon?
Shaun the Sheep!

Liz Noblet

Reel Issues

The AGM of the film discussion group took place on the 12th May with eleven members present. The accounts were presented showing the group had made a small profit which would almost cover the cost of the licence for next year – and this was after paying for the Hall's electricity, the biggest expense.

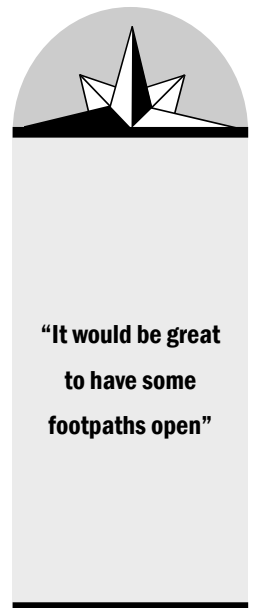
Looking back over the past year, the general set-up of the evening was approved, subject to one or two small changes. For instance, it was suggested that sub-titles should always be switched

on to compensate for the occasional mumbling of actors (and nothing to do with the hearing of those attending.) We will stick to the second Tuesday in the month, with the discussion on the Thursday following. However, the suggestion that we should hold the discussion in peo-

ples' homes was happily agreed and we also extended the season to include September and April. Then attention was turned to the coming year, with a full democratic choosing of titles, making sure we covered most of the various genres. The dates and films are :

- September 15th**
- October 13th**
- November 10th**
- December 8th**
- January 12th**
- February 9th**
- March 9th**
- April 13th**

- Battle of Britain**
- D'lovely**
- Raiders of the Lost Ark**
- M. Hulot's Holiday**
- Minority Report**
- Shane**
- Man Dancing**
- Letters from Iwo Jima**



"It would be great to have some footpaths open"

Luttrell Village – People of the Village

The occupations of the people found within the village of Irnham would be very similar to those living in South Willingham, however the villagers that worked together in the fields were by no means equal.

Some were **freemen**: small-time farmers who owned or rented their houses and land. They even owned horses and could come and go as they pleased. These people usually had holdings of 30 acres or more, sometimes they were men who had been able to purchase their freedom. Others were **villeins** who had no freedom at all. Everything they had belonged to Sir Geoffrey, including their houses, land, animals, and even wives and children. They not only had to grow their own food, but were obliged to spend two or three days a week labouring on Sir Geoffrey's strips out in the fields. From the lord's point of view villeins were the most important social group, carrying out the bulk of the work on the land. They could not leave their holding without Sir Geoffrey's permission and had no rights of legal redress against him except in the lord's own manor court. Other villagers were **cottars** who more often than not had no more than a cottage and the surrounding plot of land (a croft or toft). These people were often craftsmen and performed fewer days work per year than the villeins of the village. They might be bee-keepers, basket-weavers or other similarly skilled people who were relatively less bound up with the manorial economy.

Each year the villagers elected a **reeve** to defend their rights at the manor court and to organize their work. There was also a **hayward** given the responsibility to ensure that the ditches were kept clear, and the hedges in good repair. Also



People of the village

Sir Geoffrey would have employed a **pinder** to round up stray animals and lock them in the **pound** until the owners paid a fine to get them back.

South Willingham has a pound, it can be found down Barkwith Road on the right behind the village sign. It has lost its boundary fencing and little evidence can be seen but it is named on an old map. It may have simply been a fenced area made from willow hurdles.

Rents paid by tenants to Robert Luttrell of Irnham in 1297. * (old money)

Free tenants 10s 2d

Villeins £6 4s 0d

Cottars £1 0s 0d

*'Land and people in medieval Lincolnshire' Graham Platts.

From this rent it can be clearly seen that Irnham had many villeins and few freemen.

Summer

Vegetables were much more important than flowers in cottage gardens. A villein's wife spent most of the summer digging, weeding and growing vegetables for the pot as well as working in the fields, looking after children, and tending their chickens, sheep and goats. Most villagers grew flax that could be woven into linen sheets and shirts, and hemp that could be used for making sacks and rope. As well as gardening, the villein's wife had to milk the sheep and goats and make butter and cheese.

Sheep were shorn about mid-summer, and any spare time the women had was spent carding the wool, tying it to a distaff and twirling their spindles to spin the wool into yarn. This yarn was then woven into lengths which could be cut and made into tunics, hoods, cloaks and other clothes to keep the family warm. It was just as tough for the women as it was for the men, life was very hard indeed and only the healthy survived.

No one was allowed to be idle, all the children helped in the hay-making. The mown hay was dried in haystacks before being forked onto carts and each villein would take home his dole, or share of the hay harvest. Animals were then allowed to graze on the meadows to fertilise the land.

As summer turned to autumn the harvest of the wheat and rye crops was begun. Every able-bodied villager had to

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

My Grandma and Granddad's last letter

We arrived home to find a note through the door which said "Poppies in the porch." It was the usual box full of poppies along with the collection tin, with a note that said "You can start on Saturday".

Well, I could not start over the weekend at all, and I had already seen people with their poppies on, so for me it would be Monday the day I would start, and Monday came, so at around 5 o'clock I set off thinking that two nights and I would be finished, not so! Setting off along Hainton Road, then along to Station Road including calling at Farm, where the couple that live there are two of the longest residing village residents. After a chat about things in general and of course a lot of farming it was time to say my good-byes when across the yard I noticed something that took me back to my shooting days, It was their grandson wild rabbits. I carried on and left one house to call at another night. Then it was off down Church Lane where I met and had a talk to Helen and Andrew, the new people at Rose Cottage. Then it was a call at Orchard Glasshouse where with the Belmont mast lights really bright we had a talk about the imminent removal of the top, I brought the session to a close as I realized I was due at a church meeting at 7 o'clock, so it was a dash home, take the poppy box with me, and across the road to the Manor for the meeting. The poppy collection benefited from it and it was

also a nice meeting. So, that was Monday.

Tuesday night same thing, off I go again, this time leaving home at around 4.45pm and setting off along Barkwith Road, getting on really



Was that wine or coffee?

well until I got to a lady called June who said "You will have to go and see my mum", "Oh yes" I said, and some twenty five minutes later talking to one of the village's oldest residents about days gone by, I was on my way again. Not for long though as I was soon sitting at the kitchen table at having a cup of coffee and listening to a lovely guitar rendition played by the girls. "I must get on" I said, and off I went getting on O.K. then I called at one of our more recent residents of the village whose wife was out, leaving just her slippers by the door, I have to say I was tempted to stuff some poppies in them, I was asked in for a glass of wine and ended up staying for one and a half hours or so talking to a really great bloke who had just lost his sister in really terrible circumstances. He showed me a lovely photo album that he had done on her life, it was really nice. Anyway it was now time to get home, I will finish the

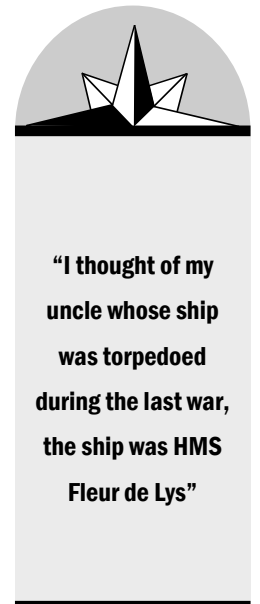
rest tomorrow night, I thought.

Wednesday night came and off I went, firstly to the house I missed on Monday down Station Road, there I went inside and had a twenty minute or so sat at the kitchen table with the five great boys of the house playing with their dinky cars and things. Then it was back to Barkwith Road and to finish at Bumble Bee Cottage where I was cordially invited in for a whisky after the appropriate pieces of newspaper had been placed on the floor for me to walk on in true Mrs Bouquet fashion! Just joking really, it's always a pleasure to call there. Anyway we had a nice little talk, and then it was all done for another year.

Walking home the sky was bright and full of stars, and as I walked I thought of my uncle whose ship was torpedoed during the last war, the ship was the H.M.S Fleur de Lys. The Fleur de Lys emblem has been adopted by the family ever since. For me being the eldest grandchild I was called after my uncle and it's something that I am proud of. The last letter my Grandma and Granddad received, of which I have a copy, just stated that my uncle "aged 24 was discharged dead, body not found, this notice is with deep regret."

Thanks to you all for supporting the poppy appeal, £91 was raised.

Terry Ringrose



**"I thought of my
uncle whose ship
was torpedoed
during the last war,
the ship was HMS
Fleur de Lys"**

Snippets

Apologies to Denise Hart for two reasons: first, the previous edition did not mention that she and Andy were among those who gave the Carol Singers much needed hospitality in December and then it gave the wrong phone number. Denise and Claire Harrison are the contact people if you are setting off fireworks and need to let horse owners know beforehand. Denise's correct number is 313711.

One of the recurring events in the village has been the Progressive Dinner, which involves more and more people. You can't have twenty two courses so the cooks double up. Talk about 'food, glorious food' (and drink). Carriages were called when it was almost time for breakfast.

The Parish Hall has kept up its quantity and quality of social evenings. A Pancake evening in February, a St Patrick's evening in March, a St George's Day Banquet

in April and a Tastes of Lincolnshire evening in May. All were well attended and very much enjoyed.

The Tastes of Lincolnshire included Lincolnshire music as well as Lincolnshire food. Brian Dawson was there to



Very content with the tastes that were on offer.

entertain us with his folk songs. A man with a remarkable memory, for all he had was a notebook with titles in so that he could mix his programme ad hoc. A great evening. Photos of all these events are on other pages. 'Unsung heroes' is often a heading in the newspapers

and we ought to remember that we have some. So we give a collective thank you to Andy Harrison and Eric Payne who wind the Church clock every week come hail or shine and also to Terry Ringrose who not only drives round the churchyard on a lawn mower like it is Brand's Hatch but also trims the hedges, plants lots of flowers and generally keeps an eye on things.

Several newcomers have arrived in the village. Keith and Ann are coming to Meadow Rise, Guy and Jo have come to Rosemary Cottage, both on Barkwith Road and Paul and Kath are moving in to Holme Grange on Hainton Road. A warm welcome to all of them.

Terry Ringrose's piece was left over from the last edition due to lack of space but we thought it too good to be out of date.

"Unsung heroes' is often a heading in the newspapers and we ought to remember that we have some."

Did you put this in?

These classifieds were really put in newspapers.

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.

8 years old. Hateful little b@stard. Bites!

FREE PUPPIES.

1/2 Cocker Spaniel. 1/2 sneaky neighbour's dog.

FREE PUPPIES.

Mother, Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.

Father, Super Dog.

Able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

FOUND DIRTY WHITE DOG.

Looks like a rat. Been out a while.

Better be a big reward.

WEDDING DRESS

FOR SALE.

Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.....

FOR SALE.

Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition. £200 or best offer.

No longer needed. Got married last month.

Wife knows everything.

Thanks to Borzoi Club Newsletter.



Preparing for the St George's Day Banquet—Photos Chris Washer



Brian Dawson in action



Eating and drinking at the Progressive Dinner In March—everyone having a good time.



Paul & Kath and Guy and Jo enjoying the Tastes of Lincolnshire



South Willingham Parish Council and
Parish Hall

Management Committee

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Parish Hall

STRAWBERRY TEA
ON SUNDAY 21ST
JUNE AT 2 P.M.

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

Parish Councillors:

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

Parish Clerk: Nigel Spencer 313614

Parish Hall :

Mel Montgomery (Chairman)	313590
Maureen Ferguson (Secretary)	313584
Chris Nutten (Treasurer)	313208

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 Terry and Ann Ringrose for the colour pages.

People of the Village (continued)

(Continued from page 4)
work during daylight hours for the whole period of harvest. The crops grew taller in medieval times. The wheat was cut about half way up the stalks, using sickles, bound into sheaves, and set on end to dry. After the last sheaf had been carted away, the cottar's wife and other

poor folk would search the field for any stray ears of grain. This was called gleaning. Later the remaining short stalks were scythed and used for bedding straw for cattle. Afterwards sheep and cattle were allowed onto the land to roam over the empty field to graze. Once again the manure was good for the land, returning vital nutrients to the soil.

After the harvest of wheat, oats, barley, and beans the villagers would take their tools to the smith to be sharpened and mended. It was a busy time mending

plough-shares, axes, scythes and the many other tools used to harvest the crops. Autumn was the season once the harvest was over for the South Field to be left fallow. It was the turn of the Low Field after being fallow this past year to be sown with wheat and a little rye for the coming year. Thus the cycle started all over again.

South Willingham had three fields named Low Field, west of the village, North High Field mostly north of Donington Road, and South High Field mostly south of the road. So even the field names were similar to those in the Luttrell Village.

Martin Doughty

(Continued from page 1)

The success of these depended on the efforts of the Committee, said Mel, and he particularly mentioned Ann and Glynis who had planned and prepared the splendid meals. Thanks were also given to Jan Crouch, who runs the Willingham Winner and who has shanghaied persuaded extra people to join, and to Fran Kingsley who served for a year as temporary Treasurer. The Committee was re-elected *en bloc* and at the subsequent Committee Meeting Chris Nutten was elected Treasurer, with Mel as Chairman and Maureen Ferguson as Secretary.



Serious moment at the AGM