

# SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

## More on Moor

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### Special points of interest:

- New information on local walks
- Old memories of South Willingham
- The evolution of the Lincolnshire Red

In the November issue we carried an article about the difficulties of walking around South Willingham. In particular we were concerned about Moor's Lane (the spelling seems to vary!)

The issue of footpaths has constantly been a subject for the Parish Council, so it is worth quoting verbatim part of the Minutes from their January meeting.

"At the last meeting a letter from a resident, who had been challenged whilst walking along Moor Lane, had been received by the Parish Council. Councillor Spencer checked the Parish Council correspondence archives relating to footpaths. A letter dated February 9 2004 from



Horse and rider on Moors Lane

LCC (Karen Barke who was at that time Senior Definitive Map Officer) to the Parish Council stated the following as part of a letter on other matters: "... Concerning the status of Moor Lane, I enclose a map which shows that part of Moor Lane which is **county maintainable highway** marked in blue and running between Hainton Road and one of the routes which your

Council has claimed."

"The current Definitive Map Officer has also been contacted who responded as follows:

"...the majority of Moors Lane is recorded on the Highways Handover Maps as an **unmetalled district road** and shown on current liability for maintenance maps as being a **publicly maintainable highway**. Moors Lane is also recorded on the County Council's list of streets.

"Councillor Edmundson has kept the neighbouring landowner and village resident who raised a recent incident apprised of the Council's views and action.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Moors Lane in the Past

Terry Ringrose is in correspondence with two ladies whom he met in the churchyard during the summer. One of them was Elizabeth, now in Canada, who lived in South Willingham as also did her friend, Jennifer Garside

(nee Addison) who lived in the semi-detached cottages in Blacksmith's Lane. We will include other memories another time but there is a relevant quotation as Elizabeth writes of an event fifty years ago:

"Jennifer and I have some concerns about rights of way. As you can see, the concept of 'Trespassers will be prosecuted' was lost on us and if there was a chance of being found out (it) only added a little

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Concentrated eating and thinking at the Fish and Chip Quiz at the Parish Hall, We were glad the fish and chips came with the entrance fee and not as the result of correct answers!



The Reel Issues group gathered to watch 'Shane' and (right) the discussion that followed on the Thursday



# Alan Atkin's recollections of childhood (or the ramblings when one gets older)

by Liz Noblet

Alan was born at Pyewipe Farm on the East Barkwith road in 1952. The family left there in 1957, and after spending a year in East Barkwith they moved into Mill Cottage (Willingham End) on the East Barkwith Road. When he was 15 Alan's family moved back to East Barkwith.

Here are some of Alan's childhood memories.

Moving on from my lost wellingtons (refer to the previous issue of the South Willingham News!) The next memory is seeing a ghost of an old lady on the outside of my bedroom window, which really frightened me having no prior knowledge of ghosts. I often wonder if this was real. It happened about once a year for the time we lived at Pyewipe Farm.

The kitchen was always my favourite place in the house, especially the old cooking range. It was like a railway engine to me. The smell, the constant tinkering with the draught plates and the flue knob, and fuelling it with coal and wood. My granddad used to buy oven sticks from Holmes wood yard of Wragby. These were the outside bark and the slivers of timber cut from a tree trunk to make it square. These oven sticks were fed up behind the cooking range oven through the fire and propped up by a log. As the wood burnt down you had to push it in, this was my job on washdays when extra

water was needed, and when the oven needed more heat for cooking.



Alan in the arms of his Mum and Dad

Talking of trains I used to watch the goods trains from my bedroom window, pouring out smoke and steam and thinking one day I will have a ride on one. Alas, I never did. The nearest I came to it was standing on the footplate of an engine in steam at East Barkwith station. A friend of the family, called Billy Spalding, was the signalman and he allowed us in the signal box where he showed me how the signals worked, and one or two trains went through. Then the highlight, a goods train shunted a wagon into the siding and we were allowed to step onto the footplate. The smell of hot oil and coal smoke, the array of gauges and levers and polished brass was any young boy's dream. Mr Spalding later worked most of his life at Snelland crossing, where he lived and then retired.

The farm was my

playground, We had three tractors, two Olivers and a Standard Ford. The little Oliver was Dad's tractor, that was mainly used for ploughing and which I used to ride on while ploughing. In the morning after it had been greased up, fluids checked, clutch pedal clipped down, the chocks checked on the rear wheels, carburettor primed, choke turned and throttle set, the handle was ready to be turned. Five or six turns to pull the fuel through and then a quick jerk, resulting in a very loud bark, crack of the exhaust, and loads of smoke. As a young boy this half frightened me, but it also excited something within me, and today it is exactly the same.

When ploughing, my dad sometimes wore an army greatcoat which was on the nearside footplate when not in use. After a while I would curl up in the coat and go to sleep. I used to like dusk time ploughing best, the exhaust pipe and manifold glowing red, the warmth blowing back from the engine, and the beautiful smell of TVO paraffin exiting from the exhaust pipe, with bits of fiery carbon soot. Diesel tractors and trains do not have that romantic sense of nostalgia, and something is lost.

I used to love feeding the animals on the farm, and remember going to Johnny Bett's house in South Willingham



Alan in his first car

(Continued on page 5)

**“seeing a ghost of an old lady outside of my bedroom window...”**



## Lincoln Red Cattle

by Martin Doughty

Originally they were thought to have been brought to Eastern England by the Vikings. However little is known about the history of Lincolnshire cattle until 1695. Gervaise Markham in his book, 'A Way to Get Wealth', remarked on the "pyde" cattle "their horns little and crooked, of bodies exceedingly tall, long and large, lean, strong hoved and indeed fittest to labour and draft."

During the late 18th and early 19th century a number of Lincolnshire breeders, most notably Thomas Turnell, brought in cherry-red coloured Durham and York Shorthorn bulls and heifers of medium size, some from the well known herds of Robert Bakewell and the Collings brothers. These animals were crossed with the local large, rugged, draught cows to improve conformation. The resulting cattle became known as the Lincolnshire Red Shorthorn.

In 1799 the breed was described by the Board of Agriculture "a breed of cattle which are unsurpassed in this country for points highly valuable and for their disposition at any age to finish rapidly."

In 1822 the first volume of the Coates Herd Book

distinguished between the two types of Shorthorn. Then in 1895 The Lincoln Red Shorthorn Association was formed and began publishing its own herd book in 1896.



Lincoln Red bull

1893 The earliest record of export is the reference by Professor Wallace of Edinburgh University to the founding of "The Argentine Red Lincolnshire Shorthorn Herd Book" From 1904 – 1914 774 cattle were exported to 20 different countries. In more recent times Lincoln Reds have been exported to many countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA.

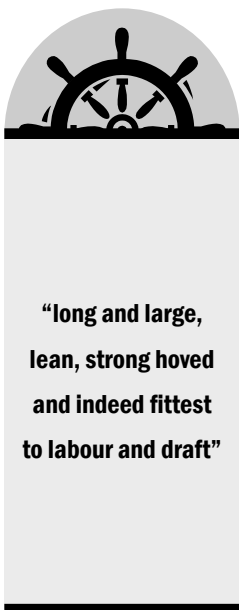
In 1926 the Lincoln Red Shorthorn was the second largest breed of pedigree cattle in England in terms of registrations – Shorthorn being the largest – followed by British Friesian and in fourth place Hereford.

Initially a dual purpose breed, selective breeding

resulted in two distinct types – beef and dairy – with the consequent division of the herd book into two sections in 1946. Although the Lincoln Red was an excellent dairy animal; cows regularly achieved respectable yields of 3,200 – 3,600kg and breeders won many prizes – the coveted Bledisloe Bowl was won by a Lincoln Red team at the 1922 London Dairy Show – the emphasis on beef became more marked. The modern Lincoln Red has all the essential characteristics of a beef breed, but has retained, from its dual purpose days, a high milk yield – vital for fast growing progeny.

In 1939 Eric Pentecost of Cropwell Butler, Nottinghamshire started work on the polling of the Lincoln Red using red and black Aberdeen Angus bulls. After 17 years of Mr Pentecost's dedication, and success in retaining the Lincoln Red's original qualities, the first polled Lincoln Red bull was granted a licence by the Ministry of Agriculture. The trend for polling continued and consequently in 1960 the society dropped the word 'Shorthorn' from its name and became the Lincoln Red Cattle Society. Today only a few horned Lincoln Reds remain.

(Continued on page 5)



**"long and large,  
lean, strong hoved  
and indeed fittest  
to labour and draft"**

## Alan Atkin's memories (cont)

*(Continued from page 4)*

Look out for these cattle grazing in our area around the fields of Donington on Bain, Stenigot, (Market Stainton Road) and Gayton le Wold.

You can buy Lincoln Red beef from R Wisby, Wragby and some butchers in Louth.

Information from Lincoln Red Cattle Society.

*(Continued from page 3)*

where my granddad used to buy pigs and they would sell to each other. Johnny Bett used to make a white rabbit from his handkerchief, with ears and a nose and it was so



The cottage where Alan used to live

real vehicle! Bought second-hand by my dad as a Christmas present, he lovingly reconditioned and painted it. It was my pride and joy. Do children today appreciate their toys? Would they accept second-hand with enthusiasm and love?

I remember having a couple of accidents while living at Pyewipe Farm.

One summer's morning my granddad and dad were cutting corn in the mill field with the Standard Ford and the old binder. Getting frustrated because I couldn't see them I climbed up a fence made out of zinc sheets, slipped down, and cut my wrist. It bled and bled, I don't know which was worse, the hurting wrist or the iodine sting! I still have the scar.

Another recollection is of having blood wheals on my fingers. I was told time and time again not to play with the blacksmith's vice in the yard, but I couldn't resist turning the handle, which was a lot taller than me. My hand would get trapped in the handle as it slipped through the hole. Sometimes when using a vice now I think back to those early

The Parish Council is organising, in collaboration with The Big Tidy Up [a Keep Britain Tidy campaign] & ELDC, a clear-up of the roadsides, verges, etc around the village.

This will be on 7th March 2010 between 10:00am & 12noon. More details are available on [www.thebigtidyup.org](http://www.thebigtidyup.org).

Further information will be posted around the village as the day draws

lifelike how he made it move!

Later, while living a Mill Cottages, they gave me their old valve radio, which I restored internally a few years ago. I still own it and it works perfectly.

My two most played with toys were my Christmas present of a wooden horse, made by my dad from wood and a set of pushchair wheels. I played with it nearly every day for two or three years. Then there was my car, which after mastering the pedals was my first

**"Johnny Bett's house where my granddad used to buy pigs and they would sell to each other"**

### Willingham Winner

contributions are now well overdue. Would anyone who owes for 2009-10 [and even 2008-9] please leave their payment at Apple Tree Cottage, Barkwith Road as soon as possible. Any cheques should be made payable to South Willingham Parish Hall - Winner Account. Anyone wishing to know their outstanding balance can call Jan Crouch on 01507 313428

## Snippets

We have been sorry to lose Mel Montgomery from the village, though contacts both ways are being kept up. However, Linda Jull and Louise Humphries have moved into West Lodge and we welcome them to the village. They have not moved far – they come from Benniworth!



Mr Harrison, the Miller (photo courtesy Alan Atkin)

Both church and village are proud of St Martin's Church and churchyard, so we have been very grateful to Andrew Harrison and Eric Payne for keeping the clock and chimes going for us over the years. Now Eric is 'retiring' from the job and we thank him for doing it through hail, rain, snow or shine. His place has been taken by Nigel Spencer; our thanks to him also for taking over.

Christmas has long gone but we enjoyed the events and need to report on the results. The Carol Singing was good as usual; less people this

time but we sang all round the village and raised a total of £230 for the NSPCC. Many thanks to Terry and Ann and Marcus and Virginia who whetted our larynxes and fed us. The joint Christmas Fayre at East Barkwith raised £1,090. The Carol Service at St Martin's was a full house and the singing almost took the roof off and the parson almost forgot the collection – which came to £138 while the Christmas Draw raised £870. Main prizewinners were Lian Coulson, Jan Crouch, Juliette Manterfield, Jackie Miller, Scott Church and Liz Noblet.

The Reel Issues Film Group is drawing to the end of its winter session. We have had 'Minority Report' and 'Shane' in January and February and will end with 'Man Dancin' on Tuesday 9 March and 'Letters from Iwo Jima' on Tuesday 13 April. There is always the invitation to those who have seen the films to join in a discussion on it in the comfort of a local home on the following Thursday.

A full and very noisy Parish Hall had a Fish and Chip Quiz night on 12 February.

John Sturgeon had a rest from setting the questions, so Eric Payne posed the General Knowledge, Dave Nutten did the Sport and Steve sorted the Music section. Rowland Crouch set the picture quiz and as usual they all sorted out the knowledgeable from the ignorant. It was good to see a strong contingent from Benniworth joining us. Doreen Rowson won the Willingham Winner.

John Sturgeon organised a house-to-house collection on Barkwith Road in early February on behalf of the Kidney Research UK. It raised £70 and John thanks those who contributed.

The Over Sixties Club looks after the old folk of Barkwith and South Willingham through monthly meetings and trips. They are looking for new members and helpers. If you would like to join (or help) would you please contact Joyce Ward (01673 857163) or Fran Kingsley (01507 313718).

*(Continued from page 1)*

piquancy.

"Jennifer was stopped by someone for going down Moor's Lane – what a cheek! We have been going down there for more than 50 years. We have a prescriptive right if nothing else."

**"grateful to Andrew Harrison and Eric Payne for keeping the clock and chimes going"**

### URGENT REMINDER

A strong request has been received for a notice about dogs.

"We are pleading with people to clear-up after their dog/s. The mess around the village is quite disgusting and really needs bringing to the responsible owners' attention. They must know who they are!!!"



Carol Singers in full voice (Photo Liz Noblet) and at the end of the evening eating and drinking with Marcus and Virginia.



Weather too cold for a good attendance at the Coffee Morning



Moors Lane on a winter afternoon — the map inserted into the South Willingham News is a late discovery just as we were going to press.



South Willingham Parish Council and  
Parish Hall

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## Parish Hall

ST GEORGE'S  
BANQUET FRIDAY,  
23 APRIL  
AT 7 P.M..

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

**Parish Councillors:**

Marcus Edmundson	313623
[Chairman]	
Paul Cutts	313486
[Vice-Chairman]	
Rowland Crouch	313428
Martin Doughty	313686
Nikki Harris	313618
Claire Harrison	313406
Nigel Spencer	313614

**Parish Clerk:** Nigel Spencer 313614

**Parish Hall :**

Chris Washer (Chairman)	313244
Maureen Ferguson (Secretary)	313584
Chris Nutten (Treasurer)	313500

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.

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“On behalf of the Parish Council Councillor Spencer has also contacted the Area Highways Officer to see whether an identifying sign “Moor Lane” could be erected at the junction with Hainton Road also stating “No Through Road” and “Unsuitable for Road Vehicles”. This is being looked into.”

We will keep you informed of any future developments.



Alan Atkin;s Grandad

A poem by George Bruntlett,

Alan Atkin's maternal grandfather.

George was a prolific poet, writing about the everyday things he saw about him. He had several poems published in one of the local newspapers.

### A friend in need.

I've a friend lives up at Willingham,  
the best friend I've found yet,  
and if you want to know his name  
they call him Johnny Bett.

He's been so very good to me  
in one way or another,

I'm sure I'm right when I do say  
he's been just like a brother.

He does his garden very well  
without a deal of tillage,\*

and when he's grown all that there stuff  
he gives it to the village.

He's been a chap that's worked real hard  
both on the land and in the yard,

and all the good deeds that he has done  
will long be remembered by more than one.

\*Tillage is an old Lincolnshire word for fertilizer.