

SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

Village Tidy Up

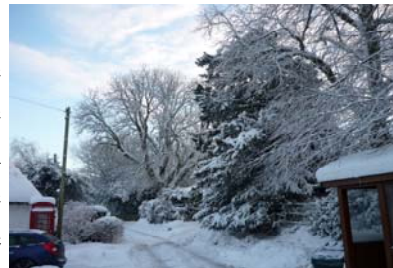
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The annual campaign to clear the rubbish from the roads in and around our Village will take place next month. The date is

Sunday 6th March.

Volunteers will meet at the Village bus stop at 10.00 a.m.



Centre of the village, early December

'litter pickers' and bags and the 'The Big Tidy' campaign people from Keep Britain Tidy will donate tabards, stickers etc.

We should spend no more than a couple of hours picking so we hope for a good few volunteers.

Our Parish Hall

How it all started

In 1922, when Hainton Hall was being rebuilt after a fire, Lord Hen-eage donated the bricks that had made up his kitchen to build a Parish Hall for South Willingham. He also donated the land to put it on. When it was first built, our hall had an outside toilet, two coal fires and hanging oil lamps. Mains water and elec-

tricity were not installed until the early 1950s.

In these early years our hall was very busy - there were fortnightly whist drives, with a grand whist drive at Christmas when there would be at least 30 tables in play, spilling out into the lobby. There was a billiard table and a darts board, and the hall was open most

nights so people could pop in and play. There was a regular Boxing Day night dance with live music, and events usually ended with a good sing song round the piano.

Where we are now

Thanks to legacies from Frank and Jill Lacey, our hall has been refur-

(Continued on page 8)

Special points of interest:

- We will be tidy
- Appeal from the Hall Committee
- Village winter events
- Terry reminisces
- The impact of dementia
- Film Group news
- Northern Lights



The anti-snow celebration in the Hall at the beginning of December. The crowded hall and (above) Harvey, Lily and Jessica Flack enjoy the break



Snow did not stop attendance at the coffee morning in the Hall



Welcome refreshments from Marcus and Virginia for the Carol Singers at the end of the evening

December sunset from the village
Photos: Alex Doughty



More chat from the churchyard seat

I don't think so at the moment! I'd rather sit in front of a log fire, nice and cosy with the wood crackling and sparkling as it does, but it's for a reason that we are sat here, it's the day the electricity is off and Ann said "Let's have tea in front of the fire". So that was it; fire lit, tea prepared, candles lit, what more could you want? Anyway, as we sat Ann said "It brings back memories, don't you think?", and that started the chat for the next hour and a half or so, "Can you remember this?", "What about the time...", and so on. It's really great talking about old times.

But to get back to what I wanted to say before I mention the spring. I'm sorry that I didn't get round with the poppies, I got a touch of food poisoning from somewhere and it laid me up for about a week, so I am sorry as I miss seeing everybody. Then the snow came, and for a while it was great. Thanks for the messages left in the snow, and it was nice that people stopped and asked if we wanted anything from the shop as they walked past to Mel at Hainton. That's true village spirit, we thought it was really nice. Of course we had the get together in the village hall

which was a great idea. It seemed like everybody who made it felt the same and enjoyed it.

What did you think to the carol service? For us it



A view of the temporary 'roundabout'
Photo Alex Doughty

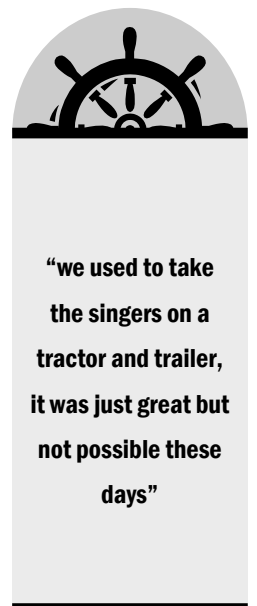
was just lovely to see everybody turn out on such a cold night, but really a perfect one. Paul did a great job with the service, and for us to have our Trish and the family there was extra special. Well she's not really ours but signed up to our family eighteen years ago. Then the next night was the village carol singing, another lovely night, so moonlit and frosty, and the snow just made it really magical. Although it was really cold we kept warm with a stop here and there, and to think that in the two nights we raised so much money, it's really tremendous.

So, getting back to what I am supposed to be writing about, Ann said "Can you remember carol singing at our other house?" We

have gone round the village carol singing for most of our married life, but before we used to take the singers on a tractor and trailer, it was just great, but not possible these days, but that's how things are.

Anyway the snow has gone and the signs of spring are here, with snowdrops, catkins and aconites all showing signs of flowers. I read somewhere that snowdrops were like nuns in green and white dresses. Various bird species are showing signs of nesting such as robins, dunnocks and blackbirds. The song thrushes are starting to sing and most of the tit family are getting ready for the spring.

Sat here watching the fire flickering and still talking about old times brought back memories of a very special friend of mine, Reg May. I first met Reg when he used to be the village postman, cycling around Great Limber and Brockelsby where I frequently used to work doing building repairs on the Brockelsby estate. He would stop for a talk, anything to do with nature. Although I had heard of him I didn't really know him, but I soon got used



**"we used to take
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to him coming round whistling away on his cycle. Anyway he was an exceptional naturalist, keen to tell you anything to do with nature. Over a time, being interested in wildlife and the countryside I got to know him well and spent a lot of time learning from him, he was one of those people who had a special character and characteristics to match. His face was weathered and wrinkled, his fingers looked like pieces of twig from the trees that he used to peer into looking for different nests. He used to break a piece of twig to tap near to a nest, or tap on a branch to make the young think the parent birds were returning with food. His knowledge of nature was just incredible, he was a close friend of Peter Scott, and the first person to record the collared dove in the U.K., and I know that springtime was his favourite time, and with it just around the corner made me think of Reg.

Then Ann said "Can you remember lambing?", you see we used to farm around eighty acres of land and I worked at an oil refinery. We always had about forty five pedigree Suffolk sheep and we used to start lambing at the beginning of January, this is not the natural time for sheep to lamb but to catch the shows you had

to start early. That's just how it is these days, but it does make you realise how difficult it is for the farmers with snow like we've had, the extra feeding and things when it goes on and on. Just fancy trying to lamb sheep in that lot. We used



Looking down Station Road

to lamb inside in a special building which made it easier, even there when you found a new born lamb it was such a special feeling, and then when you get one of those that you think is dead we used to take them wrapped up in a towel and put them in the bottom of the aga and hope that you would soon hear that familiar bleat coming from the aga, which more often than not, you did. Then it was all worthwhile, a great feeling. The thing is that if the lambing had been done like the old days it would have been the spring, the natural time. I can tell you it is such a great sight to see eight or ten lambs running around and jumping about on a lovely spring day.

Anyway, the flames here in the fire have died


down, the electricity is back on and I think I have written enough of this dribble.

Just take care and think about the chrysalis of the Orange Tip and the Brimstone Butterflies buried beneath that snow and in temperatures of around -8 degrees centigrade, and then in a few weeks time to be flitting across your garden or lazily flapping along the hedgerow, just great in the spring.

Hope to see you at the coffee mornings, come and join us, just pop to the village hall this spring and enjoy a chat.

Terry

Kidney Research UK
 Many thanks to the residents of Barkwith Road who contributed to the house collection for Kidney Research UK during February 2011. Due to your generosity £80 was collected and forwarded to the charity
John and Fran



"His knowledge of nature was just incredible, he was a close friend of Peter Scott"

Dementia

Where has my mother gone
 Into a world of her own
 Constantly anxious and scared
 Afraid to be left alone

So my mother weeps and worries
 Going downhill every day
 But my love, Mum, will always be
 there
 To support you and care come what
 may.

She is in a big house now
 With others just like her,
 Lost and bewildered they
 roam
 None the person they
 were.

So try and sleep tonight my dear,
 With no bad dreams or
 fear;
 Float on a soft, heavenly
 cloud
 Knowing those who care
 are near.

Sometimes a memory
 flash comes
 And stays with them for
 a second,
 But that soon goes and
 they're lost,
 Not seeing the arms that
 beckon.



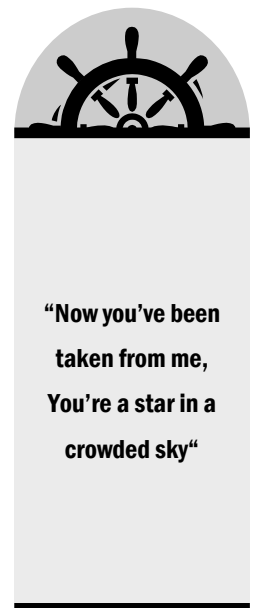
Fran's Mum on her 90th birthday

You are quite an elderly
 lady now
 Lost in a world full of sad-
 ness
 I will be with you at all
 times
 And turn your heart to
 gladness.

Arms that offer to hold
 them
 To make them feel safe and warm,
 To prove that whatever may happen
 That they can weather the storm.

Now you've been taken from me,
 You're a star in a crowded sky.
 I'll love you today and forever
 So all I'll say now is 'Goodbye'.

Fran Kingsley 2010



Lincolnshire County Council

The law on clearing snow and ice from public spaces

There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces.

If an accident did happen, it is

highly unlikely that you would be sued as long as you:

- 1 Are careful
- 2 Use common sense to make sure that you don't make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before.

People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

South Willingham Parish Council

Snippets

The snow took us by surprise at the end of November and after a couple of week of restricted journeys it was good to get an invitation to an evening in the Parish Hall. Half the village turned up, sharing food and drink and just talked the evening away. (Photos page 2)

Carol Singing was loud but sweet over the weekend before Christmas. St Martin's was full again for the Carol Service and the hearty singing was a threat to the roof. Thanks are deserved all round. To Mary Jordan for choosing the poems, Veronica for playing the organ and Trish the cello and to all the readers who read so well, especially young Charlotte and Jacob. Thanks also to Virginia and Kay and their helpers for providing the food and drink. It was a

good evening.

On the following evening a goodly group of superb singers (who put this in?) went all round the village in the traditional way starting with punch at Paul and Maureen's, stopping on route



Another view of the snow-bound centre of the village

with Terry and Ann and finishing up at Marcus and Virginia's. We needed those stops to warm up for it was a cold night. We raised £242 for the RNIB.

The Film Group is never disappointing to its fans. Most of us have not seen the films before, have not picked them – it is usually someone else's choice – but we are pleasantly surprised at the enjoyment they give. Last month's was a choice most of us would not have gone to see, but the Japanese animation "Spirited Away" was a delight to us all. This month we followed "The Red Balloon" round mid-century Paris and then watched the "Blue Remembered Hill" with adults dressed up as children well acted by Helen Mirren, Colin Welland, Colin Jeavons amongst others. "Notes on a Scandal" next month.

After a gap due to Mary Jordan's absence, the Parish has started work among children again. Chris Harrington and Veronica meet with the
(continued on page 8)

**"our night chosen
eight months
previously was
indeed lucky"**

Northern Lights, Tromso, Norway

In April 2010 we booked one December night with Kjetil Skogli to view the northern lights, we had no idea that that one night would have been so outstandingly beautiful. We were so lucky because the previous nights were cloudy and no lights were seen and on the nights after, continual blizzards raged. So our night chosen eight months previously was indeed lucky. Kjetil was responsible for Joanna Lumley's BBC programme about the northern lights a few years ago.

The photographs in this newsletter are from our

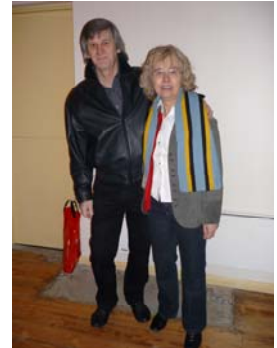
seven hours watching this magical light show.

The northern lights appear as curved curtain-like bands of light folding and unfolding across the night sky. They appear to touch the ground but in reality they are seldom lower than 80 km above the earth with the upper fringes as high as 1000km. The northern lights are a result of solar energy called the solar wind, these high energy particles on reaching our atmosphere collide with oxygen and nitrogen temporarily exciting them into a high state of energy. This energy is immediately released causing the

northern lights.

The colour of the released photon of light depends on which gas molecule was struck by the solar wind particle. Green/white the commonest seen is caused by excitement of oxygen atoms low down in the atmosphere. Higher up the in the atmosphere oxygen atoms glow red. Sometimes you can see a red fringe low in the atmosphere this is caused by the bombardment of nitrogen, higher up nitrogen molecules emit blues and violets.

Diana and Martin Doughty



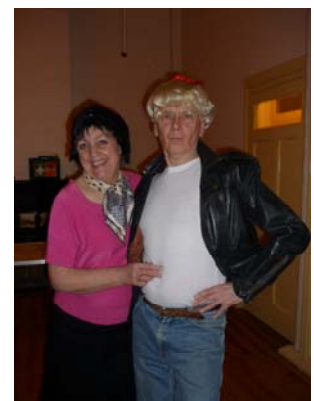
The 60s/70s evening with dancers in bobby sox and leather jackets



Three views of the Northern Lights taken by Martin



Before



and

After

South Willingham Parish Council and
Parish Hall

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Parish Hall

CURRY & QUIZ
EVENING

FRIDAY APRIL 1ST

Coffee Mornings 1st
& 3rd Wednesdays

Parish Councillors:

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

Parish Clerk: Margaret Charman 313776

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. Thanks also to John and Fran for the colour pages.

(continued from page 6)
children in South Willingham Parish Hall on the last Saturday morning in the month. And Mothering Sunday on 3rd April will be celebrated in St Martin's this year.

(Continued from page 1)

bished. We have new toilets, a new kitchen, it has been insulated and decorated, and the floor has been repaired. We have also bought new chairs. The result is a warm, welcoming and comfortable hall.

We have various groups using the hall on a

regular basis: Reel Issues Film Club, the Local History Group, The Women's Institute, Children's Saturday

Club, coffee mornings, the Over 60s, and the Parish Council. We hire the hall out for parties, meetings, elections and other activities.

We also hold regular fund raising events such as the Harvest Supper and the Fish'n'Chip Quiz Night.

Where do we go from here?

Although Frank and Jill left us a substantial amount of money, this is being used to improve and maintain our hall. We still need to cover our running costs by holding fund raising events.

This is where we need

your help. Perhaps you have some ideas for events that could be held at the hall. Or perhaps you'd like to join the committee and help plan and put on the events.

We will be holding our AGM on Tuesday 10th May - you could come along and put forward your ideas over a glass of wine or cup of tea. Or you could talk to any of our committee members.

We are lucky to have such an asset to the village. Your help with ideas for fundraising to keep the hall running will be very much appreciated.

Chris Nutten



Parish Hall in December