

SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

Pedestrian Pursuits

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Special points of interest:

- New website in South Willingham
- First World War heroes
- Second World War soldier
- Social life in South Willingham second to none
- Welcome and farewell
- Blind corner

People come home from holiday at this time of year and we ask where they've been. Some go abroad for sun, sea and sunshine but many stay in this country and often 'pedestrian pursuits' are part of their holiday – walking, cycling, climbing, fell walking, even shopping along pedestrian precincts.

They talk of following old railways in Cornwall or in Yorkshire, of wandering through the countryside without worrying about traffic, of letting the children walk or ride on ahead in safe conditions and of just breathing in the countryside. My own week spent in the Cotswolds carried the same story. I



The signpost in Winchcombe

was in Winchcombe. The rich and famous are not concentrated just in one part – it is a wealthy landowning area – yet it is honeycombed with footpaths. Above is a photo of the signpost near the church in Winchcombe marking a plethora of ways around the town.

But not in our part of Lincolnshire. We are pleased with the walk up Moors Lane and the one that branches off it to Donington Road, though those are permissive though only temporary. Yet to get to and from these short walks we walk along sometimes dangerous roads. In particular, the road out of the village leading north towards Hainton is narrow and is hidden from traffic coming from that village. If two cars meet at that place, there is nowhere for a pedestrian to jump or for the cars to avoid them. To use the cliché, it is an accident waiting to happen.

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South Willingham Website

Most of us get on-line in some way or other. Our usage is nothing to do with age because some 'oldies' work it as well as some youngsters. But whether we just go on for our e-mails or live on it, we should be aware of

some important sites.

Did you know that the South Willingham Local History Group now has its own website. The address: www.south-willingham.org (it is a hyphen, not an underscore). The Group, through Paul Ferguson who

manages it, is gradually building up a store of articles, photos, interesting facts and general comments on village issues. In time details of forthcoming events and other local items will be put on.

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The St Martin's Brunch with the Cutts boys almost sold out, the 'kitchen staff' above, the ladies in charge, the cooks outside and finally a view of the hungry patrons



Jo Rouston's Open Garden afternoon — clear skies meant no one had to run for shelter



Liz Noblet's final photo before she leaves us—a dragonfly in her garden just emerged from its exuvia



Sally Bray's (picture on left) party had family and friends from far and near. Above are Alice, Jill, (Hilda's daughter) and Chrissie



Harold Bray

by Liz Noblet

Harold was born on 11th May 1921 at Gayton Le Wold. He was the third child of four, having a brother and two sisters. When he was about a year old the family moved to a farm at Legbourne and then aged six they moved again to another farm at Fotherby Top. While Harold lived there he had to walk three miles to and from school.

In 1935 the family moved to another farm at Benniworth and Harold lived there until he was "called up" in April 1941. He joined the Royal Army Service Corps and went to Chesterfield for his training.

In the August they went to Liverpool and eventually they headed out to Port Suez in Egypt for the El-Alamein push in October 1942. It took two months to get there as they had to go around the Cape of Good Hope and had to take a zigzagging course to try and avoid the German U-boats. On the way they stopped for four days in Capetown. Harold says that it was better there than at home because there was no rationing and they even had Cadburys Dairy Milk chocolate!

They eventually reached Port Suez and spent their time ferrying lorries from Cairo to Iran, through Baghdad. They also travelled to Israel, through the Sinai Desert going half way around the Sea of Galilee and then on to the Golan Heights in Syria.

Harold spent some time in Israel training for an invasion and on days off he visited Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv. They then took lorries to Beirut in the Lebanon and then had to travel from Bei-



A slightly younger Harold (in years)

rut to Alexandria in Egypt by train. This took two days and by the end of the journey the men were itching all over and infested with lice! Luckily the lice took a disliking to the foreigners and the itching was short-lived.

The men spent two weeks in Alexandria waiting for ships to take them to Sicily and were each given a booklet called "A soldier's guide to Sicily". In July 1943 they landed in Sicily and spent twelve months there taking supplies to the soldiers. On one occasion Harold had just driven his truck past a field full of ammunition

when it blew up behind him. When Rome fell the men travelled there and then spent the winter in Arezzo near Florence. Later they took the lorries by ship to Marseilles, by this time the war was coming to an end and the men made their way up through France to Brussels in Belgium.

By this time they hadn't had any leave for three years and were given two well earned weeks off! Harold came home to Lincolnshire (he remembers a delighted shiver down his spine as he saw the white cliffs of Dover), but leave was soon over and he had to get back to Brussels. On the way back he overheard a guard in Lille saying "La guerre fini!" (the war is over!), so when he arrived back in Brussels everyone was celebrating. Then it was a much happier time and Harold remembers frequently going to the Montgomery Club where he saw Vera Lynn, and the waitresses would get up and sing songs such as Ave Maria!



He had the same lorry throughout his time in Egypt.

In August 1945 Harold was allowed two months agricultural leave when he came home to help with the harvest. During this time the company that Harold was in had split up

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**"on the way back
he overheard a
guard in Lille saying
'La guerre fini!'
(the war is over)"**

In Honour of David Harold Crow

Stewart Scott

Anyone who receives a copy of the *South Willingham News* and finds an interest in reading my articles on the men from this Parish who died during the Great War will have already seen that I have made the suggestion that not all of the men listed on the war memorials to be found in the village may necessarily have been of this Parish.

We have already discovered that the first entry on the roll of honour that hangs in St Martin's Church – for 'Edwin' Rhodes – is incorrect. It has been conclusively established that this entry should actually read *Edmund Rhodes*; not a very good start, and it brings into question the authenticity of the remaining seven entries.

Following Edmund Rhodes, the second fatality amongst the eight men listed appears to have been a man named as Harold Crow; no firm date of death is given, just 1915. A search of the CWGC database revealed no one by the name of Harold Crow. I did note, however, that one David Harold Crow, Private 23249, 10th Battalion of the York & Lancaster Regiment featured in the records, and that he had died in 1915, which fitted with the year of death quoted on the roll of honour in the church.

There does seem to be a tenuous link with South Willingham but the suggestion on the roll of honour that the

eight men listed were 'of this parish' does not appear to stand scrutiny with the listed 'Harold Crow'.

It seems probable that David Harold Crow is the 'Harold



The narrows at the south western end of the village but at least traffic can be seen

Crow' listed on the roll of honour. David was born at Donington on Bain in 1894 to parents Charles and Lydia Crow (nee Brown) who had married the previous year, and was the eldest of nine children, the first six of whom were born at Donington.

At the time of the 1911 census David was living with his family at Calcethorpe, near Louth, with the occupation of 'day boy on farm'; the family had moved from Donington (actually, Welsdale) about 1902. By the time of his enlistment, David was working as a waggoner.

The link with South Willingham appears to come via David's mother Lydia, for in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns Lydia's brother David is listed as living at South Willingham with his

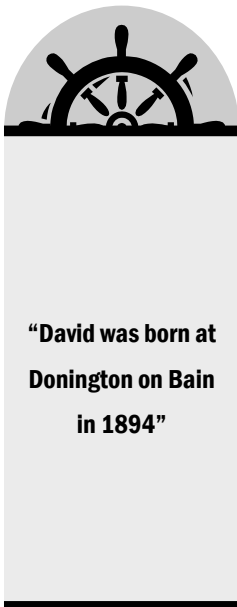
wife Sarah and daughter Lily.

David's service records show that he enlisted originally with the Lincolnshire Regiment at Wragby on 1 September 1914. They also give his residence as Louth (possibly Calcethorpe, as in answer to the question on his Attestation Form 'have you resided out of your father's house for three years continuously....' he answered 'no').

On 7 September 1914 a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps passed David, at 20 years and four months of age, 'fit for the army'. Of Wesleyan faith, he was described as being five foot seven and a quarter inches in height, weighing in at 136 lbs (a little under 10 stone) and with blue eyes, a fair and fresh complexion and very light brown hair. From this description we can see that David was of slight build only, which was perhaps a little unusual for his arduous work as a waggoner, although his physical condition was described as 'good' by the examining officer.

David remained in the UK for just over a year before being transferred to the Western Front on 10 September 1915. Seven days earlier, on 3 September, he had transferred from the 8th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment (Service No.12165) to the 10th (Service) Battalion

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**"David was born at
Donington on Bain
in 1894"**

When you re-arrange the letters what do you get....

Dormitory	<i>Dirty Room</i>
Presbyterian	<i>Best in prayer</i>
Desperation	<i>A rope ends it</i>
The Morse Code	<i>Here come dots</i>
Mother-in-law	<i>Woman Hitler</i>
Snooze Alarms	<i>Alas no more z's</i>
A Decimal point	<i>I'm a dot in place</i>



Drivers can't see round corners

(Continued from page 1)

I hear similar complaints about the west end of the village along Barkwith Road.

Walking, which is so normal and such a pleasure in other parts of the country is quite difficult for us. The Lincolnshire County Council are looking at proposals for two footpaths (one up to North Walk Farm and the other from the Barkwith Road to Benniworth/Olivant's Farm) and the Parish Council are using their links with Hugo Marfleet (County Councillor) to keep the pressure on.

But we, the residents of the village, need to keep up the pressure on Lincolnshire County Council both on footpaths and road safety through our Parish Council. On the former it helps to use the walks, particularly the one up to South Walk Farm which is also a permissive footpath. On the second, the Parish Council would welcome people to raise any concerns at the public forum which starts every Council meeting. The next one is on Thursday 8th September.

Paul Fuller

(Continued from page 6)

in South Willingham for a short time, but we have no evidence of this – even if he did, he was not really ‘of this parish’. It would be interesting to learn from any of the residents of the village who have lived here for a considerable number of years what recollection they may have of the roll of honour in St Martin’s Church, ie when it was erected and from where the information came; later instalments in this series will reveal more inaccuracies with the roll in the church.

Stewart Scott

with grateful thanks to Chris Chesney for tracking down David's service records and census information on-line and for investigating the link to South Willingham.

(Continued from page 1)

It is very much ‘work in progress’. Members of the group are busy people, even if retired, so searching out the history, as well as assembling it and writing it down can be slow work. All the main articles from past issues of South Willingham News will eventually go on plus other contemporary items.

Above all, this is a website for people in the village. If you disagree with or want to add something you can register on the site and put your own comments on. Or even write your own articles. Of course, it will always be under the watchful eye of the Administrator but in time we hope it will become an essential part of village life as well as its history.



Snippets

The theory has it that the busy time for social gatherings is in the winter and that in the summer things quieten down. Not in this village. All our colour photos on pages 2 and 7 are of events and parties over the last few months.

This time we focus on the hard-working staff behind the Brunch in St Martin's Church on 10th of July. It was very well attended as usual and made over £1200 for church funds (photos page 2).

Jo Rouston's Open Garden was also very well attended, more than expected, and was highly thought of by the National Gardens Organiser – Jo is already booked for next year. The afternoon raised £974 and was attended by 166 people.

'Live music' was a feature at Andrew and Helen Appleton's party in their garden. The leader of the group was a friend who was happy to come and play, making for good listening and dancing. The Appletons are closely connected with the theatre, so their friends including daughter Steph entertained. Though we were slightly distracted by Celia Payne who nearly brought the house down and had to spend the night in hospital it was a great occasion. (photos page 9)

Alan and Sally Bray held a party and again weather permitted it to be held in the garden. Family and friends from the village and further afield had a good time. Of particular interest is the photo on page 2 of two ladies who came from the vil-

lage. The East sisters, Alice (Bray), Hilda (Blackburn) and Chris (Smith) lived here for many years. Hilda could not come so the photo shows, centre, her daughter Jill.



Andrew and Liz at a village 'do'.

There are a number of changes in the residents of the village. We are pleased to welcome Tony and Chris Hand to Meadow Rise and Tony and Chris Prados to The Thatch. (Their names are already well represented in the village but there is one they cannot beat. We hear there is another Paul coming to join the six already here!) We hope they will be happy in South Willingham. The Hands have already joined the social round and the Prados intend to.

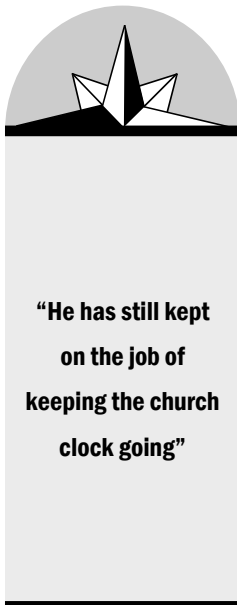
However, we are very sad to lose Andrew and Liz Noblet who leave this month to sample the summer wine of Holme Firth. They have been an intrinsic part of village life and Liz especially will be missed by Martin and Paul, the other parts of the Management Team of South Willingham News.

First the bad news, then the good news for the Spencers. Nigel was Parish Clerk for a time before the pressures of extra work forced him to give it up. He, however, has still kept on the job of keeping the church clock going and striking for which many of us are very grateful. Nigel is in the Careers Service which has been knocked around for some time by the drive to cut costs. The Cuts Axe finally got him and he was made redundant a week or two ago. But in the usual melee to reapply for jobs he tried for one a couple of levels above and got it. So for a year he is safe though busier and we keep our fingers crossed for him as he fights to keep services going.

The winter season starts at the Parish Hall with the Harvest Supper in October. Tickets for the 7th should be bought from Maureen by Tuesday 4th (313584).



The taker took—Fran Kingsley at the summer tea in the Hall



**"He has still kept
on the job of
keeping the church
clock going"**

The Appletons' party in August with host and hostess, Andrew and Helen centre. The rains came too late to spoil the day.



Afternoon Tea at the Parish Hall in July

South Willingham Parish Council and
Parish Hall

Management Committee
Martin Doughty
Liz Noblet
Paul Fuller (Editor)

Phone: 01507 313601
Fax: 01507 313601
E-mail: paulfuller@impel-uk.org



Parish Hall

HARVEST SUPPER
FRIDAY OCTOBER 7
AT 7.00

PHONE 313484 BY
TUESDAY 4TH.

**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

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.

Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid

The Film Group shows this film on Tuesday, 13 September. Lasting 88 minutes, it is a film noir parody with a detective uncovering a sinister plot. Characters from real noirs appear as scenes from various film are intercut.



The four artifacts at the centre of the village: winners plaque, seat, post box and telephone box

Juliet Forrest is convinced that the reported death of her father in a mountain car crash was no accident. Her father was a prominent cheese scientist

working on a secret recipe. To prove it was murder, she enlists the services of private eye Rigby Reardon. He finds a slip of paper containing a list of people who are "The Friends and Enemies of Carlotta". Searching for answers, Rigby encounters assorted low-lives: dangerous men and women who were the hallmarks of the classic detective movies of the 40's and 50's. Filming in black and white allows scenes from old movies to be cut into this film. It is through this process that Rigby's assistant is none other than Philip Marlowe himself

Wragby Film Festival 2011

30th September 7.30
1st and 2nd October
10.30 onwards

*A weekend of films and
talks all with a Lincolnshire
connection*

Tickets: £4 per film or
five for price of four
Children £2

For details:

01673 857480

www.wragbyfilmsociety.co.uk