

# SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

## Busy busy village

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### Special points of interest:

- A busy village coping with Society
- If only houses could talk
- Dealing with bureaucracy in history
- Arrangements to say goodbye to Revd Chris and Julia
- Art/craft group gets under way.

Wherever we go people are amazed at the amount of activities in our village. They ask how a village of our size manages all these things. Certainly South Willingham is not a sleepy hamlet. It is not just the events that happen here. Our folk are busy supporting other organisations outside.

On page two there are photos of the Harvest Supper and the Christmas Do which took place in the Parish Hall, one focus of its community life. It hosts, too, the smaller organisations such as the WI. We also have a Film Group, showing a film



Cold outside but warm inside

each month on the second Tuesday, a Local History Group, looking at early and late history, meeting on the last Thursday and now an Art/craft Group meeting on the first Monday (photos on page 7). And then at Christmas there is the Carol Singing calling in at various 'resting places' round the

village.

The Parish Council, that is, residents of the village giving their time and energy to keep the administrative and physical structures of South Willingham in good order, meets regularly, also in the Hall.

Another focus is St Martin's Church, holding a Carol Service next Sunday and services each month and providing the chiming village clock and a churchyard version of a local park. And all this quite apart from those who support the Riverside Theatre or the Choral Society in Louth, U3A groups in Market Rasen,

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Carol Service

St Martin's Church

Sunday 18th December

At 6.00 p.m.

## Carol Singing

Round the Village

Tuesday 20th December

At 6.00 p.m.

Led by Martin Doughty

Meet at the Bus Shelter

Everyone welcome  
with or without a 'good' voice



Scenes from the Harvest Supper in the Hall



Scenes from the Christmas Do at the Hall Photos: David Lacey

## Portraits from the past

Martin Doughty

If you were able to go back in time and view the past occupants of your house how fascinating would it be? Any information we glean about our house's past usually comes from local knowledge from people still living and maybe archive material that comes to light from our own research. Just oc-



Barkwith Road with Cobbler's Cottage on the left

life. This has happened to Cobblers Cottage recently through people actively seeking out the house because they thought their distant relatives lived there.

I was in the garden when I was aware of people talking at the gate about the cottage, so being intrigued I went to the gate and discovered two people on holiday from Santa Cruz, California researching their relations' past in South Willingham and in particular Cobblers Cottage. Here briefly is the family from the

past. Photographs all the way from California thanks to Elmo and Betty Killgore.

Wilkinson White was born on 8th January 1825 in South Willingham and was thought to live in Cobblers Cottage pre 1850's to 1879 when he emigrated to Oregon, USA with his wife Frances Iremonger White born on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1828 in Burgh on Bain. Wilkinson died in Oregon on 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1905 and his

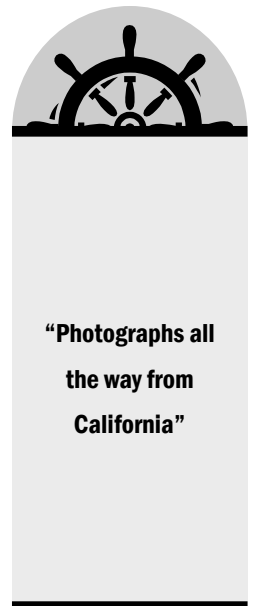


Cecily Albina White

asionally though someone from the past appears on your doorstep and really brings your house and the people that lived there to



Wilkinson White (Continued on page 5)



**"Photographs all the way from California"**

## The Iron Duke's Second Front

Paul Fuller

During the summer I was in Wales and visited the spectacular Powys Castle. It belongs to the National Trust, was open to the public and was well worth the visit. Among the exhibits was a letter from the Duke of Wellington, copies of which were on sale to visitors as part of a raffle to raise funds for the Castle. I thought that people in South Willingham would be interested to read it.



Bureaucracy is quite an essential tool for modern societies, replacing nepotism and administrative chaos but many of us come up against the jagged edges underneath the system, the “jobsworth” people, the petty tyrants, the folk who worship the rules meant to be flexible. But even the top people have suffered and this is a letter from one of them. I think it is wonderful.

### Duke of Wellington's Dispatch from Spain to Whitehall

August 1812

Gentlemen;

Whilst marching from Portugal to a position which commands the approach to Madrid and the French forces, my officers have been diligently complying with your requests, which have been sent by H.M. ship from London to Lisbon and thence by dispatch rider to our headquarters.

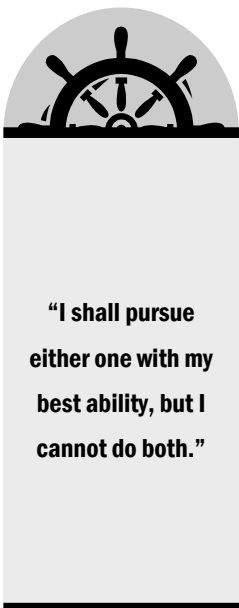
We have enumerated our saddles, bridles, tents and tent poles, and all manner of sundry items for which His Majesty's Government holds me accountable. I have dispatched reports on the character, wit, and spleen of every officer. Each item and every farthing has been accounted for, with two regrettable exceptions for which I beg your indulgence.

Unfortunately the sum of one shilling and ninepence remains unaccounted for in one infantry battalion's petty cash and there has been hideous confusion as to the number of jars of raspberry jam issued to one cavalry regiment during a sandstorm in western Spain. This reprehensible carelessness may be related to the pressure of circumstances, since we are at war with France, a fact which may come as a bit of a surprise to you gentlemen in Whitehall.

This brings me to my present purpose, which is to request elucidation of my instructions from His Majesty's Government, so that I may better understand why I am dragging an army over these barren plains. I construe that perform it must be one of two alternative duties, as given below. I shall pursue either one with my best ability, but I cannot do both.

To train an army of uniformed British clerks in Spain for the benefit of the accountants and copy-boys in London, or perchance  
To see to it that the forces of Napoleon are driven out of Spain.

Your most obedient servant  
WELLINGTON



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wife Frances died 17<sup>th</sup> January 1882. The family photographs were taken around 1870 by Lowthian Bros. Art Studio, Grimsby. The photograph of Cobblers Cottage and Barkwith Road was also taken in the 1870's.

Thanks to Paul Fuller who has copies of the



Frances White, Wilkinson's wife

Cobblers Cottage. On investigation I found that Cobblers Cottage was full with the Bett family from 1841 to 1881 and that the Whites lived perhaps several houses up the road!

Details from the 1851 census shows Wilkinson White age 25 and Frances White age 23 as agricultural labourers. The 1861 census has Wilkinson as the village mole catcher and by the

1871 census they appear to have left the village.

Interestingly the view down Bark-

with Road sent from California was also found as a postcard in Alford this year by Mr and Mrs Charman of Barkwith Road, Could the Whites have lived in Codlings Cottage or next door? Wherever they lived the family por-

traits certainly give a flavour of the Sunday best worn by the village folk in the 1870's .

Many thanks to Elmo and Bettie Killgore from Santa Cruz for sending the family portraits to me.



Ada Lucilla White

19<sup>th</sup> century census schedules I was able to double check on Mrs Killgore's belief that the Whites lived in



Eva and Henrietta White



**"The 1861 census has Wilkinson as the village mole catcher"**

## Snippets

The Revd Chris and Julia Harrington have been ‘fixed up’ with a church and we are going to lose them from the Barkwith Group of churches. They are off to Heckington, near Sleaford, in the spring. They would have gone by now were it not for the Vicarage which evidently is a barn of a place which itself needs fixing. All the alterations will take several months and he hopes to be licensed towards the end of March.

We are very pleased to welcome Paul and Elaine Herrick to the village. It is a bit late, because they moved into Woodbine Cottage several months ago from Scothen but the welcome is still warm. It is third time lucky for them because they have tried to buy the cottage on two previous occasions.

They have three children: Tom has a degree in geology and is now a quarry manager, Becky is taking a social work degree at Leeds and Jamie has joined the Special Police. Paul works

with brick maintenance at Lincoln City Council and Elaine is a nurse at Lincoln County Hospital. Elaine



Food brought in for the Christmas Do in the Hall  
Photo: David Lacey

works nights so can only attend village hall events if she has advance notice – but she and Paul hope to join us when they can.

We now have details of farewell arrangements for Chris and Julia Harrington. Chris will take his last service at Middle Rasen on 4<sup>th</sup> March and there will be a farewell party at Middle Rasen Village Hall on the previous evening to which all of us are invited. However, be-

cause many of us have come to know him and Julia, we need to see him off the premises ourselves. So his final service in the Barkwith Group will be at East Barkwith on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. But we will also say goodbye at a special Coffee Morning on the fifth Wednesday of the month, 29<sup>th</sup> February. It’s too late to propose, ladies, Julia is holding on to him.

Celia Payne has sent the News the two photos opposite. She comments “Several people in the village expressed an interest in starting an art/craft group. As a result of this interest an art/craft session now takes place on the first Monday of each month. The cost is 50p and it runs from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. It is a very informal group whereby members share tips and ideas with each other and have a very sociable afternoon. New members will be made very welcome.”

**“an art/craft session now takes place on the first Monday of each month”**

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Louth or Horncastle, Photographic groups, Church events, etc., etc.

All this activity is coming up against, or getting entangled with, modern technologies and the regulations that go with them. The Parish Hall kitchen has to be kept up to scratch because we feed ‘the public’. Then of course there are the insurance needs and we probably ought to include here the protection

against the weather and security. The Film Group is not a Club because the licence fee is much too big for us, but we still have to have a licence. And now the development of the History Group on to the internet has brought us up against Data Protection.

We need to be aware of the

demands made on us by the law and society and we hope you will read Paul Ferguson’s article on the back page. But we also ought to thank those people who in their various ways keep the village going. You can ‘keep yourself to yourself’ or you can be warmly welcomed to join in. It is a good village.



St Martin's-in-the-snow



Members of the Art/craft Group  
deep into creativity

A Happy Christmas

To all our Readers

From

South Willingham

News

South Willingham Parish Council and  
Parish Hall

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## Parish Hall

CAROL SINGING  
ON TUESDAY 20TH  
DECEMBER AT  
6.00.

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

**Parish Councillors:**

Paul Cutts [Chairman]	313486
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

**Website:** [www.south-willingham.org](http://www.south-willingham.org)

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.

## South Willingham News

Paul Ferguson



Winter scene in South Willingham

The first newsletter was written in April 2003.

We are now putting them on our website in order to provide a permanent ongoing record of life in our village. The website has received some great comments from people who have lived in the village in the past or are researching their family history.

We recognise that whilst you may have been quite happy to provide personal information in stories that were only going to be distributed to people in the village you may prefer not to have certain information appear on the website. If this is the case then please contact Paul Ferguson on 01507-313501 or

e-mail

paul.ferguson@south-willingham.org and we will remove whatever personal information you want from any newsletter on the website.

At present the newsletters can only be viewed by people who currently live in the village. If you visit the website and would like to view the newsletters the password is LetMeSee. If you don't have access to the internet there is a complete set of South Willingham News kept in the Parish Hall and they can be viewed every coffee morning."