

# SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

## Parish Council News

Paul Cutts

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### Special points of interest:

- Rats to garden birds' food
- New lawn-mower needed
- Alice's 90th birthday
- Louise' journey
- Coming 'home' to South Willingham
- The destruction that nearly was—a war story
- Bishop coming to South Willingham
- Summer cream teas

At the last couple of Parish Council meetings a number of issues have been raised by residents that can go under the heading of 'nuisances'. One issue was vermin. A resident expressed a concern that the rats that are always present in a village such as ours were becoming more confident. It would be appreciated if residents can follow common sense rules when it comes to keeping animal feed in containers and not overfeeding garden birds. East Lindsey no longer provides a Pest Control service and advise using the Yellow Pages to find a suitable professional if you have a vermin prob-



Revd Chris Harrington's farewell service at Barkwith Parish

lem. Advice about rodent control can be found on many websites, such as Rentokil (<http://www.rentokil.co.uk/residential-customers/home-pest-control/rats/index.html>).

Another issue was the perennial concern about dog fouling. As well as people leaving their dog's mess

behind in the village, there were also worries about mess being left on the verges outside of the village boundary. When walking on the paths and roads outside of the village it is sometimes necessary to step onto the verges out of the way of traffic. The last thing people want to do is step onto something unpleasant! Therefore, could dog owners please bag and bin any dog mess. Suitably bagged, the mess can be placed into the waste bin near the bus shelter.

Concern was also expressed about a variety of highways matters. The Parish Council are always

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## St Martin's Churchyard

Many thanks to everyone who contributes, each year, towards the maintenance of the churchyard. We all like to see this green place, in the centre of our village, looking tidy.

Terry has done an excel-

lent job over the past few years, and we all appreciate the hours of hard work that he has put in to maintain this special place, planting many bulbs, as well as mowing the very uneven ground.

This year we are asking

people in the village if they can help as we need a new mower. Both of the grass cutters that Terry uses, the push mower (bought by donations) and the ride-on (very generously donated) have bro-

*(Continued on page 7)*

Kay Donocik



Four generations (left) Alice, Margaret, Louise and Isabel; Alice with grandson Edward (right); Alice and Harold (below) and the Birthday Cake



Alice Bray is  
90



The Pie and Chips Quiz at the Parish Hall was well attended. The Red Spot Team (left) won the Quiz with 72½ points; then 2½ Divots 68; Old Carpenters Cobblers 61½ ; Odd Bins & Ringrose Rebels both 61; Willingham Thatchers 58; and winners of the Pointless Competition the Donkey Wallopers with 43.



Snowdrops and aconites at the corner of Woodbine Cottage garden



## Why we live in South Willingham

Louise Humphry

*[Linda Jull and Louise Humphry have joined the South Willingham News team. Louise writes this time and Linda contributes to the next issue –Ed.] When Louise and I were asked if we would help gather material for the village magazine, it was suggested that a bit of history from residents, both recent and longstanding would be welcomed, so we thought we would kick off with a bit about ourselves and why we have finished together in South Willingham. Hopefully it might encourage others to offer a bit of information about themselves.*

### Louise

I was born in 1938, the 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter of what was to become a family of 6 children, 5 girls and one boy. We lived on the very edge of Birmingham almost next to Sutton Park which was an area of some 2200 acres of mostly natural land with a few lakes and streams as well. As we grew older we were allowed to play in the park on our own as long as we stayed together and came home in time for tea. It was war time then, and not uncommon for us to be chivvied along by street wardens if it was a bit late for us. Within the park was a camp for Italian prisoners of war. All we knew was that there were people living behind high wire fencing and we could look at them if we wandered into that area of the park.

My father was a gunsmith who was self -



George and Louise on their wedding day

employed and who made the stocks for sporting guns. Sometimes when one of us took his lunch in on the bus he would show us what he was doing. We had to stand against the wall with hands behind backs. We saw the most beautiful chequering patterns and the intricate shapes cut out to let the metalwork in. Also French polishing and how the polish was made. There were piles of rough wooden shapes at one end of the workshop and dad would point out the best ones and tell us what the wood was. He was

the last of a line going back 200 years in the trade. During the war he worked for the war department only, on their guns. He also did 3 nights of fire watching in central Birmingham and much later on he told us some of the awful sights he had witnessed during those nights on the top of high buildings.

When I was about 7 we moved to inner Birmingham because of my father's health. He had a poor chest for as long as I remember, and it was a much shorter bus journey for him to make from the new house. He did smoke woodbine cigarettes all the time, but the connection between them and lung disease had not yet been made.

I joined the girl guides as soon as I could which in those days was at age 11, and it was here that a couple of years later I first met Linda. We became

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**"He was the last of a line going back 200 years in the trade."**

## Louise' story

(Continued from page 3)

friends and have continued to be ever since. We came from totally different backgrounds and yet were always at ease with each other. Later our lives went in different directions, but always we stayed in touch even though at times it was not very frequent.

I went to a large hospital in Birmingham to train as a nurse when I was 18. 48 hour week for £8 a month in the first year! At 21 on the day the results of the final exams were published I was married. My brother went to the hospital to get my envelope as I got ready for the wedding. Fortunately I had passed. In fact I was the silver medallist for my year. I continued working as a nurse, albeit part time when the 2 children were young, returning to full time as they grew older. I was divorced from George in 1974 and remarried in 1977. My second husband died very suddenly after 12 years. Back to work I went and continued until past retirement age. I moved

around the country during these years and never seemed able to settle anywhere.

Linda and I were in closer communication by then and we spent



Louise and Linda June 1957

some time visiting each other. I discovered Lincolnshire and was very impressed by the rural peaceful nature of it. Initially I moved to East Barkwith where I rented a property in the grounds of Barkwith House. I was there for a few years. Whenever I was ill Linda would come across from Benniworth and look after my dogs etc. It was she who raised the idea of us sharing a place so that as we got even older there would be

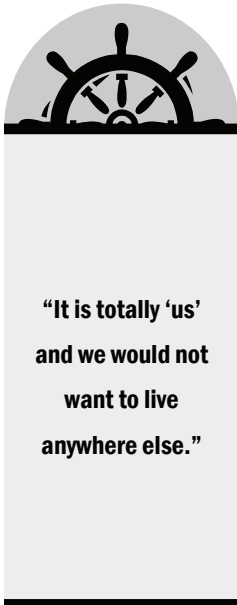
someone there if either of us were ill. It took some time for the idea to become reality as we searched for suitable properties, and also while Linda's cottage sold. She found the

bungalow where we now live whilst I was visiting my daughter in America, and we viewed it together as soon as I was back. It is totally 'us' and we would not want to live anywhere else. Gradually the bungalow and garden are becoming what we need them to be, mostly through the efforts of Linda who is a very practical and knowledgeable person. We have a studio for her art work and my patchwork and quilting, and soon when the building extension is completed the living accommodation will be as we need it to be for our life with 6 dogs (currently)

(Continued from page 1)

happy to pass on concerns to the relevant authority, usually Lincolnshire County Council, and have a good relationship with many people in the Highways department. However, residents are able to report issues

themselves through the County Council website (<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>). Based on the idea that the more often an issue is reported the more likely it is to be dealt with, we would welcome people reporting concerns themselves.



**"It is totally 'us'  
and we would not  
want to live  
anywhere else."**

*(Continued from page 6)*  
*SW and Bomber County*

Stan Fanthorpe recalled a near-disaster on the line in 1944. He was fireman to driver Priestly on an ex-GCR J11 locomotive. The train was in the charge of guard Sellers of Lincoln and consisted of 18 wagons destined for various stations along the Louth-Bardney Branch. Every wagon contained



*The two locomotives in the photograph are J11 engines at Louth shed, designed by Robinson for the Great Central Railway in 1901. They acquired the name 'Pom-Poms' due to the similarity of their exhaust noise to that of the 'Pom-Pom' quick firing gun used in the South African War*

one large bomb, the 18 wagons constituting a full load on the heavily graded line.

The first station at which wagons were detached was South Willingham. The engine went forward with five wagons, leaving the rest and the brakevan on the single line and coupled up to five empty wagons in the siding, with the intention of backing them onto the rest of the train. However, all that could be seen was the rest of the train disappearing down the incline in the direction of Bardney. (Remember this was an ammunition train full of possibly Tallboy or Grand Slam Bombs).

The runaway train ran through East Barkwith sta-

tion and demolished the level crossing gates. Fortunately, communication was established with the signalman at Wragby who was able to open his crossing gates. He estimated the speed of the wagons at 40 mph as they passed through the station. The train finally came to rest in Kingthorpe Bottom, see-sawing itself to a standstill. The train crew and staff at South Willingham feared that the runaway would collide with the Lincoln to Louth 'pick-up' goods due on the branch at that time. Fortunately the train was still at Bardney.

Guard Sellers was held responsible for not securing the brakes on the train. Because of wartime restrictions on reporting the movements of armaments the incident was not reported to the press.

What fame for South Willingham if it had got to the national press. Is it possible that anyone still living in the parish or neighbouring parishes can recall this incident? If so I would love to hear from you.

When I was involved in writing a history of Withcall I met Alf Ludlam who kindly gave me photographs of locomotives that worked the Louth-Bardney Branch.

**“What fame for South Willingham if it had got to the national press.!”**

*(Continued from page 5)*  
*Walking in the Footsteps...*

1731, d. 1818 at Tealby. It's an uncanny sensation when you find that unknowingly you've been walking in the footsteps of your ancestors and Denise certainly felt this.

When discovering our ancestors I know from my own personal experience and that of others that many times we find ourselves . . . unknowingly **WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS.**

**February 2012**

*(Continued from page 1)*  
*St Martin's Churchyard*

ken beyond repair, so any contributions towards a new mower would be greatly appreciated.

If you feel that you can help please contact Kay at The Old Stables or Marcus and Virginia at The Manor House.

## Snippets

We are very glad to welcome two new families to the village. At Foxcote, Shaun and Katrina Couling have come from Stenigot. Not far away, though previously they lived at Wetherby. Shaun is a contract shepherd and works nights at the moment, while Katrina is chair of pre-school at Donington-on-Bain. Their two girls, Emily and Molly catch the school bus in the mornings and are already looking forward to joining the Carol Singers next Christmas.

Phil Wilkinson and Mandy Butler have come to live at Saffron with their children Danny, Scott and Katy, moving from Market Rasen. Phil is a carpenter and Mandy is into making animal homes and bird boxes so they work together making all kinds of wooden equipment.

It's a long time ago now, but we have not reported on the Carol Singing last year. It was a good 'do' with a large and tuneful group of us taking all the evening to get round the village with essential stops at Paul and Maureen's, Terry and Ann's and Marcus and Virginia's. £250 was raised for Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance.

Any responsible citizen wandering the streets of South Willingham on New Year's Eve would have phoned the police. A number of dodgy characters were observed creeping along to a venue near the centre of the village. There was a pirate, an escapee from St Trinian's, the godson of the Godfather and his moll, an eastern potentate and his

woman, Batman who had pinched the fairy off the Christmas tree, a washer woman with yellow gloves, an impresario and his 'wife', plus several other unsavoury characters camouflaged as civilians - and the presence



Frank Lacey presenting cheques for the Church and the Hall

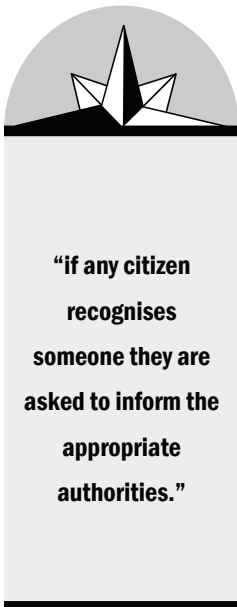
of a nun did not make it any more respectable. Your undercover photographer risked his life to infiltrate this hive and managed surreptitiously to take some likenesses and then escaped before things became too hot. The rogues' gallery is on the opposite page and if any citizen recognises someone they are asked to inform the appropriate authorities.

St Martin's Church will have a big celebration on Pentecost, 27<sup>th</sup> May. A lot of work has been done on the church largely due to the generosity of Frank and Jill Lacey and a plaque will commemorate their gifts. Audrey Hildred also helped run the church and was organist for many years. A memorial fund for Audrey was spent on new altar frontals and she will

also be remembered with a plaque on the organ. These will be dedicated on that day by the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Revd Christopher Lowson at 1000. It will be his first visit to our Parish and one of the first of his Episcopate. The Church hopes the village will support them on this occasion.

John and Jo Rouson live out at Mill Cottages but are very much part of village life. Jo is making her contribution by opening her garden for afternoon teas on the last weekend of the month during the summer. See the back page for details.

The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations are approaching fast and the villages round about us are all doing something. Details will be released gradually but we have the bare bones of South Willingham and Benniworth which are enough to put in our diaries. South Willingham will be having a Jubilee Lunch on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June and there will also be a group photo of us all (obviously going up on the Hall wall!) Benniworth are having their main Diamond Jubilee Celebration on the previous day, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 5 p.m with a Fun Rounders Tournament followed by a hog roast, music and dancing. Tickets will be on sale later (we are invited) and if you want further details, phone Sue Olivent on 313264.



**"if any citizen  
recognises  
someone they are  
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appropriate  
authorities."**



Snowdrops on Station Road



From the Morgan's country garden

South Willingham Parish Council and  
Parish Hall

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## Parish Hall

JUBILEE LUNCH  
ON MONDAY 4TH  
JUNE IN THE  
PARISH HALL

**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

### 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.



An interesting garden  
**Open from 11 am – 3 pm**  
on the last Saturday and  
Sunday of each month  
**April to September**

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enjoy tea, coffee and  
homemade refreshments  
Served from the original windmill  
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Jo Rouston  
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South Willingham  
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