

# SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

## LIVEly Parish Council Meeting (Based on the Minutes)

### Inside this issue:

2 x AGM photos	2
Linda	3
Ratty, Brock & Mr T	5
Bishop dedicates gifts	7
Snippets	8
Diamond Jubilee	8
Diamond Jubilee pictures	9

A good number of people attended the AGM of the Parish Council. As well as Parish Councillors Chairman Paul Cutts, Martin Doughty Nikki Harris and Claire Harrison, District Councillor Daniel Simpson and County Councillor Hugo Marfleet, other residents of the village helped to make it a lively meeting.

No pun intended but the longest and best part of the meeting was a presentation from Stephen Hyde from LIVES. The Council had received a request for a donation from the local LIVES group and had unanimously agreed to make a donation as having



Chairman Paul Cutts presenting the cheque to LIVES

a local LIVES responder could potentially save the life of any resident of the village. Stephen gave an interesting talk on the

work of LIVES, how it is funded as a charitable organisation and pointed out that any donations made stay within the local LIVES group. Residents were interested to hear that it would be possible to purchase a defibrillator for use in the village and various fundraising ideas were discussed. LIVES were also keen to recruit volunteers to be First Responders and were delighted with the response from the meeting.

Councillor Cutts presented a cheque for £100.00 to LIVES on behalf of the Parish Council and thanked them for their

*(Continued on page 6)*

### Special points of interest:

- Need for two more Parish Councillors
- Parish Hall events fewer but cheaper
- Nature—red in tooth and claw?
- Appreciation for Frank and Jill
- One man went to mow—and we thank him
- Jubilee events

## Parish Hall Report

What a different year for the hall!

Improvements have continued but thankfully not on the scale of last year. New heaters have been installed. The area outside the back door has been gravelled. The rather strange

shaped tree at the front has been removed and a replacement will be planted in the autumn, thanks to the generosity of Virginia. We have purchased book shelves, which now hold a variety of books, C D's and puzzles. If you have any

Chris Washer

unwanted books etc; they will be most welcome. There have been some changes to the Willingham Winner. We had a prize of £100.00 at Christmas and subsequent draws will be a guaranteed

*(Continued on page 4)*



The LIVES presentation at the Parish Council AGM



People enjoying discussions at the Parish Hall AGM



Left to right, Revd Charles Patrick, The Rt Revd Christopher Lowson, his Chaplain, and Quin Hough, Lay Minister.



On the right, the Bishop joins representatives of the Church, Parish Council and the Charities outside St Martin's



Four views of the Benniworth celebration coping with the rain. The Band stayed dry in the white tent on the left.

## Linda

I was born in 1939, and spent my early years in Harrow, Middlesex, with an older brother and a younger sister. Towards the end of the war, the children from the nursery school attended by my sister, were evacuated to North Devon. My parents felt my sister was too young to go alone, so although I had not attended the nursery, and was older than the other children, I was allowed to join them. After a few days in temporary quarters, we were housed in a big rambling house set in its own grounds, with some of the nursery school staff to look after us. I have happy memories of tree houses, and strange squat pine trees with very dense flat canopies. We used to climb out onto the tops of these trees and hide from the staff. On one occasion my mother managed to get down to Devon on the train to visit us. She stayed overnight, and when bath time came before bed, she planned to help Elizabeth and me with our bath, but finished up bathing most of the children, as they all wanted to be bathed by someone different. 18 months later, at the end of the war, we returned home, for me, that meant starting school a bit late.

My father had been in the Civil Defence during the war years, as a heart problem meant he was not accepted for active service. Afterwards he returned to training as osteopath, naturopath and masseur and also chiropractist. It was necessary for us to move around a bit while he gained experience and when I was 10, the family moved to Bournemouth, and



Louise and Linda 1957

two and a half years later to Birmingham. Having joined the Girl Guides while in Bournemouth, I wanted to continue with this in Birmingham, and that was where I met Louise for the first time, in early 1952. We became good friends and in spite of attending different schools and living some miles apart, we met regularly.

My father's profession had brought us to a huge old house in Edgbaston, where he worked with another naturopath. All the treatment rooms were in the house, and in addition we had generous living accommodation spread over 3 floors, and there were also extensive cellars. Not long after I left school, my parents were to go away for just over a week. As I would have been on my own it was suggested I might like a couple of friends to stay. Louise and another friend came, and we all went to work each day. As the treatment rooms would be in use the day following my parents' return, it was essential everything was left clean and tidy. All went well until the Saturday afternoon there was a commotion in the front drive. We went out to discover my brother

John, with two other apprentices from Pye Radio. They were on holiday and travelling north, in an old London taxi. The taxi had the name MATILDA (and a lot of other things) painted on it, and attracted huge crowds wherever they went. All three stayed overnight, and as we had run out of beds, they used the treatment rooms. Needless to say we had a hilarious evening. As my parents were not expected back until about midday the following day, we decided to leave clearing up until the morning. Panic struck when, just as we were about to go to bed, my mother phoned to say they would be home early and would arrive about midnight. They had phoned so we would not think it was burglars. The three of us set about cleaning and tidying, and had only just dived into bed when they returned.

We also used to have some wonderful games of hide and seek in that house. One place we used to go was through the sash window of an attic bedroom. The window opened to a gap of about 3 feet before a flat roof on the next door house. We used to climb out, jump the gap and sit on the roof. If we had fallen, the drop would have been the equivalent of four or five stories on a modern house! My mother only learnt of this escapade when we were over 60.

When I was 18, I went to the Guide Dog for the Blind Association at Leamington Spa, and would probably have been there till I retired, had I been able to qualify as a trainer. Unfortunately at that time only males were accepted for the long train-

*(Continued on page 10)*



**"My mother only  
learnt of this  
escapade when we  
were over 60."**

## Parish Hall Report (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

£50.00. This will only be sustainable if enough people take part. So far so good. Finally, we have purchased a plaque to commemorate the wonderfully generous gift from Frank and Jill Lacey.

Earlier this year the hall received an award from Community Spirit in recognition of the success of the coffee and chat's that take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month. It was a total surprise and we are very honoured. If you are available between 10.30a.m and 12 noon on those dates do please come along. It is a good opportunity to get to meet people.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July there was a Craft Show. On 17<sup>th</sup> July we all enjoyed an afternoon tea. The harvest supper was on 7<sup>th</sup> October. Mike Perkins entertained us with a lively auction. We had a Christmas get together on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, where everyone brought along food and drink, making for a very sociable evening, and finally on 24<sup>th</sup> February we held a quiz night.

You may have noticed we have held fewer events this year. Five in all. Two of which were free. The main reason for this is that several people have said that the charges are

too high. We hoped by reducing the number of events and not charging for some would enable more people to come along. The cost of our events has not risen for some years and with the



Maureen Ferguson, Chris Washer and Chris Nutten leading the meeting

cost of food, electricity etc. continuing to rise, like everyone else our budget is being squeezed all the time. At the moment we are just about managing to cover costs. Even if we held no fund raising events our annual outgoings would still be high. Although the electricity bill would be reduced, there is still ongoing maintenance, which only Frank and Jill's legacy makes possible, insurance costs will remain the same, and without proper cover the hall would not be able to open. If anyone has any ideas for an event or would like help from the committee to make it happen please speak to any member of the committee and if possible we will be only too happy to help.

Moving on to future plans. On Monday 4<sup>TH</sup> June there will be a lunch

at the hall to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Invitations have already gone out and I hope that you will be able to come along. The group photograph will be taken at 1.p.m.. Another one to add to the collection showing the changes that have taken place over the years.

On a photographic note Andrew Appleton will be holding a photo improvement session called "Snap to Great Shot" soon. The date to be confirmed. Should be good.

The harvest supper will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Once again Mike Perkins has agreed to conduct the auction. And on 8<sup>th</sup> December there will be a Murder Mystery evening. Hopefully we will be able to put on more events so watch this space!

Finally I would like to thank all those that have been involved with the hall this year. All the committee, but especially those who have given their time and effort into making the events a success.

Thank you.



**"the Hall received an award from Community Spirit in recognitions on the success of coffee and chat"**

# Bishop dedicates Church renovations

There was a good congregation at St Martin's on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May for the dedication of the renovations to the Church. The new Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Revd Christopher Lowson was celebrating Pentecost but had agreed to come on one of his first visits in his Diocese.

The Bishop spoke of all the work that had gone into the restoration of the tower (the four pinnacles were becoming dangerous) and of the complete redecoration of the Church with the addition of new furnishings and how this and the work on the Parish Hall was all possible

through the generosity of Frank and Jill Lacey. He also dedicated the new Altar Frontal bought with the money given in memory of Audrey Hildred, the long-time organist and Church Warden of St Martin's.



Representatives of the charities, the Parish Hall and the Church

Frank and Jill had left about £3 million. After legacies to family members, the village and Group Churches, the bulk of their Estate was divided equally between five Charities. Representatives were there from Macmillan Cancer Care, Cancer Research UK, Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance, other Group Churches and there was also a representative from Market Rasen and District Choral Society of which Audrey had been an enthusiastic member.

*(Continued from page 5)*

ever, when conditions are damp, and earthworms are coming to the surface in the fields round and about, old Brock does not make his usual nightly visit for the treats supplied. So, badgers decimating the hedgehog population? Most unlikely! Whatever the reason for Mr Tiggywinkle's decline (it is now well-recorded that hedgehogs are in decline, but for scientific explanations just put the appropriate keywords into Google and get the facts) on the farm in question, he is no saint himself, and will take birds' eggs and chicks if the opportunity presents. But most people would not wish harm on the hedgehog, no more than they would on a woodpecker for example (but they, too, will drag chicks out of a nest, so are they any less of a villain than the Sparrowhawk?). It is all just nature.....

## Correspondence

The Chairman of the Parish Hall in her report thanks helpers from around the village and implies that it would be good to have the numbers we used to have attending functions in the Hall. She mentions the award for the Coffee Morning where the Church recognises its contribution to village life and expresses our indebtedness to Frank and Jill Lacey.

I was at the Parish Council AGM where various levels of the Civic Authorities and organisations from the village took part in the discussion. It was a good meeting and at the end (I quote from the minutes) "The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and it was unanimously agreed that it was necessary for all groups - the Parish Hall Committee, the Parish Council, the Church Committee and the History Group to work

together in the future."

That is already happening in many ways. The civil, social and church committees overlap in their membership and in their objectives. So it was with some disappointment that I saw the lack of support on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at the service in St Martin's where we celebrated the marvellous gift from Frank and Jill and the work of Audrey Hildred.. We had people from Middle Rasen and representatives of the other recipients but could only muster three from South Willingham.

I know that most people in the village are not Christians and belong to other belief systems, mostly humanist, that many are on holiday or working or have other commitments but I would have thought that such a special occasion would have overridden our different views. Working together works both ways. Paul Fuller



**"this and the work on the Parish Hall was all possible through the generosity of Frank and Jill Lacey"**

## Snippets

Down on the other side of the tracks, i.e. away from the bus route, villagers have for some time been fascinated by Station Road just below the church. Is it a leak or is it not? The road has been dug up several times with one good repair followed by a bodged job which fell apart almost before it was done. And still the water flowed. Just lately it has poured out from the drain at the foot of the churchyard. Is it a leak or is it a spring fed by the waters which replenish the village wells? This last week the road has been dug up again with a message from an obviously frustrated workman painted in blue paint on the road: THIS IS BROKEN DRAINS. NOT A BURST.

Jo and John Rouston held their second garden weekend at the end of May (the last Saturday and Sunday in the month, 11 till 3.00, April to September). What a contrast! The April weekend was cold and wet, the May

one was wall to wall sunshine. Good cakes, good plants and good company.

On the first coffee morning in June at the Parish Hall, Terry Ringrose is being presented with a gift to thank him for all his work mowing



Final (??) repairs to Station Road in full swing

the churchyard. It is a complete surprise to him – it has to be or he would not accept it – but the St Martin's Committee felt he had done so much. It was always a sight seeing Terry drive down Hainton Road on his mower, almost slower than Ernie Cosgrove. We hope this newsletter will not be delivered to him till afterwards!

Paul Fuller's son-in-law, Richard, was talking to his Uncle Alan when the following snippet came out. Uncle Alan's best man, Eric Oxley, was doing his National Service in the RAF during the winter of 46/47 and was stationed at Stenigot. They were completely cut off and the only way supplies could get to them was by air-lift. Not, of course, by helicopter but by parachute. We can picture hungry men struggling through snowdrifts saying to each other, are you sure it dropped across there?

The South Willingham News waited for the AGMs, then for the Bishop and now for the Jubilee but we don't compete with TV so the May edition becomes the June edition.

After the LIVES presentation at the Parish Council AGM several of us wondered about raising the £2000 or so needed to provide a defibrillator in the village. It could save a life.

## Diamond Jubilee

Celebrations were held in Hainton, Benniworth and South Willingham over the weekend. Hainton and South Willingham were luckiest with the weather. At Benniworth on the Sunday the rain did not stop the Rounders, Hog Roast or Dancing but it did dampen things. Several marquees kept most people dry for the food and the Band kept people happy.

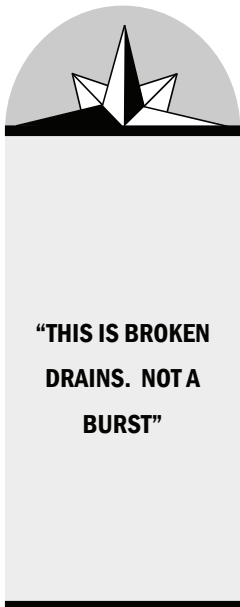
In South Willingham the lunch was inside with about

sixty people having a right good time. Extra seats had to be brought in to cater for the extra guests. The food and drinks were their usual high quality and the noise level demonstrated the social quality – only a few decibels lower than riotous. There was a group photo and it all ended with the loyal toast, with Alice and Harold Bray cutting the cake and a lift-

ing-the-roof singing of God Save the Queen.



The cake was the centre – piece of the decorations and it tasted good too.





Official photo and shots of the hall before and during the celebrations. Left are Dulcie Layer, Alice and Harold Bray the oldest inhabitants.



Above, Alice and Harold cut the cake

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## Parish Hall

HARVEST SUPPER  
ON FRIDAY 12TH  
OCTOBER.

Coffee Mornings 1st  
& 3rd Wednesdays

### Parish Councillors:

Paul Cutts [Chairman] 313486  
Vacant  
[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.

*(Continued from page 3)*

ing. I became one of the first "training assistants", but I eventually got tired of doing most of the hard work with the dogs, but being denied the pleasure of pairing the dogs with a blind person and seeing them become a team. Some years later policy changed, and women were accepted, but by then I was settled elsewhere.



Linda with Carla and Amber 1960

For 40 years I ran my own mobile dog trimming business in different parts of the country, but also did milk recording – a job with very unsociable hours. One of my hobbies was training my

german shepherd dogs for working trials, and I competed all over the country with them.

Just before I retired, the couple I lived with in the Isle of Wight had both died, as had my particular friend on the Island, so it seemed the right time to plan a move to Lincolnshire where my sister and family lived. In June 1999 I moved to Benniworth, a move I have never regretted – I love Lincolnshire and this part of it in particular. Louise and I, who had never lost touch, started seeing more of each other again. Once Louise moved to this area it became obvious that we really got on well together, and it made sense to share accommodation for our "senior years". We thought of all ways to

make the cottage at Benniworth suitable, but the stairs were just too steep and difficult, and although we did come up with a possible extension, it would have been prohibitive in price. I did not wish to leave the area, so when, after looking at endless properties we found West Lodge, we both thought it was made for us. We had actually driven past the property and rejected it as too small on many occasions. It was only as a last resort I decided to make an appointment and view it, but I immediately fell in love with the bungalow and its' potential, and from then on everything happened very fast. It has proved to be a good move and we are extremely happy in the village.