

SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

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Special points of interest:

- Church and Hall have huge boost
- Walking Group starting again in March
- Village preparing to open up its gardens
- Repairs to Hall about to start
- Church services have music back-up

Legacy for Church and Hall

The Community Hall and St Martin's Church will both receive a very generous legacy from the estate of the late Jill Lacey. Each will receive the magnificent amount of £10,000.

Marcus Edmundson, one of the executors and Frank Lacey, Jill's widower, called Mel Montgomery and Paul Fuller, on behalf of the Hall, to tell them the good news. Marcus and Virginia Knyvett also represent St Martin's.

The official hand-over of the cheques took place at the Coffee Morning at the Hall on Wednesday 21st (right). A number of people from the Hall and the Church were present and expressed their apprecia-



Frank Lacey handing over Jill's legacy to Marcus Edmundson and Mel Montgomery, representing Church and Hall

tion. Frank's relative and friend, Eileen Kelsey was also there.

Jill Lacey was a regular attendee at village coffee

mornings when her health permitted, Frank helping her to and fro from her home opposite. She had also been a regular member of the congregation at St Martin's.

An old friend gave some details of her life. She was born at Middle Rasen but within a couple of years her parents had moved to Legsby where they ran a shop. In 1946 she married Charlie Vicars, a butcher, and lived at Hainton. Then in 57 they came to South Willingham and lived in Rosemary Cottage. After Charlie died she married Frank in 1978 and lived at Holme Grange.

Gill worked at Hainton

(Continued on page 6)

Thanks from Alzheimer's Society

To the Treasurer, South Willingham Community Hall

I am writing to thank you and the entire Parish Council for your overwhelming donation of £300 following your carol singing exploits this Christmas.

We are delighted that you have chosen the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society as your chosen charity and would ask you to pass on our many thanks to all concerned. The money will of course go to local branch activities and in particular to-

wards funding our regular social events and "Nights to Remember."

Many thanks once again for your generosity. Yours sincerely,
Damian Murphy,
Carers' Support Coordinator

LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

Some Geological and Archeological gleanings

Martin Doughty - Part 3

HUMAN INFLUENCES

The Wolds have been inhabited from the post-glacial Palaeolithic period. Significant human settlement took place during the Mesolithic period, which lasted about 10,000 - 4,500 BC. The Wolds, during this period, would have been covered with dense forest of Oak, Alder, and Lime, with open woodland and heathland on the chalk tops.

Later in the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages, settlement extended onto the chalk in the southern Wolds. Burial mounds can be found just off the Caistor High Street, within the parish of South Willingham (see photo, p.3). Prehistoric settlements are in place because of hunting and gathering, with tribes moving from one area to another looking for food. Finds within the parish suggest the area was farmed during the Bronze Age. More permanent settlements came with the development of animal domestication and the clearing of woodland, dating from the Iron Age. By the time the Romans invaded, most of the chalk uplands would have been cleared, with

open trackways along the ridge and a network of local pathways. The Caistor High Street and Blue-stone Heath Road date from this period. The Ro-

concentrated in the southern Wolds.

After the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William rewarded his barons by giving them large estates in various parts of the country. Donington on Bain and its surrounding area passed into the hands of Ivo Taillebois. Withcall, at that time, was given to Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, who was half-brother to William I.



Completing savoury pancakes – serious work.

mans established a town at Caistor and a fort at Horncastle. Ludford had a large Roman villa.

SAXON AND MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT

Most major settlements of the Wolds took place from Saxon times, onwards. Many of the area's villages have Saxon origins. In fact, Saxon and Danish settlements and farms created many of the parish boundaries that survive to this day. The Saxons mainly lived in the northern Wolds, and the Danes

By Domesday 1086 most of the Wolds were in agricultural use under the open field system, although substantial areas of woodland survived in the Bain valley. The Wolds, at this time, were quite densely populated. From the 12th Century onwards, many villages were deserted, probably due to civil war and the expansion of monastic granges. In the late 14th Century, the Wold popula-

tion was badly hit by the Black Death. Considerable depopulation took place after 1450,



The queue for sweet pancakes – four days before Shrove Tuesday!

*““ Sheep eat men”
was a popular
saying”*

The Ancestors (part 2) Margaret Bett

Margaret Bett, late of Church Farm, continues her account of her family in South Willingham. As this account was an entry into an Age Concern competition, she could not mention any names.

We had a mixed farm – three horses and often a foal running around. We also had cattle, sheep, a pig for the house, chickens, ducks and geese; also 72 acres of arable and grass land. One year we were not able to get our corn home because of the rain and father could not pay the rent. My mother's mother had died leaving her a little money and she was able to pay the rent.

My father was very fond of music. When he was in his teens he bought an accordion. To practice he played to the horses in the stable in winter. The village boys would come and they were a good audience to give him encouragement. He taught himself to play by ear and in

no time was a good musician. At Christmas he would go with the Carol Singers, playing his accordion to the village people. When the girls at the Hall had a birthday they had a party and father would play the music for the dancing and games such as Pass the Parcel and



Church Farm pond – the girl is Anne Copeland nee Flowers who lived at The Thatch

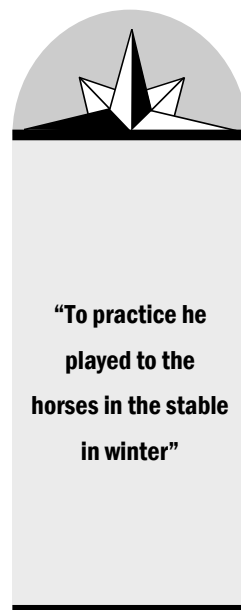
Musical Chairs. The parents would have their meal in the House in comfort.

In 1979 we retired from farming and had bought a blacksmith shop in 1960 with five acres of grass land with buildings for cows,

horse and pigs next door to the farm yard. A builder converted the blacksmith's shop into a two bedroom bungalow, adding a kitchen etc. at the back of the shop. We lived there for five years having made a vegetable garden, flower beds and lawns. We had lovely views looking over the fields to the woods beyond.

I am the last of the family – age 82. (Now 87 – Ed.)

N.B. A Cow Cottage is a plot of land with a two or three bed roomed house, a vegetable garden and good sized yard where there would be a stable for a horse, a cow shed for two cows and a pigsty where a pig would be fattened for the family. They usually killed the pig before Christmas. There would also be a three-acre grass field for the cows and horse to graze just outside the village.



"To practice he played to the horses in the stable in winter"

Advance Notice of South Willingham Open Gardens

The event will take place on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July 2007.

Opening times are 2 to 5 p.m. on both days. The charge per head is £2.00 (children free) via a ticket/map which will be available from the Community Hall where refreshments will be served. St Martin's Church will be open and decorated and there will be a plant stall. So far we have eight confirmed gardens, so there should be

plenty to see with lots of variety.

Obviously, all this takes quite a bit of organising and plenty of people are needed to help out beforehand and on the day, plus providing plants for the plant stall and cakes for refresh-

ments etc. So if anyone is willing to help out for all or part of the time, please telephone Chris Washer at 313244.



Late Neolithic Barrow, Burgh Top – 2000 BC

Church in three parts

No, we are not talking the Trinity or the Evangelicals, Traditionalist and Liberals. We are speaking of St Martin's, the Church in South Willingham and realising that people's interest in it can be of three kinds.

First, there is the small group of Christians who cherish their faith, see 'the Church' as people, but focus their collective worship in the building.

Next there is the group that goes to services. It includes the first group but contains others who come occasionally (especially in the summer!)

Then there is the much bigger group which is not committed to the Christian faith but believes the church building and its accompanying churchyard to be part of the heritage of the village and (in a non-legal and non-liturgical sense) belongs to

all who live here. Perhaps seeing the church from this point of view will enable people to opt for a part or parts and support it in

wind the clock every week; Terry Ringrose does repairs to the interior of the church; Kay Donocik is treasurer of the Churchyard Fund and organises the grass-cutting; Eric Payne tidies and weeds some of the graves; Ray Butler and Jane Scruby, with others, arrange the flowers. And of course, Marcus Edmundson and Virginia Knyvett are chair and treasurer of St Martin's Church. Our thanks go to all these folk for helping to keep the village special.

We hope more people will come forward to offer to do certain jobs and that others will support the Churchyard Fund. We have the grass cut ten times a year at £50 a time by Ian Fabris and any size of donation will be gratefully received (Cheques made payable to St Martin's Churchyard Maintenance Account).



St Martin's tower from the end of the entrance walk

their own way.

We already have people who help a great deal. Andrew Harrison and Eric Payne

Walking Group

Den and Chris Washer are organising a walk in chambers Farm woods on Saturday March 31st. starting at 2.p.m.

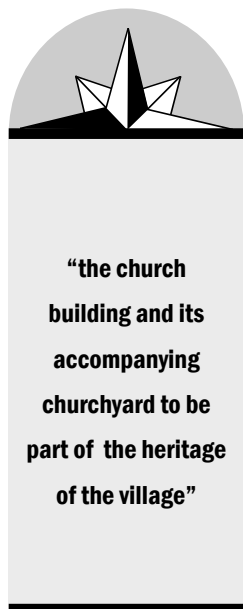
The walk lasts about an hour and a half, with an opportunity to cut back to the car park half way through. The ground is fairly level with paths, however it can get a bit muddy. Just turn up in the car park. If you can offer a lift to anyone or need a lift yourself please phone Den or Chris on 313244. Alternatively please feel free to

make your own arrangements.

Margaret Bett's ancestors – it looks like the late 1800s



Betts family members taken at Church Farm - date unknown.



"the church building and its accompanying churchyard to be part of the heritage of the village"

Snippets

In January the Hall Committee decided that the subject of the Photo Competition to be held at the Strawberry Tea would be "South Willingham Scenes" (any season) for possible inclusion in a Calendar. As it will not be a WI calendar any people in the scenes can be fully clothed.

We are sorry to hear that Mike Roberts is in hospital. He is a familiar figure driving around in his Volvo. He was a good friend to George Hardy when George was confined to his bungalow.

Muriel Winning is also going through a bad time. She fell and broke her hip but is now recuperating in a home. We hope she is soon back in her own home.

Carol Singing was a great success again this December. Twenty one singers, including three children, sang round all the houses in the village. Charlotte Harris and Jacob and Matthew Cutts swelled the sound until well past their bedtimes and Martin Doughty kept order. Carol singing is a very strenuous occupation and we would not have survived had it not been for 'first aid' stations on the route providing drinks and eats. The singers would like to thank Terry and Ann and Marcus and Virginia for their excellent hospitality. Afterwards John and Fran threw a party for everyone which went on into the small hours.

It was a marvellous *whole*

village occasion and we raised £300 for the Louth and District Alzheimer's Society. Their letter of thanks is elsewhere in the News. The Coffee Morning is go-



The Coffee Morning group at the presentation of Jill Lacey's legacy with Frank in the middle and Eileen Kelsey extreme left

ing strong. There were seventeen people drinking heavily and talking nineteen to the dozen on the last occasion – but we still have room for more.

Veronica Chamberlin, the Barkwith Parish organist, sometimes has other calls on her time on Sundays, so congregations have to manage hymns without accompaniment, often with dire results. So the Parish, after advice from Michael Robinson of Market Rasen, decided to invest in a music centre which can manage CDs, tapes and MP3 players as well as congregations. The

CDs have organ music playing the hymn tunes and the first try-out at St. Martin's was a success with the congregation enjoying the back-up.

The South Willingham "locals" are hardly local, the Crossroads and the Heneage Arms being the nearest. The Heneage Arms is in walking distance (about a mile) i.e. reachable without driving. It is now open on Monday, Friday and Saturday nights from 7.p.m. with special events on the Saturday (the Baltic Donkeys are coming back on April 7th)

The management team for the South Willingham News is only three people. Ken Webb was a hard and effective worker on the team (as with several other aspects of life in South Willingham), so Martin Doughty and Paul Fuller missed him greatly when he left the village. Now they are delighted to welcome to the team Liz Heathcote of Woodbine Cottage. She will see the village through a young and female pair of eyes and we look forward to her contribution.



**"seventeen people
drinking heavily and
talking nineteen to
the dozen"**

The Kidney Research Barkwith Road collection raised £70 – thanks to all Barkwith Roaders who contributed. - John



We welcome new residents to the village living at No.2, Bus shelter

**South Willingham Parish Council and
Community Hall**

Management Committee
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Liz Heathcote
Paul Fuller (Editor)

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Community Hall

ST PATRICK'S
EVENING ON
FRIDAY 18 MARCH
AT 7 P.M.

Coffee Mornings 1st
& 3rd Wednesdays

Parish Councillors: Marcus Edmundson 313623
[Chairman]

Lesley Adam 313464
Rowland Crouch 313428
Martin Doughty 313686
Nikki Harris 313618
Tina Speck 313793

Parish Clerk: John Burn 313410

Community Hall : Mel Montgomery 313590
(Chairman)
Fran Kingsley (Secretary) 313718
Paul Fuller (Treasurer) 313601

The Parish Council and the Community 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 Skills Centre (UK) Ltd for the printing. Thanks also to Martin and Diana Doughty for the colour page.

Community Hall News

At last the improvements to the Hall are under way. Underpinning of the foundations at the corner by the entrance ramp will begin in the middle of March. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

We hope the work will be over in a week or two.

We are in the process of buying the last bits of equipment using the money from Awards for All. We already have a fridge, cooker and heating cabinet and a sink and project have still to come.

The next step will be windows. Jill Lacey wanted her gift to be used for new windows and the money will help towards them.

This is the corner (nearest to camera) which will be underpinned

(Continued from page 1)

Hall until 1985, cycling to work from here. She was a member of the WI and the Over Sixties club and was one of the original carol singers in the late seventies. She will live on in the village through her generous gifts.

(Continued from page 2)

for the enclosure of sheep to satisfy the growing English cloth industry. "Sheep eat men" was a popular saying! Biscathorpe was lost at this time.

