



# SOUTH WILLINGHAM NEWS

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## Special points of interest:

- People arriving and leaving
- The rescue of Smokey Joe
- The Dogs of War
- Telephone boxes minus telephones?
- South Willingham likes parties
- Winner starts again in October
- Weddings, new, golden, diamond

## Hopes continue for our Village Phone Box

To those of you who may be interested you will be pleased to hear that hopes are still alive for the retention of our village phone kiosk, which is under threat of being taken away by BT. Earlier this year in June, the Lincolnshire Echo carried an article stating that our Parish Council, led by Marcus Edmundson, had informed BT that "we could live without the phone but wish to keep the box".

At a time when so much "British-ness" is being taken away from us (and has itself become almost a politically incorrect term) an icon (for that is what it has become) such as the familiar red phone box has become almost a necessity



The village phone box  
(Photo E.Payne)

because, as someone recently wrote "stylish and statuesque, they typify the best of British".

The red phone box has been seen in our towns

and villages for some 90 years or so and has gone through successive modifications. Perhaps a very brief history may be of interest.

K1. 1920 (Kiosk No.1) introduced by the Post Office but made in concrete (as opposed to later models in cast iron).

K2. 1927 was the result of a limited competition organised by the Royal Fine Arts Commission, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's entry being the one chosen, Scott being the architect responsible for Liverpool Cathedral and Battersea Power Station amongst other edifices.

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## Parish council Matters

The Parish Council has met several times over the last few months to deal with the practical concerns of the village, with the usual mix of ongoing and new issues. The old problems of park-

ing on footpaths and dog fouling on them have returned, with "loose dogs, dogs escaping, potential attacks and over zealous guard dogs" adding to the problem. Speeding vehicles was also discussed,

one of them being a Stage-coach bus which refused to live up to its name. The Council will consult with the local Community Police Support Officer about this.

Three other matters were a dangerous lamppost on the  
(Continued on page 8)



Charles David Jeanes obviously happy to be in South Willingham



Sixtieth Birthday girls Jan Crouch and Chris Washer



The Rouston wedding with (left to right) David Post , Jo holding Melissa, John, Sophie, Tom and Chris Harrington



Diamond Wedding photo of Harold and Alice Bray

Paul and Gill Fuller's Golden Wedding



## *South Willingham People*

## Nature: Identifying Owls (2)

This is the more practical approach to the study once you have been successful in finding your own pellets.

First a few health warnings about identification. Pellets are not easy to find, yet once a site has been found you could end up with so many you will be able to share them out with friends !!

Always take care particularly when encouraging young children to participate, pellets can sometimes be confused with droppings.

The fox pellet is very common and easily confused, it tends to be much longer, softer and generally broken into separate bits, it also tends to be deposited on a tussock or rock or beside a footpath. They have a pointed end, and usually have a twist in them. If you find a field full of shiny, black, large pellet like droppings then look out for the sheep! If in doubt look for evidence in the find of protruding small mammal bones.

Pellets are the ancestral home of the clothes moth. Always keep your collection in a sealed container. Quite often the larvae will already be in the pellet so try to ignore them and continue with your investigation!!

So what do you do with your pellets when you have been successful in finding them?

### Dissecting Pellets

You will need fine tweezers and a long needle, or cock-

tail stick.

Small pot for bones and another for the other material, fur etc.

A hand lens or magnifying glass

Hands away from mouths is



Baby Tawny owls, Bert, Jim and Mavis

to be stressed to young children.

### Method

Pellets can be teased apart in the dry state. However to avoid particles of fur being inhaled it is recommended that the pellets are first soaked with a little added disinfectant. When they are sufficiently damp, remove and blot off surface water. You are now ready for the exciting discovery of finding out the prey species of your owl.

Tease the pellet apart using fingers and tweezers, remove bones as they appear, taking care not to damage skulls. Fur tends to be packed in the skulls so a

needle comes in handy to prick out the cavities. Feel carefully in the pellet material so that nothing is missed.

There is every chance that you will come across the clothes moth larvae feeding on the fur, these will need to be removed out of the house!!

### Identifying the contents

Fur: this makes up most of the contents and indicates mammal remains.

Feathers: these often break down into a loose powder, but some times one or two can be identified, normally only small quills remain in the pellet.

Sand or soil: this indicates earthworms are being taken as part of the owl's diet.

Bones: some bones are especially useful for identifying the species of prey, particularly the skulls and lower jaw bones. The identification of specific species is very accurate when certain teeth are removed. (See identification chart)

Reference will need to be made to the identification chart, and following the key stages to the bottom of the sheet.

Start at the top and follow the clues carefully.

Find out which one best fits your skull and

(Continued on page 4)



Baby Barn owl

**"Pellets are the ancestral home of the clothes moth. Always keep your collection in a closed container."**



## Nature: Identifying Owls 2 (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

follow the chart down until you reach the answer. Teeth sometimes will have to be removed to give the final identification.

Try to reconstruct the mammal skeleton on card or make a display of your finds.

Other remains: some insect parts are fairly recognisable, the wing cases of beetles, and other hard parts like legs, jaws, and sometimes complete heads.

Finding owl pellets can be fun, it involves walks in the countryside, and being very observant. It requires you to stop and look for signs. Speaking to local farmers and farm workers can be helpful, although permission to explore old barns ought to be sort before entering farms. It is often quite surprising just how many species of owl and other birds of prey we have in this county, finding out together is a wonderfully rewarding activity.

### Using the information.

Once you have identified the contents of your owl pellets it is possible to discover a great deal more about the habits of owls.

### When does it hunt?

Some small mammals are active during the day as well as by night (field vole, rat, and shrew). Others, especially the wood mouse are strictly nocturnal. Through this type of evidence you will be able to discover whether your owl is hunting

by day or night or a combination of both.

### Where does it hunt?



Tawny owl

Small mammals have habitat preferences. The field vole lives in grassland, the bank vole in woods and hedges. Such pellet evidence will give indications as to the areas favoured by your particular bird.

### How much does it eat?

You can work out the number of animals in each pellet from the number of skulls or jaw bones. Don't forget two lower jaws equal one skull. Owls probably produce two pellets each 24 hours.

### Does the owl's diet change with the seasons?

If you are lucky enough to find a regular supply and are able to collect at different times of the year, you may be able to identify interesting changes in diet.

### What part does the owl play in the food chain?

Look at the diet of the prey species. Some are vegetarian, like the voles, others eat only other creatures, invertebrates (insects and worms etc), for example shrews. From this information it is possible to construct *food webs* and *chains*. This information will have a direct benefit to all children studying science at school, and offers them a '**hands on experience**' that is so lacking these days.

The emphasis on enjoyment and family fun needs to be kept in mind!! It might also be the spark that triggers a great scientific career in Natural History. Like that of David Attenborough, Simon King, Kate Humble and Charlotte Uhlenbroek.

If after trying to find pellets you have been unsuccessful I hold a small supply, so if you want to have a go contact me, and I will find you one or two (while stocks last !)

### Have Fun.

Martin Doughty.



Owl pellets, dissected and whole

"The emphasis on enjoyment and family fun needs to be kept in mind"

## Smokey Joe

This is a local tale as told by Terry Ringrose (held over from February – *Ed*). It goes something like this.

Dennis gets some white fan-tail doves, you have probably seen them gliding around the village. Anyhow, it's John and Fran's party night and I said to Dennis "How are the doves?" Sadly he says "I have lost one yesterday, now we have only two and we are going away for a few days." "Don't worry" I replied "It may turn up yet, possibly the wind blew it away from its' area."

A dove watch was kept on the roofs over the next few days as Chris and Dennis had gone away. Not a sign of the missing dove.

Then on Tuesday of the following week Ann said, "Terry! There's a bird down



Smokey Joe  
(photo Dennis Washer)

the dining room chimney, I

have just heard it!"

"Oh \*\*\*\*\* " I said, "We don't want that flying about."

Anyway, dressed in a clean white shirt, with a piece of garden netting, an attempt to rescue the bird was made.

I opened the fire flue door, made a great grab for the legs that I could see, and pulled out this rather darker shade of grey dove, still alive and well after five days down our chimney.

I took it back home, fed and watered it, and now it's gradually getting back to white!

Chris and Dennis have named it Smokey Joe.



"pulled out this rather darker shade of grey dove, still alive and well"

### WILLINGHAM WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dear All**

**Please note that as from the end of September 2008 the Parish Hall Committee have agreed that the money is collected on a yearly basis ie: October 2008 – September 2009, although it was also agreed that if people wished to pay on a 6 month basis this would be acceptable.**

**Receipts will be issued on payment. Pro Rata rates for new members.**

**Jan Crouch, Willingham Winner Manager**

#### South Willingham Winners

**May : J an Crouch  
June: Amy Ford  
July June Sylvester  
August: Debbie Challenger**

#### Parish Hall

**21 November: Salsa Demonstration  
(Spanish food)**

**12 December: Christmas Fayre**

**19 December: Carol Singing**

## Snippets

The South Willingham News has not been keeping its ear to the ground and has missed several important events. Russell and Louise Jeanes' baby, Charles David was born on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Belated congratulations to them and of course to Laura (Photo page 2)

We also missed Harold and Alice Bray's Diamond Wedding and try to make up for it by including a photo of the happy couple on a very special anniversary (page 2). There is also a photo of Harold's horse, Tipperary Sunset, which won twice in one week, at Newmarket and Doncaster.

During June, John and Fran held a party. They invited a lot of toffs but considerably lowered the tone of the village by inviting tarts as well. Though, as you would expect, the proceedings were not always in the best possible taste, everyone had a good time and the survivors walked/rolled home in the early hours of the morning. We reported last time on Jan

and Chris' Sixtieth Party but omitted the photo. Due to technical difficulties (the Editor's computer went



How long?

through the window) we have had to print on page 2 a later photo but the spirit is there!

What has become the traditional Strawberry Tea and Photo Competition took place at the village hall and strawberry concoctions were the main menu item. Photos had the theme of skyscape. John Edwards again came to judge them and gave com-

ments on the various photos. The winners were Tina Speck, Eric Payne and Jan Crouch

John and Jo Rouston of Mill Cottages were married this month at St. Martin's by David and Chris Harrington. Congratulations to them together with a belated welcome to the village. (Photo page 2)

Harry Winning slipped out of South Willingham without his old friends being able to say goodbye to him. Harry had lived here for many years with Muriel, first at The Forge and later at Meadow Rise on Barkwith Road. After Muriel died, Harry found it hard to cope with his sight handicap and one of his daughters came to live with him. Now he has gone with her to Cleethorpes and we wish them well.

The plaque on the front of the Parish Hall commemorating Lord Heneage's gift was falling to pieces and it has been refurbished through the kindness of Steve Andrews.

### It occurred to me ....

Like lots of people, I have a number of old records in my loft which I don't like to get rid of. 78s and 45s that I should throw out but don't because the scratchy music still means something to me. Then when I changed to vinyl the pile got bigger – they are downstairs but still out of date. Next to them is half a cupboard of videos which are also deteriorating, as well as soon becoming de-

funct. So I am interested when I see adverts for machines that convert all those records into CDs or DVDs and other machines that put videos into the same formats. The bother is that if I spend about a hundred quid on each I would only use them once.

It occurred to me that others too might be in the same

boat. If that is so we might buy these two machines between us and all get a use out of them.

The method would be up for discussion. Someone buys and the others rent them. Or we have a kitty and all chip in. If it caught on, any money over could go to charity. Any comments?

Paul Fuller

**"Photos were on  
the theme of  
skyscape"**





Toffs assembled at a secret venue in South Willingham



Rowland and Jan in full dress



Tarts caught in a brief pause in the non-stop dancing

## *Toffs and Tarts*



Tart and toff aka Eileen and Gordon.  
Gordon is to be congratulated on his eightieth birthday .



Chris, Dave, June and Steve pausing for a drink

**South Willingham Parish Council and  
Community Hall**

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**Parish Hall**

HARVEST SUPPER  
ON FRIDAY  
3RD OCTOBER  
AT 7 P.M.

Coffee Mornings 1st  
& 3rd Wednesdays

**Parish Councillors:**

Marcus Edmundson	313623
[Chairman]	
Martin Doughty	313686
[Vice-Chairman]	
Lesley Adam	313464
Rowland Crouch	313428
Paul Cutts	313486
Nikki Harris	313618
Claire Harrison	313406

**Parish Clerk:**

John Burn	313410
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**Community Hall :**

Mel Montgomery (Chairman)	313590
Fran Kingsley (Secretary)	313718
James Miller (Treasurer)	05601 457000

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. Thanks also to Eric and Celia Payne for the colour pages.

*(Continued from page 1)*

K3. 1929 again by Scott was similar to K2 and intended for nationwide use. The standard colour scheme for both K1 and K3 was cream with red glazing bars.

K4 (designed by the Post Office Engineering Dept in 1927) incorporated a post box and postage stamp machine. Only 50 of these were built.

K5 (1934) was of plywood and designed to be assembled and dismantled and used at exhibitions and fairs etc.

K6 (1936) Mark I was designed to commemorate the silver jubilee of King George V.

(K6 Mark II coming out in 1952). Initially, the red colour caused some local complaints in rural areas, the Post Office agreeing to a less strident grey with red glazing bars. Ironically, some of these areas that have preserved their telephone boxes have now painted them red! The K6 is the one which most of us have become familiar with.

K7 Neville Conder was commissioned to design a new box but this got no further than the prototype stage.

K8 Introduced in 1968, designed by Bruce Martin. This retained a red colour scheme but a slightly brighter 'Poppy Red'. The main difference between K8 and K6 was the one large pane of glass per

side. Only 12 K8's remain.

So today we have the rather utilitarian and unlovable KX100 series of boxes, imposed upon us in the mid 1980's - will these ever become icons?

I doubt it.

We can only hope that South Willingham's own 'Red Revolution' is successful and that our box stays put - with or without a phone. Watch this space.

*E Payne*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Benniworth Road, access to Moor Lane and hedges, overgrown or unremoved trimmings. Finally, ELDC will hold a meeting in the village hall on Monday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.



View past the telephone box - another part of South Willingham to be kept