

SOUTH WILLINGHAM CHRONICLE

to inform on the present and reflect on the village past
Volunteer Editor: Nigel Spencer



Photo: Paul Ferguson

PARISH COUNCIL

There have been four meetings since the last issue of the Chronicle - November 2019 and January, March, July 2020. The minutes of the meetings are posted in the bus shelter in the centre of the village and on www.south-willingham.org, the village website. The March meeting was held prior to lockdown and the July meeting was held under the relevant social distancing and hygiene guidance but without any public involvement.

The major focus up to March 2020 was finalising two of the village scenic improvement initiatives, namely the four planters placed under the village signs on each of the roads into the village and the Parish Hall window boxes. It's pleasing to note that both the planters

and window boxes were made by villagers, Andy Hart and John Walker respectively, and the design and planting was again carried out by a fellow villager, Jo Rouston. We were lucky enough to get an additional grant of £200 to help us fund equipment to water the plants and spray the weeds around the planters. A start has been made to control the jungle around the planters - if you are interested in helping us water and maintain the plants please contact Cllr Paul Ferguson on 313584. The plant selection for the planters was hit by the lockdown but we will be revisiting the selection of plants and putting in some spring bulbs later in the year. The old village telephone box is currently awaiting repainting and panelling to form a presentation vehicle

for the work of the village history group - work on this was also hit by the lockdown. There is currently a problem with the lighting which is under investigation. The history group working party feels it would be appropriate for the display not to be static but changed through the year to reflect events or points of interest such as WW1 and the local railway. Maps of the village in different eras are also under consideration. If you are interested in helping please contact Cllr Paul Ferguson 313584.

There is an additional initiative under consideration. ELDC circulated information at very short notice about promoting community orchards and we have expressed an interest. We have re-instigated the welcome letter which is given to all new villagers and provides pertinent local information regarding the

village website, Parish Council, Parish Hall, regular events held in the village, mobile and local food shops, postal service, public houses, libraries, churches and services, local surgeries, bus and taxi services and dustbin collection. The Parish Council provides financial support for use of the Parish Hall, hosting of the village website, the history group and maintenance of the Church grounds. The history group has a subscription to the online British Newspaper archive so if you are interested in doing any research then we can put you in touch with the relevant history group member. Contact Cllr Paul Ferguson on 313584. The various pot holes and drains on the roads in the village have been reported and are marked for attention. It was agreed that a Highways Officer would walk the walk to assess what work was required.

In response to lockdown the Parish Council leafleted all village households in March providing contact numbers for anyone concerned about obtaining shopping, prescriptions or other necessary items whilst they are in self-isolation. There were about ten requests for support with most reporting that neighbours and friends had been actively helping each other throughout the village. In addition the book and DVD library set up in the Parish Hall by Chris & Dave Nutten had been well-received. COVID-19 required that for the annual meeting residents be invited to submit any issues or nominations to the Clerk via email. None was received. The council members all agreed to be re-elected. There are currently two vacancies for councillors and if you are interested then please contact the Clerk Shirley Asquith via the website. Cllr Paul Ferguson has joined the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils as a county representative.
- Paul Ferguson



Workshop interior - photo by Nigel Spencer

FOCUS ON BUSINESS: HARRISON ENGINEERING

Hidden down the old station approach, is found the Sack Building and within, South Willingham's own heavy industry business - Harrison Engineering - owned by Andrew Harrison who lives with his family at Pasture House in the village.

In 2013 Harrison Engineering completed the purchase of the building and rent out the upper level for storage. Andrew had already been running his business in workshops behind Pasture House for 10 years - having previously worked for Ruston Bucyrus in Lincoln. He had joined the works in 1985 and worked through all the departments of manufacturing.

Harrison Engineering can produce a wide range of metal fabricated structures for many types of industries. They undertake projects large and small and are happy to provide quotations for specialised single products or batch orders. With over 35 years' experience - from welding heavy plate to repair of turbine blades. they work in various metals including mild steel, corten, aluminium and 304/316 stainless steel and are highly skilled in areas such as sheet metal, fabrication and welding MIG and TIG.

Clients include:
 - HM Prison Service (HMP)
 - Ministry of Defence (MOD)
 - Aerospace industry
 -Hydraulics industry
 -The Print industry
 -The Motor industry
 including Lotus and McClaren Formula One Teams.

Recent work has been on supplying stainless steel kitchen furniture at The Heneage Arms and refurbishing the main gates at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Horncastle.

Workshop: 07941 334327
 Office: 01507 313406
 Harrison Engineering, Station Road,
 South Willingham, LN8 6JQ

For further details visit:
www.harrisoneng.co.uk

- *Andrew Harrison was in conversation with Nigel Spencer*

WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE

We welcome new residents to the village:

Angela and Alan Battle moved into Baytree Cottage in January 2019 from near Malaga in Spain. Alan is a retired builder having worked abroad and in England. They are interested in undertaking building renovation and narrow boating and have a boat moored at Burton Waters. They find the village friendly and beautiful.

Kelly Marsh and Dr Josie Pedersen moved into Woodbine Cottage from Market Rasen in July 2019 together with Hannah and Alice - both aged 17. Kelly is an NHS Manager and Josie is a Special Needs Manager with Lincolnshire County Council. They enjoy gardening, walking their

labrador, travelling and history. They love the village and everybody has made their family feel very welcome. They feel lucky to live in such an historic house, taking care of it, and joining in with village life.

Alan and Lynda Boddington and Rosie the dog moved in to Meadow Rise in January 2020. Originally from Leicestershire, they came to the village from North Willingham where they lived from 2016-2020. Now retired Alan and Lynda enjoy walking, gardening, DIY and eating out as well as supporting Leicester City. Since moving to South Willingham they say 'Everyone made us feel so welcome. Very friendly. Thank you'.

Victoria Bootten and Jason Smith. moved into Cherry Croft Cottage, in October 2019 having moved from Hallington near Louth. Vicky is a teacher and Jason an electrician. Vicky and Jason find the village 'Very welcoming and neighbourly'.

BOOKS AND DVD's AT VILLAGE HALL

Shortly after lockdown started the Village Hall opened three days a week as a community library. It has been well used since and now has over 200 books and numerous DVD's and magazines which are free to borrow and return after use. People have brought new books to add to the original number and it has looked quite impressive with the books spread out. When things started to re-open in our local towns the decision was taken to open the Hall only on a Sunday. Everyone is welcome to use the facility. There is no need to sign for any books or DVD's borrowed so please feel free to look round.

- *Dave Nutten*

Sadly this is the final South Willingham Chronicle in name and format. Hopefully, a newsletter may continue in another guise. The printing of this issue has been funded by the kind generosity of a local resident who wishes to remain anonymous. The Chronicle is extremely grateful and thanks them for enabling this to happen.



The Sack Building - now Harrison Engineering (Photo: Nigel Spencer)

THE SACK BUILDING

The Sack Building was built in 1963 on the site of the old station's goods yard by the Fox & Garner sack hire company. The building was then owned by Ted Aldridge who lived at Station House in the early 70's. Around eight women were involved in repairing hessian sacks. Around this time Bill Atkinson and Tony Waller, of Piper Sports Cars fame were looking for suitable premises in Lincolnshire and Mike Perkins took them to have a look at the building, full of large sacks of sugar. Bill and Tony moved Piper Car manufacture to South Willingham in June 1973. For further details on Piper Cars - see the village website and YouTube. Even before the last Piper sports car left the factory, Bill and Tony had begun diversifying in order to survive. From manufacturing cars in fibre glass came a change to manufacturing bathroom products.

They built a small showroom on the upper floor of the factory and ended up as a mainly retail business. Somewhere in this period they began to use the business name Marena-Lindsey Ltd; the name being a corruption of the Christian names of their then-wives. They added kitchens to their range, trading until 2013.
- Nigel Spencer

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A short update on what has been happening at the Parish Hall since last November:

On December 6th we held a quiz night with fish and chip supper. These are always popular so we held another on 6th March. We had been planning a 60/70 's night to be held at the end of June but in the event we no longer could go ahead with it. Since then we have held a socially-distanced committee meeting and all things being equal, the plans for the autumn are as follows:

The Harvest Supper will be held on Friday 9th October. On 11th December there will be a quiz night. Reel Issues film group is hoping to start as normal on the second Tuesday in September. All these are subject to change depending on circumstances. Coffee mornings will restart as soon as we can be sure that social distancing can be maintained.

Notices will be delivered as soon as anything can be confirmed.

Meanwhile the Willingham Winner has continued to be drawn every month and the new year starts at the beginning of October. Existing and new members will be most welcome. The more people get involved the bigger the monthly prize.

Leaflets will be delivered next month.

Here's hoping we can all get together again before too long.
- Chris Washer. - South Willingham Parish Hall Committee Chairman.

Did you know that we have a village lottery?

It's called 'The Willingham Winner' and is drawn once a month. The proceeds go towards the upkeep of the village hall. It costs just £12 per number for the year, payable in advance. You can have as many numbers as you want. At the moment the monthly prize is £40. This is, of course, dependant on the number of people in the lottery. The new season starts in October and the first draw will be at the end of the month. If you're not in it already and would like to join, contact:
- Chris Nutten on 313500.

BARKWITH CHURCHES

In the Church of England, unlike the Free Churches, there has to be a priest to hold certain services and to keep the congregation together. The Barkwith Group (the old parishes of East Barkwith, West Barkwith, Sixhills, Hainton, South Willingham, East and West Torrington) has not had its own priest-in-charge for many years with its Lay Reader, Mary Jordan, acting as de facto vicar and first the Revd Charles Patrick and then the Revd David Post giving us a great deal of help. Now the Revd Fr. Chris Hewitt SCP, Rector of the Walesby Group and also our Rural Dean, will be our priest-in-charge and the Group is delighted to welcome him. This will begin a new chapter in the history of our group. We are sorry that St Martin's, South Willingham, remains closed. The Covid-19 regulations for opening churches (and other public places) are so complex and labour intensive that for the time being we cannot open. This is the first time for many years that the church has been shut and we find that hard.
- Paul Fuller



Piper P2 at press unveiling - South Willingham November 1973

BUILDING SOUTH WILLINGHAM - MID 19th CENTURY TO 1890

Bricks

Before the middle of the 19th century the skilled brickmaker still commonly travelled from site to site making bricks in clamps or in simple kilns on the building site. His labourers were usually employed on a part-time, seasonal basis. The technology of brickmaking took a significant step forward in the middle years of the 19th century with the introduction of permanent kilns of a standard, reliable design.

Clay was excavated at the brickworks (old Bridge House) close to the former railway station (not built until 1878) in middle of the 19th century. However, the brickworks had gone on the 1906 map. Maps show that it included a quarry, for the clay used. It is not known if the brickworks existed before 1841. The buildings marked as 'brick yard' on the 1887 OS Map are not shown on the 1906 map. The arrival of the railway in 1878 on the site must have hampered the process - particularly as a large embankment was built. The railway structures - station, base of the signal box and tunnel were actually made from bricks from Nottingham.

Brickmakers

1841 - Joseph Hudson + one assistant and one Tile Maker.

1851 - Joseph Willows + assistant and five labourers.

1861- Robert Brocklebank is Foreman at the brickyard. His son John Brocklebank is a brickyard labourer. There is another brick maker - George Shephard. In ten years the workforce involved in brick making in the village has therefore dropped from seven to three.

1871 - Robert Brocklebank is joined by another son, Philip, as brick maker and Thomas Wattam as labourer.

Found in the Lincolnshire Archives is the Brick And Tile Account Book for South Willingham Yard covering the period 1877-1887. This shows that as well as making bricks the yard also produced drainage pipes (2.5/3/4/5/6 inch versions) and flat,

garden and clinker roof tiles. A small percentage was added to the cost of producing products and given annually to the Heneage Estate and for the brickmaker and his labourers.

1881 - Robert Brocklebank is now 60 and is joined by two other brickmakers - Thomas Parker and his son Amos Parker (30) from Staffordshire.

Robert Brocklebank died on August 20 1885 and is buried at St Martins Church. He deposited a Will on July 14 1882. Sharpley, Solicitors, Louth administered the Will. John Brocklebank's gross estate totalled £419 11s 9d. This equates to approximately £54,246 in 2019. His son, John Brocklebank took over as brickmaker. Once again in the Lincolnshire Archives can be found memorandums between the brick yard and the Heneage Estate dated 1888. As G Freeborough (Estate Manager) notes to Mr Heneage:

"it will give £20 a year for 2 years (royalty £8 and rent £12) - sell what he likes - a royalty of 4% for every kiln he burns".

1891 is the last census listing of a brickmaker in South Willingham, Thomas Parker remains on his own. By 1896 no brickmaker is listed in South Willingham and we can assume brickmaking ceased in the village between 1891-1896. The accounts book shows the peak year for bricks was 1877 when 371,882 were made; 1886 for pipes - 158,180; 1881 for tiles - 20,550. Receipts fell from £520 in 1877 to £150 in 1887.

Local Brick Building Examples :

When newly made the bricks would have a yellow hue.

Barkwith Road: Mill Cottages; Glebe Cottage; Grange Farm; Coblers Cottage; Hillcrest Cottage; Jasmine Cottage; Codlins Cottage; Apple Tree Cottage; Cherry Croft Cottage. **Hainton Road:** The Limes; Inn Farm; Dilly Cottage; Hillway House; Stables at The Manor House. **Blacksmiths Lane:** Springfield View. **Station Road:** Old Post Office; The Old Rectory; The Old Granary; Baytree/Pump Hill Cottage (original part); Part of The Old Stables; Pasture House, possibly-certainly the outbuildings. **Donington Road:** Poplar Farm Cottage; Poplar Farm.

Examples can also be found throughout Hainton and Sixhills.

Builders/Bricklayers in South Willingham

Bricklaying was dominated by the Pickering family in South Willingham - living at three different houses. Details of occupations before 1851 are not detailed in the Census. Six are buried at St Martins Church - the last, Henry Pickering, died in 1955.

Well Maker and Underground Drainage

James Freeborough undertook the role of Well Maker in the village, and is recorded in the South Willingham census for 1851. By 1861 his role had changed to Underground Drainage and is lastly mentioned in the 1871 census as Inspector of Drains.

Sand, Stone and Gravel

A sand pit is shown on the 1887 OS map at the end of Moors Lane; it is labelled as 'old sand pit' on the 1906 map. An old Stone Pit is shown on the Enclosure Award of 1772 on Donington Road up from the present Poplar Farm. A gravel pit adjacent to demolished Gravel Pit cottages (south east of Poplar Farm) appears to be very small on the 1887 map and much larger on the 1906 and subsequent maps. However, there is no trace of it on the 1978 OS map. Research of the Lincolnshire Chronicle found a public notice Friday 07 July 1871 from the Proprietors of the Welton-le-Wold, Biscathorpe, South Willingham & Haugham Gravel Pits. The 1939 Register lists two local people working as Gravel Pit Labourers - although it cannot be substantiated that the pit in South Willingham was still operational at that time.

Earlier Village Properties:

A number of earlier properties before the local brickworks were in operation were built of iron stone and/or feature earlier small sized bricks or mud and stucco construction. Some were, thatched and some received alterations in the 19th Century containing some local bricks from the brickyard.

- Nigel Spencer