

Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council

Editor. John Greig
email times@titchmarsh.info

Parish Clerk. Jane Teague
email parishclerk@titchmarsh.info

April & May 2004

Dr Paul Prestwich

The village turned out in large numbers to say farewell to "Doc" who died on February 13th after a short illness. Many villagers knew him as their local GP, and many others as a very good friend.

He was a man with a multitude of talents and interests including the piano, a crossword solver 'extraordinaire' and racehorse owner. His prowess as a cook was such that he walked away each year from the annual village show with a clutch of prizes for his produce. With his passing, the village has lost one of its most vibrant and colourful personalities. *Ian Curtis.*

Parish Council

Ian Curtis. Chairman writes

The highlight of the past couple of months has been the very successful launch of the **Titchmarsh Village Website**, www.titchmarsh.info. If you have not already seen it, it is well worth a visit. I am sure that you will find out something about the village that you did not know already, such a wealth of information is provided.

A huge thank-you to the team that developed the site, especially to its co-ordinator, Sylvia Prestwich. We are now looking to use some of the information to provide a "welcome pack" for people new to the village and to add details of local trades and businesses.

Housing developments in the region.

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the government's plans which envisage a major increase in the population of the area. The proposals outlined in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Strategy, for example, suggest an increase of 167,000 homes in Northamptonshire by 2031. As a result there will be - over a relatively short period of time - half as many people again in the county as there already are. The growth is focused on Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and Northampton making, to all intents and purposes, one linear city which could reach as far as Luton.

But the plans could have major repercussions for Titchmarsh, with significantly increased pressure on services and transport links. There are also proposals to develop the Stansted, Cambridge, Peterborough corridor, so you can see that the main artery between them - the A14 - is going to have to carry much more traffic, and communities, such as Titchmarsh that lie between the two new major conurbations are going to be squeezed.

The period of consultation is very tight and any objections have to be submitted by **4th April**. If you would like to have your voice heard then contact your County Councillor, Bob Seery for information on how to go about it.

Dogs

Firstly, many thanks to all the responsible dog owners who clear up after their pets.

However, we still receive many complaints about dog fouling and, in response, have taken advice from the dog warden at the District Council. The warden has provided an information leaflet which will be delivered to every household. She also recommended that we have dog bins at the entrance to the playing field and on the verge near the telephone box. These will be fitted shortly. The dog warden will be visiting the village more frequently to monitor the situation, including the problems caused by dogs roaming loose. If you have any further complaints, please direct them to the any Parish Councillor or to Jane Teague, the Parish Clerk. Alternatively you may contact the dog warden at the address shown in the attached leaflet.

Rugby success.

We have an international sportsman in the village. Phillip Ellis has played rugby for England at a number of levels, currently at under-eighteen. He was in the team that narrowly lost 24 -22 to France in Paris, the team having been 24 - 0 down at half-time. He as now been signed up to play for Saracens. Well done, Phillip.

Manor Farm Court

Mention was made of the proposals for this site in an earlier edition of the newsletter. The application has been sent back to the developers for some minor changes but no change was sought in the number of houses - six - proposed for the site. We remain very concerned about the impact of this and have expressed our feelings to the Planning Department at East Northants District Council.

Do you ride, own or work with horses?

If so, you may be interested to know that DEFRA is working to promote close working relations and effective communication with equine interests in England, co-ordinate equine policy, and work with the industry to devise a long-term horse strategy. This strategy will be developed with the industry and will define where the industry aspires to be in ten years, and how the Government can help it in following this path.

Information on some current issues affecting the horse world and Government is included on the new horse website www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses launched to provide easily accessible and co-ordinated information about Government policies that affect horses. Equine issues raised on the website include, for example, advice for owners on how to obtain a horse passport, how to avoid the illegal use of medicines, and how to complain about ragwort. DEFRA welcomes feedback about the website.

Titchmarsh Club Room

Pauline Ash writes

I am pleased to inform you that since our last news letter we have received notification from Northamptonshire County Council that the £8000 provisionally awarded to us in September 03 has been confirmed and Northamptonshire ACRE through the Countryside Agency have awarded us £2000 towards the cost of the refurbishment. We are still awaiting the results of our bid to East Northamptonshire District Council, who are having their funding meeting on 5th April. We have also applied to HBOS Foundation, Weetabix and the Parish Council and are awaiting the decisions from those organisations.

Northamptonshire County Council's Rules for awarding funding state that to be eligible work on the project must not have commenced, we were therefore unable to start the project at the end of January as indicated in the last issue of the Titchmarsh Times. Northamptonshire County Council held their funding panel on 2/3 February 04 and we were notified shortly after that they had awarded us the £8000 originally allocated to us in September 03 but that we could not start the project until after they had visited the village hall site. The earliest date that they could accommodate us with a site visit was 9 March 04. We are very sorry about this delay but it was essential that we did not jeopardise our chances of receiving the funding.

As part of the refurbishment it was necessary for an asbestos survey to be undertaken on the village hall and asbestos was found in some areas and it is necessary for this to be removed by a specialist firm before the building work can commence.

Following the visit on the 9th March we were informed by the Council that we could commence the work without fear of losing the funding, Unfortunately we now have to wait for the HSE to grant permission for the removal of the asbestos and I am unable to give a firm date for the start of the project until the asbestos removal has been completed. But we are ever hopeful that this will be some time shortly after Easter.

I am sure you will realise what a frustrating time this is for the Committee and hope you will understand that we are pushing for an early completion to the project but find ourselves in a spiral of ever increasing bureaucracy and red tape.

On a lighter note here is another extract from the Clubroom Minute Book of the 7th December 1928 'The football club were reported for a badly conducted dance - to this Lord Lilford promised he would send a sharp note to the Secretary of the Football Club'.

Village News and Future Events.

Friends of Titchmarsh School Annual Fun Day. Saturday 15th May at the School. 12-4pm.

Come along for a fun packed afternoon for all the family. There will be local crafts, delicious home made cakes and top quality plants at affordable prices and much more. Games and activities for all ages including a bungee run, bouncy castle with slide, tombola, lucky dip, wheel of fortune, ladders and many more. A barbeque lunch and afternoon teas will be available. We hope to see you there.

If you are "crafty" and would like to book a stall contact John Gaskin.

Marie Curie Cancer Charity.

Shirley Curtis writes

A collection was taken in Polopit and Abbots Close at the end of February and £55.16 was collected for the charity. An excellent response ! Many thanks for everyone's generosity.

Easter Celebrations.

Church Decorating on Saturday morning **April 10th**. After the business of Holy Week come and help us make the church ready for a joyful Eastertide. Please bring any contribution (such as flowers or greenery) to the church with you or leave in the porch.

Easter services on **Sunday April 11th** will be celebrated in three of the Benefice's parishes, including one at Titchmarsh at 9.30am, celebrated by Revd Michael Whawell.

The Easter Family Service and Easter Egg hunt will be held on Sunday April 18th. All the family are urged to come along and celebrate Easter and find the hidden chocolate after the service!

Churchyard Clean Up.

The annual spring clean up of the churchyard is scheduled to take place after the family service on **Sunday April 18th**. All are welcome to assist (bring your own tools!) starting at approximately 10.45am till 12.30pm when weary labourers will be rewarded by lunch courtesy of Mrs Powell. *Stephen Brown.*

Calling All Walkers and Cyclists

Julia Powell writes

On **Saturday 10th April** there are two sponsored events in aid of the *Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers*.

Cyclists - Meet at Barnwell Country Park at 9.45 am. The route is approximately 21 miles, a shorter route is available. More details from Bill Adcock

Walkers – Meet at 10am at Harlingstone church car park and walking 6 miles. Details from Dorothy Westerman

The Boundary Walks were conceived some twelve years ago, following my reading of an old Parish magazine, where it was reported that two farmers and a dog completed the circuit in a morning. The dog returned exhausted!

In that first year I walked the complete boundary alone gaining permission for access from farmers and landowners. It is a stunning walk, following field boundaries, hedges and ditches and, crossing the A14 twice, it skirts Skulking Dudley Wood and passes close to the atmospheric Kitty Grey's Cottage – approximately 18 miles. The following year I expanded the theme so that others might enjoy our immediate countryside. With permission, two groups – one completing a full boundary of Titchmarsh and the second (catering for family members) to walk a section of the route – left from the church gate. Both groups were led, to avoid anyone becoming detached, 'as fast as the slowest' was the byword.

Setting off at different times, they nevertheless finished at roughly the same time. Light refreshments of homemade cakes and soft drink were provided, and an added bonus of a glass of Schnapps or apple brandy for the early starters before setting off was popular. The pattern had been set for this annual event.

Since that first walk we have been blessed mostly with good weather for the event. Held close to Rogation Sunday our 'Beating the Bounds', with origins in pre-Roman pagan times in Britain today, aids our local church by a small charge being made for the walks.

This year's walks will take place on **Saturday, 10th April** starting at the Church. 7.30am for the complete route and 10.30 for the shortened route. For more information contact Alan Powell

Titchmarsh 10K. The annual road race runs from Titchmarsh High Street up to Fay Way near Clopton. The run goes through undulating open countryside, and this year will be held on **Sunday 2nd May** at 11.00am prompt. This is the 9th year of the race, which is a popular event with an entry of approx. 150 club and non-club runners, who bring along numerous supporters. The race is run under MCAA rules and a permit will be applied for. The race is organised by Titchmarsh Playing Field Association and all funds raised go towards the upkeep of the village playing field. Entry fees for advance bookings are £5 affiliated, £6 unaffiliated; or £7 on the .

Entry forms and further details available from Gina Gaskin or from 10krace@titchmarsh.info

Parochial Church Council AGM. The Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council will take place in the church on **Wednesday 21 April 2004** at 7.45pm. Everyone living in the parish is welcome to attend and hear a review of the past year with a forecast of the year ahead. You can ask questions and express your views! There is still a vacancy for the role of Secretary to the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") and for further members should any people in the village on the church electoral roll wish to take a more active role in the running of the church. Please contact Jean Bussens for information. Members of the parish who are regular worshipers are encouraged to enrol on the Electoral Roll, by contacting one of the churchwardens.

Church Kneelers.

Some of the kneelers are in need of repair, we have the materials to complete the work but would welcome people with the time and skills to help. Contact Julia Powell

If only...

Stephen Brown

There is an idea to create a "recent history" section on the website focusing on peoples reminiscences about their life in the village. This would not replace the book but add further information and use a living history approach by allowing people to reflect, or submit old press cuttings, diaries, etc etc. adding to the published book in terms of peoples own reflections about the changes in life in the village.

This could be a really useful resource to children in school doing history or geography projects and for the rest of us to gain further insights into our community. There are some things that disappear so fast and it would be tragic in 12 months time to say "if only"

If you think that this is a good idea, we would welcome your ideas and in the coming months contributions to Sylvia Prestwich or Stephen Brown. My address is 30, Chapel Street.

Friends of Titchmarsh School (FOTS). The Spring Ball has been arranged and this year will take place a little earlier in the year. The date is **Saturday 24th April** and will be held at Barnwell Village Hall with entertainment by the Skyliners. Tickets are the same price as last year, £25 per person. For any further enquires and ticket purchases please contact Julie Ray.

We shall again be organising the **Bag2School Project** and will, during April, and we will be circulating the 'blue bags' through your doors. We are grateful for any donations of unwanted clothing, bedding, curtains etc and thank you for your help and ongoing support.

Titchmarsh Draw.

The February draw took place in the D&P on 6th February. The numbers drawn were, 128 : Geraldine Elliott, 12 : Mr and Mrs Seery, 59 : Reg White, 98 : J Wood.

The March Draw took place in the Wheatsheaf on 5th March. March's winners were: Catherine Gerard - number 94, Brenda Durndall - number 72, Julia Powell - number 007, and Mrs Jean Bussens - number 001. Each number drawn won £15. The next draw will take place on **Friday 2nd April** in the D&P at 7pm.

Titchmarsh CE Primary School.

Mrs. Cleaver writes

On Monday 22nd March we held one of our termly activity days; the focus in the Spring Term is always Numeracy. The emphasis was placed upon Shape and Pattern and many activities were provided for the children to enjoy on this theme. Activity days we find are a valuable extension to our curriculum.

School will close at 3.30pm on Friday 2nd April and re-open on Monday 19th April at 9.00am. A happy Easter to everyone.

The school will also be closed for the May Bank holiday on Monday 3rd May.

Our annual May Day celebrations will be held on Wednesday 5th May and will follow the usual format:-

- Church Service in the Church of St Mary's, Titchmarsh
- Village Walk.
- Afternoon presentation of songs and dances on the playground.

Everyone will be welcome to join us for this traditional day.

School will close on Friday 28th May at 3.30pm for half term reopening at 9.00am on Monday 7th June 2004.

Camino

Julia and Alan Powell's walk along the Camino Aragon is set to start on 1st May. They would appreciate any sponsorship to aid the Kettering Multiple Sclerosis Society. Please contact them

Finally.

Thank you to all the contributors who have made this edition our first "four pager", although I will admit a couple of the articles have been cribbed from the village website. Please may I have your input to the June/July edition at the above address by Friday 21st May at the very, very latest. Thank you.

A peaceful Easter to you all.

John Greig (Editor).