

# Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-monthly Village Newsletter Sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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## April/May 2006

### **Parish Council.**

**Parish Clerk** We were very sorry to receive the resignation of our clerk, Jane Teague. Jane has held the post for nearly three years and in that time has played an important role in many of the initiatives we have undertaken. Her many other commitments have made it increasingly difficult for her to carry on as clerk; hence her decision to resign. She leaves us with our best wishes and thanks for a job well done.

We are now seeking to fill this important post. If you want more information then please talk directly to Jane. Applications should be sent to the Chairman Sylvia Prestwich, c/o 15 Chapel Street, Titchmarsh.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**. This is your chance to raise and discuss local matters. There will be brief presentations from The Police, Parish Path Warden, the Playing Field, the Clubroom, the Church, and an summary of progress from the Parish Plan. The meeting starts at 7.30pm for about an hour, finishing with an opportunity for informal discussions with the speakers and your parish councillors over a glass wine and refreshments.

**Speeding:** The Road Safety Team recently conducted another survey in the village. They set up the Speed Indicator Cameras in the High Street and Islington. The results from this were encouraging, with the majority of drivers sticking to the limit. However, a week later hidden cameras were used in a similar exercise and they revealed a very different picture; showing that 85% of drivers were travelling at 39mph or more! These results are cause for serious concern and have been referred to the Police by Road Safety Team.

**Village shop:** Good news! About sixty people attended the meeting called to discuss the possibility of opening a shop in the village. A Steering Group was formed, under the chairmanship of Michael Alderman. This group will now take the project to the next stage, that of assessing the viability of the proposal, seeking suitable premises and acquiring sponsorship and funding. Approximately 30 villagers have indicated their willingness, in principle, to becoming a shareholder in the community shop and/or making a contribution to stocking a community shop. If you would also like to register your interest in assisting the venture financially or perhaps by offering your professional services to the project, then Jane Teague will be delighted to hear from you.

**Green Waste:** Since East Northants Council withdrew their green waste collection service last August, they have received numerous objections (including ours) and petitions. As a result they have set up a working party which is looking at different schemes and options and are expected to report back to East Northants Council in the next month or two.

East Northants Council remind us that home composters are available at a subsidised price – a small one can be purchased and delivered for under £20. More information is available from the Recycling Officer at East Northants Council Offices in Thrapston. Tel 742043

### **Village News and Future Events**

**Stitchmarsh.** The group is now well established and going from strength to strength. New members are always welcome, there is no need to work on a programme for any evening, just come along and enjoy the company whilst doing your own work - perhaps even "Show and Tell".

We welcome visitors to any event in the programme at a cost of £1.50 for the evening. The group meets in the Club Room Wednesdays 7.30 to 9.30pm. The next meetings are 22<sup>nd</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April and fortnightly thereafter.

*Elizabeth (Betty) Wisener.*

**Titchmarsh School.** School reopens after the Easter holiday on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April. After saying a fond farewell to Miss Tranmer, who has served our primary school, especially our reception children so well for the past six years, we shall be welcoming Mrs Grantham who will be replacing her.

The school will be closed for a training day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April and May Bank Holiday on 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Our Annual May Day celebration will be held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May** and will follow the tradition of a service in St Mary's Church followed by the village walk. In the afternoon, the children will entertain with songs and dancing. You are most welcome to join us for this happy day.

Our building work is now complete. We are delighted by the results. The wonderful new library, also known as the Grey room, in memory of Mr Raymond Gray will be officially opened at the FOTS Fun Day on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

In the Summer term we shall be holding a School Open Morning, where everybody is welcome to visit the school, meet the staff and see the children working. A date is still to be arranged, watch this space.

*Josie Milton*

**Titchmarsh Clubroom.** The Old Time Music Hall Revue which was postponed in January will be replaced by the show 'The Call of the Wild West' on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. This show will include some of the songs from 'Annie Get Your Gun', 'Calamity Jane', 'Paint Your Wagon' and 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers'. Look out for further details later in the year, but please put this date in your diaries now.

*Diane Ellis.*

**Titchmarsh 10k Road Race & 3k Fun Run. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 10:00 (3k) & 11:00 (10k)**

This event, organised by the Playing Fields Committee of the Parish Council, is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year and will start with the 3k Fun Run outside the Wheatsheaf on the High Street. The 10k Road Race will follow at 11:00. Last year the village played host to over 400 athletes from all over the British Isles.

The route takes both races out of the village towards Clopton. The 3k will turn round just before Bidwell but the 10k runners don't head for home until they have gone up to the farm track past Fay Way.

A road closure notice has been granted by East Northamptonshire Council. The organisers will try to keep any disruption to a minimum. Anticipated closure times are as follows:

1. Bidwell to Titchmarsh 09:50 to 12:15
2. Fay Way road to Titchmarsh 11:00 to 12:15
3. Polopit to Titchmarsh 09:50 to 10:40, 10:50 to 11:05 and 11:25 to 12:20

The organisers would like to invite volunteers for race day tasks such as marshalling, clubroom security, directing and assisting runners and refreshments.

If you are able to help then please contact Richard Roe or email: [roadrace@titchmarsh.info](mailto:roadrace@titchmarsh.info).

For the more energetic, entry forms are on the website at [www.titchmarsh.info/roadrace.htm](http://www.titchmarsh.info/roadrace.htm).

**Parish Plan Update. Clubs and Societies.**

Regrettably, no one has come forward to help organise the following clubs:

Board Games  
Rugby  
Angling Society

Cycling  
Cricket

Tai Chi  
Film Club

Running  
Adventure Club

.....so these will not be formed, despite nearly 200 potential members from villagers indicating at the T Day event that they would be interested in joining one or more of these clubs.

Unfortunately the person involved in organising the Amateur Dramatics Society now finds that she will not be able to give this new club the time that it requires and we are therefore looking for someone to take this on. Please telephone me if you think that you can help here. One more request for assistance please – the Community Transport Group need more people to help. If there are any more kind people willing to volunteer a small amount of their time for this purpose, please telephone me. A meeting to discuss this service will be arranged in the near future.

On a brighter note, there will be a meeting of all interested in forming a **Gardening Club** on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in the Clubroom**. Ann Swift will lead the discussion on what members would like to see from such a club and she asks that people come along with some ideas on the matter.

Maggie Chapman is continuing to make the necessary enquiries concerning the Walking Club and will provide an update on this in the next issue of Titchmarsh Times. She would, however, appreciate some assistance from anyone prepared to help with the organisation of the club.

This will be the last update on the Clubs and Societies from the Parish Plan committee. We would ask that the initial organisers advise the village web site coordinators of the details of each club so that any villager interested in taking up any of these activities in future will be able to make contact with the appropriate person. Please phone me if you have any queries about this.

You will be interested to know that as a result of the Parish Plan initiative, we now have the Local History Group, Stitchmarsh Handicraft Club, a Book Club, a Bridge Group, Titchmarsh Flower Group, a Classical Music Group, a Wine Appreciation Society, and a Lunch Club all formed and running with events planned. In addition, there is a Youth Club, a Gardening Club, and a Walking Club well advanced in the planning. The Parish Plan Committee are very grateful to all those people who have given their time to form and run these new social activities which we all hope will make Titchmarsh an even better place to live. Thank you to everyone involved.

*John Gaskin.*

**Titchmarsh Local History Group.** The group is now well established, meeting on the second Thursday of each month. The photographic collection is growing. We would wish to thank Mr & Mrs. Ray, Lady Harper, Liz Knivett and Michael Bright for their contributions. Sheila Holland keeps coming up with all sorts of old views and photographs of the village together with records of events that took place in the 1950's for which we are extremely grateful. The copies have been on display at our monthly meetings. More photographs and village documents would be appreciated.

We have been looking at the 1901 census and relating the residents and their trades to the places where they lived in Titchmarsh. So many houses have disappeared since that time but some of the family names are very familiar.

For our **April meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 7.30pm**, we have a visiting speaker, Stuart Antrobus. MA., who will be giving an illustrated talk entitled:

**“Cinderella's of the Soil”. The Women's Land Army in the 1940's**

I know we have many ex-Land Army girls in the surrounding area and they will be especially welcome. The hostel used to stand in Church Field adjacent to Islington. The cost of this evening is £2 including refreshments. For further information contact Janet Putley or John Greig

For the meeting on 11th May local lads who grew up in the village after the Second World War will be imparting their reminiscences of the 50's and 60's and we are arranging a guided tour of the Church for June 8<sup>th</sup>.

*John Greig*

**Lych Lane:** The regular walkers among you will have noticed that Anglia Water has repaired the lane from St Andrews Lane to the sewerage works, a lane apparently known as Lych Lane. This lane now provides a good walk in all weathers. SP

**Art in Titchmarsh.** For the past few years, the Club Room has been the venue for an Art Workshop. The Group meets one Saturday in each Month, under the guidance of Norma Gregory. Students are attracted from many areas including London, Coventry and Lincoln. The work is mainly on Watercolour but is used in different ways. From abstract to flower studies, still-life, to birds and animals. Pen and ink, working with cling-film and painting on coloured paper are all techniques the group use.

We are holding an Open Day and Exhibition on 13th May between 11 am and 2pm.

Why not come along and see us and our work. There will be an opportunity to purchase original art work.

Coffee & biscuits 50p. All donations to Club Room Funds.

**Titchmarsh Draw.** The draws continue for this year. February's took place this year in the D&P. Winners of the £15 tickets were: 116 – Hazel Brocklebank, 112 – Sally Horridge, 104 – Sandy Warren, 102 – Leanne Harris.

The March draw took place on 4<sup>th</sup> in the Wheatsheaf. The winners of £15 were: 001 – Jean Bussens, 124 – Lucy Milner, 053 – Mrs Weatherall, 141 – David Newbold.

All winners will be notified as soon as possible after each draw and details of winners will also be posted in the Titchmarsh Times. The next draw will be held in the **D&P on 7th April.**

**Titchmarsh Playing Fields.** Our Annual AGM will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April in the village clubroom at 8.00pm. The future of the Playing Fields is very exciting at the moment with major developments on the horizon. Come along and hear about our progress and plans and to put forward any of your own ideas. This year there I am standing down as chairman and we are also looking for someone to take on the role of secretary, anyone who is interested please either contact any member of the committee for information or come along on the night. Caroline Thompson

**Titchmarsh Youth Group (TYG)** A number of volunteers have got together to see whether a youth group in the village is a workable option. In February, a questionnaire was put out to a large number of children aged 8 and above asking for their views as to whether they would wish to attend a youth group. We have since had a positive response and are now trying to organise the group with a programme of events for the 8-18 year olds to attend on a regular basis.

A date has been arranged for there to be a first 'get together' for TYG on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm-9pm.** This is a chance for young people over 8 years and their parents to come and see what the Titchmarsh Youth Group is hoping to offer.

There will be an opportunity for the young people to sign up to become members of TYG. Adults are invited to attend to discuss how we hope to pursue this group on a long term basis. We have also arranged for two youth workers from Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs (NAYC) to attend and to bring along some craft materials and their play station and will be around to speak to the young people and adults too. Please come along to give your views as we would welcome any comments or questions you have regarding the setting up and running of this group. We are still in the planning stage so any offers of ideas or assistance would be helpful. If you would like to be part of the youth group in the village please contact Sue Shapland. We look forward to seeing you on the 28<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm onwards.

*Sue Shapland*

**Church Services over Easter.**

Palm Sunday on April 9<sup>th</sup> is at Barnwell at 11.00am with the procession starting at 10.45am.

Maunday Thursday on April 13<sup>th</sup> is at Thurning at 7.30pm.

Good Friday on April 14<sup>th</sup> is at Titchmarsh at 11.00 am

Easter Sunday on April 16<sup>th</sup> at Titchmarsh, Holy Communion at 9.30am

*Julia Powell*

**Titchmarsh PCC.** A **Barn Dance** will be held on Saturday **8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in the Clubroom**. There will be live music provided by the Old Weston Band and George will be calling the steps so no one will be left out. There will be a bar for quenching your thirst and a light supper to keep your strength up. Every one who came last year had a really good time so don't miss out this year. Tickets can be obtained from Jean Bussens and only cost £5 for adults and £2 for children and this includes the supper, where else can you get a night out for so little.

**The Mediterranean Evening** with the auction of promises raised £2500 for the restoration fund and we most heartily thank everyone for their support at what was a very entertaining evening. Lots of thanks to Jackie for all the work she put into the promises and organisation.

**English Heritage** has agreed to give us £50,000 towards the Restoration of the Chancel Roof and the work is due to begin at the end of May and should be finished by the end of September. Restoration and repair is an ongoing project, so fund raising will always be on our agenda.

**Church Yard Tidying** is being done on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** after Morning Service at around 10.30am. Anyone who wishes to help please bring along some gardening equipment to trim hedges, clear ivy and many other tasks. There is a lunch provided afterwards for all the hard workers.

**The Boundary Walk.** The walk this year will be on **Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>** the whole distance starting at 7.30am or the short route at 10.30/45am after Morning Service.

**Friends of Titchmarsh School.** We are holding a raffle on the night of our **Spring Ball** and we have some super prizes to win. The first prize is £100, and we also have tickets for Santa Pod, Rockingham Castle, Nene Valley Railway, Peterborough Greyhounds and Duxford, as well as many others. If you wish to purchase some raffle tickets then they are available at the D & P.

Our next Bag 2 School is booked for April, and you should be receiving your blue collecting bags anytime soon.

Finally our annual **Funday** is to be held on **13<sup>th</sup> May** at the school between 12.30 and 3.30pm. Many thanks for your past, present and future support with all of our fund-raising events.

*Pip Blowfield.*

**Titchmarsh Village Fete.** This years Fete will be **on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** in the Church and School grounds, so make a note on your calendar now. There will be stalls, bars, tea tents and various activities and competitions in the arena - this year a Throne Race will replace the Tug O War! We always need helpers on the day and volunteers would be very welcome. Please contact the Fete Co-ordinator Sylvia Prestwich or by email at [sylviaprestwich@aol.com](mailto:sylviaprestwich@aol.com)

**Congratulations** to Norma Gregory who, in the January Exhibition of Botanical Art at the RHS in London was awarded a Gold Medal - one of only four Gold awards. Exhibitors were from several Countries including Australia, Japan and U.S.A.

Norma has also been invited to mount her own exhibition at the Museum of Garden History in London in September.

**Rural Community Programme.** Activities for 8 to 13 year olds in the Club Room on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April**, 10am to noon. Fee £2 per child. These events are organised by Cultural Community Partnerships working on behalf of East Northamptonshire Council.

**Finally.** Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition. Six pages seem now to be the norm, let's keep it that way. Please can I have your copy for the June/July edition at the above address by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the very, very latest.

*John Greig (Editor).*

