

Titchmarsh Times

A bi-monthly village newsletter sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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April/May 2009

Parish Council.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place at 7.30pm on **Thursday, 30th April**. Please do try to come along to hear more about what has been happening in the village and to join in the discussion on the direction we should now take. Several speakers – including our county and district councillors - have agreed to talk about what they have been doing and what they plan to do in the future.

Freedom of Information Act. The parish council has revised its regulations to bring them into line with current legal requirements. Essentially the situation is that there are now very few aspects of the work of the council that remains confidential. If you would like more information, please visit the village website or speak to our clerk.

Activities for young people are being held in the Clubroom on **Wednesday 8th April and Thursday 16th April**, from 10am – 12pm on both days. These activities are part of the Rural Community Programme and have been held in the village on several occasions over the past few years. They are popular and fun, involving a range of sport, art and craft activities for children aged between 8 to 13 years. Simply turn up at the Clubroom on either of the dates.

Village boundary. The district council has been required to look once again at its policy on village boundaries. These boundaries are important because development is unlikely to be permitted outside them, except in special cases such as for affordable housing. In Titchmarsh the boundary has been drawn very tightly round the existing housing. This means that some gardens are outside the boundary as indeed is the whole of Islington. The council is seeking a relaxation of this policy.

Verges. This winter has been particularly destructive of verges in the village. In several areas the grass has been churned up by vehicles being either driven across or parked on them. Most will recover in the better weather but we do ask that you give them the opportunity to do so by keeping your vehicles off them. Many thanks to those of you who have already taken the trouble to repair the damage to the verges outside your own properties.

Village of the Year. Although we have enjoyed success in this competition in recent years, we have decided give it a rest for the time being. As a result there will not be the usual visit by judges bearing clipboards around the village this spring. Sorry if you quite liked the idea of being interviewed!

News and Events.

200 Club Winners All winning £10 each.

January John Greig (162), Sue Greasley (49), Sarah Reeves (104), Peter Dunn (35)

February Keith Sheffield (60), Marie Cranch (99), Caroline Hope (165), Peter Dunn (35). Well done everyone!

To all, your 200 Club number is now up for renewal. By now you should have received a form through your door. If you haven't had one or would like another please contact Mary Cheney or myself Ruth Knight.

PLEASE take part again for 2009/2010 it is only £24.00 a year (50p a week) and the proceeds go to the Church and the School and of course half goes back to you all as prize money!!!
Ruth Knight.

Titchmarsh School. This term so far, following extensive external assessment, we have been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark by BECTA. We are currently 1 of only 6 primary schools who have received this award in the County. The award recognises the school's success in developing the strategic use of ICT in both administration and across the curriculum. The plaque will be unveiled at a later date.

Secondly we received a great report from our Section 48 Church Inspection. An electronic copy can be found, along with our Ofsted report, on the front page of our website. www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com. Finally everybody loves a party and after the successes of this term so far, we felt in the mood to celebrate the first birthday of our Maths Games library, which is going from strength to strength.

In the Summer term, we shall be holding a School Open Afternoon, 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.

School will be closed for the Easter break From Friday 3rd April, reopening on Monday 20th April. Our Annual May Day celebration will be held on Wednesday 6th May. There will be 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. *Mrs J Milton. Headteacher.*

Titchmarsh Walking Group. What better way than to celebrate our lovely Spring weather with a walk in the Northamptonshire countryside??

You are welcome to join our friendly group of walkers on routes of approximately 4 to 5 miles around the local area. Walks are normally on the first Saturday of the month - meeting at 10am at the D&P Green.

The **April walk takes place on Saturday 4th**, and the one after that will be on **Saturday 2nd May**. We generally take a circular route from a local pub, where refreshments will be available afterwards. All welcome. For further details, phone Maggy Chapman email: melandmag@btinternet or see the Walking Group page on our village website www.titchmarsh.info

Titchmarsh Pre-School. Our theme for this term is the Easter and growing/planting, seasons and our environment.

We are, at present, planning a number of fundraising events as follows:-

Holding the **Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the 2nd April**. We have also asked for the children to design and create an Easter Bonnet to wear for the day. The Evening Telegraph will be coming to take a picture of the event, so we have a chance to show off the pre-school to a wide audience.

We are also going to be holding a **Mothers Day and Fathers Day raffle**.

We have also organised a **bags2school** collection to be held on the **12th May** so if you could start storing up those items of clothing you no-longer want we can make it a bumper year.

We would like to thank all who support the pre-school, because as a Charity, we receive no external funds and therefore without your financial support at such events the pre-school could not provide facilities for the children or continue to flourish as it is able to right now. We would like to thank the clubroom committee who have kindly assisted the preschool in replacing the front gates and we should see our new gates arrive in March.

We are looking for helpers for pre-school if anyone is interested in working alongside the children and we are also looking to recruit a Temporary Pre-School Assistant to join our team. The ideal candidate must be NVQ2 or NVQ3 qualified. If you are interested please contact Caroline Hope or a member of staff. We also have vacancies for a new chair and vice chair for the pre-school committee and would welcome anyone who is interested in taking an active part in their child's education and support the pre-school throughout the year. Again if you wish to receive further information please contact Caroline.

We are open for 4 full days per week, from 9.15 am – 2.45 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which also includes to option of attending an afternoon session 12.15 pm -2.45pm along with all our usual morning sessions still in place.

We provide a safe and stimulating environment in which children are encouraged to learn through play, so if you have a child of 2.5 to 5 years old and would like more information about Pre-School, do please contact us on 07879 072796, or call in during session time (09.15 – 11.45 every day, till 12.45 pm on Wednesday and 12.15 pm – 2.45 pm on Tuesday's and Thursday's).

Marie Curie Cancer Care: Daffodil Appeal 2009. Many thanks to the people in Polopit and Abbott's Close who contributed so generously to this year's appeal.
A cheque for £70 has been sent to the charity.

Shirley Curtis

Friends of Titchmarsh School. Firstly I would like to thank everyone for their support of the jewellery recycling event and Pamper Evening which were held in March. As usual we received great support from the village and parents. Thanks must also go to those of you that made it to and helped at the Beetle Drive which even though we had the weather against us, was very well attended.

We are planning the following fundraising events for the school.

Our next event will be a school disco to be held on the **25th April from 3-5pm**. It will be a fancy dress event with the children being asked to dress up as Heroes, Heroines, Knights or Dragons with the event being held near St George's day. Prizes will be given out for the best dressed and for winners of games held throughout the disco. Food will be provided.

Our **Annual Fun Day** is to be held on **Saturday, 9th May 2009**. As usual there will be arts and crafts stalls, refreshments- including barbecue, bouncy castle, stalls and tombola etc. I'm sure as usual the village and parents will turn out in force and hopefully the weather will allow us to have a great day. If anyone would like a stall at the event, please can you contact either Lucy Milner or Tracey Levick.

Your continued support enables us buy extra toys and equipment for the school and support the day to day running of the school. So Thanks.

Tracey Levick.

March 4th 2009

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank
Terry Hammond Esquire for
the kind use of his brilliant
field during the amazing week
of snow we had in February.
We hope we didn't wreck
his peace!

Kind regards,

from all the Titchmarsh Sledgers

To Horse/Pony Owners and Riders Around the Titchmarsh Area. Those who hack out along the Eastern side of Titchmarsh, especially across the river, will have noticed that the farmers have begun to grow grass strips approximately ten metres wide around each of the crop fields; this looks a lot like headland, but is in fact under a special agreement with the Government.

It is there to encourage the nesting of wild birds and also to encourage wildlife; therefore it is not for driving, walking or riding horses on. This applies to all grass strips, on each side of all fields. I found this out directly from a farmer this morning, 7th March. His name is Nick.

I put this on here to spare you all from being roundly shouted at by some of the farmers - and to spare our wildlife, of course!

Alice Dove

Broadband Speed.

I would be interested to know if any of you using broadband internet connections are having any problems with delivery speed. Over the past few months my BT service has been extremely inconsistent and varies from acceptable to "I give up. Be quicker by post." You can check the speed of your connection by typing speedtester.bt.com into your browser and adding the telephone number you are using. The page can be printed out. I would be interested to see what results you get. Perhaps with a bit more information from a number of people it may be possible to get the service improved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

John Greig (je.greig@btopenworld.com)

Titchmarsh Village Fete.

It will soon be Fete time again! Look out for a flyer telling you all about the fete which will be held on **Saturday, 13th June 2009** from noon to 5 p.m. on the school and church fields. There will be all the usual fun with flying teddies, teas, bars, stalls, arena events – including displays of dog agility, folk dancing and fencing - games and a prize draw with fantastic prizes. Also there will be another wheelbarrow jousting competition! Titchmarsh House gardens will be open on the same day. Fete committee members will be coming round the village in late May to collect tombola prizes and sell prize draw tickets. If anyone feels able to offer 2 or 3 hours help on the day or wants to get involved with the planning please contact Sylvia Prestwich SylviaPrestwich@aol.com

Titchmarsh Youth Group.

4 th	April	CCP Swimming Session at Nene Centre
24 th	April	Club Night
8 th	May	Club Night/NAYC craft night
22 nd	May	Games Night/Club Night
5 th	June	Survival Skills at Fermyn Woods

For any other young person in the Titchmarsh, Clopton and Thurning still wanting to join, membership forms must be signed prior to attending TYG for those young people who are school Year 7 and above. The yearly membership fee is £10 which covers the cost of the hall hire, training, CRB checks and insurances. Session fees are £2 for the two hours. For further information regarding membership or any of the above sessions, please contact Sue Shapland or Alice Dove.

TYG continues to be somewhere our young people want to regularly attend. In order to maintain the youth group and to keep up the variety of activities we are able to offer (and the young people want to take part in), we periodically need to raise funds. To try and help with our fundraising, on Sunday 12th July 2009, two adult leaders and two young people from our youth club will be taking part in the British London 10km run.

The team need to raise a minimum sponsorship of £400 with the proceeds being equally split between our Youth Group and the NAYC (Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs).

Sue Shapland, Julie Ray, Imogen Stokes and Robert Shapland have already started their 'tough training regime' however, we are very conscious of the fact that in the current financial climate we are only one of many deserving causes in the parish and therefore this will be our only fund raising activity of the year.

If you feel able to sponsor the team and help support your local youth club we would be very grateful.

Please contact Sue Shapland sueshapland@hotmail.com, Louise Stokes louise.stokes@tesco.net or Julie Ray julie.ray@tiscali.co.uk

Titchmarsh Boundary Walks.

Sunday, 17th May. The 18 mile walk will start at 7.30am the shorter 4 mile walk 10.30. Both walks will be lead by a guide. £3 per adult & £2 per child. Refreshments provided. All proceeds to Church funds. Meet at the Church Gate. For more information contact Julia Powell Bring a stick !!!!

Found in the Shop. Pair of kiddies pink gloves. Will the owners Mum please collect.

Playing Field News. There's still time to get into shape for our main fund-raiser of the year, the **10k Road Race** or if you fancy a shorter jog, why not enter **the 3k Fun Run**? Both runs take place on **Sunday, 3rd May** with the 3k starting at 10am followed by the 10k at 11am.

There's already a great deal of interest in the Midsummer Music evening on June 20th in the school field. Two live bands plus a disco have again been booked for this music extravaganza and gazebo spaces are filling up fast, so to reserve your spot, speak to Gina Gaskin without delay!

The fantastic new pavilion facilities certainly seem to be having a positive effect on the two Sunday teams who play on our field. Titchmarsh FC are not only top of their league, but have reached the final of the Sunday County FA Vase, whilst The Fox FC are second in the same league. Our village team is also through to the quarter-finals of two more league trophies, so please come and support the lads in their quest to achieve at least a 'double'.

One down-side of the increased use of the playing field is more litter appearing, particularly after football matches. We have appealed to our lads who play up there, but we have little control over the visiting teams. Could we please appeal to any kind-hearted users of the field who see empty bottles and cans to pick them up and bring them back to the council bins just outside the gate. Thank you.

We have had some extremely positive feedback from people who have used the community room part of the pavilion for private parties. It's available for anyone to hire — please call Melvyn Chapman for further details.

Titchmarsh Football Club. The Club has made it to the final of the NFA County Sunday Vase cup final for the first time in over 25 years. This game is to be played on **Thursday, 2nd April** at Raunds Town Football Club, kick off 7.30pm. Hopefully we can have a good following there and afterwards, we will be going back to the Dog and Partridge to celebrate, win or lose!

After an up and down season last year, we have grouped together under new manager Kev Bettles and assistant Dave Bailey and are currently at the top of our league and in the quarter finals of both the Gordon Howes Memorial Trophy and the Marriotts Junior Cup, which are being played over the next 2 weekends.

Our fellow ground sharers at Titchmarsh, the Fox Inn, are doing extremely well in the same league as ourselves after promotion last year and are currently in second place. The first of these two local derby games is to be played on **Sunday, 29th March** so it would be nice to see some local faces up there on the day to support your team.

We are currently in urgent need of a new strip so if there is anyone who is willing to sponsor the team please get in touch with myself, John Wisniewski.

Stop Press. John, I take it you are in print now but just to let you know that the lads won yesterday (Sunday 15/03/09) and are now in the cup semi-final, regards, Wizz

News from the Dog and Partridge

Spring Bank Holiday Beer Festival 22nd May to 25th May. The Beer tent goes back up for our Bank Holiday beer festival starting on Friday Evening and continuing through until Monday Lunch (If the beers lasts!) with an array of Beers supplied from local Breweries.. Other drinks will be available in the tent

Friday evening we have live music from **TNA** (free entry)

Saturday night with the **Oompah Band**. Join us for a night of foot stomping, thigh slapping and drinking songs...We only have limited places available and bookings are being taken now. The cost is £10 a head & includes a sausage and mash supper.

Sunday afternoon. A relaxing afternoon with an **Irish Band and Dancers** (free entry)

Chinese Evenings... At the D&P with a local Chinese chef taking over our kitchen. The first date is **Monday, 30th March**. The cost is £8.50 for 2 courses from a set menu with a selection of side dishes at extra charge. Bookings and pre orders must be with Carol by close of business on **Sunday, 29th March**. The second date planned is Monday 27th April with bookings and pre orders to Carol by Sunday 26th April. Call in for a copy of the menu or download it from our web site

Quiz, After deliberations we have decided to leave the quiz on Sundays. So... our monthly Sunday night Quiz takes place on the 12th April and 10th May at a cost £1 entry per person with a free buffet afterwards...starts at 8pm. Anyone who was at our last quiz will know it was Dave's last appearance as music quiz master and our thanks go to out to him for his help over the years.

Bonus Ball. We now have a weekly draw for the lottery bonus ball. Cost is £1 for a number. If you are in the Dog and Partridge when the Saturday Lottery is drawn you will get the full proceeds else £9 of the pot rolls over to the next week... Good Luck

Acoustic night. This is proving to be a popular night with all levels of expertise keen to show off their talents on the last Wednesday of every month. **29th April and 27th May.** Enzo as always is on hand with amps, microphone and a spare acoustic guitar. He will help anyone from beginners to advanced to set up and perform. Other instruments are welcome

Easter Sunday Lunch. Booking are being taken for Easter Sunday lunch

We are also having an Easter egg hunt and Easter raffle, profits from the raffle are to go to a village charity. Vote for which charity you would like the money to go to when you purchase your ticket and the one with the most votes will receive the proceeds.

The Wheatsheaf Inn Update.

As you all know The Wheatsheaf Inn closed its doors for a much needed facelift at the beginning of February. We were hoping to be able to tell you all our opening date in this edition of The Titchmarsh Times but unfortunately this hasn't been finalised yet. We wanted to let everyone know that work is going well and the new pub that is emerging is definitely going to be worth the wait!! Stella, Andy and Keto would like to thank everyone for your continued patience and we are very much looking forward to seeing you all again in the not too distant future...

From the Rectory

The Annual meeting of Titchmarsh Church will be held in Church at 7.30pm on **22nd April.** This year's is a particularly significant one. Over the coming months the PCC will have to negotiate a combination of opportunities and challenges. For a long time there has been discussion about making our magnificent church building more user-friendly (e.g. with new seating). And we are looking for grants to refurbish our unusually fine organ. Thankfully much maintenance (e.g. to our roofs) is behind us but the West Window will need attention soon. While it's not appropriate for the AGM to discuss details, it is an opportunity to highlight issues to help the PCC we elect with the task it will face.

I hope you will be able to join us – all Titchmarsh residents are welcome. And if you cannot make it, please feel free to get in touch with me. Nomination forms etc are available inside the church door.

With all good wishes Jim Mynors

60 Main St, Aldwinckle 720613 (usual day off – Friday) Jim@mynors.me.uk

Titchmarsh Church Services

April 5 th	10.45am Palm Sunday procession from shop 11am Holy Communion for Palm Sunday
April 10 th	11am Good Friday Service
April 12 th	9.15am Easter Communion & 3pm Easter Family Service & Easter egg hunt
April 19 th	9.15am Communion
April 26 th	9.15am Communion
May 3 rd	9.15 Morning Prayer
May 10 th	9.15am Communion & 4.30pm Family Service
May 17 th	9.15am Communion
May 24 th	9.15am Communion
May 31 st	9.15am Communion

Please note services elsewhere on notice boards and on the pink sheet (help yourself from pile inside church)

Especially note that at 7.30pm on April 9th (Maundy Thursday) there will be a Communion Service at the newly refurbished Church in Clopton

Also please note the summer Family Services (2nd Sundays from May) will be **at 4.30pm** – the same time at all-age services at Oundle (1st Sun) Thrapston (3rd Sun) and Barnwell/Polebrook (4th Sun) – more details in porch

From the Registers.

Funeral. On 12th March - Stella Millard, 16 Polopit who died on 28th February aged 89

Interment of Ashes. Ruth Upex , 36 Heron Ave, Thrapston aged 82, on the 2nd March

Thanks...

To all who helped with the churchyard clearance on 8th March and to all who organised and supported the Pancake Races. 41 ran including a good number of children. Nearly £100 was raised and we all enjoyed ourselves.

Church rotas

Date	Flowers	Time	Sidesmen	Readers
5th April 2009 Palm Sunday	no flowers	10.45 on the Green 11am in church	Mr Fieldsend	Mr S Barber
12th April 2009 Easter Day	Mrs S Prestwich	9.15am	Dr G Webster	Mr T Higgins
		4.30pm	Mr G Edwards	James Edwards
19th April 2009	Mrs B Ray	9.15am	Lady Harper	Sir Ewan Harper
26th April 2009	Mrs S Hankins	9.15am	Mr A Powell	Mrs J Powell
3rd May 2009	Mrs A Dunn	9.15am	Dr G Webster	Mr J Fieldsend
				Dr S Bell
10th May 2009	Mrs A King	9.15am	Mr A Powell	Mrs J Bussens
		4.30pm	Hope Family	Jessica Knight
17th May 2009	Mrs R Franklin	9.15am	Mrs K Williams	Mr D Williams
24th May 2009	Mrs G Gaskin	9.15am	Mrs J Fieldsend	Mr J Fieldsend

Flowers for Easter to decorate the church - please bring to the church on Saturday 11th April between 10am & noon. If you can help decorate please come, with or without your gift of flowers.

Concert in Titchmarsh 15th May. The 'Music in Quiet Places' series comes to Titchmarsh Church on May 15th at 8pm with a baroque music group 'Eclipse'. Tickets £11 (concession £9.50 under 21 £2) at the door or from Oundle Tourist Information Centre. More details on church notice boards.

Stitchmarsh. We are currently involved with knitting, embroidery and patchwork projects.

Future meetings will take place on the Wednesdays of the 8th & 22nd April and then the 13th May. There will be NO meeting on 27th May and there will be two further before we break until September. Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Clubroom.

Visitors are always welcome. Perhaps you have a craft that others may be interested in learning? Or is there a craft that you need some guidance on? We are always there to help. *Eleanor Greig*

Titchmarsh Village Shop.

By now you should all have received your March newsletter and will be aware that we are holding a number of fundraising events over the next couple of months. (If you haven't received a newsletter you can pick one up in the Shop). Here are a few more details about the events:

Easter Weekend Event, 11th - 13th April. We will have a plant stall throughout the weekend and will be having a cake stall on Easter Saturday. On Easter Monday we will be holding an Easter Fair from 12 noon to 3 p.m. in and around the Shop. There will be a barbecue, teas, hot cross buns and stalls promoting both local crafts and the Shop. Anyone wanting a local craft stall should contact Peter James. There will be competitions for best decorated egg, best decorated hat and best spring photograph. At the beginning of April, look out for more details in the Shop about how to enter. One of our suppliers - Fosters of Market Harborough - has donated a fantastic Easter hamper which we will be raffling off at the event.

The Quiz Night will be held on **Saturday 9th May** in the Clubroom at 7.30 p.m. prompt (bar available from 7 p.m.) Tickets are £7.50 each which includes a hot supper and a fantastic quiz by Derek Ellis. Tables of 8 – Village quizzes are always popular so book your tickets early!

Prize Draw tickets will go on sale from the beginning of April and the draw will be made at the Quiz Night. **Tickets are 20p each – book of 5 for £1.** Lots of really good prizes including a cash prize, vintage champagne, port and tickets to various events. Draw tickets will be on sale in the Shop, at the Easter Weekend Event, at the 10k road race and on the night at the Quiz. Look out for the list of prizes in the Shop.

We have started taking weekend Fruit & Veg orders and orders for Bread (order forms in the Shop). We will be taking orders for Easter so if you want to avoid crowded Supermarkets – please consider using us for some or all your basics (Order forms in the Shop from 30th March).

We are also looking forward to local asparagus and strawberries which should be available from late April/early May.

Red Nose Day – we raised over £50 towards Comic Relief.

Sales are slowly starting to pick up so thank you to everyone who is making the effort to shop locally.

Titchmarsh Local History Group. Dovecots. A Social & Economic History. Titchmarsh Local History Group has invited Colin Rae, a local historian from Oundle, to give his acclaimed illustrated talk on Dovecots.

These buildings were found in the grounds of many large houses from medieval times and provided a source of fresh meat during the winter periods. They also were a source of controversy. Colin has details of the two in Titchmarsh.

The snow preclude Colins visit in February and we look forward to welcoming him to the Club Room on **Thursday, 9th April** at 7.30pm. The fee for the evening will be £2.50 and refreshments will be served.

If you haven't been to our meetings before you will be made most welcome. We are small group focusing on the history of Titchmarsh and the surrounding area. For further information please contact John Greig

Toawst Hello to our regular supporters and to any new comers who might be considering joining the fun of tasting and learning about wine complimented by great food and fabulous company!! On **Friday, 3rd April** at 8.00pm, in the Club Room; the focus of the evening will be Rioja. So search the several grape varieties that make a red or white Rioja, bring a bottle or two and a Spanish dish to compliment it. Cheers !!!
Jeff & Jo.

Finally. The usual thank you's to every one who helps to make this newsletter the success it really is. Please will you have your contribution to the June/July issue sent to me at the above address by the evening if **Friday, 15th May.**
John Greig (Editor).