

Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council

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Parish Council

Ian Curtis. Chairman writes:

Vacancy Parish for Councillor: We were sorry to receive Vince Smith's resignation from the Parish Council. Vince has been a valued member of the council since his election last year, taking a particular interest in developing the Parish Plan and in matters relating to roads and transport. The resignation has left a vacancy on the Council. Ten members of the parish having requested an election, one is being organised by East Northamptonshire Council. Nominations closed on 23rd July, too early for this edition of the Titchmarsh Times, hence the need to send the separate leaflet about it. If the election is contested then voting will be by post with the count taking place on Thursday, 19th August. Although the election is organised by ENC, the cost is borne by the Parish Council.

Welcome Pack: A pack of information has been collated for those people new to the village giving background information on the parish and on local services. If you have recently arrived in the village or know of someone who is moving in, please contact Jane Teague for a pack

Waterville Lakes: Where are they? These are the areas of water on the Aldwincle side of the river opposite Titchmarsh Marina. Members of the 'boundary walk' group know them well, as one of the lakes lies on the margin of the parish. In the last month, new gates have been erected on the Thorpe entrance to the meadows and, we understand, the access from Titchmarsh via the sluice bridge is also to be blocked off. The fishing rights have recently changed hands and the new owner is keen to make access exclusive to a fishing syndicate. Many people walk across these meadows, especially from Aldwincle and Thorpe, and the action has caused considerable resentment. Negotiations are being held with the landowners to re-establish access; failing that the County Council will be asked to recognise formally a right of way across the meadow. If you have walked regularly across these meadows, please contact Ian Curtis.

Footpath Wardens: In response to the request in the last edition of the Times, three people - Jim James, Terry Higgins and Louise Stokes - have generously expressed an interest in undertaking the role of footpath warden. This is excellent news. We are looking to share the responsibility for the role between the three. More information on this in the next edition. While on the subject of footpaths, will you please make sure that gates are closed once you have passed through. In a recent incident, a gate was left open and two bulls given the opportunity to roam freely.

Road Safety: As a result of our concerns regarding speeding, we have been discussing possible deterrents such as permanent illuminated speed warning signs and the use by villagers of speed guns. After a long debate, we concluded that, for a variety of reasons, neither was appropriate at the present time. We are concerned not to alienate the vast majority of safety conscious drivers because of the actions of the reckless few. Besides erecting warning signs, we have asked the police to continue to monitor the situation closely to identify the offenders. We have also arranged for temporary speed indicator signs to be erected for periods during August and September. Incidentally, this is the kind of issue on which we would like to hear your views through the Parish Plan.

Parish Council. Continued:

Skateboarding: At our June meeting we received an earnest and very well-argued request from two young people for a facility for them to practise skateboarding, in safety away from the road. We are currently looking at the implications of the request, such as location and cost, including the cost of insurance. Any views? Please contact either your local councillor or the Clerk.

Notices: There has recently been a rash of posters appearing on telegraph posts. These often remain long after the event and detract from the generally tidy appearance of the village. The Parish Council is proposing to place a further notice board near the bus stop by the school. We hope that this will be used and that people will refrain from fly-posting elsewhere.

Why not use the "Titchmarsh Times" to advertise your event? It's free and goes to every household in the Parish. Ed.

Manor Farm Court: We are pleased to report that, following representations from the Parish and the District, the proposal for an additional six houses on this site was rejected by ENC. We have been particularly grateful for the support of our district councillor, Sue North, in pursuing this matter. We await, with interest, the developer's next move.

Crime: While on police matters, we have been alerted to a further outbreak of distraction burglaries in the locality. These loathsome people target the elderly. Working in pairs, one thief catches the attention of the householder while a partner enters and steals money or valuables. As ever, the advice is always check the credentials of any unfamiliar visitor to your door and do not let anyone in unless you are absolutely sure of their intentions. It always pays to be vigilant. This was the proven recently when a keen-eyed villager reported seeing an unfamiliar van late at night in Ranway and, as a result, a gang of thieves raiding Mobile Promotions was thwarted. Our thanks to the quick-witted villager involved.

Parish Council meetings: There will be no meeting of the Parish Council in August.

Parish News and Future Events.

2004 Titchmarsh Annual Show. Saturday 14th August. Open from 2.30pm onwards.

Please support YOUR village show.

Titchmarsh Show is a traditional village flower and vegetable show with many other classes and attractions including Tombola, plants for sale and a skittles competition.

In 1971 the sub-committee of Church Social Activities held the first show of the Titchmarsh Horticultural Society but we know that there were regular shows in the past but these were interrupted by WWII and the records disappeared. We know that they were held in a wooden framed marquee at the Rose and Crown. *(Now the first house in Church Street. Ed.)*

The show is open to everyone, an opportunity to show off your skills in growing vegetables, flowers, herbs and pot plants together with cooking, sewing, knitting, painting, photography or any other handiwork. There are classes for all subjects and ages. If you don't want to compete you can come and admire and enjoy a happy day.

All proceeds go to supporting village activities. This year the committee donated £3000 to the Playing Field Committee. In the past donations have been made to the Clubroom, Church, School and the Chapel. One year a donation was made to the Titchmarsh Handbell Ringers – I wonder what happened to them?
Bette McTeague

Parish News and Future Events. Continued:

Titchmarsh Clubroom By the time you are reading this update the refurbishment project at the Clubroom should be completed. The last few weeks have not been without their upsets and traumas, woodworm was found and had to be treated, the building inspector was not happy with the roof trusses and a survey had to be arranged and remedial work carried out. These extra unforeseen costs have added considerably to the overall project cost and the plans we had to smarten up the parking area have now had to be put on hold.

We will shortly be having an official re-opening and everyone will be invited to help us to celebrate a successful outcome.
Pauline Ash. Committee Member.

Friends of Titchmarsh School (FOTS). We would like to thank all those who attended Margaret Cleaver's Garden Party on Tuesday 13th July where we joined together on the occasion of her retirement and to celebrate her lifelong achievements within the teaching profession. The weather was extremely kind to us and the children of Titchmarsh School performed their poems, songs and dances beautifully. Thank you to all those who helped, donated and supported the FOTS, the school and Margaret for a wonderful afternoon. Thank you also to Sylvia Prestwich who assisted with the setting up and dismantling of marquees on the day.

Mrs Josie Milton is to be our acting Head Teacher and the FOTS look forward to working with her in the future. For those interested, the FOTS AGM is to be held in the school at **8pm on Tuesday 14th September.**
Sue Shapland

Titchmarsh Draw. The July jackpot draw took place in the Wheatsheaf on Friday 2nd July. Four tickets were drawn; the first three winning £15 each and the fourth being the jackpot ticket winning £555. The first three tickets drawn were Mrs. E. Roe, Mr. J. Greig and Mr. K. Shapland. The winning ticket for the jackpot was owned by Jackie Rowe – Ticket No 106. Congratulations Jackie. The next draw will be held in the D&P on Friday 6th August at 7pm.

Village Fete.

June's village event was blessed with fine weather and a really good turnout. Hundreds enjoyed the afternoon, the highlight as usual being the parachuting teddies.

Thank you to everyone for their support in manning the BarBQ, afternoon teas, bar and all the differing stalls.

It really was a tremendous day with over £4000 being raised for the benefit of the Church, FOTS, Pre-school, Playing Fields and the Clubroom.
Duncan Williams.

Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride.

Please put **Saturday 11th September** in your diaries for this annual event. This is your chance to help the historical churches of Northamptonshire. An organised trip around local churches sets off at 10.00am, about 8 miles. Bring your picnic...or do your own thing. Sponsorship forms are available from Duncan Williams.

The Playing Fields Committee.

The Family Sports Day organised for the 4th July has been postponed until the **12th September** (due to some of the tug o'war teams committed elsewhere). There will be rugby and football games, plus basketball and other sporting activities, followed by the tug o'war team's knockout. We will have a food and drink tent for rest and recuperation with a children's fairground for entertainment. Hope to see you all there either as participants or onlookers. The latest quiz sheet raised a final profit of £87 and the winner was Sylvia Prestwich. Mel is busy working on the next one, with a different theme this time.

Autumn Dance: it hasn't felt much like summer recently and we have been planning the autumn season of entertainment. The next date for your diaries is **Saturday October 9th** for an evening of fun and dancing, details to follow.
Caroline Thompson.

HOW CAN WE PERSUADE YOU TO ATTEND T-DAY ON SUNDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER?

If we said that we really wanted to hear about what you think of our village and what you want to keep and what you want to change, would you come?

And would you be interested in hearing about the government's plans to build two massive conurbations on either side of our little bit of England?

If we provided some adult-supervised amusements for the children, would that help?

How about seeing your home on the 3D map of the village that will be there on T Day?
Or seeing how your home street looked on a map from 1886?

How about if we provided refreshments on the day?

A competition for the teenagers? The results of the Balloon Race that we held on the day of the Fete? An opportunity for you to vote on the type of village sign you would like to see?

Supposing we delivered a personal invitation to you, would that persuade you to come for 10 minutes?

If we promised to get Phil Hope, our MP and Sue North, our East Northamptonshire Councillor to attend, would you be sure to come?

We can do all this.

**T-DAY, FOR THE PARISH PLAN,
ON SUNDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER
BETWEEN 10AM & 4PM.**

Put the date in your diary please, not
tomorrow,
put it in now!

Finally. Thank you for all the contributions made to this edition and thank you to Jim James for taking on the delivery round in the lower part of the village. Due to commitments in early September the October/November issue needs to be finished for printing a little earlier than usual. Please may I have your input at the above address by **Monday 13th September at the very, very latest.**
John Greig. Editor.