

Titchmarsh Times

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

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August/September 2006

Parish Council.

Parish Clerk: As reported in the last edition, we were sorry to lose our clerk, Jane Teague. Following interviews, we are pleased to welcome to the post Emma Meen. Emma can be contacted at the above email address.

Summer holiday activities: Looking for a way of occupying the kids during the long summer holiday? How about letting them get involved in the art, craft and sports activities being organised under the Rural Community Programme. There are four sessions, each from 10am to 12noon. They are on the following Mondays, 31st July and 7th, 14th and 21st August. The sessions are open to eight to thirteen year-olds and cost £2 each, just turn up at the Club Room and enjoy.

Titchmarsh to Thrapston railway line: Several of us either walk or cycle along the old track, which joins onto Thrapston Town Walk. You will no doubt be pleased to hear that the County Council has now purchased the track and plans are afoot to upgrade the surface to make it passable throughout the year. Incidentally, in case you were not aware, in Thrapston you can now link up to a cycle path, which goes all the way to Irthlingborough. Time to pump up the tyres and get cycling! A great way to relax and get exercise.

Affordable housing: We have commented on this in several previous editions of the Titchmarsh Times. Just to remind you, affordable housing is provided for those people with a strong connection to the village who are otherwise unable to buy property here. They could be young people still living at home, people who need the support of their family who live outside the village and therefore need to be closer, or people already in local authority or housing association properties who want to move to a smaller home.

A major stumbling block has always been finding somewhere suitable to build the small number of houses we think are required. We are working closely with Northamptonshire Rural Housing Association to resolve this. Firstly, however, we must ensure that the demand for this kind of housing still exists. So you will be receiving a survey form at some time in the near future. The form will give you an opportunity to comment on the project even if you do not need accommodation yourself. We hope that you will find time to complete it.

Road safety: We have been in discussion with the County Council about the issue of heavy lorries disrupting - and occasionally endangering - life in the village. We had a useful meeting with the engineers but have been disappointed by the lack of follow-up so far. The Parish Council regards this as a matter of urgency and will continue to lobby the relevant agencies.

Rectory Farm gravel workings. After a number of false starts, a meeting was arranged by the County Council to start up a Liaison Group to monitor the work at the site, particularly as it moves into the landfill phase. Unfortunately, the operators do not appear to regard the issue with the same concern, and no one from the firm turned up. Indeed, apart from the three Parish Councillors, there was only one other person present - the officer from the County Council. A further meeting is being arranged. In the meantime, if you have any comments on the operation, please let Emma Meen know about them.
Sylvia Prestwich.

Village News and Events.

Titchmarsh Flower & Vegetable Show. The show will take place on **Saturday 12th August.** This is our 30th Show and to help us celebrate we have invited children, aged 14 and under, to enter our 'Biggest Pumpkin' competition. So there are, no doubt, lots of pumpkins being grown in Titchmarsh - we had better make sure we have enough room to display them all at the Show! The programme will be delivered to every house in the village very soon. So, come on, now's the time to show off your growing and cooking skills and don't forget the handicraft, painting and photography opportunities. It's a village event and we would like to see lots of entries, full details of all classes and how to enter are in the programme. It's not serious – it's fun!

Sylvia Prestwich

Titchmarsh School. This has been a very exciting year at school. One Thursday in November we received THE phone call to inform us that we would be having our OFSTED inspection the following Tuesday. Our inspection went very, very well and we were really pleased with the outcome. Literally the day after the inspectors left, building work began in earnest. We are so thankful they had not rung the following week! We now have a splendid new extension, which has improved our facilities in so many ways.

We are now the proud owners of a fantastic new library, which we have dedicated to the memory of the late Raymond Gray, whose bequest to the school went in to our building fund. We opened the library during our very first Open Afternoon in June, which was well attended. We now look forward to the challenges that the next academic year will bring. School will open at 8.50am on Wednesday 6th September 2006.

Our Open Afternoon was so successful we have decided to do it again on a smaller scale for new parents to look around in the autumn term. There will be an Open Morning on **Thursday 12th October** from 10am until 11.30am. Our Open Afternoon in the summer, when we invite parents, present and prospective to see the children at work and play will also be come an annual event. Dates for this are still to be confirmed.

We are now in possession of a fabulous colour photocopier and laminator. We are happy to share these facilities with the local community. Competitive prices are available on request or on our posters dotted around the village. All proceeds go to school funds.

All that is left for me to say is thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Have a relaxing summer!

Mrs J. Milton Head Teacher.

Sponsored Bicycle Ride / Walk – Northamptonshire Historic Churches.

Saturday 9th September 2006. Please put the above date in your diary to help raise money for local churches (half of which will go to our own church).

This is a wonderful time of year to get your bicycle out, before Autumn eventually sets in, and see how many churches you can visit. It's a great opportunity also to see the local villages on your doorstep.

If you can't find your bike, you can alternatively do a sponsored walk. Why not get a group of friends to join you or have a family outing.

For details of suggested routes available for cyclists and walkers and to obtain your sponsorship forms contact Duncan Williams.

Titchmarsh Village Lunch Club. There will be no meeting of the Lunch Club in August but we will meet again on **Friday, 1st September** in the clubroom. It will be a Pot Luck lunch, starting to eat at about 1pm. We hope to see lots of you there.

If there is anyone new to the village who is able to come, we would be delighted to see you. In case you are unfamiliar with Pot Luck lunches, couples need to bring a lunch dish (casserole, quiche or similar OR a dessert dish) to feed about six people. Singles would bring something to feed two or three. The food all goes on one table and people help themselves. For regular members, please NOTE: salad and potatoes will be provided as from September. We do ask that you ring either Sylvia McNeely OR Anne Howe to say how many people are coming and which kind of food you are bringing. That allows us to organise tables and chairs in the hall and when necessary, to balance up the food so that there is sufficient main course and dessert.

We do hope that everyone has a great summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Titchmarsh Gardening Club. A group of informal fun loving Gardeners are now meeting regularly, and enjoying exchanging gardening anecdotes and tips. We have all shades of green fingers in our midst, and would love to hear from anyone who might like to join our group.

We will be hosting an evening at the Club Room at **7.30pm on Wednesday, 13th September** NICHOLAS WARLIKER, from Poddington Garden Centre will be talking about the ' Autumn Garden ' and this will be followed by a Question and Answer time.

Nicholas is very well known locally character and raconteur. This is bound to be a popular event, and to avoid disappointment, tickets can be pre-booked for £4-00, which includes light refreshments, or alternatively will be available on the night (it would be really useful for us to have an idea how many folk will be attending) Please pre-book your tickets, or for more information about the Garden Club, please contact our secretary, Jane Finlayson or Bert & Pauline Ash.

Playing Field Committee. There is steady progress on our plans for the new changing rooms on the Playing Field and applications for funding have been submitted to a number of organisations. When we are in a better position to do so, we will contact those of you who live adjacent to the playing field to discuss our plans.

We will provide further updates in due course through the Titchmarsh Times.

A **Quiz Night** is to be held to help to raise money for the maintenance of the Playing Field, we are organising a quiz night at **7.30pm on Saturday 16th September** in the Clubroom. There will be a bar and food will be included in the cost of the tickets, which will be £6. You can buy your tickets from any of the committee members.

Gina Gaskin

Titchmarsh Fete. The Titchmarsh Village Fete was a thoroughly enjoyable day. The sun shone, the band played, the stalls offered their opportunities to spend money for differing gains. The barbecue sizzled; people quenched their thirsts in the beer and world cup tent or in the tea tent. Meanwhile at the appointed hour, teddies parachuted from the church tower to the delight of their owners.

Sumo wrestling, a Bouncy castle and all the fun of the fair was rounded off with the prize draw. Absent winners have been informed.

The proceeds have now been shared out to the Parochial Church Council, the Playing Field Committee, the Clubroom Committee, FOTS and the Pre-School Group. A huge thank you to all who gave, worked hard or supported in any way, and a special thank you to Sir Ewan and Lady Harper, whose garden was open on Fete afternoon.

Titchmarsh Reading Group. Enjoy a good read? Keen to share your ideas about books with other like-minded people? Interested in varying your reading diet? If the answer is, "Yes," then why not come along to the Titchmarsh Reading Group. We meet at The Wheatsheaf at 8 o'clock on every fourth Thursday in the month. In the past few months we have discussed books ranging from modern novels to biography to descriptions of life in different cultures. Interested? Either come along to our next meeting on 24th August or contact Ian Curtis, Jane Teague or David Buswell.

Community Transport Scheme. There was support in the Parish Plan for a scheme to be set up to provide help for those who need to make important journeys and who have no other means of travelling apart from taxis. A few people have agreed to meet to discuss the details of such a scheme but so far there are insufficient numbers to make the idea viable.

This is the last call therefore for some kind village people to agree to help. The details of any arrangements would need to be agreed to ensure that the group were being used for genuine needs and to find out the times and days when people were available.

If anyone is prepared to donate some small amount of time in this way, please telephone me.

John Gaskin

Alan Powells' Iberian Jaunt. Alan has returned from his Pyrenean expedition rather sooner than he, or anyone, expected. He had completed about half of his 500 mile crossing of the Spanish Pyrenees in three weeks when he slipped and broke his arm and suffered a head wound, necessitating a visit to the San Jorge Hospital in Huesca for three days. He took two days to return to "Blighty" by bus and aeroplane.

He hopes that this will not affect his intention of raising cash for the Kettering branch of the MS society. Expect to see him, slightly battered but unbowed, with his begging bowl in the very near future as soon as the cast is removed.

Julia Powell

Stitchmarsh. We are taking a break for August and we will be resuming our fortnightly meetings on **Wednesday 6th September** at the Club Room at 7.30pm. We will be trying our hand at silk painting and we will then turning our efforts into making items such as bags, cushion covers and box covering etc.

The fee is £1.50 per evening and we look forward to seeing you. All are welcome to our meetings.

Betty Wiesner

Titchmarsh Village Shop Project. The recent Bingo night and silent auction raised £2800. Many thanks to all who donated promises, those who bought them and all who helped make the event such a success. Our next fundraiser will be a **Grand Prize Draw** which will be drawn at our **Autumn Fayre** on **Saturday 14th October 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the **Clubroom**. There will be craft stalls, delicatessen, Christmas puddings, cakes, refreshments and children's entertainment plus an opportunity to buy the new Titchmarsh tea towel.

To update you on progress with the shop – a planning application to convert the Engine House into a community shop has been submitted and a decision is expected in August. Meanwhile the Shop Steering Group has been busy setting up a company (Titchmarsh Village Shop Association Ltd), opening a bank account, writing a Business Plan, applying for grants etc. The experience shared with us by other community shops that are already operating successfully has been invaluable. We are pleased to announce that we have received our first grant of £2000 from "Shoparound". We are hoping that the funding position will be clear by November. Apologies to those who have given us cheques and are waiting for us to bank them – we are getting there.

We will soon have a page up and running on the village website to keep everyone up to date with progress. If you have any queries or would like a copy of the Business Plan you can contact jane.teague@mac.com or ring Jane.

Friends of Titchmarsh School. The final figure for the Spring Ball was just over £700 and our recent Funday made another £1100. Thank you to everyone in the village who has helped and supported us at any of our events this year. We do appreciate this! An extra thank you to those people who helped with the Funday in any way – putting up marquees/taking down marquees/arranging stalls etc etc! A big thank you to the Harris family for arranging a donation of £250 from The Bank of Scotland for the school. We look forward to seeing you all again in September. **THANK YOU!**

Pip Blowfield.

Young Enterprise!!! The Teague children, Georgina, Alexander and Fergus, held a Yard Sale on Saturday, 15th July after clearing out lots of their toys and have raised £100 for the Village Shop Project.

The Original Appreciation of wine Society Titchmarsh. TOAwST is a new concept brought about through the village plan.

All those who attend come with a variety of experiences and expertise in the knowledge of wine. However the idea is that we extend our knowledge through discussion and tasting wine. In general the evenings are for our own discovery of wines from around the world intercepted on occasion with expert outside speakers who can guide and educate us further. The most important aspect and criteria of the evenings is that everyone has a great time. Our next meeting will take place on **Friday 15th September** in the Club Room at 8.00pm where Philip Amps from Oundle will be instructing us on "A Systematic Approach to Wine Tasting" The fee for the evening will be £4. If you are interested in taking part please contact Jeff and Jo Hunter on or e-mail toawst.tm@virgin.net

Thank You. Graham Webster, Stephen Barber and Peter Dunn, who recently had a joint celebration for their 50th birthdays, would like to thank everyone for their generous gifts to charities, both here and abroad. St Mary's Restoration Fund has benefited from an amazing £810.

Parochial Church Council. No one could have failed to notice the large mushroom over the chancel of the Church, almost unnecessary in the summer weather that has enabled the workforce to make good progress with the restoration. The work is on schedule with all the pointing completed and the old lead removed and taken away for re-casting before being put back. The timbers on the roof were found to be in a good state and not much work is needed to restore them.

On 12th July, our churchwardens, Jean Bussens and Stephen Barber, were presented with a cheque for £3000, a grant from Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. On the same day, Jean was interviewed live on BBC Radio Northampton about the restoration and specifically the grant from NHCT, one of the largest the Trust has made in the county and underlining the historical and architectural importance of St Mary's. We have also received restoration grants of £50,000 from English Heritage; £5,000 from Cory Environmental Trust and £4,000 from Historic Churches Preservation Trust. We also acknowledge with much appreciation the generosity of the three village men who requested the guests at their recent birthday celebrations to give in the form of donations to the Church restoration. This opportunity means that much of the village has contributed to the restoration.

The current restoration work should be completed in time for the **Harvest Festival on Sunday 1st October.** This will begin with a Family Service in the church at 11.00am followed by lunch in the Clubroom and the auction of produce. Any sort of produce will be gratefully accepted; home grown vegetables and fruit from the gardeners or cakes, pies, bread, preserves, pickles and jams from our talented cooks. Tickets will be on sale in September at £5 for adults and £2 for children. Let's make this an enjoyable event for everyone young and not so young.

On **Saturday 7th October**, marking the end of the current phase of work there will be a celebratory concert in the Church with many musicians and singers performing a wide variety of music and making good use of our excellent acoustics. Light refreshments and a glass of wine will be included in the cost of the ticket, which is £10, and these are already available from Jean Bussens at Glebe Cottage
Julia Powell.

Residents concerns. The following are a couple of legitimate concerns that have been received, in writing, from residents of the village. They are reproduced as written. Names and addresses were given to the Editor.

"Yapping dogs. Do people who own these yapping dogs never hear their own animals? It seems like they let them into the back garden and then go and sit in the front room with all doors shut. Come on dog owners have some consideration for people who don't want dogs. Also we have dogs roaming freely in the village, this is an offence with quite a

big fine. There is dog which is always coming into our gardens. I am personally getting fed up with clearing up after other peoples animals”.

“We are getting fed up with bonfires that are being lit in gardens during the day. Please have a little thought and consideration for your neighbours on summers days and evenings, when doors and windows are open, and refrain from causing this nuisance”.

“I have to clear up after my dog. Nobody clears up after ***** horses. Put that in the Titchmarsh Times”. (*Verbal communication to Editor through a car window*).

On the other hand.

On behalf of the pensioners of Tofts Close we would like to thank our neighbour Peter for all he does in Tofts Close. Cutting grass, keeping the car park tidy and generally helping out when needed. Thank you Peter. *Bet Storey & Betty Dorrington.*

Titchmarsh Youth Group (TYG): Training for the adults, police checks and sustainable financing for the youth group are our main concerns at this time. We are therefore arranging for the training and checks to take place as soon as possible and avenues for further funding are also being sought. The initial set up of a youth group is fairly costly, and together with all those involved having to receive the appropriate training, it all takes time. However we have decided that once the youth group is ready to go, we would initially be run on a fortnightly basis. For further information, please contact Sue Shapland.

Titchmarsh Draw. The draws continue for this year. In June the draw took place in the D&P. The four winners of £15 each were: 12 – Mrs Seery, 33 – J. Cawdell, 49 – S. Greasley and 146 – M. Alderman Jnr.

The July draw took place in the Wheatsheaf. This was the second jackpot for the year. A very lucky Mr. M. Burnett (who was one of the last tickets sold on Christmas Eve) won £573. His ticket was number 138. The other three tickets worth £15 were won by Mr. G. Caves – 132, Sue Hankins – 6, and A. Powell – 11.

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 4th August.

MISUSE OF VILLAGE PLAYING FIELD. We are sorry to report a recent incident on the playing field that caused concern to the Playingfield Committee and local residents.

A large number of teenagers gathered on the playingfield one evening, without the consent of the Committee, to have a “party”. Due to the number of people involved and the aggressive attitude of the group it was felt necessary for the Police to be called. This led to most of the crowd dispersing and no serious incident occurred.

The Committee would like to make clear that large, unauthorised gatherings are not permitted under any circumstances. These rules have been made to insure that the Playingfields remains safe and usable for the residents of Titchmarsh

The Committee would wish to offer sincere apologies to the residents of Drydens Close and Park Road for any concern or distress caused by the noise and the large crowd of people involved. Please be assured that we will do our utmost to ensure that similar incidents will not happen again. *Gina Gaskin (Chairman. Titchmarsh Playingfield Committee).*

Titchmarsh Pre-School. A fun-filled and eventful year for the Pre School and thanks to some fantastic fundraising activities we have raised an amazing £1,356. On Friday 30th June we held the annual Sports Day, which was a great success due to the lovely weather and the beautiful surroundings. Thanks to Hazel again for the loan of her garden and to Sue Capp for the refreshments. It was great to see all the children participating – and the mums and dads! Thank you too to the staff for organising all the races.

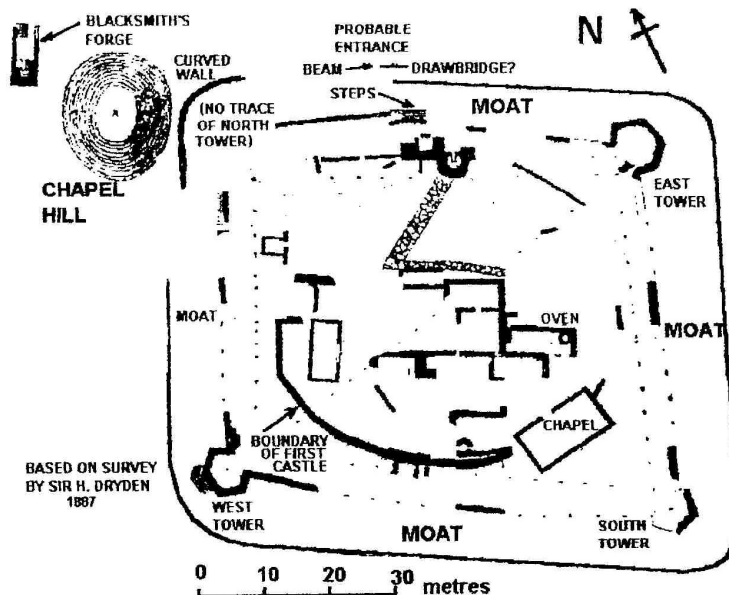
Pre-School restarts on **Wednesday, 6th September** and we look forward to seeing some new faces.

If you are interested in your child attending (ages 2 years 6 months up to 5) please contact Liz Rouwenhorst. *Lucy Milner*

Titchmarsh Walking Group. The next walk is on **Saturday 5th August** around Stanwick Lakes. Meet on the Green, outside the Dog and Partridge, at 9.30am. Pooling of vehicles is advisable due to limited parking. Entry fee £1 per person. If you would like to participate in this walk, please contact Maggy Chapman email: mc.chapman@ukonline.co.uk; or Diane Ellis email dihellis@yahoo.com

Titchmarsh Local History Group. The group proudly presents an entertaining evening with Eric Jenkins entitled "**Unfamiliar Titchmarsh Tales**". Eric Jenkins is a local historian who has been collecting tales of Northamptonshire towns and villages over many years. Come and hear about the unfamiliar happenings in your village in the past. **Thursday 14th September** at 7.30pm in the Club Room. £2-00 on the door including refreshments
For further information contact Janet Putley
The group meets on the second Thursday of each month except August and December.

Titchmarsh Castle. Whatever had been built on the castle site was in ruins by the latter half of the 16th century and much of the stone was used as a source to build or extend other houses within the village. In 1887 the site was still being "robbed" and it was at this time that a wall was found. Lord Lilford decided to have the site examined and the work was undertaken by Sir Henry E. L. Dryden of the Society of Antiquaries. The information gathered is now in the County Records Office in Wootton Hall. Northampton



Plan of Excavations at Titchmarsh Castle

Finally. More than the usual thank you's are due to all contributors to this bumper 8 page edition newsletter. Nearly everything came by email in the Arial 11 WORD attachment format as requested. This makes putting it all together an easier job. Titchmarsh has come screaming into the 21st technological century!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Things have not changed for our distributors, they still have to walk. Thank you.

ALL CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE. Due to a certain commitment I will require all copy for the October/November edition by **Tuesday 24th September**. This is later than usual, so to avoid disappointment everything **must** be in place by that date. I will not be in a position to chase anyone.
John Greig