

Titchmarsh Times

A bi-monthly village news letter sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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August/September 2007.

Parish Council.

New councillors: Let me begin by welcoming our new Parish Councillor, Geoff Love who lives in North Street. Geoff was successful in applying for the remaining vacancy on the Council following the May elections. And the new representative for our ward on East Northamptonshire Council is Philip Hardcastle from Clopton. We look forward to working with both Geoff and Philip in their new roles.

Summer activities for 8-13 year-olds: The Rural Community Programme is once again providing a programme of activities during the summer holidays. These will take place at The Clubroom from 10am to noon on the following dates: Monday 6 August, Thursday 16 August, and Thursday 23 August. Sessions cost £2. There is some paperwork to complete at the beginning of the first session your child attends so please stay for a little while to ensure that this is done.

Village of the Year: We felt that the visit by the assessors went well, so thanks to all of you who met and spoke with them. The results will be announced on 24 July.

We **do not hold a Parish Council meeting in August**, so there will not be an opportunity for you to attend Public Open Time. Our next full Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 20th September 2007.

Village News and Activities.

Titchmarsh Flower and Vegetable Show. This years Show is on Saturday 11th August 2007 at the Clubroom, you will have received a programme by now. It's a popular event open to all, and an opportunity to show off your growing and cooking skills, along with handicraft, painting and photography opportunities. We are running our 'Grow the biggest Pumpkin' competition again this year, for children aged 14 and under, and are hoping for lots of huge pumpkins. The afternoon is rounded off with an auction of produce by Bletsoe's auctioneer James Sealy, a unique opportunity to buy fresh, locally grown vegetables, flowers and home cooked delights.

Your entry form (in the back of the programme) must be delivered to a committee member by Thursday 9^h and exhibits need to be at the Clubroom before 11am on Saturday morning. The doors are then closed for judging and reopen to the public at 2.30pm. During the afternoon you can enjoy teas and ice creams, try your luck on the tombola, your skills at the skittles table and take up the challenge of 'smashing the egg'. It's a fun occasion for exhibitors and admirers, so come along and join in.

Titchmarsh Walking Group. The Walking Group now has a grand total of 31 members, and following on from the Walking Group's AGM held in April, it has been decided to extend the regular monthly Saturday morning walks to include weekday and weekend walks.

For more information on the Walking Group, please contact Maggy Chapman mc.chapman@ukonline.co.uk

Titchmarsh Village Fete - A big thank you to all who helped, donated, performed and/or spent money at this year's fete. We had fantastic weather and a bumper year! Titchmarsh House gardens were open, under the National Gardens Scheme, which all helped to contribute to the success of the day.

In all we made a profit of around £4700 which has enabled the fete committee to distribute cheques of £1700 to the Church and £700 each to the Clubroom, Playing Fields, FOTS and Pre-School. It was also possible to give some money to complete the funding for the village sign which is now in place at the entrance to the village.

The money from the fete is an important fund raiser for the church. Not everybody appreciates that the annual cost, of around £13,000, needed to maintain and run our church falls to the village and is met through donations and fund raising.

Playing Field Committee.

Ground improvements. Prolonged wet weather gave the Playing Field's new drainage system an early test and although it has coped reasonably well the committee feel another drain at the bottom of the bank at the far end is needed. Originally the contractors were reluctant to go close to the bank as it is unadvisable to put drains too close to trees, but we have decided to invite them back to put a further length of drainage in and take out the offending trees. The football pitches will be used by more teams this season and new drainage is the first stage of on-going works to improve the playing surfaces. The top pitch has been moved back slightly to allow more space in front of the new pavilion and a junior pitch has been created below the old changing rooms.

Street Challenge Quiz: Good at general knowledge? Enjoy a challenge? If so, why not join in with other members of your road or street in the annual Street Challenge Quiz. When and where? 7.30pm on 22nd September at The Clubroom. If you would like to join a team or just want more information contact Rob Jones or Ian Curtis. Good fun and prizes too! How can you resist?

Due to a recent incident on the playing field, the committee would like to remind those dog owners who use this facility they that must keep their pets on a lead at all times. *Gina Gaskin.*

Titchmarsh School. In some ways the academic year has flown by. We have filled it with lots of enjoyable activities. Our Open Afternoon on June 14th was very successful. All Blacks and Northampton Saints Rugby player, Mark Robinson unveiled our Healthy Schools Award and our wonderful FOTS funded, Permanent Play Equipment. Our next Open Morning in the autumn term will be on Thursday 25th October from 10am until 11.30am.

We were visited by 2 County numeracy advisors at the beginning of July. We were given a thorough numeracy 'Health check', inspecting our results, planning, books, assessment, teaching and learning. The outcome was Ofsted graded as good with elements of outstanding. We were delighted with this result and will heed advice given to us to continue to raise standards.

Now we look forward to the challenges that the next academic year will bring. School will open at 8.50am on Wednesday 5th September 2007.

All that is left for me to say is thank you for the support and encouragement.

Have a relaxing Summer!

Mrs J. Milton. Headteacher.

Village Planters. As you enter the village from the A605 and from Polopit, you may have noticed stone planters have appeared underneath the village signs.

These are two out of the four planters that will be filled with seasonal flowers and plants throughout the year, and have been made possible by the kind generosity of members of the village, who have sponsored these.

Hopefully the other two planters will be making an appearance soon beneath the other Titchmarsh signs at Islington and the Clopton road, and I'm sure they will help to welcome residents and visitors alike into our village. *Maggy Chapman.*

Titchmarsh Village Shop Project

You may have heard the wonderful news that Alan Titchmarsh has agreed to perform the official opening of the shop! This will take place on Friday, 21 September, at 11am. More details to follow.

Refurbishment work should be finished in mid-August. (We have been delayed slightly - partly by swallows nesting in the rafters!) The building is beginning to look more like a shop now the framework for the front window has been installed.

Our AGM takes place on Thursday 26 July, 7.30pm, in the Clubroom. Shareholders will have received a letter of invitation. If you would like to buy a share in the Association at a cost of £5, please contact Peter James.

We will soon be organising community painting and gardening parties to complete the interior decoration of the shop and give the Pound garden a makeover. If you would like to help with either of these, please contact Jane Teague on jane.teague@mac.com or any of the committee members.
The Management Committee.

Titchmarsh Pre-School. The children recently took part in our annual Sports Day and some of the older children enjoyed the transfer day to visit their new schools. The children also enjoyed the end of year Party Day which was held at Cheeky Monkey's in Corby where we said goodbye to our leavers. Five children from Titchmarsh Pre-school will be moving on to Titchmarsh C of E Primary School this September and four will go to other local schools.

Titchmarsh pre-school applied for the PLA (Pre School Learning Alliance) quality accreditation scheme this year, the key aim is to ensure the preschool setting offers the highest possible standard of education and care to children and we are pleased to announce that we have been successful and passed the criteria set.

As mentioned in the previous issue we will be opening for 2 full days per week from September 9.15 am – 2.45 pm on Tuesday and Thursday with all our usual sessions in place.

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 preschool@titchmarsh.info 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).

Lorraine Meade.

The Youth Group has had three sessions at the clubroom in June and July. 23 young people have now attended, registered and joined the Youth Group. In those sessions, they have made pizzas, decorated mugs, made cards as well as playing pool, table tennis AND having somewhere to go and chat. We welcome young people from Titchmarsh, Clopton and Thurning who are Year 7 and above from September. Next term, we will be arranging two trips to Peterborough Climbing Wall as well as having the youth workers from the NAYC attending another session.

We would like to thank Bob Seery for his kind donation towards the Youth Group - it has been expensive setting up the Youth Group and we are therefore very grateful to him.

The first session after the summer holidays is **7th September in the Clubroom 7pm - 9pm**. For those not already registered, there is a £10 registration fee per year and a £2 charge per session.

Any young person wishing to attend, please contact us for a registration form (or download it from the Titchmarsh Village Website www.titchmarsh.info) and bring it along with you when you attend. It must be signed by a parent/guardian before admittance. Our programme of events for next term can also be found on the website.

For further information please contact Sue Shapland or Alice Dove, for those in Clopton/Thurning please contact Julie Ray
Sue Shapland.

Are you bewildered by Pensions? If the word 'pension' fills you with terror, you might be interested in the 'Road to Retirement' project. The project, which is currently funded until the end of February 2008, has been introduced because few people have access to "easy to understand" information about both state and private pensions which is relevant to their individual circumstances. The '*Road to Retirement*' is a countywide initiative, aimed at providing help in unravelling the jargon surrounding pensions primarily to those connected to the voluntary and community sectors, and help them make better plans for retirement. There is no charge for the service and it is open to organisations, their employees and the self-employed with particular emphasis on rural communities who have no access to this type of information.

Marian Rex is the pensions information worker covering East Northants and works from Northampton Volunteering Centre. Information can be provided by way of a group presentation or a one to one meeting. So if you have a question concerning just about anything to do with pensions or wish to obtain a state pension forecast or need help in tracing an old pension please get in touch. It's all free and Marian will not give any specific advice or endorse any products.

Marian will be on the mobile library bus visiting the villages during August so you can take the opportunity for a quick chat and to pick up some information.

If you would like to take advantage of this free information service or are interested in finding out more, please contact Marian marian-rex@northampton-volunteers.org.uk

Northamptonshire Police. Safer Community Teams, (SCTs) provide communities with a dedicated team of officers who are visible, accessible and known to local people. They work closely with partner agencies and the local community to tackle the crime and disorder concerns and issues identified within the neighbourhood. The team covers Oundle and 48 surrounding villages including Titchmarsh and was launched on 27th February. I am the team supervisor.

To be successful, Safer Community Teams cannot work in isolation and the Police, local authorities and other agencies must to work together with the community to help create a safer environment.

Myself and one of my PCSO's Sam Longhurst (*A police lady, Ed.*) came to the Titchmarsh Fete in June, I was on the off road police bike which was very popular with boys of all ages! We were delighted to see various teddies descending from the church and had our hearts in our mouths when the more obstructive teddy needed a poke with a stick to release him off the church parapet.

Titchmarsh has had recorded 3 crimes since 1st April. These crimes are in the other crime category and accounts for crimes such as theft, frauds or domestic incidents. So NO BURGLARIES NO THEFT OF, OR FROM, CARS. Sam and I had a nice day at Titchmarsh Fete we spoke to some really nice people, I thought the event had a real family feel to it and clearly the figures show you live in a very safe place.

Peter Chisholm. Police Sergeant 953. Safer Community Team Supervisor.
Oundle Police Station, Glaphorn Road, Oundle. Customer Contact Centre 08453 700700

TOAwST

Thanks to one and all who made the South African Night one to remember.

Our next gathering is Friday 14th September at 8pm in the Clubroom. On this occasion we will be concentrating on *one particular wine variety*.

We were supposed to be meeting in November but this get-together has been brought forward to Friday October 26th at 7.30 in the Clubroom. Philip Amps is coming to talk us through some *food and wine matching* which will probably be based around food and wine for Christmas. This is yet to be confirmed. All welcome as ever. Cheers, Jeff and Jo Hunter

Titchmarsh Clubroom. The Clubroom Committee would like to publicly thank the Fete Committee for the £700 donation from the profits of this year's fete – one of the best yet I'm sure you'll agree. We would also like to thank the Ellis family of Polopit for the generous gift of a very nice piano that will be installed in the Clubroom in the very near future.

The Committee is pleased to welcome Val Sorrell as our new Bookings Clerk. Val can be contacted for all bookings or enquiries via e-mail (bookings@titchmarsh.info) and will continue to update the monthly booking schedules displayed on our outside noticeboard. Val will be making contact with our regular hirers over the coming weeks to introduce herself and make sure she's clear about your hire arrangements.

I'm afraid that, faced with increased costs for utilities, insurance and general consumables, the Clubroom Committee has no option but to increase our hire charges for the first time since the refurbishment some three years ago. From 1st September, hourly charges for village residents will increase from £5/hr to £6/hr (from the time of opening until locking up); Pre-school sessions will increase from £10 to £12 and Titchmarsh Babes from £6 per session to £7. Full details of all our hire rates will be updated on www.titchmarsh.info/clubroom.

A new village hall benchmarking scheme called 'Hallmark' is being launched this autumn by ACRE. Independent auditors will score halls on their management processes and attempt to introduce best-practice methods across the halls involved in the scheme. The Clubroom has volunteered to be in the first phase of this optional scheme and ACRE is looking for individuals to be trained as auditors (unpaid except for travel expenses). If anyone is interested please contact me via clubroom@titchmarsh.info or Pam Wilton of ACRE (pam.wilton@northantsacre.org.uk)

Finally, if you have views about the running of the Clubroom or would like to get involved with the management of this key village facility, we hold our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month (next one 7.30pm Tues 14th August); feel free to come along and let us know what we could be doing better, you never know, you might end up on the Committee! *Paul Milner.*

Titchmarsh Local History Group. The group would like to thank the folks from Trees and Trimmings for their generous donation of £75 which will buy some storage facilities for the CD's we have created of photographs and also the other artefacts that we have acquired.

Our next meeting will be held in the Clubroom on Thursday 13th September at 7.30pm,

John White from Corby will be presenting:

Men, Muck and Magic.

John has had a love of industrial heritage for many years and he will be showing us what is left of our manufacturing past. The story spans from the industrial revolution of the late 18th century to almost modern times.

The fee for the evening will be £2 and refreshments will be served

For further information contact John Greig

Don Putley

I cannot let this issue go without mentioning the passing of our village "Handyman", Don Putley. Don was one of the first people I came across when I and the family arrived in Titchmarsh in 1983. Don and I had an affinity; we were both East London boys. We were both born in Stepney but Don had lived for all his married life in Titchmarsh with Janet, where their two sons Keith and Colin, were brought up.

Apart from his obvious decorating skills Don was an avid model maker and supporter of the Flower and Vegetable Show where we would annually all marvel at his latest creations. He will be sadly missed.

John Greig (Editor).

Titchmarsh P.C.C. The Licensing of Jim Mynors went very well with a good mixture of ceremony and humour and the refreshments afterwards allowed everyone to meet the leaders of our Diocese and members of the other parishes in our new Benefice. The Titchmarsh PCC would like to thank everyone who helped us with the erecting and dismantling of the marquees, especially the dismantling which was a very swift call to arms indeed. We would also like to thank Barnwell Choir for their help at the service.

The 'Antiques Roadshow' with Lady Victoria Leatham with afternoon tea was also a great success enjoyed by a good crowd who had some very interesting things to show with some wonderful stories. Again the sun shone for us while we had tea and plenty of delicious food, and many thanks to all the people who contributed to that. We made £700 for the general church funds.

Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 7th October with the service in church starting at 11.30 followed by lunch with a bar and the auction in the Clubroom. Please try to join us for this celebration of thanks for what we receive.

Another date for your diary is the Quiz on 17th November.

Julia Powell.

Titchmarsh Parish Church

As I begin to work with St Mary's I'm glad to say the Church Council has readily agreed to two changes in the times of services. Recognising that young families (especially) do not always find an early start easy, from September we shall replace our morning 'Family Service' with a 4pm 'Sunday @ 4' series on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

That day there will also be a traditional 8am early Communion.

Every other week (except special occasions) we shall be moving 15 minutes earlier to 9.15am so that I'll have longer to meet people before disappearing. So August & September look like this:

Aug 5 th	9.30am Morning Prayer
Aug 12 th	9.30am Family Service
Aug 19 th and 26 th	9.30am Communion
Sept 2 nd	9.15am Morning Prayer
Sept 9 th	8am Communion & 4pm 'SUNDAY at 4' on theme of 'New Beginnings'
Sept 16 th & 23 rd	9.15am Communion

From the Registers

Kim Jeffries & Richard Bull's daughter, Jaia, was baptised on 14th July

Don Putley of Tofts Close died on 4th July 2007. A funeral service was held at Kettering Crematorium on 16th July

Jim Mynors (Parish Priest), Aldwinckle Rectory. Tel. 720613 or email jim@mynors.me.uk

Titchmarsh Church Rotas

<i>Date</i>	<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Sidesmen</i>	<i>Readers</i>
5 th August 07	Mrs W Jeffries	Mr A Powell	Mr T Higgins & Mrs J Powell
12 th August	Mrs G Gaskin	Mr C Hankins	Mrs M Cheney
19 th August	Mrs S Prestwich	Mrs J Fieldsend	Mr J Fieldsend
26 th August	Mrs J Bussens	Dr S Bell	Dr G Webster
2 nd September	Mrs S Hankins	Mr J Fieldsend	Mrs J Powell & Mrs B Berry
9 th September	Mrs M Cranch	Mrs S Hankins	Mr S Barber
16 th September	Mrs S Prestwich	Mr P Dunn	Mr T Higgins
23 rd September	Mrs A Dunn	Mrs K Williams	Mr D Williams
30 th September	Mrs S Wilcox	Mrs C Thompson	Mr A Wallace
Harvest Festival 7 th October 11.30am	Mrs S Holland	Mr A Powell	Mr S Barber

Finally. Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition.

Copy for the October- November edition needs to be with me by Saturday 15th September at the very latest.

I hope the weather improves and we all have a Summer.

John Greig (Editor).