



# Titchmarsh Times



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

Editor: John Greig  
Email: [ttimes@titchmarsh.info](mailto:ttimes@titchmarsh.info)

Parish Clerk: Jane Teague  
Email: [parishclerk@titchmarsh.info](mailto:parishclerk@titchmarsh.info)

---

December 2005/January 2006

## Christmas & New Year Edition

### **Parish Council.**

**Parish Plan** We would like to thank most sincerely John Gaskin and his team for all their hard work and initiative in drawing up the Plan. The finished plan gives councillors a clear idea of your views and aspirations and, in doing so, provides a useful tool when dealing with other authorities. We have already taken action on each of the priorities identified for the Parish Council and will report progress in later editions of the Titchmarsh Times.

It is encouraging to hear of the many clubs and activities that have come into being as a result of the work on the plan. We hope that this initial enthusiasm can be sustained over the coming months. The early signs are certainly promising. (*Further details follow. Ed.*)

**Green Waste Collection.** One of the requests arising from the plan is for the Council to campaign for the re-establishment of some form of collection system for garden refuse. Our enquiries have revealed that we are not the only village for whom this is a concern, and we are joining with others to pressure the District Council into taking action over this. We have some reason to be optimistic but, again, more on this later.

**Road resurfacing.** We know from our correspondence that the poor state of some of the roads has been a major concern of many of you. You also will be aware that the contractors have begun resurfacing work in various parts of the village. This is inevitably going to cause some disruption, but we hope that you will be patient and recognise the longer term benefits of the work.

**In short**.....For those of you who occasionally walk across the meadows in **Titchmarsh Reserve**, you will have seen that the bridge over the Nene is being replaced. In case you are wondering about what is happening, we are informed that the purpose of the project is to give river traffic more room to pass under. The number of **bus services** to the village has increased significantly recently and new timetables have been posted at different locations in the High Street. Further information is on the village website at [www.titchmarsh.info](http://www.titchmarsh.info). We urge you to use the buses wherever appropriate. The old adage unfortunately still holds: We either use it or lose it.

### **Titchmarsh website [www.titchmarsh.info](http://www.titchmarsh.info)**

Have you checked out the website recently? We now have a 'latest news' section on the front page, which summarises the updated pages, and displays police and crime prevention messages. There is also a new page (in the 'About Titchmarsh' section) giving details of local trades and businesses. So, if you run a trade or business from Titchmarsh and would like a mention on the site, please let me have your details. Sylvia Prestwich, Ridgeon, Tofts Close, or email [sylviaprestwich@aol.com](mailto:sylviaprestwich@aol.com)

## ***Village News and Activities.***

### ***Parish Plan.***

*John Gaskin.*

By now, many of you will have received your copy of the abbreviated Parish Plan. Those who haven't, will do so shortly. A copy of the full Plan and its Action Plan, is on the village web site - [www.titchmarsh.info](http://www.titchmarsh.info) and paper copies are available to read at the Wheatsheaf and Dog and Partridge. For those who want their own copy of the full plan and its accompanying documents and statistics, please telephone the Clerk to the Parish Council, Mrs Jane Teague, on 734568.

We hope for some considerable benefits for the village to come from the Plan and the Committee are very grateful to all of those parishioners who took the time to complete the questionnaire forms.

As mentioned in the Action Plan in the Parish Plan, the Committee have made contact with a number of villagers who were prepared to help organise various clubs and societies.

The Lunch Club, Local History Group and "Stitchmarsh" (the handicraft club) are up and running, see separate articles following. Please contact the organisers if these activities interest you.

Alternatively, if you would like to join an Amateur Dramatics Society (either in an acting capacity or with backstage work) there will be a meeting in the Clubroom on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30. All ages are welcome, so please do come along. If you would like more information please contact Janet Bellairs, telephone number 734764.

In addition, volunteers to run a youth club for the village are making enquiries with the appropriate authorities concerning the various rules and regulations. The intention is that the Youth Club will incorporate a table tennis club as well and it is hoped that some experienced players who live in the village will be prepared to help coach those youngsters who are new to the sport.

The organiser for the Indoor Bowls club has been making enquiries about the cost of the necessary equipment and those interested can expect to hear more on this in the New Year. Similarly there are people starting to contact others for a Music Club and a Running Club. We also have an organiser making enquiries with the Adult Education authorities for a number of subjects.

There is a Sunday School organiser who will be liaising with the Church, (who are very pleased to hear of this interest), in the next month or so and again, expect to hear more of this early next year.

A meeting has been held with David Robins, the Community Watch Liaison Officer for our area. Plans are being made to enhance the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village. Leaflets are currently being distributed to houses that at present are not in a part of the village where there is a co-ordinator. It is obviously very important to keep our village as safe as possible so please respond to the letter if you feel that you can help at all.

We do have a number of activities where we have no organiser or where the organiser is no longer able or willing to undertake the work.

We are looking for people for a Film Club, Cycling Club, Adventure Club and Angling Society. If you are interested in organising or helping to organise one of these activities, please telephone Diane Ellis on 735881.

We will provide you with a further update on the progress of the items on the Action plan in subsequent issues of Titchmarsh Times.

### ***"Stitchmarsh" – The new village Handicraft Club.***

As a result of a successful meeting the club, "Stitchmarsh", has been formed and held its first official gathering on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Future meetings will be held fortnightly, on Wednesdays starting at 7.30pm in the Club Room. We look forward to seeing you on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

There is a fee of £6 per quarter to cover the cost of the hire of the room, refreshments and guest speakers.

For more information contact Elizabeth Wisener on 734430 or Fiona Love on 734866

***Thank you.*** Stephen Barber & Jackie Rowe would like to thank everyone who helped them to celebrate their wedding on September 24<sup>th</sup> and for the generous donations to St Mary's Restoration Fund. Over £1000 was raised.

### ***Titchmarsh Lunch Club.***

As a result of some conversation at the Harvest Lunch, an idea has come together for a Lunch Club holding informal lunches once monthly in the village clubroom. Some members of the community have already expressed an interest in the village questionnaire last year.

As a starting point, we plan to hold a POT LUCK LUNCH in the Clubroom on **Friday, 2nd December at 1pm**. If you are not familiar with the idea of pot luck lunches, everyone brings enough food - either savoury or sweet - to feed themselves and some others too. This could be a casserole, quiche, cold cuts and cheeses, whatever you fancy. The food is all put out - buffet-style - and everyone helps themselves. The idea is to enjoy the company of others while sharing a simple lunch - it is not about fancy gourmet fare!

Each person will be asked for £1.00 entry to cover the cost of rental of the hall, tea, coffee, etc. Please bring your own cutlery. We hope people will arrive about 12:45 to eat at 1 PM.

If you are interested, please contact Sylvia McNeely, 14 Chapel St, 733601, or Audrey Marriott, 28 Chapel St, 732139 or Anne Howe, 2 High St, 734992 so that we can get an idea of numbers to expect and of how many people are bringing savoury dishes and how many are bringing sweet.

### ***Titchmarsh Club Room.***

The AGM in October saw quite a change in the Clubroom Committee with the standing down of four key members; Bert Ash retired as Chairman along with Lucy Milner (Secretary), Pauline Ash and Janet Fieldsend.

The newly elected Committee of Paul Milner (Chair), Alan Dexter (Vice Chair), Michelle Bail (Treasurer), Caroline Thompson (Secretary & Playing Field representative), Diane Ellis and John Gaskin, along with representatives from village groups and users: John Pridmore (Parish Council), Julia Powell (Parochial Church Council), John Fieldsend (Folk Dancing), Schuyler Newstead (Pre-school) and Kate Eve (Ladybirds) all thank the retiring members for their commitment and work over the past years for the Clubroom. The refurbished facilities they leave are a true legacy to their time on the Committee.

The Murder Mystery evening held in October proved a great success with over 60 guests enjoying a challenging evening being amateur sleuths trying to identify the 'murderer' from the cast of Thrapston Amateur Dramatic Society. The evening raised over £500 towards the running costs & maintenance of the Clubroom.

An **Olde Time Music Hall** evening is scheduled for **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January**, more details will be circulated nearer the time but keep this date free in your diaries.

And finally, a huge thank you to Michael and Margaret Alderman who have, very generously, just bought 80 (yes 80!) full sets of crockery and cutlery for the Clubroom's use. *Paul Milner*

**Friends of Titchmarsh School.** The FOTS would like to thank everybody who attended our Halloween Party (especially those in spooky costumes). We made in the region of £275, and everyone had a good time. The winners of the fancy dress competition were - Pre-School & YR - Sophie Rouwenhorst, Y1 & Y2 - Archie Brocklebank, Y3 & Y4 - Alice Garnham, Older Children - Bethany Hankins and Adults - Jackie Rowe. The number of sweets in the jar was won by Charlie Jeffries and the guess the name by Georgia Newstead. The pumpkin competition was won by The Harris Family and The Blowfield Family.

We would also like to thank the village for the grand sort-out that must have taken place judging by how many Bag 2 School blue bags were waiting to be collected last Monday morning. We don't have a final figure as yet, but the van was full to bursting.

The dates for the **Bingo** has now been confirmed for **4th February**, and the **Quiz Night** for **11th March**. Our annual **Spring Ball** will be held on **22nd April** and the **Funday** on **13th May**. I know this seems a long way away, but please make a note in your diaries.

**Parochial Church Council.***Julia Powell*

*The Harvest Lunch and Auction* raised over £1000.00 for the Church funds and the PCC would like to thank all those people who helped to prepare the food, serve lunch and clear up afterwards. We would like to thank everyone who came and helped to make it a very enjoyable afternoon and then spent vast amounts of money on the lots available.

**The Carol Service** will be held on *Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm* and again the Rushden Mission Brass Band will be playing for us. The collection will be given to charity and we have selected the Cransley Hospice at St Mary's in Kettering.

**Collection for Pakistan.** Many thanks to everyone who took duvets, blankets etc to the church for the earthquake victims of Pakistan, the response was overwhelming and very much appreciated.

**Dates for the future.** There will be another *Mediterranean evening with Auction of Promises on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February*. There will be a *Barn Dance on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April*. Put these dates in your diary now or better still on your Titchmarsh Calendar.

**Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings.**

*Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 6 - 8pm in the Club Room.* Time to dust off your Christmas lights and decorations! This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year of Trees & Trimmings and this year we have the added incentive of a trophy.... The Hillsborough House Trophy for "Best Festive Outdoor Illuminations in Titchmarsh", very kindly donated by Julian Stoneman and Stephen Fulton of Hillsborough House, Polopit. Many thanks to you both. Prizes also for the best decorated window and Christmas creations which will be displayed in the Club Room - a separate leaflet will be delivered soon. Please come along and enjoy festive food & drink, children's decorating activities, traditional games, prize-giving and Santa's grotto. Entrance £2 for adults (includes glass of mulled wine & food); children free. Santa's grotto £1 per child. Funds raised will go to benefit village causes. If you can assist in any way or require further details, please contact Lucy Milner on 733501.

**Titchmarsh Pre-school.** This year has been the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Titchmarsh Pre-school and we plan to mark the event at our Christmas Party. We would love a visit from anyone who attended the pre-school in 1985 – please contact a member of staff during sessions or speak to Rachel Hamilton-Charlton on [rachel@property4viewing.co.uk](mailto:rachel@property4viewing.co.uk) or 735622. We would also like to see photographs of Pre-school over the last 20 years, which we will copy and use to create a display. We currently have 30 children on our books, making this a very busy year, but we do have vacancies on certain days, pop in for a prospectus or contact Rachel if you are interested. We run 5 mornings and 1 afternoon a week for children aged 2 and a half to 5 years, and recently had a very good Ofsted inspection. The Pre-school was recently visited by a local Lollipop lady, and we are always pleased to have visitors to come and tell us about what they do or a special interest that they have. At the moment we are learning about people who help us so any local Nurses, Police, Dentists, etc. would be great.

**Playing Field Committee.**

We have produced a **Christmas Quiz Sheet**.

This brain teaser for the long winter nights will be in circulation soon. This one promises to be a challenge. Entries £1 only and there is a prize for the winner. Sheets will be available from committee members or please call 732130.

**Project Manager Required.** We are seeking someone who is willing and able to undertake the task of co-ordinating our new pavilion build including seeking additional funding. Out of pocket expenses can be paid. If you feel that you would be able to carry out this demanding interested role please contact Caroline on 732130 or Paul on 733501

*Caroline Thompson.*

### **Titchmarsh Local History Group.**

Thank you to all who attended our initial meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

We have now formed the group with me, as temporary Chairman, Janet Putley, Secretary and Terry Beattie as Treasurer.

We had a discussion at the meeting of what we would like to do and what we indeed can do to bring the history of the village into focus. A copy of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century map of the village and the notes made by Alan Dexter and myself about 12 months ago illustrated just how much the village had changed in a lifetime. It was thought that it was important to look at the changes, within living memory and record these physical and social changes before the memories are lost. Once recorded the information could be made available to all.

Enquiries concerning funding for the groups projects and activities will be sought from the appropriate bodies to enable the gathered information to be published in various forms.

Members volunteered to enquire with long term residents and those whose families have lived in Titchmarsh for generations if they would let us copy and use any photographs or documents that illustrate the village in bygone days. They do not have to be in the distant past, say 10 years and older. If you have any photos or documents you think may be of interest please contact me. Full credit will be given for any documents reproduced. Many thanks to Betty Wells and Audrey Lawman who have already supplied us with some very interesting material.

To get the audio histories underway we need a portable/mains tape or cassette recorder. If you have one of these machines that you do not use and would consider donating it to the group, we would be most grateful.

The next meeting will take place on *Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at 7.30pm* at the Club Room. The room has been booked for the second Thursday of each month and all who wish to get involved are welcome.

There will be a small charge of £1.50 per head to cover the cost of the hire of the room and tea and biccies.

*John Greig*

**Titchmarsh School.** On the 8<sup>th</sup> November our school had an Ofsted inspection. The inspectors declared us to be - "a good school with good teaching and learning and good pupil: adult ratio found in many lessons." A copy of our inspection report is available from our website; [www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com](http://www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com).

We now look forward to Christmas! Please place the following events in your diaries.

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	3.00pm	School Christmas Bazaar
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm-7.30pm	Twilight Carol Service
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am	Morning Carol Service
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2006		School re-opens for Spring term

For our Christmas events, we look forward to sharing the festive atmosphere with our local community.

On behalf of everyone at Titchmarsh School, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

*Mrs. J. Milton. Headteacher*

### **Christmas at the "Dog and Partridge".**

Christmas Eve entertainment with "Stars in Their Eyes" 2002 winner, Anastasia at 8.30. A free buffet will be available.

Christmas Day the pub will be open from 11am until 2pm only. No food available.

New Years Eve. Disco with free buffet commencing at 8pm.

### ***News from the "Wheatsheaf".***

The Wells family have now vacated the pub but carry on with the accommodation business in North Street.

We welcome David Moffitt and his two chefs. Peter and Gavin to Titchmarsh and wish them every success.

The pub will be closed on Christmas Day.

### ***Titchmarsh Draw.***

October's draw took place in the Dog and Partridge. Winners of the £15 tickets were A Teese – 150; K Holley – 160, B James – 74 and T Hammond – 119.

November's draw took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> November in the Wheatsheaf. The four winners were Beryl Harrell – 085; Sylvia Prestwich – 008; Henry Balsar 042 and Caroline Thompson – 077.

We are now renewing all tickets for the 2006 draws. If you are interested in joining the Titchmarsh Draw please contact Mary Cheney on 732492 or Sue Shapland on 734467 re purchasing your number. The tickets cost £24 per year which equates to just 50 pence per week. The more tickets we sell the greater the jackpot. Registration forms are in the D&P and the Wheatsheaf - if you leave your details there, you will be contacted re number allocation. Half of the proceeds will go equally to the benefit of Titchmarsh Church and the Primary School. The other half will be given as prize money to participants. We had two very lucky winners of £663 last year!!!!!!

This year's draw is to take place on Christmas Eve after the Carol singing.

Thank you for your support.

### ***Editorial.***

*John Greig.*

I don't very often have an editorial but I feel that two specific items need mentioning and comment made.

### ***Pauline and Bert Ash.***

You will see in news from the Club Room Committee, further on in this edition, that Pauline and Bert Ash have decided to retire from the committee and I, for one, do not blame them. The whole of the residents of Titchmarsh are totally indebted to this couple who lead the task of the refurbishment of the Club Room. I know, from talking to them both, the frustrations encountered concerning funding together with the heartaches and headaches before and during the refurbishment work.

This was a task that most people would not have commenced yet alone carried forward to a successful conclusion. To Bert, Pauline and the other retiring members our sincere thanks.

### ***"Trick or Treat".***

No matter what your views may be on this American custom at Halloween, I feel that there is no place in Titchmarsh for teenagers who deliberately go out on that evening intent on making mischief. To be menacingly dressed and to knock on the door of someone you do not know then demand a reward is hardly neighbourly. To immediately pelt, with eggs, the door of the house where your demands are not satisfied shows the only intent was mischief. I trust that this will not happen again.

### ***Finally.***

Thank you to all who have made contribution to this bumper issue of the Titchmarsh Times. Again, most came by email but I must apologise for making some editorial cuts. Space is the problem.

Thank you to the distribution department, Rosemary Franklyn, Norma Gregory, Gina Gaskin, The Dexter Family, Sylvia Prestwich, The Noakes Family and Jim James.

For the February/March 2006 edition please may I have your copy at the above address by *Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2006*. Due to other commitments around that time that date is very important.

*John Greig. Editor.*

As the Christmas season approaches - all too rapidly it seems once again - the members of the Parish Council join in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a bright and fulfilling 2006.