

# Titchmarsh Times

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

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

Parish Clerk: Emma Meen,  
email: [parishclerk@titchmarsh.info](mailto:parishclerk@titchmarsh.info)

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December 2006/January 2007

## Christmas & New Year Edition

### Village News and Events.

**News from the Clubroom.** We were very pleased to see such a good turnout for the AGM and to hear back from the many groups and individuals who use the facilities. There were lots of good suggestions and comments which we will take on board; washing up and cleaning products to be supplied from now on as just one of them. There are still a couple of vacancies on the committee so if anyone were still thinking about joining they would be very welcome.

The saloon was packed on 12<sup>th</sup> November for the Wild West Show and sing along and those who still had some energy left pounded the floorboards until closing time. Thanks to all who took part and made the evening go with a swing, particularly the Millers Entertainment group and the dance callers.

After many years as caretaker to the clubroom Philip Dexter has decided to give up the post, we're very grateful to Philip for all the hard work and commitment he has continually given. There is now a vacancy for this post; we are looking for someone who can combine the care-taking and booking roles and has basic IT skills. Details can be obtained from Paul Milner or Caroline Thompson.

**Friends of Titchmarsh School.** Our Halloween Party on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October was well supported and very successful, we raised over £260. Thanks to all who attended and to our helpers. There will be a **Twilight Carol Concert on 7<sup>th</sup> December** at the Church where mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments will be served. Raffle tickets will also be available (proceeds to the school) and are available now from F.O.T.S members and school governors. There will be a second Carol Concert on **12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15** and the raffle will be drawn in the school hall afterwards.

Dates for your 2007 diary: - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007, FOTS Quiz. 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007, Fashion Show and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2007 Spring/Summer Ball

*Julia Higgins*

**Titchmarsh Flower Club.** A demonstration and workshop by Keith Gubbins on **22<sup>nd</sup> November** sees the completion of our first year's programme of local, national and international demonstrators. The December meeting will be held at 31 High Street where a social evening will celebrate a successful year and promote discussions about the 2007 programme, helped along by mulled wine and mince pies!

*Terry Higgins*

### **Titchmarsh Village Shop Project.**

What is happening?

- Autumn Fayre + Grand Draw on 14<sup>th</sup> October raised a net profit of £1,242. If you missed the opportunity to buy the excellent Titchmarsh tea towels, notelets and puddings (plum, ginger, orange & lemon) there will be another chance at the **Pre-School Xmas Bazaar on 2<sup>nd</sup> December** - if there are any left!. If you can't wait until then, please contact Diane Ellis .
- A two-part grant application to Northamptonshire County Council has been successful and we have been awarded £15,418 in principle, which is a great boost to the project. The stage 2 application will be submitted in December.
- We expect to hear the outcome of five further grant applications in December.
- Letters have been delivered to those who were interested in being part of the volunteer team to run the shop to confirm whether or not they are still able to help. Thank you to all those who have already replied. If you have not received a letter but would like to help, please contact Jane Teague .
- Letters have also gone out, via their parents, to those young people who said they were interested in helping with the shop. We hope to establish the Youth Committee very soon. If there are any other young people aged 13+ who would like to get involved then please contact Jane Teague.

*The Management Committee*

**Titchmarsh Walking Group.** The next walk has been organised **for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. Meet outside the Dog & Partridge at the later-than-usual time of 10.00am. This walk will be around the local Titchmarsh area, and will take approximately 2 hours – just in time for mulled wine and mince pies in the Dog & Partridge!

The Walking Group consists of a nucleus of around 15 regulars, and is a good way to see the local countryside, get some exercise and then socialise afterwards. New walkers always welcome.

The 2007 walks will start from the Dog & Partridge at the new time of 10.00am, and will mostly be on the second Saturday of the month. The January walk will be on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January**, and will take place around Twywell. For more information, call Maggy Chapman or e-mail [mc.chapman@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:mc.chapman@ukonline.co.uk).

**Titchmarsh Pre-School.** Our new Pre-School children from Titchmarsh, Thrapston and Denford have settled in well and are enjoying their pre-school routine. Some places are still available for next year.

If you have a child of 2½ to 5 years old and would like more information about Pre-School, do please contact us, or call in during session time (09.00 – 12.00 every day).

Activities this term include, themes such as Operation Christmas Child and Christmas. For “show and tell” we will be looking at colours, shapes and patterns.

On **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** we will be holding the bigger than ever **“Christmas Bazaar”** from 12 until 4 pm. There will be lots to see and do, including stalls selling stocking fillers, our Pre-school Calendar featuring artwork by the children, books, cards and a small selection of special edition toys; activities to entertain the children; refreshments and of course the annual Christmas raffle. The funds will go towards repairing/replacing our wooden shop and play tunnels. We hope to see you there!

All the staff and children of Titchmarsh Pre-school wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Titchmarsh Garden Club.** We are planning a trip to Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire, to see the spectacular display of snowdrops. This will take place in February, and we will decide on the date once we know what best suits everyone who'd like to come along. Depending on the numbers, we may hire a bus for the day. If you're interested in coming along for what will definitely be a fun day, please let our secretary, Jane, know, giving one or two week-end dates in February that would suit you best. We would then confirm the date in early January, and hopefully plenty of Titchmarshians will be able to come along. Jane Finlayson, 43 Islington.

**Planters.** Amongst many of the issues that were raised at T-Day, was the suggestion of installing flower containers around the village.

Many villagers expressed an interest and ticked the relevant boxes on the subsequent Parish Plan Questionnaire. These people have been contacted, and the wheels are now in motion to purchase a stone container for placing beneath each of the 'Titchmarsh' village signs.

If anybody else would like to sponsor these planters, please contact Maggy Chapman for further details, mc.chapman@ukonline.co.uk

**Titchmarsh PCC.** Firstly we would like to thank all the people who helped to clean the church prior to the concert. We would also like to thank the Titchmarsh Flower Arranging club for the beautiful floral arrangements in the church and to Bert and Pauline Ash for their donation for the purchase of the flowers. The Celebration Concert was a very successful and enjoyable evening, with many thanks to all who helped with the food and to Ibby Mallet and her performers. The concert raised £1280 for the ongoing Restoration Fund.

The Harvest Service and lunch, though very enjoyable did suffer from the lack of numbers this year, we seem to coincide with many other commitments. As a result the amount raised was around £720, much less than previous years.

Just as a point of interest the PCC has to raise a minimum of £12000 a year just to keep the church open and in good repair, this is completely apart from any fund raising for Restoration work.

A note for your diaries, The Auction of Promises will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and will have an 'Après Ski' theme. This event is a lot of fun and is something to forward to on these dreary winter nights. If you could help with a promise of any sort please contact anyone on the PCC. *Julia Powell*

**Christmas Church Services.** The Carol Service will be at 7.30 on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** with the Rushden Mission Brass Band playing. Please come and join us for the traditional Lessons and Carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies, help with mince pies would be welcome. The collection this year will go to Cransley Hospice in Kettering.

The Christmas Eve Communion Service will be at 11.30pm on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**, with Rev. M. Whawell. There is also a Christmas Day Service at Barnwell at 11.00am.

**The Original Appreciation of Wine Society, Titchmarsh.** We now have approximately 50 members and average 30+ at our gatherings. A great percentage for such a small community!!!!

During the past year we have sampled Italian wines and food, Australian wine with BBQ and an educational and informative talk from Amps Fine Wines, Oundle; culminating with putting into practice what we have learnt from the 'experts'.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007 Margaret Morley (wine tutor) will be coming to speak to us, content yet to be decided and on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2007 we will be celebrating 1yr.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who support TOAwST and wish them a Happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Cheers Jeff and Jo

### ***Titchmarsh School.***

We have had a very productive autumn term. Our Internationally themed Harvest Festival was a great success. For the work we have done at school over the past two years we have been awarded the International School Award 2007 – Intermediate Level by the British Council Education and Training. We are committed to extending and embedding this very valuable aspect of the school ethos. We are currently forging links with schools in Kenya and South Africa with funding from the British Council.

The school website is constantly being updated by Mr Shaw. Take a look at our goings on at [www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com](http://www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com)

We now look forward to Christmas and sharing as much of it as possible with our local community.

- Christmas Bazaar in the school Hall at 3pm -Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December
- Twilight Carol Service in St Mary's Church from 6.30-7.30pm -Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Morning Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 9.15am -Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December
- School re-opens for Spring Term -Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you a very merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

***Christmas and New Year at the Wheatsheaf.*** A warm welcome awaits you this Christmas. David and the team have a few surprises up their sleeves this year.

Key dates for your diaries are **Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** for the monster Christmas draw (tickets now on sale at the bar). **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, December** children and family night (post carols - food and fun), **New Years Eve** celebration party – buffet supper, Disco's Disco and a complimentary glass of champagne at midnight - £5 a ticket (please phone the box office or pop in to the ticket desk through normal opening hours!).

***Christmas and the New Year at the Dog and Partridge.*** Over the festive season we have a few things going on.

Christmas Eve we will have a relaxing jazz night. A chance to have a few drinks with some nice background music.

New Years Eve we will just be playing music and there will be a free buffet from 9pm.

Opening times over the holiday will be, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as normal. Boxing Day, noon until 5pm and New Years Day as normal.

We would like to thank everyone for their support over the year and to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Andrew and Leigh*

***Titchmarsh Local History Group.*** We have now been going for over a year and we had a small celebration at our November meeting. We had on display all the items and photographs that had been donated or copied in the last 12 months.

There will be no meeting in December but we have a special night organised for **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January.**

# The Green Man

Perhaps no other figure has caused so much speculation and intrigue as the so-called 'Green Man'. Its meaning and purpose have their roots in the mists of time, and can be found in some form all around the world, in art, architecture, folklore, literature, and customs. Dr Peter Hill will unravel its many mysteries during an illustrated voyage of discovery through time.

We look forward to seeing you at the Club Room at 7.30pm. Entrance £2 to include refreshments.

We know there must still be some interesting items out there. If you have any photos or documents you are willing to share please contact the Editor, John Greig. The items will be electronically scanned and stored and returned within a couple of days. Full credit will be given when the copies are used.

**Titchmarsh Draw.** The last two draws for this year have now taken place. October's winners were Sharon Bell – 17, Paul Milner – 160, Alan Dexter – 44, and J Wells – 153. Each won £15. November's winners were Josie Milton – 193, G Elliott -128, Rita Watts – 34, and Kevin Shapland – 109. Each won £15. Congratulations to all.

We have now come to the end of the 2006 Titchmarsh Draw. The organisers have already had a number of people asking for the renewal forms for next year. However we have decided that we shall delay starting the 2007 draw until Easter. Last year we had some people mention that the subscriptions were too expensive just before Christmas.

For 2007, each number will remain the same price - £24 per year (that's just 50 pence per week). Therefore to all those currently who have a number we shall be sending out the renewal forms in a couple of months' time. Anyone new wishing to join the 2007 draw and want to register their interest, please contact Mary Cheney. Hopefully we should have another two large jackpots next year. Happy Christmas. Thank you for supporting the Titchmarsh Draw. The Church and the Primary School really do benefit from your continued subscriptions. *Sue Shapland*

**Stitchmarsh. The village handicraft group.** Since September we have been working on a combined group project and our efforts will be on display, together with those of other contributors at the 'Festival of Angels'.

This is being held at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Langham, Rutland on the **8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December**. If you have time the display will be open from 10am to 6pm on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and from 10am to 4pm on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Cost of admission is £2,50 for adults and accompanied children free. Refreshment will be available in the Village Hall.

It is hoped that our craft piece will be on show at Trees and Trimmings. We are in the process of organising ideas for next year and we shall be looking at making decorative boxes when we start again on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom. *Eleanor Greig, Secretary*

## **Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings.**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 4.30-6.30pm in the Club Room**

As well as the ever popular Christmas lights challenge, we've introduced a few extras for this year's event, including children's carol singing, family quiz, exhibition of Christmas angels by Stitchmarsh and a grand musical finale. Please come along and enjoy festive food, mulled wine, children's games and activities, Santa and his

merry elves and prize giving for the lights and craft competition. 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. Further details to follow, though in the meantime if you can assist in any way or require further details, please contact Lucy Milner.

## ***Parish Council***

**Highways Issues** A member of Northants County Council Highways team came to Titchmarsh in August to hear of our serious concerns regarding heavy lorries leaving Haldens Parkway late at night and driving through the village. He acknowledges our concerns and has subsequently attended the last two Parish Council meetings with proposals and suggestions in an effort to alleviate the problem. The Parish Council's suggestion of introducing a turning circle at the top of Ranway has been turned down following a safety audit. We have, however, been offered improved signage and the imposition of a weight limit and we expect these improvements to be introduced throughout 2007. We will keep the matter under review.

**Vandalism to Church flood lights** The church floodlighting is being tampered with! Floodlights are being reversed by youths, blinding motorists driving along Church Street and causing distress to residents living close by. This antisocial and dangerous behaviour must stop before it causes an accident. Parents please check on your children's activities outside after dark.

**Removal of Lime Tree from Pound** You may have seen some activity in the village Pound recently. We have had removed a lime tree which was causing damage to the Engine House, together with a purple plum tree which had outgrown the site. If you haven't been in the Pound recently, it's worth a visit.

**Dog fouling/Dog bin** We are disappointed to have received complaints about dog fouling again, please remember to pick up after your dog. In response to a suggestion from a villager, an additional dog bin has been purchased and is being attached to the 'byway' sign at the entrance of Lych Lane, at the bottom of St Andrews Lane on the way to the sewerage works.

**Parish Council Minutes** We display the minutes of our monthly meetings on the Parish Council notice board outside the Clubroom. They are also published on the village website, so if you want to keep up to date from the comfort of your home, you can read the latest agenda and the minutes of every Parish Council meeting since October 2003 at <http://www.titchmarsh.info/minutes.htm>

**Finally.** Thank you to all who have made contributions to this edition and throughout the year. Thank you also to our distributors, Rosemary, Norma, Alan, Katie and Kevin. Gina, Sylvia, the Noakes family and Jim. It is an easy job in the summer but not too attractive in the Winter.

Contributions for the February/March 2007 edition need to be with me by **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007** at the very latest.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

*John Greig. (Editor).*