



# Titchmarsh Times



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Parish Clerk, Emma Morehen. clerk.titchmarshpc@googlemail.com

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## **Titch Winkle Honey.**

The honey that has been tenderly produced by the busy bees of Titchmarsh and Aldwincle will be available to buy at Titchmarsh Village Shop Christmas Fayre on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As this is our first year of production we have a limited supply, so come along and have a taste of something very special and extremely local!!

## **Talk to a bee keeper about the fascinating life of the honey bee.**

**We look forward to seeing you. Jeff and Jo Hunter**

## **Jubilee Project** *Ian Curtis & Sylvia Prestwich*

We are working together on a series of projects about the village, which we are linking with next year's diamond jubilee celebrations. We are particularly interested in how the village has changed over the last hundred years, and are keen to record events of the past before they are lost. We would like to point out that we are working independently on these projects and that they are neither influenced by, nor funded by, the parish council.

One task is to record people's memories of the 1953 coronation – where you were, what you did to celebrate the day, etc. – and the later silver and golden jubilee events. So, if you have any memories that you would like to share with us, either in writing or by speaking to us, please get in touch. It does not matter if you were not living in the village at the time you are recalling, it's the memory that's important.

In 1981 and then again in 1999, short films of the village were made for television. We hope to bring these impressions of village life up to date by making a film of 'Titchmarsh in 2012', which would involve recording longstanding village events (such as the school Mayday celebrations, the fete, carols around the tree etc), as well as village scenes, interviews and commentary. To ensure that the finished product is of high standard, we are seeking help and/or advice from anyone who has experience in this field. Can you help?

A further task we have set ourselves is to produce a study of houses in the village. For this we would like families to provide a brief history of their homes and a photograph of the family in front of the property. We have seen a similar project in another village and it makes a very effective chronicle of a community at a particular moment in time. So please take a few minutes to complete the attached form so that your house and family is included. It is entirely voluntary but we hope that you will agree to be included.

The parish magazine is providing us with a rich source of information in our research and Sylvia is busy scanning all the available editions from 1861 onwards. When completed these will be put on the village website for all to browse, for example, when tracing family histories. Finally, Ian has now recorded the recollections of over twenty people who grew up in the village in the 1950's or earlier. We are always looking for more information so if you have recollections of early Titchmarsh - or know of anyone who has - we will be very pleased to hear from you. We'd welcome a chat across the table, nothing very formal, so we can record your recollections. You might have some photos that we can borrow, or memories of a special occasion or just of life in the village generally – we want to record them before they're

lost forever. Please do get in touch; you will be surprised at how interesting these memoirs are to other people.

So if you are able to help with any of these projects, please contact either Ian (732999 or [icurtis@sky.com](mailto:icurtis@sky.com)) or Sylvia (723712 or [sylviaprestwich@aol.com](mailto:sylviaprestwich@aol.com)). We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Theatre trip to London**

Terry and I are planning our fourth annual theatre trip to London early next year. Plans are almost in place, but not quite finalised. The date is likely to be Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the coach is booked, the restaurant selected, and now we are just awaiting confirmation from the theatre – we hope to see the matinee performance of *Dreamboats & Petticoats* at the Playhouse Theatre in Northumberland Avenue.

We will leave Titchmarsh at lunchtime on 14<sup>th</sup> January, have a sandwich lunch on the coach and arrive in central London with a couple of hours to spare before the performance starts at 4pm. After the show we have a 5 minute walk to the Café Rouge in the Strand, where we will be seated in their private room. After the meal the coach will leave London around 9pm and return us to Titchmarsh. The cost will be about the same as last year, approx £70 per person, which includes coach/lunch/theatre & 3 course meal.

So if you think you might like to join us please contact me ([sylviaprestwich@aol.com](mailto:sylviaprestwich@aol.com) or 732712) for a booking form & menu; firm bookings with full prepayment will need to be made by the middle of December 2011.

A sort of tribute to the people of Titchmarsh...  
from my perspective -an American who came here knowing nobody.

Over the next year and a half, Vince became my dearest friend in the world. He always told me about upcoming village events; he introduced me to other villagers; he told me all about the ways of farming here; and he explained the driving precautions to me during the winter months, seeing I was from Florida, and so slightly unprepared. More importantly though, Vince listened to me complain about being away from my family, my friends, and my fiancé a lot; he listened to my constant vain complaints about the tiny scars left on my face from a bombing I had experienced in Afghanistan in April of 2010; he's watched over my home while I was on a leave with my brother Mark, who suffered a heat stroke last September and remained in a coma for almost two months; he tried to comfort me when I cried after the loss of my father in June of 2011; and he encouraged me as I coached my mom by phone through house problems, bills, and her battle with jaw cancer. Vince took my laundry off the line while I was up in Scotland visiting Stuart, so it wouldn't be rained on repeatedly; he let in numerous repairmen and installers while I worked at Molesworth; he took care of our cat Max at least 10 times while I was away with ailing family in America; he's given me furniture from his place that I needed; and he's cheered me up with flowers after I returned from America having faced family hardships. He's even excused me when I've been grouchy because I hadn't heard anything from my new husband Stuart in days while he was deployed with the Royal Marines to Afghanistan. I've come to believe that if there are angels on Earth, Vince Capano might just be one!

Whether people realize it or not, it's very difficult to be an immigrant, to move from your home country to a new one, even if the language is the same. It's more difficult when you are separated from everyone and everything familiar to you. Even subtle cultural differences can be confusing, and everyday life is a new learning process.

Only the friendship offered by Vince, as well as a few extra moments extended by others in the village helped me to eventually find a place to call home for a while.

A Few Shout-Outs (as we say in the states):

Jane – the Village Store Manager welcomed me into the village and drove me home with my groceries when it started raining heavily

Marco & Judith of the D&P – served me wonderful recipes and chatted with me a lot, and later Jo & Kelvin invited me to the famous open mic nights and quiz nights

Amy and Darren of the Wheatsheaf have looked after me when I was hungry, happy and very sad sometimes – I could always count on Amy's graciousness and Darren's delicious food to cheer me up!

Jim Minors – the Vicar (US English – the Pastor) of the church – he married us on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011; he offered wonderful words of advice and had a great sense of humour through the process of marriage

Ruth and Nick – Ruth made all of my flowers for the wedding, gave me lots of hugs through the hard times, and invited me over for wonderful meals since she knew I hated to cook; Nick entertained with his brilliance on quiz nights and his always abiding respect for the ladies!

Jenny and Ewan Harper – always had a friendly smile for me, and Jenny served a wonderful carvery meal at a dinner party loaded with interesting people!

General Lee – as they call him – my one American compadre in the village was a mystery for the first year, as we never met, but became a fun-loving entertaining genuine friend.

Mags – She's quite and sweet, and sincere and always great to talk too. She sold me my first pieces of furniture in England – and cut me a great deal!

Jean – my church pew friend. She always told me some funny jokes, always greeted me with a smile. She never complained, so I had no idea she was ill. When she died, I was shocked to find out how she'd been suffering. A remarkable lady she was! I have two of her paintings to remember her by!

Miss Joan Woods – She inspired me to be all that I can be. I didn't believe Vince when he told me that she still goes hunting at age 91, but I learned over time that "she's a real trooper!" (American phrase for someone who's always forging on) I don't get to see her often, but when I have, well, she's just cool!

Duncan and Karen are cool. They make the cutest couple, and every time I see them, they happen to be walking down the street with a bottle of wine.....my kind of people!! They always claim that they are headed to someone's home for dinner....hmmm!!??

The whole church family – everyone welcomed me with open arms and Christian hearts – of the non-judgmental kind – and that has meant the world to me!

All of my musician friends – too many to mention by name – Every one of them moved my heart a few times with their unique talent and love of music. They all sounded awesome (an Americanism) because they truly felt what they were playing on their guitars, violins, banjos, and more. I've gotten through a UK winter and some depressing times without family because of my musician friends - thanks!!!!

Vince – don't let my departure slow you down. You better better better keep busy and out and about – now everyone in the entire village heard me say it! Don't let Vince sit around the house and collect dust. And Vince, you better come over and visit Stuart and me often.

If anyone is in the vicinity of Swindon, Shrivenham, please know that you are welcome at our place anytime. We have plenty of room. You can always reach me at 07552 470 017. Afterall, that's what friends are for.

Peace...Titchmarsh Villagers.Love,Brenda Steele MacCrimmon

Villagers going past the club room on a Monday night may wonder why there are so many cars in the car park and all along the street. Must be something interesting going on. Going closer, one is made aware of strange noises coming from within. Is there some secret society carrying out strange rituals. But listen closer and one can hear laughter and sounds of people enjoying themselves. This definitely demands closer inspection. Peering through the glass door panel people can be observed doing strange movements ,holding hands with the opposite sex and leading them around the floor in intricate movements and smiling ,obviously enjoying themselves. A very kind gentleman came out and explained that they were doing country dancing, thereby maintaining one of our greatest traditions. Is it easy to learn and do i need a partner.? No was the reply. Is it expensive? No was the reply .First night is free and

only £1.00 thereafter and includes tea/coffee and a snack. What a bargain. They seem a friendly crowd. Yes, they will make you very welcome. Do they have any special evenings?

During the year many theme nights are held including Cheese and Wine, Evenings with Irish, American and Scottish flavour. On some occasions they have a group of Irish dancers doing a display. In October a group of Scottish dancers from Rushden joins in. Not to mention the ever popular fish and chip supper in July and Bangers and mash in November plus dancing. There is also monthly live music to keep your feet tapping.. This sounds great fun. Who do I contact? The chairman John Fieldsend lives in the village. Give him a call on 01832 730230. Happy dancing George.

The annual Church Barn Dance is on March 17<sup>th</sup> with MC and the big camping band. Your support will be appreciated. The charity dance in aid of breast cancer is on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Diamond Jubilee 2012** – a few of us have got together to start things rolling for next year's celebrations. The idea is to have a weekend of events for all ages and to make them family friendly. We are proposing to have a Street Party on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June which is the day of the national "Big Lunch". Other events include a family treasure hunt, afternoon tea at the Pavilion, races & games on the playing fields and finishing with a Barn Dance & Pig Roast on the Monday evening. Hopefully we will be lighting the beacon and having some fireworks. There is a lot of planning still to do and lots of help will be needed over the weekend itself. If you would like to be involved in the organisation or if you just want to give a hand over the weekend please contact one of the following:

Jackie Rowe 734435; jackie.rowe@dsl.pipex.com

Maggy Chapman 735234; melandmag@btinternet.com

Hayley Wood 732488; hayleydawnwood@hotmail.com

Gina Gaskin 732430; ginagaskin@btinternet.com

Look out for regular updates through Titchmarsh Times.

## ***Parish Council***

**Supermarkets in Thrapston:** In the last edition of the Titchmarsh Times we mentioned the proposals to build a Sainsbury's supermarket on the site of the cattle market in Thrapston. No decision has yet been made by East Northants Council on these plans or on the relocation of the cattle market. In the meantime, an application has also been made for another supermarket to be built on the site between the Bridge Hotel and Waterside that is at present occupied by Scotts of Thrapston. Your parish council is kept informed of these developments but has no power to influence them other than by commenting on the proposals.

**Allotments:** With the cost of living ever on the rise, how about growing your own vegetables and soft fruit? Not enough space? Then why not take on an allotment? There are currently three allotments available in Islington. If you fancy joining the 'good life' and benefiting from some healthy outdoor exercise at the same time, please contact our clerk, Emma. Her details are on the front page.

**The noticeboard** by the school has been provided for villagers to use to publicise information about local events etc. Increasingly, however, it is being used by commercial organisations as free publicity. These posters will be removed. A small plea - if you do put up a notice could you please not use staples. They are difficult to take out and can be painful to the unwary when left sticking up.

**Carols round the tree:** The parish council is very grateful to the members of the playing field association for organising the Christmas tree and carols for the last fifteen years. The association has now asked to hand over this responsibility and so the parish council has taken it on. This means that once again there will be an Opportunity for you to sing all your favourite carols as we gather round the tree at 7pm on Christmas Eve.

## **PCC**

Firstly, I and the PCC would like to thank all the people who supported us at the Murder Mystery evening in the Church. From a lot of comments we have had the evening was very successful and enjoyable, and much of the credit goes to those people who cooked for us, lugged furniture around, cleaned the church and waited at tables. It looks like we have made around £1800, so again thank you.

We are already planning our next venture, a '**Cruise**' evening on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, with drinks with the Captain, deck games, competitions and water skiing plus anything else we can dream up in the meantime. There will be an imaginative and delicious buffet to enjoy as well as a bar to maintain the merriment. We will be holding this event in the Clubroom so tickets will be limited. Please look out for the posters for further details.

There will be a '**Pancake Party**' in the Clubroom on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February and there will be more details in the next TT.

Also next year we will still have the Barn Dance, Quiz and hopefully another Murder Mystery. Plenty of things to keep us busy and you entertained.

Julia Powell

### ***Titchmarsh School. Mrs J. Milton Head Teacher***

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from pupils and staff.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November we had our annual literacy activity day. This time it was organised differently and it was called Project X. Overnight, a giant nest with 3 giant eggs appeared on the school play equipment. As the children arrived for school in the morning they were confronted with this sight. The local police played along with the teachers and cordoned the area off, making sure onlookers stayed well back. 'Scientists' from Cambridge University also came along to help us discover what had happened. This all added to the authenticity of the situation. On closer inspection of the nest, bones, blood and broken egg shells could also be seen as well as a lone feather! What followed was a very exciting day which inspired excellent writing from all our children. Special thanks to the Prince William drama student (scientists), Phil Garnham (Professor of palaeontology and anthropology), Kevin Shapland (C.I.D) and PCSO Steve Ryan (himself) for making our day so special.

Dates this Christmas Season

Twilight Carol Service 14<sup>th</sup> December. Morning Carol Service 15<sup>th</sup> December

School closes on 16<sup>th</sup> December for Christmas holidays and reopens on 4th January 2012 to children.

### ***From the Rectory***

I recently asked a school assembly how Jesus started life . 'In a cot' like us' was the view of the younger children. Only the older seemed to know about the manger.

Last Advent I asked here 'Who's coming is it about? 'Santa' said the younger children—only the older suggested Jesus.

So children learn as they grow. But we do live in an age where the Christian message is a little muddled by our affluent times —yes, even with today's anxieties and talk of 'austerity' and 'recession'.

All our Christmas services can provide an escape from our economic woes – but they can also make us think about a vital; alternative perspective on what life is about.

Hope to see you at some of them – see below for details.

With all good Christmas wishes

Jim Mynors Aldwinckle Rectory 720613 Jim@Mynors.me.uk

**Titchmarsh Church Services**

Dec 4 9.15am Morning Prayer  
 Dec 11 9.15am Communion  
           4.30pm Family Service putting out the crib figures  
 Dec 18 9.15am Communion  
**Dec 19 7.30pm CAROL SERVICE**  
**Dec 24 11.30 PM MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**  
 Jan 1 9.15am Morning Prayer  
 Jan 8 9.15 Communion  
           4.30pm Family Service  
 Jan 15 9.15am Communion  
 Jan 22 9.15 Communion  
 Jan 29 9.15am Communion

**Baptism**

Alice Fortescue of 39 Oaklease Rise Thrapston on 24<sup>th</sup> September

Details of other services on noticeboards and  
<http://www.oundledeanery.org.uk/parishes/titchmarsh>

Titchmarsh Carol Service  
 December 19 7.30pm

With Choir

Children's item (near beginning in case smaller children need to leave!)

And Rushden Mission Brass Band  
 Followed by seasonal refreshments  
 All welcome

**Church Rotas for December 2011 & January 2012**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Intercessions</b>	<b>Readers</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Mrs B Ray	9.15am	Mr P Dunn	Mrs J Powell	Mr J Fieldsend
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Mrs R Franklin	9.15am	Dr S Bell	Mr P James	Dr G Webster
		4.30pm	Hughes Family		
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Mrs W Jeffries	9.15am	Mrs K Williams	Mr D Williams	Mr D Williams
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Carol Service	7.30pm	Various		Various
24 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Mrs G Gaskin	11.30pm	Mr A Powell	Mr J Fieldsend	Mrs J Powell
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2012	Miss J Finlayson	9.15am	Mr P Dunn	Mr S Barber	Mrs A Dunn
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Mrs J Powell	9.15am	Mrs J Rowe	Mr P James	Mr S Barber
		4.30pm	Knight Family		Jessica & Caitlin
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Mrs E Cawdell	9.15am	Mr A Powell	Mrs J Powell	Mrs J Powell
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2012	Mrs J Rowe	9.15am	Lady Harper	Sir Ewan or Lady Harper	Sir Ewan Harper
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	Mrs S Prestwich	9.15am	Mrs J Rowe	Mr S Barber	Mr T Higgins

# Northamptonshire Police November 2011

## Titchmarsh PCSO Tim Butter

### Zero crime in the village

Titchmarsh has enjoyed several months of zero recorded crime thanks to its security conscious residents. Can I remind all Titchmarsh residents to continue to secure your houses, always lock your vehicle and remove the keys. Don't forget to remove your sat nav, cradle and suction pads and wipe away marks.

### Don't draw attention to your valuables

With Christmas just around the corner and the dark winter nights upon us, it's a good time to take a fresh look at your home security. Here are some useful crime prevention tips to help you protect your home and property:

- Keep front and back doors lock at all times – even when you're at home
- If you are out in the evening make sure you leave a light on and draw the curtains. If it's dark before you get home, use timer switches to turn on the lights. If you have a burglar alarm, use it!
- Keep keys and valuables out of sight, and reach, from cat flaps, letterboxes, and downstairs doors and windows
- Keep Christmas presents out of sight of passers-by
- Always keep your car locked, closing both the windows and sunroof if you have one - even if you are only leaving the vehicle for a few moments.

Ensure when removing your sat nav, that the cradle and suction pad are also removed and any suction marks are wiped away.

### The new 101 national police non-emergency number launched in Northamptonshire.

The new 101 national police non-emergency number, **101** will be the new number to contact Northamptonshire Police.

The 101 non-emergency number will provide you with a single, easy to remember number for you to call to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency police response.

You will be able to call **101** to report a crime that has already happened and any other incidents or concerns that do not require an emergency response. You can also call it to speak to your local Safer Community Team, to make a general enquiry or make us aware of any policing issues in your local area.

999 should still be used in an emergency, such as when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or a life is at risk, or there is a traffic incident involving personal injury or danger.

If you have any hearing difficulties or a speech impairment, a text phone will be available on **18001 101**.

Calls to **101** from landlines and mobiles cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long your call lasts.

101 is already in use in a number of areas across England and Wales and is being rolled out to the remaining police force areas on a phased basis over the next few months.

Our local number – 03000 111 222 – will remain available while 101 becomes established and for those calling from outside England and Wales, as well as for callers outside Northamptonshire where 101 is not yet live.

## **Contact Us**

Contact Northamptonshire Police by visiting [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk) or calling 101, email your local Safer Community Team at [SCT-EastNorthantsNorth@northants.police.uk](mailto:SCT-EastNorthantsNorth@northants.police.uk). Alternatively you can remain anonymous by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

To be kept informed from the comfort of your own home, our free Community Messaging service keeps you up to date, by email, with timely and relevant crime information, as well as advice on emerging or seasonal crime issues and other community safety information. Go to [www.northantscommunitymessaging.org](http://www.northantscommunitymessaging.org) to register.

## **Friends of Titchmarsh School**

As we approach the Christmas period, I would like to thank all the parents and villagers who have supported us so far in what has been a very busy and eventful autumn term. We had our AGM in September, where Tracey Levick stood down as Chair and I took on the role. I have a strong team behind me, in Fiona Love, my Vice Chair, Mel Skerritt, my Secretary and Caroline Hope, my Treasurer. We also welcomed three new committee members, Jo Curtis, Stacey Bailey and Jenny Smith and Tracey has stayed on as a member.

This term has been incredibly busy, seeing our delivery of Autumn plants from CD Bell; the children and staff worked hard at school to create some festive master pieces, which are as we speak, being turned in to fantastic Christmas cards (thank you to all the staff involved in this); our Halloween party was incredibly well attended and had new volunteers, although we could always use more!; Caroline has given out the Yellow Moon catalogues and we are awaiting the delivery; Caroline and I marched the village streets, delivering your Bags2School, which we are hoping to do well from. The village always support us well in this fundraiser, having a good old clear-out, so thank you one and all.

As I write, our School Quiz Night looms and, thanks to the incredibly hard work put in by Caroline and Fiona to organise this, the tables are all sold, so we look forward to a magnificent night. The quiz master, Geoff Love, has done a thorough job and I am sure has thrown a few humdingers in there to really get us all thinking.

Dates for your diary:

- 26<sup>th</sup> November Pre-School Bazaar
- 12<sup>th</sup> December Wreath Night
- 11<sup>th</sup> February Valentine's 80's themed disco
- 10<sup>th</sup> March Beetle Drive
- 12<sup>th</sup> May FOTS Fun Day

With 2012 fast approaching, may I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and thank you all for your continued support of all the events we carry out in order to raise much needed funds for the children, to enable them to have those little extras that make our School such a special one.

Amanda O'Dwyer Chair of FOTS

## **Clubroom**

At our AGM last month we welcomed a new member of the village onto our Committee – Hannah Aston of Tudor Cottage. Hannah not only volunteered to join our Committee, she also agreed to be our Treasurer. Many thanks go from the Committee to Di Ellis who has been our Treasurer for the past 6 years and for

agreeing to 'shadow' Hannah for the coming year to ensure a seamless handover of the books.

The Clubroom mourns the loss of the Dog & Partridge along with the rest of the village, but I'm pleased to say that we managed to secure a memento for the village. We are proud to have salvaged the pub sign and have mounted it in our own bar area. At our November meeting we will be discussing the possibility of holding one-off (or maybe even regular) D&P nights at the Clubroom. The format of these evenings is yet to be decided but may include a range of pub games including skittles, cribbage and possibly dominoes, darts and even a pub quiz. If anyone has any suggestions for such an evening, or would like to get involved in the running of them – any budding 'Mein Hosts' out there? – feel free to contact myself or any other member of the Committee.

As everyone starts to think of Christmas, please make a note of the date for our annual Christmas Panto. This year we'll be hosting a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk (Oh yes we will!!!) on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December with doors opening at 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. Tickets will be available nearer the date from Julia Powell (732283) priced at £3 for children (inclusive of interval refreshments) and £5 for the big kids that bring them along!

**Paul Milner**

### **Titchmarsh Tabletennis Club**

I bet many of you didn't realise that Titchmarsh has our very own Tabletennis team. The team has been going for several years now and play our home games at the pavilion (home matches on a Monday, away matches Monday or Tuesday). We play a pretty mixed standard of the game which usually sees us end the season mid-table of the Wellingborough & District Tabletennis League's Division 3. Each week we field a team of 3 players, but our squad is currently down to only 4 players, so we could do with some additional players.

The league is open to any age and gender – I've been beaten by 10 year old boys and players well into their 70s, as well as by a lady in a wheelchair (in my defence she has represented England!).

If anyone is interested in joining our small band of ping-pongers and is regularly available on Monday and Tuesday evenings between roughly 7 – 10pm then please contact our captain, Jonathan Hope on 733955.

**Paul Milner**

ITCHMARSH YOUTH GROUP Older Group: School Years 10 +

Our last session this year will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> December when we shall be meeting in the Clubroom. Normal time of 7-9pm

We will start again in the New Year when we hope to be arranging a trip out for a Laser Evening sometime in January. Further details regarding exact date and times will be emailed. We are aiming to arrange another camping trip, a windsurfing session, possible trips to odeon/theatre for spring/summer.

This summer, we were once again lucky enough to receive a donation from the Flower and Vegetable Committee. It was felt by that F&V Committee that they would like to support the youth group by contributing towards them experiencing an activity that could work in a team building way. We arranged for all the young people who wanted to take part to go to Rutland Water to spend an afternoon raft building and kayaking. The session was led by staff at Rutland Water and the 20+ young people had a fantastic time. Thanks very much to the F&V Committee from all those who attended. A day to remember. Programmes for Spring 2012 will be emailed to older group members shortly

## **Titchmarsh Village Shop**

(Tel 730727 or email [titchmarsh.villageshop@googlegmail.com](mailto:titchmarsh.villageshop@googlegmail.com))

Regular customers will have noticed seasonal product lines now on the shelves, so if you haven't visited us for a while do come in and see what's new. We have some delightful gift ideas including:

- Shorrocks Lancashire "Bomb" cheese from £4.50, available while stocks last
- Border Dark Chocolate Gingers, £4.50
- Disney character tins containing chocolate chip cookies, £4.35
- Gingerbread Cookie Kit with cutter, £6.50
- Farm animal tins containing shortbread, £7.50
- Pink and white sugar mice, 75p each
- Christmas tree ornament filled with candy, £1.69 each

Perfect for Christmas and New Year entertaining, we have packs of 12 mini vol-au-vent cases at £1.50 and packs of 16 cocktail tartelettes at £1.95. We will receive delivery of our speciality cheeses at the end of November and will not be able to obtain further supplies before Christmas, so do come in early to avoid disappointment.

We will be hosting our annual **Christmas Fair on Saturday, 3 December from 12am to 4pm in the shop and the Pound Garden**. Come and try a taste of the products from our Christmas range and place your order for all your Christmas groceries and speciality items. Enjoy a complimentary glass of mulled cider to keep you warm and purchase roast chestnuts and hot dogs from the barbecues. Browse at your leisure while our Youth Committee keep your children amused with Christmas activities. Buy a ticket for our prize draw – it could be your lucky day and there are some great prizes!

Back by popular demand, we are delighted to announce that we will again have a limited supply of Liz Knivett's delicious home-made Christmas puddings from her traditional family recipe. Please place your order early so you don't miss out!

By the time you read this you will have received a TVS Christmas order form. Please ensure that your completed order form is handed in to us by **Saturday 3 December** at the latest. If you are going away over the holiday period, do make sure you cancel your newspaper order with us.

Please remember that the shop's finances are fragile and the sad loss of our neighbour, the D&P, should serve as a timely reminder that if we don't support our village amenities we will lose them. Please try to support the shop over Christmas and in the quiet days of January for the long term benefit of us all.

Our Christmas and New Year opening hours are:

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>8.30am to 3pm (normal hours)</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>Boxing Day</i>	<i>9am to 11am</i>
<i>Tuesday 27 December</i>	<i>9am to 11am</i>
<i>Wednesday 28 – Friday 30 December</i>	<i>8am to 6pm (normal hours)</i>
<i>Saturday 31 December</i>	<i>8.30am to 3pm (normal hours)</i>
<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>9am to 11am</i>
<i>Monday 2 January</i>	<i>8.30am to 12.30pm</i>

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers and loyal customers and we wish you

all a very merry Christmas, and a peaceful and happy New Year. Come and see us soon!  
*Jane Teague, on behalf of the TVS Management Committee*

## *A message from Australia*

Putting the Dog to sleep...!

To Titchmarsh,

My mother e-mailed me today, Saturday October 9th, with a photograph of the workmen removing the signage from the Dog and Partridge.

For a forty-two year old man, I have to admit looking at that photo was a genuinely saddening moment.

I guess in some strange way I am at least glad it happened after Mike Campen had passed away. RIP Boss.

The village is going to become a lonelier place for you all and especially for any newcomers trying to connect with a sense of community and make any real friends upon moving to Titchmarsh.

It is things like this that really do fluff out the heart of village life all over the world.

Poor show Wells Brewery I say. They have abandone3d what I feel is a local institution not just a Public House, in favour of share dividends and blind profits without any care for quality of life. Can the benefit of the Dog really be measured against the pound and the pence?

I guess I may be not the best man to speak having moved from Titchmarsh to Rushden in 1990, however house prices will have a habit of doing that to the kids of Titchmarsh. I did though still drink in the Dog as a regular and a proud Skittler in the mighty B team until moving overseas in 1996. Also upon visits home many friends would realise that to catch up I would inevitably be found with a pint of Eagle in hand.

I will be home for a visit at the end of the year, alas this time I can't sign off to mates with a "catch you in the Dog".

A sad day, for me, for Titchmarsh, for friends and for villages in every corner of the Globe.....

A Dog lover.*David Sadler*E-mail: [69sadler@tpg.com.au](mailto:69sadler@tpg.com.au)

*Mob: +61 (0)433 318278*

*Ph: +61 (0)2 8034 0497*

***Good points David....you are also an example of where the lack of Suitable AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING SCHEMES forces young people away from the villages.***

# Finally. A Merry Christmas to all our readers worldwide

Thank you to all who have delivered or contributed to the TT over the Past 12 months and especially to those who have met the copy deadlines, it Makes it so much easier not to have to chase. The next edition will be for February March 2012.

Please may I have your contributions as attached Word documents in Arial 11 **By 8pm of the evening of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**On a very personal note Eleanor and I would wish to thank you all for your concerns and best wishes during my time in the Stroke unit at Northampton General Hospital. JG Editor.....**

Fiona Swan Soft Furnishings.

In the New Year I am introducing some soft furnishing workshops to be held in The Pavilion. If you are interested in learning how to make a simple pair of curtains, roman blind or piped cushion covers please contact me for further details.

Mobile 07779 713 073. E Mail [Swanrick@aol.com](mailto:Swanrick@aol.com).

Or call in to my workshop in Goss Court, Thrapston.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



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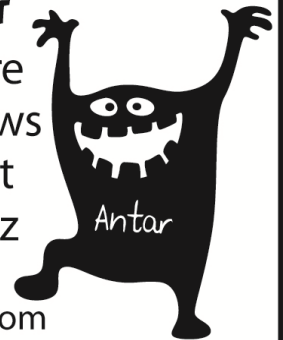
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