

# Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council

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December 2003 & January 2004

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## Raymond Harry Gray

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November, a bright sunny autumn day, Titchmarsh said a fond farewell to a village stalwart. Raymond was 83 years old and had spent his whole life living in Titchmarsh, apart from a brief spell in the RAF. He was a well liked and respected man with a wry sense of humour, demonstrated at many Titchmarsh functions together with his witty monologues.

He had been a Parish Councillor, a long serving member of the Horticultural Society but chiefly he will be remembered for being the Chairman of the Club Room Committee for 31 years. Sadly he did not live to see the fruition of his last couple of years efforts to refurbish the Club Room. Works begin in the middle of January.

The British Legion paid their respects at the funeral. Raymond had been a long serving supporter and worker on their behalf.

He was described, by the Rev. Paul Trenchard, as being a gracious man – how true. *Julia Powell.*

## *Christmas and New Year Events.*

**Titchmarsh School** – On **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 3pm** onwards a Christmas Bazaar will be held in the school hall. All are welcome and refreshments will be served in the Mulberry mobile.

In the final week of term the annual Carol Service will be held in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin commencing at 9.30am and will we would welcome you all. Come and join us after, for refreshments, at the school.

The school party will be held on the 19th December, the last day of term.

*Mrs. M. Cleaver*

**Church Carol Service** – There will be a brass band at the Carol Service to be held in the church on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm** followed by mulled wine and mince pies. The collection at the service is always donated to local charities.

**Trees & Trimmings - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 4.30-6.30pm in the Club Room** -Please come along and enjoy festive food & mulled wine, traditional games, Santa's grotto, children's activities and decoration displays. Admission: £2 per adult (inc glass of mulled wine) and 50p per child. In the meantime light up your house and garden or a window during December and give yourselves the chance to win the Christmas lights prizes. Further details and competition entry forms for this and for decorated Christmas cakes and children's Christmas cards will follow shortly. If you would like to get involved with this event or need more information please contact Lucy Milner.

**Carols at the Village Christmas Tree** – At **7pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** we will be having our, now annual, Christmas Eve gathering on The Green. Come along, join your neighbours and start the seasonal festivities.

**Titchmarsh Christmas cards and 2004 Calendars are on sale.** Contact Jean Bussens, Duncan Williams or Julia Powell.

**New Years Eve Party** – Don't risk going out of the village on New Years Eve – we're having a party in the Club Room. JP's Disco will be providing the entertainment, Dave's' doing his usual behind the bar, the girls are putting on a small finger buffet, there'll be a raffle and the room will be tarted up for the occasion – so all we need is your presence to create a great atmosphere. Tickets are only £10 each and are available from John or Dave or from any member of the Playing Field Committee. Don't leave it too late– it's bound to be a sell out.  
*Mel Chapman*

*Other News and Events*

**Well done lads** - On a sunny Saturday afternoon in late September James Roe and Robert Shapland set out for their run from Titchmarsh around the Clopton Loop - a total distance of 7 miles. They had come up with the idea of raising funds to pay for the education of Mary Nabule, a young girl living in Africa, currently paid for by 2nd Oundle Cub Scouts. The boys were accompanied by their families (on bikes!) and a brave father on foot. They ran at an astonishing pace and completed the distance without stopping in 1 hour and 10 minutes. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who sponsored them for the event they managed to raise the incredible sum of £223.50. Many thanks, to all of you who supported the boys in raising these funds and well done Robert and James.

**Titchmarsh Club Room** – Since Raymond passed away Bert Ash has taken over as Chairman of the Club Room Committee. We, as a committee, hope to carry on in the in the same tradition but we do need the support of all village organisations. Our constitution calls for the committee to include one representative of all the village organisations. So if you are a member of such an organisation and would like to be that bodies representative member please contact Lucy Milner

**Club Room Refurbishment** – The tenders for the works have now been received and are being evaluated and we are still on course for placing the contract and for the work to commence in the second week in January 2004. We are pleased to report that Northamptonshire County Council, following a successful bid by the committee, has granted additional funding towards the cost of the refurbishment. We have also had a donation from the Velux Company in Kettering of four roof light windows, complete with blinds and fittings. The addition of these windows will allow more natural light into the hall. I have written to Velux on behalf of all villagers thanking them for their donation and support of a local charity.

**A bit of history** – Glancing through the Club Room archives and minute books we were surprised to learn that the building was erected in 1861-2 and was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1862 by the Titchmarsh Benefit Society. The Benefit Club was wound up in 1923 and the building was bought by Lord Lilford who gave it to the Trustees of the village. As you can see it is *your* Club Room and it needs *your* continuing support to flourish.  
*Pauline Ash*

**Local Crime** - We seem to be suffering from a mini crime wave with a series of break-ins to garages and outbuildings and incidents of damage to cars in the High Street. A reminder, check your security arrangements and to be on the look-out for any anti-social behaviour. Please report all incidents to the Police. We need their help to stamp this out.

**200 Club** – For 50p per week or £24 per year if paid in advance, you could assist with raising funds for Titchmarsh School and Church. A Club where we are hoping to sell 200 tickets is now up and running. Should we be successful in selling all 200 tickets the payout each month will be four winners of £20 each. The lucky winners of the two bonus draws will receive £720 ! The bonus draws will take place in July and December - the first draw is to be on 24<sup>th</sup> December for the first jackpot. However if we are unable to sell all the tickets the prize money will be adjusted accordingly but there will be still two jackpot prizes up for grabs.

For more information regarding participation and ticket purchase contact Mary Cheney or Sue Shapland.

**Titchmarsh Website** – The village website is currently ‘under construction’ and is being co-ordinated by a group of seven villagers. Village establishments and organisations will already have received a request for material for the site. Local trades and businesses who are interested in being included on the site, or any other enquiries, should be addressed the website co-ordinator, Sylvia Prestwich at [sylviaprestwich@aol.com](mailto:sylviaprestwich@aol.com)

**”T- Day is Coming”**. Next year will be a defining time for Titchmarsh. It will define today, tomorrow and the future. Be prepared to stand up and tell us what you think. (An air of mystery from John Gaskin ! *Ed.*)

**Parish Magazine Co-ordinator**.- Eileen Gunn has taken over this role. Please note that Julia Powell will still gather news for Titchmarsh to take down to Eileen on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. (Let’s have the same news at the same time at the above address. *Ed.*)

*Look at this Page 3 !*

**Parish Council.**

Ian Curtis - Chairman

**Affordable Housing** - The Council remains committed to providing affordable housing for those with strong local connections. We are working with the local Rural Housing Association to identify suitable sites.

**Lighting** - Now that the nights are drawing in we have become more aware of the inadequacy of the lighting in parts of the village. Even though there are over 50 street lights, there remain areas where lighting is poor. We are in discussion with the contractors about providing additional lights or redirecting others. If there is an intention to put a light near your property, we will, of course, talk to you about it.

**Traffic calming** -You may have wondered why two pieces of plastic appeared recently on the road surface in the High Street, only to disappear a few days later. They were there to monitor traffic movements so that we can work with the police in improving road safety in the village. More of this at a later date.

**Planning** – The Council has agreed a series of criteria by which we evaluate applications for planning developments. Included are considerations of the extent to which the development is sympathetic to the general character of the village; how well it would relate to nearby properties; its likely impact on traffic and road safety; the retention of development within existing boundaries; and – wherever possible – any opportunities a development might provide for providing housing for existing villagers. Please get in touch with the clerk if you would like a full copy of the criteria.

**Village maintenance** - As part of our ongoing programme to improve the appearance of the village, we are reviewing the contract for grass cutting and getting on with jobs such as renovating signs and tidying up street furniture. Many thanks to all those of you who have responded to our requests to cut back on overhanging hedges. Did you all know that there is a small garden in the Pound behind the Engine House on The Green? A lovely spot for a quiet reflection and we thank Brenda Durndell for maintaining it so beautifully.

**Titchmarsh Playing Field Committee News** - The Committee is currently working with the *Football Foundation* to look at ways to raise funding to replace the sports pavilion. There are a number of challenges to overcome but we are hopeful that progress will be made to improve the facilities.

**Christmas Quiz** – Something to get the brain cells moving over Christmas. Copies of the quiz, price £1, are available at the “Dog & Partridge” & “The Wheatsheaf”. First prize £40. (See if you can spot me in the photo eliminator. *Ed.*)

*Dates for your diaries, the ones you will be getting from Santa !*

**Titchmarsh Playing Field Committee** – A Rhythm & Blues night with the locally acclaimed band “BUZZ” is planned for Valentines Night, Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> 2004. This promises to be a swinging, foot stomping session. With the Club Room closed for refurbishment we have decided to take advantage of the new Council facilities in Thrapston. Keep a note of the date, more details will follow.

**Friends of Titchmarsh School** - Beetle Drive, 7<sup>th</sup> February, Quiz Night on 6<sup>th</sup> March and the Spring Ball on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2004. More details later

**The Village Fete will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2004.** With this much notice there are no excuses.

**Finally** - Thank you to all the contributors and the delivery team and everyone who has helped with to this “rag”. Dead line for Feb/March 2004 edition is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2004.**

*A Happy and Peaceful Christmas to you all.*