

Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council

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Christmas Edition December 2004 / January 2005

Village Christmas Activities.

Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings 2004 Wednesday 22nd December. 5.30 - 7.30 pm.

Time to start planning your Christmas lights! Hoping to repeat the success of last year, this event will include competitions for best decorated property & window(s), as well as competitions to be displayed in the Club Room - details to be distributed separately. Festive food & drink, children's decorating activities, traditional games, prize-giving and Santa's grotto in the Club Room, High Street, Titchmarsh. Everyone welcome. 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 me, Lucy Milner.

Titchmarsh School.

Mrs. J Milton. (Acting Head Teacher) writes:

Everybody has settled well in to the new school year. Harvest Festival assembly was a colourful and stimulating performance. Children and parents donated a wide variety of harvest produce, which our Year 3 and 4 distributed to the old folk of Titchmarsh and Clopton.

Forthcoming events include a visit by the Bishop of Brixworth to distribute Bibles to the pupils.

During the run up to Christmas, we will be holding a Christmas Bazaar on Thursday 2nd December at 3.00pm, with the proceeds going to School Fund.

There will also be a 6.30pm Twilight Carol Service at St Mary's Church on Thursday 9th December performed by all the school children. The Rural Dean, Rev. Richard Ormston will be in attendance. Your presence at these events would be very welcome.

Carol Service at St. Mary's

This traditional service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Monday 20th December at 7.30pm. Once again the music will be provided by The Rushden Brass Band; and the evening will finish with the usual mulled wine and mince pies.

Carols around the tree. Christmas Eve.

Come and join your friends and neighbours for half an hour at our now, traditional, carols and sing-a-long around our village Christmas tree. 7pm Friday 24th December. See you there.

Midnight Mass at St. Mary's. The service will commence at 11.30 on Friday 24th December.

Village News and Events for 2005.

Titchmarsh Playing Field Committee.

Caroline Thompson.

Those of you who managed to come along to Titchmarsh 'T' day will have seen the proposals for a new sports pavilion up on the playing fields; most of our efforts next year will be going towards drawing up the plans and raising the funds for this to happen. As well as football facilities we want the building to be a flexible space that can encourage more use of the playing fields. As we progress we will make sure that everyone is aware of the details and involved in consultations around the development. We would welcome informal feedback at any point, please contact any member of the committee or the Parish Clerk, Jane Teague.

The date for the next 10K road race is Bank Holiday Sunday, May 1st. This will be our 10th anniversary race and each year the run has been more and more successful, attracting runners from far away. This year we are also organising a 'fun run' for all comers aged 8 upwards, to be run over a 3K course, so if you've always wanted to have a go, but 10K seemed a bit optimistic, now's your chance! Entry details on the village website

Titchmarsh Clubroom.

Pauline Ash. Committee Member.

The Clubroom is now up and running again, we have had many bookings since our official re-opening and hopefully the upward trend will continue to enable us to maximise our revenue following the period when the Clubroom was closed for refurbishment and had no income.

We are still having minor problems, but hopefully over the next few weeks they will all be resolved and we can have a period of stability.

On 9th November we held our Annual General meeting and the Officers and Committee were elected as follows:-

Bert Ash Chairman

Alan Dexter Vice Chairman

Michelle Bail Treasurer

Lucy Milner Secretary

Pauline Ash Committee Member

Janet Fielding Committee Member

Julie Powell Parochial Parish Council Representative

John Pridmore Parish Council Representative

John Fielding Titchmarsh Folk Dance Representative

Kate Eve Playgroup/Ladybirds Representative.

Caroline Thompson Playing Fields Representative.

We would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Janet and John onto our Committee.

In the New Year we are looking to start again the visits from local theatre companies and we will also be looking to start a programme of fund raising events. If you have any suggestions for functions that you would like to see held at the Clubroom please contact Bert Ash.

Prescription delivery service. Dudley Taylor's Pharmacies Ltd, trading as Cawdells' of Thrapston, provides a delivery service operating on Friday mornings. For further information contact Cawdells' on 732444.

Mediterranean Evening and Auction of Promises.

This event will be held on the 26th February at 7.30pm, as a way of bringing in some sunshine during the grey days of winter. Come and partake of the Mediterranean foods and wines and the chance to purchase the skills of others, at an evening full of fun and entertainment.

Sunday School.

At the T-Day some comments were made about a Sunday School; so now we ask is there anyone in the Parish of Titchmarsh willing to take on this project or help in any way? Please contact the PCC if you can.

The Quiz Night. Once again we had a very entertaining evening with much rivalry and hilarity. The Shepherd's Pies were magnificent, the questions were delivered with mastery and the scoring was superb. Many thanks to Karen, Duncan and Sharon. Thanks also to Margaret for doing the raffle again. The evening has made in excess of £500, so thank you all for coming and supporting this event.

The Harvest Supper raised about £700 for Church Funds, so we will manage to keep our heads above water for another year.

Titchmarsh Draw.

Sue Shapland

The winners in October were Vicky Barnett 082, Mrs Sadler 139, M Valentine 015 and Louise Cheuk 108 and the winners in November's draw were P Cawdell 058, Alan Powell 011, Mr & Mrs Wisneski 079 and Stacey Mear 029. Congratulations to all.

The draw has now been running for a year and the next draw will be on Christmas Eve in the Wheatsheaf after the Carols. This draw will contain one of this year's jackpot tickets – the second will be drawn in July. May I therefore remind you that it is now time to renew your ticket for the 2005 Titchmarsh Draw.

Tickets are currently being renewed for existing members and new members are also welcome. Tickets are 50 pence per week but we ask that payment for the whole year is made now - for £24 each (cheques payable to Titchmarsh Club Account). There is no limit on the number of tickets each person purchases and for further information and/or ticket purchase, please contact Mary Cheney or Sue Shapland. If you fail to purchase your ticket before the first draw, we are unable to sell any more until this time next year. You can also leave your details at the Wheatsheaf or the D&P and you will be contacted regarding payment and allocation of your number.

Funds raised from the draw greatly enhance the day to day running of the primary school and the Titchmarsh Church. Funds from last year's draw have been put forward towards greatly improving and updating the library at the school and towards the heating of the church. Thank you to all who have supported this event.

Friends of Titchmarsh School (FOTS).

Sue Shapland.

Thanks to all who contributed, helped and attended the Halloween Party which was very well attended. This year, we were sponsored by Waitrose at Rushden, Asda at Corby and Morrisons at Thrapston and we also thank for their support. The event raised just over £300.

The Bag2School collection has now taken place. Thank you to all who donated unwanted items for the benefit of the school. We shall let you know how much was raised in the next edition.

Future dates of events: A Bingo afternoon for all has been booked for Saturday 5th February in the Club Room and the Quiz Night has been arranged for Saturday 12th March. And don't forget that the Spring Ball is on 23rd April 2005 at Barnwell Village Hall.

A fond farewell to Mike and Vera.

Editor.

On Tuesday 16th November the village said farewell, at a surprise party, to Mike and Vera, our hosts at the "Dog & Partridge".

The valedictorian was Ollie Hemmings and I would quote part of his message given prior to the presentation.

"We are here this evening to mark the end of a quite remarkable era stretching over 26 years ! No mean feat in this day and age, when pubs in general, seem to change hands all too frequently.

After your arrival in Titchmarsh the "Dog & Partridge" very quickly became the place to come if you wanted to enjoy an excellent pint as well as a wide range of other drinks, in a pub that was always warm and welcoming and had a friendly atmosphere.

The one downside seems to have been that, at times, not ALL customers enjoyed Michaels taste in music. (Or Italian football. *Ed.*) However, Vera was on hand to offer the upmarket and sophisticated that was a little easier on the ear.

With your departure there is a chance that earlier bedtimes will be in the offing – a great shock to the system of many night owls, me included.

The main reason I stand here tonight is to show how much your tenure has been appreciated by us all."

A presentation was then made to Mike and Vera and a toast given wishing them both a long and happy retirement.

I am pleased to say that they are not moving too far away from Titchmarsh. They will be living in our neighbouring village of Aldwinckle, you know, the one without a pub !!!

Continuing on the same theme.

We would wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all the people who made Mike & Vera's' surprise party a resounding success.

Sylvia and Pete for their unpaid efforts behind the bar and Ollie and Linda for keeping abreast of the glass collecting and washing-up. Ollie for his speech, sterling work, excellent, thank you Ollie. Thank you to all the ladies who made and contributed the food on the night.

The collection for Mike and Vera raised over £500. To all who contributed, thank you, and well done.

We Know that Mike and Vera will be missed, but I am sure we all wish them the best in their retirement. Once again, thank you for all your efforts. *Dave & Val.*

Welcome to our new Landlords at the "Dog and Partridge".

On Thursday 18th November it was "all change" at the D&P. An evening of entertainment was arranged by the new tenants Andrew Jacquest and Lee Lockett. They still have tenure of the "Cardigan Arms" at Stanion and are our current "caretakers". They wish to take on the D&P permanently but, at the moment of writing, this has to be confirmed by the brewery. Welcome to Titchmarsh and we wish you every success. *Ed.*

Titchmarsh Football Club Race Night.

Kevin Jefferies.

On the 12th November a Race Night was held in "The Wheatsheaf" to raise funds for Titchmarsh Football Club.

Jim and Sandra were fantastic hosts, Laying on promotions, organising the races and providing a free bangers and mash supper after the races.

It was a very successful night and raised £1100 for our team!

Thank you to all who attended, bought raffle tickets, provided prizes etc. and especially to Jim, Sandra, Darren and Dave Walpole for all their hard work.

If anyone is interested in playing for our team on Sunday mornings please give me a call.

Village of the Year competition. Given that this is the first year for many years that the village has entered the competition, we performed remarkably well. With a score of 89 out of 100 we reached the semi-finals, and the judges were very complimentary about the village. There were recommendations of a minor nature, but the overall verdict was very positive. The winners in our category were both in the west of the county, with Paulerspury first and Yelvertoft second. Thanks to everyone who, in one way or another, contributed to our success. We look forward to doing even better in 2005.

Open Sessions. The meetings of your Parish Council are already open to the public should you wish to listen to the proceedings. From the January meeting, we intend to extend this and to allocate the first quarter of an hour (7.30 to 7.45pm) to an open session to give you an opportunity to address the Council. You may comment on any item on the agenda or any other issue you wish to raise with the Council as a whole. You may ask questions of the Council and these must be directed at the Chairman. We will endeavour to respond to questions, either at the time or, if further information is required, in writing at a later date. We are more likely to be in a position to respond if we have prior notice of the question. If you are raising a point in respect of an item on the agenda, you are welcome to stay to listen to what is said and agreed by Councillors, but you will not be able to take part in the discussion. If you would like to make a presentation, you should arrive promptly at 7.30pm, but if no-one comes to the open session, then the beginning of the official agenda will be brought forward.

Village Pound. We are extremely disappointed that there has been an outbreak of vandalism in the Pound garden. The news is very disheartening, especially for those people who use the garden regularly and for Brenda Durndell who has given up so much of her time to develop and care for it. Brenda has repaired most of the damage and removed the litter but, sadly, the seat has had to be removed because it has become unsafe. If you see or hear anyone messing about in the garden please either have a word with them or contact the clerk, Jane Teague. It is so sad that this kind of anti-social behaviour occurs in the village.

Traffic survey. We have been continuing to monitor speeds through the village. On three occasions in September, mainly during the morning 'rush hour', readings were taken of 240 vehicles. The good news is that we no longer appear to be suffering the very high speeds recorded earlier in the year. The highest speed recorded in the High Street and in Islington was 42 mph. However, too many drivers are still exceeding the limit. On 30 September, the average speed in Islington was 33.9 mph and in the High Street, 33.4.

A14 improvements. You may have heard in the media that the proposals to improve the Thrapston to Brampton stretch of the A14 have been radically modified. The scheme to build a flyover at the end of Polopit has been dropped and the only modifications now planned for the part of the A14 near the village are improved signage to alert drivers to any hazards. We understand, however, that the road is to be resurfaced in the next couple of years using so-called silent tarmac. (Stone Mastic Asphalt. SMA. Ed).

In brief: We are very disappointed by the quality of the work in re-establishing the roads, pavements and verges following the recent **cable laying**. The matter is now in the hands of the people who commissioned the work and we will be seeing further work done to rectify the situation.

Although we are not totally satisfied with the quality of the **grass-cutting** this year, we have decided to stay with the present contractor for a second year to see what improvements can be made.

Two **allotments** have become available on the Islington site. If you are keen to extend your gardening skills by taking up a new challenge, please get in touch with Jane Teague.

We have heard from the police that **car thieves** in the area are switching to 'fishing expeditions' to relieve owners of their cars e.g. putting rods or wires through letter boxes to obtain the keys from the hall table ! Many people keep their keys overnight either on a hall table or in the kitchen and these are the areas the thieves' target. It is perhaps worthwhile giving some thought to where you can best keep your keys.

Titchmarsh 2005 Calendar.

Sold in aid of St. Mary's Church.

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Editorial.

John Greig

T-Day and the "Titchmarsh Times" The comments made on the "Post-it" notes by those who attended T Day were very encouraging and your support is appreciated. As you can see we have now run into a six page edition, the largest we have ever had. I can only put into this very local newsletter information that is given to me, so please keep the copy coming and thank you to all contributors. All contributions are gratefully received.

Finally. Thank you to Rosemary, Sheila, Norma, Alan, Kevin, Katie, Gina, Sylvia, Alison Julie and Jim, all who have distributed the TT over the past year.

The dead line for the February/March 2005 edition is **Saturday 15th January 2005.** Remember that this newsletter goes through the door of every house in the Parish. The TT is the best way to get your event or news circulated in the village and worldwide through the website. There is a small, but interested readership in Indiana, New York State, Ohio, Ontario and Wisconsin. Let me know if the TT is read in other parts of the globe.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas.

