

Titchmarsh Times

A bi-monthly village news letter sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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Christmas Edition. December 2007/January 2008.

Carols Around the Christmas Tree. Don't forget there will be the usual Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree on The Green on Christmas Eve at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Titchmarsh Pre-School is holding its annual **Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday 1st December 2007 in the Clubroom from 10am to 2pm. It's going to be a fun filled few hours with lots of lovely stalls offering beautiful and unique Christmas presents, a Santa's grotto, hot dogs and homemade cakes, a chance to make your own Christmas decoration, face painting, a raffle with some really fabulous prizes and children's party games. It's the perfect way to start off your Christmas festivities. For more information contact Fiona Love.

Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings – Sunday 16th December 4.30 - 6.30pm

The event will start promptly at 4.30pm at the Top Green with the official switching on of the Christmas tree lights. There will be a procession of carol-singing children leading the way to the Club Room for the rest of the evening's festivities. Please come along and enjoy roasted chestnuts, Santa's grotto, raffle, Christmas quiz, games, craft activities, delicious mulled wine and festive food, presentation of prizes to competition winners all followed by a musical finale.

There will be one outdoor category that could be either a decorated house and/or garden or just one window or outside tree. The judge will make his decision on Saturday 15 December so make sure you have your decorations up in good time - remember you could win the fantastic Hillsborough House Trophy.

The indoor category is also different this year; a decorated Christmas tree on the theme of a Christmas carol or song, e.g. "Angels from the Realms of Glory" could be decorated with angels, stars, moons etc made from paper, card, wood, textiles or something edible. This category is open to individuals, families, a group of friends or village groups (Pre School, School, Village Shop, Youth Group, Titchmarsh etc etc.). The trees can be real or handmade and there is no restriction on size, though table-top trees preferred. Please hand in your creations to the Club Room by 1pm on Sunday 16th.

This event raises funds for village causes and this year we have been able to make donations towards the Youth Group, Local History Group, village planters and the village shop garden. For further details please contact Lucy Milner

Parish Council.

Titchmarsh Shop: We were delighted with the launch of the new shop and must congratulate the shop committee, not only for organising such a successful day but also for getting the project off the ground in the first place. It is amazing how quickly the shop has established itself as a focus of village life. It's a pity that someone attempted to spoil the launch day by spraying graffiti on the road signs and the village sign. This kind of small-minded act beggars belief but, thanks to the prompt action of some, it was all cleaned up in good time.

Allotments: The allotments in Islington have been given a make-over. The plots have been ploughed and smaller ones marked out. So if you are interested in taking up your spade in pursuit of 'the good life' then some plots are now available. Contact our clerk, Emma, for details.

Trees in St. Andrews Lane: Two of the trees near the entrance to St Andrews Close have grown so big that their roots are damaging the path and nearby walls. We sought professional advice from the District Council's Arboriculture Officer, and from our insurers. The Council Officer recommended their removal, and our Insurers insisted on their removal. So – very reluctantly – we have instructed a tree surgeon to remove them. It is always sad to see such magnificent features in the landscape removed, but in this case we had no alternative.

Traffic in Islington: The saga continues - we have just met with Northants County Council's Head of Sustainable Transport who has agreed to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order to ban lorry parking on the road through the industrial estate from the A605 roundabout to the bottom of Islington. This will take a while to be implemented but, when in force, should stop lorries using Islington in search of overnight parking.

We have also been promised better signage to highlight the limitations on access through the village and new signage to discourage heavy traffic on the A605 from turning into the village.

Further proposals to provide a physical deterrent to large lorries are also being considered.

While on the subject of traffic, you may have wondered about the new 'police speed check area' sign in Polopit. This has been erected as a temporary measure to support a monitoring device which gave a flashing reminder to speeding motorists. The placing of the device is being reviewed once the results have been analysed.

Daffodils displays: So many people commented on how attractive the daffodils made the entrance to the village from the A605, that more have been planted to fill in the gaps and to complete the planting to the main road. Many thanks to the team who spent a couple of Sundays planting the bulbs; we will all be able to appreciate their efforts in the Spring.

Titchmarsh Local History Group. I was always under the impression that work was supposed to become easier as retirement approached. Unfortunately I now find that due to a company restructuring I am working harder and spending more time away from the village than ever before. We have therefore decided that the Local History Group will now meet on a bi-monthly basis commencing in February 2008.

A full programme for 2008 will be published in the next issue of the Titchmarsh Times.

John Greig

Titchmarsh School. We have had a very enjoyable autumn term. Our Fair Trade themed Harvest Festival was very entertaining as well as informative. Mrs Grantham went to Cape Town as part on the second phase of our Connecting Classrooms project and thoroughly enjoyed the experience which she then shared with children and staff. This was fully funded by the British Council, who also presented us with our International School Award at a ceremony this term.

We are now busily preparing for Christmas. We hope to share as much of it as possible with our local community.

- Christmas Bazaar in the school Hall at 3pm 3rd December
- Twilight Carol Service in St Mary's Church from 6.30 -7.30pm 6th December
- Morning Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 9.15am 7th December
- School re-opens for Spring Term 7th January

On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.
Mrs. J. Milton. Head Teacher.

Village Collections. Margaret Alderman has advised me that thanks to your generosity £219.27 was collected for the RNLI and at the Macmillan Coffee morning £189.00 was raised. Thank you to all who contributed. *Ed.*

Titchmarsh Playing Field.

Building work on the new pavilion is due to start early in the New Year. **Ian Curtis** has done a sterling job securing funds from various organisations to cover the cost of the build, but we are committed to fulfil a number of obligations, particularly to the Football Foundation who are providing the lion's share of the grants. We need to prove to them that there is an on-going interest in soccer in Titchmarsh by increasing the number of supporters and players (particularly female) who go to the matches. To this end we would appreciate more people attending the regular matches at the weekends, so if you hear players shouting on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning, please take a walk up – you never know, you might even be pleasantly surprised at the entertainment value – and it's free!

Rabbits and moles have been a real pest this year and have caused considerable damage, particularly where the new drainage has been installed. We are extremely grateful to **Peter Dorrington** for the work carried out with his JCB in ripping out the old briars and hedging at the bottom end of the field where they have been burrowing.

Thanks are also due to **Caroline Thompson**, who has now left the village after serving so admirably on our committee over the years. This leaves us with a vacancy to fill and we would welcome anyone who is interested in joining - we would particularly like another female member to try to balance the numbers. We are a friendly committee who meet on the first Thursday of every month with the next meeting at 7.30pm on December 6th in "The Wheatsheaf", so please come along if you are interested.

Titchmarsh Club Room. Our AGM in October was well supported by a mixture of our regular hirers and interested villagers; the minutes of the meeting (and all our monthly meetings) are available on the village website www.titchmarsh.info/clubroom.

At the AGM each year the whole Committee resigns and a new one elected: I'm very pleased to welcome a couple of new members to the team; Geoff Love will represent the Parish Council and Helen James the Titchmarsh Babes mother and toddler group.

We said farewell to Caroline Thompson, our Secretary of the last two years, as she prepares to leave the village for an exciting new venture – running her own ski chalet in the French Alps, the Clubroom Committee would like to thank Caroline for her hard work and contribution over the past two years and wish her all the best 'en France' – bon voyage!

For the second year running we are hosting a pantomime in the Clubroom (...oh yes we are!) with a performance of ***Sleeping Beauty*** at 6.30pm on Tuesday 11th December. Based on last year's show it really will offer something for kids of all ages. Demand for tickets has been very strong and are virtually sold out but please contact Julia Powell if you haven't yet booked your seat [£5 adults, £3 children].

May I remind all readers that the Clubroom is a great venue for private parties and functions and can accommodate up to 100 people (80 seated) and offers a bar area and well equipped kitchen. The facility can be hired for a competitive rate of £6/hr (including setting up and clearing away time) for village residents and £10/hr for anyone from outside the village; please contact Val Sorrell our Bookings Clerk via bookings@titchmarsh.info for further information or to make a booking.

Paul Milner

Titchmarsh Pre-School. Titchmarsh Pre-School opened its doors after half term with 3 new children starting this school term. We would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new children and parents.

We would like to express our thanks to all those who attended the AGM this year which was held on Tuesday 25th September in the Clubroom. We had a good turn out and many offers of help for which we are always grateful.

We are now open for 2 full days per week, from 9.15 am – 2.45 pm on Tuesday and Thursday which also includes to option of attending an afternoon session 12.15 pm - 2.45pm along with all our usual morning sessions still in place.

We provide a safe and stimulating environment in which children are encouraged to learn through play, so if you have a child of 2.5 to 5 years old and would like more information about Pre-School, do please contact us or call in during session time (09.15 – 11.45 every day, till 12.45 pm on Wednesday and 12.15 pm – 2.45 pm on Tuesday's and Thursday's).

Barnwell Friendly Club for the 60's+

We meet on the second Tuesday in each month in Barnwell village hall at 1pm for lunch. The two course meal costs £3.50 and there is also entertainment.

We now have vacancies for new members.

We also have an outing to Wisbech Christmas Market on 17th December leaving from opposite the Club Room, Titchmarsh at 9.40am

If you would like to join us please contact Jean Meek,

Titchmarsh Village Shop. Sales of £18,000 for the first two months have exceeded expectations and the shop is already operating at a sustainable level. The volunteers have served over 2000 customers. Some remedial work is required on the building but by and large the capital work has been completed to budget and all associated grants, amounting to some £84,000, paid to us.

Thanks are due for the support, advice, and practical assistance that helped to bring the project to a successful conclusion and forward into a trading business. We would particularly like to thank:

Stephen Barber for overseeing the construction work;

Helen James, our Assistant Manager, for keeping the shop running during the early weeks of trading;

Our volunteers, who have learned a wide range of procedures while providing service with a smile;

You, our customers, who have embraced this new facility and supported the shop in such a positive way.

We have now appointed Sue Toon as Shop Manager and are delighted to welcome her to the team. Simon Eve has stepped down from the committee due to the pressure of other commitments and we would like to thank him for all the hard work he has contributed during the past 20 months. The committee has co-opted Jonathan Hope to fill the vacancy and looks forward to his input.

New seasonal product lines have started appearing on the shelves. Product information and availability will be displayed on the A-frame board outside the front of the shop. Regular tasting sessions will be held in the shop, so do come and try something different. Our renowned, award-winning Titchmarsh puddings – Plum, Chocolate and Ginger – are back by popular demand. Be quick, because when they're gone they're gone! We will be running a prize draw from 1 December that will be well worth entering – further details will be available in the shop. We plan to take orders for your Christmas needs of fruit, vegetables, cheese and specialty items – look out for an order form coming through your door shortly. Our Christmas opening hours will also be announced soon.

There are now a number of pages on the village website at *titchmarsh.info* giving further details about the shop. You are invited to get involved, either through volunteering a couple hours of your time a week or by buying a share to become a fellow-shareholder with Alan Titchmarsh!

We wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a peaceful and happy New Year.

See you in the shop.

The Management Committee of TVSA Ltd.

Stitchmarsh. November has seen us continuing to explore the art of beadwork and we will be continuing this theme into the New Year.

Our next meeting is on 12th December. The first meeting of the New Year will be on 9th January.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors and potential members. Our normal programme is to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each Month at 7.30pm in the Clubroom. For further details please contact Eleanor Greig.

“The Wheatsheaf” The new Patanque court is now completed and we are aiming to set up a village league soon, if this is of interest to you please let us know.

The Quiz nights continue on the third Sunday of the month, the next Quiz will be on the 16th December and then 20th January, why not come and impress us with your general knowledge.

Star of the west end stage – Winnie Clarke continues her residency at the Wheatsheaf performing on the 7th and the 28th December, 4th, 18th and 25th January – the new cocktail bar will be open on these evenings. Please come along and join the ambience.

Christmas 2007. Our grand Christmas draw will be on the 21st December, Santa will be popping in with his lucky dip on the 24th December. We shall be open on Christmas Day between 11am and 2pm. Like last year we will be hosting a New Years Eve party with a Buffet Supper, Disco and complimentary Champagne.

Merry Christmas to you all and thank you for your support.

“The Dog & Partridge”. Throughout December we will be serving traditional Christmas fare at lunchtimes and in the evenings. Please book ahead.

1st December. Everyone is welcome to celebrate Carol's 40th birthday & the official opening party with live music and pig roast for those feeling slightly peckish. Dress code is black tie and cocktail dress.

2nd December. Our monthly Sunday night quiz. 8.30 start

Christmas Eve. After traditional carols around the tree on The Green come in and try a winter warmer. A glass of mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Open Noon to 3pm.

New Years Eve. All are welcome to see in the New Year with a Buffet and Party music.

No charge, but we will welcome donations toward the provision of air conditioning for the village shop.

6th January. Our monthly Sunday night quiz. 8.30 start

January Offer. Relax after the Christmas festivities, we are giving away a free bottle of wine with every 4 meals purchased. Just call in for your voucher

New at The Dog & Partridge. “Take Away” fish and chips or pizza £4.95. Please telephone orders before 9pm.

Carole, Mick and family wish to thank you all for your support and wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year

Titchmarsh Youth Group. The Youth Group has one more session before Christmas. A Disco on the 7th December.
The disco will be in the clubroom 7pm-9.30pm for those in Year 7 and above and the entry fee will be £2 per person.

We shall be meeting again after Christmas starting again on the 11th January with the following session being 25th January.

For any other young person in the Titchmarsh, Clopton and Thurning still wanting to join, membership forms must be signed prior to attending TYG for those young people who are school Year 7 and above. The yearly membership fee is £10 which covers the cost of the hall hire, training, CRB checks and insurances. Session fees are £2 for the two hours. For further information please contact Sue Shapland or Alice Dove.

Titchmarsh PCC. Thanks to everyone who made the Harvest Lunch and sale a very successful and enjoyable afternoon. We made a profit of £962.00 for the Church funds.

The people of Titchmarsh Parish have been invited to events at the Oundle School Chapel. The first event is the Oundle School Organists Christmas Meditation of Words, Music and Pictures on Sunday 9th December at 7.45pm. The second event is to the Festival of Carols and Lessons with the Oundle School Chapel Choir at 6pm on Wednesday 12th December.

Our next event will be the **Pancake Races** and party to be held on Shrove Tuesday the 5th February 2008. This will be similar to the event held last year which seemed too enjoyed by all those who came last year. More details in the next issue of TT and on notices around the village.

The annual **Barn Dance** will be held on Saturday 29th March in the Clubroom, and again more details later.

A "Thank you" from a former village resident. After far too many years, I finally completed my PhD on May Day celebrations in Northamptonshire, which was awarded in July this year. Having started at the village school in 1982, I am finally out of the education system!

I would like to pass on my thanks to everybody who helped me with my research over the years, especially those who agreed to be interviewed and who gave of their time to provide me with invaluable information. The fact that the material I collected from the village gave me so much to work on is tribute to Titchmarsh's sense of community and ability to adapt to change, as well as to the distinctive and dynamic character of village life.

Two articles based on my research are currently in preparation, and I hope to put a copy of my thesis in the County Records Office so that the material gathered can be of use to others, though as I'm expecting a baby in December it may be some time before I can actually do this. A copy of John Bussens' CD recorded on May Day in 1982 has also been given to the archives of the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition (not the first time that material from Titchmarsh has featured in the archives there). I hope also to be able to put some of my own recordings in the archive, particularly of the long and fascinating talk I had with Raymond Gray in 1999.

So thanks again to everybody who participated in my research over the years; it would not have been possible without your help.

*Kate
Smith*

(The Smiths were a very active family who lived in Chapel Street before moving to Keswick. Kate's father, Dick Smith, was Chairman of the Parish Council for a while in the 1980's. Ed.)

Thought for December

Do you remember Ronnie Barker's (or was it Corbett's?) sketch of the Christmas shopper at the wine merchant struggling out with all his purchases saying 'Of course I wouldn't do it if it weren't for the children'. In once sense it is indeed a festival for the young. Yet we make a grave mistake if we think it only has a message for them. And that's important when in village communities many of us have the good fortune to live so much longer than our forbears and so live through more Christmases.

Jim Mynors (Rector) Jim@Mynors.me.uk

Sunday @ 4 becomes 'Sunday pm'

Recognising that in mid-winter 4pm is rather late for the very small children who come to this every 2nd Sunday in the month, the PCC have decided to have winter services at 3pm (starting with the Baptism on Dec 9th) – hence the new name (which will still allow us to revert to 4pm during the lighter/warmer months)

Titchmarsh Church Services

Dec 2 nd	9.15am	Morning Prayer
Dec 9 th	8.00am	Communion & 3pm "Sunday pm" (Baptism)
Dec 16 th	9.15am	Communion
Dec 17 th	7.30pm	Carol Service
Dec 24 th	11.30pm	Midnight Christmas Communion
Dec 31 st		No service in Titchmarsh
Jan 6 th	9.15am	Morning Prayer
Jan 13 th	8.00am	Communion
	3.00pm	"Sunday pm" (New Year theme)
Jan 20 th	9.15am	Communion
Jan 27 th	9.15am	Communion

Church rotas – December 2007 & January 2008

<i>date</i>	<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Sidesmen</i>	<i>Readers</i>
2 nd December 07	Mrs W Jeffries	Mr J Fieldsend	Mrs A Berry & Mrs J Powell
9 th December 2007	Mrs J Powell	Mrs S Hankins	Lucy Cheney
16 th December 2007	Mrs I Williams	Lady Harper	Sir Ewan Harper
17 th December 2007	<i>Carol Service</i>	Mr Powell & Mr & Mrs J Fieldsend	9 lessons
23 rd December 2007	Mrs S Prestwich	Mrs C Blackman	Mr T Higgins
24 th December 2007	<i>Midnight Mass</i>	Mr D Williams & family	Mr S Barber
30 th December 2007	Mrs B Ray	Dr S Bell	Dr G Webster
6 th January 2008	Mrs A King	Mr A Powell	Mr J Fieldsend & Mrs A Dunn
13 th January 2008	Mrs J Bussens	Mrs S Hankins	Mr A Wallace
20 th January 2008	Mrs G Gaskin	Mrs K Williams	Mr D Williams
27 th January 2008	Mrs S Hankins	Mr J Fieldsend	Mr T Higgins

Finally. Thank you to all who have contributed to all the editions of the Titchmarsh Times over the past year. I only put it together, you write it. Also thank you to the distributors who, in all weathers, push it through all different letter boxes, some easy and some that are really awkward.

The deadline for the February/March 2008 edition will be Friday 18th January.

A Happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

John Greig. (Editor)