



# Titchmarsh Times

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

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## Christmas Edition. December 2008/January 2009.

**Titchmarsh Village Shop.** Your village shop is preparing for its second Christmas in just a few weeks' time and by now most of you will have met Jane Newman, who took over as Manager at the end of August. Regular customers will have noticed seasonal product lines on the shelves, so if you haven't visited us for a while why not come in and see what's new!

We will be hosting a **Winter Fayre on Saturday, 6th December from 4pm to 6pm**, in the shop and the Pound Garden. Come and enjoy a taste of the products from our Christmas range and place your order for all your Christmas groceries and speciality items. We will be serving mulled cider and roast chestnuts in the Pound to get you into the festive mood! Look out for a Christmas order form accompanying the TVS Newsletter that will be delivered to all households at the end of November.

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! They bear the Titchmarsh Village Shop label so make excellent and original gifts, either on their own or as part of a hamper. We also have Titchmarsh tea towels and packs of notelets that are ideal gifts for sending by post.

A series of Christmas prize draws will be run in the shop on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December (tickets available on the day) with some great prizes on offer. Come and see if it will be your lucky day!

The feedback from the questionnaire distributed around the village recently has generated lots of positive comments about how useful the shop is to so many villagers. We are grateful for the constructive suggestions for improvement and we are addressing these. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete and return their form and congratulations to Lisa Robinson (High Street) who won the draw.

**Do remember – this is your shop, run by the community for the community.**

The community needs you to use the shop to ensure its future viability, especially in these unsettled economic times. We continually monitor prices elsewhere and have found that over 80% of our products are competitively priced, especially when taking into consideration petrol costs, parking and time in travelling outside the village.

Thank you to all our volunteers and customers and we wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a peaceful and happy New Year. Come and see us soon!

*The Management Committee of Titchmarsh Village Shop Association Ltd*



### **From the Rectory**

As usual our carol service with the Rushden mission Brass Band will be at 7.30pm on the Monday before Christmas. We plan to have representatives of different aspects of Titchmarsh life reading the familiar Christmas story. In between we shall be singing your favourite carols and afterwards there'll be the usual refreshments. I do hope you will take this opportunity to celebrate what Christmas is really supposed to be about.

This year I also look forward to leading the Titchmarsh midnight service for the first time (11.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup>)-and hope to welcome many of you there even if you are not a regular 'communicant'

With all good wishes for Christmas.

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

### **Titchmarsh Church Services**

Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 Morning Prayer
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Communion & 3pm Baptism/Family Service
Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.15am Communion
<b>Dec 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm Carol Service</b>
<b>Dec 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30pm Holy Communion</b>
Dec 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Communion
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Morning Prayer
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Communion & 3pm Family Service
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Communion
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Communion

**Church Events.** The Harvest Festival made just over £600 for the Church and many thanks to all the people who helped to make it a memorable event. Special thanks to the folks who donated the Pig for the lovely Hog Roast.

The Quiz night looks to have made £650 and again thanks to all the people who made the Shepherds pies and helped with the setting up of the Clubroom. Special thanks to Duncan for his formidable questions and to his lovely assistant Shirley for keeping a tight rein on the scores.

Please keep an eye on this space for the events in February and the Barn Dance in March.

### **Church Rotas**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Readers</b>
7th December 2008	Mrs B Ray	9.15am	Mrs A Dunn	Mrs B Berry
				Mrs J Powell
14th December 2008	Mrs S Wilcox	9.15am	-	Mr S Barber
	<i>baptisms</i>	3pm	Mrs C Blackman	Lucy Cheney
21st December 2008	Mrs S Prestwich	9.15am	Lady Harper	Sir Ewan Harper
28th December 2008	Mrs W Jeffries	9.15am	Mrs K Williams	Mr D Williams
4th January 2009	Mrs J Bussens	9.15am	Mrs J Fieldsend	Mr T Higgins
				Mr J Fieldsend
11th January 2009	Mrs R Franklin	9.15am		Mrs J Bussens
		3pm	Mrs C Blackman	Mr R Hughes
18th January 2009	Mrs A King	9.15am	Mr P Dunn	Mr S Barber
25th January 2009	Miss J Finlayson	9.15am	Mr A Powell	Mr A Wallace

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

We have had a very exciting autumn term. At our Open Morning in October, we unveiled our new improved website, which you can still find at [www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com](http://www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com). We also raised our ECO Green Flag awarded to us after external assessment for our work making the school a more sustainable and Eco- friendly environment.

The Monday after half term, we received the phone call informing us that Ofsted would be visiting 3 days later. We were delighted by the resulting report which when published can be found on our website and the Ofsted website. I would like to thank and praise the staff, children and helpers for all their hard work, commitment, respect and team spirit. We have a school to be "proud" of!

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

- Twilight Carol Service in St Mary's Church from 6.30 -7.30pm -11<sup>th</sup> December
- Morning Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 9.30am -12<sup>th</sup> December
- School re-opens for Spring Term 1 - 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009
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On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you a very merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

### ***Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 4.30-6.30pm.***

Please come along to this annual village event and enjoy roasted chestnuts, Santa's grotto, raffle, games, craft activities, delicious mulled wine and festive food, presentation of prizes to competition winners all followed by a singalong musical finale. £2 for adults including festive food and complimentary drink. Free for children.

The outdoor competition will again be awarded for either a decorated house and/or garden or just one window or outside tree. The judge will make his decision on **Saturday 20th December** so make sure you have your decorations up in good time - remember you could win the fantastic Hillsborough House Trophy.

The indoor competition for a decorated Christmas tree will this year be on the theme of Pantomime. This category is open to individuals, families, a group of friends or village groups (Pre School, School, Village Shop, Youth Group, Stitchmarsh 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 21<sup>st</sup>**.

This event raises funds for village causes and in the past 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 on 733501.

***Stitchmarsh.*** In September Stitchmarsh had a successful re-launch, with 10 ladies now stitching away on various patchwork projects, the current theme for our meetings. The meetings for the next couple of months are as follows:-

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, a break for Christmas then Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009

All meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Clubroom. Please do come along or contact Eleanor Greig

***Circuits in the Clubroom Update.*** The circuits class will be starting on Thursday evenings in the club room 7pm-8pm. Suitable for all levels of fitness, and working at your own pace, a circuit's class is a great workout for all from 16yrs plus.. Dates are 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December. January dates are to be confirmed. No need to book, just turn up. For more information, please contact Lindsay

### ***Titchmarsh Pre-School.***

Titchmarsh pre-school opened its doors after half term and 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, we had a record turnout.

Last day of term will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and we will be holding our Christmas party for the children with a special visit from the man in red.

We would like to say a big Thank you to everyone who helped to support the grand opening of our outdoor play area. We hope you enjoyed our special guest appearance (Postman Pat). This outdoor space has such a positive impact on our children who are now able to play outside safely and are having so much fun. Our outdoor area is almost complete and we would like to extend our appreciation for ongoing support from everyone on the clubroom committee who without their help, the outdoor space we have would not have been possible.

We are now open for 4 full days per week, from 9.15 am – 2.45 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which also includes the option of attending an afternoon session 12.15 pm -2.45pm along with all our usual morning sessions still in place.

At Titchmarsh Pre-school we encourage children to learn through play and we strive to offer our children a safe and stimulating area where they can develop and take the first steps into the wonderful world of learning please visit our website [at www.titchmarshpreschool.co.uk](http://www.titchmarshpreschool.co.uk).

***Titchmarsh Clubroom.*** At the AGM held at the end of September the existing members of the Committee were re-elected with only minor changes in roles. There are still vacancies on the Committee and we are desperately in need of a Secretary to handle the limited correspondence we send and receive, take and publish minutes, issue agendas, etc. This is not a particularly onerous task but does require someone with the desire to take on the role to step forward – if you are interested or would like to find out more about the role please contact myself or John Gaskin to discuss things further – if you're not sure we can always give things a try for a couple of months to see if the role suits.

Those of you that have been to the Clubroom recently will have noticed the new colour scheme after our redecoration. Whilst you can never please all the people all of the time, the majority of comments have been positive and the place certainly feels brighter and refreshed.

The Pre-school have taken on-board a couple of concerns about how slippery their painted markings were getting when wet and corrective measures have been taken to resolve this matter fully.

The Clubroom Committee have tried to bring some new 'keep fit' activities to the village and whilst initial interest has been strong, unfortunately attendance has dropped over the weeks. Numbers are now so low that we are at risk of losing these classes; if you are interested in attending them please contact either Di Ellis or Val Sorrell, or check on the monthly timetable on the Clubroom notice-board and just turn up.  
*Paul Milner*

***Titchmarsh Folk Dance Club.*** The Titchmarsh FDC Meets at the Club Room on Mondays at 8pm to enjoy social dances , mainly from the English tradition, but many other forms of folk dance.

The next meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup> through to the 15<sup>th</sup> December. There will be a break for Christmas and we will recommence on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Other functions are held throughout the year. Please come and join us, new members are most welcome.

For more information contact John Fieldsend or the Secretary, George Hearnden.

### ***News from the Dog and Partridge.***

**Quiz.** We have moved the monthly Sunday evening quiz to the 7<sup>th</sup> of December as a one off but it returns on the second Sunday in January (11<sup>th</sup>)

**Unlock the Door.** Those of you who visit us regularly may have noticed we have started a weekly 'Unlock the Door' draw. If you've not heard of this before this is how it works...

Raffle tickets can be purchased through the week.

The winning ticket gives the opportunity to select a key from 12 keys however only one key opens the box. If your key opens the box you get the cash, if your key doesn't open the box the money rolls over to next week and the key is removed. This is to be drawn on a Saturday evening at 9pm. Note: All money from ticket sales goes into the winning fund.

**Acoustic night.** Last Wednesday of each month from January onwards. Blues, Folk, R&B beginners to advanced. All welcome. Just bring your guitar and plug in... or other instruments !

**20<sup>th</sup> December is Party night.** We have live music from TNA who are returning with their mix of rock and pop music and it promises to be brilliant evening...

**Christmas Eve.** Open from 12 noon. Mince Pies and Mulled wine will be on sale from lunchtime.

**Christmas Day .** Open for drinks from 12noon until 2pm

**Boxing Day.** Open for drinks from 12noon all day

**New Years Eve.** Celebrate bringing in the New Year with live music from Hutch free nibbles on the bar. Entrance by ticket only £2 available now from the bar.

**Burns Night.** Burns night this year is on a Sunday so we will celebrate on Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Jan. Book now for traditional burns evening of haggis, neeps and tatties and end the meal with a nip of scotch whisky.. Piped music whilst we address the haggis and traditional burns poetry will be read (all welcome to try!)

And finally Merry Christmas and seasons greetings from Mick and Carol and all at the Dog and Partridge

### ***News from the Wheatsheaf.***

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, after three years in the village, David said farewell to the Wheatsheaf.

So....A festive Hello from Andy, Stella and toddler Keto !!

Having met a lot of people already we feel sure that we will definitely enjoy bringing something special to the Titchmarsh community. Many thanks for our warm welcome to the Wheatsheaf and we look forward to meeting many more of you.

As mentioned in the last issue of the TT our Christmas menu will be available from the 1st of December.

The Christmas Draw will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Christmas Day open from 11am to 2pm

New Years Eve – Buffet Supper and Daves Disco

**Titchmarsh Youth Group.** The Youth Group has two more sessions before Christmas. So far this term we have been swimming and to the climbing wall in Peterborough as well as meeting in the clubroom. ]

The final 2008 dates are :

5<sup>th</sup> Dec        NAYC craft evening at the Clubroom/Club night  
19<sup>th</sup> Dec        Disco at Addington Youth Club – Further details to follow

We shall be meeting again after Christmas starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January with the following session being 23<sup>rd</sup> January - 7pm – 9pm. Session fees are £2 for the two hours.

Next year we have got included at the sessions: cooking, craft, ice skating and karaoke. Programmes will be emailed to members shortly. For further information please contact Sue Shapland or Alice Dove.

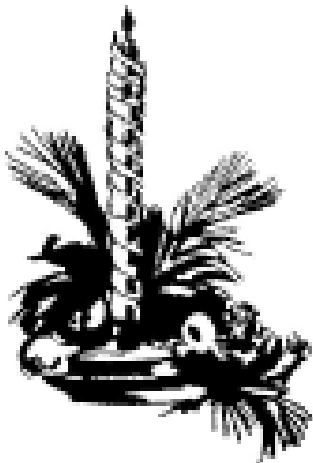
**Theatre trip to London.** By kind courtesy of Julian Stoneman, Executive Producer of Jersey Boys, we have been offered an excellent deal on tickets for a matinee performance of Jersey Boys, the multi award-winning musical and story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Seats have been reserved for the 'Titchmarsh party' for the matinee performance of Jersey Boys at the Prince Edward Theatre in Soho, on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

The plan is to leave Titchmarsh by coach (max 49 persons) at 11am, have a sandwich lunch on the coach and arrive in time to see the 2.30pm Jersey Boys performance. Julian has kindly arranged for the Company Manager to offer our party complimentary red and white wine during the interval! After the Show (around 5pm) there is an option of having a meal at the neighbouring Bertorellis Italian Restaurant, before we leave London at 7.30pm for the journey home.

If we can fill the coach, the cost is just £40 per person ! (£20 per person for the fantastically reduced theatre tickets [which are usually £60] and £20 per person for return coach travel including a sandwich lunch). Enquiries are underway with Bertorellis Restaurant regarding a group meal reservation after the Show, the menu and costs are still to be agreed.

If you are interested in participating in this amazing experience, please contact Sylvia or Terry, by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at the latest, to provisionally reserve your place(s). Contact details are:- [sylviaprestwich@aol.com](mailto:sylviaprestwich@aol.com) , or 31 High St, Titchmarsh NN14 3DF. Further information regarding the meal will be circulated before Christmas to those who have made a provisional booking, so that seats can be reserved for a meal at Bertorellis after the Show. Full (non-refundable) payment of £40, + meal if applicable, is due in January 2009 when firm bookings must be made.



## **Parish Council.**

**Power Supply.** The Parish Council is concerned about the length of time that the work to improve the power supply is taking and is in regular communication with the contractors to speed up the process. Now that the work has moved into Chapel Street and North Street, the problems we already have with parking are only likely to get worse. We are looking at possible ways of easing the difficulties. If you are able to help by not parking your car in the centre of the village – if only for short periods - that would certainly help. We understand that for most people that is not an option, but just two or three cars fewer could make a difference. Let us hope that all the disruption will be worth it in the long term.

**Blocked drains.** The leaf fall this year seems to have been particularly heavy and that has resulted in drains being blocked in some places. We have arranged for the roads to be swept and, by the time you read this, the contractors should have cleared those drains still blocked.

**Cold calling.** There has been a spate of salespeople calling unannounced at homes in the village. In most cases the callers have been polite, but we have heard of villagers being intimidated by them. Some other villages have set themselves up as No Cold Calling areas. The parish council has discussed this approach – there is inevitably some cost involved – and would welcome your views on it. Please speak to one of the parish councillors or to the clerk.

**SmartWater.:** This is a transparent liquid that can be used to give household items a unique forensic fingerprint that helps to identify and return stolen property. If enough people are interested, we can obtain supplies at concessionary rates. Again, contact either a councillor or the clerk or Dave Robins (the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) on 08453 700700 Extn. 4357 if you are interested.

**Traffic.** We are continuing to work with the Highways Department and with the firms involved over the problems with heavy lorries, particularly those travelling through Islington. This has resulted in improved signage and the banning of parked Lorries along the length of road from IKEA to the roundabout. We know that this has not fully resolved the problem and will continue to monitor the situation. One difficulty is that more radical solutions are very much more expensive and county council budgets are, as you can imagine, tight.

**Freedom of Information Act.** Under this act all councils have been required to review their procedures regarding access to information. The parish council has resolved to adopt the model publication scheme approved by the Information Commissioner. All the appropriate information on council matters will be available on the website and hard copies available from the clerk. Because of the additional cost, we are afraid it will be necessary to charge 10p a sheet for copied materials.

**Finally.** We now have a tradition in the village on **Christmas Eve** ...Carols around the tree on the Green. See you there on the 24<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm

We also seem to have started a new one..... See in the **New Year** by the tree. See you there just before midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Thank you to Geoff Love who edited the last edition in September whilst I was busily engaged in a confrontation with the American army on the shores of the Chesapeake. As in the original Battle of St. Josephs Creek, Maryland, in 1813 the British army retired in good order !!!!!!!!

The next edition of the TT will be for February/March 2009. Can I please have your contributions at the above address by **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009** at the very latest .

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.....*John Greig (Editor)*.

