

Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council

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Parish Council

Ian Curtis. Chairman

Firstly, warm thanks to all those of you who made the village look so festive over Christmas. Your efforts certainly brightened everywhere up and there are reports of visitors coming to the village just to see the lights. Could it be that Titchmarsh winter illuminations now rival Blackpool's!

Addition to the above from Gina Gaskin. Thanks to all who came and sang around the Christmas tree on The Green on Christmas Eve. This is now our 5th year and thanks must go to the Parish Council for purchasing the tree, John Pridmore for supplying and connecting the lights and John Greig for the introduction and leading the singing. Sincere thanks to Andy Waterfield, Steve Mansfield, Mel Chapman, Derek Ellis and Fred King who turned out in all weathers to put up and take down the tree.

Speeding. You will no doubt have been shocked to read the results of the recent survey of traffic in the village. The Police described them as among the worst they had collated. It appears that a few people regard the High Street as something of a raceway, oblivious of the danger to other people. What was particularly worrying was that speeds of over 70 mph were recorded at times that children were on their way to and from school. We are working with the police and Highways Department on proposals to curb this major hazard. Improved road marking, including extending the central white lines, will be the first evidence of our efforts.

Grass cutting. Given the concerns over the quality of service last year, we have decided to change contractors. A consequence of this is that grass will now be cut monthly from March to October inclusive. We will be monitoring the contract closely and will welcome your comments.

Allotments. There remain some allotments for rent at Islington. The plots are large and the Parish Council is willing to subdivide some if anyone is interested. Contact the Parish Clerk, Jane Teague, at the address at the head of the newsletter.

Planning. Although we do not normally comment in the newsletter on individual planning applications, we thought that you might be interested in developments at Manor Farm Court, located as it is near the heart of the village. Part of the site has been neglected for over ten years and the Parish Council has been very keen to see it developed. Planning consent was originally given for three houses but a further application has now been received for six houses. While the Council welcomes plans to improve the site, it is opposed to the current proposals. The form and scale of the development are out of character with the surrounding area and the additional traffic is likely to create severe problems – not least over parking – in the immediate locality.

Cutting the costs of travel. If you are elderly or disabled and use buses or taxis and do not already have an East Northamptonshire bus pass, you can apply for Travel Tokens. The cost is just £10 for £44 worth of travel. The tokens can be purchased from The Plaza Centre from noon to 3.00pm on Tuesday 3 February. For further details see the Parish Council notice board or contact either Jane Teague (details above) or East Northamptonshire District Council on 01832 742112.

Be safe. We have been warned of a spate of distraction burglaries in other local villages, so it worth being extra vigilant. The advice is simple: do not let anyone into your house until you are certain of their credentials. The thieves often work in pairs claiming to be officials of the council or the water, electricity companies etc., with one slipping into the house while the other distracts your attention. Always ask to see proof of identity and keep the door on the chain if you are not sure.

News and Events

Titchmarsh Website

Sylvia Prestwich

The village website is almost completed and the 'grand launch' is planned for the end of February. Look out for a flyer through your door giving more details. Contributions, suggestions and regular updates for the site are encouraged; all material should be submitted via me on sylviaprestwich@aol.com

Titchmarsh Playing Field Committee.

Caroline Thompson

The New Years Eve dance in the Clubroom raised approximately £850, which has been shared between the Playing Fields, the football team and the Club Room Committee. Thank you to all who supported the event and to John Pridmore for providing the music and Dave for the bar.

Planning ahead. We are currently negotiating with the Merchant Venturers to extend the lease of the playing field so that we can apply for funding from the Football Association to rebuild the pavilion. It's proving to be a long process but we are hopeful that we can resolve it and look ahead to better facilities for all sporting activities.

What's the Colour Quiz?

Melvyn Chapman

A sincere thank you to all those who supported the Playing Fields quiz, which hopefully gave you some enjoyment over the Christmas period. About £80 was raised which will go into the general maintenance fund. The answers to the competition all contained a reference to colours and were either a song or the singer(s). The standard of entries was extremely good and the winner was Mrs E. Hamilton of Kettering who only got one question wrong. However, no-one managed to identify the honourable village residents on the back page with how they looked as youngsters. There was even a suggestion that a couple of the men looked like girls. I can assure you that it was the fashion for baby boys to have long hair in the 1950's!

Watch out for a similar quiz with a different theme in the Spring.

Titchmarsh Club Room.

Pauline Ash

The refurbishment project is progressing slowly and there has been a slight slippage in the start date from 19th January. However the architect has now confirmed the start date as 26 January, with a projected contract length of six weeks. This takes us to the middle of March for completion of the refurbishment which might be a bit optimistic, but I will keep you informed of progress.

When the completion date is firmed up the Committee will be arranging an official re-opening for the Clubroom and we will keep you well informed of the date and programme of events, as we would like a really good turn out to celebrate the occasion.

The Committee extended the original specification for the refurbishment to include other features that they felt would vastly improve the Clubroom e.g. replacement units in the kitchen, cooker point etc. Additional applications have been made to Northamptonshire County Council, East Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire ACRE. We remain hopeful that we will receive further funding from these organisations but rest assured the refurbishment work will be completed.

We were delighted to welcome Caroline Thompson to our meeting on 13 January 04 as representative of the Playing Fields Committee and we hope this will be the renewal of the successful relationship that the two groups had in the past.

I thought that you might be amused by this extract from one of the Clubroom minute books that we inherited following Raymond's passing. An extract from a Meeting held in the Clubroom on 23 July 1928

Another important matter was discussed, namely the behaviour of certain persons attending entertainments late in the evening.

On proposition by Lord Lilford and seconded by Mr R Wood the following rule was carried unanimously. No person shall be admitted to any entertainment held in the Clubroom later than 9.45 p.m.

As far as we can tell this rule has never been revoked.

Titchmarsh Draw.

Sue Shapland

The draw has now commenced, the first having taken place on Christmas Eve in the D&P. 150 tickets have been sold and the Jackpot was £555. Four numbers were drawn – the first three were for £15 each and the fourth was the BIG ONE. The tickets of David Camp, Liz Knivett and Mrs. Toon were the first tickets drawn and the jackpot went to Andrew Pridmore.

The second draw took place at the "Wheatsheaf" on the 2nd January. This month Caroline Thompson, Mr & Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Caves and Mrs C. Garner each won £15.

Thank you to all who have joined the draw. Further draws will take place on the first Friday of each month at 7pm alternatively at the D&P and the "Wheatsheaf". The next draw is on 6th February at the D&P.

Titchmarsh School.

Margaret Cleaver. Head Teacher

Greetings and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year from pupils and staff.

By the time that you read this edition we will all have enjoyed the excitement of a trip to the Pantomime at the Key Theatre, Peterborough. The trip is an annual event and is eagerly anticipated by all, part of the pleasure for the children is arriving back to school, after dark!

We are preparing to soon hold our yearly Book Fair. This will be held in the school hall, at the end of each school day, at the beginning of February.

There has been a change, this term, with regard to our regular Church Services. The services will now be held on Tuesday mornings at 9.15am on the following dates and are open to all ~ 20th January/3rd February/24th February/2nd March/16th March/30th March. Do feel welcome to come and join us.

Please note that there are a couple of places available for the Reception class for September 2004. For further information and to arrange a visit please telephone 01832 732874.

The school will be closed for the half term holiday from Thursday 12th February and will reopen on Monday 23rd February 2004.

FIVE MEN – ONE AIM – TO LOOSE 100lbs.

Mel Chapman

Surprised "locals" at the D&P witnessed a 'mass weigh-in' on January 13th as five members of the Playing Fields Committee pledged to loose 100lbs for the cause.

Melvyn Chapman (20st. 4.5Lbs), Richard Roe (17st. 4.5lbs), Rob Jones (16st. 4.5lbs), Paul Milner (14st. 12.5lbs) and lightweight Derek Ellis (13st. 13lbs) are aiming to loose 100lbs in six months. They will have a 'weigh-in' every month with their progress being monitored by independent witnesses and logged onto the new Titchmarsh website.

The men are now looking for sponsors to help give them the encouragement they need to meet their goals. Each one of them is trying different diets to loose the weight and they are under no illusion as to how hard it is going to be. (One member of the team told me "I've been overweight most of my life and have never managed to loose anything on previous attempts so I would welcome plenty of sponsors because they won't be much out of pocket" !!!!!!! *Ed.*).

Sponsorship forms are available from any of the team or pledges will be able to be taken via a link on the website. "The FAT FIVE" also said they would welcome anyone else who would like to join them in their quest.

Trees & Trimmings 2003

Lucy Milner

A hugely successful evening raising approximately £400 towards village causes. Well done to the following prize winners: Steve & Louise Mansfield for best decorated house, the Routley family for best decorated window, Michael Alderman (with a little help from Margaret) and Jessica Jones (aged 9) for their cakes, and Charlotte Hinckley (4), Laura Stokes (6) and Jessica Jones for their Christmas cards. Special thanks to this year's judges who all had a difficult job: Norma Gregory, Marie Cranch and Paul & Alistair from Thrapston Farm & Garden. Thanks too to the organising committee for giving so much of their time and resources to make this a very special festive event.

Parochial Church Council.

Julia Powell

The AGM of the Parochial Church Council will be held in the church on Wednesday 21st April, all are welcome to attend. We are looking for people to become new members of the Council. If you are interested then please contact Jean Bussens.

The Quiz Night, held in November was a very enjoyable evening and raised £531.70 for church funds. The competition was fierce and the beer and wine was exhausted as were the barmen.

Dangerous Holidays.

Whilst attempting some adventurous ski jumping, when on holiday with her family during the seasonal break, Olivia Dunn fractured her collar bone. We wish her a speedy recovery and trust that this little mishap will not put her off skiing in the future.

Congratulations.

Having seen our daughter, Emma, go to university some years ago Eleanor Greig decided she also wanted a degree. Now, after a few years of part time study of history and music, together with Summer Schools, Eleanor has gained a BA (Hons.) from the Open University. (Might get back to normal now. *Ed.*)

Finally.

Well, we have a three pager again. More stapling! Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition and to the valiant delivery team. Remember, this rag is circulated to every house in Parish and it is the best way to get your event published. Please can I have your copy at the above address by **Friday 19th March** at the very, very latest.

John Greig. Editor.