

# Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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## February & March 2005

### **From Michael & Vera. Ex. Landlord and Landlady at the Dog & Partridge.**

"We should like to say 'Thank You' to everyone for a wonderful party night held on our departure from the Dog & Partridge in December. It was a night full of surprises - it was great.

Thank you for the collection that was made for us, it was much appreciated.

A big "thank you" to everyone, including Dave and Val for administering the collection, the ladies who supplied the food, Sylvia for organising the champagne and holding the bar along with Angela, Ollie, Pete and Linda.

The night left us speechless! We miss you all, and once again, 'Thank You' ".

**Village Christmas Tree.** Thank you to the guys who put up and took down the tree and John Pridmore for providing and connecting the lights. Comments have been made saying it was the best tree yet. The small white lights certainly made a good visual effect. The number of residents and visitors around the tree for our carols and songs was the best attendance yet. Thank you for the guitar accompaniment provided by John Eastern. We need a new musical leader for the gathering. Someone who can actually sing!!! Any volunteers? (Ed.).

**Trees & Trimmings 2004.** The evening of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December was a great success, raising £50 each for the Church, School, Playing Fields, Pre School and Club Room. £50 was retained for future funds and £31 was donated to the Tsunami appeal. The Club Room, which was brilliantly decorated with a forest Santa's grotto, was packed with folk enjoying the festive fare, games, activities and viewing the decorating competition entries. Prizes were awarded to the following: Abigail Jones (2) for her wonderful Christmas card, Sophie Milner (7) for her reindeer tree decoration, Grace Routley (10) for her traditional table decoration and Janet Jones (age not declared) for her beautifully wrapped Christmas presents. Stephen & Julian from Polopit won the best decorated house prize and Margaret & Michael Alderman of Manor Farm Court won the best decorated window. Well done to all the winners and to everyone who took part; the village looked fantastic with many people travelling in to have a look! Thanks to all the team who organised the event, to Liz Blackman and Norma Gregory who had very difficult jobs as judges, to Ian Curtis who did a great job as MC and, of course, to Father Christmas and his three very helpful elves!  
*Lucy Milner.*

**Guided Walk of Local Footpaths by Jim James.** Meet at 10.00am **Sunday 20th February** outside the Dog and Partridge for a 3 hour (approx.) local circular walk. All are welcome and we will finish at the D&P for those who wish to have a well-earned drink. Dogs should be on leads. If you have any queries call Jim.

**Dog and Partridge Refurbishment.** Now that Andrew and Leigh have been confirmed as the new tenants of the D&P plans are in the offing for an internal refurbishment. The pub will be closed for 4 weeks in June. Once the plans have been approved they will be displayed on a wall in the bar for all to see.

The popular Quiz nights are to be held fortnightly. Make notes in your social diaries for 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March. Teams of six, maximum, with an 8pm start.

**Celebrations at the D&P.** Andrew has invited you all to the D&P in the evening of **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February** to celebrate his birthday. Food and a singer have been organised and all are welcome.

**Parochial Church Council.**

*Jackie Rowe writes:*

**St Mary's Church** has been awarded an English Heritage grant towards the repairs and maintenance needed to the chancel roof. This is a significant proportion of the amount needed for the first phase of the works.

To start raising the balance a **Mediterranean Evening and Auction of Promises** will be held in the **Clubroom on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m.** Tickets are £6 which includes supper and a welcome drink and can be obtained from Jackie Rowe 734435 or Jean Bussens 732510. Help us raise the money to restore the church either by coming along to the evening and enjoying some Mediterranean food & drink, with the opportunity to bid for some promises, or by offering a promise. Everything from baking, babysitting or gardening to evenings out and airport lifts will be on offer.

Please contact Jackie Rowe to make a promise or make a donation to the restoration fund.

**Titchmarsh Clubroom.**

*Pauline Ash writes:*

The refurbishment project is now completed; we have now drawn down all the funding from the various organisations that gave us grant money towards the project. All the outstanding bills are paid and the minor problems have been sorted, so hopefully we will now have a period of stability to re-establish the Clubroom as a centre for all village activities.

It was lovely to see the hall full to capacity and bustling with activity at the recent Trees and Trimmings function and this is just the sort of happy occasion the Clubroom lends it self to. Well done Lucy and her band of willing helpers.

As part of the final completion the funding organisations require us to monitor the outcomes of the project. We recently had a visit from the representative from Northamptonshire County Council and she was very impressed with the improvements that we have made. As part of the monitoring for the Big Lottery funding that we received we are required to distribute survey forms to village residents to gather feedback on the success of the project. You will find a copy of the survey form with this copy of Titchmarsh Times and it is extremely important that we gather this feedback and we would be very grateful if you could take the time to complete the form and return it to your nearest Clubroom Committee Member or pop into the Clubroom letterbox if you are passing.

We would also like to take this opportunity of apologising to Janet and John Fieldsden for getting their surname wrong in the last issued and welcoming them onto our Committee.

**A Message from our Local Police Officer.** In October, following a reorganisation within the County force, I took over the responsibility of Titchmarsh from PC Maddams.

So let me introduce myself. I am PC 460 Chris Wearing, an officer of some 21 years service with the last 12 in rural areas. I am slowly getting around the village and hope to get to know as many of you as possible.

On crime problems in the village things have been quiet since the theft of a car in November. We must not become complacent. A crime that is of particular concern is Distraction Burglary. An offender will gain entry into property of particularly vulnerable residents by purporting to be from the Water Board or the like and helping themselves to valuables.

Should you know of an elderly or vulnerable neighbour please keep an eye out for them. Watch out for unknown visitors. Please report anything suspicious to the Police.

For anyone who may be concerned about home security I can offer a free crime prevention survey.

**Titchmarsh School.**

*Mrs. Milton writes:*

Early in January we enjoyed our afternoon trip to Northampton to see the 'Aladdin' pantomime performed at the Derngate Theatre.

We are preparing to hold our yearly **Book Fair in January from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>**. Feel free to come along after school and browse the shelves in the school hall for special offers in children's books.

Church services will be on the following dates – 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Please feel free to join us.

The school will be closed for the half term holiday from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February and will reopen on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. This is a very short term and we will break for Easter on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Friends of Titchmarsh School. (FOTS).**

*Sue Shapland writes:*

The annual **Beetle Drive** had been suggested for the afternoon of **5<sup>th</sup> February**, however we have decided to have a change this year and organise a Bingo afternoon instead. This will still be held in the Clubroom and will start at 2pm - don't be late! We anticipate finishing at about 4pm.

Our **Quiz Night** has also been arranged and booked to take place on **12<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm (prompt) in the Clubroom. Teams are up to a maximum of 8 people. Tickets are priced at £6 to include a fish/sausage/chicken and chip supper. Paul Cooper will be acting as Quiz Master and tickets are available from Jackie Rowe on 734435.

**The Spring Ball** has been booked for **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2005**. If you want to book your tickets now, please contact Julie Ray.

**Titchmarsh Draw.**

*Sue Shapland keeps on writing:*

The JACKPOT Christmas Eve draw took place this year in the Wheatsheaf. Tickets were sold up until the draw took place. 168 tickets have been sold this year and this enabled there to be a JACKPOT PRIZE of £663. Thank you to all who purchased a number for the coming year. Our second jackpot draw (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> £663) will take place in July in the D&P.

The Christmas jackpot number was 77 and that number was owned by a very lucky Caroline Thompson. Congratulations to Caroline – thanks to Caroline and Robert for the celebratory drinks they bought in both pubs after the draw. The three further numbers drawn were for our usual amount of £15: 158 – Kate Eve; 152 – Wendy Pritchett; 139 – Mrs Sadler.

All winners will be notified as soon as possible after each draw and details of winners will also be posted in the Titchmarsh Times.

The January draw took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> in the D&P. Four numbers were drawn for £15 prize each: 33 – Jim Cawdell; 137 – John Greig; 129 – Pauline Gambrell; 18 – Viv White.

The next draw is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February in the Wheatsheaf.

**Parish Council.**

*Ian Curtis, Chairman writes:*

Although I realise that they are not everyone's cup of tea, the Christmas lights this year were generally agreed to be magnificent. They attracted a number of visitors, many of whom commented on how the efforts made reflected the communal spirit that exists in the village. This spirit was also evident in abundance at the other seasonal celebrations, including the carol services in the church, the informal carols round the tree, and the Trees and Trimmings festival. Congratulations to all those individuals and organisations who gave so generously of their time and expertise to make the festivities so successful. It is at such a time that one feels the real benefits of village life.

**Village notices.** You will have noticed that a new notice board has been erected next to the school. It is good to see so many people using it already and we hope that it will stop the display of fly posters on telegraph poles. Soon you will be seeing signs being erected to direct visitors to the Clubroom and to the Playing Field

**Road Safety.** Mindful of the number of heavy vehicles passing through the village, particularly down Islington, we are in touch with East Northamptonshire Council and with the firms on the Huntingdon Road Industrial Estate in Thrapston. We are particularly keen to see the signs improved to ensure that drivers do not find themselves unwittingly travelling through the village. We appear to be making some progress. The service providers of the IKEA distribution centre are, for example, changing and we are in negotiation with IKEA about what improvements are needed. The problem of over-night parking - more accurately, the lack of suitable facilities - is being discussed with the County Council. With regard to other road safety issues, we are looking to the outcomes of the comprehensive Parish Plan review before making any further far-reaching decisions..

**Village maintenance.** Can we ask for your cooperation over a couple of issues? We have asked that the roads be swept again before the spring and this should eliminate some of the weeds that seem to be proliferating in kerbside gutters. We are informed, however, that weeds growing on pavements alongside houses and garden walls are the responsibility of property owners. If this affects you, would you please mind doing a bit of weeding? A problem in other areas is that of gravel spilling over from driveways onto footpaths. We have already heard of one person losing their footing on this, so could please get the broom out to ensure that the footpath is kept clear. Thanks. We are aware of the poor state of the road surface and pavements in some parts of the village and have asked the County Council to give the matter urgent attention.

**Concessionary Fares Scheme.** The District Council is continuing its Concessionary Travel Scheme for the over-sixties in 2005/06. If you wish to avail yourself of the travel tokens OR half fare bus passes - or would like more information about the scheme- then please contact our clerk, Jane Teague.

**Dogs.** Thanks to the efforts of responsible dog-owners, the problem of dog-fouled pavements seems to be easing. There remain "black spots", however, about which we still receive complaints. A particular area of concern is the High Street between St Andrews Lane and Polopit. It just takes one thoughtless owner to make life unpleasant for everyone else. So please, clear up after your dog.

***Playing Fields News.***

*Caroline Thompson writes:*

It's time to think about your entries for the Titchmarsh 10K road race and 3K fun run on Sunday May 1st, forms and information on the village website or from Richard Roe. A great way to get rid of those extra pounds from Christmas festivities !!!!

***Titchmarsh Parish Plan.***

*John Gaskin writes:*

We have nearly completed the delivery of the parish plan envelopes to every house in the village. Many have already been completed and returned to us and the massive job of compiling the results has started. If anyone has completed plans awaiting collection, please either speak to the person who delivered them or drop the sealed envelope off at 39 High Street or 8 Church Street.

I would like to thank all of the committee and it's helpers who distributed and collected the plans over the last month or so - and of course, all of the villagers who have taken the time to complete the forms.

We will provide a further update on the progress that has been made in the next edition of Titchmarsh Times.

***Finally.*** Thank you to all who have made a contribution to this edition of the Titchmarsh Times. Please may I have your copy for the April/May 2005 edition at the above address by **18<sup>th</sup> March at the very, very latest.** Sometimes I have some space that needs filling. Any chance of some new contributors? A bit of local history or anecdotal stories will always be welcome.

Many thanks to Paddy O'Connor of Clopton for the free printing of this edition. *Ed.*