

# Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-monthly Village Newsletter Sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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## February/March 2006

**Parish Council.**

*Ian Curtis*

**Parish Plan.** Your Parish Council has been very busy on its response to the Plan. We are looking at various options for a **shop** and making contact with other villages who have undertaken similar schemes. One idea that seems to have considerable potential is known as 'Shop-in-a-Box'. More details when we have them.

We are gathering estimates for the cost of a **bus shelter**. Not surprisingly, the cheaper they are, the less attractive they tend to be. In reaching a decision on this we are aware that we are unlikely to please everyone. For example, where should it be located? There are at least three possible locations, and we need to bear in mind the feelings of those living nearby as well as the needs of users. What size should it be? Apart from school pupils, few people use the buses so what is an optimum size? And then there is the problem of vandalism and misuse. Shelters unfortunately are often the target for vandals, a problem from which, sadly, we are not immune here in the village. Before making a final decision, we will consult you again.

Changes to the **Titchmarsh turn on the A605** are part of a detailed review of the route currently being carried out by the County Council. We are using the opinions expressed on T-Day and in the questionnaires in our contribution to this review. As perplexing are the issues related to **traffic in the village**. The number of heavy vehicles travelling through the village is on the increase and we are lobbying the County Council to get a weight restriction imposed.

But what to do about **speeding**? The survey in the Parish Plan revealed a wide diversity of opinion on this. There is little support for permanent fixtures such as speed humps or chicanes. Devices such as those which light up to indicate when you are exceeding the speed limit are very expensive to erect and maintain. Many people also feel that they are not in keeping with the general appearance of a village and that, in any case, they do little to deter the determined speeder. We will continue to work with the Highways engineers on this. In the meanwhile we have asked for another traffic survey to reassess the situation, including seeing if the improvements to the roads and signage have had any impact on the problem.

**Developments in the District.** We are monitoring closely two possible developments. The proposals for **North Northamptonshire** appear to be leading to the formation of a major conurbation based on Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. This could bring many benefits including, for example, better shops, a new university and another hospital. It could also have disadvantages for our village. These could include extra traffic, particularly on the A14, and increased pressure on housing.

A second possible development is closer to home. In a recent paper by East Northamptonshire Council, one option being considered is the **expansion of Thrapston** on the Titchmarsh side of the A605, on the land behind IKEA. A large housing development in this area would have major implications for the village. We may need to contact you more urgently if this progresses beyond the options stage.

With regard to a **cycle path**, we have received an endorsement from Thrapston Town Council for the proposal and are working with them on taking it forward. On the **leisure** issue, the Playing Field Committee is seeking funding to improve facilities including a new pavilion and is also looking at the possibility of providing additional leisure activities.

Finally, thank you for your patience during the recent resurfacing of the roads in the village. Feedback suggests that the contractors have worked hard to keep inconvenience to a minimum and have been understanding in their dealings with villagers. For their part, the contractors have appreciated your co-operation. Their efforts have certainly made a very welcome difference.

### **News and Events**

**Titchmarsh Clubroom.** Unfortunately the Old Time Music Hall Revue scheduled for *Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January* has been postponed due to the unavailability of one of the performers. This will now take place later in the year, so please watch out for more information about this event in the next edition of the Titchmarsh Times.  
*Diane Ellis*

**Titchmarsh Lunch Club.** There has been a good turnout to both the December and the January meetings at the Club Room. Thank you to everyone who has attended and brought all of the lovely food. We hope to see some new faces at the next Pot Luck Lunch on *3rd February*. Please arrive after 12:30 to eat at 1pm.

It is helpful if you ring one of the following numbers to say how many are coming and whether you intend to bring savoury or sweet food. Sylvia McNeely or Audrey Marriott.

**Titchmarsh School.** Building work to the school is progressing well. The new extension is nearly completed. Contractors will soon begin renovating the existing school office and IT suite in to an integrated new library and IT suite.

Before Christmas our Year 3 and 4 children entered a TAG Rugby tournament along with other local schools. I can proudly say we saw off all opposition with our fair play, yet steely determination! The trophy was presented by a member of Northampton Saints and their photo was in a match programme.

We are preparing to hold our yearly Book Fair in *February from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>* – feel free to come along after school and browse the shelves in the school hall. All support will help to fund our new library's resources!!

The school will be closed for the half term from *Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February* and will reopen on *20<sup>th</sup> February*. Easter holidays begin *31<sup>st</sup> March*.  
*Mrs. J. Milton. Headteacher.*

**April 30<sup>th</sup> 3Km or 10km Race?** Why not make this a new year's resolution? The Titchmarsh 3km and 10km races these years are on *Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>*. Why not start some gentle training ready for either event. Both races are organised by the Playing Field Committee. Ps 3km is just less than 2 miles and 10km is just over 6 miles.

Entry forms for the both races will be on the village website or from a committee member or entry for 10km via <http://www.runnersworld.co.uk/>

**Volunteers Required April 30<sup>th</sup>.** The 3km and 10km races attracted over 400 runners last year. It is the major fundraising event for the Playing Fields Committee and money raised helps maintain and develop our playing fields. This year we need additional volunteers on race morning, to help with marshalling, registration, water stations and at the start and finish.

If you can offer to help, please contact Stephen Brown or [roadrace@titchmarsh.info](mailto:roadrace@titchmarsh.info)

**The Friends of Titchmarsh School. (FOTS). Fun Day.** This event will be held this year on *Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May*. As usual there will be a Craft Fair and anyone who would like a stall should contact me. The charge for each table will remain unchanged at £10. Places are limited so hurry, all you creative people, and reserve your place!  
*John Gaskin.*

The FOTS would like to let the village know that their grand clear-out for our last Bag 2 School raised a staggering £348! Thanks to everybody who supported this, and just to let you know, the next one is booked for the last week of April.

We also have a cake stall booked for *Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March* on Oundle Market, so if you are in the area please come along and see what's on offer.

We are holding our Bingo session on *Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February*, 2 to 4pm and our Quiz Night on *Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March* at 7 for a prompt start at 7.30pm. Both events in the Club Room. There will be further information on posters around the village nearer the time.  
*Pip Blowfield.*

### **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – WE NEED YOUR HELP**

As a result of the Parish Plan we are hoping to make sure the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is run more effectively so that our village remains a safe and secure place in which to live. Some streets in Titchmarsh, however, do not currently have a Co-ordinator for the Scheme. As such, the following streets are NOT part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village and will not benefit from any discounts offered by insurance companies for belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

High Street (part), St Andrews Lane, St Andrews Close, Polopit, North Street, Drydens Close, London End, Abbott's Close.

I know from experience that the job of Co-ordinator is neither time consuming, nor difficult - so if you live in one of these roads please consider whether you could take on this vital role. If you would like more information about what the role entails or about Neighbourhood Watch in general, please contact Diane Ellis.



**Early Years Music Group.** Coming to Titchmarsh and surrounding area from *Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February*. Fun time music sessions for accompanied babies, toddlers and pre-school children. A friendly atmosphere, at relaxed and welcoming classes. Music, movement, percussion instrument playing, action songs and nursery rhymes for children aged six months to four years. Come and join in! Places are limited to 12 in each class and need to be booked in advance. Each 45-minute session costs £3.50 per child with a 20% reduction for additional siblings attending same class. For more information and to book your place now please telephone Jane on email [jane.hullabaloo@mac.com](mailto:jane.hullabaloo@mac.com) [CRB checked/Public Liability insurance cover]

**Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings** - another successful festive event with lots of fun and Christmas cheer. Well done to all the prize winners and to both judges; Marie Mason of Red Oasis in Thrapston and Norma Gregory.

First prize for the best decorated house goes to the Walpole Family of Chapel Street who received the brand new Hillsborough House trophy. The Horseshoes Bed & Breakfast won first prize for their decorated window. And in the first prize winners in the individual creative categories were: Fergus Teague (5) for this multi-faceted star; Sophie Milner (8) for her flying angel; Helen Barber-Rowe (13) for her elaborate crown and Shirley Curtis for her intricate table place cards.

A big thank you to the organising team for their time, generosity and creativity at a very busy time of year and, of course, thank you to Father Christmas and his three elves who managed to visit Titchmarsh during their packed schedule.  
*Lucy Milner*

### **Concessionary Fares Scheme 2006/7..**

This scheme will continue to operate in a similar format to previous years, offering travel tokens or a free district-wide 'off peak' free-fare bus pass to the over 60's and others with disabilities. More information on the village notice boards or from the Jane Teague, Parish Clerk .

**Parish Plan.** Here is the update on the new clubs and societies that were suggested at 1 day  
 A meeting has been scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> January for those interested in a Book Club, Flower-  
 arranging or Bridge. There will be further news given on these potential new clubs in the next  
 Titchmarsh Times. If anyone is interested in joining these, please see the contact details below,  
 though these will change after the meeting.

For those who enjoy Classical Music, and would be interested in sharing this interest with others,  
 David Buswell has agreed to organise a new club and has a number of exciting ideas that might,  
 amongst other things, bring classical music concerts to the village. His telephone number and e-  
 mail address is shown below.

Jeff Hunter has agreed to help organise a Wine Appreciation Society but will need some others to  
 help. Please contact him at the number shown below if you are interested.

Similarly, Ann Swift is prepared to organise a Gardening Club provided that she receives some  
 help. If you are willing to help, telephone her on the number shown below.

There were lots of volunteers for the Walking Club and Maggie Chapman has agreed to organise  
 this provided that she receives some help. Please contact her at the number below if you are  
 interested in joining this club – and especially if you are prepared to help on the admin.

Whilst there are no volunteers to set up an Under 5's club, Kate Eve has agreed to take enquiries  
 from those who have young children and will be able to introduce them to either Titchmarsh ABC  
 Pre School or to the Ladybirds

Melvyn Chapman has agreed to organise the Indoor Bowls Club and is looking into costs and  
 venue at the moment. Anyone interested in joining should telephone him on the number below.

As you may imagine, there is a considerable amount of legislation and red tape with regard to any  
 form of club that involves young people. The potential organisers of the Youth Club are looking at  
 these requirements in an attempt to see if a youth club in Titchmarsh is workable.

We are short of volunteers to help organise some of the suggested new clubs and these are shown  
 below. Regretfully, unless volunteers come forward, these clubs will not be formed. If anyone is  
 prepared to give their time in this way, please contact me.

Board Games  
 Rugby  
 Angling Society

Cycling  
 Cricket

Tai Chi  
 Film Club

Running  
 Adventure Club

Contact details.

Initial Organiser

Book Club  
 Flower arranging  
 Bridge  
 Classical Music

Ian Curtis  
 “  
 “  
 David Buswell  
 e-mail [david.buswell@finmarco.com](mailto:david.buswell@finmarco.com)

Wine Appreciation Society  
 Under 5's group  
 Walking Club  
 Indoor Bowls  
 Gardening Club  
 Stitchmarsh  
 (Handicraft Club)  
 Lunch Club

Jeff Hunter  
 Kate Eve  
 Maggie Chapman  
 Melvyn Chapman  
 Ann Swift  
 Betty Wisener  
 Fiona Love  
 Sylvia McNeely  
 Audrey Marriott  
 Ann Howe  
 John Greig  
 Janet Putley  
 Janet Bellairs

Local History Group

Amateur Dramatics Society

John Gaskin

**Titchmarsh Local History Group.** At our first meeting in November we agreed to concentrate on local history within living memory. We feel that this is important as there is material in the possession of current residents that will be lost if not recorded. It is amazing how many stone cottages that there were in the village prior to the 1960's

At our meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January we were able to share the photographs and documents that Janet Putley had obtained from Pearl Woollard, Pete Austin, Betty Wells, Audrey Lawman, Mrs. Storey, Pete and Flo Cullum and Audrey and John Marriott. These have all been copied to CD and handed back to the owners within a couple of days, with one exception. The amount of material from Flo is exceptional. I will need to sit down with her one evening to catalogue the photos before copying them. We are extremely grateful and sincerely thank all those who have donated material. The members would like to thank the Titchmarsh Show Committee for their generous donation of £150 which is being spent photographic paper and computer consumables. The Parish Council has been kind enough to loan the group £250 until a Lottery "Awards for All" has been obtained.

Our next meetings, will be on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, both are in the Club Room commencing at 7.30pm. The Club Room has been booked for the second Thursday in each month thereafter. All are welcome.

John Greig

**Letter to the Editor.**

From Mick Warren. (28, Drydens Close).

I moved into the village last June and enjoy reading the "Titchmarsh Times" it is a great source of Information on what is going on and who's who !

I moved from Sawtry but I was born in Barton Seagrave and my father was a Woodford boy with a close ties to Thrapston and Titchmarsh.

My interest is the First World War and I wrote a book on soldiers from Woodford who died in that appalling conflict. I have already started gathering information on lads that died in WW1 that were either born or lived in Titchmarsh.

Is there anybody in the village whose relations lived here in the village and died in WW1? Would you be willing to tell me about them? Have you have letters, photos or anything that would help build up a picture of the lads that lost there lives.

I hope to make a small pamphlet and will give it to the Church for their fund raising.

**Stichmarsh Handicraft Club - Future Programme.**

8 <sup>th</sup> February.	Cards (Easter).	22 <sup>nd</sup> February.	Cards (Easter).
8 <sup>th</sup> March.	Socks	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Easter Chick.
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Teddy	19 <sup>th</sup> April	Lace Demonstration.
3 <sup>rd</sup> May.	Machine embroidery.	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Village Show exhibit.
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Village Show exhibit.	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Angels.
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Angels	12 <sup>th</sup> July	Silk painting
Summer break.			

All meetings are held in the Club Room 7.30 to 9.30pm with the exception of the 12<sup>th</sup> July which will be ay 29, St. Andrews Lane. Fee £6 per quarter.

Betty Wisener

**The Website Works.** I just wanted to say hello. I found your web site one day by sure luck.

When I was a small lad my father was in the American Army stationed near Titchmarsh. We lived in Titchmarsh on Chapel Street for about two and one half years. These are years that I will always remember with many fond memories.

My best friends were David Hackney and Louis Holland. I still sometimes communicate with David. A few years ago my wife and I were visiting our son in Holland and brought the Chunnel to England. While there we visited Titchmarsh for a few hours. Went to the house where I once lived, knocked on the door and an American girl answered the door much to my surprise. I also went to the Post Office to see Rita Alderman, another of my school friends. We had a small visit.

The Dog and Partridge was closed the day we visited a few years ago. I remember my parents going there. Their names are Clarence and Ruby Kemp. I hope that one day I can return again and stay for a longer time.

Please tell anyone who remembers me that I said hello and God bless.

Sincerely Larry Kemp.

### ***Titchmarsh Draw.***

The JACKPOT Christmas Eve draw took place this year in the D&P. Tickets were sold up until the draw took place. 152 tickets have been sold this year and this enabled there to be a JACKPOT PRIZE of £573.

Thank you to all who purchased a number for the coming year. Our second jackpot draw (for the other £573) will take place in July in "The Wheatsheaf".

The Christmas jackpot number was 102 and that number was owned by a very lucky Leanne Harris. Congratulations to Leanne. The three further numbers drawn were for our usual amount of £15: Pat Hitchings 118, Barbara Valle 113, and Karen Williams.

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: 100 Ruth Berry, 121 Ian & Shirley Curtis, 28 – Mobile Promotions (Ladies); and 112 Sally Horridge. The next draw is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February in the D&P.

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

First of all we would wish to thank everyone for their support during the last year which has made the Dog and Partridge a success.

We have a Dire Straight band here *on Saturday 4th February* and the *18th March* we have Justine back, (the lady who sang on Christmas Eve) and this time she will be as Cher. *Andy & Lee*

### ***Playing Field Committee.***

It was lovely to see such a good crowd around the Christmas tree for hot wine and carols on Christmas Eve. The supporting team had put together a lively and varied range of carols, there was even an encore for Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer with a supplementary rendition from an enthusiastic children's choir! Thanks to Ian, Sylvia, Jane, Mel and everyone else who helped to put it together.

The Christmas Quiz drew an excellent entry of 145 with Mrs Sadler winning the prize with 96 correct answers out of 100, well done!

We are extremely pleased to have enlisted the help of Ian Curtis who is going to spearhead our bid for funding towards the new sports pavilion, this means we can now push on with the initial stages of applying for grants and shaping up building designs. We'll keep you all informed as we progress.

Finally just a plea to any golf enthusiasts who use the playing fields for practice, we've had a couple of near misses recently, could we ask all golf players to be extra careful when taking a shot. Thank you. *Caroline Thompson*

***Finally.*** Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of the Titchmarsh Times.

Please excuse the lack of alignment on the Parish Plan page and the non-justification of the Playing Field article. That's the way they came, The wonders of email

News from Titchmarsh travels afar. The Local History Group was very pleased to receive some photographs of Manor Farm, before it became Manor Farm Court, taken in the early 1980's by the McTeagues. Bette and "Sarge" finally went back to America last year. Each month I send copies, by email, to Wisconsin, Upper New York State and Ontario. Let us know where do you send copies to?

Can I please have material for the April/May edition at the above address **by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March** at the very, very latest. *John Greig (Editor).*