

Titchmarsh Times

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

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February/March 2007.

Parish Council.

Sylvia Prestwich.

Elections: Parish Councils are elected for four year terms. In May, the present Council's period in office comes to an end and there will be an opportunity for you to elect a new council. You will receive further information about this in due course. Meanwhile, if you are interested in becoming a Councillor and would like to know more about what is involved, please contact either the Clerk or any of the current Councillors.

Rectory Farm: You will have noticed that the gravel workings next to IKEA are now being used to deposit waste materials. According to the agreement with the County Council, the waste is restricted to inert materials - mainly construction waste that cannot be recycled. We have made a number of attempts to set up a liaison group with the contractors but so far without success. A further meeting was arranged for 24th January. We will let you know how we get on.

Affordable Housing. Thanks to those of you who took the time to complete the recent survey by Northamptonshire Rural Housing Association. The survey revealed that the need remains for a small number of units, and the Housing Association is working with local landowners to identify a suitable site.

Annual Parish Meeting. This years Annual Parish meeting will be held on Tues 17th April 2007 at 7.30pm in the Clubroom. This important popular event provides an opportunity for villagers to hear about, and join in the discussion on parish matters. In addition to the Parish Council, representatives from other village organisations, such as the Church, Clubroom, Playing Field, Pre-School and School, will be invited to give a 5 minute presentation about what they have been doing over the last year and their hopes for the future. Local clubs and groups will be invited to contribute to a display giving information about their activities and meetings. A glass of wine and refreshments will round off the evening at around 8.30pm. So make a note of the date now, to come along and get updated on village affairs.

Parish Council meetings. We normally meet on the third Thursday of each month, however the February 2007 meeting has been moved forward a week to Thursday 22nd February at 7.30pm in the Clubroom. Just a reminder that, at the start of each Parish Council meeting (7.30pm), we have 'public open time' which is an opportunity for parishioners to address the Parish Council about local matters that concern them.

Many congratulations to Councillor Gina Gaskin who was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list. For the last thirty years, in this village and in others in which she has lived, Gina has given generously of her time in voluntary work. We are very pleased that her efforts have been recognised by this important award.

Village News and Events.

Titchmarsh School. On 25th & 26th January, the school will be welcoming the head teachers of the schools we are linked with in South Africa and Kenya, as part of our British Council Project. They will be staying in Titchmarsh for a week, visiting our school and our partner schools in Raunds and Kettering.

We have some small building work happening this term. We look forward to the construction of a covered play area near to our foundation stage classroom and a raised learning garden near our front entrance.

We are preparing for our yearly Book Fair on 31st January, 1st & 2nd February. You are welcome to come along after each afternoon and browse the book shelves in the hall.

School will be closed for the half term from Thursday 8th February and will open again Monday 19th February.
Head teacher Mrs J Milton

Titchmarsh PCC (Parochial Church Council). On Shrove Tuesday, 20th February, we will be holding a Pancake Party in the Clubroom from 6.00pm. There will be pancake races for adults and children, and if you want to participate please register at 6.00pm, for a small fee of 50p, there will be prizes. The less energetic of us can watch and then enjoy a pancake with tea/coffee or soft drink for just a £1. This is intended to be a carefree evening where you can relax and enjoy the races, the pancakes and the company.

The Barn Dance this year will be held in the Clubroom on Saturday the 31st March at 7.30pm. Remember last year when everyone had a great time and had to be turfed out after the witching hour as no-one wanted to go home. Where else could you get live music, plenty of exercise and a supper for just £5 for adults and £3 for children. The Band is from Old Weston and there will be a bar. Tickets available from Jean Bussens, Julia Powell or any other members of the PCC.

A note for your diary, we will be having an "Antiques Roadshow" with afternoon tea in the Church on Sunday 8th July. Lady Victoria Leatham will be present to talk about and value, where possible, any treasures that appear. More details will be in the next edition of the TT.

The Carol Service raised £205.00 for Cransley Hospice, and we thank everyone who came and gave generously. We hope you enjoyed the traditional candlelit service of Lessons & Carols; and thanks to everyone who donated the Christmas pies.

The interviews for the new Rector are to take place on January 23rd and we hope that the Village will have a new incumbent in the Summer.

There will be a Family Service on Mothering Sunday the 18th March at 9.30am. We hope to see all you children there and bring your Mum's and give them a special thank-you.

On the 11th March after the service finishes at 10.30 we will be doing some work in the churchyard, clearing out the debris, pruning and cutting back the overgrowth. If you would like to help please come along, it really is fun in a group.

On Saturday morning of the 31st March at 9.00 we will be attempting to clean the windows of the Church, with great care. Does anyone have a scaffolding tower we could borrow? On the following Monday there will be a Church cleaning party, check with Mary Cheney if you would like to help with this.

Lastly the PCC AGM will be held in the Church on Wednesday 18th April at 7.30pm.

Julia Powell

Saturday 9th June 2007 is the date of this year's **Titchmarsh Village Fete**. If you would like to help with the planning and organisation or would like to help on the day please contact Sylvia Prestwich by email at sylviaprestwich@aol.com

Friends of Titchmarsh School. Well here we are at the start of another year, where does the time go?!! We at FOTS have a busy year ahead starting very soon with a Beetle Drive on 27th January at the Club Room from 2pm until 4pm. Entrance fee is £1.00 per person. This is a fun event for the children.

We are also holding a Quiz Night on 17th March, 7pm for a 7.30 start. Tickets are £6.50 and include a fish/chicken or sausage supper. We are holding a Fashion Show on 27th March. Please keep these dates free in your diaries and further information will be available soon.

Our **Fun Day** this year is on Saturday, 12th May. We are hoping this will be a huge day, we look forward to this event.

The **Summer Ball** will take place on Friday, 13th July and we are expecting a spectacular time to be had by all who attend. Tickets this year are £30.00 per head, more info on where to purchase as soon as possible. Watch This Space!!!!

A huge **Thank you** to everyone who has helped and supported us throughout the last year, here's to a successful 2007. *Julia Higgins*

Stitchmarsh. Our fortnightly meetings commenced again in January and it was decided that, in future, the group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7.30pm in the Clubroom. For the next few meetings we will be making decorative boxes. Visitors are always welcome. If you require more details please contact Eleanor Greig or eleanor.music@btinternet.com

Titchmarsh Lunch Club had its first Annual (hopefully) Christmas Lunch in December with a traditional turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. Surplus proceeds from the previous twelve months provided the funds to cover costs and the lunch was prepared and served so that members paid only their £1.50 monthly fee. Our next meeting is on Friday, 2nd February with members bringing food for the usual 'Pot Luck' lunch. New members are always welcome.

Date of next meeting is always posted on the notice board by the school. Please ring Sylvia McNeely for more information.

Titchmarsh Flower Club Our New Year programme starts on Wednesday 21st February 2007 with a demonstration of a Pedestal arrangement by Betty Steel. We usually have a go at making our own arrangement after the demonstrator has shown us how to do it, but not this evening.

We are hoping to attract new members to this open evening, so come along and enjoy the demonstration from Betty, followed by a social glass of wine and details of future demonstrations.

We start at 7.30pm in the Clubroom, a group of 15 – 20 for a friendly social evening, to learn a little about flower arranging from local, national and even international demonstrators. It is a very informal and inexpensive (£3) evening that will enable you to turn a few flowers in a vase into a pleasing elegant arrangement at your home.

Come along and see what it is all about. No obligation.

Terry Higgins.

Titchmarsh Garden Club. We are having an informal visit to the Snowdrop Walks at Anglesey Abbey on Saturday February 11th. Entrance is £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children, and free to members of the National Trust. We'll be leaving the village at 11.00 and meeting at the Abbey around 12 noon.

Everyone is very welcome to come along – Club Members may have spare seats in their cars, or come under your own steam, bringing a packed lunch.

For more information please phone Jane Finlayson, or Bert and Pauline Ash

Titchmarsh Playing Field Committee. We have been sorry to receive Kevin Snapiand's resignation from the Committee. His very many other commitments have regrettably meant that he no longer has the time to devote to the work of the Committee. This leaves us with a vacancy.

The committee is an active self-supporting group that maintain and improve the playing field environment by holding events that raise money throughout the year.

Most villagers will be aware of the successful 10K Road Race that is held at the beginning of May and is now in its' 12th year. Our chief objective, currently, is to work towards obtaining the necessary funding to enable us to build new changing rooms on the Playing Field.

The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Clubroom and if you are interested in joining or want to know more details, then please phone Gina Gaskin or Shirley Curtis.

THIS IS SERIOUS. Will parents please warn their children of the dangers of climbing up onto the pavilion roof? The committee will take no responsibility for any accidents that may occur if this does happen.

Midsummer Music Evening. Please note that the date for this event has now changed to Saturday, June 23rd at 7.30pm on the School Field. More information will follow nearer the date.
Gina Gaskin.

Titchmarsh Pre-School. Our Pre-School children are enjoying the New Year with learning themes such as the alphabet, seasons and Chinese New Year. If you have a child of 2.5 to 5 years old and would like more information about Pre-School, do please contact, or call in during session time (09.00 – 12.00 every day).

The Pre-school Ofsted Inspection was carried out last term, the Inspection rated us as 'Good', reporting that all areas of our provision are strong. The Inspection report can be accessed via the Ofsted website (www.ofsted.gov.uk) or is available at Pre-school. We would like to give a big thank you to all the residents of Titchmarsh and everyone that helped and supported our extremely successful Christmas Bazaar. The money raised is being used to replace worn out items.

We will be holding a Car Treasure Trail and Auction of Promises with afternoon tea on Sunday, 11th March. Cars will start and finish from the Club Room with up to four adults per car. Children under 14 go free.

Clubroom News. We are very pleased to have appointed Chris Knight as the new caretaker for the Clubroom; Chris will be taking over from Phillip Dexter from the 1st February. He can be contacted by email on Christopher.Knight@Howdens.com. Chris lives with Ruth, who is our cleaner and their three children in Drydens Close. He will be getting to know our regular users over the next few weeks.

Victorian Melodrama comes to Titchmarsh: Subject to availability of a suitable date in March, we are hoping to host a musical melodrama show by Northampton University drama students – keep an eye on village notice boards for more details.

New storage facilities: we desperately need to increase our storage to accommodate growing piles of equipment. There is funding out there for such projects and we are seeking someone who has some time available to help us coordinate the bid, working with our key user groups, the Management Committee and potential funding bodies. If you think you might be interested please contact Paul Milner for an informal chat about our ideas.

Knife Amnesty: We started off with a full set of new cutlery and over the months a number of knives have disappeared, could it be that some are lingering in kitchen drawers elsewhere. If you discover any, we would be very pleased to reunite them with the rest of the set. Thank you.
Caroline Thompson, Clubroom Secretary.

Concessionary Fare Scheme. I have just received a letter from NCC regarding the concessionary fare scheme 2007/2008. Tokens are available from 1st February to 30th June 2007, £46.00 worth of tokens for £10.00.

Further details will be placed on the village notice board. I have the forms at home for completion by anyone wanting to take advantage of the scheme. There is a certain criteria, over 60's, disabled and living in Northamptonshire and you don't hold an East Northants bus pass. I also need to verify dates of birth.

If you require the tokens please contact me

Emma Meen. Parish Clerk.

Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings. We celebrated our 6th year of this wonderfully festive event and the extra entertainment. The children's carol singing and the handbell ringing were warmly received.

Well done to the prize winners, all those who took part and to both judges; Dave Walpole and Norma Gregory. The Hillsborough House trophy for the best decorated house went to the Jones family of Polopit. The Garnham family won first prize for their beautiful trees. The first prize winners in the individual creative categories were: Abigail Jones (4) for her beautiful reindeer collage; Fergus Teague (6) for his elaborate Christmas picture and Grace Routley (12) for her very appropriate design for a celebrity Christmas outfit. A big thank you to the organising team for their dedication and hard work at a very busy time of year and, of course, thank you to Father Christmas and his two very helpful elves.

As a result of this fund raising we are able to make a donation towards the village planters. We have more funds available and we would therefore like to invite the smaller village groups, set up as a result of T-Day, to submit written requests for a donation towards equipment etc. Please send written requests to Lucy Milner, 2 Park Farm Court, Titchmarsh or via email to lucy.milner@ukgateway.net by 1st April 2007.

Titchmarsh Village Shop Project. We have been awarded two more grants: £3,545 from Abbey and £7,000 from Rockingham Forest Trust, and have agreement in principle for an £18,000 grant from Village Retail Services Association. This is subject to a successful loan application for another £18,000 from Co-op Community Finance. The good news is that our funding programme is almost complete.

Building Regulations drawings are nearing completion and we will be going out to tender for the refurbishment works. We expect work to start in May, with the shop opening in July.

Our proposed fundraising events for this year include: line dancing with BBQ on 28th April, a fashion show on 7th September, and the Autumn Fayre on 13th October.

The inaugural meeting of the Youth Committee will take place very soon. Letters will be going out to those who have expressed an interest in taking part. Again, it's not late to join in so if you're aged 13+ (or will soon be 13) then do get in touch.

We have a few Orange & Lemon Puddings left that we need to sell by 10th February. They can be frozen for a further three months so would be ideal for Easter. Usual price £5 each, now reduced to £3 each. Please contact Diane Ellis.

We intend to hold an Open Day in May (date to be confirmed); we hope to incorporate a Food Fayre to which we will invite a host of potential suppliers to show their wares. This is where we really want you to come along and tell us what you want the shop to sell, what services you'd like to see provided and so on. More details soon.

An initial Health & Hygiene training session has been arranged for 17th March, from 9am to 2pm in the Clubroom. If you have volunteered to help in the shop you will shortly receive a letter inviting you to attend this free training session. If you would like to volunteer but haven't as yet, please contact Jane Teague or speak to any committee member.

Titchmarsh Walking Group. Due to the extremely wet weather, the January walk was cancelled and brought forward to February.

So, on Saturday February 17th (weather permitting), the Group will meet at 10.00am outside the Dog & Partridge, for a 2-hour walk around the Twywell and Slipton area. This is an easy walk, mostly across fields, and is suitable for all ages. If you would like to join us, just turn up on the 17th, or for more information call Maggy Chapman.

The March walk will be on Saturday 17th. See the website, or call Maggy for further details.

Memories of Old Titchmarsh. Ian Curtis has been collecting memories of life in the village in the period before and just after the Second World War. It is becoming a fascinating insight into not only how people lived then but also on how much things have changed. If you feel that you are able to add your memories to this archive, then please give Ian a ring.

Titchmarsh Local History Group. We now have a programme arranged almost for the rest of 2007, subject to one confirmation for later in the year.

On Thursday 8th February we have a meeting entitled:

“Lilford Life”.

John Walpole, who was the estate foreman at Lilford Park, will be talking to us on an informal basis about his work and life on the estate. The cost of this evening will be £2, including refreshments.

Last September we had a very good speaker, Eric Jenkins, a local historian, who spoke about “Unfamiliar Titchmarsh Tales”. Eric is returning to us on Thursday, 8th March. This time he is spreading his wings a little and giving us:

“Unfamiliar Tales of East Northamptonshire”

The cost of this evening will be £2.50, including refreshments.

We meet at 7.30pm in the Club Room and we look forward to seeing you. For any additional information please contact John Greig or Janet Putley.

TOAwST. Next meeting is on Friday, 23rd February at 7.30pm in the Club Room. We have a guest speaker – Margaret Morely, wine tutor. She is going to speak on “Wine, what makes the difference”

Entrance £7.00.

Wine and glasses provided.

If you are considering coming along we would very much appreciate you contacting us so we know numbers so we don't run out of wine!!!!!!! Please call Jeff and Jo Hunter

Recycling boxes. I have recently had a discussion with East Northamptonshire Council regarding the recycling boxes. I was particularly concerned that our RED box had become degraded and due to misuse by the collection operatives had totally disintegrated.

If you have the same problem or find that you need more than one box to contain your recycled materials then contact the Waste Management Hot Line on 742026.

New and additional boxes will be delivered to your door.

Ed.

Finally. Thank you to all who have contributed to this six page issue. From the future events advertised it looks as though village life in Titchmarsh will be busy in the next few months.

The closing date for your contributions to the April/May issue will be no later than Thursday 16th March. It may seem early but this date is important.

Thank you all for your continued support.

John Greig. Editor.