

Titchmarsh Times

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

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Parish Council.

Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan. East Northamptonshire Council has produced this important plan that will help to determine the future of the area until at least 2021. Although its impact on Titchmarsh is not major, the plan does have some important implications for places such as Thrapston. It is well worth having a look at it. If you have access to the internet, you can find out more by looking at the Council's website at www.eastnorthamptonshire.gov.uk If not you can contact the planning policy department on 742010 but hurry, the consultation period ends on 22nd February.

Affordable Housing. We are still working with the Northants Rural Housing Association to find a site suitable for Affordable Housing. The planners are talking to land owners to see if a suitable site at a reasonable cost can be identified. We realise that this has been going on for a long time. It is an enterprise fraught with frustrations and false hopes, but we keep battling on with it.

New Stile. In response to a request from walkers, a new dog-friendly stile has been erected into the field at the end of the lane at the bottom of North Street. If you use it, please keep your dog on the lead when there are animals in the field. We want to avoid the unhappy incidents that have sometimes occurred in the past.

Annual Parish Meeting. This years Annual Parish meeting will be held on Tues 8th April 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 a report from the Parish Council, we hope to hear from our District and County Councillors and representatives from others organisations, such as the Church, Clubroom, Parish Path Team, Playing Field, School, and Shop. Each 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. A glass of wine and refreshments will round off the evening at around 8.30pm. So make a note of the date now, and come along and get updated on village affairs.

Concessionary Fare Scheme. The concessionary fare scheme 2008/2009 has been announced and tokens are available from 1st February to 30th June 2008, £47.00 worth of tokens can be purchased for £10.00. Nationwide bus passes are available free of charge for the over 60's and qualifying groups. Further information and application forms are available from Emma our Clerk, or directly from East Northants Council on 742000.

News and Events.

200 Club. We will be starting the 200 club again in April so will soon be putting leaflets through doors to see if anyone wishes to buy tickets for the New Year. Tickets cost £24.00 and you will be entered into the monthly draws where four lucky winners win £10.00 and everyone also has the chance to win a big cash prize twice a year, this prize is currently £484.00. All proceeds are split between Titchmarsh School and the Church.

Titchmarsh Walking Group. A Happy New Year to all our members.

The Walking Group finished off at the Dog & Partridge with mulled wine and seasonal refreshments, after having weathered a wet stroll around the Titchmarsh area in December. This was one of the very few walks where the sun did not shine, but the warm welcome we had on our return was well worth it!

The next two walks will take place on Saturdays 9th February and 8th March. Meet at the on The Green, opposite the Dog & Partridge Green at 10.00 am on both dates.

For more information on the Walking Group, please contact Maggy Chapman on melandmag@btinternet.com

Playing Field News. The Playing Field Association is delighted to welcome Natalie Beer and Hannah Garnham to bring the committee up to full strength following our request for new members in the last edition of TT.

Getting tenders back has delayed the start of building the new pavilion somewhat, but we are still optimistic of commencement in the Spring in the hope that it will be completed before the end of the year. We are again asking for lots of support for the football teams who use the field, particularly our own village side who play on Sunday mornings. Also, watch out for some 'special' matches taking place in the summer – especially the ladies' match – anyone interested please contact Hannah. Since our day-to-day running affairs have again split away from the Parish Council, we are asking if there is a qualified accountant in the village who wouldn't mind auditing the accounts at our year-end. If you could help, please call Gina.

It's also time to start training now for our annual 3K and 10K Road Race, which this year takes place on Sunday May 4th – full details and entry form are on the village website.

Titchmarsh Flower Club

The Flower Club started this year's programme with a demonstration of an 'Arrangement in an oasis ring', by Claire from Websters Florists of Raunds; followed by a workshop when we all had a go at doing one ourselves.

Next month Margaret Aldridge will show us how to do a hand tied arrangement in water, and how to create an arrangement on a bottle! We do have fun!

We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Clubroom (except for August and December); next months meeting is on 20th February. We welcome new members and those who haven't been for a while. Do come along and enjoy the demonstration and a glass of wine; you don't have to stay for the workshop but you'll miss the fun if you leave early! For further information keep an eye on the notice board.

Benefice Choir. Eight or so singers have volunteered for the Benefice Choir. We have met three times and are hoping to give our first public performance in one (or more) of the Benefice Churches around Easter.

We rehearse once a month and the intention is to sing occasional services in one of the churches of the new benefice (Aldwincle, Thorpe Achurch, Pilton, Wadenhoe, Stoke Doyle, Titchmarsh and Clopton).

In common with every choir in the country, we are short of tenors and basses. The commitment is not onerous (1½ hours per month) plus intermittent services, so, if you are male and can sing, please, please come and join us. Next rehearsal is on Thursday, February 14th from 1930 to 2100. For details, call David Buswell.

Titchmarsh Village Shop. Christmas was a busy time for the shop and sales exceeded all expectations at £5,100 in the week up to and including Christmas Eve. The customer ordering system worked well and everyone appeared to be delighted with their boxes of fruit and vegetables, milk, cream, cheeses, pork pies and bread. Thank you for your support and loyalty in using your village shop and of course to the staff and volunteers who kept the shop open during the Christmas period.

We have much to look forward to this year, starting with Valentines Day, Mother's Day and Easter all in February/March. Look out for new lines on our display stand near the till. We also have more greetings cards arriving soon to celebrate these occasions. You will have noticed themed promotions throughout the year, so do keep coming in to see what's new since your last visit



There will shortly be some rearranging of the stock layout in the shop to make better use of the retail area. We hope to start selling take away soup very soon and are looking to expand our range of snacks and sandwiches too. Don't forget we can already make you a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate to take away, and once Spring is on the way we will be able to make use of the Pound Garden again for refreshments.

If you have difficulty in getting to the shop you are welcome to telephone an order to us and we will deliver it to you. This has proved very useful when people have been unwell and we are delighted to be of service in this way.

Remember, if you can't see what you're looking for please do ask – we may well stock it or, if not, will do our very best to meet our customer's requirements.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The Management Committee of Titchmarsh Village Shop Association Ltd

Whats on at the Dog and Partridge.

St. Valentines Day, 14th February. Come and enjoy a candlelit meal and a free glass of "bubbly". Set menu, call in for details. Raffle to be drawn.

Mothering Sunday, 2nd March. Treat Mum to a relaxing meal. Free gift for Mum. Booking essential.

St. Patricks Day Celebrations, Saturday 15th March. Irish stew, soda bread and Irish music.

Easter Egg Hunt around the pub and gardens. Sunday 23rd March.

Quiz Night. First Sunday of each month. Free buffet. All are welcome.

For more information and reservations ring Carol at the D & P

Titchmarsh PCC

Pancake Races will be held on Tuesday 5th February. Once again the High Street will be closed between the Dog & Partridge and the Wheatsheaf from 6.00 to 8.00 pm to allow for the races. Registration will start at 6.00 (cost 50p) and the races will start at 6.30, followed by refreshments and prize giving in the Clubroom. Pancakes and drinks will be on sale at a very nominal cost. Come and join in the fun and brighten up at least one of these winter nights.

Barn Dance. This popular evening will be held in the Clubroom on Saturday 29th March at 7.30pm. There will be a live band and a caller to aid us through our steps which usually results with a great deal of hilarity. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children and this includes light refreshments; these can be obtained from Jean Bussens or other PCC committee members. There will also be a bar and raffle.

Church Funding. Some of you may be aware that the costs of maintaining the Church have risen quite considerably in recent months. The electric, gas, insurance and parish share have all increased substantially and this year we are looking at finding another £4000 to £4500. As you can appreciate holding events to raise this kind of money is very difficult and involves a great deal of effort from a few people who already give a great deal of time to various events held every year in the village. One of the best ways to raise money and claim tax back from the Government is through Gift Aid Donations, which can be annual, quarterly or monthly donations by standing order. Even an annual contribution of £10 would give the Church £12.80 and multiply this by 200 (there are more than 200 households in the village) we would raise £2560. If you feel you could contribute something or want to know more please contact Julia Powell. Thank you.

TOAwST 22nd February in the Clubroom at 8.00p.m. Entrance Fee £2.50.
This will be a 'blind' wine tasting evening further details will be available soon.

Titchmarsh School. Happy New Year from pupils and staff.

We are preparing to 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. As well as this, Mrs Stopps is organising our new Maths Games Library which will be open to all pupils of the school. The official opening will be on January 31st at 3pm. At the beginning of April, we look forward to our second residential trip for our Years 3&4 to the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough. Last year's trip was a great success.

Church services will be held on the following Wednesday mornings at 9.15am 16th & 30th January, 27th February. Do feel welcome to come and join us.

The school year is now divided into 6 short terms as opposed to the previous 3 long terms with 3 ½ term holidays in the middle. Therefore, the 3rd term of this academic year will end on February 14th, with a training day on the 15th. Term 4 will begin on Monday 25th February and end on 4th April.

Mrs J. Milton. Headteacher

Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings – we celebrated our 7th year of this truly festive event and it was lovely to see so many people around the Top Green Christmas tree for the official switching on of the lights.

The Hillsborough House trophy for the best-decorated property goes to the Garnham family of Chapel Street. The creative competition was very well supported with 21 Christmas trees decorated to the theme of a carol or Christmas song.

First prize went to the Titchmarsh Pre School for their wonderful version of "Jingle Bells", 2nd went to Shirley Curtis for "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks and 3rd went to the Garnham family for "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth". Well done to everyone who took part, all the prize-winners and thanks to both judges; Rob Jones and Norma Gregory.

A big thank you, as usual, to the organising team, all those who helped on the night and of course to Father Christmas and his two very efficient elves. This year's Trees & Trimmings will be held on Sunday 21st December.

Lucy Milner

Titchmarsh Pre-School. Titchmarsh pre-school opened its doors on 7th January 2008 for the start of a new year. We would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new children and parents. Our theme for this term is the Chinese new year, which has proved of immense interest to the children in the past

We would like to extend our appreciation for the continued support of the village at our annual Preschool Christmas Bazaar. We raised over £700 which will help us to buy new equipment and toys for the children.

Our Christmas Party was the usual success with the children enjoying games and party food before performing in front of their parents and number of songs. There was the seasonally visit from Santa and refreshments for all.

Our Aims for 2008 are to raise enough money to create an outdoor play area & to purchase a second hand laptop. We are at present planning a number of fundraising events for the new year and shall keep you informed of any future events as soon as possible. We would like to thank all who support the pre-school, because as a Charity, we receive no external funds and therefore without your financial support at such events the pre-school could not provide facilities for the children or continue to flourish as it is able to right now.

We are open for 2 full days per week, from 9.15 am – 2.45 pm on Tuesday and Thursday which also includes to option of attending an afternoon session 12.15 pm -2.45pm along with all our usual morning sessions still in place.

We provide a safe and stimulating environment in which children are encouraged to learn through play, so if you have a child of 2.5 to 5 years old and would like more information about Pre-School, do please contact us on 07879 072796, or call in during session time (09.15 – 11.45 every day, till 12.45 pm on Wednesday and 12.15 pm – 2.45 pm on Tuesday's and Thursday's).

Friends of Titchmarsh School.

Beetle Drive fun for all ages on Saturday 26th January 2pm-4pm in the Clubroom
Tickets cost £1.00 each and are available from any FOTS member at School or Ruth Knight on 735660 you can also buy tickets on the day but we would be really grateful if they were purchased in advance so we have an idea of numbers. Thank you.

Ladies Night. C come and enjoy lots of stalls and some mini treatments including reflexology, aromatherapy, Jewellery, cakes, beautician and many more for this wonderful pre Mothers Day treat. Friday 29th February 7.30pm at Titchmarsh School. Tickets cost £3.00 and include a glass of wine!

Funday for all, at Titchmarsh School. Saturday 10th May 12.30-3.30pm
This includes lots of fun, BBQ; Beat the Goalie, Tea & Cake Stall, Bouncy Castle and much more. If you would like to have a craft stall etc at this event please contact Ruth Knight for more details.

FOTS have decided to hold a '**Snow-Ball**' this year and hope many of you will join us and let your hair down at this fantastic event. Good food, good entertainment (we are looking for a new band any ideas welcome!) and good company guaranteed. Book your babysitters and keep you diaries free for Saturday 22nd November (date still to be confirmed!!) Please check the next issue of Titchmarsh Times!

“STITCHMARSH” Village Handicraft Group.

Our Wednesday meetings in the Club Room have recommenced and the dates for the next two months are 13th and 27th February and 12th March.

We are continuing with beadwork and will soon be starting to make 'amulet purses'.

Do come and join us in this interesting craft, meetings start at 7.30pm.

For more information contact Eleanor Greig

THE WHEATSHEAF

WHINNIE CLARKE – The Disco Diva continues her residency singing Swing, Jazz, Blues and your requests, every Friday.

QUIZ NIGHT – Going strong and getting better, come and impress us with your general knowledge - £1 per entry and a free buffet – how can you lose – the 3rd Sunday of the month,

MOTHERING SUNDAY - please come and join us and enjoy a spectacular Sunday lunch accompanied by the music of Winnie Clarke.

PETANQUE COURT – Our aim for 2008 is to raise as much money as possible for the Titchmarsh playing fields fund – please enter the league and your £1 entry fee will contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Thanks to you all, have a great year – David and the team.

Clubroom. Christmas may already be a fading memory but the Clubroom pantomime still lingers in the minds of the full house of children of all ages who attended. We hope to make this part of the annual Titchmarsh Christmas festivities but we are still awaiting confirmation that the group of players will be touring again this year – more news (much) nearer the time.

At the end of January the Clubroom Committee will be pioneering a new scheme that aims to measure and develop good practice with regards to the management of village halls. This scheme, called Hallmark, will score us on such things as our financial management, meeting processes, bookings and hire agreements and compliance to our charitable status requirements, amongst other things. I will let you know how we progress in the next issue of Titchmarsh Times.

Paul Milner

Titchmarsh Youth Group. We finished 2007 term with a Christmas disco which was hosted by Paul Cooper. Paul managed to get all the 70 young people out of their seats and dancing

The youth group has now begun our Spring term programme. Below is a list of forthcoming activities for the next few months for diaries.

8 th February	Club Night	Making Pancakes
29 th February	Ice Skating in Peterborough (further details at youth club)	
14 th March	Club Night	NAYC – Craft and Karaoke
28 th March	Club Night	
4 th April	Tennis Night at Thrapston	
25 th April	Games Night at the Playing Field (weather permitting)	

For any other young person in the Titchmarsh, Clopton and Thurning still wanting to join, membership forms must be signed prior to attending TYG for those young people who are school Year 7 and above. The yearly membership fee is £10 which covers the cost of the hall hire, training, CRB checks and insurances. Session fees are £2 for the two hours. For further information please contact Sue Shapland or Alice Dove

Church News and Events.

Lent meetings in Aldwincle Village Hall Tuesday February 12th and Mondays February 18th & 25th and March 3rd and 10th. 7.30-9pm – but come when you can! We shall be using DVDs of the Seaside Parish TV series to focus our thoughts about rural life

Titchmarsh Church Service times:

February 3 rd	9.15am Morning Prayer
February 6th	7.30pm Ash Wednesday Communion
February 10th	9.15 am Communion (said)
	3pm 'Sunday pm' – All-age worship
February 17 th	9.15am Communion
February 24 th	9.15am Communion
March 2nd	Mothering Sunday 9.15am Morning prayer
	3pm 'Sunday pm' – All-age worship
March 9 th	9.15am Communion (said)
March 16 th	9.15am Palm Sunday Communion
March 23 rd	9.15am Easter Day Communion
March 30 th	9.15am Communion

See notice boards for other churches or visit the Deanery WebPages
<http://stpetersoundle.org.uk/index.php/deanery/>

The **Oundle Deanery Covenants** were celebrated on January 13th at a gathering with most of its 34 parishes represented. The detail of the Covenant can be seen in the church porch notice board. It can best be understood as a statement of intent to encourage mutual support between the parishes – much of which is already happening.

All Titchmarsh residents welcome to an **Open day at the Rectory**, 60 Main Street, Aldwincle (next to Village Hall). 10.30am-12 & 2.30-4pm Saturday March 8th
 Come for Fairtrade coffee/tea & Squash for children. Donations welcome. Proceeds to Bungoma area of Kenya

For your diary: **Rectory Fete** 5th July

From the Registers.

Baptism 9th December Jessica, Caitlin & Juliette Knight 22 Drydens Close

Funeral 3rd January Marjorie Dorrington of 3 Park Road died 23rd December aged 92

Church Rotas for February and March 2008

Date	Flowers	Sidesmen	Reader
3 rd February 2008	Mrs S Wilcox	Mr A Powell	Mrs J Powell Mr J Fieldsend
6 th February – Ash Wednesday	No flowers – Lent	Mr J Fieldsend	Mr P James
10 th February 9.15am service	Lent	Mrs B Berry	Mr S Barber
3pm service		Mrs S Hankins	Jessica Jones
17 th February	Lent	Mrs K Williams	Mr D Williams
24 th February	Lent	Lady Harper	Sir Ewan Harper
2 nd March 9.15am service	Lent	Mrs C Blackman	Mrs B Berry
Mothering Sunday 3pm service		Mrs S Hankins	Lucy Cheney
9 th March	Lent	Mrs J Fieldsend	Mr J Fieldsend
16 th March	Lent	Dr S Bell	Dr G Webster
23 rd March Easter Day	Mrs S Millard	Mr P Dunn	Mr T Higgins
30 th March	Mrs B Ray	Mr. A. Powell	Mrs J Powell
All morning services now start at 9.15am			

Titchmarsh Local History Group presents:

The History of Policing and Crime in Northamptonshire.

An illustrated talk by Dick Cowley.



Dick Cowley, a retired Police Constable, spent his career in the Northamptonshire Constabulary and took an keen interest in the history of the force from its inception in the early 19th century to the present day. As well as the history of the force details of the more "juiciest" crimes will be revealed

Thursday 14th February, 2008 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

Entrance including refreshments £2.50 All are welcome.

For further information please contact John Greig

The dates for future meetings of the group are 10th April, 12th June, 11th September and the 13th November 2008

In April Colin Rae, a local historian from Oundle, will be giving an Illustrated presentation of the

History of Houses in East Northamptonshire.

Finally.

Thank you to you all who have made a contribution to this edition.

When I first started the "Titchmarsh Times" I used to struggle to get 2 pages copy, now we are regularly doing 6 and as you can see we have another 8 page edition. Email certainly makes the composition easier. Hand written contributions are welcome but can I please have them a few days before the deadline.

Again, my thanks to the distributors and the Parish Council for their continued support.

The dead line for the April / May Edition will be the evening of Saturday 15th March 2008.

John Greig (Editor).