

Titchmarsh Times

A bi-monthly village newsletter sponsored by Titchmarsh Parish Council.

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February/March 2009

Titchmarsh Village Shop is not just for Christmas!

As we are all aware times are becoming very difficult for all retailers but especially for small businesses like Titchmarsh Village Shop.

We know we cannot compete with the major supermarkets on product range or price but we score on convenience and friendliness. The Shop can be a lifeline – particularly in Winter – for some of the older members of the community and for people with poorly children. It is there when you forget or run out of that basic ingredient. It provides an added sense of community to the village and it was mainly for this, and not just to provide a retail outlet, that we were awarded grants to get the Shop up and running.

Over recent months our takings have been falling and the Shop has been trading at a loss. If we are to survive then we need people to increase their use of the Shop. Indeed if each household in the village simply spent £10 a week this would enable us to cover our overheads and maintain our sustainability. We would accordingly urge you to commit to buying even just a few of your needs there every week. You might be interested to know that in a recent informal survey comparing our prices with those of the Coop we were significantly cheaper on a large number of basic items including milk, bread, coffee, potatoes and onions.

Lots of you have worked really hard to give the community what it said it wanted, and many more are working really hard to keep it going. If you think we can do things better please let us know. If you don't use the Shop, we would particularly like to hear from you, because we would like to know if there are things we should be doing that we aren't doing. Just send us an e-mail (Titchmarsh.villageshop@googlemail.com) or drop a note into the Suggestion Box in the Shop. **Please help to keep this valuable village asset – your Shop - going.**

Jane Teague our first Chair and latterly a committee member has decided that, due to increasing work and family commitments, she must leave the committee. On behalf of the committee and everyone in the village, I would like to thank Jane for her enthusiasm and leadership in securing the opening of the Shop and its successful early trading. We will miss her input.

This is a village project owned by members of the village and dependant on help from people like you for volunteer activities and its management. We are always looking for extra help and ideas, so if any of you would like to join the committee, be involved in one of the sub-committees or join the band of volunteers please contact Jackie Rowe. We would particularly welcome anyone with retail or PR experience.

On a brighter note - look out for our promotions and raffles around Valentine's Day, Mothering Sunday and Easter! We will also be sending out a newsletter shortly which will include details of some new initiatives.

Parish Council

A Happy New Year. We realise that it is a bit late to offer you our best wishes but, in the grim economic times we face, we could all do with a bit of good cheer.

It was good to see so many people enjoying each other's company round the tree on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The tree is provided by the Parish Council and a big thank-you to the members of the Playing Field Association for acquiring the tree and for setting it up so attractively - and indeed for taking it down again afterwards!

Vandalism: It is a pity, however, that someone should be so mean minded as to try to blight the festivities. We had instances of lights being cut in Polopit and bulbs being stolen in Chapel Street and on The Green. What a sad state of affairs.

New lights: We hope that you will agree that the new lamp standards erected in Islington, Church Street, Chapel Street and School Lane are a considerable improvement on the utility columns that are normally erected. With regard to the work on the electricity supply, although we do not have a final date for completion, it would appear that we are nearly there and we look forward to the time soon when the village can return to normal.

Precept: We have recommended that the precept for the coming financial year be set at £10300 which is a 31% decrease on this year. The reduction is because there is no need for another one-off cost like the lamp standards.

Easter holidays: Maybe it is a little early to be thinking about Easter but this is advance notice for children and parents that there will be a series of activities arranged in the Clubroom again during the holidays. The activities are organised by the Cultural Community Partnership. Even better news: this year they are free.

Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Thursday 30th April at 7.30pm. Its main purpose is to give you an opportunity to find out more about what is going on in the village and to join in the discussion about its future, so put this date in your diary now.

Concessionary Fares. Once again East Northants Council are offering a choice of concessionary travel for the over 60's and disabled residents. You will be able to choose between a national bus pass or travel tokens, but you cannot have both.

If you already have a national bus pass it is valid for 5 years and you will not be entitled to travel tokens during this period. If you chose to have tokens in 2008, you can opt for this again or you can change to a bus pass for 2009.

With the new bus pass you can travel free on any local registered bus service anywhere in England, however the bus pass cannot be used for excursions, tours or long distance services, community transport, taxis or trains.

There is no time restriction for journeys in East Northamptonshire but journeys in other areas will be off peak. Off peak hours are 9.30 am to 11.00 pm Monday to Friday and all day weekends and bank holidays.

Between 1 February 2009 and to 30 June 2008 you can buy £48.00 worth of travel tokens for £10.00. Travel tokens can be used on buses, taxis, trains and local volunteer agencies.

If you fit the criteria set out by East Northants Council and wish to apply for a bus pass or travel tokens then please contact the Parish Clerk - Emma Meen who will provide you with the relevant details.

Toawst Happy New Year to our regular supporters and to any new comers who might be considering joining the fun of tasting and learning about wine complimented by great food and fabulous company!!

Due to other commitments we will not be meeting until April 3rd when the focus of the evening will be Rioja. So, plenty of time for folk to research the several grape varieties that make a red or white Rioja and a Spanish dish to compliment it.

Cheers !!!

Jeff and Jo jo.hi@madasafish.com

Playing Field News. Are you looking for new past-times to wile-away the miserable winter weekdays? Why not come along to our first WHIST DRIVE on Friday January 23rd at 12 noon in the new Community Room at the Playing Field. Don't worry if you've never played before – neither have we – so we'll have some fun! There will be prizes for the best (and worst) players and some refreshments for lunch. If you would like to come but need transport, call me and I'll pick you up in the car.

This will be an opportunity for many to see the lovely new pavilion facilities which are now available to book for private functions or regular village group meetings etc. As a special introductory offer we are offering a BOGOF – any village organisation booking the Community Room and paying for the first hire will get the second one FREE – call Melvyn Chapman on the above number for more details.

The superb new facilities are certainly having a positive effect on our regular football teams. Our village side currently sit on top of their league and are still in two cup competitions. In fact, in the last round of the County Cup they beat a team from two divisions above them. The Fox, who also play on our pitch, are second in the same league and are enjoying similar success. So if you want to see goals, take a stroll up to the Playing Field on Sunday mornings for great free entertainment.

Finally a reminder of one of our main fund-raisers of the year – the 10k Road Race and 3k Fun Run this year takes place on Sunday May 3rd.
Melvyn Chapman

“Celebrating Active Ageing” A Free Event for the Over 50's to be held at the Nene Centre, Cedar Drive, Thrapston on Tuesday 10th February 1pm to 4.30pm.

Over 20 information stands, plus workshops and activities.

From benefits, grants, care and health advice to “new age curling”, line dancing to mobile phone surgery, digital cameras to short mat bowls – everything that the over 50's want to do and know about. If you are over 50 or caring for an older person, you are warmly invited to come along and bring your friends too!

For more information contact Pam Wilson

Titchmarsh Pre-School. Titchmarsh pre-school opened its doors on 5th January 2009 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 are also looking at "healthy eating/lifestyles"

We would like to extend our appreciation for the continued support of the village at our annual Preschool Christmas Bazaar. We raised over £1000 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 a number of songs. There was the seasonally visit from Santa and refreshments for all.

Our Aims for 2009 is to raise enough money to finish the outdoor play area & to purchase IT equipment for the children. We are at present planning a number of fundraising events for the New Year including a Valentine Disco on the 13th February and a raffle for Mothers Day. Of course we 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 4 full days per week, from 9.15 am – 2.45 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which also includes the option of attending an afternoon session 12.15 pm -2.45pm along with all our usual morning sessions still in place. Please book early if you wish your child to start or do more sessions as we have many busy sessions.

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

Circuits in the Clubroom. Circuit training continues in the club room on Thursday evenings between 7pm-8pm. Suitable for all levels of fitness, and working at your own pace, a circuits class is a great workout for all from 16yrs+. For dates during February and March please contact Lindsay on 01480 860670 or 07730302826. No need to book, just turn up.

Titchmarsh School. Happy New Year from pupils and staff.

At present, we are preparing to be assessed for our ICT Mark in February and our Diocese Inspection which automatically follows an Ofsted inspection for Church of England Schools, at the end of January.

We are also preparing to hold our yearly Book Fair. This will be held in the school hall, at the end of each school day, at the end of January. We shall be celebrating the 1st birthday of our fantastic Maths library.

At the end of March, we look forward to our third residential trip for our Years 3&4 to the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough.

School closes for the spring on Friday 3rd April and reopens 20th April.

Church services will be held on the following Wednesday mornings at 9.15am, 28th January, 11th February, 4th March and 18th March. Do feel welcome to come and join us.

The school website is constantly being updated. Please have a look. See what the children have been doing through children's work and photographs. There is also a calendar of dates to keep you up to date with what is happening at school. www.titchmarshprimaryschool.com

Mrs J. Milton. Head Teacher

Titchmarsh Walking Group. Why not walk off the excesses of the recent holiday season, and join our friendly group of walkers on routes of approximately 4 to 5 miles around the local area? Walks are normally on the first Saturday of the month - meeting at 10am at the D&P Green.

The February walk takes place on Saturday 7th, and the one after that will be on Saturday 7th March. We generally take a circular route from a local pub, where refreshments will be available afterwards. All welcome. For further details, phone Maggy Chapman or email: melandmag@btinternet or see the Walking Group page on our village website www.titchmarsh.info

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

6 th February	Club Night	Making Pancakes
27 th February	Ice Skating in Peterborough (further details at youth club)	
13 th March	Club Night	NAYC – Craft
27 th March	Club Night/Cooking	
24 th April	Tennis Night at Thrapston	

Session fees are £2 for the two hours (7pm-9pm) - however there will be an additional cost for the evening at the ice rink. For further information please contact Sue Shapland or Alice Dove.

The Clubroom is a popular venue for children's parties and we're often asked about the hiring of bouncy castles for such events. We have investigated the costs and insurance requirements associated with bouncy castles and at the last Committee meeting voted to purchase a suitable bouncy castle (and insurance policy!) for the Clubroom to hire out.

If you are considering the Clubroom as a venue for a children's party please contact Val Sorrel, our Bookings Clerk, via bookings@titchmarsh.info for availability and hire charges.

Paul Milner

News from the Dog and Partridge.

Quiz. Our monthly Sunday night Quiz takes place on the 8th February and the 8th March at a cost £1 entry per person with a free buffet afterwards...

Acoustic Night. After a few successful acoustic evenings towards the end of last year we are now launching a regular acoustic night on the last Wednesday of every month (25th Feb & 25th March).

Enzo will be on hand with amps, microphone and a spare acoustic guitar. He will help anyone from beginners to advanced to set up and perform.. Other instruments are welcome

New Menu Launch. Our menu changes every few months but this time we are planning something a little different....On Wednesday 4th February we will launch the new menu. For this night only a local chef will be on hand and we will offer the full menu at a set price of £15 per head for 3 courses & a glass of wine... Feed back good or bad will be appreciated from the diners....To Book contact Carol on 732546

St Patricks Day. Join us on Sunday 15th March to celebrate St Patricks Day. Book now for a Traditional Sunday Roast or try our homemade Irish Stew and Dumplings. With Live Irish Music and singing from lunch time onwards,

Valentines Night Saturday 14th February

Mothering Sunday 22nd March

Bookings now being taken. Menus are available on request or email dogandpartridge@live.com

Finally Happy New year to all from Mick and Carol and all at the Dog and Partridge

Titchmarsh Reading Group. Are you a keen reader who would occasionally like the opportunity to share with others your enthusiasm for a particular book? Perhaps you would like to broaden the range of your reading and find out more about different types of book. Or maybe you would just like to enjoy lively conversation with a group of people with similar interests.

If so, think about joining the Titchmarsh Reading Group. We meet at The Wheatsheaf on the fourth Thursday of every month. The range of books is eclectic. Our programme for the next few months includes satire, historical novels, autobiography and modern classics.

Why not come along? It's not half as dry as it sounds and the discussions are always good humoured. For more information contact Ian Curtis or visit our page on the village website. Alternatively, just turn up! You'll enjoy a warm welcome.

200 Club Winners,

September.

£10 each 104 – S Reeves, 94 – Catherine Gerrard, 4 – Mary Cheney, 41 – M Bosworth.

October.

20 – P Garnham (the big win £466.00!!!), £10 each 33 – J Cawdell, 107 – Pip Blowfield,

40 – Mick Roche

November.

£10 each 52– Mr P James, 166 – Vince Capano, 4 – Mary Cheney, 17 – I Rowell.

December

£10 each 56 – T Baille, 65 – S. Davis, 2 – J. Levitt, 42 – Vince Smith.

Well done to all those who have won or taken part during the past year – we wish you a very happy (and lucky!) 2009 !!

Mary Cheney and Ruth Knight.

Friends of Titchmarsh School (FOTS). Bags2Schools was a great success again this year and we made over £200. Thanks to all the villagers and parents in Titchmarsh and Clopton for the great amount of donations. This is more than we have made before, so great.

To bring you all up to date, the Christmas Ball was a great success and a good time was had by all. We made a profit of over £1100 which will go towards much needed items and equipment for the school. Of course great thanks goes to those who brought tickets and attended and to those companies who support us through providing raffle prizes.

Other Christmas events included the carol services, at which FOTS provided refreshments and the Christmas dinner. The children's performances were brilliant and thanks also goes to them and the staff for making a great event. Thanks also should go to the Church and especially to Mrs Bussens for helping to set up and use their tables.

The Christmas dinner was a great event, and we were very thankful for the help from parents on the day. Everyone's help on the day was very much appreciated and everyone's offer of food and cooking was excellent. There are too many to name personally, but they all know who they are.

Future events are planned including A Beetle Drive on 7th February and a Ladies Night on 13th March. Please make a note of these dates, so you can continue to support your local primary school. If anyone wants any further information about these events or about FOTS, please do not hesitate to get in touch, with either myself or Mrs Milton at the school.

Tracey Levick FOTS Chair

Titchmarsh PCC. Pancake Races will be held on Tuesday 24th February. A notice has been requested for the closure of the High street between the Dog & Partridge and the Wheatsheaf for 2 hours from 6.00pm.

The races will start at 6.30pm but registration will start at 6.00. Pancakes and soft drinks will be on sale in the Clubroom after the races when all the winners will be announced and rewarded for their skill. Let's have some real competition and get another Titchmarsh event on the calendar.

Barn Dance to be held in the Clubroom on Saturday 28th March. This is a lot of fun so come and join us. For your £6 ticket you get a live band and a supper (finger buffet). There will also be a bar. Tickets available from Jean Bussens or Julia Powell.

Just a further note, **Bells !!!!!** If anyone is interested in learning how to become a church bell ringer or hand bell ringer please contact Julia Powell. The village owns a set of hand bells and it would be nice to see them used.

Stitchmarsh. After the Christmas Break and despite the cold weather we have been experiencing Stitchmarsh members started off the New Year with enthusiasm. Patchwork is still top of the agenda but some thought was given to do doing a different craft that incorporated a theme for Easter.

The dates of the meetings from February until the Easter holidays are

Wednesday 11th February Wednesday 25th February
Wednesday 11th March Wednesday 25th March
Wednesday 8th April

Meeting at the Clubroom at 7.30pm. Visitors/potential members are always welcome

Eleanor Greig

Titchmarsh Trees & Trimmings. We celebrated, in December, our 8th year of this original Christmas event with its usual heart warming mix of festive fun, fare & song.

The Hillsborough House trophy for the best decorated house went to the Hooks family of Abbotts Close. In second place were Stephen & Louise of Tofts Close and third place went to John Colby of North Street.

The indoor creative competition - Christmas trees decorated to the theme of Pantomime - was well supported with some very original interpretations. First prize went to Titchmarsh School Reception Class for their "Snow White", 2nd went to the Years 3 and 4 children also from the school with "Pantomime Parcels" and 3rd prize for "Cinderella" went to the Routley family. Well done to the prize winners, all those who took part and to the judges; Phil & Alice Garnham and Norma Gregory.

Many thanks go to the organising team, all those who helped set up and assisted on the night, and of course to Father Christmas and his two very friendly and helpful elves.

As a result of this fund raising we are able to make a donation towards the village Christmas tree lights. Please note that this year's Trees & Trimmings will be held on Sunday 20th December.

Lucy Milner

Titchmarsh Flower Club. At the Christmas meeting it was agreed that the Club should meet 6 times in 2009, the dates are detailed below. The meeting attendance fees can be paid in advance for all 6 meetings at a discounted rate of £18, on or before the first meeting. Those not choosing to do that are welcome to attend the meetings and pay the attendance fee of £5 at the door.]

Wed 18th March

Wed 15th April

Wed 20th May

Wed 16th September

Wed 21st October

Wed 18th November

At the March meeting Andrea Bartlett will be demonstrating, followed by the usual workshop. All meetings start at 7.30pm and last a couple of hours, come along and enjoy yourself. More information from Terry or see the flyer on the village notice board the week before the meeting.

Terry Higgins

From the Rectory.

With the 'Credit Crunch' we hardly need encouragement to think about what to give up for Lent. But nowadays it has another face. Lent is in many places a time for serious reflection in the company of others and maybe (with today's technology) a bit of help from the 'experts'. For us the journey begins on Feb 25th (Ash Wednesday) and thereafter on 5 Tuesdays (see below). I do hope you'll consider joining us for one or two at least – even if you're not used to such things!

With all good wishes

Jim Mynors 60 Main St, Aldwincle 720613 Jim@mynors.me.uk

Titchmarsh Church Services

Feb 1st 9.15 Morning Prayer

Feb 8th 9.15am Communion & 3pm Family Service

Feb 15th 9.15am Communion

Feb 22nd 9.15am Communion

Feb 25th Ash Wednesday **Holy Communion at 7.30 pm**

Mar 1st 9.15 Morning Prayer

Mar 8th 9.15am Communion & 3pm Family Service

Mar 15th 9.15am Communion

Mar 22nd 9.15am Communion

Lent meetings – for your diary

Tuesday evenings this Lent conveniently fall on the 5 Tuesdays in March: 3rd 10th 17th, 24th and 31st

On each of these we shall gather at Aldwinckle Rectory at 7.30pm for coffee and a 7.45-9.00 pm session breaking into groups if sufficient numbers come, and using the highly acclaimed York Course material (with recorded contributions from well-know church leaders from all wings of Church life) to stimulate us We are planning for a number of local leaders to guide our discussion. No need to tell us you're coming – just turn up!

This year's overall title is: **These three ... Faith, Hope and Love**

With sessions on: Believing and Trusting, The peace of God, Faith into Love, The Greatest of these, & All shall be well

For more detail: visit <http://www.yorkcourses.co.uk> or ask Jim Mynors

From the Registers

Julia Rogers, formerly of Drydens Close, died on 7th December aged 81. Her funeral was on 16th December

Hugo Cheney of 2 Hoots Barn was baptised on 14th December and James & Elizabeth Edwards of 20 Chapel St were also baptised on 14th December

For christenings, weddings, funerals – and visits for any other reason - please contact Jim Mynors (Rector) 720613 (usual day off – Friday)

Church rotas

Date	Flowers	Time	Sidesmen	Readers
1st February 2009	Mrs A Dunn	9.15am	Mr Fieldsend	Mrs A Dunn
				Mr J Fieldsend
8th February 2009	Mrs G Gaskin	9.15am	Mrs J Bussens	Mr S Barber
		3pm		James Edwards
15th February 2009	Mrs B Ray	9.15am	Mrs A Powell	Mrs J Powell
22nd February 2009	Mrs W Jeffries	9.15am	Dr S Bell	Dr G Webster
25th February 2009	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7.30pm	Mrs J Bussens	Mrs C Braun (Achurch)
1st March 2009	LENT	9.15am	Mrs J Fieldsend	Mrs B Berry
				Mr J Fieldsend
8th March 2009	no flowers	9.15am	Mrs K Williams	Mr D Williams
15th March 2009	no flowers	9.15am	Dr S Bell	Mr T Higgins
22nd March 2009	no flowers	9.15am		Mrs J Bussens
	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	3pm	Knight family	Mr J Hope
29th March 2009	no flowers	9.15am	Mr A Powell	Mr S Barber

News from the Wheatsheaf. Stella and Andy would like to thank everyone in Titchmarsh for their support over Christmas; we have really enjoyed our first few weeks and meeting so many of you!!

Unfortunately we lost our chef earlier last week and therefore we are really sorry to have to let you know that we won't be serving food for the foreseeable future. We will definitely let everyone know when the new chef arrives and hope that everyone will bear with us during this period.

Happy New Year from everyone at The Wheatsheaf!!

Titchmarsh Local History Group.

Dovecots. A Social & Economic History.

Thursday, 12th February at 7.30 in the Club Room

Titchmarsh Local History Group has invited Colin Rae, a local historian from Oundle, to give his acclaimed illustrated talk on Dovecots.

These buildings were found in the grounds of many large houses from medieval times and provided a source of fresh meat during the winter periods. They also were a source of controversy. Colin has details of the two in Titchmarsh.

The fee for the evening will be £2.50 and refreshments will be served.

If you haven't been to our meetings before you will be made most welcome. We are small group focusing on the history of Titchmarsh and the surrounding area,

For further information please contact John Greig

Notable Dates.

Churchyard clearance - Sunday 8th March
PCC AGM in the church. - Wednesday 22nd April
Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 30th April
10K Road Race and 3K Fun Run - Sunday 3rd May
May Day Celebrations. Wednesday, 6th May
School Fun Day Saturday - 9th May
School Open Afternoon. Tuesday, 9th June.
Midsummer Music Evening - Saturday June 20th
Village Fete - Saturday 13th June
TOAwST Friday June 26th, Sept 11th or 18th, Nov 27th.
School Sports Morning -. Tuesday, 7th July.

Finally.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this 9 page edition, the biggest we have ever had. And thank you to the intrepid delivery team. A nice walk in the good weather but not so nice in the winter.

Please can I have your copy for the next edition, April/May 2009 by the evening of **Saturday 14th March** at the very latest.

John Greig (Editor)