

Titchmarsh Times

A Bi-Monthly Village Newsletter Produced for Titchmarsh Parish Council

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June & July 2004

Titchmarsh Fete, Saturday 12th June 2004 - Plans are underway for the annual fete and it promises to be another success for the village. There will be plenty of activities and fun for all the family to enjoy – Children's fancy dress parade, pet show, tug o' war, games and side stalls. One of the main attractions of previous years has been the 'Parachuting Teddies' which will be taking place again from the dizzy heights of the church tower. Fierce competition is a certainty so make sure that parachute design is well researched and tested! Enjoy lunch from the tea tent while listening to the sounds of the Rushden Town Band, or if you prefer the more informal option the BBQ and bar will be offering a wide range of refreshments. Donations for the plant and cake stalls will most be gratefully received tele. (732712). As in previous years the donations for the Tombola will be collected from the village. Tickets for the Draw will be on sale prior to the event as well as on the day and there promises to be yet more fantastic prizes on offer. Remember that the fete is open to everyone, not just village residents, so remember to tell friends and family about it and bring them along!

Titchmarsh Club Room. - By the time you read this work will have commenced on the Clubroom refurbishment. After what seems like a never ending saga of bureaucracy, red tape and sheer bloody mindedness we finally have a date of 13/14 May for the start of the asbestos removal. When this is completed the actual refurbishment work will start.

I am pleased to inform you that since our last news we have received notification from East Northamptonshire County Council, the Maud Elkington Trust and the Parish Council of donations towards the refurbishment which ensures that the work is now almost certainly (barring any more unforeseen eventualities) fully funded.

The Committee are really sorry that there have been so many delays, but matters were really beyond our control and hopefully all the problems are now behind us and the project will now run smoothly.

As part of the evaluation of the refurbishment programme and a condition of receiving grant funding from the Community fund and other organisations we are required to undertake customer surveys. The surveys will be issued to your household directly and also possibly included on the village website and we would request your co-operation in responding to the surveys.

Mrs Julie Rogers who served on the Committee for many years has now reluctantly had to give up her duties due to a slow recovery from her operation. The Chairman and Committee would like to publicly express our appreciation of all the hard work Mrs Rogers did during her time on the Committee and wish her all the best for the future and a speedy recovery.

We are delighted to welcome Kate Eve onto the Committee.

Pauline Ash

Titchmarsh Website www.titchmarsh.info Have you checked out the website recently? We now have a 'latest news' section on the front page, which summarises the updated pages, and displays police and crime prevention messages. There is also a new page (in the 'About Titchmarsh' section) giving details of local trades and businesses. So, if you run a trade or business from Titchmarsh and would like a mention on the site, please let me have your details. Sylvia Prestwich, Ridgeon, Tofts Close or sylviaprestwich@aol.com

Car Vandals in Titchmarsh - Unfortunately the need has arisen yet again to mention car vandalism in Titchmarsh. Since the last mention in the Titchmarsh Times further deliberate damage has been done to cars parked in the High Street.

Our village police officer, PC Maddams has been informed and it is suspected that the vandals are local youths. Three young men were seen messing around near a vehicle outside the Dog & Partridge on the evening this latest damage was carried out. The fact that the vandals are probably local residents themselves is a tragedy. Innocent childish pranks could perhaps be forgiven, but this is no innocent prank – it is unadulterated criminal damage costing the car owners hundreds of pounds to repair.

Titchmarsh is a relatively low crime area and it is hard to believe there may be local youths who are prepared to carry out such mindless and deliberate criminal damage to the property of fellow residents.

Given that this is at least the third time in less than 12 months that cars have been deliberately vandalised; residents must be vigilant and report anything suspicious to PC Maddams. He is committed to stamping out this recent unacceptable trend of criminal behaviour and can be contacted on 732295 or by email on don.maddams@northants.pnn.police.uk

Playing Fields - Moving Forward: The Playing Fields Committee has now become an official sub-committee of the Parish Council. It will continue to be responsible for fundraising and the upkeep of the playing fields and facilities. This will enable us to take advantage of the wider benefits available to the Parish Council and to assume charitable status. *Caroline Thompson*

The 10K Road Race. This event was a great success all round, with a good turnout, sunny weather and a sell out on cakes and teas. The complete list of times and winners is on the web site but a special mention goes to local runners Yvonne Scarrott; who came second in the female runners and Miles Routley; up there with the front runners. Thanks to everyone who took part or contributed in some way to the day. Full results on the village website

Summer Sports and Fun Day - Sunday July 4th. An action packed day for all ages is planned up on the sports fields with Tug o' War Championship, beer tent, children and adult's sports and games, children's funfair and more. Several teams are already signed up so come and watch the fun. Anyone interested in competing or staging football, Rounders or basketball games please contact Caroline or Derek or any other member of the committee, or enquiries@titchmarsh.info.

Friends of Titchmarsh School. (FOTS). - The *Bag2School* collection has now taken place. Thank you to all who donated unwanted items for the benefit of the school. We shall let you know how much was raised in the next edition. We would also like to thank all those who attended the Spring Ball and who helped to make it a very fun and successful night.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway at the Fun Day Held at the school on 15th May. We must mention John and Gina Gaskin for all their help especially with the craft stalls.

Mrs Cleaver, the Head Teacher is to retire at the end of the summer term. On behalf of all FOTS, past and present we would like to express our thanks to Mrs. Cleaver for all her hard work and dedication to the school. She will be greatly missed by both the children and parents and we wish her well in the future. *Pauline Gambrell*

Titchmarsh Draw - The April draw took place in the D&P on the 2nd April. The winners in April were Steve Wesley – 40, Liz Jolley – 111, Jackie Row – 106, Emma Cooper 126.

The May draw took place in the Wheatsheaf. May's winners were Margaret Alderman – 50, D. Newbold & D Fisher – 141, Mrs Caves – 73, Lynn & Frazer Mitchell – 130.

Congratulations to all. The next draw is to take place on 4th June in the D&P at 7pm. Just to remind you that one ticket drawn on 2nd July will be for £555.

Thank you from Joss Thompson - Many thanks to everyone who donated items to raise money for my trip out to Central America with Raleigh International in the summer. I have raised about £400 so far.

Titchmarsh School - As I write we have just concluded the May Day Celebrations for 2004. In spite of grave concerns regarding the weather it was possible to carry out the traditions of the day without a hitch. It was a delight to be lead throughout the day by a thoroughly charming Royal Party. They carried out their duties with dignity, thank you Lauren, Niall, Olivia and Jake. We were able to welcome so many visitors, with great pleasure, to the Service, Crowning Ceremony, Village walk and afternoon Concert. Thank you children for presenting a splendid service, for singing so cheerily, dancing so spiritedly and for behaving beautifully.

There are more special dates in the school diary for the summer term, these are:-

14 th June	Exhibition of Art work by children – school hall
7 th July	Formal Open Evening at School 6-8pm
8 th July	Teddy Bears Picnic at school for School and Pre-school children – 3pm onwards.
10 th July	Incrediball Rounders Tournament at Prince William School, Oundle.
12 th July	Transfer Day
13 th July	Activity Day at school
14 th July	Leavers Service Activity Sports
15 th July	School closes for summer break.

Please note – if your child will achieve their 5th birthday between September 2004 and August 2005, now is the time to register at a school. A few places are available at Titchmarsh School. If you wish to know more about the school, please telephone for a brochure. Visits to the school are most warmly welcomed. Please telephone 01832 732874 for an appointment. *Mrs. Cleaver*

T Day is coming.....but when.....and what is it?

T Day stands for Titchmarsh Day and it will take place in the newly refurbished clubroom on Sunday, 26th September 2004. T Day is the starting point in the process of producing the Titchmarsh Parish Plan.

This Plan will help our community to have more of a say about what happens in our village and will provide the Parish Council, East Northants Council and Northamptonshire County Council with knowledge about what the people in Titchmarsh want to see happen in their village.

At T Day, we want you to tell us what is important to you about our village, what you want to preserve and what you would like to see changed. From the “issues” that you give us on that day, a questionnaire will be produced for every household in the Parish. The results from this questionnaire will be collated and the Plan produced. Finally, we shall produce an Action Plan that will be our suggestion as to how we move from where we are to where we would like to be.

T Day is an opportunity for us all to have our say and it is important that everyone comes to the event so that we may gather as many different “issues” as possible.

Titchmarsh is your village. Have your say about how you want it to be in the future!

For more details see the village website. Come to T Day!

John Gaskin

Parish Council.

Ian Curtis. Chairman.

Best Kept Village 2004 - Reading through the list of previous winners of this competition, we became aware that almost all were from the south of the county. We have decided to fly the flag for the area and have submitted an entry. So, if during June, July or August you see a group of earnest looking people in the village carrying clipboards, remember, they may be the judges! The points awarded include overall impression (30 points out of 100), absence of litter (25) and the condition of public features and open spaces (30). Please help by continuing to take good care of your 'patch', including removing recycling bins etc. once their contents have been collected.

Footpath warden - Val Sorrell has had to give up the post of warden and so we are looking for an enthusiastic walker to take her place – or a pair of walkers 'job-sharing'. The role is not onerous; it requires you to walk the footpaths around the village occasionally and to report on their state and any problems with access. There will be a need to undergo some brief training in order to familiarise you with the role. If you are interested, please contact Jane Teague. Thanks to Val for walking the footpaths on our behalf in the past.

Village Frameworks - You may have read in the April edition of Nene Valley News of the proposed changes in planning guidance on the development of local villages. The article suggested that we might be holding a public meeting to discuss the matter. As planning forms a key part of the Parish Plan [see separate article] we have decided to defer the consultation and make it part of the fuller debate on the Plan.

Mini Bus Group Hire Scheme - The Volunteer Centre in Thrapston runs this scheme for use by non profit groups to transport their members and extend their range of activities. There is an initial membership fee, payable by the Parish Council, which would allow village organisations the opportunity of hiring the Minibus (i.e. the TACT minibus, a 16 seater vehicle with wheelchair access). The costs to these organisations would be from £22.50 for 6 hours to £50 for a full day. Driver training is included in the membership fee, although a driver can be hired with the bus at a cost of £7 per hour. The question is, will it be used? Organisations who may be interested in hiring the minibus, from time to time, should contact Jane Teague, Parish Clerk, in order that she can determine if it is worth joining this scheme.

Closure of Church Street: You might have read in the local press of the intention to close the road between Ranway and the A605 for repairs. We have checked up on this and the work has been put back to 2005. We will let you know as soon as we are given a firm date.

In brief. - At their April meeting, the Planning Committee of East Northants Council deferred the decision over the application to build six houses in **Manor Farm Court** to allow negotiations to be held with the developers to reduce the number of houses. Judging by the speed at which they are being filled, the **dog bins** are being used successfully. The bins should be emptied on the normal refuse collection day, so if you notice that they haven't, please contact Jane Teague who will inform ENC.

You will shortly be seeing new signs on the **Engine House and Pound** to indicate their original purpose and historical significance. So, no longer any need to wonder what an earth they are!

Quiz Night at the Dog & Partridge. The final quiz, before the summer break, will be on Sunday 6th June commencing at 8.30 sharp.

Finally – Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition. It was great to get most of the copy on time and by email Word attachment. It does make the production a little easier.

We require a new distributor for Polopit/London End. If you feel you would like a walk once every two months please contact me.

Please may I have your contributions for the August/September 2004 issue by Friday 16th July at the very, very latest. Thank you all.

John Greig. Editor